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Tarar accuses PTI's Murad Saeed of leading armed protesters, hiding in CM House Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday dared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) direct firing on protestors, saying it was the PTI which brought professional criminals and Afghan Nationals to the protest to ensure that there would be a bloodshed in to share the video evidence with the public which could prove that the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had opened straight firing on its protestors who descended on Islamabad a couple of days ago.

"I have shared the video evidence that show how a person from the protest told the protestors to open in-

discriminate firing on the police. Now, I challenge the PTI to share one video of straight firing or live ammunition by the LEAs against the protestors," said the minister while addressing a news conference.

The minister was flanked by Federal Secretary for Interior Khurram Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Ali Randhawa. Different videos were palyed during the press conference that shown how the PTI protestors used guns, shells and

the whole city

He said Murad Saeed, who was hiding in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister House, was also present in the protest and led an armed group that wielded guns, shells and glass marbles which were recovered from them later on their arrest from the front-

No personnel of the LEA is allowed for the live ammunition, he said, adding that the fake videos and pictures were being created to cover up their humiliation and political failure from the so called final call.

He said that the Pakistan Institute of the Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Poly Clinic had already issued their press releases that clearly stated that no death occurred due to the firing of the law enforcement agencies.

marbles against the LEAs.

Tarar categorically rejected the propaganda being peddled by the PTI on the social media regarding the different channels," he added.

"Likewise, we are calling them out for their fake propaganda and communicating the fact to the people through different channels," he added.



Mr. Attaullah Tarar Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, addressed a press conference in Islamabad.

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attending funeral of Captain Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed.

OPC Punjab official meets PM in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Vice Chairperson Overseas Pa- Shehbaz Sharif stated that kistanis Commission overseas Pakistanis are (OPC) Punjab and Chief very dear to him, and the Coordinator of Interna- appointments in the Mintional Affairs, Barrister istry of Overseas Paki-Amjad Malik, held a spe-stanis, Overseas Pakistani cial meeting with Prime
Minister of Pakistan Mian

Foundation, and the Overseas Commission serve as evi-Shehbaz Muhammad

Sharif in Lahore. During the meeting, Barrister Malik congratulated the Prime Minister for his tireless efforts in restoring investor confidence and reviving the national economy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Barrister Amiad Malik on assuming the position of Vice Chairperson of OPC Punjab and emphasized that the federal and provincial governments would work together to resolve the issues faced by overseas Pakistanis.

Prime seas Commission serve as evidence of the government's commitment to addressing the problems of overseas Pakistanis. He also highlighted that with the retreat of disruptive groups, relief efforts for the public will

gain further momentum. Barrister Amjad Malik thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and assured him that OPC Punjab and OPF would collaborate to resolve the issues of overseas Pakistanis. He also congratulated the government for stimulating the economyand boosting the stock exchange to new heights.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is lighting traditional oil lamp at Sri Lanka stall during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

Commissioner says Major crackdown conducted against narcotics in Chaman,

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Shafqaat has stated that major operation was conducted against the narcotics and cultivation of poppy in different areas of the province mainly Chaman, Killa Abdullah and Pishin districts.

During the operation, the narcotics and poppy of worth Rs. 1 billion were seized and destroyed, informed the Commissioner Quetta while addressing an awareness seminar on prevention of the narcotics organized at the Civil Secretariat's auditorium the other day.

The Secretary Excise and Taxation, Government of Balochistan, Syed Zafar Bokhari, Regional Director of Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan, Briga-

K. Abdullah and Pishin dier Adnan Danish, religious personalities, representatives of the civil society were present on the occasion. The Commissioner Quetta also informed that some 60 factories manufacturing narcotics were also sealed and several persons were arrested during different anti-drug operation in

various areas. He said that no one would be spared involved in the illicit trade of drugs at all. He said that the lands of those cultivating poppy would be taken government's custody besides cancelling / blocking their national identity cards, local certificates and

bank accounts. The Secretary Excise and Taxation, on the occasion said that full-fledged campaign would be launched against cultivation of the poppy in province.

PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. **Zohabi-ud-Din**

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday attended the funeral prayer of Captain Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed.

The funeral prayer was attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt. General Syed Aamer Raza, senior civil and military officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister met with the family of shaheed captain and expressed his condolence.

He paid tribute to shaheed Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din who had fought valiantly with Khawarij terrorists, adding that the entire nation was proud of his sacrifice and saluted him.

Shaheed captain had embraced martyrdom on November 30 during the conduct of an intelligence based operation in Shagai, District Khyber. Three Khawarij were sent to hell while two others were ar-

Ex-MNAAli Hassan Gilani dies in road accident

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Former MNA Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gilani and another person died while three others were injured in a road accident in the wee hours here on Sunday, official sources in Rescue 1122

They received a phone call at their Ahmadpur East rescue station which said that a collision had occurred between a car and a minitruck on Ahmadpur-Uch road near Nabi Pur village. A mini-truck loaded with cattle was parked on the roadside when a car hit it, resulting in injuries to five persons. They said that 52vear-old ex-MNA Makhdoom Ali Hassan Gilani, a resident of tehsil Ahmadpur East riding the car, suffered critical inter-

nal injuries and died on the

initiatives of FC besides picture through visit.

QUETTA: People are wearing traditional clothes as they are holding celebration on the occasion of Sindhi Cultural Day, at Quetta press club.

President, PM reaffirm resolve to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday praised the security forces for their successful opera-tions in Bannu and Khyber districts. They commended their bravery for eliminating eight

Khawarij terrorists and arresting eleven others injured in two separate operations.

The president and prime minister paid tributes to Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin and soldier Iftikhar Hussain, who were martyred during the operations, and acknowledged their sacrifices, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in sepa-



President Zardari emphasized that the sacrifices of he martyrs for the country's security would not be in vain and that the entire nation would remember the sacri fices of those who laid down their lives for the mother

Sindhi Culture is culture of peace, love, traditions & solidarity:

CM Bugti calls for celebrating important days of all nationalities at national level to promote peace

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Bugti has stressed that there is a need to celebrate the important days of all nationalities at national level in order to promote our peaceful mutual survival so that they could play their role in development and prosperity of the country.
This, the Chief Minis-

ter stated in a felicitation message issued here on Sindhi Culture Day observed on Sunday.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti conand brothers on the Sindhi consciousness.

Culture Day and said that the culture spreads the colour of joys in life of the people. He said that the culture of Pakistan is a bouquet of different cultures and the Sindhi Culture is also prominent in that bouquet. The Chief Minister also

said Sindhi Culture is the culture of peace, love, traditions and solidarity, which is included in the an cient cultures of the world.

He said that it is our top priority to keep all cultures of Pakistan alive and motivate our young generation gratulated the Sindhi sisters towards the knowledge and

UoB's faculty members, students visit FC HQs (North), meet IGFC

Independent Report QUETTA: The faculty members and students of

University of Balochistan (UoB) visited the Frontier Corps (FC) Headquarters Balochistan (North) here. During the visit, the faculty members and students

of the martyrs and presented salute to them. They also paid tributes to sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for establishing peace. Meanwhile, they also

of UoB visited monument

met the IG FC. Later, the members of delegation were briefed about the border management, security as well as the anti-smuggling and narcotics cial media, but they got right

other public welfare. After the briefing, IGFC answered the questions in detail which were posed by the students. Speaking to them, IGFC

called them the guarantor of peace and development of Pakistan and Balochistan. The faculty members and students on the occa-

sion termed their visit to FC

Headquarters as very useful. They said that they got very useful information during the visit. They said that Army and FC is taking cer-Despite the heavy firetain measures for security of the province. They said that a lot of wrong information was being spread on the so-

Info Minister slams PTI for spreading false propaganda

Officer among 2 soldiers martyred, 8 terrorists killed in separate KP operations

Eliminated militants were involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians; ISPR affirms forces determined to wipe out terrorism; Says "such sacrifices further strengthened our resolve."

