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Either through dialogue or by use of force

Bilawal urges all stakeholders to play role in achieving political stability

Chairman PPP also called for formulating new national action plan to combat terrorism in country

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the country was currently passing through a critical period, everyone have to make a new national action plan together and take a joint decision to fight the terrorists.

He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting on the occasion of the 57th founding day of the People's Party through video link

Bilawal Bhutto said together can now come to- extremists are getting, blood that all the politicians should unite for the security and development of the country and all of us should put aside all our objections and bring political and ecotry so that the country can

If terrorism is to be countered, it is the responsibility of all politicians to establish political stability, as in the past, all of us who have countered terrorism

gether to counter it.

He said that there is a threat to the nation due to terrorism however it was the responsibility of all of us to fight against them, nomic stability in the counbring peace and develop the country, just as we all fought against terrorism in

> Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that this matter is also being politicized, we are engaged in a political fight and the benefits that the

is flowing in Parachinar and KP, the whole world is watching them.

He said that the economy was the most important issue in this country and the PPP has always given people-friendly plans and economic policies to reduce inflation and poverty. If the government succeeds in reducing inflation, it will be a success for the government and we will strong welcome them.

He said that modern technology is the future of the whole world, only by supporting this one sector, the country can get economic development.

He said that we understand that the country is currently going through a critical period and the role of the People's Party has always been to stabilize the country and democracy and make them strong and

Continued on page 2

this natural calamity.

The prime minister of-

fered all possible assistance

to Malaysia and announced

the immediate dispatch of

humanitarian aid as a ges-

ture of Pakistan's support

for its Malaysian brothers

Minister Anwar Ibrahim's

recent visit to Pakistan in

October this year, PM

Shehbaz expressed satisfac-

tion with the positive mo-

mentum in bilateral rela-

tions and reiterated

Referring to Prime



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmad, engage with Madrasah students from Balochistan during his visit to the Institute of Rural Management (IRM).

Rana Mashhood says

PPAF initiative equips Balochistan's youth with skills to drive social and economic change

ISLAMABAD: "By equip-ping young individuals with Panel Repairing, E-commarket-relevant skills, we are not just opening doors to employment but building a self-reliant and prosperous Pakistan." said Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), during the certificate distribution and engagement session Madrasah students from Balochistan in Islamabad. The session featured 100 students (80 males and 20 females) participating in a two-month TVET program under the PPAF-funded Bridging Educational Polarization for Social Harmony cantly contribute to na-Project, implemented by tional development.

Independent Report BRSP. Training includes merce, Motorcycle and Mobile Repairing, Basic Computer Courses, and Tailoring. Additionally, 20 female students in Quetta are receiving specialized training in Beautician Skills, Tailoring, and Basic Com-

Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan emphasized the government's dedication to empowering youth through education and vocational training. "This project exemplifies the government's vision of creating a skilled, self-reliant generation that will signifi-

Commissioner vows strict measures to boost MCQ revenue

QUETTA (UNA): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat has announced stringent steps to significantly increase the revenue of the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (MCQ). Speaking to the media, he revealed that while the corporation's monthly expenses amount to Rs. 100 million,



its revenue currently falls below Rs. 50 million.

Highlighting inefficiencies, the commissioner stated, "A recent survey exposed numerous cases where our properties, including shops and petrol pumps, are grossly undervalued. For instance, shops that should generate millions are being leased for as little as Rs. 55, and a petrol pump was rented for only Rs. 2,000 per month, which is a serious injustice to the citizens of Quetta." Continued on page 2

Netherlands, UNFPA, SoLF launch AYFS to empower young voices in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): In a in Islamabad Capital Territransformative initiative to provide young people with a safe and friendly community space, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan, Netherlands, and the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) launched their first Adolescent and Youth Friendly Space (AYFS)

This launch marks a critical step in a four-year initiative titled Aghaaz, aimed at establishing AYFS

tory (ICT), Peshawar, and Quetta to promote youth engagement and holistic development, said a press release issued on Saturday. The AYFS located in NUML Quetta initiative is designed to provide safe, inclusive environments for adolescents and young individuals to access essential resources, psychosocial

opportunities. Continued on page 2

support, and skill-building

Three-day curfew imposed in S Waziristan

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration has imposed a three-day curfew in Lower South Waziristan areas of Sanga and Inzar Chinna from Sunday.

A notification issued from the Deputy Commissioner office said on Saturday that during the curfew time no human movement would be allowed. The curfew will remain effective from 05:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m. The curfew was imposed to ensure safe movement of the security forces in these areas.

Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan, Nasir Khan, through the notification, appealed to the people of Shakai to extend complete cooperation in this regard.

Matiullah released from jail after getting bail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Journalist Matiullah Ian has been released from the Adiala Jail on Saturday after an anti-terrorism court (ATC) approved his postarrest bail in terrorism and narcotics case.

The court accepted the bail of the journalist against bonds worth Rs.10,000 and ordered to release him.

Later, the court issued robkar' for the release of Matiullah Jan after the surety bonds were submit-

Police officer among three shot dead in Lakki Marwat

MARWAT (INP): At least three individuals, including a police officer, shot dead in Lakki Pakhtunkhwa.

As per details, the victims included Sub-Inspector Qadeer Khan, who stationed Faisalabad, and two other individuals who were father and son.

According to police reports, unknown assailants opened fire on the victims, who were visiting Lakki Marwat for holidays. The motive behind the attack is still unclear, and an investigation is underway to apprehend those responsible.

Earlier, at least two dead including a policeman in two separate explosions in Bajaur merged district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PM offers sympathies to Malaysian PM over loss of lives in recent floods

AHORE (APP): Prime sures taken by the Malay-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of the Pakistani people for the brotherly people of Malaysia over the loss of lives and property caused by recent loods due to torrential rains in several states of the coun-

The prime minister in his telephonic conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Dato Šeri Anwar Ibrahim, assured that the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with their Malaysian brothers and sisters during this challenging time. He also appreciated the swift and effective mea-

Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilat-Continued on page 2

and sisters.

State has decided not to allow politics of chaos, anarchy: Attaullah Tarar

PTI's false narrative of dead bodies, an effort to cover up embarrassment of fleeing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said it has been decided by the state that no one will be allowed to go for politics of anarchy and

"Country is developing and economic indicators are becoming positive. Stock exchange has crossed the limit of one lac. Foreign exchange reserves are surging. Inflation has come down to the level of 6.9 percent. Delegations of several countries visited Pakistan in seven months. Delegations of Saudi Arabia, UAE and Malaysian prime minister have visited Pakistan. President of Belarus undertook visit of Pakistan. Several agreements were signed. Pakistan held SCO summit conference. Restoration of PIA flights for Europe is a good news. PIA revenue will soar high due to opening of routes. PIA will be able to regain its lost stature.

He went on to say for-Continued on page 2



Asif is addressing to the media at his residence.

Khawaja Asif says:

PTI is creating false propaganda on bodies

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is spreading false propaganda about the bodies, saying that the PTI has always practiced the politics of

He expressed these views at a press conference at his residence at the cantonment here today. "We have to destroy the evil intentions of our enemies. The important and concrete steps taken by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the current and previous government have

started producing positive results. The PIA is moving towards improvement. Permission to fly in the European Union and the United States will take it to new heights. We found the country's economy in ruins, which is improving day by day and the country has embarked on the path to development and prosperity, while we are continuing our journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the complete restoration of the economy, he added.

Continued on page 2



cake during a ceremony marking 57th foundation day of Pakistan Peoples

Highlights PPP's commitment to democracy and governance

CM Bugti vows to continue working tirelessly for betterment of province

Says Balochistan was plagued by corruption and poor governance. However, we are committed to setting examples of good governance and transforming the system Announces scholarships, job creation, and reforms in health sector

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, lauded the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) as a symbol of constitutional supremacy and the preservation of democracy. Speaking at the 57th Founding Day celebrations of the PPP, Bugti emphasized the party's unwavering dedication to public welfare and its historic role in championing the rights of the common people

attended by provincial ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Meena Majid Baloch, Sammad Khan Gurgij, and Mir Liaqat Lehri, as well as senior PPP leaders including Sabir Baloch, Syed Iqbal Shah, and Mir Baz Muhammad Khetran, the Chief Minisreiterated government's commitment to implementing reforms for good governance and

resolving the province's longstanding issues. 'Positive changes in

governance will soon be evident," said Bugti. He announced the launch of a scholarship program named after Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, aimed at providing financial support to topperforming students from ordinary "Balochistan's students are being offered scholarships to 200 top universities around the world," he stated, adding that the program would uplift education standards and create future



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi in a group photo with participants of workshop jointly organized by World Health Organization and Department of Women Development.

If federal govt decides Governor rule, he will oppose it: Kundi

PESHAWAR (INP): Gov-Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, stated that if the federal government decides to impose Governor's Rule in the province, he would not stand in their way.

While addressing the media, Kundi remarked, "If the federal government believes that Governor's Rule should be implemented, won't oppose it."

He also mentioned that Ali Amin Gandapur had claimed to prevent the imposition of Governor's Rule, adding, "I always tell them that I alone am enough for all of them, but they just talk without tak-

Dr. Rubaba stresses need to accelerate ongoing efforts for women's rights

Independent Report

QUETTA: Advisor to the Chief Minister ment of Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has stated that there is a need to accelerate the ongoing efforts for velopment in order to lay the foundation for a democratic and socially strong Balochistan. She expressed these views during a workshop organized in collaboration with the Women Development Department and the World Health Organization (WHO).

need for comprehensive and level.

coordinated actions at the policy level to improve the status of women in of Balochistan, enabling them Balochistan for the Depart- to fully participate in social, economic, and political sectors. Gender equality is not just a goal, but the foundation of our development. Until women women's rights and their de- are provided their rights and opportunities, we cannot establish a better social system

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stressed the importance of promoting gendersensitive governance and development in all sectors to ensure that women's voices are heard and their She emphasized the needs are met at every

ATC holds PTI founder responsible for masterminding May 9 riots LAHORE (INP): The Anti-Highlighting the PTI

Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Saturday issued the written verdict of denying bail to Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in eight cases related to May 9 riots.
The ATC held the

former premier responsible for masterminding May 9

Justice Manzar Ali Gill of the ATC Lahore issued a six-page long written verdict. It was said in the verdict that statements of those police officers who masqueraded as the PTI workers during meetings held in Zaman Park to conspire May 9 vandalism were recorded, adding that audio evidences of Khan were also part of the record where he could be heard inciting people to resort to violence in case of his arrest

workers' participation in May 9 vandalism, the court order said workers alongside party leadership couldn't stifle the PTI founder's worst impulses by following all instructions given by Khan to seed chaos and cause disruption on May 9 by attacking military installations, adding that inciting people to violence wasn't an ordinary matter.



QUETTA: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing 57th Foundation Day of Pakistan Peoples Party through video link. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Meena Majeed, Samad Gorgage, Sabir Baloch, Mir Baz Khetran, Igbal Shah and others are also present.

Pakistan to only 'accept' solution in line with its stance on Champions Trophy

LAHORE (INP): Amid uncertainty around hosting of the 2025 Champions Trophy, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has apprised the International Cricket Council (ICC) that it will only accept a solution that would concur with its stance.

The development comes ahead of another ICC board meeting over the controversy, which was reportedly scheduled for today but the cricket governing body later announced that it could not be held on Saturday, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India has reportedly sought more time after Pakistan's firm stance.

The sources said the progress on the matter would be made only after the ICC will give a reasonable and viable formula. However, they added: "Pakistan's stance is unchanged (on hosting)". They also said that after Pakistan's meeting with the ICC and other boards a day ago, the PCB had contacted various stakehold-

A crucial ICC board meeting convened to discuss the future of the Champions Trophy was held for just 15 minutes on Friday. It was agreed that

laboration with the ICC, giving the PCB, the hosts, would work towards identifying an acceptable and workable solution for the BCCI - whose India team

called in the wake of India's refusal to play in Pakistan, followed by Pakistan's firm stance rejecting a hybrid model and warning that it would reciprocate by boycotting future events in India if the situation persisted. Sources within the

ICC revealed that initial brief meeting resulted in a consensus for Pakistan and India to explore a mutually agreeable plan, potentially involving two or three other member boards as facilitators. The Champions Trophy is scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan, but India's decision not to travel to Pakistan to play its matches in the country has cast doubt over the event. Pakistan, maintaining a resolute position, has reiterated that a hybrid would be split across two venues — is not an accept-

trigue over where and how the Champions Trophy Pakistan and India, in col- ues, with the ICC Board

able solution along with the tournament's hosting ar- will not travel to Pakistan - and the ICC. It is ex-The meeting was pected that any resolution will come within the next

24-48 hours.

The decision to get the main parties together to work towards a solution was taken after an ICC Board meeting on Friday that lasted less than 15 minutes. The emphasis at the meeting was to find a way to break the deadlock consultations during the around the eight-team tournament. A PCB team, led by chairman Mohsin Naqvi, was in Dubai for the meeting, although it was an online call for most boards.

ber boards will now sit down with ICC leadership, the PCB and BCCI to work towards a solution that is acceptable to all parties. There is a suggestion that talks have been taking place on the matter over the last day or so, but they will continue on Frimodel — where matches day and likely Saturday as well. Naqvi has said publicly that he was open to the BČCI discussing any is-

A couple of other mem-



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal offering Dua after the Foundation laying ceremony of Information Technology University's (ITU) new Block at Barki Road.

of the more than 140,000

Malaysians affected and

He invited Prime Minis

ter Shehbaz Sharif to visit

een our nations'

PM offers sympathies to....

generosity.

Continued from page 1 his post on X, extended

eral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest ter Shehbaz Sharif for his of mutual interest.

He noted with satisfaction that most of the trade issues highlighted during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan had been successfully re-

solved. The Malaysian prime minister thanked Shehbaz Sharif for Pakistan's support and agreed that both nations needed to work together to enhance relations in all key sectors. The two leaders also agreed to con-

tinue high-level visits. The prime minister, as well as the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, are expected to visit Kuala Lumpur early next year, a press release issued

by the PM Office said. In his post on X, the prime minister said during his conversation with the Malaysian PM he also expressed deep admiration for the swift response of the Malaysian government

laysian prime minister in

CM Bugti vows... Continued from page 1

Bugti also highlighted the government's efforts to address unemployment through technical education and job creation. "We have "PM Shehbaz offered prayers for the well being initiated technical education programs, and after training, our youth will be conveyed his intention to sent to Gulf countries for send aid as a gesture of supemployment. Additionally, port and friendship be-

in collaboration with Akhuwat, interest-free loans will be provided to young entrepreneurs," he

stating,

Malaysia early next year. Meanwhile, Deputy Turning to Prime Minister and Foreign healthcare sector, the Chief Minister Ishaq Dar also ex-Minister promised signifipressed heartfelt grief over cant improvements within the loss of lives and dethe next two to three struction resulting from months, pledging to make floods in Malaysia "The people of Pakipublic hospitals exemplary. He also criticized

stan are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and the past governance in the destruction resulting from province, the devastating floods in Malaysia. Our heartfelt by corruption and poor sincerest sympathies and governance. However, we prayers for the victims and are committed to setting their families. Pakistan is

Bugti praised the PPP's leadership under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, expressing confidence in its vision for a progressive and prosperous Balochistan. "The PPP has always stood firm against terrorism and upheld the ideals of democracy. In Balochistan, the narrative of the people, not guns, will prevail," he as-

Balochistan was plagued

The Chief Minister concluded by reaffirming his open-door policy for party workers and vowed to continue working tirelessly for the betterment of the province.

examples of good goverready to extend all possible nance and transforming the support to the recovery efsystem. to this natural calamity. fort," Ishaq Dar wrote on In response, the Ma-



LARKANA: Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Arie Poluzzi addresses during the oneday seminar on Public Health Management held at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) in Larkana.

