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PM underscore need for strong political will, global leadership to tackle water crisis

Says our duty to ensure that these rivers, lakes and aquifers that have nourished civilisations for centuries must not be reduced to tales of the past; Also underscored the importance of ensuring the sustainable management of water resources worldwide

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday underscored the need for strong political will, and global leadership to overcome the water crisis posing existential threat to the nations around the globe.

The prime minister, addressing the One Water Summit on the Margins of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-16) under the theme "Restore, Preserve, and Adapt" here expressed his profound gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, and Kazakhstan, as well as the World Bank for organizing the timely summit, to deliberate upon, one of

He said that water was the lifeblood of the planet; a lenges. Our rivers, glaciers cornerstone of economic deand aquifers are increasvelopment, food security, and ingly vulnerable to the imresource, however, is com-

ing under increasing stress. Nearly half of the world's population is facing, water scarcity, for at least part of with the 2022, catastrophic floods, that caused, widethe year. Billions remain, without clean drinking water, as water pollution, is resources and irrigation secrising, at alarming levels," tor, in addition to affecting, he added. The prime minmillions of lives and liveliister underlined that the water resources were fast depleting and degrading which was displacing millions, and causing, unpreccountry.

hoods. At the same time, he equally potent threat to the

"Nearly 70% of our edented destruction. "This is not a distant land consists of arid and humanity's most pressing threat, but an alarm bell, for semi-arid areas, and around

is no stranger to these chal- directly affected by drought-like conditions. Projected temperature increases in Pakistan, are sig-"This life-sustaining population growth," he global average," he added. global average," he added.

Prime Minister He apprised the lead- Shehbaz highlighted that ers at the summit that Pasuch catastrophic disasters kistan was still grappling and challenges were likely to scale up further in the absence of concerted interspread damage, to its water national actions as it was one of the top ten countries, most vulnerable due to climate change. Commenting on the

transboundary water mansaid droughts posed an agement, he said that water transcended political boundaries, connecting nations and fostering shared ecosystems.

"Pakistan, therefore,

RIYADH (APP): Prime challenges: water security. collective action. Pakistan 30% of our population, is attaches great importance to transboundary cooperation. The Indus Water Treaty, which governs, the sharing of the Indus Basin's waters, is one example of such an arrangement.

He added that the treaty witnessed unprecedented challenges in the recent years, due to a number of factors, including construction of upstream dams, whereas its effective functioning was key to maintaining regional peace and stability

also shed light on the 'Recharge Pakistan' initiative that aimed to address, climate induced, flood risks, and mitigate drought impacts, through ecosystem based adaptations.

Armed forces fully capable of safeguarding territorial integrity, says COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Àsim Munir, NI (M) affirmed that the Pakistan Armed Forces, with the resolute support of the nation, are fully capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our beloved motherland against the entire spectrum of threats.

the participants of field training exercise near Narowal, Sialkot, he emphasized the critical importance of maintaining constant preparedness to

conduct of the exercise, which aimed to refine professional skills and battlefield procedures essential for addressing emerging operational challenges.

During the exercise, integrated fire and maneuver operations were conducted by various elements, including Armour, Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Artillery, Air Defence, Army Aviation and Anti-Tank

The exercise also demonstrated the effective employment of electronic warfare capabilities and information operations designed to disrupt enemy

days, adding that separate budget would be allocated for them in next financial

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the family photo of

"Kumak Programme" to be redesigned

year's budget. These and similar other views were expressed and announcements made by Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony arranged marking the International Day of Persons with disabilities by the Social Wel-

fare Department here at a local hotel on Tuesday. The Advisor to Chief Minister for Social Wel-

fare, Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Commissioner Muhammad Ouetta. Hamza Shafqaat, Director General NADRA, other high ups of Social Welfare Department, representatives of civil society and persons with disabilities along with their families ers to facilitate the persons disabled persons within 20 participated in the cer- with disabilities.

emony

Besides the non-governmental organizations working for rights of the special persons including persons with disabilities participated in the ceremony. The theme was: 'amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future.'

The Chief Minister maintained that the special persons are important part of our society, and as such they would not be left alone and all out facilities would be provided to them.

He said that he fully realizes that how much pain and agony, they face in the society. He on the occasion directed to remove all the speed break-



during the field training exercise near Narowal and Sialkot.

Chairs 8th Senate meeting of Turbat University: Govt proposes Governor Balochistan calls for | 5-year jail, Rs1m In his interaction with Guided Missile units.

& expanded for support of persons with disabilities: Chief Minister The prime minister Announces 100 percent increase in educational scholarships for persons with disabilities; ramps to be established in all government buildings; pink scooties to be provided to special women **Independent Report**

the One-Water Summit.

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has

announced wholehearted

patronage of the persons

with disabilities adding that

the "Kumak" Programme

would be expanded for sup-

port of the persons with

disabilities. He said that

this programme would be

resigned and improved fur-

of Chief Minister House are

open for them every time.

take the representatives of

disabled persons on board

in the policies to be framed

by the provincial govern-

would be finalized for the

Imran says he

still holds trump

card close to

his chest'

RAWALPINDI (INP): Af-

ter the embattled Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

faced an abrupt end to its "final call" protest in Islamabad, Aleema Khan,

sister of incarcerated

party founder Imran

Khan, said on Tuesday

that her brother "still

holds trump card close to

that he would not reveal

his trump card right now,³

Aleema told reporters af-

ter meeting the former

premier at Rawalpindi's

Adiala Jail, where he has

been incarcerated for more

She said that she

waited for six hours yes-

terday but she was not

permitted to meet Imran".

"PTI founder told me

his chest'

than one year.

He said that the rules

ment.

He said that that doors

He also announced to

making serious measures to stop brain drainage

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to make serious decisions for stopping brain drainage.

He said that our very qualified and experienced Ph.D scholars would not go to abroad leaving the public sector universities by ensuring timely pay-ment of salaries and providing necessary facilities to them.

Otherwise, brain drain would cast negative impacts on educational standard and research output. This can also affect the

process of inspiring new students to get admissions in the higher educational institutions.

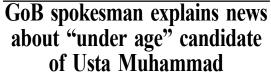
The Governor was chairing meeting of the 8th Senate meeting of Univer-sity of Turbat here on Tuesday.

Those who were present in the meeting were collective issues.



future.

MASHHAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar holds meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi on the sidelines of ECO, Council of Ministers meeting.



namely Muhammad Jameel

son of Abdul Latif qualified

for the junior drawing mas-

ter on merit. The date of

birth of candidate is actu-

ally 20th September, 1999,

but it was written as 2009

by typing mistake in the

documents compiled at the

documents were scruti-

In this regard, all the

district level, he added.