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed eight Khwarij terrorists and others 9 injured while a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from November 29 to December

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Baka Khel, Bannu District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the forces," it further said. operation, own troops effectively engaged the exchange, Captain the country and such sacri-khwarij location and Muhammad Zohaib Ud fices of our brave soldiers fur-

(ISPR) news release. However, during the operation, Sepoy Iftikhar

Hussain (Age: 29 years, resident of: District Jhang), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. "In another operation nocent civilians. conducted in general area Shagai, Khyber District,

three Khwarij were sent to

got injured," said an Inter Services Public Relations from the front, fought from the front, fought bravely, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat.

These khwarij were involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as in-

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other kharji hell, while two were appre-hended by the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the During an intense fire determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from resultantly killed five Din (Age: 25 years, resi-khwarij, while nine khwarij dent of: District Lahore), the news release said.

Ministry of Interior shares details of protest fiasco orchestrated by PTI

PTI violent protests caused Rs192b daily losses to economy; Army neither came in direct clash with PTI miscreants nor they were employed for riot control, says statement; KP govt's resources used without restraint in PTI's violent protests in Islamabad

quently offered Sngjhani

area as a designated loca-

tion. In this regard, out of

the ordinary and at odd

timings, meetings were also

allowed between PTI lead-

ership and its founder. On

the contrary and inspite of

the extraordinary conces-

(APP): The Islam-abad High Court (IHC) on November 21 directed the federal government to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order in the federal capital, says the handout issued by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, sharing all the details of the protest fiasco orchestrated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ínsaf

The High Court directed the Interior Minister to engage with the PTI leadership in this regard, says the handout adding

Four terrorists killed as police thwart attack in Mianwali

MIAWALI (INP): In a significant operation, Mianwali police successfully foiled a major Khwarij attack on the Chapri Police Station, killing four heavily armed militants.

According to a police spokesperson, over 20 Khwarij militants launched an assault on the station. using heavy weaponry. The attack resulted in an intense exchange of gunfire between the militants and the police.

power of the assailants, the brave officers managed to repel the Khwarij, ensuring the safety of the entire station staff. However, two police personnel sustained minor injuries during the confrontation.

The police spokesperson confirmed that the entire team at the Chapri Police Station is safe, and the situation is now under control, adding that the militants were neutralised due to the swift and coordinated response of police person-

The Punjab Inspector General of Police commended the courage and professionalism displayed by the Mianwali police

that given the sensitivity of lated the court's orders blathe Belarusian President tantly and instead of holdand Chinese high-level deling protest at designated egation visit, PTI was iniplace (Sangjani), unlawfully tially asked to postpone the breached entry towards the protest but on their persis-Red Zone of Islamabad. tence to continue with the Throughout the protest protest, PTI was subse-

march from Peshawar to Red Zone Islamabad, violent protestors of PTI aggressively engaged LEAs repeatedly using fire arms and all sorts of other weaponry including steel sling shots, stun grenades, tear gas shells and nail studded batons to force their way to Red Zone Islamabad.



QUETTA: President National Party former chief minister Dr Abdul Malik addressing during a ceremony hosted by member Central Committee National Party Ramzan Hazara.

Dr. Malik says

NP continues its struggle for social change rather than mere political gains

QUETTA (Online): Presi- brought into existence to dent of National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, has criticized the dictatorial regimes of General Zia and General Musharraf, emphasizing their detrimental impact on democracy and civil rights in Pakistan.

He said this while speaking at a reception organized by National Party's Alamdaar Road and Hazara Town units to honor the party's central and provincial cabinet members, he lamented the 8th February elections, claiming the public mandate was stolen, and a powerless assembly was

suppress political forces and public interests. Dr. Baloch expressed

gratitude to Hazara community elders and other diverse groups for their support, stating that the National Party continues its struggle for social change rather than mere political gains. Highlighting the infaced by justices marginalized groups, including the Hazara and other ethnic communities, he revealed that election manipulation had deprived these communities of their rightful representation.

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Flying ban reversal

The European Aviation Safety Agency has finally lifted the ban on flights of the national flag carrier to and from Europe after more than four years. Nevertheless, it will take months and potentially heavy investment in new planes before the airline can resume operations on lucrative European routes. The ban on PIA flights to the UK is yet to be revoked.

Still, celebrations are in order since the EU ban has been lifted after repeated failures of the Civil Aviation Authority since 2020 to address EASA's safety concerns. The European aviation watchdog has apparently "re-established sufficient confidence in the [CAA's] oversight capabilities". The decision to approve the resumption of commercial operations was based on the CAA's "significant efforts"

However, EASA clarified that the EU states would continue monitoring through the "prioritisation of ramp inspections of the air carriers certified in Pakistan and their crew to ensure compliance with aviation regulations and standards and identify safety concerns and trends before they become a threat"

Besides causing reputational damage, the ban, which came in the wake of a fatal PIA plane crash in Karachi, followed by a scandal over alleged fake pilot licences sparked by the claims of the then aviation minister, has cost the airline an annual revenue loss of nearly Rs40bn. It was also one of the several reasons for the government's failed attempt to privatise the national carrier a month ago when only one bidder showed up to buy the airline for a paltry Rs10bn for a 60pc stake in the company, against the asking price of Rs85bn. Undoubtedly, the resumption of flights to profitable European routes is being seen as a recovery point for the air carrier and may lead many to call for cancelling plans to sell it off and turn it around by investing in EU operations under a new management.

Similar efforts made by successive governments in the last one decade to resurrect PIA have amply exposed the futility of such exercises. There are many, including the incumbent privatisation minister, who have argued that the last attempt to sell the airline was structured in such a way as to scare away potential investors. Many influential leaders of the ruling PML-N are not in favour of disinvesting the airline. But only the naive can expect the reinstatement of European operations to help restore PIA's profitability. The reasons that have brought PIA to this pass are many, and deep-rooted. At best, the new development can only help the govern-ment fetch a better response from bidders when the airline is put up for auction again. It is, therefore, advisable that the authorities continue to focus on selling the company rather than investing public money in its fleet to resume its European operations.

Our own PTSD

Muna Khan

I am proposing a new ail-

Monday December 02, 2024

ment unique to Pakistanis: Perpetual-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I am not making light of contrary, I'm asking we recognise how this ailments? PTSD unites us, irrespective of income or political affiliation or posure to TV following even a lack of interest in politics. It requires recognition and then treatment, one of which is mobilising powerful nations to impose change on social media platforms and AI companies' incentives. They will not self-regulate. And I don't want any Pakistani govbecause their solution to everything is to ban it.