Bilawal urges all stakeholders to play

Continued from page 1

Speaking on the history of Pakistan People's Party, he said that Mohatarma Benazir Bhutto became the first woman Prime Minister of the world and became Prime Minister twice.

She was the representative of the people, farmers and laborers of Pakistan and always brought peoplefriendly economic policies and everyone believed that Benazir Bhutto would come and bring employ-

Online adds: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday urged all the stakeholders to play their role in achieving political stability in the counPPP's workers through video link on party's 57th Foundation Day.

"The opposition is impediment in the way of political stability in the country. It is not politics what happened on May 9," said the PPP chairman.

He added that PPP wanted political stability in Pakistan and both the government and opposition should play their role in it. Earlier, Bilawal cor-

dially congratulated party workers on the Foundation Day, celebrating 57 years of unwavering commitment to establish democracy, rule of law and empowering people. "The economic stability is only possible when there will be political

He was addressing the stability in the country,' said Bilawal.

He said that attempts were made to eliminate the PPP in the past but it is still here with a passion to serve the masses. According to Bilawal, PPP wants peace in the country as it is essential for the economic development. The PPP chairman urged all the institutions to work within their constitutional limits

Taking a jibe at PTI, Bilawal said that the opposition is only interested in getting relief for its leader and doesn't want to solve the issues of the country.

"PPP has the solution of all the problems being faced by the country and we believe in positive politics," said Bilawal.

Ali Gohar slams PTI leadership for using innocent people as 'Human Shields'

ISLAMABAD PML-N senior leader Ali Gohar Baloch Saturday issued a stern warning to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging them to abandon their destructive politics and focus on the welfare of the people.In an interview with a private news channel, he criticized PTI for using innocent people as human shields and putting their lives at risk.

The PML-N leader also held PTI responsible for the violence in the country, stating that their leaders had incited their supporters to engage in violen U19 Asia Cup:

Pakistan inflict 43-run defeat on arch-rivals India **Sports Desk** DUBAI: Pakistan defeated arch-rivals India by 43 runs in their first match of the

Cricket Stadium. The victory for the Green Shirts comes amid the ongoing Champions Trophy debacle between the neighbouring countries.

U19 Asia Cup on Saturday

at the Dubai International

Pakistan — known for their powerhouse bowling attack - proved themselves yet again as they dismantled the junior Indian batting line-up while they were chasing a target of 282

Leading the attack from the front was bowler Ali Raza, who has been getting noticed for his recent performances, as he bagged three wickets while Abdul Subhan and Faham-ul-Haq grabbed two wickets each.

The crucial wicket of Nikhil Kumar was taken by Naveed Ahmed Khan, after he became the highest runscorer for his side in today's

He scored 67 runs and ters.

Complex, Islamabad.

hit six fours and three sixes Pakistan's opener Usman Khan who scored 60 runs in the first innings, also dismissed Mohammad Aman.

marking 16th anniversary of Dunya News.

India was bundled out on 238 runs in the 48th over as Pakistan registered a victory over their arch-rivals. Earlier, Pakistan had invited India to field first and put up a total of 281

runs at the loss of seven wickets. The opening duo comprising of Usman and Shahzaib Khan smashed a 160-run partnership as

Shahzaib went on to hit 159 runs off 147 balls. His innings included five boundaries and 10 maximums. With his 10 sixes, Shahzaib also managed to break the record of most

sixes in U19 ODIs. The team soon faced a batting collapse and only Mohammad Riaz scored in double figures after the dismissals of the opening pair. India's Samarth Nagaraj

bagged three Pakistani bat-

Chief of Air Staff - Serena

Championship 2024 concludes RAWALPINDI (Online): feated Nasir Iqbal from Pa-Chief of Air Staff - Serena kistan with a game score of Hotels International Squash 3-0 to claim the title. Both Championship 2024, orgaplayers displayed excepnized by Pakistan Air Force tional skills and sportsmanin collaboration with Pakiship, making the contest a stan Squash Federation and memorable one for fans and Serena Hotels, has conparticipants alike. cluded at Mushaf Squash

Hotels International Squash

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Chief Guest, The prestigious tourextended heartiest connament featured 24 top-tier gratulations to both interplayers from eight counnational and domestic players for their remarkable pertries, including Egypt, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, formances throughout the Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherchampionship. He said, "This tournament has been lands and Pakistan, who competed for the coveted a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion for Air Marshal Shakil squash, not only from our Ghazanfar, Deputy Chief Pakistani players but also of the Air Staff (Personnel), from our international parattended the ceremony as ticipants. Pakistan Air Chief Guest, and distrib-Force remains committed to nurturing and promoting uted trophy and prizes to the winner and runner ups. squash at all levels, ensur-

Future of banking in Pakistan will be driven by innovation, transparency, unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, says Governor SBP rethink their business mod- definitive benchmark for

OUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Irfan Saeed and others cutting cake

KARACHI (PR); Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Mr. Jameel Ahmad, advised financial institutions to continue striving for excellence and collaborate to foster a more inclusive, dynamic, and future-ready financial ecosystem. He emphasized banks should pursue excellence and contribute to the betterment of our economy and

financial sector fraternity at Pakistan Banking Award

The 9th Pakistan Banking Awards ceremony 2024 was held on Friday 29th November, 2024 at a local hotel in Karachi.

The Governor SBP identified five core areas that banks must focus on.

els to play a more active role in financial intermediation, leverage technology to enhance the access, usage, and quality of financial services, make more active participation in improving financial literary, partner with Fintechs to provide innovative products for customers, and

He was addressing the

The event was attended by senior executives and distinguished professionals from Pakistan's banking and finance industry. Governor SBP Mr. Jameel Ahmad graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Ahmad, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NIBAF Pakistan, commended the participating banks for their active involvement in the awards and their ongoing efforts to lead in innovation, transfor-

mation, and sustainability. Mr. Ahmad highlighted that Pakistan's banking industry has played an important role country's economic development and supported the economy in its challenging times through uninterrupted provision of financial services. He added that key financial performance indicators of our banks have remained stronger than many regional peers. However, he also pointed out that there is still considerable ground to be covered in improving financial deepening and inclusion, particularly in agriculture and SMEs.

He advised banks to

work on improving user

In his welcome address, Mr. Riaz Nazarali Chunara, Chief Executive Officer of NIBAF Pakistan, commended the organizing partners for their unwavering support, which has made this event possible for the

service.

experience and customer

ninth consecutive year. He also acknowledged the contributions of the participating banks and financial institutions, recognizing their commitment and efforts in striving for leadership within their respective

Organized by the National Institute of Banking and Finance Pakistan, in collaboration with the DAWN Media and A.F. Ferguson & Co. (a member firm of the PwC Network) the Pakistan Banking Awards, the first of their kind, were launched considered the industry's

excellence in banking and encompass participation from Microfinance, Islamic Banks in addition to the main stream Commercial

Awards for 2024 were distributed to various banks, financial institutions for their best performance in 8 different categories. A new award category for Woman Inclusion was introduced this year. The details of the awards are as

"Meezan Bank Limited" received the Best Bank Award; the Best Bank for Women Inclusion & Best Bank for Agriculture went to "Bank of Punjab" Best Microfinance Bank Award went to "Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited"; the Award for Best Bank for SMEs went to "HBL"; "Bank AlFalah Limited" bagged the Best Bank for Digital Excellence and Best Bank for Customer Engagement.

The winners were selected by a distinguished jury consisting of six experts from the corporate, banking and financial sectors. As always a neutral, transparent and impartial evaluation process was adopted to determine the in 2016. These awards are best performers for these



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti enquiring about health of a lady party worker who becomes unconscious during 57th founding day ceremony of Pakistan Peoples Party.

State has decided not to allow politics of chaos....

Continued from page 1

In the final match Noor

Zaman from Pakistan de-

eign exchange reserves have crossed 11 billon dollars. Pakistan economy is on the trajectory of improvement.

When we came to power then country was on the verge of default, he added. We did not level allegations on any one. It was mission of Shehbaz Sharif to set right economy.

These were words of MD IMF had Shehbaz Sharif been not here then Pakistan would have gone default.

It is matter of regret that politics is being played on bodies. First it was said sniper

shots were fired. Then it was said direct firing was made. PTI has failed to produce even one video of firing. What is reason. Is there no evidence of direct

These people are sharing old pictures on social media. They shared footage of 2019. They shared picture of Israel atrocities on social media.

War of power is running in PTI. Traders and business men have suffered loss of Rs 190 billion per

Cell has been set up to check fake posts. There is only one objective behind fake posts that humiliation be averted People rejected their

call. Economy has not been derailed due to false narrative of corpses Speedy trial will be conducted of those who have been arrested. They will be brought to logical

conclusion. He said that an anti-riot force was being established

for Islamabad to deal with the protesters. Those who have shared

ing that Pakistan reclaims

its legacy in squash.

wrong statistics of bodies will have to provide evidence. Ali Amin Gandapur has fled twice. He stands exposed. His anti Pakistan agenda has come to open. APP adds :Federal Minister for Information, Attaullah Tarar on Satur-

Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture day regretted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was now resorting to a "false narrative of dead bodies" to cover up the embarrassment of fleeing from the protest site in the Blue Area.

In a media talk regarding fake photos and posts uploaded by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on social media, he said the party had failed to produce even a single video of the firing.

He pointed out that the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic Hospital had clearly stated that they did not receive any dead bodies.

At first, the PTI claimed that sniper shots were fired, then it was claimed that there was direct firing on the violent protesters, he said. The minister remarked

that three days had passed, but the PTI could not even produce even a single video of direct firing. Instead, they were shar-

ing old photos and artificial intelligence-generated images on social media including those of Gaza victims of Israeli atrocities. Even one footage of an incident in 2019 was shared when ironically PTI itself was in

The Information Min-

ister said that on the contrary, the violent PTI protesters used different weapof Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

sonnel and also inflicted damage on public property. He questioned why the PTI did not post the pictures of martyred rangers, and police personnel who lost their lives in line of duty.

ons against the security per-

He recalled that once during a public meeting of the founding chairman of PTI in Multan a few years ago, 12 people died in the stampede but that callous person did not stop his

He said that the PTI

even posted a fake image showing the entire road in the Blue Area covered in blood Tarar said he walked from D Chowk to 7th Avenue but did not see any

blood on the road. When these people ran away leaving shoes, clothes and vehicles, media channels had shown every corner of

this road with no blood any-

The minister said that a power struggle was going on in the PTI and the absence of top leadership of the party during the protest was

He also condemned the harsh words used by Bushra Bibi against senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja and Sahibzada Hamid Raza.

ts manifestation

He said due to the socalled PTI sit-in traders and entrepreneurs had suffered Rs 190 billion in losses per day and the PTI should be asked to pay compensation to them

The minister said that fake posts were being stamped as fake as a cell has been set up to check fake He said that the people

were patriotic and they re-

jected the PTI call for cre-

ating chaos and anarchy and only a handful of elements accompanied Gandapur and Bushra Bibi. Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI could not de-

rail the economy through a false narrative of dead bod-He said those who had

shared wrong data about

dead bodies on social me-

dia accounts would have to

give evidence or face mu-Castigating KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Tarar said had run away twice and that such people should be

the people. They have been exposed, their anti-national agenda has come to the fore, Information Minister.

ashamed before instigating

He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had presided over a high-level meeting yesterday regarding the law and order situation which was attended among others by heads of security agencies, chief secretaries of Punjab and Sindh governments and Inspector Gen-

erals of police. It was decided in the meeting that no one would be allowed to create chaos and indulge in violence. he said an anti-riot force was being raised to counter such

He mentioned that there would be a speedy trial of the arrested violent protesters, and they would be brought to justice through effective prosecu-

The minister said the country was on the path of development and economic indicators were becoming positive.

He informed that the

stock exchange had crossed

the 100,000 mark, foreign

exchange reserves were increasing and inflation has come down from 32 per cent last year to 6.9 percent now. He said that Pakistan's isolation on the foreign front has ended and delega-

tions of many countries visited Pakistan during seven months. High-level delegations of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates visited Pakistan. Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of Belarus was Paki-

were signed between the two countries. Moreover, Pakistan had the honour of hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in

stan and many agreements

Islamabad. He said that the resumption of PIA flights to Europe was good news for Pakistan that it would increase the revenue of PIA and it would regain its lost

position. He said that Pakistan's economy was on the path of improvement thanks to day and night efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"When we came to power, Pakistan was on the verge of default, we did not accuse anyone and worked day and night for the betterment of the country," he

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to strengthen national HIV response

Sharif has said Pakistan stood united with the global community in reaffirming its firm commitment to strengthening the national HIV response and ensuring that no one was left behind.

The theme, "Take the Rights Path: My health, My right," reminds us that the journey to eliminate AIDS as a public health threat begins with a firm commitment to human rights, the prime minister said in a message in connection with World AIDS Day

He said upholding the United Nations Declaration moting the inclusion of all

communities were essential introspection – a call to for eradicating AIDS as a reach the most vulnerable, public health threat.

"Healthcare is a fundamental right. Through our collective efforts, we will ensure that all our citizens enjoy this fundamental right in an equitable manner. By working together, we will continue to strengthen our health systems and expand access to essential services for our citizens," the prime minis-

He highlighted that HIV/AIDS remained a health challenge and a significant socio-economic issue that threatened livelihoods, disrupts families, and deepens inequalities. Gaps in testing and treatment coverage call for deep egy," he remarked.

making strategies to be truly responsive to those at risk, and ensuring that our policies evolve to meet the shifting dynamics of the

"Despite our collective efforts, the HIV epidemic in Pakistan continues to grow, underscoring the need for bold, innovative, and sustainable interventions. It is only through the strategy rooted in equality and inclusion that we can halt the spread of HIV. Strong political will, effective leadership, and enhanced financial commitments are essential to implementing a rights-based national HIV strat-

emphasized that the urgent challenges that needed our attention were eliminating spread of HIV/AIDS through needle sharing among people who inject drugs, safe blood transfumother-to-child HIV transmission. We must also address the vulnerabilities of marginalized groups, particularly adolescent girls and young women, who face heightened risks of HIV infection. "On this World AIDS Day, let us stand united to 'take the rights path' towards an AIDS-free Pakistan. A future free from AIDS can only be achieved through collective action that upholds human dignity,

fare of the people.

lives at risk.

