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Martyrs' blood would not go in vain

Terrorists would have to account for every drop of blood of martyrs: CM

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the terrorist attack in the Johan area of Kalat district.

In his statement issued on Sunday, he said that the security forces are fighting on the frontline in the war against terrorism and there are anti-national elements behind the deteriorating situation in Balochistan.

He said that organized terrorism is being carried out in Balochistan to destabilize Pakistan and foreign hands are involved in terrorism saying that several proofs have been given at international forums regarding con-

"The wave of terrorism in Balochistan is a con- and reiterated the spiracy against the state, but government's resolve to Balochistan's spiracy against the state, but such conspiracy will be government's resolve to Balochistan's people against such cowardly acts.

foiled", he said adding that our security forces are bravely fighting the terrorpeace in the area.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the urged law enforcement agencowardly attack by the terrorists in Kalat is condembring the terrorists to their logical conclusion. Paying tribute to the brave soldiers who were martyred, the CM said that the martyrs' blood would not go in vain, terrorists would have to account for every drop of the blood of martyrs.

Balochistan, Jaffer Khan Mandokhail, strongly condemned the terrorist attack in the Johan area of Kalat

ists to maintain durable development and political stability. Governor Mandokhail

cies to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property nable, we are determined to He offered prayers for the martyrs from the security forces who lost their lives in the attack and extended his condolences and solidarity to their families. He stated, "We will not allow the peace and order of our region to be disrupted under any circumstances. The sacrifices of Meanwhile Governor our brave security personnel will not go in vain." The Governor's remarks reaffirmed the commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring the protection of



Condemns terrorist attack in Kalat

Terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt peace of Balochistan says President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned a terrorist attack on check post in Kalat.

The president expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of brave soldiers in the terror-

Terrorist elements are enemies of the nation, aiming to sabotage the journey of progress, he said adding that the people of Balochistan reject terrorist

The president stressed that the terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Balochistan. He also prayed for the

jured in the incident. Offering his heartfelt condolences to the families

of the martyrs, the presi-dent prayed for their patience and strength. The Prime Minister di-

rected to provide the best medical facilities to the in-He paid tribute to the

security forces for killing six terrorists and arresting four after injuring them during the gun battle. Shehbaz Sharif said the

elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people and the development of the

Pakistan, Netherlands agree

to boost bilateral relations.

cricket collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi

met with Netherlands Ambassador Henny De Vries on

Sunday to discuss enhancing cooperation in various sec-

tors, including the promotion of cricket between the two

During the meeting, both sides agreed to organize a bilateral cricket series next year. The Netherlands also

expressed willingness to sign a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

Netherlands cricket team will visit Pakistan next year

PPP's Domki wins

and play matches with the Pakistan "A" team.

Ambassador Henny De Vries confirmed that the

to support cricket development.

He, however, said such wift recovery of the in- nefarious tactics cannot

solve for the development prosperity

The Prime Minister expressed the nation's resolve to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists.

He reiterated that the war against terrorism will continue till eradication of this menace from the coun-

Earlier, the terrorists attempted to attack a security forces' post in general area Shah-e-Mardan of Kalat District.

The troops fought gallantly as a result of which six terrorists were sent to hell while four terrorists were injured.

PM greets Attaullah Lango on becoming **BHCBA President**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Mir Attaullah Lango on being elected as President of the Balochistan High Court

Bar Association. In a statement issued by the PM Office, he also congratulated other newly elected office bearers of the

The prime minister emphasized that the success of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association election will promote the welfare of the lawyers

community. He lauded the commitment of the Bar Association to serving the Balochistan lawyers' interests, uphold ing the Constitution and promoting the rule of law

in the province.
PM Shehbaz expressed the hope that the newly elected team would work tirelessly to strengthen the legal profession and play a significant role in advancing justice and democracy

in the country. PTI founder appoint three official

spokespersons ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan

on Sunday appointed three official spokespersons. According to a notifi-

cation issued by the PTI Barrister Gohar Khan Salman Akram Raja, and Omar Ayub have been designated as the focal persons for PTI's incarcerated leader. This decision aims to

clear any ambiguities regarding information related to the PTI founder, ensuring that all communications will now be handled through these spokespersons, as per the notification.

Pak HC calls on Singapore **Defence Minister** ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan High Commissioner in Singapore Rabia Shafiq on Sunday made a cour tesy call on Minister of Defence Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen.

Commission said in a post on X handle.

Govt's timely efforts put economy back on track, says Finance Minister

Federal Minister for Fi- Pakistan's economy signs of improvement lately due to the sincere efforts of the incumbent government. Addressing a press con-

ference in the capital on Sunday, the finance minister said inflation had come at the single digit – seven percent - from 38 percent as the PM himself had been spearheading the efforts in this regard.

The finance minister said the international financial institutions had shown trust in the country's ability to handle the economic

He mentioned that the IMF staff was also aston- the country.

Muhammad which became stable in just Aurangzeb says the economy has been showing was well aware of the government's ability to steer the country out of cri-

The minister highlighted the cooperation by the chief ministers of four provinces adding that the government could achieve the best possible outcome by working as a whole.

As for the private sector, he said all the segments of society have to come at the forefront to create the best possible opportunities. Lastly, he also mentioned the climate change phenomenon which has been taking a heavy toll on

PM Shehbaz to chair meeting of Apex Committee today

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Apex Committee on the National Action Plan (NAP) will be held on Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting, to be held at the Prime Minister's House, is expected to approve significant decisions aimed



at ensuring internal security.

The meeting will be attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, the Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and heads of other intelligence

Attendees will receive briefings on counter-terrorism efforts and the overall law and order situation.

The meeting's agenda includes reviewing the imple mentation of the National Action Plan, improving coordination between the federal and provincial governments, and enhancing the effective sharing of intelligence infor-

Fazlur Rehman criticises **KP** for prioritising politics over public interest

PESHAWAR (INP): In a sharp critique of recent legislative changes, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said Pakistan's Constitutional Amendment has introduced laws that make citizens feel like "suspects in their own country.

Fazlur Rehman's comments came in Peshawar, where he offered condolences on the death of prominent political figure İlyas Bilour.

"The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are enduring severe hardships," he told reporters, alleging that the provincial

government has placed politics above public welfare. "Their entire focus is on politics rather than on maintaining peace, which is wrong," he added.
The JUI-F leader

criticised the removal of Article 8 during the 26th Amendment, which he claims has opened the door for laws that infringe upon basic rights.

'Following amendment, legislation has been rushed that violates human rights," he said. According to Rehman, these laws permit authorities to detain anyone for up to 90 days without due pro



Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening problems of people during his visit to Civil Hospital Zhob.

Bushra Bibi warns party members to join Nov. 24 protest or face disaffiliation PESHAWAR (INP):

Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, has issued a stern message to party members ahead of the planned protest on 24th November.

She made it clear that any member of the National Assembly or party official who fails to attend the demonstration will have no affiliation with PTI.

The statement came after a meeting of PTI members in Peshawar, which saw the participation of members from southern districts, along with Bashra Bibi, who addressed the

gathering. In her remarks, she re-

iterated the message from her husband, Imran Khan, urging the party to take to the streets on 24th November in defence of the constitution, rule of law, and parliamentary supremacy.

She added that every provincial and national assembly member should film their journey as part of a convoy from Peshawar to Islamabad for the protest. The video should also capture PTI supporters accompanying the members in their vehicles

Bushra Bibi made it clear that any absentee members or officials on the day of the protest would be considered as having severed ties with the party.

ISLAMABAD: Spanish Senate parliamentary delegation meeting with National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. NA speaker calls for stronger Pak-Spain parliamentary diplomacy through PFGs

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Sunday emphasized strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to foster closer ties between Pakistan and Spain and advocated for the effective use of Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) to enhance inter-parliamentary

relations. He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level Spanish parliamentary delegation comprised of Spanish Senators Vicente Azpitarte Perez, Ms. Natalia Ucero, Antononio Gutierrez Limones, Luis de la Peña and Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan Jose Antoniode

de Ory. He said, "Enhancing Parliament to Parliament contacts are pivotal for strengthening ties between both nations.

The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade,

ISLAMABAD (APP): investment, and coopera- during severe floods tion in areas such as agriculture, technology, educa-

tion, and IT." Speaker stated that Pakistan and Spain share cordial ties rooted in unanimity of views on various regional and international issues. Pakistan and Spain have enduring and strong

Speaker Sardar Avaz Sadiq lauded the Spanish government and parliament for their principled support of the Palestinian cause. NA Speaker expressed grief over the loss of precious lives and property due to the devastating

floods in Spain. He said, "Both, Pakistan and Spain, contribute the least to climate change. yet face most of its im-

He also expressed gratitude to the Spanish governfor supporting Pakistan

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted Pakistan's untapped economic potential and geostrategic importance as a partner for European nations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering stronger ties to promote regional stability and ecoomic growth.

He condemned the severe human rights violations against Palestinians, noting that over 40,000 innocent children, women, and men have been martyred.

Moreover, he called for urgent global action to address these atrocities and praised Spain's unwavering advocacy for the rights of the Palestinian people.

NA Speaker also highlighted the plight of the Kashmiri people, who have been denied their fundamenment and Spanish people tal rights for more than seven decades.

London High Court declares Hasan Nawaz bankrupt in

UK tax case ONDON (INP): Hasan lawaz Sharif, son of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, has been declared bankrupt by the London High Court.

According to the court he has been declared bankrupt in a tax and liability of the government's tax and revenue department.

The details of the case has been published by the official UK Gazette, which keeps the public record. It says that Hasan, a resident of Flat 17

Avenfield House, 118 Park Lane, and the company director has been declared bankrupt in the High Court Of Justice in case No 694 of 2023; filed on 25 August 2023. It merits mention that the bankruptcy order was issued on April 29, 2024, on a case brought by the creditors over non-payment



test the seat left vacant after his father's demise. The Election Commission of Pakistan had announced the election on November 17. Mir Asghar Mari of Sibi Ittehad secured

fielded by the party to conthe second position despite boycotting the election, while Khan Wali Khan Marghzani of PTI and Syed Noor Ahmed Shah Khajjak of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party secured third and fourth

positions, respectively. Khawaja Asif takes a jab

Asif took a jab at PTI

coming rally. Asif said Bushra Bibi

Defence Minister Khawaja to the PTI parliamentarians to bring as much as 20,000 people to the rally. But if the PTI wanted a real success, he added, the PTI founder should ur-

head the efforts.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister for Agriculture Haji Ali Madad Jattak

Zarey, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and others addressing a Press conference. Govt. committed to end digital gender divide: Shaza Fatima

QUETTA: President Central Anjuman Tajiran

Balochistan Abdul Rahim Kakar, Nasrullah Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Sunday said that the government was committed for ending digital gender divide. "Women's access to

technology and Internet is utmost necessary, as they can be empowered through the provision of digital devices and Internet", she expressed while addressing virtually a conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics' in Doha, Qatar.

She said the government was taking steps to remove hurdles in using mobile phone and Informa-

tion and Communications Technology (ICT) by women. Socio-economic hurdles impede women entry in politics, she said, adding that women could be empowered and brought into mainstream politics through digitalization.

Shaza Fatima said work is going on Gender Digital Divide Policy to facilitate women in their access to digital economy. She said the Prime Minister's Free Laptop Scheme was playing important role in enhancing access to digital tools. She said work is underway on the Smartphones for All

at PTI founder Imran Khan ISLAMABAD (INP) - has assigned responsibility

founder Imran Khan.

In his latest post on X (formerly Twitter), the senior PML-N leader said Imran Khan should call back his children from London for the success of his up-

gently call back his children from London while Bushra Bibi should also call his all family members to spear-

> The two discussed bilateral defense relations and participation in defense exhibitions," Pakistan High

and the needs of the af-

fected communities. He re-

affirmed the Government

of Pakistan's commitment

to supporting the brothers

and sisters in distress and

stressed the importance of

collaboration between wel-

fare organizations and the

Pakistani public ir

strengthening these efforts.

was dispatched for the

people of Syria and refu-

gees from Lebanon, before

this, the Government of

Pakistan sent 12 aid con-

signments to Palestine and

6 shipments to Lebanon,

with a total volume of 1722

tons. The Government of

Pakistan continues to send

relief supplies based on the

needs of the war-affected

populations of Lebanon

Prime Minister, a special

account named the "Prime

Minister's Relief Fund for

Gaza and Lebanon", has

been established for the col-

lection of donations from

the public to aid their broth-

On instructions of the

Palestine.

This 19th consignment

NDMA dispatches 19th

shipment, 17 tons

of aid to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP):

ment Authority (NDMA)

National Disaster Manage-

dispatched its 19th ship-

ment of aid on Sunday to

Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria,

carrying 17 tons of essen-

tial supplies such as tents,

food, milk, clothing, and

hygiene kits in collabora-

tion with the Al-Khidmat

cluding rice buckets, pow-

dered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags,

and medical support kits,

were dispatched on the di-

rectives of Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif via a char-

tered flight from Jinnah In-

ternational Airport in

Karachi to Damascus,

held at Jinnah International

Airport was attended by

MPA, Ali Khursheedi,

Senator Amir Waliuddin

Chishti, senior officials

from NDMA, and Al-

Ali Khursheedi empha-

sized the urgent need to

provide relief to the war-

Khidmat Foundation.

The send-off ceremony

The aid supplies, in-

Foundation

Pakistan only country to convene two separate panel discussions on climate finance at 29th COP29 meeting

BAKU (INP): Pakistan has become the only country to convene two separate panel discussions led by senior justices focused on the critical issue of climate finance at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
The COP29 is cur-

rently being held at the Baku Stadium in Azerbaijan, running from November 11 to 22, 2024, and is setting the stage for the next phase of global climate action.

Pakistan, which has consistently ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change, took a bold step to highlight the role of the judiciary in shaping climate policy and finance. The panels were designed to address the urgent need for climate finance as a tool for achieving climate justice, especially for the Global South, which continues to bear the brunt of climate disasters despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

The first panel, titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice -Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change through Global Analysis," was moderated by Justice

Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme countable for climate ac-Court of Pakistan. The tion. panel featured prominent global legal voices including Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and senior judges from Nepal, Belgium, Brazil, and Pakistan. The panel emphasized the growing gap in climate finance, with developing countries needing \$4 trillion to tackle climate change

Senator Rehman high-lighted the critical need for scaling up climate finance, stressing that countries like Pakistan – with less than one percent of global carbon emissions – are paying the heaviest price in terms of climate-related disasters. She underscored the urgency of fulfilling financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage funds.