In almost two decades, social media has place we (re)connected with to becoming a source of major conflict in families and societies for disinformation. It is an uncontrollable beast

that no one can tame. But this column isn't about the dollarproliferating disinformation industry per se; it is about its impact that, along with a curb on our liberties, is making us ... umm ... ill. We are in a perpetual state of traumatic disorder caused by the uncertainty of when the lead to the same types of internet will return to normal, for example. And normal wasn't even that ans. Its publication amazing to begin with.

This state of anxiety has reached a perpetual level because we do not get good governance or balanced, fair information from the govern-ment or media. Karachi may be a better city at the moment due to "low AQI no PTI" (thank you One expert replied "vi-Teepu Sahab for this joke carious PTSD is a wellon X) but our stress lev- established phenomout into a crumbling in- are especially suscepfrastructure. Friends in tible. Social media Lahore say the smog is doesn't come with a

Fear rules KP and Balochistan every day. And this is without them turning on screens. Who is responsible

There are plenty of

for this constant form of do not verify their conour situation. On the anxiety? Will banning the PTI cure us of these

studies to show how ex-

mass traumatic events violence, war, natural disasters, disease outbreaks — leads to posttraumatic stress disorder. They can result in health issues like depression, which can be a lifelong issue, says the National Institute of Health. In the last decade, studernment to regulate them ies show anxiety is heightened among people who use social media more than those who don't. Social media gone from being the is responsible for young of options to help you peoples' mental health troubles. It is responsible for the increasing polarity in societies the

world over.

The trouble is not what we all know. It is a issues that causes this perpetual state. No one paid heed to the warning signs like a 2015 study in the UK by Dr Pam Ramsden which suggested that watching gruesome videos and images online at home could symptoms most associated with combat vetercaused a lot of controversy at a time before TikTok or 'fake news'

was a phenomenon. "How could someone who merely watches events on a screen suffer the same problems as, for instance, a combat veteran," asked the BBC. some form of media, about harmful -- Courtesy Dawn

lockdown every day. content. In fact, it lures you in knowing the harmful consequences. Unesco said on Thursday that 62 per cent of social media influencers

You see this play out on our streets every day like the controversy around the number of dead PTI protesters. No one is willing to believe anyone. Also notice how no one is even talking about the documented deaths in Kurram. Our PTSD is also selective.

The trouble is we are left to fend for ourselves in the ab--sence of adequate services, from utility to health to information. We have limited access to resources to help us. A two-day wellness festival in Karachi offers lots deal with a number of issues — if you can afford it. Imagine if this was offered as a national ser-

For that, you'd the studies documenting need to have a government which prioritises failure to address these the healthcare industry in the same manner it spends locking up dissi-

Imagine living in a country where you feel cared for, secure knowing that a lockdown won't deprive you of access to essentials. Of equal import is knowing the information you receive is fair, accurate and responsible. People are turning to social media because traditional media has over the years eroded public trust. The last few months have shown us the violent consequences of disinformation campaigns. Maybe, they can be the wake-up call for journalists to unite and come up with strategies to win back public trust. I am hopeful people will return els begin when we step enon". The vulnerable to news outlets because social media will trick them and fail them. Until then though, I fear we will rekilling them. Islamabad is warning, like traditional main in this perpetual state.

Water deficit

Naseer Memon

Rather than augmenting water productivity, our planners are obsessed with building new reservoirs and expanding irrigated areas. The reason? More structures mean more money. Barring the wet monsoon years, the Indus basin frequently end-ures water scarcity. For the last 25 years, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has declared water shortages every year and has not allocated water shares as enshrined in the 1991 Water Apportionment

Accord. Sindh has thus questioned the water availability certificate for the Cholistan irrigation scheme issued by Irsa early this year. In its summary to the Council of Common Interests, Sindh argued that Irsa's own water accounts (1999-2023) reveal that Puniab and Sindh have experienced annual water shortages of 13.7 per cent and 19.4pc respec-

The water availability data presented by Punjab before Irsa was misleading. It left out the amount of water committed for some existing and future needs thus creating an impression of surplus water availability. It also failed to mention several current and future possible reductions. These reductions relate to the eastern river flows (2.98 MAF), India's use of the western rivers (2 MAF), the possible use Kabul river (0.5 MAF), the overestimation of water supplies in the water accord (a shortfall of 21.5 MAF), Bhasha dam storage (6.4 MAF), Mohmand dam (0.88 MAF), Nai Gaj dam (0.16 MAF), Kurram Tangi dam (0.9 MAF), flood canals including the Kachhi, Rainee, Greater Thal, Jalalpur and the Pat Feeder extension (3.34) MAF), the Chashma

Right Bank canal (1.19 MĂF), the minimum outflow to the sea (8.6 MAF) and the LBOD reclama-

tion supplies (2.2 MAF). Put together, these requirements mean 50.65 MAF water every year. This amount dwarfs the purported surplus flow by a wide margin. From 1999 to 2023, the average annual flow below Kotri Barrage remained 14 is a colossal annual deficit of 36.63 MAF water in the Indus basin.

Various reports inditure river flows due to the impact of climate change. The chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority recently shared worrying data at a moot. He revealed that the country's snow cover has decreased by 23.3pc in recent years.

He said that the glaciers are melting at an alarming rate of 3pc every year, resulting in the loss of 16pc of the glacial mass over the past five years. He warned that while the melting temporary water surpluses, the long-term implications were dire.

touching a precarious tipping point, planning a sprawling irrigation web for corporate farming is an impractical venture. The Greater Cholistan scheme entails the building of three dams on the enormous land mass Chenab river. These include the Chiniot dam, the Mid Ranjha dam and by Afghanistan of the the Shah Jiwana dam, ture and investment of which will collectively store 3.5 MAF of water.

The scheme also entails the construction of two barrages — the Bahawal Nagar and Hasilpur barrages on the Sutlej river. Ad--ditionally, the scheme involves the kilometre-long Chiniot-Hasilpur link ca-15,000 cusecs and two

cusecs. The Greater Cholistan sche--me is designed to irrigate a command area of over 6m acres. If we add the 1.2m acres to be irrigated through the Smaller Cholistan scheme, the ambitious proposition would require even larger quan-

tities of water. Overall, the scope of corporate agriculture is not confined to MAF. Altogether, there Cholistan. In August, during a session of the National Assembly, the minister for food security, Rana Ta--nveer cate a bleak picture of fu- Hussain, rev-ealed that, under the Pakis-tan Initia--tive, 4.8m acres of barren land had been earmarked across the country for corporate farming. Since corporate ag-

riculture proj-e-cts are being desig-ned to produce grain for international trade, a reliable commodity supply is essential This translates to the need for reliable water supplies to sustain corporate farming. According to a media report last month, Pakistan is seeking up to \$6 billion glaciers might result in in investment from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain over the next three to five years With the cryosphere for corporate farming, with the aim of cultivating 1.5m acres of previously unfarmed land and mechanising the existing 50m acres of agricultural land across the country.

Cultivating such an would require a massive irrigation network. Such an extensive infrastrucseveral billion dollars cannot be left at the mercy of erratic flood flows. An uninterrupted water supply is possible only through perennial rivers and canals. Punjab's own share of water is already committed for existing canals. Therefore, it makes sense nal with a capacity of when Sindh, the lower riparian expresses confe-eder canals with a capacity of 8,500 and 5,500 fee cern at the developmen of new command areas. cern at the development

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima pledges to revamp Internet infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecoms Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday pledged to revamp the country's internet infrastructure, vowing to restore optimal internet speeds and bolster the telecom sector's infrastructure.