In an interview with a

The PML-N leader

private news channel, he

criticized PTI for using in-

nocent people as human

shields and putting their

ISLAMABAD (Online):

(IHC) has sought reply

from the respective re-

spondents in contempt of

court case against over its

November 24 protest in

issued in contempt of court

plea against PTI protest in

Islamabad in defiance of

Written order has been

Islamabad.

court's orders

Ali Gohar slams

PTI leadership for

as 'Human Shields'

also held PTI responsible for the violence in the countries toric blunt".

PTI protest:

IHC seeks reply from

the respondents in

contempt petition

Islamabad High Court order notices have been is-

ers had incited their sup-

PTI's violent attempts are

not only damaging the coun-

try but also jeopardizing

the economy, which is

demned PTI's actions dur-

ing the recent Islamabad

protest, where protesters

used weapons and violent

mobs against the state and

slowly recovering.

He emphasized that

He strongly con-

According to written

The court has issued

It has been said in

written order that all the

file reply till next week.

sued to interior secretary,

chief commissioner, deputy

commissioner and IG Po-

lice Islamabad

sought reply.



ISLAMABAD: PPP Leaders cutting the cake on the occasion of 57th Foundation Day ceremony of Pakistan Peoples Party at Federal Capital.

using innocent people ISLAMABAD (APP): try, stating that their lead-PML-N senior leader Ali Gohar Baloch Saturday is- porters to engage in violent sued a stern warning to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging them to abandon their destructive politics and focus on the wel-

ISLAMABAD: People visiting different stalls in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel in the

DG Pakistan CAA, PIA CEO hail resumption of **Europe Flights after 4yrs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- Minister Shahbaz Sharif. kistan International Airlines (PIA) Chief Executive Officer Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat and Director General Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority Nadir Dar hailed the historic lifting of restrictions on PIA flights to Europe, marking a triumphant return after a four-year ab-

In an exclusive talk with a private news channel on Saturday, DG Pakistan Civil Aviation Author- country's reputation on the ity Nadir Dar extended heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for his instrumental role in achieving this monumental

The restoration of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights to Europe is a and it is a testament to the tireless efforts of Prime congratulations.

He added that This breakthrough resulted from the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to reviving Pakistan's aviation industry and strengthening its global

Amir Hayat said that successfully resuming flights to Europe after a four-year hiatus is a remarkable feat that deserves admiration. It not only boosts Pakistan's economy but also enhances the global stage, he further men-

"This achievement is a shining example of what can be accomplished when vision, leadership, and hard work come together, said CEO PIA, adding that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the entire PIA team deserve our heartfelt

PJN, UNDP host workshop to strengthen dispute resolution councils in Malakand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Peace and Justice Network (PJN), in partnership with UNDP Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, organized a consultative workshop in Malakand to develop actionable recommendations strengthening Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs) in Swat under the EU-funded Deliver Justice Project. The workshop served as a platform for diverse stakeholders, including representatives from the Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs) from Swat, Buner, Shangla, Dir, Chitral, Malakand and Bajaur, judiciary, law enforcement, civil society, local government, and community leaders, to share insights and develop strategies for enhancing the capacity and efficiency of DRCs. The primary objective was to create a comprehensive action plan to empower DRCs as an effective mechanism for resolving disputes and improving access to justice across the region.

session, Rule of Law & Justice Reforms Specialist, Rule of Law Program UNDP Pakistan, Caitlin Chittenden; and Ali CEO of Peace & Justice Network. Syed Raza highlighted that the strengthening of Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is crucial to enhancing their ability to serve communities effec-

tively in resolving disputes. By addressing existing gaps-such as inadequate resources, limited training for members, lack of inclusivity, and insufficient public awareness—DRCs can become more efficient, accessible, and responsive to community needs. Strengthened DRCs not only provide timely and cost-effective justice but also play a vital role in reducing the burden on formal courts and fostering social harmony at the grassroots level.

DRCs established by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police (KP) are pivotal in addressing the challenges of access to justice.

Four lives lost in Azizabad house fire incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): A devastating blaze swept through a house in Azizabad area of Burewala city, claiming the lives of a couple and their two children in the early hours of Saturday.

According to a private news channel, Rescue 1122 officials informed that a couple and their two young children, aged six and oneand-a-half years, were tragically charred to death when a devastating fire razed their

The cause of the devthe lives of a family of four was unknown, rescue officials added.

Firefighters sponded promptly to the distress call and extinguished the flames, before shifting the bodies to Burewala Hospital for further proceedings.

Islamabad sees 75% drop in serious crimes during 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP) Jnder the leadership of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, the Operations Division has executed an effective strategy to combat crime, leading to a significant reduction in serious criminal activities. A public relations officer told APP on Saturday that 2023 witnessed 269 serious crime incidents in the federal capital. However, he said that in 2024, this number has decreased to 200, reflecting a 75% reduction. This achievement highlights the proactive measures and sustained efforts made by the Islamabad Police to ensure the safety and security of the city's

residents, he noted. Despite challenges in maintaining law and order, the Islamabad Police, led by IG Islamabad and his dedicated team, have remained vigilant and active in their fight against crime, he said and added that they continue to work tirelessly, day and night, to protect citizens and their property.

ISLAMABAD: School children playing at a park in the Federal Capital. Over one million Indian troops make Kashmiris' lives a hell: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has stated that more than one million Indian forces' personnel deployed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have made the lives of Kashmiri people a hell for demanding UN-recognized right to self-deter-

According to Kashmir Media Service, in a statement issued in Srinagar, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas said that India has adopted the same policy in Kashmir that Israel follows in

He said that Jammu Kashmir is a disputed territory, and its future should be decided by the people of Kashmiris through a plebiscite as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He emphasized that India had promised to grant Kashmiris the right to self-determination on the UN platform, but it has failed to fulfill that prom-

The spokesman added that Kashmiris are making new history through their sacrifices, and they will Palestine to expel never allow anyone to play Kashmiris from their own with these great sacrifices.

Suspect arrested for murder of Bykea ride-hailing driver in Bhara Kahu

The Bhara Kahu Circle Hómicide Investigation Unit (HIU) arrested a suspect, Aamir Shah, on Saturday in connection with the blind murder of Muhammad Amjad, a driver associated with the ride-hailing service

A police spokesperson told APP that the incident occurred on October Muhammad Amjad left his home in Qasimabad, Rawalpindi, around 3 p.m. for work.

Worried about his long absence, his family filed a missing person report. Later, his body was found near Abu Turab Mosque in a stormwater drain area of

Bhara Kahu. Muhammad Riaz, the maternal uncle of Amjad's wife, reported to the police that Amjad supported his family by working as a ridehailing driver. He stated that Amjad's motorcycle and mobile phone were missing, and unknown assailants had killed him for reasons yet to be determined. "We seek justice for Amjad and the recovery of his stolen belongings," Riaz

Envoy says:

Romania's path to progress, National Day highlights achievements, future goals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Romania's National Day on December 1 celebrates more than the historic union of 1918, which marks the nation's journey of transformation, its growing role in Europe, and its partnerships worldwide, including with Pakistan.

Dan Stoenescu, ambassador-designate of Romania to Pakistan, in his message on National Day, said that December 1 stands as a significant day for Romanians, and commemorates the 1918 union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania, a milestone that shaped the modern state. It is also a time to reflect on Romania's achievements since joining the European Union in 2007 and its evolving role in a complex global land-

He said Romania's history has been marked by resilience and growth. After the fall of the Iron Curtain 35 years ago, the country transitioned from tonotice to administration and talitarianism to democracy. 'Now, in the face of challenges like Russia's aggression in Ukraine and regional four respondents should

mains committed to Euro-

pean values of solidarity work across Europe. By and determination", he As a NATO member

for 20 years, he said Romania has bolstered its security and international standing. NATO's 75th anniversary this year underscores the alliance's role in fostering unity and protection for its billion-strong population. He said Romania actively supports NATO's principles, the "open door" policy, and partnerships with countries sharing democratic values.

While appreciating his country's effort joining the EU has been a turning point for Romania. Over the past 17 years, EU membership has transformed the nation's economy, infrastructure, and quality of life, he said, adding that Romania has received over €60 billion in EU funds, driving projects in transport, healthcare, education, and

environmental protection. He said the impact is visible: Romania's GDP has tripled, and GDP per capita has nearly quadrupled since 2007. Citizens enjoy higher wages, improved infrastrucinstability, Romania re- ture, and greater opportu- contributor to European

2025, Romania is set to join the Schengen zone, enabling visa-free travel globally, including to the U.S

The ambassador-desgnate said the EU programs like Erasmus have connected Romanians to the world, with over 44,000 students benefiting from international study opportunities. Meanwhile, investments in digitalization and infrastructure have prepared the nation to address future challenges effectively.

He also indicated future the Romania stands at a crossroads, with €79 billion allocated from the EU budget for 2021-2027, including the Next Generation EU recovery plan. This funding offers opportunities to accelerate reforms in healthcare, education, and digitalization, he men-

The government aims to strengthen infrastructure and tackle global challenges like the Ukraine conflict and pandemic recovery, he said and added that Romania's commitment to EU principles positions it as a vital nities for education and resilience and unity.

T's anti-govt agenda exposed, Aqeel Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): entering D-Chowk without Sspokesperson on Legal Affairs Barrister Ageel Malik Saturday squarely placed the responsibility for the prevailing chaos in the country and the recent attack on Islamabad over the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

party.

The PTI leadership were accused of fueling chaos in Pakistan, with their anti-government agenda being exposed, Aqeel Ahmad remarked while speaking to PTV News here.

He said the PTI leadership was starkly divided in recent protests in Islamabad, with internal conflicts and blatant disregard for government direc-

Despite clear warnings, they defied the rules,

permission and utilizing KPK machinery in Islamabad to dismantle obstacles, in a brazen display of defiance, he added.

Aqeel Ahmad stated that PTI's actions were a direct disregard for the government's repeated warnings, which specified Sangjani as the only authorized location for PTI pro-

He stated that the PTI leadership abandoned its supporters and violated rules despite receiving fair

According to him, the PTI leadership's actions were irresponsible that put their supporters in a critical situation, adding that this incident has raised concerns about the party's leadership and its commitment to its supporters as



ISLAMABAD: Men carrying dry woods on their

head for domestic use near Srinagar Highway in

ICT Police honors bravery and sacrifices of officers in special ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Territory (ICT) Police organized a prestigious ceremony on Saturday to pay tribute to its brave, fearless, and dedicated officers. A public relation officer told APP that the ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters to recognize the police officers who demonstrated exceptional bravery and courage during recent law and order. Inspector General of Police (IGP), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, was the chief guest, while DIG Syed Ali Raza, DIG Headquarters/Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, all AIGs, SSPs, SPs, and police of-

ficers from all divisions were presents.

IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, paid tribute to the officers who displayed unmatched bravery and made eternal sacrifices to uphold law and order in the federal capital.

He said, "I am proud to lead this brave force, and I will always remember my time serving with Islamabad Police. Every officer in this force is chosen and appointed by Allah. By renewing your commitment to Allah, you have safeguarded the lives and property of the people and thwarted the miscreants in



ISLAMABAD: People walks in front of banners in favor of martyrs Pak Army and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Nagyi, installed on poles on Faizabad Bridge in the Federal Capital.

Bus-motorbike collision killed

two ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two persons including a woman were killed on the spot while another person was critically wounded when a speedy Mazda bus hit their motorcycle on Kartarpur Bridge, Road Depalpur Pakpattan on early Saturday morning.

According to a private news channel, rescue sources said that two vehicles' collision claimed two lives in Pakpattan.

The dead persons were later identified as Mohammad Yousaf and Kausar Bibi.

AIOU announces Matric and **FA results** ISLAMABAD (APP):

Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) has announced the results of its Matric and FA programs for the Spring Semester 2024.

According to the AIOU, the students can check their results on their CMS portals. Results of the Associate Degree programs are being finalized and are expected to be declared by mid of this month. The university's academic activities have been streamlined and the timely release of results is a testament to good governance. Under the leadership and strategic guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, there has been a significant reduction in student complaints.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Sunday December 01, 2024

PTI in disarray

The PTI's worst tendencies are once again in full view of the public. Following the debacle that marked the culmination of its 'last call' earlier this week, its leadership has quickly turned on itself.

Several resignations have already been tendered, and more may be in the offing as a chaotic internal reckoning leads to finger-pointing and blame. Unity of command and internal structure have collapsed as key leaders throw each other under the bus instead of taking stock of the party's mistakes. This cannot be chalked up solely to the brutal crackdown that the party has faced ever since it was ousted from power or even to its harsh experiences in recent days. Instead, the weakness seems to stem from the PTI's impatience in politics, as well as its supporters' volatile temperaments.

It is recalled that even when it governed the country, the PTI routinely sidelined saner heads in favour of populists who could whip up public sentiment with bellicose rhetoric. As a result, many capable leaders left the PTI even when its star was shining bright. Now, many of those who stepped up in its put it bluntly: collective darkest hour to take it forward seem ready to do the

The 'why' seems clear: despite all that it has been able to achieve and despite the this recipe for disaster ably in their duty. undeniable sympathy it has will lead to the unravelling of our state and society. gained from vast segments of the populace, the party's leadership still cannot keep The Praise of Folly (1509): "The less talent they have, the more pride, an abject failure. Cabinets, their heads while their sup- vanity and arrogance they have. All these fools, porters are losing theirs. Nowhere was this more evident than in how the recent protest in Islamabad was handled by those present. Despite risking much, the PTI's plans came abruptly undone because, at several Health is a legal right, critical moments, key deci- which has been endorsed by the Universal Declasions were swayed by personal ambitions and irratio-nal expectations rather than litis a crucial indicator of a nation's progress. Robust health ensures political wisdom and repromising capabilities
and lifelong learning straint. The PTI must come abilities. It is also widely to terms with this soon, or it will continue to implode.

The PTI leadership healthy foundation and sound nutritional status. should also take a long, Optimal nutrition at the hard look at some of its most prominent leaders and supphysical growth, cognitive development, and educational attainments to sensationalism and con- for future economic prospiracy theories when things do not go their way. No matter how the protest indispensable tools for a flourishing economy and was disbanded, the KP Assembly Speaker's comparison of the crackdown in Nobel laureate and economist Amartya Sen has said: "Economic Islamabad to East Pakistan growth without investment in human developand Palestine took it a step ment is unsustainable. too far. This tendency to blow things out of proportion is an affliction that the form of school meal programmes has proved party must shake off soon. Its claims regarding how the Islamabad protest collapsed have been doubted primarily helped lessen food insecurity, poverty, malnufor this reason, even though trition, and gender inthere may be some truth to what has been claimed.