Independent Report QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has explained the news gone viral on the social media about low age of a candidate appeared for job in Education Department Usta Muhammad.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the spokesman said that Education Department has conducted investigation about the story, according to which, the candidate checked.

included judge of Baloch ISLAMABAD: The federal High Court, Mr Justice government has proposed Shaukat Rakhshani, Vice a five-year imprisonment or Chancellor of Turbat Unia fine of Rs1 million for inversity, Professor Dr Gul dividuals found guilty of Hasan, Principal Secretary deliberately spreading fake to Governor, Ĥashim Khan news, as part of initial Ghilzai, Engineer Ahmed amendments to the Farooq Bazai from Higher cybercrime law, a private ty Education Commission. channel reported on Tuesbesides the representatives of Education and Finance

The draft introduces departments. significant changes to the The Governor ex-Prevention of Electronic pressed satisfaction over Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA), the performance of Uniincluding the establishment versity of Turbat. Howof a Digital Rights Protecever, adding he stressed to bring more improvement in tion Authority (DRPA) with extensive powers to

He said that quality block or remove online coneducation is the bes tent deemed harmful to source of changing lives of public safety or state interthe people and their bright ests

According to the draft, He said that the unispreading false informa-tion, inciting fear, or disversities are not mere places of learning but are rupting peace through also major centers of creonline platforms could lead ative ideas, modern apto severe penalties. proach and solution to the

Pakistan, Iran

agree to deepen bilateral coop.

fake news

in all spheres 1ASHHAD (APP) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a bilateral meeting with Iranian counterpart Abbas Aragchi wherein both countries

agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in all spheres. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Min-

isters of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) being held here.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and the latest regional and global developments.

The deputy prime minster arrived here on Monday to attend the moot where he would reiterate Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Charter and highlight the potential of greater connectivity in the ECO region, through the development of road and rail networks; liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border procedures.and to at-

nized by Education Department. However, all the tain sustainable growth and documents are present for enhance the geo-economic evidence, which can be potential of the ECO region.

fine for spreading counter any potential threats posed by adversar- communications and ies, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) **Monitoring Desk** news release.

The COAS visited troops participating in a field training exercise near Narowal and Sialkot. He was given a comprehensive brief on the objectives and

ies.

strategies in a modern battlefield environment. The COAS spent the day in the field alongside the troops, commending their training standards,

counter disinformation

operational readiness, and

high state of morale. PTI trying to hoodwink masses through false narrative of bodies: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): bullets directly on the pro-Federal Minister for Infortesters. mation, Broadcasting, Na-

'There is not a single tional Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan video in which law enforcement agencies person can be seen directly firing upon Tehreek-e-Insaf was trying protesters. They have all to hoodwink the people kinds of videos but there is through fake narrative and no video evidence (of direct firing) as this never took

Lambasting Pakistan place", he maintained. Tehreek-e-Insaf, in a media The minister said that a talk, he said that the party video of a man running away was creating a false narrain which he was saying that tive of firing on the protesthe hit by a gunshot, went viral

He once again chal-lenged the PTI to present a Attaullah Tarar said the same person in another single piece of evidence video was claiming that he had got an injury on his

AJK SC suspends controversial presidential ordinance

MUZAFFARABAD (Online): Azad Kashmir Supreme Court has suspended controversial presidential ordinance of AJK government. A full court presided over by Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan of AJK SC heard the petition. The court issued order for suspending presidential ordinance after preliminary hearing.

The court on the appeal of bar council and civil society restrained government from promulgating ordinance.

It is pertinent to mention here that under the ordinance it was necessary to obtain permission from DC a week before any protest and public meeting or procession. Under ordinance no unregistered party or organization was entitled to file application for protest.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a ceremony held in connection with World Disable Day

Missing persons case: **Regular or joint session of** parliament be summoned and matter be resolved: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): day. Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench while is-Mandokhail remarked nasuing notice to Attorney tion and court are looking to parliamentarians. In my General (AG), interior ministry and other respondents view the case of missing and summoning reports persons is very important The cases of missing perfrom all respective institutions in missing persons case has observed regular or sons are running in high courts and SC joint session of parliament

be summoned and the problem be resolved. SC constitutional bench

Thousands of people are missing. Here Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa like politicians are standpresided over by Justice ing. Parliament has to find Amin ud Din Khan took up out solution to this prob-the case for hearing Tues- lem.

Justice

Jamal

FIA identifies 924 social media accounts in 'anti-state propaganda' crackdown

Aleema also dismissed QUETTA (APP): Federal rumours about the PTI founder's deteriorating Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing in Balochistan has launched a significant crackdown against individuals involved

in anti-state propaganda on social media. Under the leadership of Director Imran Mahmood, the operation has gained momentum, identifying 924 suspicious social media accounts over the past three months.

The accounts flagged by the agency include 487 on Facebook, 190 on TikTok, 147 on Twitter, 88 on Instagram, and 12 on other platforms. Details of these accounts have been forwarded to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority PTA), which has already blocked 312 accounts.

The Cyber Crime Wing stablished a dedicated team

to monitor and analyze social media activities, using advanced technology to track suspicious behaviors across various platforms, including Facebook, X, and TikTok.

Investigations are un-derway into 14 cases registered against individuals linked to these activities. The FIA also revealed that 28 social media applications could be exploited by antistate elements for propaganda and anonymous communication. Director Imran Mahmood emphasized the agency's commitment to combating such activities, stating that no leniency would be shown to those undermining the state's in-terests. "All available resources are being deployed to apprehend the culprits, he said.

health conditions, saying that he is "totally fine"

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing National Action Plan's Coordination Committee meeting.

showing a law enforcement agencies personnel firing hand.



Wednesday December 04, 2024

ter Caracas

cially

lars.

since

Taliban.

OPINION



Competing narratives

While the state may have succeeded in beating back PTI supporters from the capital's red zone last week, the battle of narratives between both sides with regard to the deaths that reportedly occurred during the confrontation continues.

The PML-N-led government insists no PT supporters were killed by law enforcers, while the latter remains adamant that its activists were targeted by the state. The federal information minister told a press conference that no PTI worker was killed during the clashes, while accusing the Imran Khan-led party of spreading fake images and videos on social media to support its narrative. Moreover, the government says four security personnel died in the violence and around 190 were injured while confronting protesters.

While figures quoted by PTI leaders and supporters initially varied greatly, the party now says that 12 supporters died in the melee, and that the state is hiding the truth. It is also a fact that the administration is worried about the PTI narrative on social media, which is why it has formed a joint task force to trace those behind the "massive malicious campaign". In the midst of these claims and counter-claims, instead of focusing all its energies on hunting down the PTI's keyboard warriors, the state would be better off supporting a transparent investigation into the reported deaths. While countering fake news is essential, it is more important to ascertain if there were actual deaths during the confrontation. The reported deaths of law enforcers must also be probed.

Therefore, a judicial commission acceptable to both sides can be formed to conduct an impartial inquiry into the matter. This would put to rest rumours and ensure that justice is served.

It is also important for the government as well as the opposition to agree to some rules of engagement regarding future protests. The right to protest is part and parcel of the democratic process, but some SOPs need to be hammered out and agreed to by all parties so that future demonstrations do not end in bloodshed.

Also, the prime minister has suggested the creation of a special anti-riot squad. If this plan goes ahead, the state needs to give clear guidelines regarding where and how this squad is to be deployed, while its core mandate should be handling volatile situations through non-lethal means. The government's efforts to project the PTI's protest campaign as 'anti-state' also needs a rethink. As stated above, all parties and groups have a constitutional right to peacefully assemble.

Criticism of the government, therefore, cannot automatically be treated as criticism of the state, as this gives licence to the administration to brand all opposition parties and critical groups as 'anti-national'. A clear demarcation is required between anti-government protests, and antistate activities.