"My ministry is leaving no stone unturned to ensure seamless continuity in the industry. The recent surge in cyber attacks has put us on high alert and we are taking swift and decisive action to address these challenges and fortify our digital defenses." she said in an Interview with a private news channel.

Fatima Shaza Khawaja also reaffirmed government's commitment for protecting IT and Telecom industry, citing it as a top priority. To achieve this goal, the government is upgrading assistance.

existing systems and acknowledged focusing on key areas, challenges ex including enhancing tower intensity, broadening broadband internet access and tackling pressing cybersecurity concerns to provide better coverage. boost economic growth and ensure a secure online environment for citizens, she added.

Responding to a query, the minister said that the Ministry of Interior will instruct the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to probe and resolve issues faced by citizens when sending videos while ensuring overall 100% internet speed remains unaffected.

The minister revealed that in the event of any issues, the Interior Minister reaches out to the $P \quad a \quad k \quad i \quad s \quad t \quad a \quad n$ Telecommunication Authority (PTA) for She

exist, but assured that government is diligently working to addressthem.

to express their opinions and while digital platforms provide ample opportunities for selfexpression, their temporary unavailability does not stifle citizens' freedom of speech.

every citizen has the right

She emphasized that

Responding another query, the minister stated that the government is currently upgrading its web management system with a focus on enhancing cybersecurity measures to effectively counter and control cyber attacks and terrorist activities.

The minister also announced that the government plans to expand 4G and 5G internet services across Pakistan by

Agri. dept achieves surplus wheat sowing in Lodhran dist

LODHRAN (APP): The agriculture department has achieved a surplus wheat sowing target as wheat was sown over 398,000 acres of land against the set target of 396,000 acres for district Lodhran this year. Talking to APP here on Sunday, here on Director Deputy Director Agriculture Malik Zafar said that wheat sowing of 'Grow More Wheat campaign remained successful.He said the teams of department were present in the field to guide and motivate farmers for maximum sowing to meet food security in

the country. He informed that 16.5 million acres wheat sowing target was set for Punjab province during the current year. The agriculture further official informed that the provincial government.



in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Diversification vital for growth: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Pakistan continues to Chamber of Commerce and navigate the complexities Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said economy, diversification that diversification of can prove to be a pivotal economic activities across strategy for sustainable various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare,

manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global

here on Sunday, he said as specific industries," he inventions.

of the international growth and resilience. He today's said interconnected world, economies are increasingly interdependent.

investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with In a statement issued economic downturns in

added. He said more over, diversification fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range

of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture creativity and adaptability, adding that innovation is a driving force behind economic progress, and diverse industries provide a fertile ground for new ideas and

'FDI in corporate farming vital for food security'

Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of improve agricultural and Commerce and Industry's industrial production, Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, emphasised the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) in corporate farming as a means to counter food insecurity and meet the population's staple food needs.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhry Shaheer Asif Arain from Sahiwal, here on Sunday, he underscored the critical need for FDI to bolster Pakistan's agriculture sector and foreign exchange reserves.

'Pakistan requires substantial

(APP): investment to bridge its current investment gap, Standing create jobs, increase on Food, exports, and generate emphasised additional tax revenues," he stated

> He cited examples from countries like India and Indonesia, where public-private partnerships with foreign collaborators enhanced local production of highyielding seeds.

These partnerships circumvent the lengthy process of developing new cultivars while ensuring affordable access to highyield seeds, ultimately boosting crop productivity foreign and farm incomes.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying seasonal fruits to attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar,

WFP in partnership with govt ensures people have access to safe, health food: Ms Coco

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Food Program Country Director Ms Coco Ushiyama has said that the WFP in collaboration with the government and other partners is working to ensure that people have access to safe and healthy food.

"Access to nutritious and affordable food remains a critical issue in Pakistan, especially in rural and underserved areas and the World Food Program (WFP) is working to address these challenges, food focusing on accessibility

affordability as part of its broader efforts to support the fundamental right to food," she told APP in an interview.

said WFP's approach is rooted in partnerships and by joining forces with organizations like the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP works on both policy

community levels. This includes contributing to food security and nutrition

policy discussions and advocating for stronger social protection systems, she said, adding that at the community level, WFP Elaborating on her collaborates with local organization's work, she governments to ensure that people have access to safe, nutritious food.

She said that one of WFP's key initiatives is the Benazir Nashonuma Program—a nationwide effort to prevent stunting.

She said this program combines health and nutrition services to support mothers and children, especially those under two years old, term human capital adding that through this

promising results in tackling stunting and improving nutritional outcomes. WFP is also working on school meal programs and has recently launched a new initiative in Balochistan, she said, adding that this program provides schoolchildren with locally grown, nutritious meals, improving their health and supporting their education. These meals not only keep children in school but also enhance their ability to learn, contributing to long-

development, she added.

initiative, WFP is seeing

WFP brings decades of experience in school meal programmes, implemented in over 100 countries. These initiatives are effective in increasing school attendance, retention, and learning outcomes. The impact goes beyond education, as better health and nutrition are directly linked to a child's ability to focus and succeed academically.

She said integrating school meals with broader health and hygiene efforts, WFP ensures a comprehensive approach to development.

ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying dry fruit to attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar, Peshawar Morr.

Pakistani food exporters extend Malaysian visit amid positive response

LAHORE Encouraged by the the delegation leader, shared enthusiastic response from that the group has been Malaysian buyers, a successfully showcasing delegation of Pakistani Pakistan's diverse and highfood exporters has quality food products, extended their two-week particularly varieties of visit by an additional week to capitalize on the significant attention. "By growing interest and

finalize trade agreements. Sunday from Kuala remarked.

(APP): Lumpur, Saif Ur Rehman, particularly varieties of Nimko, which have garnered the grace of Allah, Pakistani products meet international According to a standards and are message received on exceptional in taste," he

We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us

Governor Kundi chairs 'grand jirga' to restore peace in Kurram

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, expressed his commitment to restoring peace in Kurram district and stressed the need for local efforts in resolving the security challenges.

Speaking at a grand jirga of political leaders and tribal elders in Kohat, Kundi said, "I am ready to go to Kurram and sit with the jirga for as many days as they ask. We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us

The grand jirga was nded by various Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, Awami National Party's Mian

Iftikhar Hussain, PPP Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, Jamaat-e-Islami's Professor Ibrahim, Qaumi Watan Party's Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, National Democratic Movement's Gohar, former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori, Kohat Mayor Qari Sher Zaman, Ibn-e-Ali, Ahmed Ibrahim Pracha, Asif Pracha, Haji Noor Jat, Maulana Abdullah Wahid, and other tribal elders.

Commissioner Kohat, Motasim Billah Shah, moderated the event.

Governor Kundi emphasized the need to end political figures, including the use of social media to spread hatred and called for identifying the elements responsible for disturbing

LAHORE: Citizens visiting parks on holiday in

PTI leaders at

new heights of

cowardice: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab now have no shame in

Information Minister talking about their Azma Bokhari has said that workers?" She said that

the PTI is hiding its disgrace she added. The media

"Those who ran away, and Bushra Bibi's vehicles leaving the workers behind, were attacked.

the current leadership of

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

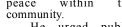
Insaf (PTI) is at the lowest

and infamy behind fake

news and rumours. She said,

In a statement, she said

level of cowardice.