Other speakers, including Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal, discussed the intersection of human rights and climate rights, the failure of wealthy nations to meet financial obligations, and the need cial systems to adopt and

Justice Jawad Hassan

of the Lahore High Court reinforced the pioneering role of Pakistan's judiciary in advancing climate justice, particularly through landmark judgments and legal frameworks that have prioritized the right to a clean and healthy environment. He cited Pakistan's Constitutional framework and its proactive steps in address ing climate finance and adaptation. Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin of Brazil also spoke on the evolving role of the judiciary in shaping legal regimes for climate change, advocating for stronger international collaboration among judges to enforce climate commit-

The second panel, titled "Integrating Science into Judicial Decision Making" chaired by Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, focused on the integration of climate science into judicial decision-making. Panelists included leading experts such as Dr. Adil Najam, Dr.

Oaiyum

deserved victory. Fahad Saeed, and Dr. Abid Suleri, who stressed the need for judito this success.

This achievement represents a significant step forward for the welfare of the legal fraternity and underscores the collective trust of Balochistan's legal community in its leader-

association's commitment to upholding the Constitution, promoting the rule of law, and serving the interests of lawyers across Balochistan.

He expresses confidence that the newly elected team will work diligently to strengthen the legal profession and contribute to justice and democracy in the country.

eign interference in our in-

ternal affairs cannot be ac-

disqualification of Nawaz

Sharif in 2017 was the first

conspiracy, followed by

the alleged manipulations

during 2018 elections.

He categorically stated

that all conspiracies to de-

stabilize democratic sys-

tem and economic reforms

will be thwarted and Paki-

stan will continue to move

forward on development

Rana Tanveer said the

team. Sources The minister lauded the

Cricket Board (PCB) is set to appoint á local coach on a per-

Before the Australia tour, Gary Kirsten had re-signed from the head coach role, and Jason Gillespie, the head coach for redball cricket, was appointed as the in-

Pakistan is scheduled to play a series against Zimbabwe from November 24 to

Following that, the team will face South Africa in a series from December 10 to January 7 which will include 3 T20s, 3 ODIs, and



BAKU: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks at a UNICEFhosted event during COP29.

Azam Nazir Tarar to extend congratulations to Mir Attaullah Langove

Attempts to create

unrest will never

succeed: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Azam Nazeer Tarar, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mir Attaullah Langove, upon his success as President Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

The Minister also congratulated all other successful candidates on their well-

The Minister commended Mr Ahsan Bhoon, head of the Independent Lawyers Group (Asma Jahangir Group) for his unwavering dedication and leadership that contributed

MURIDKE (APP): Minis-

ter for Industries and Pro-

duction Rana Tanveer

Hussain says attempts are

being made to derail coun-

try from achieving eco-

nomic stability through

Muridke on Sunday, he said

attempt to create unrest and

anarchy on November 24

will never succeed like pre-

dustries said that Pakistan

is a sovereign state and for-

vious attempts.

Talking to media in

The Minister for In-

protest and long march.

Agib likely to be appointed white-ball team head coach

AHORE (INP) Former Test cricketer Aqib Javed is likely to be appointed as the new head coach of Pakistan's white-ball

gested that discussions are ongoing about assigning him the role for the upcoming Zimbabwe series and beyond, with an official decision expected

manent basis for this position.

terim coach for the Australian tour.

December 5.

Test matches.



PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) President, Aimal Wali Khan along with others offering Fateha for the departed soul of Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, at Bilour House in Peshawar.

Ambassador Hashmi attends World Maritime Equipment Conference in Fuzhou, China

Ambassador to China, Khalil Hahsmi paid his first official visit to Fuzhou, capital of Fujian in Southern China to attend the World Maritime Equipment Conference and to speak at one of the side events of the conference.

'Speaking at the Seminar titled "High-Quality Development of Offshore Wind Power Supply Ambassador Hashmi who visited Fujian at invitation of provincial authorities highlighted Pakistan's natural advantages as a country with a long coastline of over 1,000 kilometers, and emphasized the country's strong focus on transiting to renewable

sources of energy. Appreciating China's rapid advancements in offshore wind industry sector, Ambassador Hashmi underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation by strengthening technology exchanges, infrastructure development and regulaory support.

He invited Chinese investors to explore the opportunities available in Pacistani offshore wind in-

"Ambassador Hashmi also interacted with a num-

BEIJING (APP): :Pakistan ber of senior officials from Fuzhou, including its senior-most political leader, Ms. Guo Ñingning.

The two sides reiter ated the commitment of Pakistan and China to build on the momentum of the over-arching rubric of Pakistan-China relations, and strengthen the cooperation between Pakistan and Fuzhou under the overal

bilateral framework The Ambassador high lighted Pakistan's renewed focus on B2B engagement with China, under the guidance of Pakistani leadership. and expressed his commitment to enhance interaction between the business enterprises of Pakistan and China

Besides, the Ambassador was given a tour of the World Maritime Equipment Conference, and was separately briefed on urban planning, shipbuilding and cultural landscape of the province

"Fujian province in Southern China is the hub of China's maritime industry advancements, poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts. Chinese President Xi Jinping has also served in the province for around 17 years, including in Fuzhou city.



ABBOTTABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Former Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq talking to media persons, at Jamat-e-Islami Center in Abbottabad.

'Khalistan referendum sends strong message to India to end Sikhs' persecution'

Khalistan referendum sends a strong message to India to end its persecution f Sikhs

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said a referendum for a separate Sikh homeland is taking place at Aotea Square in Auckland, New Zealand, today.

It said to India's dismay, New Zealand has permitted Sikhs for Justice to hold the Khalistan referendum in Auckland. Despite India's pressure, Modi failed to halt the Sikh referendum in

Zealand, it added. The report said the Chalistan referendum has already taken place in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. It said massive participation of Sikhs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The in referendums for their homeland has unnerved In-

> Results Khalistan referendum will be shared with the United Nations and international bodies to build global support for a separate Sikh omeland, it maintained.

The report said India must recognize Sikhs birthright to freedom and independence as the Khalistan movement continues to inspire Sikhs worldwide in their struggle for an independent home-

It lamented that Sikhs have faced systematic persecution by successive Indian governments since 1947 and their oppression in India has fueled their movement for a separate



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai enquiring about health of Parliamentary Secretary Urban Planning and Chairman QDAAsfandyar Khan Kakar.

Governor for more opportunities to KP's youth

Knyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said more opportunities should be created for the youth including females to excel in various fields and boost the pace of

the country's development. He was addressing Black Belt Certification ceremony held here at a Taekowndo academy.

"Women play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of our country, and we must continue to provide them with the platforms they need to succeed," the governor said. Referring to the signifi-

cant contributions of the young athletes, he said they were playing crucial roles in promoting a positive image of Pakistan internation-

have not only excelled in their sport but were repre-

The 31st Convocation of

Fazaia Bilquis College of

Education for Women, PAF

Nur Khan, was held on

Sunday at the Convocation

Hall, Air University,

Islamabad, celebrating the

academic achievements of

students from the 2020, 2021, and 2022 sessions.

graced by Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan, Vice

Chancellor of Air Univer-

sity, as the Chief Guest,

while Begum Air Marshal

Kazim Hammad attended

as the Guest of Honour,

according to a press release. A total of 804 students

receiving trophy from chief guest.

The ceremony was

lauded the academy's efforts in empowering young female athletes, particularly in martial arts, and commended their success on both national and international platforms.

During the ceremony, certificates were awarded to a group of talented athletes, including Iqra Javed, Mamoona Nasir Baloch, Aiman Laraib, Asyha, Ajwa Nadeem, Syeda Sherbano Sherazi, Umsha Shah, Fatima Noor, and Manima Khalid, all of whom earned their black belts in

The governor was briefed on the academy's impressive track record, which includes training over 40 girls who have earned black belts. The academy has also made a mark internationally, with He said young athletes 19 of its athletes repre-

senting Pakistan globally.

Fazaia Bilquis College of Education

for Women holds 31st convocation

across various disciplines,

including Master of Arts in

English, B.Ed (Hons) El-

ementary, Associate Degree

in Education, BS (Hons) in

English, Computer Science,

Mathematics, Psychology,

the session were awarded

19 Gold and 18 Silver med-

als for securing the first and

given to Ms. Erum Kham,

Ms. Beenish Farooq, and

Ms. Khizra Fatima, who

were presented with the

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy for

their outstanding academic

ISLAMABAD: Winner of 9th Thal Desert Jeep Rally Asif Fazal Chaudhry

The top performers of

Special recognition was

and BBA (Hons).

second positions.

were conferred degrees performance, co-curricular

DERA ISMAIL KHAN ternational level. He also tional titles, including a dia medai by Mamoona Nasir Baloch, a silver by Ajwa Nadeem, and bronze medals by Areeba Baloch and Asyha.

Moreover academy's athletes have claimed 30 national gold

Meanwhile, two athletes Sofyan Mehsud and Irfan Mehsud also called on the governor who lauded them for recently setting world records in their respective fields.

Speaking on the occasion, governor Faisal Karim Kundi underlined the need for supporting the young players to improve the country and individuals who are contributing to improving the country's international im-

He said they had not only earned recognition for The athletes have won brought honor to Pakistan senting Pakistan on the in- a total of seven interna- on the global stage.

achievements, and exem-

Bilquis College, Wing Commander Ayesha

Waheed, welcomed the

guests and delivered the

annual report. Ayesha

Waheed highlighting the

institution's pioneering role

in empowering women

through education since its

that the college continues to

provide teacher training

programs and general

courses, equipping women

with the skills to contrib-

ute to the nation's progress.

Ayesha Waheed said

establishment in 1984.

Principal of Fazaia

plary conduct.

tant Commissioner Naal Nadeem Akram Shahwani in a group photo with **Academicians from Pakistan and** China participate in Bio-health

KHUZDAR: Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Yasir Iqbal Dashti and Assis-

International Symposium on the Belt and Road Biohealth Agriculture and China-SCO National Bio-Health Agriculture Overseas Science and Technology Demonstration Park Construction Forum was held at Northwest A&F

Co-organizers include but not limited to the Silkroad (Yangling) Biohealth Agricultural In-Alliance (SBHAIA), the Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological Resources, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Center, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan, Shaanxi Hybrid Rapeseed

Pro, more than 200 representatives home and abroad, from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, participated in the forum offline and

In a keynote speech,

of promoting food safety agricultural through biodiversity and smart multifunctional agriculture.

Matters also came under discussion for promoting the development of biodiversity, green and smart agriculture through scientific and technological collaboration among countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile,

searches involved potential crops, Chinese medicinal materials and energy plant varieties, and built a technical system biodiversity and ecological restoration, bio-healthy agricultural product production, and agricultural environmental governance are proceeding orderly, thus

achieved rich results," Luo 'Agriculture Pakistan's economic pillar. Through holding scuh seminar, China and Pakistan should accelerate the cooperation process in agricultural talent training, establishment of joint laboratories, construction of demonstration parks, and development of smart agriculture," emphasized Khan Muhammad Wazir, Scientific Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in

Professor Zabta Khan

Federal Urdu University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, and Professor Shukhrat Shokirov, Vice President of Tashkent University of Water Resources and Agricultural Machinery Engineering, Uzbekistan, also expressed earnest desire and specific suggestions to strengthen China-Pakistan and China-Uzbekistan agricultural cooperation with

NWAFU in their speeches. A total of 20 keynote reports on biodiversity, production of biohealthy agricultural products, as well as green and smart agriculture, has been delivered by Chinese and Pakistani representatives.

They included Professor Mushtaq Ahmad, Professor Muhammad Ishtiaq Al, Professor Zabta Khan Shinwari, Professor Shah Nawaz Mari, Professor Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa, Senior Researcher Shazia Sultana, Associate Professor Shabana Memon, Researcher Guo Rui from Shaanxi Aerospace Breeding Engineering Technology Research Center, Jia Shuhao, Cloud Solution Architect of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., and Dai Bao, Deputy General Manager of China Machinery Industry Engineering Group's Pakistan subsid-

Agriculture Symposium BEIJING (INP): The 6th NWAFU, noted that all parties availed the oppor-tunity to discuss the theme

University (NWAFU),

China in the recent week. Professor Mushtaq Ahmad from Quaid-i-Azam University, a member of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Professor Zhang Lixin from NWAFU served as chairmen of the confer-

Research Center. According to Gwadar Bangladesh,

Luo Jun, Vice President of



Mushahid welcomes Trump resolve to contain 'Deep State'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has welcomed Donald Trump's election as US President, terming it, as good for world peace and also welcomed his resolve to control the US 'Deep

In a keynote address at the 'Margalla Dialogue', he also defined the 'red lines' in Pakistan's national security and foreign policy, listing these as the nuclear/ missile programs, Occupied Kashmir & Palestine, China/CPEC, rejection of

Chairman PAEC, Dr

Raja Ali Raza Anwar com-

mended NUST's impres-

sive achievements and aca-

demic reputation, particu-

larly recognising the estab-

lishment of the NUST School of Health Sciences

(NSHS). He emphasized

that this partnership is a

significant step towards re-

alizing shared goals.

The MoU was formally signed by Dr Abdul Majeed, Director PAEC

General Hospital, and Pro-

Indian hegemony and re-fusal to be part to any destabilisation of Iran.

Referring to the conference themed 'Emerging Global Realities', he cited new realities as retrenchment of Western and American power with diminished clout, the peaceful rise of China and resurgence of the Global South, with the likely emergence of Mus-lim Middle Powers like Pakistan, Turkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia playing pivotal regional roles in the coming decade

PTI intra party

election case:

EC adjourns

hearing till

December 4

ISAMABAD (Online)

Election Commission (EĆ)

has adjourned till December 4 hearing of petition re-

garding intra party election of PTI.

by the former member of

of EC took up for hearing

the petition filed against

intra party elections of PTI

ter Gohar Khan appeared

PTI Akbar S Babar.

Thursday

The petition was filed

A two members bench

PTI chairman Barris-

He requested the EC

The EC while accept-

plea of chairman PTI

Karachi

outlaws in last

10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Islamabad Police

Karachi Company police

teams have carried out an

extensive crackdown

against criminal elements in

the federal capital over the

past 10 months to maintain

ficer on Sunday said that

during this period, the

Islamabad Karachi Com-

pany police teams arrested

a total of 630 accused in-

volved in various criminal

activities and recovered cash

and valuables worth over 41

million rupees from their

possession. As part of the

ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi"

campaign in the federal

capital, Karachi Company

police teams arrested 74

drug dealers and seized four

kilogram hashish, 2.5 kilo-

gram of heroin and 500 gram

ice from their possession.

Company police teams Po-

lice also conducted exten-

sive operations against the

Additionally, Karachi

A public relations of-

peace and security.

praised Donald Trump as the first US President since John Kennedy who's not a representative of the American security establishment. which, he said, tried to block Trump in this elec-

He also welcomed President Trump's resolve to contain the US 'Deep State' which had been active in fomenting unrest, destabilisation and regime change in developing coun-

Mushahid Hussain

Mushahid Hussain also called for a regional reset in Pakistan's foreign policy, urging the government not to unilaterally beg India for trade, talks and cricket matches, build better friction-free ties with Afghanistan and Iran, and alleviate Chinese concerns on Terrorism.