New normals

Tasneem Noorani Namaz is the time to take a break from worldly matters to stand before Alinvolved in tively lah and seek His mercy destabilising Pakistan.

and guidance. But despite one's best efforts, thoughts wander to Kashmiri fighters infilmundane matters — as trating occupied Kashthey do to the uninmir, resulting in brutal tended consequences of counterinsurgency acthe events taking place tion by the Indian state, in our country.

ur country. which led to the In the 1980s, the brutalisation of ordinary MQM was created to Kashmiris, and diluted take care of the mothe sacrifices of the nopoly of a party in genuine freedom fight-Karachi. For the next 30 ers. years, we saw the

In the 2020s, in or-MQM's new culture of der to neutralise a politiviolence in Karachi imcal party, we have again peding the city's eco- hit upon the idea of usnomic, physical and soing the faceless force of cial growth. From the the state to bring every-'city of lights', Karachi one in line, whether it be became the world's seca defiant politician, an inond most unsafe city afdependent judge or a cheeky policeman. While In the 1970s, we had the temptation to use

to fight fears of the Soforce in all its forms, viets invading our counwithout actually killing try after Afghanistan. anyone, is tempting for Simplistically, we took to the state, there will be the idea of training and unintended consefunding civilians, reliquences like before. giously inclined or finan-The first new nor-

driven, as mal is the militarisation of mujahideen, and having the police. Earlier, police them cross the western officials, while entertainborder. It was a win-win. ing the wishes of the rul-Rulers could prolong ers, always had at the their rule; the country back of their mind the and rulers could get dol- thought that any ex-Everyone was cesses committed by happy. The unintended them could land them in impact was the introduc- trouble with their departtion of drugs and the ment or that the courts Kalashnikov culture, could hold them acwhich have flourished countable. Now that amne-sty, medical cover We also saw that afand compensation to

ter the USSR's withtheir families have been drawal, while we exassured at the highest pected the mujahideen to level, the level of brutalreturn to their mundane ity is unprecedented. village life, they, having This new norm

become used to power where the police force is and pelf, morphed into fixed on obliterating the government's political op-ponents will come to While we encouraged the Afghan Taliban haunt future oppositions. to destabilise and then The second new normal take Afghanistan from is a unique way of arrestthe US, we expected the ing a person to ensure Pakistani Taliban to melt punishment before trial, by away and forget about raiding the home of the the power they enjoyed. victim and traumatising Now the Taliban, our his family, without regard own handiwork, whether to the unwritten norms of it was through educating the sanctity of home and tesy Dawn

them in our madressahs family, which had hitherto or giving them arms and been assured in our cultraining, are not in our ture. The destruction of control. They are ac- furniture, electronics, windows, crockery, vehicles et al, is the norm now, In the 1980s, we while there is no mention were seen to support of this method of punishment in any law book.

> The third new normal is multiple FIRs and arrest of undesirable persons. Pre-viously, a person was charged, arrested and given bail if the court felt that keeping him/her in jail was not legally justified. That disc-retion has been taken away. That is why the state does not find any need to incarcerate anyone under the MPO, which apart from proce-

dural requirements and no provision for arbitrary arrests by the government, has a maximum limit for the detention period. The fourth new normal is the most serious feature, and a forebearer.

of a lawless society. The Supreme Court is, by definition, the highest and most powerful forum and final arbitrator in the state. Its rulings have the effect of law. In this case, in order to tide over short-term exigencies, we disobeyed the court's unambiguous orders of holding elections in provinces, followed by disregarding the order of the full court (the highest conceivable forum) in the case of special seats. While life goes on as normal, this expediency will

come home to roost. Imagine a hotly contested football match with 80,000 fans equally divided between the two sides, watching a match where one team refuses to obey the red card shown by the referee, and continues to play with the expelled, or insists that a goal scored on an offside cannot be refused. You will certainly see a free for all amongst the fans in the stadium to 'settle' the problem. We need to prevent that from happening here. -- Cour-

that the economy is stabilising. The PSX share index has, for the first time, crossed 100,000 points. The rupee-dollar exchange rate has rema-ined stable over the entire year despite speculation to the rate has come tumbling down to around six per cent when even the most optimistic projecthis number. The recurring dreaded current ac-

count deficit has turned positive with a spurt in exports and a windfall rise in remittances, albeit with controlled imports. These are all posi-

tive developments. But will this trend continue? Most importantly, if it does will it ignite sustained high growth, or as is the case with many developing countries, will it end up in the lowgrowth equilibrium trap of macro stability without growth?

While the government has taken full credit for stabilising the economy, these develnot just the result of its slowing down in the rate of inflation is global after the end of Covid-19 which sent consumers on a worldwide spending spree. This decline has also been helped by stable oil prices.

As to the stock market, it is firmly in the hands of a few speculators. And past booms have fizzled out at the same speed as stocks have climbed! In any case, hardly any new companies have been listed on the stock market over the last year.

The increase in remittances is indeed welcome but the government should beware that amongst its most likely causes is the return of poverty to Pakistan af- ing Pakistan. We must from our past mistakes? ter nearly two decades also remember that de- -- Courtesy Dawn

Economic growth

Rashid Amjad

There are indeed signs current government ance we are still vulnercommitment to buy up rural poverty as promised price. As growth slows down and contrary. The inflation items are removed, un- payments). Despite high employment and povtion was of near double resources to increase direct income support to the poor. There is then always the fear that as

stabilisation measures kick in and aggregate demand is compressed, the economy could slip into a deep recession. The lull in the housing and real estate market if it collapses could create a vacuum which could push the economy in this direction as the collapse of the housing market had done earlier in Japan and more recently in China. This will push the govern-

ment into a conundrum, leaving it little room for manoeuvre given the opments are of course tight fiscal constraints the IMF programme has efforts. To start with, the imposed on it. The government should be prepared for such an eventuality

Ón the external front, there are already serious concerns building up of global economic uncertainty as Donald Trump takes office next month. While the dollar will, in all probability, strengthen given his announced trade curbs on imports from China, Canada and Mexico in the first instance, a major trade war can erupt with each economy adopting policies designed to protect Mushahid Hussain has its own interests. As in the past, this could trig- period, in the current ger a global recession which would hurt developing countries includ-

of its declining, a situa- spite improvements in tion worsened by the our current account balpolicy of not fulfilling its able to external shocks. We possess under three wheat at a minimum sup- months of foreign export price and pushing change reserves to finance imports and a sigprices fell to half this nificant gap this financial year in the foreign exchange external balsubsidies on essential ance (including debt reexpectations, foreign inerty will rise further and vestment (Saudi Arabia) the government will be and promised debt hard-pressed to find the rollovers (China) have still not materialised.

The real question is that even if the economy stabili-ses as it has many times before will it ignite higher gro-wth with poverty reduction?

The targeted 3pc growth for this year is less than half of what the country needs, in view of its population and labour force, to make a dent in rising poverty and malnutrition. Though growth is expected to pick up in subsequent years, it will still be much less than required and much lower than what India has posted (over 7pc) in the last three years.

There are some emerging green shoots (for example, IT and AI) which could serve as drivers of economic growth. But it is already difficult to get our ruling elite to pay their due taxes and well-nigh impossible to get them, or for that matter any foreign investor, to risk investments in the current political milieu. Few can blame them after the recent events.

The only way to get out of the interdependent political and economic dead ends is a political détente, or what former senator termed a 'cooling off confrontation between the major stakeholders. But have we ever learnt

Commerce News

Ahsan congratulates PSX for stellar $60\overline{\%}$ growth in 2024

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, on behalf of the Prime Minister, congratulated the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Allama Iqbal as the nation 2013, the country faced seachieving over 60% growth in 2024.

Speaking at the PSX gong striking ceremony on Tuesday, Ahsan Iqbal lauded the exchange's performance, stating it showcased Pakistan's resilience and economic potential.