He urged public cooperation with security forces to carry out joint operations aimed at disarming the province. "We cannot bring food and medicine to the area, but I issued instructions to the Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide all possible aid while I was on my Umrah trip," he added.Praising the Kurram Peace Jirga members. Kundi acknowledged the political leadership for coming together despite differing ideologies.

He pointed out that, for the sake of peace and stability in the province, political parties must unite, regardless of

Two killed in separate violent incidents in **DI Khan**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two people were killed in separate incidents of violence in different areas of Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Sunday.

According details, the first incident took place on Dera-Chashma road where a man was killed by unknown armed men in the limits of police station.Amjad son of Muhammad Afzal, a resident of Himmat, reported to police that he along with his two brothers namely Aziz Ulah alias Bugti and Sana Ullah were travelling from Dera city towards their home on a motorcycle when two unknown men riding another bike intercepted them and opened fire. As a result, his brother Aziz Ullah alias Bugti died on the spot. The assailants escaped

Intelligence block PESHAWAR (APP): Chief initiatives to enhance Minister of Khyber CTD's capacity. CM Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur praised the progress made in forensic visited the Counter labs, with advanced Terrorism Department equipment and expert (CTD) Headquarters here and inaugurated the newly personnel now in place.

He said that CTD has

KP CM inaugurates

CTD investigation,

and inaugurated the newly also been provided with bulletproof vehicles, constructed Investigation and Intelligence Block. jammers, drones, night The facility is equipped with state-ofvision devices, and thermal the-art amenities, including guns to effectively seal with an auditorium, conference terrorists. On the occasion it was said that CTD's rooms, a library, offices, and advanced technological significant achievements include a 50 percent During the visit, CM increase in convictions and Gandapur received a a rise in remand durations detailed briefing on the from an average of 1.4 days a rise in remand durations provincial government's to 25 days.

GCU campus to be inaugurated in Chiniot this month: Minister

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that GC University campus will be inaugurated in Chiniot this month to provide quality education to people.

KOHAT: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi speaking at a grand jirga of political leaders and tribal elders in

Addressing the 8th convocation of FAST University Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus on Sunday, he said that quality education was prerequisite for progress and prosperity. "Therefore, government concentrating on the He said that national provision of quality unity was imperative for

progress and prosperity," He said that Pakistan

was bestowed with huge resources. "There is country due to which Pakistan remained ahead of India for 40 years in national progress. Now a temporary break occurred in national development but this issue would be resolved very soon," he

FAISALABAD (APP): education to materialize development of the the dream of national country. "We should end our personal vendetta and prefer to national interests", he added.

He said that Pakistan was passing through a immense potential in the crucial stage as more than 100 million people were living near or below the poverty line. However, the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sherif will overcome this issue by promoting education and providing this facility at doorsteps of the masses, he added.

Harnessing youth potential for nation building

MULTAN (APP): With approximately one third of country's population falling in 15-29 years bracket out of total 64% below 30 years, the coming years will pose serious challenges to governments for harnessing this potential

situation.

infrastructure.

Khan Gandapur on Sunday

the lesser education and employment of the world, being young opportunities make the in Pakistan is also both youth easily lured by vested interests and extremists to sabotage activities. So, this bulge can only be fruitful if political parties ensure continuity of policies, cordial atmosphere to education and employment and an overall political will for a

Statistics and findings of experts reveal that out of over 60 million young Pakistanis between 15-29 years of age, a vast majority either is illiterate or left schools and colleges prior to reaching 12th standard with a marginal amidst number out of whom more fluctuating economic than half still searching for

exciting and frustrating. The space for young in Pakistani society is vast and full of possibilities if the potential in different sectors of economy is fully exploited. But there are fears as well in view of a major chunk generally being intolerant as recently strong democracy in the seen in protests of political

The youth bulge can have positive impact if economy is strong enough to absorb new entrants in the labor force. Otherwise, the idle and frustrated youth would raise the incidence of crime, violence and embrace radical political and religious views.

"Our educated youth Like many other parts is mostly zealous in pursuit of career building and excelling in practical life," stated Prof. Anwaar Ahmad Khan, Former head of National Language Authority.

"They become mature once in practical life and like to be productive, if groomed properly. Earning livelihood and leading a respectable life is always their foremost life.

opportunities amidst growing poverty, they detract from their mission and engage in different unhealthy activities," Prof. Anwar said. "Therefore, we need comprehensive strategies to harness this potential through access to education

Before exploring the significance of youth involvement in nationbuilding, the challenges of formulating better strategies and policies must be addressed. For fostering participation in fruitful

employment."

"But, when they have constrained by established limited resources and norms and more open to creative solutions that may lead them to innovative ideas in technology, climate change, healthcare and social justice," noted Senior Lawyer Chuadhry Waqas

Anjum.
"Democracy also thrives when its citizens especially youth actively engage in political process. But, this needs awareness that emanates from literacy otherwise they can be swayed by any extremist political entity or sectarian factions," he pleaded.

"Empowering them through activities, we must heed entrepreneurship and youth's demand of justice employment would help and merit in all arena of them contribute directly to nation's "Youth are often less development," Waqas said.

International News

Syria launches counterattacks in an attempt to halt insurgents' surprise advance

attacking the federation

with mobs does not lead to

an NRO. The real culprits

behind PTI's downfall are

Gandapur and Bushra Bibi,

around the world witnessed

how Ali Amin Gandapur

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: The Syrian military rushed in reinforcements and struck Idlib city Sunday in an attempt to push back insurgents from advancing farther after seizing Aleppo and surrounding strategic locations in an adjacent province in a surprise offensive.

The insurgents led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham took over most of Aleppo on Saturday and claimed to have entered the city of Hama. There was no independent confirmation of their claim.

The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syrian President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his troops' preparedness. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies - Iran and groups it backs and Russia - are preoccupied with their own conflicts.

Turkey, a main backer of Syrian opposition groups, said its diplomatic

Monitoring Desk

BELGRADE: Serbian President Aleksandar

Vucic pledged on Sunday

his country would help in-

vestigate after an explosion

in Kosovo that disrupted

water supplies and that the government there blamed

on Belgrade.

power cuts.

Syrian government attacks town that lies on the highon opposition-held areas in recent weeks. Turkish security officials said a limited offensive by the rebels was planned to stop government attacks and allow civilians to return, but the offensive expanded as Syrian government forces began to retreat from their positions.

Syrian opposition fighters get on a motorcycle as opposition supporters stand on top of a captured army armoured vehicle in the town of Maarat al-Numan, southwest of Aleppo, Syria, Saturday Nov. 30, 2024. (AP Photo/ Omar Albam)

The insurgency, led by Salafi jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and which includes Turkey-backed fighters, launched their offensive on Wednesday with a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and the Idlib countryside, before moving toward Hama province.

In Aleppo province, efforts had failed to stop they captured a strategic

Serbia to cooperate in

investigation over Kosovo

explosion, President Vucic

way linking Aleppo with Damascus and the coast.