It is, at the moment, too early to say how much of a setback the party has suffered due to its mistakes in Most of these children recent days. But, if the PTI are from the low- and middle-income countries. hopes to endure, it has no Studies show that chiloption but to set its house in order. It ignores its many faults at its own peril.

Judicial redemption

Basil Nabi Malik Did it not come across as

humorous when Justice Mansoor Ali Shah reportedly wondered aloud in the Supreme Court whether, in the absence of constitutional benches, his bench would be considered an unconstitutional bench? Humorous to many, but perhaps heart-wrenching to others; the concerns that such a query raises are wor-

The 26th Amendment has been touted by many as a victory for parliament, or, in other words, a manifestation of parliament regaining its sovereignty. Although many may see it that way, the reality is that such sovereignty is being resurrected on the ruins of an already embattled judi-

The ramifications of the 26th Amendment were foretold prior to its passage; however, the effects are now becoming clearer.

Firstly, through the Judicial Commission, parliamentarians and their allies now have a dominant say in the appointment of judges. Secondly, the politician-inclined Judicial Commission now also de-

cides on which judge sits where, for how long, and in relation to which matters.

Thirdly, the 26th Amendment has set up parallel power centres within the same set-up, ie, the Supreme Court and Sindh High Court now have two centres of authority in their respective courts — a chief justice of the regular benches and the presiding officer of the constitutional benches These issues are not

trivial; rather, they are at

the very heart of judicial independence. Judicial appointments are fundamental for maintaining an independent judiciary free from political interference and influence. It is in this light that judges have often been considered most suitable to nominate and appoint new judges, either from the pertinent court below or from the bar itself. It is argued. and perhaps correctly, that having observed and interacted with various lawyers and judges on a daily basis, these judges would be in an ideal position to decide on the competency of each of the candidates being con-

sidered Maintaining a comof society, including parliament, is not necessarily bad. But when the commission is established in such a way that, in effect, the parliamentarians and their allies have a majority over the judges themselves, you are inviting trouble.

Parliamentarians, along with those allied with them, should never have an overwhelming majority, or enough members to essentially push through their nominations at the expense of the opinions of experienced sitting judges. This is all the truer in a situation where no specific criteria for appointments have even been set out. It invites politics, and makes any subsequent appointment political, with a nominated judge possibly being viewed as a political appointee.

Secondly, it is difficult to digest why, how, and in what world it can be considered kosher for such a commission to decide which judges will hear what kind of case. It goes against the very grain of judicial independence.

If this were not enough, a politician-inclined judicial commission

bench, whether that be two months or two days, smacks of interference and bad faith. It creates uncertainty in the ranks, chills the ability of the nominated judges to work independently, and, if someone does not presumably fall in line, also carries the risk of censure by way of removal of the judge from the

It must not be forgot-

benches

ten that any judge on a constitutional bench will be deciding on the legality of governmental actions, as well as the vires of laws created by parliament, amongst other things. How can judges be expected to independently review governmental actions and the legality of laws, when they are themselves being appointed by members of that very parliament and government, effectively? It's oxymoronic. They, in effect, nominate judges to judge them, and if they don't like the judging, they can simply change the judges. How is that fair or even reasonable?

Here, I ask in all seriousness, how effective would an executive be with

helm? How about two parliaments, one for certain matters and another for others? How about if our beloved bar associations had two presidents in each association? In fact, why stop there? Why not create two parallel power centres in each institution, and champion it as a means of greater efficiency and better management?

The reason why this would not be effective is simple. Multiple power centres within the same institution breed intrigue, conflict, and confusion. A single unitary head is meant to garner better administration, greater uniformity in decision-making, and serves as a deterrent against factionalism within an in-

In much the same manner, maintaining a single head in the Supreme Court and the Sindh High Court is required for a more effective administration that allows the judiciary to ward off external threats and cater for more efficient internal housekeeping. The effect of having two effective chief justices in the Supreme Court, or in the Sindh High Court for that mission with representa- also determining the tenures two prime ministers at the matter, is not a recipe for

success. It is a recipe for utter chaos. It is an attemp to whittle down judicial unity, weaken an already beleaguered institution, and divide and rule, unfortu-

Lawyer Muneer A. Malik had said early on that no lawyers' movement is possible without the Supreme Court taking a stand. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court, to date, has shown that it has no legs to stand on. However, even in these times of worry and disappointment, struggle to attain and retain judicial independence must continue, in whatever manner possible.

Perhaps, in relation to this, the recusal of a courageous sitting judge of the Sindh High Court, Justice Omer Sial, from the constitutional bench is the first step in that very long and difficult path to judicial redemption. Perhaps, there will be more. And perhaps, the judiciary will find its feet and resolve to address the elephant in the room, that is, whether the concept of judicial independence is to be jealously guarded, or whether it is now a thing to be jealously guarded

The triumph of folly

Tariq Khosa

When good men and women can't speak the truth, when facts are inconvenient, when integrity and character no longer matter, when ego and self-preservation are more important than national integrity, then there is nothing left to stop the triumph of tyranny. I find myself lost in anger and anguish. The answer for how I can go through this inner convulsion is to put pen to paper for the benefit of all those who should be deeply afraid for the future of our nation.

What is at stake in our benighted land? To suicide is actually in progress, with conscious efforts at denial, distortion and deceit by the ruling elite, which is bent upon sowing discord and discontent through their

however, find other fools deep state whose agenda, amendment that has dealt

who applaud them." An was perceived to be ad-illegitimate coalition of vanced by the outgoing ciary. The apex court had power-hungry politicos provides a democratic facade to the machinations of the deep state. Everyone is aware that the results of the Feb 8 national polls this year were manipulated in favour of those who do not represent the majority, which was denied its mandate. Some people justify the rigging by pleading that almost all previous elections were also manipulated by the actual string pullers. There is truth in this premise of political engineering by the establishment. However, the blatant misuse of power mixed with persecution and corruption within the state agencies responsible for holding the last general elections has crossed all limits. The institutions constitutionally responsible for holding free and fair elections failed miser-

The experiment of putting together neutral, Erasmus wrote in apolitical caretaker admin-

vanced by the outgoing prime minister and leader of the opposition. The biggest disappointment has been the Election Commission of Pakistan. The chief of the electoral watchdog brought the civil services into such disrepute that his erstwhile colleagues openly condemned his conduct as undignified and unprincipled. He has caused irreparable damage to a constitutional office of great responsibility and public trust, and flouted the orders of the apex court by pandering to the political engineers running the current political cha-

The judiciary, of all the premier national institutions, has suffered the most. The open bickering and infighting among the judges of the apex court has shattered the administrative and operational autonomy of the instituof justice to the people. A farcical display of manipulation and arm-twistincluding the chief execu-tives, were selected by the sulted in a constitutional

settled the matter of appointment of the chief justice by recognising the principle of seniority; the senior-most judge after the chief justice was assured of his place at the pinnacle and there was no dispute. The present ruling elite did not want the senior-most judge after the chief justice to take over the mantle and therefore, a constitutional amendment that can only be described as person-specific was rubberstamped by parliament and that too without any debate or deliberation. A parallel constitutional court has been established, with junior judges predominantly selected by the executive, to adjudicate and preside over highly sensitive issues of great public significance such as the trial of civilians in military courts and the review of the recent award of reserved minornately, the judiciary faces this predicament due to

The bureaucracy and police services have bro- The military and the in- of Pakistan.

the strife within its own

ken all previous records of telligence agencies must becoming handy tools of a callous ruling elite. Some spineless seniors are dragging their junior officers into very awkward and embarrassing situations where human rights violations are endemic. Arguably, in no previous era, including periods of military rule, were such acts of persecution and indignity witnessed. Certain senior police officers are openly defying court or-ders. Political agitation and protests are handled through brutal tactics, which include late-night raids on the homes of political activists and officebearers who are illegally detained and allegedly tortured. This kind of brutality reflects an autocratic mindset in the top echelons of the law-enforcement institutions.

There are extremely serious challenges on the internal security front. Balochistan is burning. tion required to safeguard the Constitution and ensure the fair administration court judges. Unfortution of the festering vio-The recent carnage in

ensure that the writ of the state is restored They are already engaged in kinetic operations against militant

organisations Balochistan. It has been announced recently that a full-fledged military operation is being launched to restore peace and order in the vast province. Since the last few years, the military has already been dealing with the insurgency Staying away from an operation that entails gross human rights violations, the military must focus on winning the hearts and minds of the Baloch youth.

Finally, what has happened in Islamabad recently in a brutal crackdown on the participants of a political protest, should be cause for serious introspection by those who are calling the shots. History will judge them on how they dealt with a political crisis of tion of the festering vio- this magnitude, which has lence that has engulfed been developing since the much of KP. The entire elections earlier this year. focus of our security es- It is time to change course tablishment should be on to fulfil the democratic dealing with these crises. aspirations of the people

Fuelling the future

Tabinda Ashraf Shahid | Atta ur Rehman

ration of Human Rights. recognised that the edu-cational goals of a nation cannot be met without a right time and age is vital for child survival, good ductivity.

Good health, nutrition, and education are human development. Investment in human development through nutritional intervention in the beneficial and helped enhance academic performance, health status, and

equality. The World Health Organisation stated a couple of years ago that nearly half of global deaths among children under five years of age are due to malnutrition. dren who are adequately nourished in the first 1,000 days of life (from conception until two years) are less likely to

suffer from infections. Evidence has suggested that stunting resulting from malnutrition in the first 1,000 days is irreversible. However, an international study by Young Lives indicated that a window of 7,000 days in a child's life can help him/her regain growth and development. According to Unicef, the middle childhood and adolescent phase (five to 19 years) is the second window of opportunity to improve nutritional status, reverse stunting, accelerate linear growth, and fend off malnutrition outcomes in the future.

This signifies the importance of introducing nutritional interventions at school through unprocessed foods containing micro and macronutrients, and a low-fat, salt, and sugar regime. This will not only help the dietary behaviour of the new generation transition towards healthier eating habits, it will also promote environmental sustainability. Education is a tool

for nation-building and high productivity — and a state obligation. Likewise, good nutrition serves as the foundation for good health required for sustained economic growth. In Pakistan, amid an educational emergency, 26 million children are reportedly out of school; the nutritional situation is also disappointing. According to the Global Alliance for Funds from the health Improved Nutrition, about 40m adolescents in Pakistan are at risk of malnutrition (21 per cent of boys and 12pc of girls are underweight, while 18pc of boys and 17pc of girls are overweight/ obese). The unprecedented high cost of liv- sustainable food sysing and a growing population are worsening the situation. With six years

tion, it is not too soon to declare and address a nutritional emergency.

According to the Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024, spending on adequate nutrition has immense benefits; every dollar spent can yield a high return of \$23 in the future. The World Food Programme is committed to ensuring and investing in nutritious school meals for every child at school by 2030; this is the most widespread social safety net globally and an effective to en----sure healthy young lives.

Focusing sc--ho-ol education re--forms in Pakistan, milk is being provided to schoolchildren in many places, which is a great start for school meal programmes and a step towards fulfilling the global goals of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030. In addition, the assessment of a child's nutritional status before school admission must also be made compulsory to monitor growth on a national level to prevent nutritional deficiencies in children.

A nutrition-sensi-

tive food system through intersectoral efforts is required to plan and execute a well-balanced school meal programme involving experts, local producers, and stakeholders, with regional or organic products for maximum benefits. sector can be coupled with school programmes as this investment will have farreaching effects on health. It will substantially reduce social and gender inequalities, and contribute towards a tem, public welfare, improved nutritional status, and enhanced ecoleft to achieve SDG 2 to nomic growth and huend hunger and malnutri- man capital. nal and counterproduc-

Naeem Sadiq Except for the 92.97metre javelin throw by our spirited lad from Mian Channu, Pakistan has been left behind the rest of the world, economically, technologically, and on all counts of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals — by a margin of many decades. The road to Pakistan's progress has been firmly blocked by its own misgovernance, runaway population, structure and leadership. The need for reforms to reconstruct and transform Pa-

kistan has never been more compelling. The first task for Pakistan, the world's fifth most populated country, is to apply harsh brakes on its runaway population. The daily arrival of 17,554 new babies nullifies all intended reforms and resources. A complete nance, promote developbreakdown is a mathematical inevitability. Sitting on a volcanic total fertility rate of 3.55, we have failed to appreciate a potentially fatal affliction. While population management ought to have been the mother of all reforms, its absence from all political manifes-

tos is incomprehensible. We need to create national and provincial population task forces and provide universal access to family planning and reproductive health services. Lessons can be learnt from strategies adopted by Iran and Bangladesh, who brought their TFRs to less than 2.0. The current National Finance Commission Award incentivises provinces to increase their population in order to receive a bigger share of the 82 per cent funds allocated on the basis of population numbers. This approach is irratio-

there ought to be an incentive to reduce or stabilise the population. This can be done by allocating a percentage of demonstrated in the population growth rate. Likewise, the Benazir

Income made far more meaningful by linking it with family planning-related incentives. The next most seri-

units. As compared to and twis-ting of laws that any other country, our our rulers prim-arily reprovinces are too large and too few. The population of Punjab exceeds the population of 181 countries and the population of Sindh exceeds the population of 165 countries of the world. No wonder we find them impossible to govern. We could improve goverment and increase people's participation manifold by creating at least 22 smaller adminishaving the existing four unmanageable provinces. The 22 suggested

smaller administrative

units could be: Makran, Lasbela, Kalat, Sibi, Quetta, Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Bahawalpur, D.G. Khan, Multan, Rawalpindi, D.I. Khan, Peshawar, Hazara, Malakand and the erstwhile Northern Areas. Even after reducing the size, the average population of the proposed 22 more than the population world. This reform is governance and benefits at the local level.

The third crucial restrengthening of institu-

Reform agenda tive. On the contrary, tions and eliminating dependence on personal loyalties would be to do away with the culture of extensions for all office holders - whether they be politithe population fund for cal, judicial, military or the extent of reduction civil bureaucrats. Limit all assignments, in--cluding that of the president and the prime minister, to one Support term only. Except for the Programme could be election of the PM, all other heads of institutions - judicial, military or civil — must be appointed on the basis of seniority alone. This would elimious issue for Pakistan is nate the perpetual palace the size of its federating in-trigues, bribes, favours

> main preoccupied with. es--sential structu-ral reform calls for massive red-uction of our obscene economic and social inequality. Paying over Rs2 million per month to the judges while giving less than Rs20,000 to the sanitation workers is grossly unethical. It is cruel to give a pension of over Rs400,000 to thousands of senior government officials, while not trative units, instead of registering 81m workers to their legally entitled pension scheme called EOBI.