During his address, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of four key factors for national development: peace, political stability, consistent policies, and commitment to reforms. He noted that without creating a conducive ecosystem, even the best intentions would be futile. "Pakistan needs these four pillars more than ever." he stressed.

ucts.

on global supply chains for Reflecting Pakistan's long-term goals, economic survival. Ahsan Iqbal underlined the need to honor the vision of achievements, Ahsan Iqbal Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and approaches its centenary in 2047. "We cannot afford to lag behind economically," he said, calling for strategic progress.

shift from the political ide-ologies of the 20th century to the economic competi- project.

tion of the 21st century. The minister also an-National Economic Transformation Plan, emphasizing the need for export-led "Made in Pakistan" prod-

He noted that no Pa- the focus shifted to prekistani company currently venting Pakistan's ecoexceeds a \$2 billion valua- nomic collapse, with diffition, stressing the importance of connecting with bilize the country.

recalled that when the PML-N assumed office in vere crises, including terrorism, energy shortages, and target killings in Karachi. He added that the PML-N restored peace, controlled He highlighted the load-shedding, and advanced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Recounting

However, he criticized the political instability that nounced the forthcoming followed in 2018, which he said disrupted national progress, particularly CPEC's special economic growth and the branding of zones (SEZs). When the government resumed power in 2022, Ahsan Iqbal said

cult decisions made to sta-

RUSSIA: Pakistani Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari meets Russian Minister for Transport Mr. Roman Starovoyt on the occasion of 9th session of Pak-Russia IGC. **ICCI, OBF-UK agree** to coordinate business events to boost exports

PTCL partners with Mumtaz city to empower 2,000 homes with flagship high-speed internet Tuesday.

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Country's leading ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed a strategic agreement with Mumtaz City to revolutionize connectivity for its residents and businesses through its premium and flagship internet service, Flash Fiber.

This collaboration highlights the shared vision of PTCL and Mumtaz City to



deliver a modern connectivity infrastructure that fosters seamless digital experiences and accelerates technological progress in one of Pakistan's rapidly growing urban

Under the terms of the agreement, PTCL will take on the comprehensive design, development, and deployment of a state-of-the-art optical fiber network across Mumtaz City.

This advanced infrastructure will provide high-speed internet access to 2,500 plus homes and high-rise structures, delivering unmatched connectivity and highcapacity networks that cater to the demands of modern living. This deployment is a key step towards empowering the Mumtaz City community with high-speed internet solutions

The signing ceremony was attended by Nauman Durrani, VP Business Operations North, Salman Ali Bajwa, VP Sales PTCL, and Aqil Jamal Butt, Chief Executive, Mumtaz City, along with senior officials from both sides.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A release. The meeting delegation from the focused on strategies to Overseas Business Forum- enhance Pakistan's UK (OBF), led by its Chairman Farooq Khan, improving the country's visited the Islamabad foreign exchange earnings. Chamber of Commerce and Both parties agreed to

jointly organize business Industry (ICCI) on events that would showcase Pakistan's The delegation was warmly welcomed by ICCI export-oriented products President Nasir Mansoor and facilitate business-to-

business (B2B) meetings. Qureshi, Senior Vice To ensure smooth coordination, the ICCI and President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Vice President OBF-UK decided to Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, and other ICCI appoint focal persons for members, said a press the respective tasks.

Railways earn Rs. 33b in five months

ISLAMABAD (APP): official sources in the Ministry told APP.

Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented Pakistan Railways earning of over Rs. 33 billion during the initial five months of the current has achieved a historic financial milestone through generating Rs. 33 billion financial year 2024-25 revenue over the past five months, reflecting a 14 with the untiring efforts of the department, despite percent year-on-year growth compared to Rs. 29 facing several financial billion during the same period last year.

"The department has earned this revenue "This marks an from passengers and incremental gain of over Rs freight trains, while surpassing the target four billion, attributed to enhanced operational through the consistent efficiency and strategic efforts and hard work of revenue optimization," the the Railway workers." sources revealed

challenges.

Rs 274,500, All Sindh Sarafa Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went

up by Rs 600 to Rs 235,940 from Rs 235,340 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs 216,278 from Rs 215,728.

> Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

Gold prices

increase

by **Rs** 700

per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The price of 24 karat per

tola gold increased by Rs

700 and was sold at Rs

275,200 on Tuesday

Jewellers

against its sale at

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Silavana-VIII, DM Bea, Iolaos and Pacific ERA carrying Container, Palm oil, Coal and MO Gas, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Pakistan Terminal, International Bulk Terminal and FOTCO Terminal respectively on Monday. Meanwhile another containers ship 'Maersk Newark' also arrived at outer anchorage on today Morning.Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Silavana-VIII and AL

the Leadership of Persons

Future" JASRA left the port.

Pakistan, Russia discuss expansion of bilateral connectivity

(APP): release.

Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Legahri and Russian Minister for Transport Mr. Roman Starovoyt, in a meeting held here Tuesday, positively assessed the prospects of expanding bilateral connectivity which would not only benefit Pakistan and Russia but also the entire

MOSCOW

region. Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari is on a visit to Moscow to co-chair the 9th session of Pakistan-

Sardar Awais Legahri appreciated the growing level of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

The two sides took stock of all bilateral cooperation projects in the transport sector including road, rail and air, it further said. Both sides agreed to continue contacts and enhance cooperation.

Awais Legahri also invited Russian minister Starovoyt to visit Russia IGC, said a press Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon meeting with Kyle Gardner, Head of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Google South Asian Markets.

OICCI organizes conference for empowerment of PWDs

ISLAMABAD (APP): for businesses to adopt The Overseas Investors accessible and inclusive Chamber of Commerce and workplace practices. In his Industry (OICCI) here on Tuesday hosted its second Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Conference on the occasion of the International Day for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

The event convened a diverse group of CEOs, HR heads, business leaders, and policymakers for impactful discussions advocating for the inclusion of the PWDs in the workforce.

Inclusive, Sustainable the event belong and can contribute meaningfully." highlighted the imperative

Themed "Amplifying with Disabilities for an

opening remarks, OICCI Managing Committee member Ahmed Khan Bozai, emphasized the importance of addressing systemic barriers that hinder PWD inclusion. He stated, "True inclusion goes beyond breaking barriers-it's about building a workplace culture that values the strengths of every individual. When businesses embrace diversity, they not only unlock innovation but also create environments where everyone feels they truly

Independent

Wednesday December 04, 2024

Chairs cabinet meeting CM Maryma approves special package for security personnel martyred, injured by PTI mob

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 20th brutal violence of PTI The CM said that beaten so mercilessly with meeting of the provincial items.

The provincial cabinet cabinet strongly condemned brutal violence and attacks on police and rangers during PTI's violent protest on November 24, and offered Fateha for the security personnel martyred in the protest

The cabinet approved evident special packages for those martyred and injured in the protest. These packages include a total of Rs 29 million for the martyred constable of Punjab Police, a Rs 01 million each for police and rangers personnel injured in the fractured due to the arrangements.