Rebel commander Col. Hassan Abdulghani said that despite the government counteroffensive, his fighters were making gains in Aleppo. He says they took control of Sheikh Najjar, also known as the Aleppo Industrial City, Aleppo's military academy and the field artillery college. Abdulghani said 65 Syrian troops were taken prisoner in eastern Aleppo Elsewhere, he said the insurgents advanced in the Idlib countryside, putting all of the province under their

The United Nations special envoy for Syria said the shock push by the rebels poses a risk to regional security and called on resuming diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. "I have repeatedly warned of the risks of escalation in Syria, of the dangers of mere conflict management rather than conflict resolution," Geir Pedersen said in a statement

Trump announces loyalist Kash Patel as choice to lead FBI **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US president-elect Donald

former advisor and Penta-

gon official, who has been

critical of the bureau and is

known for his controver-

sial views on a so-called

government "deep state".

as his choice for the post

on his Truth Social net-

rector, Christopher Wray,

was appointed to a 10-

year term in 2017, mean-

ing he would either need to

step down or be fired

The FBI's current di-

of terrorism by Serbia, which Serbia denied. 'Finding out the Trump aims to make loytruth is in the best interest alist Kash Patel the next diof our country," Vucic told reporters on Sunday. "We rector of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), are ready to share informahe said on Saturday, in a tion with everyone even move that would mean rewith Pristina. placing the agency's cur-He reiterated that rent leader. Trump announced the

The explosion on Friday evening hit a canal that with the explosion. He also accused Kosovo Prime sends water to Kosovo's two coal-fired power Minister Albin Kurti of using the incident to firm up plants - accounting for most of the country's his grip in the north of the country, where a Serb mapower production. It also caused water supply cuts jority refuses to recognise Pristina institution and in some parts of the country, but there were no sees Belgrade as their capi-

The incident inflamed The Kosovo governlongstanding tensions be- ment has not said why it believes Serbia was retween Kosovo and Serbia. The Kosovo government sponsible for the explocalled the explosion an act sion.

White Helmets members work at the scene of what the organisation says is a War has no winners, Taiwan president says in visit to Hawaii

Monitoring Desk HONOLULU: War has no winners and peace is priceless, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Saturday in Hawaii after visiting a memorial to the attack on Pearl Harbor on a trip to the United States that has angered Beijing.

Lai is making a sensitive two-day trip to Hawaii that is officially only a stopover on the way to three Pacific island nations that maintain formal ties with Taiwan, which China claims as its territory.

Speaking to members of the overseas Taiwan community and Hawaii politicians, including members of Congress Ed Case and Jill Tokuda, Lai referred to his visit to the USS Arizona Memorial earlier in the day and laid a wreath in memory of those who died in the 1941 Japanese attack.

"Our visit to the memorial today in particular reminds us of the importance of ensuring peace. Peace is priceless and war has no winner.

Biden's long-awaited Africa trip to tout a win against China

Monitoring Desk

Biden sets off for Angola on Sunday on a trip that will deliver on a promise to visit Africa during his presidency and focus on a major UŠ-backed railway project that aims to divert critical minerals away from China.

The project, partly funded with a US loan, links the resource-rich Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia to the Angolan port of Lobito on the Atlantic

Ocean, offering a fast and efficient route for exports

to the West. At stake are vast supplies of minerals like copper and cobalt, which are found in Congo and are a key component of batteries and other electronics. China is the top player in Congo, which has become an increasing concern to

Washington. China signed an agree ment with Tanzania and Zambia in September to revive a rival railway line to Africa's eastern coast

Russia, North Korea agree to boost military ties

Monitoring Desk Minister Andrei Belousov met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and agreed to boost military cooperation between the two isolated nations, Pyongyang state media said on Saturday. The United States and South Korea have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending more than 10,000 soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine, with experts saying Kim is eager to gain advanced technology, and battle experience for his troops, in return.

Ex-defence minister accuses Israel of ethnic cleansing

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel's former defence minister Moshe Yaalon on Saturday accused the Israeli army of ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip, sparking an outcry in the country.

"The road we are be-

ing led down is conquest, annexation and ethnic cleansing," Yaalon said in an interview on a private TV channel. Pressed on the ethnic cleansing appraisal, he continued: "What is happening there? There is no more Beit Lahia, no more Beit Hanoun, the army intervenes in Jabalia.

Israeli strikes kill 15 in Gaza, Cairo holds fresh talks with Hamas

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 15 Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday, medics said, as Israeli forces kept up bombardments across the enclave and blew up houses on its northern edge.

In the central Gaza camp of Nuseirat, an Israeli airstrike killed six people in a house, and another attack killed three in a home in Gaza City, med-

Two children were killed when a missile hit a tent encampment in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while four other people were killed in an airstrike in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, medics

told Reuters. Residents said the military blew up clusters of explosive devices since the

Gaza areas of Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. where Israeli forces have operated since October this Palestinians

Israel's operations on the northern edge of the enclave are part of a plan to clear people out through forced evacuations and bombardments to create a buffer zone - an allegation the army denies.

The military says it has killed hundreds of Hamas militants there as it fights to stop the faction regrouping almost 14 months since the war in Gaza started.

Hamas's armed wing says it has killed many Israeli forces in anti-tank rocket and mortar fire attacks, and in ambushes with houses in the northern new operation started.

Georgian protesters clash with police for a second night after EU talks are suspended

Monitoring Desk TBILISI: Thousands of demonstrators protesting

the Georgian government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union rallied outside the parliament and clashed with police for a second straight night on Friday. The night before, po-

lice used water cannons, pepper spray and tear gas to disperse protesters who took to the streets of Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, after Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze of the ruling Georgian Dream party announced the suspension. The interior ministry said it detained 43 people during the protests.

On Friday evening, protesters again swarmed the parliament, with some trying to break the metal gates to the building. Riot police used water cannons to push them away from the building and later moved to force them farther back along the Rustaveli Avenue, the city's main boulevard. Some of the protesters used garbage bins and benches to try to build bar-

Clashes between police and protesters also erupted late Friday in the Black Sea port of Batumi. Georgian Dream's dis-

puted victory in the Oct. 26 election, which was widely seen as a referendum on the country's aspirations to join the European Union, has sparked massive demonstrations and led to an opposition boycott of the parliament. The opposition said the vote was rigged under the influence of Russia seeking to keep Georgia in its orbit.

The year will test even the most robust democracies. Read more on what's to come here.

Take a look at the 25 places where a change in leadership could resonate around the world.

Keep track of the latest AP elections coverage from around the world here.

DPM Dar inaugurates Charity Bazaar at Foreign Office

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday inaugurated the Charity Bazaar organized by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA). Cultural stalls from various foreign embassies were displayed at the event held at the Foreign Office. The Bazaar, aimed at supporting underprivileged communities, brought together diplomats and their families, show-

tage of different countries. Speaking at the occasion, the deputy prime minister said that the bazaar provided a great opportunity to the people of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to visit the foreign office and have a glimpse of the rich culture of other countries, through their food and handicrafts, and help in charitable causes being persuaded by PFOWA.

casing the rich cultural heri-

'Today's bazaar is a captivating blend of diverse

ISLAMABAD (APP): experiences, fostering harmony and fraternity among different nations," Ishaq

> He extended his gratitude to the diplomatic community and the residents in Islamabad for their 'active and colorful participation' in today's event.

Wonderful to see that every country has done a great demonstration of the culture in their country, the food and different other articles which is a unique experience for the visitors.

He emphasized that one of the aims of this event was to promote a better understanding of the social, cultural, and economic life of Pakistan. Towards this end, he said PFOWA also arranges various events such as exhibitions, cultural shows, and social meetings.