> Begin by dismantling bureaucracy and cutting wasteful expenditures. Withdraw the 150,000 or so official vehicles, office TVs, free fuel, security, electricity, Lahore, Gujranwala, and other perks of all Faisalabad, Sargodha, serving and retired government officials.

> Every official must receive a flat salary that has none of the dozen or so hidden allowances that inflate their earnings manifold. Withdrawing provinces would still be all benefits, perks, privileges, and entitleof 106 countries of the ments of Pakistan's disproportionately pamfundamental to sharing pered class would generate enough funds to ensure minimum legal wage, social security and form that could lead to EOBI for every worker

Engaging in activities that could lead to bans

should be avoided."

He lauded the Paki-

stan Peoples Party (PPP)

for its principled stance and

historical sacrifices, stating that: "I congratulate party

workers and leadership on

the Foundation Day of the

PPP being celebrated

across the country.

He said the PPP was

the only political party that

had always prioritized the

country's prosperity, progress and protected

rights of the people.

Governor urges PTI

to review its conduct

M U Z A F F A R G A R H litical parties should remain

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and

Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal waters a plant after

the foundation stone ceremony of ITU's new block

political.

(APP):Punjab Governor

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has advised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lead-

ership to review its conduct, behavior and uphold its role as a political entity.

need for the PTI to recon-

sider its actions regarding

attacks on state institutions

and overall conduct to-

wards the country.
Talking to the media

during a visit to the wed-

ding ceremony of former

state minister Mehr Irshad

Ahmed's son in Muradabad

on Saturday, he said: "Po-

at Barki Road.

regarding the handing over of the project to the Punjab

According to the

Speaking during the

Aurangzeb said that the

Maryam

government.

He emphasized the

Governor Kundi calls for an oversight committee to utilize funds in NMDs

PESHAWAR Karim Kundi, on Saturday said that he had urged Shehbaz Sharif to constitute an oversight committee to ensure utilization of development funds as allocated by the federal government for the Newly (NMDs). Speaking during a Jirga of Khar district Bajaur at Governor House, led by chairman Syed Ahmad Jan, the Governor Kundi highlighted the need to address the unrest and deprivation felt by the

tribal population. The Jirga members voiced their concerns regarding the neglect of tribal areas, expressing dissatisfaction with the current allocation of

In response, Kundi resolved by its people assured them that he fully understands their plight and considers himself an advocate for the tribal people.

merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, funds from the federal government were misallocated by the provincial administration to favored regions, leaving the deserving districts and tribes sidelined. To tackle these issues, the Governor said that an All Parties Conference (APC) would be convened at the Governor House on

He also revealed political representatives to address the situation in province province's issues must be empowerment.

The Jirga concluded with ceremony, where Governor Kundi was presented with a tribal turban, followed by He said that after the prayers development,

prosperity in the province. On the occasion, Kundi said that the Governor House is always open to addressing tribal

Later, the Governor addressed the inaugural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Future Youth Leaders Conference at the Governor here emphasized the critical role of youth in achieving peace and economic prosperity.

He stressed plans to visit Kohat with importance of eradicating terrorism and unrest in the District, education, emphasizing that the engagement, and women's



during the 57th youm-e-tasees of Pakistan People's Party.

Governor highlights great role of journalists

KARACHI (APP): The Governor House. The we are actively working on Governor of Sindh Kamran delegation included it," said Governor Sindh Khan Tessori emphasized the critical role of iournalists establishment and continuity of democracy, acknowledging their contributions to the country's democratic development. He said that ensuring press freedom and protecting journalists' ights is a top priority for the government.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a nine-member delegation led by Shahid Mehmood Khokhar, Chairman the Implementation Tribunal

representatives from various newspaper unions in the and other prominent personalities.

> During the meeting, the participants discussed the issues faced by the journalistic community and explored avenues for their welfare. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori reaffirmed his commitment to taking all possible steps support media institutions

continuously engaging with the federal government to resolve journalists' issues.

"Ensuring the wellbeing of every individual for Newspaper associated with journalism Employees (ITNE), at the is our responsibility, and

Kamran Khan Tessori.

The ITNE chairman requested Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori to play a role in ensuring the implementation minimum wage laws for newspaper employees as determined by the government. In response, the governor assured that he would soon engage with newspaper owners to ensure compliance with these laws, enabling journalists and other newspaper employees to

receive their rightful dues.
Shahid Mehmood
Khokhar briefed the
governor on the objectives
and functions of ITNE.

NAB DG holds open court, pledges compensation for victims

LAHORE (APP): The highlighted significant National Accountability measures taken by NAB in Bureau (NAB) Lahore held a monthly open court (khuli kachehri) session under the supervision of its Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh. The session was attended by 200 victims of fraudulent housing schemes and public scams. Participants included affectees from various housing societies and real estate projects, such as Prime Zone, Fario Real Traders, Bold Vision, Omega Housing Society, With fully paid plots and Khayaban-e-Amin Housing Society, Qasim Garden, New Lahore City, Units. In the case of Units and the purchasing of security equipment in jails is also and Grand Avenue Housing Society.During

with

the housing sector, such as implementing a new policy requiring housing societies under RUDA to issue secure allotment papers provided by the Punjab government instead of printed forms. He also ordered the creation of WhatsApp groups to keep victims informed about case progress. Society officials were directed to address refund requests immediately, and victims Khayaban-e-Amin the return of plots and flats worth millions of rupees. I the meeting.

KP cabinet meeting scheduled for Dec 2

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Cabinet meeting has been scheduled to be held on December 2 to meet on 22 points agenda.

In a notification issued on Saturday, the 22-point agenda items included the creation of seats for ten judges in Peshawar High Courts besides approval of a writ petition against the Election Commission is also part of the agenda in the provincial cabinet meeting.Similarly, an increase

included in the agenda. The Housing Society, NAB Lahore has facilitated the Public Service Commission would be presented during



details, the minister inspected the constructed parts of the hospital and was briefed about the project. A detailed briefing on the work done and the remaining project was given to the minister. briefing,

project was started with public money but has been continuously stalled. She said that CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed to complete and activate the project for the welfare of the people.

project from the federation being reviewed and project is not a big deal.

Marriyum directs for timely completion of Maternity-Child Hospital

RAWALPINDI (APP): important decisions would Senior Punjab Minister, be taken in this regard in a Maryam Aurangzeb on special meeting to be chaired by the chief Saturday visited the longstalled federal government project Zacha Bacha minister. The minister further Hospital, Rawalpindi and reviewed the details

said that the chief minister does not want any accusations regarding this project and she wants immediate implementation of this project for public welfare.

Maryam Aurangzeb said that the Punjab government would plan to increase the number of beds from 200 to 400. A formal timeline of the project will be drawn up and the project will be realistically completed after handing over to Punjab, she added. Speaking on the occasion, Member National Assembly Hanif Abbasi said that the PML-N government started mega

projects like Metro Bus Service and Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology in process of transferring this them in timely for public interest. He said that cutting to the provincial the ribbon and laying the government of Punjab was foundation stone of the

Azma exposes false propaganda of PTI

LAHORE (APP): Punjab images. "The propaganda Information Minister Azma Bokhari has exposed trying to sell lies and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

She shared a video of a person who was falsely declared dead. Azma Bokhari revealed all the the

propaganda cell. In this regard, she said that after yet another failed rebellion, "vultures" of the PTI movement were

the false propaganda of the search for dead bodies. According to some "patriotic Pakistanis," this is their fundamental right to do so.'

fake videos and posts whether these lies and propaganda should be given a free pass. "Such actions are a disgrace, and strict action will be taken against those spreading fake news and false propaganda," she resorting to fake videos and



HYDERABAD: Large number party workers listening to the speech of Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on live video link screen at Press club road.

Minister reviews progress on Dhee Rani programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Welfare Sikandar Zeeshan, Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt, chairing a significant meeting here on Saturday, reviewed the progress on CM's Dhee Rani programme under which mass wedding will be organised in Dec 2024.

Under the special directive of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the "Dhee Rani Program" will formally commence mass weddings from December 2024.

The meeting was attended by the Political Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab Zeeshan Malik, Secretary of Social Welfare Javed Mahmood, Akhtar Director General of Social

Secretary of Women Development Usman Ali Khan, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Masood and Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza.

Director General of Social Welfare, Sikandar Zeeshan, briefed Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik, along with other participants, on the progress of the Dhee Rani Project.

The highlighted that mass weddings would formally begin in December 2024, with the inaugural event in Lahore under the auspices of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

HYDERABAD: Sindh Information and Transportation Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Nasir Shah talking to media at Abdullah Mall. **Govt to support** construction sector:

Sindh Ministers HYDERABAD (APP): In to promote trade and a significant boost to the increase construction sector, Senior Information Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah largest such project, in attended the Sindh collaboration with Premium Property international donors. He Home Decor Exhibition as desires to own a home, and chief guests at Abdullah the Sindh Government is Qasimabad, Hyderabad.

Addressing the event, Senior Provincial Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized the importance of country, which will employment government will provide all

confidence. Sharjeel Inam Provincial Minister for Memon highlighted the Sindh government's ambitious project to build 2.1 million houses, the committed to providing the best possible support to

the people of the province. The Information Minister also underscored the significance of the Pakistan People's Party promoting trade in the (PPP) in addressing the problems of the poor and marginalized segments and opportunities and improve credited the PPP with the lives of poor families. numerous achievements, He assured that the including the establishment of a constitution of

possible support to the Pakistan, nuclear power, construction sector, aiming and a strong parliament. **Minister says:** Over 860 children successfully operated upon under CM's District

heart surgery program LAHORE (APP): Punjab staff at private hospitals to Health Minister Khawaja ensure the smooth Salman Rafique announced that more than 860 children have undergone successful heart surgeries since the launch of the Chief Minister's Children's Heart program's scope and Surgery Program. He shared this milestone during a meeting on the program's referral system held at the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company on Saturday.

In the meeting, the Health Minister reviewed the referral system in detail. The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and other relevant officers briefed him on the progress and ongoing efforts. Khawaja Salman Rafique directed PITB to train technical

functioning of the program. He emphasized that coordination departments is being strengthened to expand the empanel more hospitals.

The minister noted a significant reduction in the waiting list for pediatric heart surgeries, which previously caused parents to endure long delays. He highlighted that the capacity of children's hospitals across Punjab is being enhanced to accommodate patients.

"Continuous monitoring of the program is ensured through an online live dashboard, and the Punjab government.

Murderer of wife, seven

death sentence MUZAFFARGARH (APP): An additional district and sessions court in Alipur sentenced an accused who stabbed his wife and seven children to death with a sharp-edged weapon. According to the prosecution, the accused, Muhammad Sajjad, had been awarded eight death penalties for the heinous murder of his wife and seven children. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 500,000 for each victim with an additional six months' imprisonment for

non-payment of the fines. According to the police, six months ago, the convict had used a sharp weapon to brutally murder his wife and seven children in Alipur, a tehsil of Muzaffargarh.

3 vehicles

different routes on Saturday. He inspected excessive smoke and polluting the environment.

He also impounded 3 vehicles on sheer violation of law and referred 31 other vehicles for obtaining fitness certificates with a clear-cut warning that no vehicle would be allowed to ply roads without a fitness certificate.



LAHORE: Former Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani with other delegates participating in the seminar titled "National Dialogue is Necessary 'at Press club.

children gets

the session, the DG engaged complainants

impounded, 43 challaned for causing smog FAISALABAD (APP)

Regional Transport (RTA) Authority Secretary Humanyun Rashid Sial impounded 3 vehicles and conducted challans of 43 others on charges of causing smog in addition to referring 31 vehicles for

fitness certificates. The Secretary RTA along with his team checked public transport on vehicles and conducted challans of 43 drivers by imposing a fine of Rs.106,000 for emitting

Judicial officers complete training program emphasized

LAHORE (APP): Sixteen judicial officers, including Additional District and Sessions Judges, Senior Civil Judges, and Civil Judges, successfully completed a six-day training program on revenue document analysis at the Punjab Judicial Academy on Saturday.

The program aimed to equip judicial officers with enhanced skills and knowledge to handle revenue-related cases effectively.

The training covered examination, analysis, and interpretation of revenue documents, along with the

practical approaches to dealing with complex revenue disputes, ensuring judicial officers are better prepared to deliver fair and timely justice. The concluding session was chaired by Advisor & Director Administration of the Punjab Judicial Academy, Muhammad Hafeez Ullah Khan. In his

LAHORE: Punjab Ministers Zeeshan Rafique, Azma Bukhari and SAPM

address, he highlighted the importance of continuous learning and professional development for judicial officers. He stated, "The key areas such as the academy's vision is to provide effective, relevant, and innovative training programs to enhance the legal framework governing inheritance issues. The capacity of judicial officers in dispensing justice."

Kaghan valley tourism season 2024 officially closed

2024 tourist season in the Naran Valley has officially concluded as the district administration has closed all tourist destinations in Naran and beyond for visitors. According to the district administration sources, tourists are now restricted to traveling only as far as Shogran and Kaghan, while the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) and the district administration have issued advisories discouraging travel to the Kaghan

KAGHAN (APP): The Valley.Deputy Commissioner Mansehra Khalid Iqbal while issuing a video message regarding the closure of tourism season in upper Mansehra district said that the Kaghan Highway, a critical route connecting the province to Gilgit-Baltistan, has been closed since early November due to heavy snowfall.

Citing hazards, Commissioner explained that the closure

Zeeshan Malik review Lahore Development Program during a meeting. CM felicitates **PUJ** office bearers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has extended her heartfelt felicitation to Mian Shahid Nadeem, the newly elected President of the Punjab Union of Journalists (PUJ), and other elected officebearers

In her message, the chief minister conveyed her best wishes for the newly elected PUJ team. expressing hope for their success in promoting journalistic excellence and upholding press freedom.

'Sindhi Culture Day' to be celebrated today

KARACHI (APP): The Sindhi Culture Day will be celebrated on Sunday across the Sindh province and by Sindhis living the world over to highlight the centuriesold culture of Sindh. The day is marked

every year on the first Sunday of December. The Culture Day is celebrated

enthusiasm and zest. The Sindhis, on the occasion, wear Sindhi topi (Cap) and Ajrak to show their love and affection with the rich Sindhi Culture.