172 police personnel were nailed sticks that his skull cabinet to discuss and injured during the brutal and brain were damaged decide on major agenda protest of PTI workers, and his eye was swollen, most of them are in critical she said. condition. She said it is

shameful to see the condition of the injured never seen such a display of brutality, cruelty and violence in my life. A policeman was shot at close range, which went through his body." She lamented that the constable children. A special force of

beaten by groups with nailed sticks and rifle butts, combat riots. Attacks on Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali check posts have increased. She directed to improve the security

Governor

KP visits

Data Darbar

Governor of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Faisal Karim Kundi on

Tuesday visited Data Darbar, the shrine of

famous Sufi saint Hazrat

Ali Bin Usman Hajveri, commonly known as Data

laid a 'chaddar' of flowers

on the grave and along with

devotees also prayed for

the progress and stability

of Pakistan and durable

offered for the welfare and

wellbeing of Muslim

Prayers were also

Later on, Faisal

peace in the country.

Faisal Karim Kundi

(APP):

occasion.

The CM said that beaten so mercilessly with and his eye was swollen, The CM said, "I have

trafficking in educational institutions is first priority Independent Report said that the young AHORE: Governor generation is the asset of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the education, He said that elimination of drug trafficking in educational institutions is the first priority. He stated this today while addressing the

the country. Along with moral education and character building is also important for them. He said that it is the responsibility of teachers to involve students in farewell ceremony of

Punjab Governor says:

Elimination of drug

Principal Brigadier (Rtd) positive activities. Governor Punjab said that Mujahid Alam at Lawrence a political leadership College Ghora Gali Murree. A large number of involving the young faculty members, teachers generation in subversive and students of the college activities is tantamount to anti-nationalism. He said were present on the that the young generation

Punjab Governor rejected the politics of Sardar Saleem Haider Khan violence.

other department officials.

Awaz II, NGOs, and special

Minister highlights Punjab govt measures for special persons LAHORE (APP): The

International News

Addressing the Punjab Social Welfare and attendees, Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Bait-ul-Mal Department organised a prestigious Butt highlighted that for the ceremony on International first time in Punjab's history, Day of Persons with a unique programme, the Disabilities. The event, held Humqat Card, was launched under the leadership of the at a local hotel, was attended chief minister to benefit by Provincial Minister for special persons. He mentioned that so far, Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Punjab, Sohail Shaukat Butt, as the chief guest. The 40,000 special persons have ceremony was attended by been issued Humgat Cards, Secretary Social Welfare with an additional 25,000 Javed Akhtar Mahmood, individuals to be supported DG Sikandar Zishan, and

in the second phase. Sohail Shaukat Butt elaborated that after Representatives from thorough verification at international organizations, including the British Council, FCDO, UNFPA, their doorsteps, special persons have been provided with financial persons, also participated enthusiastically. assistance of 10,500 each. Rs.

ATC acquits accused in 8-year-old murder case

AHORE (APP): An antiterrorism court (ATC) or Tuesday acquitted a man accused of murdering two Khan Gandapur on children in Liaquatabad Tuesday asked the public eight years ago.ATC Judge and private universities in Manzer Ali Gill announced the province to focus on the verdict on conclusion students' grooming apart of arguments from both from traditional education sides. The court held that to firmly counter the national and international the prosecution failed to substantiate the charges challenges against the accused Haroon Masih, who was brought to court from jail for the hearing. to embrace challenges,

The case dates back to 2016, when Liaquatabad police registered an FIR against Masih, alleging his involvement in the killing of two children.

AIOU provides

free education to persons with disabilities: VC ISLAMABAD (APP) Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is making every possible effort to every bring prosperity and convenience to the lives of persons with

disabilities. To help them lead dignified and successful lives, the university offers free education from matriculation to PhD level," said the Vice-Chancellor of AIOU Prof. Dr. Nasin Mahmood, in his statement on the occasion of International Day of Persons with

Disabilities.

KP CM Gandapur asks universities to focus on students' grooming

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief keep moving forward with Minister (CM) Khyber faith and determination," he added. Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin

He emphasized the importance of celebrating others' successes, calling it a hallmark of great individuals.

The CM lauded Igra National University for its rapid progress and expressed pride in Addressing the fourth participating in its convocation of Iqra convocation. National University on Highlighting the role

Tuesday, he urged students of the private sector, he said, "No government can remain resilient, and learn progress without public from setbacks. "One failure and private sector cannot stop your progress; support.

Contempt of court petition filed in LHC against CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE Contempt of court petition has been filed against Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz in Lahore High Court (LHC).

PTI leader Akmal Khan filed contempt of court petition against CM Punjab through advocate Khurram Latif for harassing him despite court's orders. CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz, IG Punjab police, CCPO Lahore and others

have been made respondents in the petition. The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that LHC had issued order on November 22 for discharged him from this stopping to harass him case. Counsel illegally and on the same petitioner said local police day Islampura police is harassing petitioner

(Online): outside Sessions court. The petitioner was shown to have been arrested in case No 863/24 registered in police station Rang Mahal

Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) discharged him from the case on November 23 but the Islam Pura police again arrested him in evening on November 23 in case No 3691/24 illegally. ATC discharged him from this case on November 25, On November 26

Police station Shafiq Abad arrested him in case No 4250/24 illegally.

Sessions for abducted him illegally continuously.

Senate Chairman visits Uch Sharif, condoles death of ex-MNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Syed

Qasim Ali Shah along with others take keen

interest at stall during celebration ceremony in

connection of the International Day of Persons with

Disabilities, held at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar.

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani visited the shrine of Hazrat Mahboob Subhani in Uch Sharif on Tuesday. He offered prayers and laid a floral wreath at the shrine. He also visited the shrines of other Governor Makhdoom elders from his family. The Ahmad Mahmood, Syed Gilani families from Multan, Iftikhar-ul-Hassan Gilani.

Karim also distributed "Langar" (free meal) among Uch Sharif, and Jamal Din the devotees. Speaking on the occasion, the governor Wali offered condolences on highlighted the significance the death of former MNA of spiritual figures and Syed Ali Hassan Gilani and sacred sites as an integral performed the ceremonial part of the country's turban tying for his nephew cultural and social heritage. Syed Ghaus Moeenuddin He emphasized their role Gilani. Former Punjab in providing spiritual solace to people and fostering social harmony.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 20th meeting of Punjab Cabinet.

National News

Page 03

personnel undergoing treatment at CMH Rawalpindi, and to note that their killers are our people. She highlighted seeing the violence, the brutality of PTI workers is of PTI workers has little The CM said the 10,000 trained security security personnel were personnel will be beaten by groups with

adding that the skulls, legs and arms of the personnel undergoing treatment at CMH Rawalpindi were

AHORE

Ganj Bakĥsh.

Ummah

France's Macron, Saudi crown prince sign strategic partnership, call for Lebanon elections

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a strategic partnership on Monday aimed at deepening bilateral ties and de-escalating conflict in the Middle East, including Lebanon, where the two leaders called for presidential elections. The French leader arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday for a three-day state visit just as a political crisis threatens to topple the French government.

After a meeting with Prince Mohammed, the de facto ruler of the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, Macron's office announced the signing of a new partnership aimed at improving cooperation in "defence, energy transition, culture, mobility between the two countries" The two leaders also "agreed to make every effort to contribute to de-escalation in the region", including helping to consoli-date the fragile ceasefire be-through a social security

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: The UN Com-

mission of Inquiry on Syria

on Tuesday urged warring

parties in the country to

strictly adhere to interna-

tional law and protect ci-

vilians, warning that the

dramatic increase in hostili-

ties since Nov. 27 threat-

ens to spread to new parts

years must not be repeated,

or Syria will be driven onto

a new trajectory of atroci-

ties," the chair of the com-

mission, Paulo Sergio

Pinheiro, said in a state-

to break from their past

patterns and ensure they

protect and respect civil-

"We call on all parties

'The brutality of past

of the country.

ment.