DPM Ishaq Dar noted that the theme of today's event, 'Joining hands, Joining hearts' was very interesting. "It is a beautiful theme and apt under the current challenges which the



Federal Minister For Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, talking to the Media persons during the Convocation ceremony at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Chiniot

Indian troops martyr 9 Kashmiris in November

dian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), martyred nine Kashmiris, including a woman, in the month of

According to Kashmir Media Service, four of those killed were victims of fake encounters and custo-

During the month, 12 Kashmiris sustained critical injuries, while 160 people, mostly Hurrivat activists, nian laws like the Public 140 properties.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), according to data released by the Research Section of

> These injuries and arrests occurred during 196 cordon-and-search operations and house raids conducted by Indian troops

across the territory.
The killings left three children orphaned, and Indian forces damaged two houses during the operations. Additionally, the BJP-led Indian government

Bilawal lauds security forces for eliminating 8 terrorists in operations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has lauded the security forces for eliminating eight terrorists in operations conducted in Bannu and Khyber dis-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House on Sunday, he said that the successful operation against terrorists was a source of pride for the nation. Paying tribute to Cap-

Zohaibuddin and Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain, who embraced martyrdom during the operation, he said, the terrorists responsible for the martyrdom of these brave sons of the nation will face a dreadful end.

Bilawal Bhutto offered prayers for the elevation of ranks of the martyred soldiers and expressed heartfelt condolences to their families, praying for their strength and patience in this time of



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Senator Abdul Quddus Bizenjo offering Fateha for departed soul of father of Special Secretary Health Shehak Baloch.

Legal dimensions of Kashmir dispute discussed at Muzaffarabad workshop

MUZAFFARABAD raja of Jammu and (INP): The Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) organized the first workshop of its "Youth Dialogue Program" as part of the Kashmir Conflict series in Muzaffarabad.

The workshop brought together youth leaders and students to discuss the complex dimensions of the Kashmir dispute.

Justice ® Manzoor Hussain Gilani, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajad Khan, Director of KPRI, delivered lectures on various aspects of the conflict, followed by a Q&A session with the participants.

Justice Gilani discussed the legal dimensions of the Kashmir issue, emphasizing that the Maha-

Kashmir's accession to India was not legally valid. He argued that the legal agreement between the British government and princely states had expired on August 15, 1947, invalidating the Instrument of Acces-

both Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan had fought for their freedom, with the support of tribal forces and Pakistan's army. He criticized India's efforts to undermine UN resolutions and their inconsistent approach to the Kashmir issue.

Altaf Hussain Wani highlighted the ongoing human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir, stressing the need for a research-driven approach to expose the historical and current injustices faced by

Heavy snowfall leads to closure of Kaghan Valley for tourists

KAGHAN (INP): The en try of tourists in Kaghan Valley was banned on Sun day following heavy snow fall in Mansehra district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khalid Iqbal said that the area between Kaghan and Naran had been closed for tourists as all hotels in the area had been closed, while the inclement weather had also resulted in the suspension of cellphone service as well as power supply in the area. "The road connecting Mansehra to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has been closed due to heavy snowfall,' he said, adding, "Police personnel manning the checkpoints over the mountains have been asked to abandon them." The deputy commissioner said that the land connection between Mansehra and GB lay severed since the

beginning of November due to

hostile weather.

Mukhlis passes away offered in Sawabi where he was laid to rest in the an-

Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-(Nazarayati), Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis died due to heart attack in

tral Secretary Information, JUI-N, Syed Abdul Sattar Chishti, Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlas suffered severe heart attack in week hours of Sunday, and could

neral prayer of Maulana

The acting Ameer of JUI-Nazrayati, Maulana Abdul Qadir Luni, Anjmal Qadri, Syed Abdul Sattar Chishti and other leaders have expressed grief and sorrow

Political stability imperative for economic growth: Qaiser

Political stability is imperative for economic growth and we must realize a difference between politics and violent protestation, said Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh.

Talking to media persons on Sunday, he said that no decision had been made in the federal cabinet regarding imposing ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or the imposition of governor's rule in KP. "Such measures have historically proven ineffective in fostering political stability," he said and urged political leaders to opt for dialogue as a path to resolve conflicts. He condemned violent

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan and Foreign Minister

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is visiting at a stall during Pakistan Foreign

Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of

'PCB, BCCI agree on hybrid

model for Champions Trophy

and future ICC tournaments'

but the PCB has stressed

that it will also like the same

model to be applied for its

team when tournaments are

held on the other side of the

border in the next three

vears. The final approval to

the plan will have to be given

by the ICC Board to ensure

it is implemented fully. The

PCB had been sticking to its

stance of not accepting the hybrid model after the Pa-

kistan team went to India for last year's ODI World

Cup. It expected India to

do the same for the Cham-

pions Trophy — the first ICC tournament in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari

on Sunday expressed deep

grief and sorrow over the

passing away of former

MNA of Pakistan Peoples

Party Makhdoom Syed Ali

Hassan Gilani in a road ac-

tended his condolences to

the family members of the

late Syed Ali Hassan Gilani.

issued by the President

House Media Wing, he

prayed to Allah Almighty

to rest the departed soul in

eternal peace. He also

prayed for the grant of cour-

age to the bereaved family

members to bear the loss

General Health Services

Balochistan Dr Amin

Mandokhail said that the

Health Department would

make the Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto Gyne Hospital

Loralai a model hospital for

der the chairmanship of Di-

rector General Health Ser-

vices Balochistan Dr Amin

Mandokhail, was informed

that the plan of the estab-

lishment of Nutrition Sta-

bilization and EPI Static

Center at Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto Gyne Hospital

Loralai would be executed

soon. A meeting was held

with the support of Mater-

nal and Newborn Child

Health Program (MNCH)

regarding the functioning of

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

The meeting held un-

the treatment of women.

The president lauded loss with patience

Efforts afoot to make Shaheed

Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital

Loralai: Amin Mandokhail

QUETTA (APP): Director Services Balochistan Di

The president ex-

In a press statement

team to travel to Pakistan ODI World Cup — but has

since it co-hosted the 1996 Board takes any decision.

President, PM condole

death of Syed Ali

Hassan Gilani

now sounded the BCCI not

to expect any future

favours. "Yes the past ex-

perience is bitter for Paki-

stan and the ICC has to give

a solid guarantee that the

hybrid model will be imple-

mented in letter and spirit

in future and no Pakistan

team will go to India to play

any matches of the ICC

events and on the same pat

tern the Indian team will not

come to Pakistan" a source

in the PCB told. The source

added that the ICC had asked

the two cricket boards to

reach at a decision with mutual understanding, before its

the services of the late Ali

Hassan Gilani to democ-

racy and the Pakistan

Peoples Party. Prime Min-

ister Shehbaz Sharif on

Sunday expressed heartfelt

grief and sorrow over the

death of Pakistan People's

Party's former member of

the National Assembly

Makhdoom Syed Ali

Hassan Gilani in a traffic

accident. The prime minis-

ter, in a press statement is-

sued by the PM Office, of-

fered his condolences to the

family members of the late

Syed Ali Hassan Gilani. He

prayed to Allah Almighty

to grant eternal peace to the

departed soul and grant

courage to the bereaved

family members to bear the

QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Advisor for Environment and Climate Change Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail.