Mushahid Hussain concluded his keynote ad-dress by stating that 'Pakistan now has Strategic Space' in the region but the biggest challenge for Pakistan is the mindset of defeatism and fear.

NUST, PAEC General Hospital join forces for

enhanced collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Hospital seek to The National University of elevate healthcare standards Sciences and Technology and scientific advance-

her unlawful occupation by force for further long time fight for the freedom of of special status of the dis-Kashmir for a thousand puted IIOJK and the anyears since freedom is the

and Member Azad Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has called upon the United Nations to play its muchawaited key role moving to settle the prolonged unresolved global issue of Kashmir in line with its resolutions on the conflict.

"It is impossible to establish lasting peace in the region without the grant of right to self-determination", the Kashmiri leader said while talking g to journalists here on Sunday.

Yaseen recalled that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali

fundamental right of the Kashmiri people of Jammu

The President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Jammu Kashmir continued that India couldn't keep the Kashmiris as slaves nor bulk of the disputed Himalayan Jammu and Kashmir state in her unlawful occupation by force for a further long time.

The PPP AJK Chief lauded the new "govern-ment" of Indian illegally admitting the public deing immediate restoration

cient state-hood revival articles 370 and 35-A.

"The Kashmiri people must be given their due right in IIOJK in any case, which India had scrapped through its forced August 05, 2019, sinister action, he recalled. Referring to the sup-

ply of inexpensive electricity and flour to the people of AJK, Yaseen said that the credit goes to the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister mand relevant, immediately announced Rs. 23 billion package for Azad Jammu Kashmir this year.

of veteran actor

Shafi Shah

observed

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 17th death anniversary

of legendary actor Shafi

Muhammad Shah was ob-

served on Sunday. Shafi Muhammad

Shah was born on January

1, 1949, in Kandiaro city

of Naushahro Feroze dis-

a radio presenter from the

Hyderabad Radio Station.

PTV producer, the late

Shahzad Khalil, in his

Kinara," from where he

ioined the elite club of the

reer, he performed in over

50 drama serials and over

100 television plays in

He was also a recipient of the Pride of Perfor-

passed away on November 17, 2007.

PS Lohi Bher

arrests suspect,

recovers kidnapped

woman, 8.5 miln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory

(ICT) Police's Lohi Bher

Police Station team con-

ducted a major operation on

Sunday, appreĥending a

suspect involved in a kid-

napping and high-profile

ficer told APP that, a sus-

pect involved in the kidnap-

ping of a woman and a high-

profile theft case has been

apprehended by Lohi Bher

pect was also found with

stolen national and foreign

currency, gold jewelry, and

prize bonds, with a total value of PKR 8.5 million.

been registered against the

suspect at Lohi Bher Po-

lice Station, and further investigations are underway.

Police reunite

He added that the sus-

He said the case has

A public relation of-

theft case.

Shafi Muhammad

During his 30-year ca-

leading TV stars.

Urdu and Sindhi

mance award.

He began his career as

He was introduced by

trict, Sindh.

By combining their strengths, NUST and PAEC fessor Dr Rizwan Ashraf, Principal NSHS. Search, combing operation conducted at Noon police Death anniversary station jurisdiction

(NUST) and the Pakistan

Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) General Hos-

pital formalised a strategic

partnership through a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The sign-

ing ceremony, held at the NUST Main Office,

brought together key rep-

resentatives from both in-

stitutions, said a news re-

lease. The MoU aims to

foster collaboration in edu-

cation, research, and vari-

ous other mutually benefi-

cial activities.

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Police conducted a grand search and combing operation at the Noon police sta-

tion jurisdiction, a public

relations officer said. He said that, under the supervision of SP Sadar Zone Khan Zaib, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Noon police bikes were shifted to police station and also recovered 02 pistols during this

DIG Islamabad said that the search and combing operations were conducted to heighten security in the federal capital. All zonal officers were directed to continue these operations in their respective areas.

quested to cooperate with



During the search opoughly checked while 05 sistance.

operate with police and report any suspicious activity or information through the emergency helpline 'Pucar-15' or via the 'ICT-15' app for immediate as-

station by Islamabad Police, the police during the check-CTD, FC, and lady police ing. Citizens are urged to co-

eration 27 suspicious persons, 500 houses, shops, hotels and 15 motorbikes and 41 vehicles were thor-

SZABIST announces **ZAB** Artificial Intelligence CUP ISLAMABAD (APP): degrees in computing and

The Department of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (ZABIST) has announced the 2nd ZAB Artificial Intelligence Cup competition, taking place on December

This prestigious competition aims to bring together AI enthusiasts from various universities who are related fields. This two-day event will bring together some of the brightest students from across Pakistan, giving them the chance to showcase their expertise in Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL).

According to an official of the university, the challenge will involve implementing ML/DL models to achieve high accuracy on provided pursuing BS, MS, and PhD datasets.

Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted officers held at SP Swan Zone Office

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a distinguished ceremony was held at SP Swan Zone Officer to ties that accompany their

ers during the ceremony, the SP Swan Zone emphasized the increased responsibili-



ficers. The event was organized by the Superintendent of Police Swan Zone Pari Gul Tareen in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to their duties. The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratu-

the clear directives issued by the IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to ensure that promotions continue to be granted for all vacant positions. SP Swan Zone expressed that their well-deserved promotions are a testament to their hard work and unwavering efforts.

ing Festival at Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3 in the Federal Capital. 3-Day Pakistan Learning Festival concludes with enthusiastic participation

The three-day 'Pakistan Learning Festival' successfully concluded on Sunday at the Islamabad College for Boys, G-6/3.

ISLAMABAD: Students taking part in the last day of 3 Day Pakistan Learn-

Organized by the Ministry of Federal Éducation & Professional Training in collaboration with the National Book Foundation (NBF), Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) and the National Vocational & Tech-

free entry, encouraging widespread participation.
Renowned educational institutions, including Islamabad Model Post-

The event featured

graduate College H-8, Islamabad Model College for Boys H-9, and Federal Government Home Economics College F-11, among others, showcased their stalls, adding diversity to the experience. A huge nical Training Commission (NAVTTC) the festival attracted a large number of students, teachers, and parmental issues.

Resolution in IIOJK Assembly like rubbing

People's Conference Chairman Sajad Ghani Lone, in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, has criticized the "ruling" National conference for vague wording in its resolution on Article 370, moved in inaugural season of the so-called assembly, accusing them of inconsistency and political maneuvering and calls for a clear stance on the 5 August 2019, sinister Indian

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The left-wing J&K

action. In a long post on X, Lone said, "It seems we all will have to learn English from the basics. Different interpretations for three sentences in the alleged resolution brought by NC. Either Only NC people

remarked, says a report reaching here on Sunday from across the line of con-Sajaad Lone continued saying "Congress says it is not about 370. NC says it about 370 and much more"

they are lying through their

teeth, which they are adept

at for the last 77 years, he

'If NC was so serious about 1953, position or Article 370 or 35 A or 5 August— why didn't they write so in plain English" he asked.

Lone further said "Why are they having to explain three sentences Was there a dearth of paper to print the resolution on, or death of will and courage or the choice of words were pre-scripted and authored in Delhi. Let it be clear. know their English well or



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy girls are enjoying playing on a seesaw at a local park in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan sets unique precedent at COP29 by convening justice-led panels on Climate Finance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has become the only country to convene two separate panel discussions led by senior justices focused on the critical issue of climate finance at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
The COP29 is cur-

rently being held at the Baku Stadium in Azerbaijan, running from November 11 to 22, 2024, and is setting the stage for the next phase of global climate action.

Pakistan, which has consistently ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change, took a bold step to highlight the role of the judiciary in shaping climate policy and finance. The panels

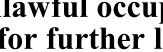
were designed to address the urgent need for climate finance as a tool for achieving climate justice, especially for the Global South. which continues to bear the brunt of climate disasters despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

The first panel, titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice -Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change through Global Analysis," was moderated by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan. The panel featured prominent global legal voices including Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and senior judges from Nepal, Belgium, Brazil, and Pakistan.

growing gap in climate finance, with developing countries needing \$4 trillion to tackle climate change impacts.

Senator Rehman highlighted the critical need for scaling up climate finance, stressing that countries like Pakistan – with less than one percent of global carbon emissions – are paying the heaviest price in terms of climate-related disasters She underscored the urgency of fulfilling financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly for adaptation and ss and damage funds.

Other speakers, including Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal, discussed the inter-The panel emphasized the section of human rights.



Ch. Yaseen says:

India can't keep Kashmir in

ISLAMABAD (APP): PPP AJK Central President and Kashmir, he added.

Occupied Jammu Kashmir state for unanimously approving resolution demand-

Bhutto had announced to

ISLAMABAD: A woman painting the face of a young girl on stall during the 10-Day "Folk Festival (Lok Mela) 2024" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

SUPARCO announces Collaboration on Rover Mission through China's

Chang'e 8 Mission in 2028 The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced its collaboration on a groundbreaking lunar exploration mission in part-nership with China's Chang'E 8 mission, set to

launch in 2028. This collaboration marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's space program, as SUPARCO's indigenous rover will be part of the mission to ex-

plore the lunar surface. SUPARCO's rover, with an approximate weight of 35 kilograms, will join China's Chang'E 8 mission, which is part of the larger International Lunar Re-

project. The rover is set to land on the lunar south pole, a region known for its challenging terrain and potential scientific discoveries.

This mission aims to explore the Moon's surface. conduct scientific research. and test innovative technologies for future lunar and

planetary exploration. The mission will involve a series of scientific experiments, including the study of lunar soil, mapping of the lunar surface, and the testing of new technologies for sustainable human presence on the Moon. SUPARCO's rover, equipped with stateof-the-art scientific instru-

ments, will play a crucial role

in collecting data that could



ISLAMABAD: Boys looking for useable items from a garbage container to earn for their livelihood.

Forging new paths: Green Tourism, GRCP partner for sustainable cultural preservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Gandhara Resource Centre Pakistan (GRCP), a flagship project of the Center for Culture and Development (C2D), hosted a meeting with Lt. General ® Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan, Managing Director of Green Tourism, to explore a mutual partner-

ship.

The meeting focused on building an alliance to advance eco-friendly tourism and community development in the region, said a press release.

Lt. Gen. ® Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan, was welcomed at GRCP's Taxila Garden premises by a team comprising Sara Mehmood, Team Lead; Waqar Haider Awan, Member Advisory Committee;

Riaz Ahmed, Program Co-ordinator; Sohail Ahmed, Manager, Media & Communications; Iftikhar Ahmed, Sculptor and Heritage Conservator; and Iftikhar Uddin Siddique, Community Outreach Of-

Discussions revolved around strategies to promote Gandhara's archaeology, focussing on key priorities, including ecofriendly tourism initiatives as business model initiatives to attract local and interna-

Lt. Gen. ® Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan proposed collaboration to GRCP in alignment with Green Tourism's vision to integrate tourism with heritage conservation and community empowerment.

missing boy with family SLAMABAD (APP):

Tarnol police station team successfully reunited a missing boy, Fizan, with his family on Sunday. A public relations officer told APP that the Tarnol police station received a report from the boy's father, Mehr Wali Khan, a resident of Chaudhry Mohalla.

Wali Khan stated that his three-year-old son, Fizan, had gone missing after leaving home in the morning, and despite all efforts by the family, he could not be located. Upon receiving the report, the police team, under the supervision of Sub-Inspector Inamullah Ghazi, utilized both technical and human resources to locate the missing boy.



lated by SP Swan Zone.

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Monday November 18, 2024

IMF's concern

On Friday, the IMF team wrapped up its weeklong unscheduled talks on the Fund's ongoing \$7bn | it sees its eastern neighbour as a fierce rival programme with the Pakistani authorities without making a customary end-ofmission statement, thus with honesty on whether leaving most people in the dark about the outcome of the discussions. Some media reports have conjectured that the lender might comment on its findings soon. However, although we do not have all the details, it is clear from the information provided to journalists during the course of the talks that the Fund is seriously "concerned" over delays in the materialisation of foreign loans of \$2.5bn, including a Saudi oil facility of \$1.2bn, and the shortfall of Rs190bn | Pakistan s bond with South Asian nations is weakening in the tax collection target for the July-October period. The slow progress on the Pakistan's relations with National Fiscal Pact, signed by the provinces and the centre, and delays in the people-to-people exchanges. One of the few privatisation of SOEs seem to have emerged as other Pakistani TV dramas, areas of concern for the Fund, as the provinces have yet to align their farm and Lanka, and Nepal. property tax rates with the federal tax regime.

It looks like the government is falling short of meetno resolution in sight for the
India-Pakistan conflict, Paing several critical structural benchmark targets. Pakistan's regional connec-Nonetheless, it still has some time to meet or, at least, and no links to other South move closer to, the targets Pakistan is fostering ties as the first 'formal biannual with Central Asia, where better flight connectivity better flight connectivity review of the bailout loan is signals economic opportu- transformations to the Asia. However, this ratioexpected to take place towards the end of February or early March. Dependent on a successful programme The Trump victory in the performance review is the disbursement of the next migration under even \$1bn tranche and, more greater focus. Along with forced displacements critically, the market's confidence in the economy. The migrants in search of betfact that fiscal deviations and delays in implementing and delays in implementing other targets had alarmed an agreement with the latthe lender, compelling it to ter, but the scheme came to naught. Among other dispatch an early mission to reasons, while Paul Ragame keeps getting elected to lead Rwanda and protect the programme from derailment, indicates that the Fund would like to keep Islamabad on a tight leash. | five years than most coun-In spite of the strict implementation of the last short-term IMF SBA loan, thankfully failed, and with Labour having taken the reins at 10 Downing Pakistan's track record has Street, it is not likely to be revived anytime soon. not inspired much confidence in the country's commitment to undertaking reforms. As they say, 'once bitten, twice shy' — multilat- initially because we eral and bilateral lenders we kept looking at it from a human rights lens, whereas the proponents ignore the dilly-dallying on of shipping would-be imcritical targets. The prime minister and his finance it from a legal perspective. Entering a country illeteam have repeatedly gally or overstaying a lepledged to make the current IMF bailout the country's the issue is that these law-breakers do not usually last. But that appears to be more of political rhetoric than nounce their real motive a plan, given the way they for breaching the law as soon as they land on Brithave allowed powerful lobbies | ish soil and petition for — retailers, real estate businesses and others — to influence the government's eco- other penal colony of

nomic decisions.