UN commission says

'brutality of past years' must

not be repeated in Syria

tween Israel and Lebanon. "Together, they called for the holding of presidential elections in Lebanon with the aim of bringing the Lebanese people together and carrying out the reforms necessary for the stability and security of the country," the statement from Macron's office said.

Macron touched down in Riyadh in the afternoon, where he was greeted by an honour guard of sword-holding servicemen and celebratory cannon fire as he disembarked from his plane. He did not comment on the political situation in France as he arrived. Macron's visit began as France's less than three-month-old minority government faced the prospect of being forced out by a vote of no confidence in

the coming days. The far-right National Rally party said it would vote to oust Michel Barnier's government after the prime minister used an executive tool to push

budget bill without parliamentary approval.

The left-wing is also expected to back the motion, which could be held as early as Wednesday. If successful, it would oust the government that was appointed in September after snap polls. Macron's three-day stay also coincides with a flareup of violence in Syria, where anti-government rebels have seized Aleppo, the country's second-largest city.

The fighting in Syria follows France's brokering of a ceasefire in neighbouring ebanon, where Israel has been fighting Hezbollah.

Macron's state visit is the first by a French president to Saudi Arabia since Jacques Chirac in 2006, cementing what the presi-dency calls a "very close relationship". In 2021, Macron became one of the first

ing hearings at the top United Nations court, a Western leaders to meet representative for Vanuatu said on Monday, opening a Prince Mohammed in Saudi historic case that aims to set Arabia after the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal a legal framework on how Khashoggi at Riyadh's con-sulate in Istanbul. countries should tackle climate change.

Thailand, Malaysia brace for fresh wave of floods as

water levels ease

Megally, for his part, said **Monitoring Desk** the commission is investi-KUALA LUMPUR: Magating reported attacks impacting civilian infrastrucaysia and Thailand are ture in the city of Aleppo, facing a second wave of heavy rain and potential including at least one hosflooding this week, aupital and a university dorm, thorities said on Monday, as well as reported airstrikes

even as some displaced on Idlib and other densely residents were able to repopulated civilian areas. turn home and the worst "Both the airstrikes floods in decades began and the rapid changes in ter-

ritorial control are causing receding in some areas. Since last week, 27 massive displacement of civilians," Megally warned. eople have died and more The commission is han half a million houseclosely monitoring the holds in the neighbouring Southeast Asian countries treatment of civilians, inhave been hit by torrential cluding minorities and prisoners of war as opposition rain and flooding that authorities say have been the forces advance into governmost severe in years. ment-controlled areas, ac-

cording to the statement. tion has improved in some The situation is also volatile" in northern areas and water levels have eased, according to govern-

ians, their human rights and Aleppo, the commission the Geneva Conventions." said Commissioner Hanny

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The White House said on Monday that President Joe Biden pardoned his son

Hunter in part to protect him from future persecution from political opponents, but his move drew fierce criticism, with some Democrats saying it undermined public trust in the rule of law.

The immediate situa-Biden, a Democrat whose term ends on January 20 when Republican President-elect Donald ment data on Monday.

termining the fate of nations like mine and the fu-THE HAGUE: The future ture of our planet," said of the planet is at stake dur-Vanuatu's representative for climate change, Ralph Regenvanu. 'This may well be the

French President Emmanuel Macron meets with Saudi's Crown Prince

Mohammed Bin Salman during an official visit in Riyadh.

ICJ opens hearing on

climate change

Monitoring Desk

most consequential case in the history of humanity,

tries and organisations are The Hague. set to present before the International Court of Justice over the next two weeks, the highest number

"The outcome of these proceedings will reverberate across generations, de- islation

White House defends **Biden pardoning son** as criticism mounts

an unconditional pardon for Hunter Biden on Sunday and said he believed his son had been selectively prosecuted and targeted unfairly by the

president's political oppo-Biden said in the past that he would not pardon his son, including to ABC News in June when he was asked if he would rule it out

and replied "yes." His surprise move was panned by his Republican political Trump takes office, signed opposition.

peace,' says **NATO chief Monitoring Desk**

'not interested in peace.' Referring to the Ukraine war that Russia

launched in February 2022, Secretary General Mark Rutte Rutte said: "He is pressing on, trying to take more territory. Because he thinks he can break Ukraine's resolve."

"Ukraine is entering another crucial winter. And Russia's aggression shows no sign of abating.

Russia claims it took control of 2 more settlements in eastern Ukraine

a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry statement said. Tuesday claimed that it It said that Kyiv is took control of two more convinced that the only real settlements amid its ongosecurity guarantee for ing offensive in eastern Ukraine is its membership Ukraine. Russian forces to NATO, adding that incaptured the village of viting the country to join the alliance will deprive Romanivka, about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) south of the city of Kurakhove, a Moscow of its "illusions about the possibility of hindering Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration.' region that houses a ther-The statement argued that not providing Ukraine

South Korea President Yoon declares martial law, slams domestic opponents

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in a surprise late-night TV address on Tuesday, slamming domestic political opponents and sending shockwaves through the country.

Yoon said opposition parties had taken the parliamentary process hostage. He vowed to eradicate "shameless pro-North Korean antistate forces" and said he had no choice but to take the measure to safeguard constitutional order. Yonhap news agency cited the military as saying activities by parliament and political parties would be banned, and that media and publishers would be under the control of the martial law command. Yoon did not cite any

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: Ukraine on

Tuesday said that it will not

accept any alternatives to

Kyiv's full membership in

NATO, pointing to the "failure" of the 1994

Budapest Memorandum

which will mark the 30th

anniversary since its sign-

rience of the Budapest

Memorandum behind us,

we will not accept any al-

ternatives, surrogates or

substitutes for Ukraine's

full membership in NATO,'

"With the bitter expe-

ing later this week.

stead focusing on his domestic political opponents. It is the first time since 1980 that martial law has been declared in South Korea. South Korea has had a series of authoritarian leaders early in its history but has been considered democratic since the 1980s.

The Korean won was down sharply against the US dollar. A central bank official said it was preparing measures to stabilise the market if needed. South Korea's parliament, with 190 of its 300 members present, passed a motion requiring the martial law declared by President Yoon to be lifted, live TV showed. Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok has convened an emergency meeting among top economic specific threat from the officials, his spokesman

nuclear-armed North, in- said in a text message.

Ukraine says it will not

accept any alternatives to

full membership in NATO with effective security guarantees in the 1990s was a "strategic mistake" that Russia "exploited" and that the Budapest Memorandum failed to prevent the ongoing Russia-Ukraine

> "Failure of the Budapest Memorandum to fulfill its functions has led to a catastrophic increase in security threats not only for Ukraine, but also for other countries and regions, including Europe, the Euro-Atlantic area, Central and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and international peace and security in general," it further said. The ministry also defined the Budapest Memorandum as a "monument to short-sightedness in strategic security decision-making.

'It should serve as a reminder to the current leaders of the Euro-Atlantic community that building a European security architecture at the expense of Ukraine's interests.

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Russia on

key stronghold of Ukrainian forces in the Donetsk

mal power plant.