Nasir Shah says: Sindh Govt unveils comprehensive plan to address power challenges

Energy, Planning and cornerstone of the Development Syed Nasir initiative is the distribution Shah on Saturday said that of 200,000 solar packages Sindh government was taking significant steps to households, which is revolutionize the expected to benefit over province's electricity with infrastructure comprehensive renewable energy programme aimed at providing cost-effective

of residents. Syed Nasir Shah revealed the government's ambitious initiative during an Energy Dialogue organized by The Knowledge Forum and NED University of Engineering and Technology at a local hotel.

power solutions to millions

Nasir Shah said that Sindh alternate energy programme includes development has been multiple innovative made in Thar and cheaper approaches to address the power is produced through

KARACHI (APP): energy challenges. Provincial Minister for He added that a low-consumption two million people across KE, HESCO and SEPCO consumer regions. The

packages include solar

panels, batteries, fans and

bulbs, targeting consumers

who use between zero to 100 units of electricity. Shah said government simultaneously pursuing multiple alternative energy projects including solar, wind and hybrid power initiatives developed through public-private

partnerships.

He said a lot of development has been



ISLAMABAD: A vendors displaying and selling plastic dolls to attract the customer at roadside

FCCI invites budget proposals from **business community**

The business community must submit its budget and added that his doors related proposals before were open to all and he December 25, so that would try his best to pass efforts could be made to on important FCCI related include them in the budget document for the year 2024-25, said Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of by Pakistan in the Commerce & Industry prevailing (FCCI). In a meeting with a delegation of the data is being upgraded and Faisalabad Dyes & integrated which may Chemicals Association create problems for the

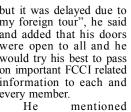
(FDCA), he said that only business community. He should be shortlisted after transparency in their due deliberations instead of business transactions to presenting a long list of avoid any coercive steps.

"I intended to have also been expedited to personally visit different transform the FCCI into an associations to interact efficient e-chamber and in with them in addition to this getting direct feedback on negotiations are under their demands immediately after the election of FCCI firm.

FAISALABAD (APP): but it was delayed due to my foreign tour", he said information to each and every member.

> He problems being confronted economic situation and said that the

connection. process with a private



He said that efforts



Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

PBIT, Tihal, KBM to sign MoU to attract direct Chinese investment

AHORE Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here Saturday chaired a meeting in which Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), Tihal International Business

Punjab.
The collaboration will

CM's policies

bring relief to wheat farmers as

seed prices drop

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has

expressed satisfaction over

the significant reduction in

the prices of certified

wheat seeds, a result of the

government's farmer-

certified seeds from the

Punjab Seed Corporation

has decreased to Rs. 4.500

per bag, down from Rs. 6,300. These seeds are

available at special centers

and registered dealers of

Punjab

Corporation, she noted.

and it is our duty to

support their welfare and

well-being." She reaffirmed

commitment to the farmers

of Punjab, stating, "We

stand by our farmers and

will continue to do so,

working towards increased

production

prosperity.

government's

The CM

In a statement on Saturday, the CM announced that the price of

the CM

riendly policies.

(APP): focus on attracting direct Punjab. Provincial Minister for Chinese investment in sectors such as information technology, construction, agriculture, manufacturing,

and textiles. In order to achieve this goal, a mutual agreement will soon be Services Company (China) and KBM Group of companies agreed to collaborate to bring direct signed among the three organizations, and a framework for cooperation will also be developed. Chinese investment to Implementation of this Pakistan particularly to agreement will lead to increased investment by Chinese companies in

On this occasion Chaudhry Shafay Hussain highlighted that Punjab offers a highly favorable environment investment, which is why

both local and foreign investors are turning towards the province. He stated that Punjab aims to benefit from China's advanced agriculture and technology. Provincial Minister

also revealed that the Punjab government.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan agreed for promoting joint ventures and trade Partnerships

Azerbaijan and Pakistan on Saturday agreed to promote joint projects and trade partnership for which practical work will be started in the coming days. The consensus to this

effect was evolved in a meeting between the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release. The bilateral diplomatic activities between the two countries for the past several months, exchanges of highlevel delegations and participation in the COP 9 conference in Baku have

started to surface positive

Aleem Khan warmly welcomed the Ambassador and said that including tourism Pakistan can further increase bilateral cooperation with its friendly countries in various sectors. "We need to convert our mutual relations into business and bilateral trade for which positive progress is being made from both sides", he added. While offering companies Azerbaijan to invest and

Gold price

drops by

Rs1,100

per tola

LAHORE (APP): Gold

rates in Pakistan witnessed

another decline on

Saturday, as rates came

down by Rs1,100 per tola,

in line with a plunge in the

Sarafa Association sources,

the price of bullion

hovering at Rs276,200, while 10 grams of gold

moved down by Rs943 to Rs236,797.The fresh

tweaks come after a surge

of Rs2000 in the yellow

metal prices. On the other

hand, silver prices remained stable, holding

steady at Rs3,400 per tola.

Meanwhile, this fluctuation in gold prices

highlights the impact of

global market trends on

local bullion rates, urging

investors to stay informed

about international market

According to the local

international market.

ISLAMABAD (APP): launch business in investment and joint Pakistan, he said that in the current circumstances, foreign investment can be made based on G2G and

> Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan also discussed with the Ambassador for investment in the M6 and M9 Motorways from Karachi to Sukkhar and Sukkhar to Hyderabad. He further said that there are huge opportunities in various sectors for foreign investors in Pakistan which should be fully utilized.

> Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Azerbaijan to Pakistan assured his cooperation and said that his country would work Pakistan

The meeting also considered the joint efforts of the three countries of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye, while on the instructions of Federal Minister for Investment Abdul Aleem Khan.

, it was also decided to nominate a Focal Person from the Board of Investment to maintain close liaison with the Government of Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Farhadov expressed his country's commitment to working with Pakistan on investment and joint

The meeting also highlighted collaborative efforts of Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and



QUETTA: People selecting and purchasing warm cloth from roadside vendor stall.

Solid projects being focused to attract investments: Ashraf

AHORE (APP): Punjab significant Board of Investment and (PBIT) introducing well-prepared and tangible projects to attract investors.

PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf stated this in a meeting with business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Saturday. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee Members Shouban Akhter. Ahad Amin Malik, Irfan Ahmad Oureshi and former Vice President Mian Zahid

Javed were also present. PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf stressed that instead of mere documentation, the board is committed to develop solid, investment-ready projects to facilitate potential investors.

He mentioned that PBIT has identified 10 sectors with high investment potential, particularly shrimp farming, which offers

prospects. He said that a new data repository is being developed to provide crucial information and streamline the investment process, asserting that Business Facilitation Center is providing the services of 35 federal and provincial departments to support businesses more effectively.

The Chairman said that the board is actively pursuing the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan and plans to collaborate with LCCI in this regard. LCCI President Mian

Abuzar Shad highlighted PBIT's critical role in Punjab's economic development. He said that Punjab accounts for 55 percent of Pakistan's GDP and provides employment to 38 million people. However, he expressed concern over the country's low foreign direct investment (FDI), which is currently at USD 2.3 billion. He called for efforts to unlock potential in sectors like engineering, pharmaceuticals agriculture.



LARKANA: People purchasing used coats from roadside vendor.

Researches must visit fields to increase per acre production: UAF VC

FAISALABAD (APP): added. Researches must visit fields develop to agriculture on scientific bases for increasing per acre production, said Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Vice Chancellor, tractors, laser land levelers University of Agriculture and other incentives. Faisalabad.He addressing a farmers' day function at Chak No.125 Jaranwala on concluding day of a 15-day wheat campaign. He said

that researches should not be piled up in the libraries but researchers should reach fields to address the problems of the farming community, industry and others. He said that the wheat campaign is a landmark step towards spreading information, agricultural techniques and practices. He said that in the campaign, senior students of BS 7th semester and MS were sent to the field. Usage of certified seeds, balanced fertilizers, water saving techniques and implementation on experts' recommendation at field wheat productivity, he sugarcane that are resistant.

He said that the government had launched projects worth billions of rupees for agricultural uplift in which the farmers were being provided green

He also said that farmers could get agricultural inputs on interest-free loans through Kisan cards, getting out of them from the clutches of middlemen. He also said that tangible measures should be taken to buy the farmers' produce at proper prices. He said that timely sowing increases production and make crops healthy. "We have to promote drill sowing on zero tillage that will help increase productivity and save water," he added.

He said that the

irrigation with sewage water was causing health hazards and measures must be taken to maintain the MRLs level in the fruits and vegetables. He said that the university had developed genetically level will boost up the modified varieties of

Vantage, Classic Car show attracts people in droves PESHAWAR (APP): The fans and enthusiasts of

spectacular 15th Vintage and Classic Car Show attracted a large number of visitors and enthusiasts of old automobiles held at the Peshawar Services Club on Saturday. The event was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) in collaboration with Classic Land Rover. The event saw the

Abdullah Mall.

participation of vintage car enthusiasts from Karachi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Peshawar and other cities who brought their prized vehicles to showcase at the exhibition.

The exhibition was attended by KPCTA Director General Tashfeen Haider as the Chief Guest while Asim Durrani from Classic Land Rover, KPCTA Events Manager Haseena Shaukat and other prominent personalities were present.

vintage and classic cars turned up to the venue to enjoy the show, traditional Khattak dance and the rubab music. The car show featured a wide variety of classic and vintage cars, including Mercedes, Jaguar, Ford, Chevrolet, Mini, VW, Land Rover, Mustang, Porsche, vintage Vespa motorcycles, and other iconic vehicles from 1935 to 1980.

HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah

addressing during Sindh property home decor & building materiel expo at

The participants and visitors praised the organizers for arranging the thrilling event in Peshawar. The female participants also enjoyed the traditional rubab music and Khatak dance performances.

After the exhibition, the participants would leave for Swabi where they would join the 12th Indus River Cross Jeep Race at the historic Hund point in Swabi at the Indus River and afterwards these A large number of vintage vehicles would visitors including families, travel from Swabi.

LESCO resolves 1,121 complaints

movements.

LAHORE (APP): Customer hearings are being conducted in LESCO region daily, while during the last day, a total of 1,121 complaints of various types were received and all the complaints were redressed on the spot.

The series of public/

customers hearings (open katchehry) continued in all the eight circles of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to address customers' complaints regarding overbilling and other issues.

LESCO Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider told media here Saturday that the company is continuing with this practice following the special instructions of the Ministry of Power Division, with the aim of solving the problems faced by the LESCO consumers.

HCSTSI, NIC for strengthening startup ecosystem, fostering collaborative initiatives HYDERABAD (APP): the regional startup Sehgal, emphasized the On the directives of the ecosystem and fostering significance collaboration with the

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Shergarh's handmade winter arrives, people worldwide are looking for shawls a reputation for excellence, both locally and warm and soft Shergarh internationally, said an owner of a factory. handmade shawls and skilled artisans in "I recently purchased Pakistan's Shergarh region are meeting this demand with their beautiful, handwoven creations.

arranged by Tourism Department at Peshawar club.

Shergarh's handmade

shawls attracting people's

attention this winter

A report aired by a private news channel said that to meet the overwhelming orders, workers are toiling tirelessly day and night, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage and exceptional craftsmanship.

'The intricate designs and patterns on our shawls require immense skill and patience," explains Rahimullah, a skilled artisan.

"We use only the finest materials and traditional techniques passed down through generations to create truly unique and authentic symbol of our national pieces." said another pride and identity" adde said another

worker. The attention to detail and commitment to quality have earned

PESHAWAR: Visitors takes interest in 15TH Vintage Classic Car Show

a handmade shawl from Shergarh and I must say, it is absolutely stunning, says Amna Khan, a local resident. "The intricate patterns and designs are so beautifully crafted, it is clear that the artisans have put their heart and soul into every stitch," said another citizen. "The handmade

shawls from Sherghah are not just beautiful, but they also carry a piece of our cultural heritage," says Maria Saeed, a student.

"I feel proud to wear a shawl that has been made with such love and care by skilled artisans from our own country," she added. handmade 'The shawls from Shergarh are a Rashid Khan, a historian. "They represent the best of our cultural traditions

President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, Senior Vice President Ahmed Idrees Chohan and Vice President Shan Sehgal participated in the Advisory Board meeting of

the National Incubation

Center (NIC) Hyderabad.

The meeting brought together members from Hyderabad's industry, software sector and academia to discuss strategies for strengthening

collaborative initiatives. During the meeting,

Senior Vice President Ahmed Idrees Chohan, lauded the exceptional performance of NIC Hyderabad, HCSTSI has always supported initiatives that contribute to the growth of local industries and businesses. NIC's role in fostering the startup prominent ecosystem

advancing this mission.

idea during his address. He remarked that at present banks hold stating,

significant financial resources allocated for SMEs. NIC can collaborate with these banks to secure loans for its startups based on well-developed business This collaboration

banking sector and proposed an innovative

commendable, and we are will not only provide committed to extending our startups with essential full cooperation in financial resources but also ensure the successful Vice President Shan execution of their projects.

the meeting regarding direct foreign investment in Punjab.

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain presides over

Saudi Arabia abandons pursuit of US defence treaty over Israel stalemate

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has abandoned its pursuit of an ambitious defence treaty

with Washington in return for normalising relations with Israel and is now pushing for a more modest military cooperation agreement. two Saudi and four Western officials told Reuters.

In a drive to get a wideranging mutual security treaty over the line earlier this year, Riyadh softened its position on Palestinian statehood, telling Washington that a public commitment from Israel to a twostate solution could be enough for the Gulf kingdom to normalise relations. But with public anger

in Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East at fever pitch over Israel's military actions in Gaza. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has again made recognition of Israel conditional on it taking concrete steps to create a Palestinian state, two Saudi and

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still secure normalisation with the Saudi powerhouse as a historic milestone and a sign of broader acceptance in the Arab world, Western dip-

lomats said. However, he faces overwhelming opposition at home to any concessions to the Palestinians following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks and knows any gesture in the direction of statehood would fracture his ruling coalition, they said.

With both leaders shackled for now by their domestic powerbases, Riyadh and Washington hope a more modest defence pact could be sealed before US President Joe Biden leaves the White House in January, the sources said.

A full-blown US-Saudi treaty would need to pass the US Senate with a two-thirds majority — and this would be a non-starter and sales of US weapons, unless Riyadh recognises Israel, the six sources said.

Campaigners against the assisted suicide bill react after the bill to legalise

he said an estimated 70,000

people remain following

"repeated impediments or

rejections of humanitarian

convoys by the Israeli au-

camps for people recently

northern Gaza. They were

tions with severe food

shortages and poor sanita-

massive humanitarian aid

needs to come in - and it is

not. It is so important the

Israeli authorities make this

happen," he said. He did not

specify the last time UN

agencies had sent aid to

northern Gaza. US Secretary

of State Antony Blinken and

Defense Secretary Lloyd

Austin set out steps last

month for Israel to carry out

in 30 days to address the

Australia, Canada and some

US states in launching what

would be one of its biggest

social reforms in a genera-

tion. However, the bill

could still be altered or even

voted down as it makes its

way through both the

House of Commons and the

unelected upper chamber

of parliament, the House of

Lords. "It will be a very

thorough process," Kim

Leadbeater, the Labour

situation in Gaza.