Throwing the VPN baby out

Abbas Nasir

Those who govern us may have expertise in multiple areas, but their ability and propensity to score own goals seem without parallel. None of us will have to look too hard to find examples. The latest of these are curbs on the internet.

Pakistan often competes with India because and often gives the im-pression it has the desire and the ability to match it in all spheres. But does any Pakistani who believes this ever reflect it is true?

India is about four times bigger than Pakistan in terms of land mass and five to six times larger in population. Now, if we were competing like for like, we'd have been justifiably smug if, for example, our trade volume, foreign exchange reserves, GDP and other key development indicators reflected this proportion.

Who doesn't know the history which tells us that while our eastern neighbour had political

(leadership) continuity well past its first decade as an independent state (16 years to be precise), saw meaningful land reforms and investment in education, with at least five world class IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) set up within the first 14 years of its existence. Not forgetting the passage of its first constitution in

In our case, a similar period of our existence saw the father of the nation passing away within 13 months of independence, assassination of his political heir apparent a few years later, and then a devastating and debilitating game of thrones which witnessed politicians and civil-military bureaucrats passing through a revolving door in power grabs. sanctioned by a superior judiciary that sullied itself and set the theme for years

While India stayed on the democratic course, Pakistan strayed and strayed and strayed from it, in a tradition that continues to this day. The one area where Pakistan appeared to be ahead was in economic growth and de-

to come

throwing in its lot with the West (read: the US) during the Cold War years and beyond

In different forms, this slight edge continued till the early 1990s, when Manmohan Singh became India's finance minister and embarked on an unprecedented reform and deregulation plan, which was to transform India's economy and fate within a few years. There has been no looking back for

Of course, critics of any such analysis would ask if Indian society is any better than Pakistan's as a result of this economic growth and development. They'd cite the rise of Hindutva ideology and list its negative impact on the country and its unity. That would be valid criticism, as that is true.

Any such analysis does not for a moment suggest that Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was wrong in seeking and securing a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. He was right. It was

Pakistan off track and into the direction in which it finds itself today.

The religious intolerance and strife in society and the extra-constitutional role and transgressions of various power players in the country since Mr Jinnah's passing would have enraged him no end, and, frankly, they would not have happened had he lived through the initial years of Pakistan. But he did not.

What we have as a result is an unmitigated mess where various hugely power-hungry and selfrighteous players and their petty agendas take precedence over what is vital for the collective good of the country and its citizens. While many execu-

tives of Indian origin are now at the helm of global technology giants (a tribute to the quality educa-tion imparted by the IITs, 23 of which exist today with an enrolment of nearly 100,000 students at any given time), we are still debating whether free access to the internet is highly desirable or anathema to our society.

when, in the early 1990s, my nephew, then at MIT

(Massachusetts Institute of Technology), told me that he was quite surprised to see some Indian students transferring directly from IITs to MIT undergrad programmes. The result of this education and Dr Singh's reform was that the Indian

tech sector grew exponentially, like the rest of the economy. India today is home to some of the world's leading technology companies, and their software exports total more than \$200 billion a year, and are likely to grow further. India's exports are services-led. So should ours.

Pakistan's software exports are around \$3.2bn annually. By no means is this comparison meant to run down our companies and IT professionals but merely to demonstrate the growth potential.

Our firms have performed so well even when unsupported by government policy — not just unsupported, but often restricted, as is happening his tragic death soon after I became aware independence that pushed through an anecdote of the that the rulers have devel-

Whatever the rationale they have cited for restricting free access to the modern tools of communication and information technology, it will not stand the test of time nor

Contentious political issues will not be resolved by turning off the IT tap.In fact, it is tantamount to turning off the water, food supply (even oxygen) to an entire city's population because hiding among them are some terrorists. Any law enforcement has to be targeted and pinpointed. This collective punishment is selfdefeating.

Instead of scoring own goals, those running the country should reflect and ask themselves whether they wish to see Pakistan as a modern developing/ developed state with its abundant youth talent contributing to its development, earning it billions in badly needed foreign exchange, or a dysfunctional isolationist security state perpetually in need of bailouts with all their negative consequences.

onnecting with South Asia

Muhammad **Amir Rana**

Pakistan's bond with South despite shared cultural heritage and historical ties. The enduring India-Pakistan riother South Asian countries, especially in areas like economic connectivity and positive connections rewhich, thanks to social media and YouTube, continue to attract audiences across India, Bangladesh, Sri

It remains to be seen how long the drama industry alone can sustain this cultural bridge amid escalating regional tensions. With kistan risks further isolating itself from South Asia. tivity remains limited, with flights only to Colombo

nities. The Middle East is a key labour market and a cornerstone of its foreign relations. Pakistan maintains strong economic and political ties with the region despite the Gulf states' growing alignment with India due to its rising global

For Pakistan's elite

influence.

and intelligentsia, the West is the West and always remains the primary focus, and no serious efforts have been made to explore alternatives or shift this orientation. The West dominates the global knowledge economy, reinforcing its appeal. However, China is emerging as a significant neighbour, with growing people-to-people exchanges and an increasing number of Pakistani students pursuing education there, alongside expanding trade relations. The extent of China's influence on Pakistan's sociocultural and political landscape still needs to be explored. How this influence shapes Pakistan's middle- and lower-income classes, engaging with China through education and trade, remains to be seen. The imcould bring significant

country's socioeconomic

However, disconnecting from South Asia would not be a simple path for Pakistan, civilisational and cultural roots are not easily severed. Pakistanis living abroad often find themselves naturally associating with South Asians despite political tensions. Shared cultural elements, such as movies, dramas, music, and cricket, continue to forge bonds that are difficult to break. South Asia's rich culinary heritage, while rapidly evolving through fusion, still captivates taste buds across the region and beyond. The region's linguistic and ethnic diversity, while a source of political friction, also serves as a unique communication channel. It helps South Asians express shared experiences and contrasting narratives, in ways that reflect the region's unity and complexity.

It is often argued that Pakistan is distancing itself South Asian neighbours, from its South Asian origins even amidst political and due to ideological and political motivations, with religious identity serving as a critical factor in aligning more closely with the Middle East and Central

nale does not hold in the to isolate it regionally has case of Pakistan's relations with China or the West. If faith were the defining factor, it is worth noting that South Asia itself is home to a larger population of Muslims, particularly in India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, than many of the regions Pakistan seeks to align with. These South Asian nations and their Muslim communities maintain stronger people-topeople ties and cultural in-

tegration — ties that Paki-

stan increasingly lacks due

to limited communication

and interaction.

This disconnect has fostered misperceptions about Pakistan in the region. Despite this, there remains a deep affection for Pakistani culture, sustained by shared traditions and the continued popularity of its dramas, music, and cricket. These cultural elements act as bridges, preserving a sense of connection between Pakistan and its

ideological divides. Pakistan's strained relations with India drive its detachment from South Asia. India's strategy of exerting diplomatic and political pressure on Pakistan western South Asia is heavily influenced by India, South Asian region.

compelled Pakistan to seek alternatives beyond South Asia. Geographically, Pakistan shares no borders with its western South Asian neighbours apart from India, and when tensions escalate between the two nations, they inevitably impact Pakistan's relations with other South Asian countries.

From Pakistan's per-

spective, diplomatic and political engagement with South Asia, excluding India, yields limited returns compared to its investments in the Middle East and, more recently, in Central Asia. The Middle East remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy due to economic ties and labour market opportunities, while Central Asia offers new avenues for trade and connectivity. This strategic shift reflects Pakistan's prioritisation of regions where it perceives more sig-regional ties. India's arronificant economic and po-

litical dividends, even as its links to South Asia continue of unresolved conflicts with India. There is a prevailing perception in Pakistan that

leaving limited scope for fostering meaningful political and economic relationships with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. The political landscape of South Asia is complex and often influenced by regime changes, which can significantly alter the dynamics of regional engagement.

A recent example is Bangladesh, where the exit of Sheikh Hasina's government poses challenges for India while presenting an opportunity for Pakistan to rebuild and strengthen its ties with Bangladesh. Such shifts highlight the fluidity of regional politics and the potential for Pakistan to recalibrate its relationships despite India's overarching influence in the region.

Pakistan should prioritise South Asia in its core external policies for the future and avoid falling into India's trap of curtailing its gance and irrational approach towards Pakistan are evident on the global to erode under the weight stage. A recent example is its controversial decision not to send its cricket team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy — a move widely criticised within the

Black Water

Shahzad Sharjeel

recent US election has brought the subject of imcaused by wars, disasters and calamities, economic ensures consistency in policies, the British are becoming used to having more prime ministers in tries have in a decade or more. The scheme has The good thing is that Rwanda gets to keep the money Britain paid them to get them to agree to this machination.

People like me could not understand the idea migrants to the far-off corner of Africa looked at

gal permit is a crime.

What complicates asylum. In other words, those in favour of sending the aspiring immigrants to Rwanda see it just like anyore, and the deportees as 'criminals'. Prof Thomas

Sowell noted, "Immigration laws are the only laws discussed in terms of how to help people who break

Of course, the evolution of international law and how countries conduct their business in modern times would not allow them to dump shiploads of people on some island and wash their hands off them as was done in the past. Australia and the Andaman Islands, more commonly known as 'Kala Pani' (Black Water), are earlier examples of penal colonies.

Angola, the southern African country, is hardly ever mentioned in the same breath as other penal colonies. The Portuguese used it as one as far back as the 16th century. Unlike Australia, which received a mixed bag of lawbreakers from Britain, Angola only got the most hardened and dangerous convicts, and who turned to slave trading after serving their sen-Angola's woes re-

fused to go away with time. While the outbound human trafficking may have abated, as late as 2006, China transported shiploads of convicts to Angola as labourers and asked them to stay after serving their sentences as it did not want them back. Despite being a very densely forested country, it has no wild animals. You read it right, except for a dozen or so giant sable antelopes, the country's national symbol, this beautiful African country has no wild animals left in a reserve park. Wondering what hap-pened? Well, they were either blown to pieces by landmines or eaten, because international politics and the resultant long

So how come Australia grew into a prosperous

civil wars did not allow

any economy to take

root, and people had to

country and joined the league of other developed, primarily white, nations despite its humble antecedents? Why does Kala Pani only evoke a dreaded reminder subcontinent's plunder by

the colonialists?

The Chinese are doing wonders worldwide, from mining rare earth to copper, running telecoms to building mammoth infrastructure; why haven't these 'pioneers' in Angola transformed Luanda and Huambo into a Syd-ney or a Perth? Well, one very pessimistic and deeply disturbing answer may be that it is geographic entities and the new arrivals who prospered in Australia, not the Aboriginal population. The native people and fauna of Angola continue to face extinction through landmines made in the US. It is anybody's guess where the AK-47s used during the bloody civil

wars are made. We have had quite a seamless transition from Kala Pani to Blackwater; only the seams are bursting now with organically grown and invasive species of predators. Residues of the Afghan wars have included not just heroin and Kalashnikovs but also landmines in erstwhile Fata; Blackwater, and other private contractors running spy ops; and fourth-rate informants and clerics enjoying state hospitality as high-value assets and guests.

Things need change for the better and change fast, lest we become the first-ever example in the world where the natives feel as if they're condemned to a penal colony.

We already have the dubious honour of bei-ng the only instance in human history where the majority ceded from a minority. Let us not create any more negative records. -- Cour-

Et tu, Maryam?

Muna Khan How much should we know about Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's health? As a public official, should her health be up for the media's scrutiny? The media dictates so; the understanding is that politicians all over the world lose their right to privacy once they step into public office. Their health becomes an important story, especially if it threatens to impact their job.

But the Sharif family's health has received more scrutiny than others; from the brother's cosmetic surgeries to the most despicable manner in which Kulsoom Nawaz's illness was mocked as 'drama' on TV. So-called journalists said she was at a London clinic getting Botox when she was being treated for cancer in 2017. Someone also tried to break into her hospital room. Maryam Nawaz is routinely mocked for plastic surgery in the rudest of manners by the rudest of them all, Ali Amin Gandapur. Misogyny may as well be declared a national pastime. Notice how they use 'naani' as a pejorative for her. Women are wishing for Maryam to disappear, proving the feminist writer bell hooks (who uses lowercase letters to write her name) was right when she said "patriarchy has no gender".

People in power have a duty to be transparent about their health, and the media has to report to the public if leaders are not being truthful.

A part of the reason there was so much media attention on Joe Biden's visible cognitive decline was because it impacted his performance. I think people will look back at this time and ask why he was allowed to continue. There are plenty of leaders who hid their illnesses

did so because they did not want to be seen as poor decision-making. And when they told the truth, like Norway's prime minister Kjell Bondevik did when he admitted to having depression and taking a month off work, it was greatly respected. And helped fight stigma about depression.

Maryam Nawaz is under scrutiny for a few reasons, some of which are due to misogyny, her unpopularity and, I'm sorry to say, her high-end designer wear. Initially I thought it was petty, but when I saw her draped in fur in London, I imitated the slap-on-forehead emoji we all use. To be clear, I am not policing her clothing choices. I'm questioning the messaging it sends at a time when thousands are sick in Punjab due to the smog. She has every right to

seek medical treatment wherever she likes, especially when her mother was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2017. Much like the airwaves a few years Imran Khan wants to be examined by his doctors, she too wants treatment from her doctors. This system is so flawed that people across the political divide do not trust hospitals because everyone fears being poisoned. The irony is that every party has played a role in creating this poisonous environment

But I digress. Ms Nawaz's health does not explain why senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb travelled with her at this critical juncture. Or why the chief minister flew on a special air force plane, as reported in the media. This fuels the perception that the party doesn't take its responsibilities seriously. While she was in and the public and only Geneva, Punjab's Minister of Information Azma

and I understand that they Bukhari posted pictures from her umrah trip on Instagram. There are weak. History shows how news reports the provinleaders' poor health led to cial chief secretary is away too.

This is a valid question. Instead, a lot of the media and YouTubeverse has focused on inane issues like Marriyum Aurangzeb carrying Nawaz's Maryam purse in Geneva or calculating the cost of the fur the chief minister wore. Then there was the repor-ting on the father and daughter meeting abusive attacks in London. As a side note, abusing opponents should be de--clared a national sp---ort. We know which team will always win.

Surely, we can do better journalism. That means asking tough questions about Maryam's plans to tackle the smog crisis, beyond the sloganeering we've seen so far. We should be spared the breakdown of the elder Sharif's platelet count that dominated ago. If her health is an impediment to doing her job, someone else must be deputed to do it. Report, do not speculate, do not sensationalise.