Regenvanu told the 15judge bench in the panelled hall of the Peace Palace in More than 100 coun-Activists hope the ICJ opinion will have farreaching legal consequences in the fight against climate

change, impacting ongoing court cases as well as domestic and international leg-

ATHENS: NATO's new chief on Tuesday drew a grim picture of Russia's leadership, saying that President Vladimir Putin is

Putin is 'not

interested in

Daily **Independent**, Hub

Wednesday December 04, 2024



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Task Force established in view of recent law and order situation.

CM expresses discontentment over implementation on projects of Health & Education sectors

Bugti directs high ups to ensure speedy work on development projects make sure transparency and public requirements in public sector development programme; directs to prepare comprehensive strategy for 5year development projects

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed discontentment over implementation on the projects of Health and Education departments and directed to ensure speedy work on the projects making sure transparency and public requirements in the public sector development programme (PSDP).

The Chief Minister was chairing review meeting on progress of the development projects here on Tuesday.

Those who were in attendance were included the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Provincial Minister Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, spokesman of Provincial Government,

Principal Secretary, Babar Khan, Additional Chief maintaining the resources Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Finance, Imran ending w Zarkoon and other con- the past. cerned high ups.

sources for them by the high ups of Planning and Development Department.

The meeting was agreed on five-year development projects for Washuk district. It was directed prepare comprehensive strategy in this regard. Addressing the meet-

ing, Chief Minister directed to improve the PSDP of last year by removing variances. In addition to this,

Shahid Rind, Chief Secre-tary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, the PSDP anyway, the Chief Minister directed allocated for projects should be made compatible ending wrong traditions of

He also directed to in-The meeting was troduce the modern techabout the development nology for review of the projects and allocated re- transparency in PSDP besides keeping strict vigil on its all stages.

He conveyed to the P&D Department not to make any scheme based on personal gains or commis-sion part of the PSDP.

He warned that stern action would be taken against any "babu" (official) who was found any irregu-

larity. benefits of development must reach common men of transparency and public the province.

He stressed that the



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar talking with mediamen after inaugurating cochlear implant surgery in the ENT Unit-III, Head and Neck Surgery department of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ).

about the file trekking sys-

tem, IPMS, development

projects and other impor-

tant matters. The meeting

was attended by the Addi-

DPM Dar stresses effective implementation of ECO trade agreement for regional prosperity

MASHHAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday urged the member states to ensure effective implementation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to help strengthen regional security and economic prosperity through mutually beneficial intra-regional trade.

"However, It is a matter of great concern that the ECO region, comprising an area of 8 million square ki-lometers and half a billion population - roughly 15% of the World population, has intra-regional trade of, unfortunately, less than 8% of region's aggregate, and only about 2 % in global trade, which is in stark con-

trast to other regional region over an agreed groupings such as the EU where the intra-regional timeframe and provides an excellent platform for the promotion of our region's trade stands above 70%, and the ASEAN, where it economic interests by trade is around 23%," the deputy prime minister said addressing the 28th Meeting of ECO Council of Minisriod since its inception, it is yet to see day the light of ters (COM) being hosted here. He said the ECOTA implementation. So far. only five member states was a landmark intra-regional preferential trade he added. Dar said that as the coordinating country on ECOTA, Pakistan attached agreement, which was conceptualized exactly in line with the founding and fun-damental goals of the orgamember states to take a nization to create amenable broader and more holistic view and conducive conditions for the promotion of susof the matter. The deputy tainable economic developprime minister told the gathment of the region, aiming ering that ECO Vision 2025" at joint welfare and welladopted during the 13th ECO being of member states.

promotion and facilitation.

Despite a considerable pe-

have signed the agreement,

great importance to its early

implementation, and urged all

Summit in Islamabad in 2017

was a key document that

Levies force

foils WAPDA

cable theft in

Musakhel

Independent Report

MUSAKHEL : Levies

Force personnel from the

Tungi Sar post have apprehended thieves involved in

stealing WAPDA cables in

the area. The thieves were

caught red-handed while

loading the stolen cables

onto a rickshaw. The op-

eration was carried out on

the directives of Deputy

Commissioner Jamiluddin

Mando Khel, who had re-

ceived a complaint from

PM lauds

Senate's role

for national

solidarity,

provincial

harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Tuesday high-

lighting the legislation by

the Senate for public wel-

fare, said that the upper

house was playing a vibrant

role in promoting national

solidarity and provincial

said this in a meeting with

Deputy Chairman of Sen-

ate Senator Syedaal Khan

discussed the country's

overall political situation,

according to a PM Office press release.

Imran twitter

account is being

used for organized

propaganda: Vawda

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has

claimed twitter account of

Imran Khan is being used

for organized propaganda

while he himself is not run-

ning twitter handle. BB, her

associates and people like

Qasim Soori have hatched

conspiracy to declare Imran

Khan mad and kill him. On

X he said in a statement this

is the same propaganda

which I am mentioning that

who called on him here.

The prime minister

In the meeting, they

harmony.

guided.

'ECOTA primarily aims to lower tariffs in our



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal addressing at the opening ceremony of the World Islamic Finance Forum hosted by IBA.

Sindh Coastal Highway to help developing coastal belt, impeding sea erosion: Ahsan

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, during a visit of Sindh Coastal Highway on Tues-day, said that the project would help addressing the issue of sea intrusion and opening growth avenues in coastal areas of the prov-

inspected the construction process of Sindh Coastal Highway at Gharo and also received a briefing from the officers concerned.

ATC issues written order talking to media at the occasion, said that federal government was working for

plete a 37 kilometer section of the highway, he said and added that sea has eroded thousands acres of land in coastal areas of Sindh and the project will play a significant role in preserving the land from sea intrusion.

The Pakistan Muslim League N and the Pakistan Peoples Party once considered arch rivals in the political arena of the country, are now working in unison on agenda of development, economic stability, solidarity and integrity of Pakistan under the Charter of De-

stated. "We may have politi-Jamiluddin Mando Khel compasized that maintaincal differences and we con- emphasized that maintain-

test elections against each

other but on the matters of



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary leader of PML-N and Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and social worker Attaullah Khosa in a group photo with Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Jam Kamal Khan

PM for punishing rioters who martyred LEAs personnel, damaged public properties

SLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to strictly punish the protestors who martyred and injured the personnel of law enforcement agencies and damaged public properties during the sit-ins in Islamabad.

The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the task force formed to investigate the riots in the November 24 sit-in in the federal capital, said that the progress on legal action against the rioters would be reviewed weekly.

He said the attack on Islamabad by the insurgents during the official visit of the Belarusian president caused great em-barrassment for the coun-

The prime minister said that a world-class antiriot force would be raised in the country to meet the contemporary requirements. By establishing a forensic lab, the Islamabad Safe City would be upgraded to international standards for which all necessary resources would be utilized. In the briefing, the prime minister was told that the weapons, cartridges, shells and other pieces of evidence had been collected from the crime scene those would be sent for forensic analysis. The identification process of the rioters is also being carried out swiftly, who would later be produced before courts. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Cheema, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarra.

Cochlear implant surgery starts in ENT Unit, Head & Neck **Surgery Dept of SPHHQ**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Cochlear implant surgery has been started in the ENT Unit-III, Head and Neck Surgery department of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ) here

The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar formally inaugurated the rare facility of the cochlear implant surgery in the SPHHQ.