British lawmakers

give initial support to

assisted dying bill

"It is so obvious that

tion, he said.

euthanasia in the UK is passed, outside The Palace of Westminster.

Women and children

scavenge for food in

Gaza, UN official says

the Gaza Strip, a UN offi-thorities". Sunghay visited

ing a visit to the Palestinian displaced from parts of

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: Large groups of

women and children are

scavenging for food among

mounds of trash in parts of

cial said on Friday follow-

the UN Human Rights of-

fice for the Occupied Pales-

tinian Territories, expressed

concern about the levels of

hunger, even in areas of cen-

tral Gaza where aid agencies

have teams on the ground.

"I was particularly alarmed

by the prevalence of hun-

ger," Sunghay told a Geneva

press briefing via video link

from Jordan. "Acquiring

basic necessities has become

a daily, dreadful struggle for

had been unable to take any

aid to northern Gaza, where

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Britain's parlia-

ment backed a new bill to

allow assisted dying while

kicking off months of wran-

gling over a possible legal

change that has sparked a

national conversation about

dignity in death and end-of-

of the bill, 330 lawmakers

voted in favour with 275

against the "Terminally Ill

Adults (End of Life)" bill,

which would provide for

mentally competent, termi-

nally ill adults in England

and Wales who are assessed

by doctors to have six

months or less left to live

the right to choose to end

their lives with medical

wards a change in the law

It is a historic step to-

In an initial approval

Sunghay said the UN

discussion would involve expanding joint military exercises and drills to address regional threats, mainly from Iran. It would foster partnerships between US and Saudi defence firms, with safeguards to prevent collaboration with China, the sources said. The agreement would

promote Saudi investment in advanced technologies, especially drone defence. The US would increase its presence in Riyadh through training, logistics and cyber security support, and may deploy a Patriot missile battalion to enhance missile defence and integrated deterrence. But it would not be the kind of binding mutual defence treaty that would oblige US forces to protect the world's biggest oil exporter in the event of foreign attack. 'Saudi Arabia will get a security deal which will allow more military cooperation

but not a defence treaty simi-

HAI OR EXPE

Biden administration

working with FBI

on hoax threats to

lawmakers, Trump

cabinet picks

Monitoring Desk

NANTUCKET: U.S. Presi-

dent Joe Biden said on Fri-

day that his administration

was working with the FBI

to address "swatting" and

bomb threats made this

week targeting lawmakers

and several of Presidentelect Donald Trump's cabi-

net picks. Rep. Seth

Magaziner, a House Demo-

crat from Rhode Island.

said on Friday he was tar-

geted by a bomb threat at

home, a day after six Demo-

cratic lawmakers from

Connecticut reported simi-

lar threats to their homes

over the Thanksgiving Day

holiday Law enforcement

in each case found no evi-

dence of explosive devices.

Trump's choice to become

U.S. defense secretary, and

Lee Zeldin, Trump's pick to lead the Environmental

the lawmakers said.

Protection Agency.

Pete

INCONV

lar to that of Japan.



Florida to meet Trump as tariff threats loom

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Canadian

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau travelled to Florida on Friday for a dinner with Donald Trump at the president-elect's Mar-a-Lago estate, as the incoming US leader promised tariffs on Canadian imports.

The unannounced meeting came at the end of a week that has seen Canada as well as Mexico scramble to blunt the impact of Joe Trump's trade threats, tion.

which experts have warned could also hit US consumers hard. A smiling Trudeau

was seen exiting a hotel in West Palm Beach before arriving at Mar-a-Lago, making him the latest highprofile guest of Trump, whose impending second term — which starts in January — is already overshadowing the last few months of President Joe Biden's administra-

Violence in Georgia after govt delays talks on EU membership

Monitoring Desk

TBILISI: Thousands of Georgians rallied for a second day running on Friday after police arrested several in a violent overnight crackdown on protests against the government's decision to delay EU membership talks. The Black Sea nation has been rocked by turmoil since the ruling Georgian Dream party declared victory in October parliamentary elections that the pro-EU opposition decried as

Amid a heavy police esence, several thousand protesters gathered outside the Georgian parliament building on Friday evening, blocking traffic on Tbilisi's main avenue. "Georgian Dream's self-proclaimed government is doing everything it can to destroy Georgia's chances of joining the EU,' said one demonstrator, 39 year-old schoolteacher Laura Kekelidze. "They know their authoritarian rule is incompatible with EU membership,'

"But Georgians belong in Europe, and that's why we are out here in the streets today." On Thursday night and Friday morning, riot police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons to disperse the gathering outside parliament, beating peaceful protesters and journalists, a reporter witnessed.

British MPs support bill on assisted dying Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Britain's parliament voted in favour of a new bill to legalise assisted dying on Friday, opening the way for months of further debate over an issue that has sparked a national conversation over dignity in death and end-of-life care.

In an initial approval of the bill, 330 lawmakers voted in favour and 275 against the "Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life)" bill, which would provide for mentally competent, terminally ill adults in England and Wales who are assessed by doctors.

US approves \$385 mln arms sale to Taiwan **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTOŇ: The US State Department has approved the potential sale of spare parts for F-16 jets and radars to Taiwan for an estimated \$385 million, the Pentagon said on Friday, a day before Taiwan President Lai Ching-te starts a sensitive Pacific trip.

The United States is bound by law to provide Chinese-claimed Taiwan with the means to defend itself despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties between Washington and Taipei, to the constant anger of Beijing.

Democratically governed Taiwan rejects China's claims of sovereignty.



People wade through a flooded street as it rains ahead of a cyclonic storm in

Hezbollah chief pledges to coordinate with army to implement truce

Hegseth

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: The head of Hezbollah, Naim Qassem, pledged on Friday to coordinate closely with the Lebanese army to implement a ceasefire deal with Israel, which he said his group had agreed to "with heads held high"

lawmaker who introduced It was his first adthe bill, told the BBC, adddress since a ceasefire came into effect on Wednesday ing that the process could take another six months. after more than a year of "There's plenty of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel that time to get this right," she said after more than four decimated swathes of Lebanon and killed 4,000 hours of often emotional debate in the chamber. people including hundreds Those in favour of the of women and children bill say it is about shorten-Oassem said Hezbollah ing the death of those who had "approved the deal, which could see Britain fol- are terminally ill and giving with the resistance strong



them more control.

eople gather to protest near the Parliament building in opposition to the government's decision to delay European Union accession negotiations until 2028 in downtown Tbilisi.

Schools in India shut as heavy storm approaches Tamil Nadu coast

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Schools in India's south were shut and hundreds of people moved inland to storm shelters ahead of a powerful cyclone storm set to hit the region on Saturday.

Cyclonic storm Fengal is forecast to make landfall in Tamil Nadu state with sustained winds of 70-80 kilometres per hour in the afternoon, İndia's weather bureau said.

The forecast urged fishing crews to stay off the northern Indian Ocean.

water and predicted surging waves of one metre that posed a flood risk to lowlying coastal areas. Schools and colleges in numerous districts across Tamil Nadu were shut and at least 471 people had been moved to relief camps, the Economic Times newspaper reported. Cyclones — the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the northwestern Pacific — are a regular and deadly menace in the

Massachusetts lawmakers push for an effort to ban all tobacco sales over time

Monitoring Desk BOSTON: A handful of Massachusetts lawmakers are hoping to persuade their colleagues to support a pro-

posal that would make the state the first to adopt a ban meant to eliminate the use of tobacco products over time. Other locations have weighed similar "generational tobacco bans," which

phase out the use of tobacco products based not just on a person's age but on birth year. Under a Massachu-

setts law signed in 2018, the age to buy any tobacco product — including cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes — was raised to 21. Massachusetts also has banned the sale of all fla-

vored tobacco products in an effort to reduce youth interest in nicotine.

The new proposal, which lawmakers plan to file next year, would expand the effort to curb smoking by gradually ending all sales of nicotine and tobacco products. If the bill is approved, young people not old enough to legally purchase nicotine and tobacco would never be lawfully able to purchase them in Massachusetts, thereby

creating no more new users. It would not apply to marijuana, and the cutoff date would be adjusted when passed to ensure everyone age 21 and above at that time would not be af-

Ukraine's Zelenskiy names new land forces chief **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy replaced the commander of the military's land forces on Friday, putting Major General Mykhailo Drapatyi in charge, as Russia notches up gains in the east and Kyiv's troops face manpower shortages

Zelenskiy said "internal changes" were needed as he announced the 42-yearold would replace Lieutenant General Oleksandr Pavliuk, who took the helm of the land forces in a major shake-up in February 2024.

Romania's top court postpones decision on presidential election

Monitoring Desk BUCHAREST: Romania's top court on Friday postponed a decision on whether to annul the result of the first round of a presidential election until Dec. 2, after a shock result that caused suspicions of inter-

ference in the campaign. The court will now issue its ruling the day after Sunday's parliamentary election. Independent far-right candidate Calin Georgescu, 62, finished first in last Sunday's vote and secured a place in a run-off scheduled for Dec. 8. Victory in the second round would upend Romania's politics.

Iran, Europeans test diplomacy with Trump's return in mind

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: European and Iranian officials made little progress in meetings on Friday on whether they could engage in serious talks, including over Iran's nuclear programme, before Donald Trump returns to the White House in January, diplomats said.

The meetings in Geneva, the first since this month's US election, come after Tehran was angered by a European-backed resolution last week that criticised Iran for poor cooperation with the ÛN nuclear watch-

"Another round of candid discussions with political directors of

former ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, said on X. "It was agreed to continue diplomatic dialogue in near future."

A European official said there had been nothing of note in the meeting, but that Tehran had shown an eagerness to explore how diplomacy could work in next few weeks.

Trump, who after pulling the United States out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers pursued a "maximum pressure" policy that sought to wreck Iran's economy, is staffing his new France, Germany and administration with noted United Kingdom," Iran's hawks on Iran.

North Korea's Kim vows steadfast support for Russia's war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed his country will "invariably support" Russia's war in Ukraine as he met Russia's defense chief, the North's state media reported Satur-

A Russia military delegation led by Defense Minister Andrei Belousov arrived in North Korea on Friday, amid growing international concern about the two countries' expanding cooperation after North Korea sent thousands of troops to Russia last

The official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim and Belousov reached "a satisfactory consensus" on boosting strategic partnership and defending each country's sovereignty, security interests missiles as a direct interven-

the face of the rapidlychanging international security environments in a Friday meeting.

Kim said that North Korea "will invariably support the policy of the Russian Federation to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity from the imperialists' moves for hegemony," KCNA said.

North Korea has supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling it a defensive response to what both Moscow and Pyongyang call NATO's "reckless" eastward advance and U.S.led moves to stamp out Russia's position as a powerful state.

Kim slammed a U.S. decision earlier in November to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with Ŭ.S.-supplied longer-range and international justice in tion in the conflict.

Israel PM again warns Iran after top diplomat talks of revising nuclear doctrine

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Prime Minweapon after Iran's top diplomat warned it could end its ban on developing one if Western sanctions are

reimposed. The renewed war of words between the Middle East foes came as Iran prepares to hold key nuclear talks with European governments on Friday which have been overshadowed by their joining with Washington to have Tehran censured by the United Nations atomic watchdog.

"I will do everything to prevent it from becoming a nuclear (power), I will use all the resources that can be used," Netanyahu told Israeli broadcaster Channel 14 in an interview. Israel is the region's

sole, if undeclared, nucleararmed state. It has long made preventing any rival from matching it its top defence priority.

Tuesday that the ceasefire nium to 60 per cent.

that went into effect in Lebanon the following day ister Benjamin Netanyahu would allow Israel to focus said that Israel would do on Iran. He did not elabo-"everything" to stop Iran rate on what action he en-

Iran launched two missile barrages at Israel over the past year in retaliation for the killing of leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah. as well as an Iranian general. Israel responded both times with limited attacks on Iran, most recently bombing several military

sites on Oct 26. Last week's chiding at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) prompted a defiant response from Tehran, but its officials have since signalled willingness to engage with others ahead of the return of United States President-elect Donald Trump, whose last administration pursued a policy of "maximum pressure against Iran. Iran insists on its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but according to the IAEA, it is the only non-nuclear-Netanyahu said on weapon state enriching ura-

Anti-Damascus fighters enter Aleppo after lightning assault

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Fighters battling the Syrian army and their Ankara-backed reached the country's second city of Aleppo on Friday, as they pressed a lightning offensive against forces of the Iran- and Russiabacked government.

with 255 people killed in three days. Most of the dead have

the deadliest in five years,

The fighting is one of

been combatants, but the toll includes 24 civilians, most killed in Russian air strikes. The offensive began

on Wednesday, the same day that a fragile ceasefire took effect in neighbouring Lebanon. By Friday, the anti-

Syrian forces and their allies had wrested control of more than 50 towns and villages in the north, in the Basharul government's biggest loss

of territory in years. They then entered western districts of Aleppo, a city of some two million people that was Syria's

pre-war manufacturing hub. "Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HŤS) and allied factions... were able to enter around the clock."

the outskirts of the Al-Hamdaniya and New Aleppo neighbourhoods... after carrying out twin suicide attacks with two booby-trapped cars," according to a television chan-The HTS, an alliance

led by Al Qaeda's former Syria branch, shelled a student residence in the city. killing four civilians, state media reported. Syrian and Russian

warplanes launched intense air strikes on the enclave around Idlib, where the anti-Syrian fighters are based, carrying out 23 raids. Army reinforcements

have arrived in Aleppo, a Syrian security official said

An army statement said troops had repelled the assault on the city and retaken some positions.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said "more than 14,000 people — nearly half of them children have been displaced" by the violence.

Aleppo resident Sarmad, 51, said he could resident hear "the sounds of missiles and artillery shelling

jirga of the National Unity

Council Kohat Division

was held under the chair-

Peshawar High Court (Re-

tired) Syed Ibne Ali which

was attended by all the

Grand jirga stresses joint

efforts to ensure lasting

peace in Kohat Division

200,000 youths to be equipped with IT skills annually: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Information Technology is bringing revolutionary changes in almost every sector of life.