At the time of writing, Ms Aurangzeb had returned and announced that the smog in Punjab had "now" turned into a health crisis. The media should "now" go into overdrive and report on the actions being taken to fix this problem. This includes reporting on what is causing the toxic pol-lutants and what the responsible parties are doing to mitigate the crisis. In this age of connectivity, you can't fool people for political gain. There is a serious trust deficit between political leaders transparency can mend it. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor KP says: Several development initiatives afoot for Paharpur's uplift

DERA ISMAIL KHAN Paharpur Grid Station will to pursue higher studies in Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim contributing significantly Kundi on Sunday said that a number of development initiatives were being taken an interchange would be for the socio-economic development of Paharpur

with a delegation of traders convenience to the local and notables from Paharpur Tehsil. The delegation

The delegation region's included the Chairman of development the Paharpur Traders Association, Noman Niazi, Haji Muhammad Iqbal, Haji Bagh Ali, Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed, and prominent political and social figure Junaid Tariq Qureshi, who briefed the related services. The governor on issues being faced by the area.

results of the ongoing area's youth with quality sympathized with the upgradation project of the upgradation and enable them bereaved family members.

to the area's development. Moreover, he added that established at Paharpur-Paniala under the China-Tehsil. Pakistan Economic
He expressed these views during a meeting will not only provide

population but also serve

development. Similarly, he he said NADRA office in Paharpur and residents would not have to travel to Dera Ismail Khan for passporteffective measures were worker

LAHORE: A group photograph of Delegates of the International Conference at Allama Iqbal's mausoleum.

in schools, asserting that

personnel would lead to a

marked improvement in the

participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee equipping schools with different hospitals, while

art amenities. Additionally,

Malik calls for enhancing

school facilities at standing

committee's meeting

ABBOTTABAD (APP): addressing staff shortages

of Information and Public hiring adequate teaching

Secondary Education. The ensuring that newly

session, presided over by upgraded institutions at the

Committee Chairman secondary and higher MPA Taj Muhammad khan. During the meeting, provided with state-of-the-

key directives aimed at Malik Adil Iqbal stressed

elevating the educational the need to accelerate

standards in his ongoing construction constituency, PK-48. He projects to complete new

KARACHI: A Bishop leading ceremony of Diamond

Call to promote

religious harmony

presiding over a meeting that Quran Complex

university

Nabiyeen

Jubilee at St. Patrick Church.

Auqaf Secretary Dr Tahir

Raza Bukhari has said that

it is the need of the hour to

promote religious harmony.

held regarding making the

Khatam-un-Nabiyeen

(PBUH) University active

and forming Centre of

Excellence for Religious

Harmony at Aiwan-e-

Auqaf on Sunday.

He said this while

LAHORE (APP): Punjab sectarianism.

underscored the urgency of educational institutions.

Provincial Assembly quality of education.

standing

Malik Adil Iqbal, Chairman

committee and Member of

(MPA) PK-48, actively

Malik Adil Iqbal issued

As part of it, efforts were underway to establish campus of Gomal University in Paharpur and the Higher Education Commission would be contacted in this regard.

The governor also informed that breakthrough had been achieved about Kloorkotas a milestone for the Karri Khaisor Road and the economic Chashma Right Bank Canal project. He said those initiatives would benefit that a passport counter the local population, no would be set up at the opportunists and elements with vested interest would be allowed to obstruct the progress of the area.

Meanwhile, governor also paid a visit governor also said that to the house of late PPP Muhammad He said that the being taken to equip the Akhthar at Paharpur and

16 dead,

1397 injured

in 1328 RTCs

in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least

sixteen persons were killed

and 1397 injured in 1328

Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts

of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these,

797 victims with minor

injuries were treated at the

incident site by Rescue

Medical Teams thus

reducing the burden of

analysis showed those 771

drivers, 49 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians,

and 508 passengers were

among the victims of road

traffic crashes. The statistics show that 269

RTCs were reported in

Lahore which affected 302

persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of

the list followed by Multan

89 in with 95 victims and

at third Faisalabad with 84

Four dacoits

killed in

encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): As

many as four dacoits were

allegedly killed during a

police encounter in the

area of Nishatabad police

station. Police spokesman said here on Sunday that

the team was carrying four

accused of a dacoity case

for recovery of property

case on late Saturday night

when seven outlaws

intercepted the police van

and open blunt firing to get

their accomplices resealed

from police custody near

Achkera. The police also

returned fire and during this

encounter, the four accused

received serious injuries

due to the bullets fired by

RTCs and 86 victims.

Furthermore, the

He also highlighted 600 people with serious

Hospitals.



MUREEDKAY: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain expressing solidarity with brides during mass wedding ceremony of needy families.

Maryam urges road users to follow traffic rules to prevent accidents

LAHORE (APP): Punjab need for everyone to reaffirmed the need for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety, urging all road users to follow traffic

In her message on the World Day of Remembrance for Road of of safety for both individuals and the community. She stated, 'Make it a habit to follow traffic rules for your own safety and the safety of others," highlighting the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Minister for Higher

Education Meena Khan

Afridi has said that the

provincial government is

making sincere efforts to

promote higher education

and his visits to various

colleges and universities

are a step toward this

His visits to the entire

rovince are aimed at

spreading awareness

regarding problems of

colleges and universities by

taking concrete steps

towards this end, he added.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP) Central Punjab Secretary-

General Syed Hassan

Murtaza on Sunday criticized the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

leadership, calling the

internal dissent within the

party a "divine warning"

for its founder. He noted

that even the founder's

imprisoned allies are now

urging him to adopt a

political engagement

approach

He expressed these

direction.

Chief Minister Maryam actively contribute to Nawaz Sharif has stressed reducing road traffic incidents. The CM expressed

her heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their lives in road accidents. She prayed for the forgiveness of all those who have tragically lost Traffic Victims, she their lives in road traffic emphasized the importance accidents. She extended her sympathy to the families of the victims, stating, "I share grief of the families who have lost their loved ones in these heartbreaking incidents.

The chief minister

Government Post Graduate

College Karak regarding all colleges of the district.

Earlier, he was also given a

detailed briefing at the

Khushal Khan Khattak

Provincial Minister for

Agriculture Major ®

Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal, Shahid Khattak

MNA, Chairman DDAC

Karak Khurshid Ahmed

Khattak, the party's district leadership and the

principals of male and

female colleges were also

The minister was

Responding to PTI

Vice Chairman Shah

Mahmood Qureshi's recent

statements, Murtaza remarked that the

contradiction between

PTI's words and actions

has alienated its close allies

and voters. "Politics is like

flowing water; stagnant

water becomes foul," he

discourse must be based on

mutual respect and

tolerance among parties.

He urged that political

emphasized.

On this occasion,

University Karak.

KP govt making sincere

efforts for promotion of

higher education: Minister

given to him at the performance of 6 males.

PPP leader criticizes

PTI leadership, warns

against protest

government's commitment to improving road safety in the province. "We are working diligently to enhance road safety in Puniab to ensure that no family has to suffer the loss of a loved one in a tragic accident," she said.

CM Maryam Nawaz

highlighted ongoing efforts to prevent accidents, noting, "Over 600 roads are being constructed, repaired, and rehabilitated across the province at an accelerated pace to improve safety and reduce road-related tragedies."

Cop falls to death from jail rooftop AHORE (APP): A

constable on Sunday died after falling from the rooftop of Shadman camp jail here. According to the police, 35-year-old Ghulam Abbas was on duty on the roof of Camp Jail. During his duty, Ghulam Abbas fell from the roof and was seriously injured. The injured constable was taken to Services Hospital, but he could not survive.

Minority Cards to be functional

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Chief Minister views during a briefing informed about the Punjab Maryam Nawaz, minority cards woul become functional from December 20, for the poor minority communities,

across the province. The announced minority cards for the welfare of deserving families across the province. It may be mentioned here that the Punjab Chief Minister on the eve of Hindu festival 'Diwali in Lahore, termed minorities a crown of her head and announced the launch of the minority cards for the deserving families of minority communities across the province. The Chief Minister

from Dec 20th

announced Rs150,000 for 1400 families of Hindu

families on Diwali.

Governor Tessori says: Traffic victims Day makes us realize significance of responsible driving

Mohammed Kamran Khan avoid such incidents.He said that negligence, the World Day of carelessness and failure to 'Remembrance for Road' take precautions while Traffic Victims' made us realize the importance of responsible driving. "We have to take

the importance of road safety," he said. The Governor

Tessori said that many lives were being lost daily due to road accidents.

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor for ensuring traffic rules to take precautions while driving could prove to be fatal. Kamran Khan Tessori said that obeying traffic rules was mandatory for measures to be safe from accidents by highlighting timely repair of roads could also control

increasing accidents. He urged the parents to strictly forbid their minor children from driving vehicles.



LARKANA: Foreigner visitor visiting the world famous archeological site of Mohen-Jo-Daro.

Azma Bokhari says: IMF acknowledged Punjab govt.'s progress towards achieving targeted surplus

LAHORE (APP): Punjab functionaries of the Information Minister Azma Bokhari has rebutted the contents of a news item published under the headline "Provinces face new targets under fiscal pact", in an English language daily on November 17, asserting that the news report falsely

Punjab's investment in a UAĔ-based fund. Contradicting the erroneous impression created in the news, the Information Minister said that the government of Punjab has not invested in any UAE-based fund. 'Since there is no such investment in a UAE-based fund, this was never discussed in the meeting of billion at the end of the 1s

refers to the government of

government of Punjab. Furthermore, the news item wrongly insinuates IMF's alarm over the previously incorrectly reported 1st quarter deficit of Punjab," she mentioned. Azma Bokhari said

that the IMF agreed that the Punjab government had a surplus of approximately Rs 40 billion at the end of the 1st quarter and as such the Ministry of Finance, government of Pakistan corrected its data and uploaded revised fiscal operations reflecting the Punjab government's surplus. "Lastly, the news item also misreports that Punjab fell short of its surplus target of Rs. 150



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at fiber workshop as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at Lasipara located on Moeenabad area of Malir in Karachi.

Barrister Saif lauds services of **Paraplegic Centre**

Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif visited the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar here Sunday and visited various sections and departments, including rehabilitation wards for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the physio gym, orthotics department, autism section, clubfoot occupational clinic, therapy gym and several

Barrister Saif praised the Paraplegic Centre wheelchairs

PESHAWAR (APP): national Advisor to the Chief providing exceptional rehabilitation services for PWDs in Pakistan and the neighboring country of Afghanistan.

He highlighted the Center's significant role in rehabilitating individuals with spinal cord injuries and disabilities resulting from empowering them to lead productive lives through comprehensive training programs. He emphasized that

the Center's in-house workshop manufactures high-quality, customized Peshawar as a unique supportive devices.

Empowering poor to alleviate pervasive menace of poverty

MULTAN (APP): With hardships.

"Decades" worries for sustenance in mind, Abdul Hakeem was tilling a patch of land preparing it for sowing wheat with hopes to have better crop and price this time. His last year's bitter experience, when wheat prices had fallen down to a worrisome level inflicting losses on him, was still haunting him.

Rehabilitation Center in Peshawar.

Abdul Hakeem is one of the millions poor farmers in the country who toil hard to meet their ends, but often the market forces exploit them leaving no clue for rescue. Trapped in cruel clutches of market forces, hoarders and exploiters, he and millions others every season wait for a panacea to their

decades, the same phenomenon goes on. Every year we borrow inputs from commission agents at grain market, toil hard across the year but

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam

Chaudhry interacts with patients during his visit to Da Haq Awaz

unfortunately suffer losses due to lesser prices of our commodities," he stated. "People agriculture is backbone of our economy. But, we the mainstay of this sector are often left in lurch," Hakeem said. "Whom I should

country.
"We must have a fair question why my father was poor and then me and if it goes on, my son will also be poor. Will the time come when small farmers have their bounty." Poverty

persistent challenge marked by lack of access to basic

needs like food, shelter, healthcare and education. It restricts opportunities, hinders economic growth,

and perpetuates inequality. Among millions of laborers in our country, nearly 70 percent are associated to agriculture and livestock sectors and keeping view its vitality for our economy the government policies have a significant impact on their families and overall economic growth of the

mechanism and an Independent Agriculture Commission to offer fair rates of different crops to facilitate poor farmers after evaluation of cost of inputs," stated Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad example to

Khalid Khokhar.

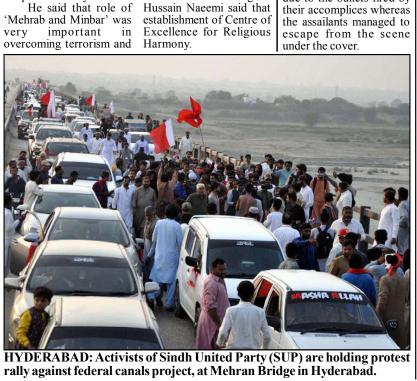
dream to alleviate poverty will never come true," he the poor farmers. said. "Poverty stemming out from this sector affects all areas of economy. If the farmers are poor it means poverty is all around."

Addressing poverty requires focused efforts, including policies that promote economic empowerment, provide resources and ensure social support for vulnerable communities.

Therefore, the Punjab government initiated number of project to address this issue and its Kissan Card is a valid quote.

Mahmood Functioning like a debit card, it enables registered "Being the major farmers to purchase earning component, if agricultural inputs up to Rs farmers remain poor, the 150,000 per season that would hopefully benefit Rashid Sindhu, an

official of agriculture department explained that Kissan Card program is transformative for farmers, particularly those with limited means. "The card empowers farmers to acquire necessary inputs at government-recommended prices. It helps them increase productivity and income and contribute to economic progress of the country." Additionally, the government also provides subsidies for advanced equipment like superseeders and laser levelers.



He said that the

reflected the sentiments of

Muslims of Pakistan. It

was told in the meeting

covering 55 kanals had

been designated for setting

up the Khatam-un-

University. Council of

Islamic Ideology Chairman

Dr Muhammad Raghib

actually

ADB launches major initiative to build resilience to melting glaciers

Quetta

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday launched a new regional program, Glaciers to Farms that will promote sustainable water use and food security in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Pakistan amid the catastrophic impacts of accelerated glacial melt due to climate change. Supported by the

Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Project Preparation Facility, ADB will conduct risk assessments of glacial melt in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Tajikistan, Republic, and Uzbekistan—forming the scientific and technical basis for the Glacier to Farms program, according to ADB press release

With temperatures in the region projected to rise by up to 6 degrees Celsius

mass threatens the fragile balance of ecosystems, jeopardizing water supply for agriculture and hydropower, and risking the livelihoods of more than 380 million people.

COP29 President and Azerbaijan Minister of Ecology and Natural Mukhtar Resources Babayev; Kazakhstan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev; Kyrgyz Republic Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Meder Tajikistan Mashiev; Committee Environmental Protection Chairman Bahodur Sheralizoda; and Uzbekistan Minister of Ecology, Environmental

by 2100, the loss of glacial declaration of support for preserving glaciers with President Masatsugu Asakawa and GCF Chief Investment Officer Henry Gonzalez.