WAPDA authorities. The Levies Force sprang into Two surgeries of the action, successfully foiling cochlear implant were conthe theft attempt. ducted for the first time in

Deputy Commissioner history of Balochistan. The senior ENT specialist, Professor Dr.

ter for Health highly appreciated the entire team of SPHHQ including Medical Superintendent, Dr. Noorullah Musakhail, ENT department's head, Dr. Sher Zaman Mandokhail and all other concerned on launching successful cochlear implants in the Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the service of cochlear implant was desperately needed in Quetta for the children, otherwise deprived of the hearing by birth.

He said that the patients would have the facility of cochlear implant totally free of cost in Quetta,

ince. The federal minister The minister while mocracy, Ahsan Iqbal

special attention on removing grievances of people

Registered on PCP

CS directs secretaries to pay

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Sec-retary Balochistan, Shakeel Oadir Khan has directed to all administrative secretaries to pay special on the file trekking system and removing public grievances registered on the Pakistan Citizen Portal (PCP).

The Chief Secretary also directed to address the pending and overdue cases immediately.besides ensuring completion of the development projects in province within the stipulated time. He said that the province would progress with completion of the development projects.

He said that it is top

Shah, Ghulam Nabi Baloch. Senior Member Board of Revenue, Oambar Dashti and all secretaries of the provincial government departments.

issues, says Faisal Jamali

by them.

eral public.

resolved.

district offices

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Livestock De-

partment, Sardarzada

Faisal Khan Jamali had

stated that the government

is mobilizing all available

resources to resolve the is-

sues being faced by the

wholehearted endeavour of

the government to provide

basic healthcare facilities

and clean drinking water to

the people besides estab-

speaking to the district of-

ficers during meeting in

Usta Muhammad on Tues-

occasion was Deputy

Commissioner

Muhammad,

The Minister was

Also present on the

Ûsta

Arshad

lishing road network.

In this regard, it is

people.

day.

responsibility of the offic-ers to work for the public welfare. The Chief Secretary was presiding over meeting of the secretaries committee here on Tuesday. The meeting discussed

rants of PTI founder, Ali Amin Gandapur, Bushra Bibi and others in the case

tional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Sipra has issued one page Basit, Additional Chief Secorder in respect of 96 acretary Home, Shahab Ali

> Name of chairman PTI barrister Gohar is not inname of Ali Amin Gandapur is mentioned in the order.

Police has mentioned Ali Amin Gandapur as MPA instead of chief minster in their plea.

PHC grants interim bail to **Bushra Bibi** until Dec 23

ESHAWAR (APP): The

Justice Wagar Ahmad conducted a hearing on a plea filed by Bushra Bibi's lawyer. During the proceedings, her lawyer informed the court that 27 cases had been registered against her.

ceasefire ISLAMABAD (INP): Kurram district is witness-

ing a gradual return to peace and stability on Tuesday following a ceasefire brokered by a political jirga. Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud may not face any inconvesaid that all schools and colleges in the area have reopened, reported a private news channel. DC further Muhammad is facing issues said that mobile phone ser-

because of the newly established district, but all out efforts would be made to resolve them. He said that forces have now taken conthe buildings and manpower are needed for the the fighting to prevent further violence.

development of coastal arwarrants of eas of Sindh in collaboration with the provincial **PTI founder** government. The project has been

& others initiated by the Sindh gov-SLAMABAD (Online) ernment and federal govern-Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has isment has pledged to comsued written order in connection with arrest war-

D-Chowk protest:

for arrest

related to D-Chowk protest Judge Tahir Abbas

cused persons. cluded in the written order of arrest warrants while

Peshawar High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Bushra Bibi, the wife of PTI Chairman, until December 23. The court also di-

rected that she should not be arrested during this period.

inclusivity.

countability

vices, which were cut off during the conflict, are also being restored. Security trol of trenches used during

HONG KONG: Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi addressing International Ombudsmen Conference 2024 on eve of 35th anniversary of establishment of Ombudsman office

Wafaqi Mohtasib addresses **International Ombudsman** Summit-2024 at Hong Kong

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Ombudsmanship has taken firm roots in Pakistan; Calls for greater sharing of experiences and best practices amongst **Ombuds** Institutions

Independent Report tion of Ombudsman in The strengthening democracy, (Om- good governance and the SLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman), Mr. Ejaz Ahmad rule of law. Good administration Qureshi has said that ad-

and efficient service delivdressing maladministration ery constitute the most esand protection of human sential features of the Susrights is inextricably linked tainable Development to good governance, ac-Goals (SDGs), he added. He further said that these and goals have a direct bearing He was addressing the International Ombudsman Summit - 2024 in Hong on the role and functions of Ombudsman institutions

working to build peaceful Kong organized on the eve and inclusive societies, acof the 35th anniversary of countable institutions at all the establishment of the levels and providing easy Office of the Ombudsman access to justice. He added in Hong Kong, China. Mr. Qureshi, who is the current President of the 47-mem-ber strong Asian Ombudsthat the scope of work of Ombudsman institutions is witnessing speedy expansion and now includes isman Association (AOA), sues like the climate change, said that the United Nabusiness rights, public actions, too, recognizes the cessibility and inclusivity.

importance of the institu-Pakistan

Bibi, her associates and people **BANGKOK: Senator BilalAhmed Khan Mandokhail** like Oasim Soori have hatched and Senator Afnanullah Khan representing Pakistan Khan to killing him. in Global Health Security Conference.

national solidarity, integrity thieves, is a top priority. He and development and warned that no comprogrowth of the country, we mises will be made in dealput all the differences ing with criminals, and away, sit on a table and work jointly," he noted. those found guilty will face severe punishment.

ing law and order, and protecting citizens from major teaching hospital of Quetta. The Provincial Minis-

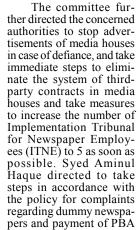
Muhammad Umar Farooq for otherwise, they are compelled to go to major performed the successful surgeries of cochlear imcities of the country. plant along with his team in the ENT Unit-III of the

Earlier, Professor Sher Zaman Mandokhail briefed the Minister about the facility of cochlear implant in SPHHQ.

NA body directs to ensure implementation of minimum salary in media houses

ISLAMABAD[•] (APP): Sub-Committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and PEMRA to ensure that all media houses pay 37,500 minimum salary fixed by the government.

The 1st meeting of the committee was held here under the convenorship of Syed Aminul Haque to discuss the current state of payment of salaries and outstanding dues and to regarding dummy newspasuggest measures for ensuring rights of media work- dues.





QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti giving away shield to DG NADRA Balochistan Kashif Iqbal during a ceremony held in connection with World Disable Day.

Digital Agricultural Census 2024 kicks off in Nasirabad District

Independent Report reau of Statistics (PBS) NASIRABAD: The Digital aims to provide accurate and reliable data on the district's Agricultural Census 2024 agricultural landscape. This has commenced in Nasirabad district, under data will be crucial in informing policy decisions the supervision of Deputy and allocating resources for Commissioner Nasirabad, agricultural development in Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar. This initiative the region. marks a significant milestone for the district's agricultural sector, which is the backbone of Pakistan's

The digital agricultural census is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Pakistan, and it is expected to bring about a significant improvement in the country's agricultural

sector.2

conspiracy from declaring The census, being conducted by the Pakistan Bu-

economy.

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The district officers

Sardarzada Faisal

He said that it is nec-

informed the Minister

about the issues being faced

Jamali exhorted the officers

to perform their duties with

dedication to resolve the

issues being faced by gen-

essary for the officers to

ensure their attendance at

their respective duty

places so that the people

nience to get their issues

He said that Usta

Peace returns to Kurram after