He said this while addressing foundation stone laying ceremony of a multipurpose building at Information Technology University (ITU) on Saturday. "ITU is among best IT universities of the country and credit goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had laid the foundation of the university knowing the importance of IT, being the then Punjab Chief Minister. Progress of every sector that is linked with the economy is connected with

IT," he added. Ahsan Iqbal said that new technologies and emerging applications were replacing all traditional production models. He said that one 'Uber' application completely reorganized the public transport system and similarly online e-commerce actually shut down big retailer stores in America. "Extraordinary IT skills are vital for a strong future of any nation

with hard work and inno- come vation. Nokia and Blackberry became history because they did not move preferences," he added.

research, innovation and enmade keeping in view the combination. "Unfortunately in 2018 a change was brought about as a result of a conspiracy. Change does not mean disrupting the country's development process. The change in 2018 sabotaged the China Pakistan Economic Corridor," he claimed.

false allegations related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor resulted in lost investment opportunities worth 30 to 40 billion dollars. He said that if that investment had come to the country then the economy could have become export-oriented. "The PML-N believes in empowthey can play a positive role ment and prosperity. Global competitiveness is a must to excel and it is es- celebrated in a befitting and now success is linked sential for Pakistan to be- manner

economy. It is the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to equip youngsters with market innovation with latest IT skills," he maintained. He said that a The minister said that programme had been initiated to impart IT skills trepreneurship were impor- among 200,000 youngsters tant to be followed, adding annually with the support that the vision 2025 was of China and Huawei company. He said that efforts were being made to take IT departments of the country's universities to the next level. programme worth Rs 6 bil-

lion has been approved under which five UETs would be provided world class laboratories. The things are improving and the stock Ahsan Iqbal said that market has crossed 100,000 points and investors are coming to Pakistan." He said that when the PTI march had reached Islamabad it resulted in dropping the stock market by 4,000 points and the day when they left the federal capital the stock market witnessed a surge of 4,500 points. "Political stability and continuity of poliering youngsters so that cies are highly important for ensuring smooth progress in in the country's develop- the country. We have 23 years to give our best so that Pakistan's 100 years can be



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is addressing the Foundation laying ceremony of Information Technology University's (ITU) new Block at Barki Road.

CM Bugti urges media to highlight development projects in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has called upon electronic and print media to provide greater coverage of the province's ongoing development projects. He stressed that increased media attention would help showcase the government's performance and keep the public in-

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Quetta Press Club to mark the 16th anniversary of Dunya TV, CM Bugti emphasized the government's dedication to utilizing all available resources for the eradication of terrorism and ensuring development in the region.

takes up arms will be con-

Chief Minister Ali Amin

Gandapur visited Kohat

and attended the Grand

Jirga on the issue of

casion, directed the law-en-

forcement agencies to treat

ences between the federal

and provincial governments

should be put aside, the fed-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The CM. on this oc-

anyone who disturbs peace area.

The political differ-

platoons for peace in the safely.

sidered a terrorist.

Kurram.

like a terrorist.

The event was attended by notable figures, including Senator Sabir Baloch, provincial minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Quetta Press Club President Abdul Khaliq Baloch, General Secretary Banaras Khan, and other journalists and media professionals.

During the event, CM Bugti cut the anniversary cake and congratulated the Dunya TV team for their contributions to journalism. He expressed hope that the channel would provide extensive coverage of Balochistan's development projects, thereby helping to highlight the region's progress.
"Our media has a criti-

cal role in showcasing the

government will provide all

possible support, the CM

said that at the request of

the provincial government,

the army is deployed in the

area for peace, the army,

police and administration

are making coordinated ef-

forts for lasting peace in the

said that heavy weapons

available in the area should

be collected, while weapons

available in the border area

Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Ms.

Hina Rabbani Khar participated in a panel discussion titled 'War and Order:

Navigating Geopolitical Shifts in a Changing World' at TRTWorld Forum

bly, could lead the country

need for immediate dialogue

to de-escalate the situation,

urging that the political

temperature must be low-

ered to prevent further de-

stabilization. "If the tem-

perature is not brought

down, this political crisis

could turn into a regular fight,"

he cautioned, calling for talks

to resume as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, in a bold response,

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief

Minister Ali Amin Gandapur

lashed out at the federal gov-

ernment, stating that the

province would not be intimi-

Chaudhry stressed the

into a dangerous conflict.

Ali Amin Gandapur

Ali Amin Gandapur

Kurram tragedy:

Whoever takes up arms

will be considered

terrorist, asserts KP CM

KOHAT (INP): Khyber area. He said the Grand Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Jirga should remain in the

Minister Ali Amin area until complete peace is Gandapur said whoever established. The provincial

eration should provide FC should also be collected

Fawad stresses need for

immediate dialogue to

de-escalate current situation

JHELUM (INP): Former

federal minister Fawad

Chaudhry has issued a stern

warning about the escalat-

ing political crisis in Paki-

stan, stating that if the cur-

rent tensions are not de-

fused, the situation could

devolve into widespread

violence. In a public state-

ment, Chaudhry criticized Prime Minister Shahbaz

Sharif's recent speech as

"foolish" and denounced

the Punjab government's

media campaign against

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as

"absurd." He expressed

concern that the provoca-

tive rhetoric from both

done across Balochistan," said Bugti. "This will not only inform the public but also inspire confidence in the government's initia-

The CM reaffirmed his administration's commitment to transparency and progress, adding that efforts are being made to ensure the successful completion of various development schemes across the province.

He concluded by congratulating Dunya TV and its team for their contributions to the field of journalism and urged them to maintain their focus on Balochistan's positive developments.

13 more killed in Parachinar clashes

PARACHINAR (INP) Sectarian feuding in Parachinar has killed 13 more people, a local government official said Saturday, bringing the total death toll in a recent spasm of violence to 124.

It reports in media that, fresh fighting broke out last Thursday when two separate convoys travelling under police es cort were ambushed, killing more than 40 and sparking 10 days of battling with light and heavy weapons in Parachinar, the main town in Kurram Dis-

A Kurram local government official put the death toll at 124 on Saturday after 13 more people were killed in the past two days. Two were Sunni and 11 Shiite, he said. War and Order: Navigating Geopolitical Shifts in a Changing World

members of the National Unity Council Kohat. On this occasion, Malik Zaheer Hussain, Malik Irfanullah, Syed Jalil Syed, Malik Sajid Ali from Hangu, and Malik Syed Badshah Mian, Malik Noor Jaff, Malik Syed Jamal, Malik Ali Dad Khan from

Orakzai district, Allama Syedeen from Kohat, Malik Qaiser Ali, Malik Manzar Hussain, Chairman Shahid Ali, Chairman Tajammul Hussain, Chairman Muhammad Alam, and Malik Ishtiaq Ali, besides other regional leaders, were also present.

emony, former chief justice of Peshawar High Court, Syed Ibne Ali said the pubpropaganda and baseless

KOHAT (APP): A grand rumours. "The Hangu-Kohat road is open to all types of traffic, and we welcome the people of manship of Chief Justice Hangu from the bottom of our hearts as they are our brothers", he added.

"All we are on the same page for ensuring lasting peace in the area" he said adding that "now the elders and people of Kohat and Hangu must play their role for the establishment of peace and order in ram", he maintained.

"The former CJ PHC said this is our joint responsibility and we have to cooperate each other beyond all differences. The people of Kurram, he said, should put aside their differences and establish unity among themselves so that lasting peace can be established' he continued.

The members of the Addressing the cer- jirga pledged to fully cooperate with the provincial government, divisional and district administralic should avoid negative tions for the restoration of



QUETTA: Provincial Coordinator Aids Control Program Dr Zulifqar Baloch addressing a press

Qureshi warns against crushing PTI, imposing governor rule

LAHORE (INP): Amid rising speculations about governor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and a ban on the former ruling party, incarcerated ex-foreign minis-Shah Mahmood Oureshi on Saturday warned against "crushing" the Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

During an informal interaction with journalists at an anti-terrorism court in Lahore, Qureshi said: "Crushing the PTI is not appropriate for the party's protest in the fed-

The PTI senior leader who is currently incarcerated in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore, said that imposition of governor rule in KP would be tantamount to spreading hatred in the province. His statement came

after speculation started circulating on social and local media that the federal cabinet, according to PM's aide Rana Sanaullah, discussed the option of imposing governor rule in KP in the aftermath of the

country's politics." eral capital. Governor Kundi seeks support of JUIF in APĈ, Kurram clashes

Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited Mufti Mahmood Markaz here on Saturday to extend invitation to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) for All Parties Conference scheduled for December 5, at the Governor House regarding law and order situation and rights of the province with federal gov-

During the visit, he met with JUIF's Provincial General Secretary Maulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwish, Provincial Spokesman Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan, and other

party officials. The discussions focused on the ongoing issues

situation in Kurram. They also addressed

concerns over the misuse of funds provided by the federal government to the provincial authorities, which has exacerbated the province's difficulties.

Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of political unity in the province, saying that cooperation among political parties is crucial for securing the province's rights and ad-

essing its challenges. The Jirga will be in Kohat on December 1, and the All-Party Conference on December 5 are expected to bring together political leaders to discuss and deby Khyber vise strategies for resolving

Policeman injured in remote-controlled blast in Killa Abdullah

ABDULLAH hospital for medical treat-(ANN): A policeman was injured in a remote-controlled bomb explosion near a police check post in the Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan on Thursday.

According to police sources, unidentified assailants planted the explosive device near the Killa Abdullah grid station. The bomb was detonated remotely, causing a massive explosion that destroyed the police check post. The injured policeman was immediately rushed to a nearby safety of masses.

ment. Security forces and police reached the site of the explosion and cordoned off the area to initiate an investigation. No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. This incident highlights the ongoing security challenges in Balochistan, where law enforcement officials often face threats from militant activities. Authorities are working to identify the culprits behind the attack and ensure the



NASEERABAD: Secretary Irrigation Hafiz Abdul Majid being briefed by SE

ing 57th Founding Day of Pakistan Peoples Party. Israeli attacks kill nearly 100 Palestinians as hunger crisis deepens in Gaza

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti address-

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Israeli air strikes on Gaza have killed nearly 100 Palestinians during the past 24 hours, with 75 of those deaths occurring in air raids on two homes in Beit Lahiya, in northern

the humanitarian crisis in who was killed by an Iscording to the Gaza Gov-

ernment Media Office. The death toll from Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza since October 7, 2023, has risen to at least 44,363 Palestinians, with over

105,000 others wounded.

many were raised at Press

Club Chowk (Fountain

Chowk) in celebration of

Germany's Unity Day on

the instructions of Gover-

nor Sindh Kamran Khan

works display was also held

Kamran Khan Tessori said

that the bilateral relations

between Pakistan and Ger-

many have strengthened,

with German investments

on this occasion.

A spectacular fire-

The Governor Sindh

Tessori.

Pakistan, German relations

have strengthened: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): The flags of Pakistan and Gerregion, a communique said

on Saturday.

nations

Gaza remains severely hampered by Israeli blockades, shortages of medical supplies, and the displacement of thousands.

Among the dead was Ahmed al-Kahlout, head of the ICU at Kamal Adwan founder These attacks come as Hospital in Beit Lahiya, due to ongoing violence and

limited resources. Despite these dire conditions, Gaza's suffer-

ing is compounded by issues in securing aid.
Many Muslim-led 000 others wounded.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian relief to Pales-

He further remarked

that by celebrating Ger-

many Unity Day in a dig-

nified manner, Pakistan is

paying tribute to the grow-

ing ties between the two

many Unity Day event held

at the German Consulate

General, on behalf of Gov-

ernor Sindh Kamran Khan

Tessori, a bouquet was pre-

sented to the German Con-

sul General and extended

Later, on the Ger-

manitarian response in tinians have faced significant obstacles, including the closure of bank accounts and suspension of services by financial platforms, due to increased scrutiny over

their work. Amany Killawi, coof crowdfunding platform LaunchGood, noted that the region deepens, with raeli drone strike. Medical such challenges are often a hunger levels reaching cata- facilities in northern Gaza result of media pressure strophic proportions, ac- are struggling to function linked to the Israel-Palestine conflict, rather than any legal violations.

Meanwhile Hezbollah's leader, Naim Qassem, declared a "divine victory" for the group in its ongoing war with Israel, calling the recent truce a

major achievement Mashal removed as KPK special

assistant PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has sacked Mashal Yousafzai as provincial special assistant said a notification issued here by the CM's Secre-

Later Yousafzai also confirmed her sacking, saying she was de-notified from the position on the basis of her statements in an interview given to a private TV chan-



meeting with Chairman Public Accounts Committee and MPA Asghar Ali Tareen.

University of Turbat conducts entry test for spring 2025 Admissions

Independent Report TURBAT: Approximately

1,200 candidates from various areas of Balochistan participated in the entry test organized by the University of Turbat for admission into its undergraduate BS programs for the Spring 2025 session. The test was con-

ducted on November 30, 2024, for admission to various undergraduate academic programs, and attracted applicants, with 40% of them being female students.

Upon the special instructions of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Gul Hasan, the University arranged transport facilities for candidates traveling from Turbat City,

Hoshab, Nasirabad, and other surrounding areas to the main campus of the uni-

The University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Gul Hasan, expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the admission committee, and other faculty members and administrative staff who played active roles in ensuring the smooth and transparent conduct of the entry test and upholding high standards throughout the admission process.

The Vice-Chancellor remarked that the spirit of teamwork within the university has been exemplary throughout the entire ad-

CTD arrested 34 terrorists across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested 34 terrorists during 242 intelligence-based operations conducted across various cities of Punjab this

According to the CTD spokesperson, these operations took place in Lahore, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi. Sargodha, Narowal, Chakwal, Jhelum, Attock, Gujrat, Bhakkar, and Rahim Yar Khan.

The spokesperson revealed that 11 highly dangerous terrorists from organisations including Fitna-al-Khawarij were arrested in Lahore along with explosive materials and blueprints of important

Pak Army helps save lives in N Waziristan road accident

PESHAWAR (APP): The dispatched its rescue Jawans of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan provided much needed and swift assistance to the victims of a road mishap near Saidgai and besides providing intime medical cover to the injured, shifted them to

According to the local administration on Saturday, a passenger coach skidded off the road near the Saidgai area and plunged into a deep ditch, claiming a life and leaving 10 others in-

ing news of the accident and

support the local Rescue 1122 in relief and rescue

ther treatment.

tion by the Pakistan Army saved precious lives of the

Sindh opposes Cholistan canals project from **Indus River**

KARACHI (INP): Chief Minister of Sindh has opposed construction of Cholistan canals from Indus River in a letter written to Deputy Prime Min-ister Ishaq Dar.
"The CDWP illegally

approved Cholistan canals project on October 11. Sindh's chief minister said in the letter expressing reservations over the canals project. The federal canal being built from Sulemanki Headworks, which will get 4122 cusecs of water for four canals named as New Fatah Canal System, New Murad Canal System, New Hakra Canal System and New Haroon Čanal System. This water will be used to irrigate 6,10,000 acres of land in Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar districts.

got a letter of water availability from the Indus River System Authority (IRSA).

sides, including speeches in the Pakhtunkhwa Assem-Governor's rule. The Govt of Punjab

> The Army led a successful operation at the scene of the mishap and retrieved the injured passengers from the ditch. The army paramedical staff provided urgent medical aid to the injured on the spot to stabilize them before transferring them to DHQ Hospital in Bannu for fur-

The timely interven-The Pakistan Army acted quickly after receiv-

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