"As melting glaciers change waterflows, disrupt lives, and destroy ecosystems, we must act now," said Asakawa.
"As Asia and the

Pacific's climate bank, we are pleased to be joined by key partners to launch this program to drive international collaboration and deliver results where they matter most—on the ground, in communities at risk," he added. Glaciers to Farms

envisages mobilizing up to \$3.5 billion from ADB, GCF, governments, development partners, and the private sector, subject Protection, and Climate to the participating

\[
\text{Aziz} \quad \text{institutions} \quad \text{board}
\] Abdukhakimov signed a approvals.

Ranjha visits

kisan card

center

SARGODHA (APP):

Chaudhry Shah Nawaz

Ranjha, the Senior leader of

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz, visited Kisan Card

Distribution Center Sargodha and distributed

Chief Minister Punjab

Kisan Card to the farmers.

medicines and seeds from

getting interest-free loan of

He further said that

cards were being issued to

the farmers after biometric

Agriculture (Extension)

Shahid Hussain and other

officers and farmers were

also present in the

Pakistan to

showcase

handmade

carpets at

Turkiye show

LAHORE (APP): The

Exporters Association

(PCMEA) will showcase

handmade carpets at a

global exhibition, to be held

in Turkiye in January next

the

exhibition, 15 stalls will be

set up and more than 50

people associated with the

carpet industry will also

verification

ceremony

Pakistan

year.

In

Manufacturers

Director

On the occasion, he



TANDOJAM: Chairman IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil & Dr.Fateh Muhammad Marri, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agriculture University with panelists after a productive seminar on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge & IP.

Landa bazaars draw crowds amid rising prices

the arrival of winter, Landa bazaars in the city have come alive, offering second-hand imported items to a diverse range of

Hussain Agahi, Ghanta cite increased operational Ghar, and the inner city expenses as reason behind markets are abuzz with activity as people search for winter acceptable. Khan, a vendor at Hussain every eligible farmer can for winter essentials. Vendors have also set up makeshift stalls along roadsides and in suburban areas, creating accessibility for more customers.

well-known for their wide variety of second-hand goods, including sweaters, jackets, coats, blankets, shoes, and bags. These items, imported primarily from abroad, cater to lowincome and middle-class families, who find them an and sweaters for my affordable alternative to family. But this year, expensive retail stores. For prices are much higher many, these markets are making it challenging to not just about saving purchase even money but also preserving essentials."

MULTAN (APP): With dignity while providing for their families

However, this winter season, both vendors and customers are feeling the pinch of rising costs. Buyers complain about Popular hubs like high prices, while sellers Agahi, shared his concerns get fertilizer, agricultural with APP: "Inflation has impacted everyone. Even the appointed dealers by though the number of visitors to the bazaar is up to one and a half lakh high, actual purchases are rupees. Landa Bazaars are fewer. It's becoming difficult to manage expenses."

Customers echoed similar sentiments. Shehryar Hameed, a government employee, mentioned, "I come here every year to buy shoes

Shahid Imran says: Saudi Arabia shows interest in Pakistan's premium snacks

Arabia has shown keen interest in high-quality food products from Pakistan, especially snacks that meet international standards.

Upon his return here on Sunday from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after attending the 3-day Halal Food Expo, Shahid Imran, Convener of the Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Regional Committee on Food, noted that the nimko, biscuits, and other growing interest in convenience foods, align Pakistani products reflects well with Saudi people the rising demand in the tastes and have been Saudi market for diverse recognized for their and premium food items,

LAHORE (APP): Saudi where Pakistani goods have proven to be highly competitive. Pakistan's food industry, known for its quality ingredients and adherence to global standards, has made a mark in the Middle East, with snacks being particularly popular among Saudis. He said Saudi businesses have invited Pakistani companies to expand their

supply of these soughtafter products. Pakistani snacks, including chips, superior quality and flavor.

Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed disclosed this in a meeting held here at the association office on Sunday. Patronin-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ejazur Rehman, Senior Leader Usman Ashraf, Major (retd) Akhtar Nazeer, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh.



ISLAMABAD: People busy selecting and purchasing second hand warm clothes from vendor at weekly Bazaar in the Federal Capital.

2024世界航海装备大会

CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi speaking at a Seminar on the High Quality Development of offshore Wind Power Supply Chain at Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

Governor inaugurates five newly installed TBS, gas expansion projects in DIK

Khyber Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated the gas pressure elimination projects in Dera Ismail

Addressing the teremony held in this regard, the governor said all out efforts would be made to reduce gas load shedding and low-pressure issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to facilitate and extend relief to the people of the

He lamented that the

Sui Northern Gas (SNGPL) officials to ensure minimal gas load shedding during the winter

He said that to prevent low pressure and load shedding in Dera Ismail Khan, five new TBS (Town Border Stations) were being installed, and the existing TBS would also be upgraded to ensure that residents face no difficulties during the

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi that the aced the highest level of Pakistan Peoples Party

gas load shedding. He (PPP) government had directed the officials of the initiated several major initiated several major projects for the development of Dera Ismail Khan, including the Ismail Khan International Airport, the CPEC interchange, and the four-lane road from Dera Ismail to Dera Ghazi Khan and onward Kasmor, Sindh. He added that with the completion of those projects, the region would progress on all fronts besides providing job opportunities to people of

> atitude to Prime Minister Pakistan, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

the area.

Chitral's handmade furniture gains global recognition: PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan furniture reflects the rich Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that handmade Chitral furniture, renowned for its historical and traditional designs, has gained global popularity due to its distinctive style and exceptional durability.

Talking to a delegation Sunday, he said this as floral motifs.

cultural heritage of the area. Each piece is crafted by skilled artisans who have inherited their techniques through generations, making the furniture not only beautiful but also a testament to the craftsmanship of the past.
He said the designs

often feature intricate of furniture manufacturers carvings, with patterns from Chitral valley led by inspired by the natural Gul Rehmat, here on beauty of the region, such

Rs 3bn special package for sowing onion, tomato

LAHORE (APP): A sum of Rs 3 billion has been allocated for sowing of onion and tomato besides boosting their yield under Punjab Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture Transformation (PRIAT) programme. A spokesman for the Punjab Agriculture Department said here on Sunday that the step had been taken as per the direction of Puniab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to make agriculture sector self sufficient.



Landa bazaar at Haji camp, in the Provincial Capital.

Malik calls for strict action on tax evaders

LAHORE (APP): SAARC the Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has called for stringent action against all identified influential tax evaders without succumbing to any sort of pressure to strengthen tax base.

participate. PCMEA Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman and

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he urged the authorities that fraudulent involved in mega tax scandal of Rs 529 billion detected by the Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah should also be taken to ensuring task including corrupt tax accountability officers. He emphasised upheld for all.

outstanding tax liabilities from powerful evaders was essential to broaden the tax network and reduce the undue burden on existing taxpayers. He highlighted that the persistent culture of tax evasion by affluent mafia not only undermined

the national exchequer but also discourage honest taxpayers, ultimately hampering economic growth. He urged the adoption of a transparent and impartial approach in addressing tax defaulters, was

astonishing Rs 1,411,669

million capacity payment

made to IPPs during fiscals 2022-23 and 2023-24 made

Wheat growers urged to use nitro-phos

BAHAWALPUR (APP) The wheat growers were urged to use nitro-phos and ammonium fertilizers at the fields of standing crops of wheat to get extra produce.

Under the auspices of Fatima Fertilizer, a seminar was organized here to raise awareness among farmers to use fertilizer at their agricultural fields. While addressing, Regional Manager, Fatima Fertilizer, Junaid Khan said that Nito phos and ammonium nitrate used to help strengthening yield of the standing crop. | at Fruit Market.

Govt will steer country to prosperity: Trade leader

SIALKOT Supreme Chairman Council All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, Naeem Mir, has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government will surely succeed in bringing the country out of darkness. He expressed these

views while talking to media representatives after a special meeting with a delegation of businessmen in Sialkot. He said the community business rejects the call of protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "The PTI founder has not understood the state system till date and has always fostered the politics of chaos and instability in the country. But now the people have realized that the PTI and its government are

responsible for the worsening situation in the country, so now the people will not fall in the trap," he added.He said, "People are suffering the consequences of the wrong and failed policies of the PTI but we are determined that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad small Shehbaz Sharif, the

government will definitely succeed in bringing the country out of darkness. Today, all the international organizations including the World Bank are sitting with Pakistan and the IMF is also working with Pakistan which is proof that the trust of international organizations has been restored in Pakistan and the country is moving in the right direction again and the day is not far when the country's economy will be stable and people will be

prosperous. He said that state institutions would have to fulfill their responsibilities. 'They must fulfill their responsibilities destroy those who spread anarchy and chaos in the country. Tax should be spent from the rich man to the poor.

We have also taken up this matter with the IMF so that our traders can do their business without any problem so that the country can progress and prosper. Traders will definitely pay taxes based on justice and fairness and no tax will be imposed on a poor and trader," maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking keen interest in artificial jewelry on stall during the 10-Day "Folk Festival (Lok Mela) 2024" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

PBF signs MoU with Azerbaijan's private sector to strengthen regional trade ties

investment, Munawwar Awan, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) and President of Matrix Global signed a Memorandum

Director for Central Asia and Azerbaijan at Digital Diplomacy here Sunday.
The agreement, which

aims to enhance economic diplomacy, will facilitate set to unlock new economic the export of high-quality food products from Sunridge Foods Pvt Ltd to Azerbaijan and the broader Central Asian region. "This MoU marks a milestone in our efforts to foundation for

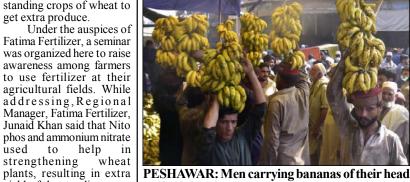
and these countries. As part of the deal, Husevnli's firm will set up a state-ofthe-art warehouse, a trade display center and an office in Azerbaijan, which will serve as a hub for showcasing Pakistan's products. including Sunridge Foods' renowned offerings. In parallel, Matrix Global's Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): In office will play a crucial a pivotal move to bolster role in facilitating regional regional trade and connectivity and ensuring Amna smooth trade operations.

At the signing mony, PBF SVP Amna Munawwar highlighted transformative impact of the partnership, stressing Understanding (MoU) its potential to not only with Babak Huseynli, increase bilateral trade but its potential to not only also attract substantial investment into the region. With a projected trade volume exceeding \$10 million, the collaboration is

opportunities, strengthening ties between Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia. "This MoU marks a

expand trade horizons and comprehensive trading enhance economic network between Pakistan relations," Amna said and added by connecting markets in Central Asia and Azerbaijan with Pakistan, we are laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity and regional growth. This agreement underscores Pakistan's commitment to enhancing economic diplomacy and positioning itself as a key player in regional trade.



Terminating PPAs – A panacea to release consumers from IPPs clutches rising power prices and an

ISLAMABAD (APP): Switching Trading Competitive Bilateral Contracts Market regime, liberalization privatization of power sector longstanding effects on power tariff, paving way for relief to consumers and contribute to overall economic growth of the

Since high-power tariff had been hammering our economic growth and piling up huge circular debt, the initiative of premature termination of purchase agreements (PPAs) with dozens of independent power producers (IPPs) will also help resolve these grave issues.

Mounting debt load,

the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to come out with solutions to stem out this menace and lessen burden on consumers and national kitty. The government set a Task Force to implement structural reforms with Minister for

Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari as its Chairman, PM's Special Assistant on power Muhammad Ali as co-Chairman and Lt Gen Zafar Iqbal as National Coordinator also including

in it representatives from various regulatory bodies. Initially, after detailed

deliberations with IPPs, Awais Leghari announced premature termination of PPAs with five oldest IPPs to save Rs 411 billion with an impact of around 71 paisa per unit on average electricity 'Contracts with Saba, Lalpir, Atlas and Rousch having accumulative generation capacity of 2,463 Megawatt (MWs),

set up under 1994 power policy were terminated through agreement." Leghari said, process of reviewing contracts with other IPPs and state-owned power plants would further reduce tariffs by Rs 8-10 per unit. "Termination

agreement with five IPPs was one of the several measures to reduce tariffs. We also desire to convert existing clause of 'take or pay' for IPPs established under 2002 power policy, to 'take and pay.' He also mentioned to

reducing tariffs by Rs3.5 per unit through agreements with local IPPs, Rs3.75 per unit by reprofiling debt of Chinese IPPs, Rs0.75 per unit through surcharges, Rs0.72 per unit by closing five IPPs and Rs0.16 per unit reduction by removing television fee from electricity bills.

Special Assistant to PM, Muhammad Ali also hoped an agreement with bagasse based power plants for tariff cuts and revise PPAs with 18 other IPPs within next four to six months. "Negotiations had been completed with bagasse-based IPPs for competitive rates.

delinking international coal-based pricing indexed to US dollar, replacing it with Pak rupee and summary had been sent to federal cabinet for approval.'

He said, renegotiation with IPPs of sugar mills had now been aligned to tariff structures as they were paid around 13-17 percent returns in Pakistan, twice than offered in any other country. Since negotiations are underway with more than a dozen companies, Director Technical NEPRA Gul Hassan Bhutto was confident that by moving to CTBCM regime, businesses and ordinary consumers would be able to procure electricity directly from suppliers at

work with the new U.S.

administration to maintain

communication, expand co-

operation and manage dif-

two leaders haven't always

agreed but their discussions

have been "frank" and "can-

months before Trump as-

sumes office. He has vowed

to adopt blanket 60% tariffs on U.S. imports of Chi-

nese goods as part of a pack-

age of "America First"

Beijing opposes those steps. The Republican

president-elect also plans

to hire several hawkish

trade measures.

fight in New York, taking a

Biden told Xi that the

The talks come two

China ready to work

with Trump team, Xi

tells Biden in Peru

ferences.

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel launched a wave of air strikes on Hezbollah bastions in Beirut and south Lebanon, a day after Lebanese government officials said they were studying a US truce proposal. Since Tuesday, Israel has carried out several air raids on the city's southern suburbs, a strong-hold of Hezbollah. AFPTV video showed three plumes of smoke rising over buildings in the area on Saturday

morning, and another around midday. Shortly before the morning attack, Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X a call for residents of the Haret Hreik suburb to evacuate.

'You are close to facilities and interests belonging to Hezbollah, against which the Israeli military will be acting with force in the near future," the post said in Arabic, identifying specific buildings and telling residents to move at least 500 metres away. A similar warning was also issued before the midday strike.

An Israeli strike on neighbouring Syria earlier

this week killed two leaders from Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian group which has fought alongside Hamas in Gaza, a source told AFP.