Amin Mandokhail.

Amin said that the

operationalization of the

Gyne Hospital Loralai will

significantly reduce the

number of maternity cases

while the hospital will also

provide uninterrupted

medical facilities to women.

Health also said that with

the rapid increase in the

population ratio, the bur-

den on the health centers

has also been increased

many times and along with

this, primary health care

hospitals are also being fo-

cused on in a phased man-

ner. In this way, by

strengthening healthcare at

the primary level, the bur-

den on the tertiary care hos-

pitals will be significantly

reduced, while Shaheed

The Director General

Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

LAHORE (INP): The Pa-

kistan Cricket Board and

the Board of Control for

Cricket in India have re-

tracted from their earlier

stance, agreeing to play

their future matches in ICC

tournaments on a hybrid

model and easing the way

for next year's Champions

dialogue on Saturday after the International Cricket

Council had convened a

meeting on Friday and came

to a consensus on a hybrid

model for the Feb 19-

March 9 Champions Tro-

phy after the Indian gov-

ernment refused to allow its

Raisani

mourns tragic

demise of

Ali Gillani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Nawabzada

Jamal Khan Raisani ex-

pressed deep sorrow and

regret over the untimely death of former PPP MNA

Makhdoom Syed Al

Hassan Gillani, who passed

away in a tragic traffic acci-

dent. In his condolence mes

sage, Raisani paid tribute to

the late leader, highlighting

his significant contribu-

tions to the party and his

unwavering dedication to

public service. Describing

Gillani as a committed poli-

tician and a true advocate

for the people's welfare,

Raisani termed his passing

Sardar Khetran

greets Sindhi

people on

Culture Day

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Public Health

Engineering (PHE) Sardar

Abdul Rehman Khetran has

congratulated Sindhi people

on eve of the Sindhi Cul-

here on Sunday, Sardar

Abdul Rehman Khetran

said that it is a day of lov-

ing their culture and re-

province is the hub of beau

Sindhi people should make

pledge to promote their lan

guage and traditions.

tiful civilizations.

ecting culture of others.

He said that Sindh

He stressed that

In a message issued

ture Day.

a great loss for the PPP.

The two boards held

Trophy to be held.

protests as counterproductive for any political party

had no room for violent politics. While acknowledging the right to protest, he stressed that demonstrations should not disrupt daily life. The minister highlighted the critical role of political stability in economic growth and said that without stability, Pakistan cannot achieve progress comparable to its neighboring countries.

He urged all political stakeholders to take a step back to improve the political environment. He emphasized that turmoil often hampered national development whenever the country was on the brink of economic progress.

Reflecting Pakistan's electoral history, Qaiser Sheikh pointed out

that controversies had surrounded every election after 1970. He highlighted Chiniot's central position in Punjab and its importance as a business hub. He expressed concern over Pakistan lagging behind its neighbors despite being a regional economic corridor with vast opportunities for development.

He stressed the need of unity among politicians, the judiciary, and institutions and said that political infighting was the root cause of economic decline. It is the time for all stakeholders to prioritize national interests and work towards mutual understanding which is imperative for national progress and prosperity, he added.



Tareen inaugurating a road in Killil Malangabad.

6 more people died, eight injured in **Kurram firing** incidents

KURRAM (INP): At least six more people died, and eight others were injured as clashes and firing incidents continuing at various places in Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Deputy Commis-sioner Javedullah Mehsud has stated that the police and forces contingents have been deployed in several areas adding that an effort being made today to ensure ceasefire.

Hospital sources said that in skirmishes and firing incidents over vehicles 130 people have been died while 186 persons have sustained injuries.

A social worker Mir Afzal Khan has said that the main highway from Parachinar to Peshawar has been closed for last 50 days, "Oil, edible items and medicines have been un-

PTA delays

ban on

unregistered

VPNs after

deadline passes

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Pakistan's telecom regula-

tor has decided not to block

unregistered Virtual Private

Networks (VPNs) despite

an earlier deadline expired

communication Authority

(PTA) had asked busi-

nesses, freelancers and in-

formation technology (IT)

companies to register their

VPNs by the end of No-

vember to ensure compli-

ance with government regu-

lations. While the original

deadline ended on Saturday,

officials say there will be

an extension, though it re-

mains unclear what the new

deadline will be. In recent

years, Pakistan has imple-

mented measures to control

online content, including

social media restrictions,

drawing criticism from digi-

tal rights activists, who ar-

gue that such policies sup-

press free speech and hinder

The Pakistan Tele-

on November 30.

Muqam announces compensation for Parachinar victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan,



and SAFRON, and President of PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Mugam has announced compensation for all victims of recent incidents of violence in Parachinar on behalf of the federal government.

He has directed the Kohat Commissioner to prepare a detailed report on the damages, said a press

release issued on Sunday. Speaking at a grand jirga in Kohat, the minister stressed the importance of restoring peace in Parachinar for the greater good of the country and its people. He expressed condolences on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the federal government over the tragic incidents, praying for the departed souls and the swift recovery of the injured. Muqam emphasized that the issue transcends politics, urging all stakeholders to unite for a common resolution.

'This is not just a provincial issue; it concerns the entire nation," he said and highlighted his efforts to

Pakistanis continue to face problems as internet services slowed down significantly

kistanis continue to face problems as internet services across the country have slowed down signifi-

As per details, the

slow internet service is causing widespread disruptions in social media usage and According to the re-

port, popular platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok have either been suspended or are operating at reduced speeds, leaving users frustrated with limited access.

Reports indicate that the slowdown began on Saturday night and continues to affect internet services, including PTCL and apps.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- Google, disrupting both and professional tasks. Users have particu-

larly struggled with downloading content on The Pakistan Tele-

communication Authority (PTA) has yet to issue a statement explaining the cause of the outage.

The reasons behind the disruptions remain unclear, adding to public frustration as the country faces ongoing internet reliability challenges.

People in Pakistan are facing slow internet speed after the government reportedly installed firewall to monitor anti-state content on the social media

Power theft: Pakistan recovers over Rs133b from defaulters

Power Division has recovered over Rs133 billion during a countrywide power theft crackdown from September 2023 to date.

The crackdown launched by the Pakistan government and military leadership's measures to restore the country's economy is now showing positive results. According to the details, over 133 billion ru-

pees have been recovered from individuals involved in power theft while over 87,516 electricity thieves were arrested. During last week, the

power division recovered ally.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Rs920 mln from the power thieves, while 173 violators were arrested.

The Pakistan government has vowed to continue the crackdown until the menace of power theft ends across the country.

On September 6, last year, the then caretaker federal government announced plans to launch a crackdown across the country on electricity theft in a bid to reduce the ballooning circular debt in the power sector.

The power minister said that there are 10 distribution companies in Pakistan that are facing a total loss of Rs589 billion annu-



OUETTA: DG Health Services Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail presiding over a meeting. Program Coordinator MNCH Dr. Gul Sabeen and others are also present.

Gyne Hospital Loralai un-Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hosder the chairmanship of pital Loralai will be the best Director General Health treatment center in the area. Maulana Khalil Ahmed

Independent Report QUETTA: The central

Peshawar on Sunday morn-

According to the cen-

Meanwhile, the fu-Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis was cestral graveyard.

over the death of Maulana Mukhlis.

They also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family, relatives, and the workers of JUI-N