Since September 23, Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon, later sending in ground troops after almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire with Hezbollah fighters.

AFPTV footage showed fresh strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Saturday, following calls from the Israeli army for residents to evacuate.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Israel carried out three air raids in the morning, later reporting another attack in the neighbourhood of Chiyah. It also reported a strike on the southern city of Tyre, in a neighbourhood near Unescolisted ancient ruins.

Elsewhere in south Lebanon, the health ministry said Israeli strikes killed two rescuers affiliated with Amal. Hezbollah claimed military sites including a hostilities.

People take shelter inside a metro station during a Russian military attack,

Jahangirnagar University.

aegypti mosquito the pri-

mary carrier of the disease,

season are fostering ideal

conditions for the mosqui-

toes to breed." Dense

populations in cities exac-

erbate the spread of the

disease, usually more

common in the monsoon

season from June to Sep-

tember though it has

spilled beyond that win-

and longer monsoons, both

linked to climate change,

have caused a spike in mos-

quito breeding, driving the

'ransacking and arson" of

"Police resorted to fir-

the houses of several state

lawmakers and ministers.

ing tear gas shells to dis-

perse the mob. Eight per-

sons have been injured in

the process," the statement

said, adding additional se-

curity forces were de-

ployed. An indefinite cur-

few was imposed on Satur-

day and internet and mo-

bile services were sus-

pended after protesters

tried to storm the residences

of several lawmakers in-

cluding state Chief Minis-

manding accountability

for the deadly violence

that has, in the latest inci-

dent, claimed the lives of

Protesters are de

ter N Biren Singh.

A rise in temperatures

dow this year.

"These changes in the

Shifting weather pat-

amid Russia's attacks on Ukraine, in Kviv, Ukraine.

Bangladesh deaths form

dengue cross 400 as

outbreak worsens

tling its worst outbreak of terns caused by climate

dengue in years, with more change provided optimal

than 400 deaths as rising tem-conditions for the Aedes

a zoology professor at rapid spread of the virus.

Twenty-three arrested

in India's Manipur after

violent protests

he added.

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh is bat-

soon season drive a surge in

infections, leaving hospitals

struggling to cope, particu-

have died from related com-

plications in 2024, with

78,595 patients admitted to

hospital nationwide, the lat-

4.173 patients were being

treated, with 1,835 of them

in Dhaka, the capital, and

monsoon-like rainfall even

in October, which is un-

usual," said Kabirul Bashar,

Monitoring Desk

GUWAHATI: Police ar-

rested 23 people on Sun-

day in the northeastern In-

dian state of Manipur for

ransacking and setting fire

to the homes of lawmakers

and ministers, while hun-

dreds demonstrated against

recent violent killings in

the second day of unrest in

the area, has led to a tense

standoff in Imphal, the

tively calm today but un-

predictable," a senior state

police official told Reuters,

adding the situation was

Saturday's violence, which

being closely monitored.

The violence, marking

"The situation is rela-

The arrests followed

statement said was the two children

involved what a police at least two women and

defiance of a curfew.

state capital.

2,338 elsewhere.

est official figures show.

At least 407 people

By mid-November,

'We're witnessing

larly in urban areas

Lebanese authorities say that more than 3,440 people have been killed since Israel launched its of-

In a rare claim of responsibility for a strike on Syria, Israel said it targeted the Islamic Jihad group on Thursday. A source from the group told AFP on Saturday that Abdel Aziz Minawi, a member of Islamic Jihad's political bureau, and the group's foreign relations chief Rasmi Abu Issa were killed in the strike on Qudsaya, in the

Damascus area. Islamic Jihad still holds several Israeli prisoners taken during the October 7 attack on southern Israel. Earlier this week, the group released two video clips of Sasha Trupanov, a 29-year-old Russian-Israeli prisoner.

As diplomacy aimed at ending the Gaza conflict has stalled, a top government official in Beirut said Hezbollah and its ally on Friday that US ambassador Lisa Johnson had preseveral rocket attacks on sented a 13-point proposal northern Israel, targeting to halt the Israel-Hezbollah

Germany's

Scholz defends

call to Putin

ahead of snap

elections

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: German Chancel-

lor Olaf Scholz said his con-

versation with Vladimir

Putin had given no indication of a shift in the Russian

President's thinking on the

war in Ukraine, but defended

his much-criticised decision

with Putin, their first direct

communication in almost

two years, comes three

months before snap elec-

tions in which the wildly

unpopular chancellor faces

a stiff challenge from popu-

lists of left and right who

are demanding a resump-

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said

the call was a breach of

Western solidarity for the

sake of domestic political

Trump's defence

pick Hegseth

accused of

sexual assault

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: One of

Donald Trump's most con-

troversial cabinet picks just

became even more so: Pete

Hegseth, tapped for de-

fence secretary earlier this

week, was accused of sexual

assault in 2017, according

to police. No charges were

filed in the case but shocked

Trump transition team of-

ficials are nonetheless re-

portedly weighing next

steps for the Fox News

host, whose nomination

took many in Washington

by surprise. President-elect

Trump nominated the 44-

vear-old National Guard

veteran on Tuesday to run

the world's most powerful

military.

Critics, including

President

tion of diplomacy.

Ukrainian

Scholz's hour-long call

to phone the Kremlin.



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru.

power grid in 'massive'

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Blasts rang out across Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other cities early on Sunday, as Russia staged its biggest missile attack since August and targeted power facilities with the winter setting in, officials

Ukrainians have been bracing for a major attack on the hobbled power system for weeks, fearing crippling damage to the grid that would cause long blackouts and build psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war Russia launched in February 2022. "Another massive at-

tack on the power system is under way. The enemy is attacking electricity generation and transmission facilities throughout Ukraine,' Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko wrote on Facebook.

heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was under way in the

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India successfully tested a domestihypersonic missile, it claimed on Sunday, attaining a key milestone in miliit in a small group of nations possessing the ad-

hypersonic weapons figures in the efforts of some countries, such as India, which is striving to develop advanced long-range missiles, along with China, Russia and the United States of America

Russia cuts gas supplies to Austria

Monitoring Desk

(GAZP.MM), continued to pump steady volumes of gas to Europe via Ukraine on Saturday, but supplies to Austrian energy company OMV were halted hours after Vienna said Russia had given notice it would cut off flows.

Russia, which before the Ukraine war was the biggest single supplier of natural gas to Europe, has lost almost all of its European customers as the EU tried to reduce its dependence and the Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany was blown up in 2022.

India's successful test of hypersonic missile puts it among elite group

cally developed long-range tary development that puts

vanced technology.

The global push for

voices on China in senior ship remains unchanged," roles, including U.S. Senator Marco Rubio as secrefollowing the election, Xi said, acknowledging "ups MOSCOW: Russian gas tary of state and Represenand downs" between the Gazprom tative Mike Waltz as na-"China is ready to tional security adviser. Trump attends UFC championship

Monitoring Desk

LIMA: Chinese President

Xi Jinping on Saturday

vowed to work with the in-

coming US administration

of President-elect Donald

Trump as he held his final

talks with outgoing Presi-

dent Joe Biden on key con-

flicts from cyber crime to

about two hours at a hotel

where the Chinese leader

was staying, on the side-

lines of the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation fo-

rum in Lima, Peru, for their

"China's goal of a

first talks in seven months.

stable, healthy and sustain-

able China-U.S. relation-

Biden met Xi for

trade, Taiwan and Russia.

break from Cabinet picks

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Presidentelect Donald Trump walked out to a roaring standing ovation just ahead of the start of the UFC pay-perview card at Madison Square Garden, combining two things close to his heart: fierce battles inside the octagon and New York City.

Trump was accompa-nied by UFC President Dana White and the pair headed to their cageside seats to Kid Rock's "American Bad Ass." UFC aired a video

package of Trump's road to reclaiming the White House, calling it, "The great comeback in American History," while fans stood and applauded. Trump, wearing a suit and red tie, pumped his fist toward the crowd when the video ended.

The president-elect also had his clenched fists pumping back and forth and briefly danced to the Village People's "YMCA" just outside the cage. He later again thrust his fist

Elon Musk, picked by Trump to lead a new Department of Government Efficiency, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., joined the presidentelect and White at the Garden, as did Robert Kennedy Jr., Trump's choice to lead the Department of Health and Human Services in his incoming administration.

Trump was flanked on his front-row seat by White on his right and Musk on his left and politely applauded the fight winners. Besieged by photographers and nearby fans, Trump stood to pose for pictures with White, Musk and other associates in breaks between fights. Trump even had a brief conversation with country singer Jelly Roll after the pair shook hands.

What to know about Trump's second term:

Staffing the administration: Here are the people Trump has picked for key positions so far. Plus, a look at recess appointments and skyward as "Takin' Care of Business" played. how could Trump use them to fill his Cabinet.

Pope Francis suggests international study into possible genocide in Gaza Monitoring Desk how has raised the pros

YIV: Russia unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes on Ukraine in almost three months on Sunday, firing 120 missiles and 90 drones in a sweeping attack that killed at least seven people and caused

"severe damage" to the power system, officials said. Úkrainians have been bracing for weeks for an attack on the hobbled energy system, fearing crippling damage that would cause long blackouts as winter sets in and ramp up psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war launched by Russia in February 2022. The strikes, which prompted emergency power cuts in numerous regions, came after this month's US presidential election victory of Donald

Trump, whose pledge to

how has raised the prospect of a looming push to hold negotiations.

"Russia launched one of the largest air attacks: drones and missiles against peaceful cities, sleeping civilians, critical infrastructure," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X.

Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was

under way in the morning. Kyiv's air force said the military had destroyed 104 out of 120 missiles fired and 42 out of 90 drones launched by Russia.

Russia's defence ministry said it had launched a massive strike on energy facilities that supply Ukraine's military-indus-

end the war without saying trial complex. Venezuela says it frees 225 arrested after anti-government protests

Monitoring Desk CARACAS: Venezuela has

freed 225 people arrested during anti-government protests over the nation's disputed presidential election in July, Attorney General Tarek Saab said.

based on new evidence gathered by prosecutors, Saab said in a statement.

"Between the afternoon of Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th, 225 measures of liberty were granted and executed to people prosecuted for the acts of violence that occurred after the July 28 elections," the statement said.

Saab, who has said the protests left 28 people dead and nearly 200 injured, said last week he would review at least 225 arrests.

Local rights group Foro Penal tallied more than 100 people who were freed on Saturday across four prisons. "Up to now we have verified 107 political prisoners, due to the postelectoral situation, released in Venezuela," the group's director, Alfredo Romero.

According to Foro Penal, at least 1,800 people

28 election, which kept President Nicolas Maduro in power despite disputed results. Maduro took office in 2013, and is set to begin his next six-year term in January.

The rights group The releases were monitored the releases at four prisons in central Venezuela, including at least 50 young adults from Tocoron prison, Romero said.

A video he posted showed some of them walking along a highway outside the prison, to cheers and applause from a group of onlookers. In another video, a young man gives his name as Luis Enrique Correa Espinoza and smiles while holding a paper over his head, to applause from sup-porters. Outside the Tocuyito prison in Valencia, one young man, who declined to give his

a home-cooked meal with his parents because he often doubted whether the food in prison was safe. The election sparked deadly anti-government protests, and the opposition, rights groups and

name, said he longed to eat

unions have accused Maduro's administration of cracking down on dissent.

Russia targets Ukraine's missile strike, officials say

Air defences could be

The scale of the damage was not immediately clear. Officials cut power supply to numerous city districts, including in Kyiv

Iran denies report on UN envoy's meeting with Musk meeting between Elon

Monitoring Desk ΓΕΗRAN: Iran's foreign ministry spokesman on Saturday "categorically" denied The New York Times report on Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations meeting with US tech billionaire Elon Musk, state media re-

In an interview with state news agency IRNA, spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei was reported as "categorically denying claims made in some

Musk and Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, expressed surprise at its wide coverage by the American media"

The Times reported on Friday that Musk, who is a close ally of President-elect Donald Trump, met earlier this week with Iran's ambassador to the UN, Amir Saeid Iravani. It cited anonymous Iranian sources describing the en-



People attend a "No to Putin! No to war in Ukraine! Freedom for political prisoners!" protest in Berlin, Germany.

Nigeria and India agree deeper ties in maritime security, counter-terrorism

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: Nigeria and India on Sunday agreed to deepen collaboration in maritime security, intelligence and counter-terrorism during a state visit to the West African country by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi is the first Indian premier to visit Nigeria in 17 years after an invitation by President Bola Tinubu, who is seeking investments from some of the world's biggest night and met Tinubu at the presidential villa on Sunday where the two leaders also discussed economic development, defence,

rity, a joint statement said. With growing threats in the Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean, the two countries agreed to coordinated action to safeguard maritime trade routes and combat piracy. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is seeking to woo more Indian investment and cheaper lines of credit to boost its

healthcare and food secu-

Modi arrived in the capital Abuja on Saturday

Monitoring Desk

thorities seeking to reduce the carbon footprint and overcrowding at Mount Fuji will propose a trackless, rubber-tyred tram system made by China's CRRC to transport climbers, a person with direct knowledge of the plan said.

The new proposal, which has not been previously reported, would replace the original plan to build a light-rail system connecting the base to the fifth hiking station of the popular Yoshida Trail, which goes to the top, after a local city and other parties voiced concern over its environmental and cost impact.

Mount Fuji, which straddles Yamanashi and

in New Delhi **Monitoring Desk**

India's capital again woke under a blanket of choking smog on Friday, a day after authorities closed primary schools and imposed measures aimed at alleviating the annual crisis. New Delhi and the

for thousands of premature deaths every year and is an annual source of misery for residents, with various piecemeal government initiatives failing to measurably address the problem.

economy and create jobs. Japan's Mount Fuji eyes China-made tram to transport hikers

OKYO: Japanese au-

Yamanashi Prefecture, home of the most popular route used by climbers of the 3,776-metre (12,3388-foot) volcano, is set to announce the plan soon, the person told Reuters, asking for anonymity because the information is not yet public.

Shizuoka prefectures, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan, whose numbers have surged in recent years. Pollution from the constant stream of tourist buses and cars arriving at the fifth station, as well as overcrowding on the trails, have become headaches for authorities seeking to clean up the site.

posting a laughing out loud emoji graphic. **Schools empty** as smog persists

Brazil's first

lady insults

Elon Must at

G20 social event

Monitoring Desk

RIO DE JĀNEIRO:

Brazil's first lady, Janja

Lula da Silva, swore at bil-

lionaire Elon Musk during

a G20 social event on Sat-

urday at which she spoke

about the need to regulate

social media to rein in mis-

as she spoke and she joked,

"I think it's Elon Musk,"

before adding, "I'm not

afraid of you, fuck you,

Musk, owner of social network X, reacted to a

video of her remarks by

A ship's horn sounded

information.

Elon Musk."

NEW DELHI: Residents in

surrounding metropolitan area, home to more than 30 million people, consistently top world rankings for air pollution in winter. The smog is blamed

> said on social media. were arrested after the July

A city corporation worker sprays fumigator to control mosquitoes, as number of dengue infected patients increase, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Jamal Khan Raisani, Mem-

AI Summit declares East Jerusalem a red line, reaffirms two-state solution as key to Mid East peace

Saudi Crown Prince and Minister Mohammed bin Salman, deputizing for King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday condemned Israel's actions in Palestine, describing them as 'genocide' impacting over 150,000 individuals, including women and

Inaugurating the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit recently held in Riyadh, he decried violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque's sanctity, impediments to humanitarian aid, and Israeli military actions in Lebanon, reaffirming Saudi Arabia's support for Lebanon's sovereignty and

urged global action to halt aggression and reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to a two-state solution, calling for an independent Palestinian state along 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also highlighted Saudi efforts to mobilize international cooperation through the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State

ter Prince Faisal bin Farhan emphasized that a two-state solution is the only viable path to lasting peace in the Middle East. Speaking after the summit, he highlighted Arab and Islamic unity in addressing the escalating crisis in Palestine.

Prince Faisal called for immediate de-escalation, an end to Israeli violations, the easing of humanitarian aid restrictions, and international pressure on Israel to halt aggressive measures, including withholding Palestinian tax revenues.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General, Hissein Brahim Taha condemned Israeli violence in Palestine The crown prince and Lebanon as 'atrocities and genocide' during the summit. He criticized attacks on UNRWA and warned of escalating risks of an all-out war, calling Israel's actions a 'blatant violation' of international law and UN resolutions.

Taha urged immediate global action, emphasizing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2735 for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid access in along the 1967 borders.

Saudi Foreign Minis- Gaza. He also called for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and the empowerment of Palestinian governance in Gaza, essential steps for stability.
On Lebanon, Taha

urged adherence to Resolution 1701, advocating a halt to hostilities and protection of the country's sovereignty. He reaffirmed the OIC's demand for international intervention to safeguard Palestinian and Lebanese rights and ensure humanitarian aid, stressing the summit's unified call for peaceful resolutions to the crises. Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit accused Israel of pursuing a strategy to dismantle Palestinian society in Gaza through forced or voluntary displacement, warning this approach aims to erase the prospects of a future independent Pales-

Speaking at the summit, he said Israel's actions undermine coexistence and obstruct peace efforts based on justice. He stressed the region's unwavering demand for an independent Palestinian state

tinian state.



Khawaja addressing virtually a Conference titled 'Digitalization and Women

Education central route to development: Khalid Maqbool

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, education is the sole path to Development of the country.

He expressed these

words while addressing as chief guest at the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Sindh Chapter, held in Karachi on Sunday.

The minister empha-

sized that education is not only a necessity of the times but also the first commandment of our religion. He warned that if we

fail to align ourselves with the demands of the present era and do not strive to change ourselves, external forces will impose their changes upon us. Federal Minister for

Education and Vice-Chanthe country's population

degrees to passed out students and the students with outstanding performance were awarded gold medals.

Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their progress. success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Igbal Open University, along

petence of its teachers. He remarked that the fast-changing world has transformed everything, and those who fail to adapt are left behind, as even divine intervention does not aid those unwilling to

with the efforts and com-

H i g h l i g h t i n g Pakistan's youth as both an opportunity and a challenge, he noted that 65% of

change themselves.

cellor AIOU has distributed comprises young people, equating to approximately 180 million youth.

He urged them to adapt to contemporary changes to contribute effectively to the country's

The Minister gave special congratulations to the gold medal recipients, stating that their medals are a source of pride for the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nasir Mahmood mentioned that AIOU has 10 regional campuses in Sindh, with around 44,000 students currently enrolled.

He revealed that approximately five million students have graduated from the university to date, claiming that there is hardly a household in Pakistan without a student or graduate of AIOU.

Ali Hassan condemns Sikh pilgrims attack on Kalat's Shah **Mardan Check Post**

QUETTA (APP): The cowardly attack by terrorists on the Shah Mardan check post of Kalat district of Balochistan is highly con-

The elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people of Balochistan and its development. These views were expressed by the central senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in his condemnation statement.

He said that such nefarious tactics cannot shake sake of the homeland will the determination of the always be alive in the hearts government for the devel- of the nation.

opment and prosperity of Balochistan. Neither the cowardly attacks of terrorists can lower the morale of the brave Pakistani nation. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri

said that the nation will continue to destroy the evil intentions of Pakistan's enemies with the security forces and the country of the monster of terrorism. We will continue the war against it until its complete elimination. He paid tribute to the brave personnel who sacrificed their lives while protecting the homeland in the attack and said sacrificed their lives for the

to visit Kartarpur LAHORE (APP): Sikh pilgrims from India and around

the world have arrived in Pakistan to celebrate the 555th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak. They observed their rituals at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hassan Abdal.

The Sikh pilgrims will visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on Monday (tomorrow)

The pilgrims have expressed immense satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). Commending the facilities, including security and accommodation, they dethat the sons of nation who sacrificed their lives for the mendable." They lauded Pakistan as a peaceful nation, highlighting the warm hospitality and respect.

bly and leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, (PPP) on Sunday stressed the vital role of youth in the fight against tuberculosis through community-driven initiatives, awareness campaigns and the adoption of

Raisani stresses youths'

vital role of in fight

against tuberculosis

m o d e r n technology.Pakistan's cui-Participating in a panel discussion at a symposium in Bali organized by the World Health Organi-

zation (WHO) on strategies to end tuberculosis (TB), Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani pointed out that Pakistan reports around 600,000 new TB cases annually, posing a significant public health challenge, with ministers and parliamentarians from 158 countries present.

The panel, focused on an action plan for eradicat-Τ̂Β, included Nawabzada Raisani, the Health Ministers of Indonesia and Timor, and a Member of Parliament

BALI (INP): Nawabzada from Australia. ber of the National Assem-

He stressed the importance of involving youth in policy formulation and practical initiatives. Young people should encourage their peers to adopt healthy lifestyles and address public misconceptions to ensure timely treatment," Raisani stated.

He added that early diagnosis of TB is possible through local-level screening efforts and collaboration with global organizations. Raisani also underlined the need for effective community campaigns to achieve complete eradica-

Nawabzada Jamal han Raisani acknowledged the efforts of First Lady Aseefa Bhutto in the fight against TB. He said her vision has mobilized youth across Pakistan, including in Balochistan. He also praised Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's dedication to eradicating TB and polio from Balochistan and ensuring youth are provided opportunities in health and education sectors.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee, MPA Asghar Ali Tareen enquiring about health of Parliamentary Secretary Urban Planning and Chairman QDA Asfandyar Khan Kakar.

Hafiz Naeem urges all political parties to unite for peace in country

KARACHI (INP): Jamaate-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman urged all the political parties to unite in order to establish peace in the country.

He was addressing a press conference in Karachi

on Sunday. The JI emir strongly condemned the killing of party's general secretary of

Bajaur chapter. "It is the r ity of federal and provincial governments to ensure security of the citizens. Jamaat-e-Islami is the larg-

est political party of He said that Pakistan affecting our economy should avoid to fight any badly, he added.

The Afghan government should also play a responsible role to achieve peace in the region, he The JI emir also high-

lighted the need to address the issues in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "All the political parties should sit together and

resolve the country's problems collectively." Hafiz Naeem also grilled the government for its handling of the economy

and national issues. The deteriorating law Bajaur," said Hafiz Naeem. and order situation is also

KP govt lost writ in province: Sherpao

nior politician and Chairman Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao has said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has lost its writ in the province. Talking to media at Charsadda on Sunday, Aftab Sherpao said the rulers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were busy in taking out protest rallies and sit-ins after losing its writ and hold in the province.

The current circumstances, he said, demand a national dialogue between all the political parties rather than agitation and conflicts. The wheel of

progress in the province has come to a standstill position as its rulers were busy with conflictual and agitational politics, he maintained. To a query about ongoing terror incidents, Aftab Sherpao said foreign hands were behind these activities adding that limited actions were not enough to cope with the situation rather it needed a large-scale operation. "We have to address the root causes of this menace", Aftab Sherpao said, adding that adopting undemocratic means and a conflictive attitude will not help in the release of any jailed politician



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq called on Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence.

COP29, climate activists demand climate justice Hemantha Withanage from

BAKU (APP): A silent yet climate action. "The rich countries, who are the historical polluters, need to pay for climate finance instead of blocking its mobilization. The current contributions, like the \$700 million for the loss and damage fund, pale in comparison to the over \$1 trillion required by developing

climate-resilient agriculture Sri Lanka's Centre for Eninfrastructure,' vironmental Justice empha-Withanage stated. sized the urgent need for developed countries to take responsibility for financing

Protesters criticized the calls for developing nations to seek climate finance from private sectors and carbon markets, insisting that public funding from developed countries is essential to support vulnerable nations. Many civil society organizations (CSOs) feel sidelined in forums dominated by wealthy polluting industries, such as oil and coal mining com-

LAHORE: Spanish Parliamentary delegation led by Vicente Azpttarate Perez visiting Badshahi Masjid. Spanish delegation tours Lahore's historical sites leaders lery, and the Indus Valley LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the Spanish Senate Gallery, where they were

and other significant sites in the region. Museum's keeper paintings Uzma Usmani guests visited several key sites, including the Lahore then led the guests through Badshahi the Islamic Art Gallery, Gandhara Art Gallery, and Jain Temple Gallery, offering in-depth explanations of the exhibited artifacts. The delegation expressed great interest in the rich history showcased within the

cal finds from Mohenjo-

Daro, Harappa, Cholistan,

Foreign Affairs Committee briefed on key archaeologi-

toured several historical

landmarks of the city to

explore its rich cultural heri-

Mosque, Royal Fort (Shahi

Qila), the tomb of Allama

Iqbal, and the Samadhi of

Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

They deeply explored the

city's rich cultural heritage,

connecting with its history

and traditions. The

with souvenirs.

The distinguished

tage, here on Sunday.

delegation's visit began at museum's walls. the Lahore Museum, where The Spanish delegates the Director of the Lahore also visited the mausoleum museum, Nabeela Irfan, of Dr. Allama Muhammad warmly welcomed the Iqbal. Upon arrival, the delguests and presented them egation was greeted by a ceremonious salute from On arrival, Research the Rangers, who stood in Officer Ihtisham Aziz formal guard. The guests paid their respects by plac-Choudhry guided the delegation through the museum's various galleries. Mazar-e-Iqbal and signed The visitors explored the the guest book with their Art Gallery, Historic Galimpressions of the visit.



PESHAWAR: People are offering funeral prayer of Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, at Wazir Bagh in Peshawar. Prominent industrialist and leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Ilyas Ahmad Bilour passed away in Peshawar at the age of 84.

Pak-Syria direct flight to start from today: Envoy Ramez

ISLAMABAD (APP): flight will land in Lahore, Ambassador of the Syrian which will promote bilat-Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee on Sunday said that the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria will start from today, November 18th and the first flight will land in Lahore tomorrow morn-

Earlier, Syrian Air Line had started its flight operations from Karachi since 2019 and tomorrow this will be the first flight of Syrian Airline to Lahore, for which the Foreign Affairs Ministries and Embassies of both countries have made great

Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee told APP here.

The Ambassador said that tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the first direct

eral relations between the two countries.

He said that at this time, this direct flight will promote economic and trade relations between the two countries, and as the connections between the people of both countries will be established.

The ambassador said that with the start of flight operations, where the business communities of both countries will be facilitated, tourism will also increase and mutual economic and trade relations will be pro-

Dr Ramez said that at this time, the business communities of both countries need to strengthen bilateral relations so that both sides economic relations can develop, and trade can in-

Saghar says: Jailed Hurriyat dedicated entire life for

Kashmir cause ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter leader Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has said that illegally detained Hurriyat leaders have dedicated their entire life for the Kashmir cause and better political future of the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said people in Indian occupied territory know it well that Hurrivat leaders, including Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Massrat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi.

Ilavs Bilour laid to rest in **Peshawar**

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician and veteran industrialist, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard after his Nimaz e Janaza was offered here at Wazir Bagh on Sunday.

known business personality, Ilyas Bilour was attended by the former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, former Governor, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, provincial minister, Sayyed Qasim Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, former chief minister, Amir Haider Khan Hoti, senior ANP leader, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Haji Ghulam Bilour, people from political parties and business community across the country and large number of people from different

CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi had a useful interaction with Ms. Guo Ningning, Party Secretary of Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

The funeral prayers of the ANP leader and well

Smog severely impacts health of sensitive citizens across Punjab severely impacted the chemic heart disease cases, health of sensitive citizens across Punjab, with approximately 1.93 million people visiting hospitals over the past 30 days for

ondary Healthcare Department on Sunday. In the last month, hospitals in Punjab received 124,660 asthma patients, 62,908 cases of ischemic heart disease, 5,953 stroke patients, and 12,694 cases of conjunctivitis. The department further reported that in the past seven days alone, 452,567 respiratory disease cases, 31,707

respiratory and related ill-

nesses, according to the

Punjab Primary and Sec-

1,695 strokes, and 47,224 conjunctivitis cases were treated. Over the last 24 hours, hospitals handled 53,377 respiratory disease cases, 3,509 asthma cases, 883 ischemic heart disease cases, 104 strokes, and 656 conjunctivitis cases. Lahore, the city most impacted by smog, reported 132,558 respiratory disease cases, 5,954 asthma cases, 14,869 ischemic heart disease cases, 583 strokes, and 2,395 conjunctivitis cases over the past month. In the last seven days, the city saw 34,168 respiratory disease cases, 2,321 asthma cases, 1,835 ischemic heart disease cases.



QUETTA: A sit-in has been held at the Provincial Assembly Chowk against

snowfall brings relief and chill MIRPUR (APP): The long-awaited winter has finally arrived in Azad

Winter arrives

in AJK, first

Jammu Kashmir, bringing relief and a chill to the re The first snowfall of

the season, coupled with rains, hit the upper reaches of AJK on Saturday, ending a two-month dry spell. Neelam and Leepa Valleys received heavy snowfall, with mercury plummeting and night temperatures becoming intolerably chilly, when approached, APP Correspondent was informed by reliable sources

Silent humming protests shake

powerful protest unfolded at COP29, as climate activists from over 100 countries aligned along the plenary halls to voice their demand for climate justice. The demonstrators used humming as a symbolic form of protest against what they perceive as the multilateral forum's bias towards oilproducing developed na-tions, which they accuse of stalling crucial climate finance mobilization.

Talking to APP on the sidelines of the protest,