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

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

Information Minister says there is a concerted effort to create a false narrative around the protests; Dares PTI to show video evidence of straight firing by LEAs on protestors; Govt followed IHC order to ensure law and order during PTI protest: Secretary Interior

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday dared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to share the video evidence with the public which could prove that the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had opened straight firing on its protestors who descended on Islamabad a couple of days ago.

"I have shared the video evidence that show how a person from the protest told the protestors to open indiscriminate firing on the police. Now, I challenge the PTI to share one video of straight firing or live ammunition by the LEAs against the protestors," said the minister while addressing a news conference.

The minister was flanked by Federal Secretary for

Interior Khurram Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Ali Randhawa. Different videos were played during the press conference that shown how the PTI protestors used guns, shells and marbles against the LEAs.

Tarar categorically rejected the propaganda being peddled by the PTI on the social media regarding the direct firing on protestors, saying it was the PTI which brought professional criminals and Afghan Nationals to the protest to ensure that there would be a bloodshed in the whole city.

He said Murad Saeed, who was hiding in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister House, was also present in

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Info Minister slams PTI for spreading false propaganda

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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed eight Khwarij terrorists and others 9 injured while a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from November 29 to December 1.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Baka Khel, Bannu District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly killed five khwarij, while nine khwarij

got injured," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

However, during the operation, Sepoy Ifthikhar Hussain (Age: 29 years, resident of: District Jhang), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

"In another operation conducted in general area Shagai, Khyber District, three Khwarij were sent to hell, while two were apprehended by the security forces," it further said.

During an intense fire exchange, Captain Muhammad Zohaib Ud Din (Age: 25 years, resident of: District Lahore),

who was leading his troops from the front, fought bravely, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat.

These khwarij were involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians.

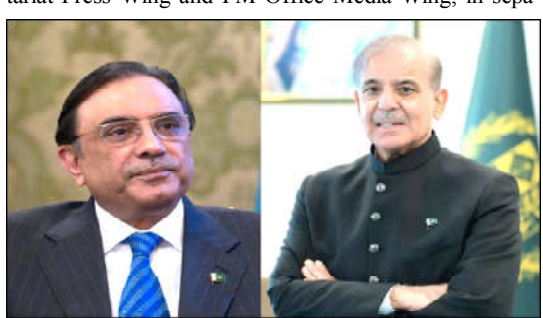
"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other kharij found in the area as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the news release said.

President, PM reaffirm resolve to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday praised the security forces for their successful operations in Bannu and Khyber districts.

They commended their bravery for eliminating eight Khwarij terrorists and arresting eleven others injured in two separate operations.

The president and prime minister paid tributes to Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin and soldier Ifthikhar Hussain, who were martyred during the operations, and acknowledged their sacrifices, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in separate press releases said.



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

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

PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. Zohaib-ud-Din

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

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

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

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

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

Ex-MNA Ali Hassan Gilani dies in road accident

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

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

OPC Punjab official meets PM in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Vice Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab and Chief Coordinator of International Affairs, Barrister Amjad Malik, held a special meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore.

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

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



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

Commissioner says Major crackdown conducted against narcotics in Chaman, K. Abdullah and Pishin

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

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

The Secretary Excise and Taxation, Government of Balochistan, Syed Zafar Bokhari, Regional Director of Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan, Brigadier Adnan Danish, religious personalities, representatives of the civil society were present on the occasion. The Commissioner Quetta also informed that some 60 factories manufacturing narcotics were also sealed and several persons were arrested during different anti-drug operation in various areas.

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

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

Ministry of Interior shares details of protest fiasco orchestrated by PTI

PTI violent protests caused Rs192b daily losses to economy; Army neither came in direct clash with PTI miscreants nor they were employed for riot control, says statement; KP gov't's resources used without restraint in PTI's violent protests in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on November 21 directed the federal government to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order in the federal capital, says the handout issued by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, sharing all the details of the protest

fiasco orchestrated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The High Court directed the Interior Minister to engage with the PTI leadership in this regard, says the handout adding that given the sensitivity of the Belarussian President and Chinese high-level del-

egation visit, PTI was initially asked to postpone the protest but on their persistence to continue with the protest, PTI was subsequently offered Sngihani area as a designated location. In this regard, out of the ordinary and at odd timings, meetings were also held.

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

Dr. Malik says NP continues its struggle for social change rather than mere political gains

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

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

Dr. Baloch expressed gratitude to Hazara community elders and other diverse groups for their sup-

port, stating that the National Party continues its struggle for social change rather than mere political gains. Highlighting the injustices faced by marginalized groups, including the Hazara and other ethnic communities, he revealed that election manipulation had deprived these communities of their rightful representation.

He further criticized the current state of the country, saying it is engulfed in despair and exploitation, with national resources being looted and people's rights denied. Dr. Baloch strongly condemned the extremist violence against the Hazara community and lamented the lack of parliamentary supremacy, judicial independence, and genuine democracy in the country.

Dar to represent Pakistan at ECO meeting in Iran

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will leave for Iran tomorrow to attend 28th meeting of Council of Ministers of Economic Cooperation Organization.

In his address at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister will reiterate Pakistan's commitment to ECO charter and highlight potential of greater connectivity in region through development of rail and road networks, liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border procedures.

Four terrorists killed as police thwart attack in Mianwali

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stressed that there is a need to celebrate the important days of all nationalities at national level, in order to promote our peaceful mutual survival so that they could play their role in development and prosperity of the country.

This, the Chief Minister stated in a felicitation message issued here on Sindhi Culture Day observed on Sunday.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti congratulated the Sindhi sisters and brothers on the Sindhi

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

The Chief Minister also said Sindhi Culture is the culture of peace, love, traditions and solidarity, which is included in the ancient cultures of the world.

He said that it is our priority to keep all cultures of Pakistan alive and motivate our young generation towards the knowledge and consciousness.

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The faculty members and students of University of Balochistan (UoB) visited the Frontier Corps (FC) Headquarters Balochistan (North) here.

During the visit, the faculty members and students of UoB visited monument of the martyrs and presented salute to them.

They also paid tributes to sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for establishing peace. Meanwhile, they also met the IG FC.

Later, the members of delegation were briefed about the border management, security as well as the anti-smuggling and narcotics initiatives of FC besides

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

Speaking to them, IGFC called them the guarantor of peace and development of Pakistan and Balochistan.

The faculty members and students on the occasion termed their visit to FC Headquarters as very useful. They said that they got very useful information during the visit. They said that Army and FC is taking certain measures for security of the province. They said that a lot of wrong information was being spread on the social media, but they got right picture through visit.



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

Pakistan's youth to get global recognition through PM's youth skill program: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Sunday reiterated the government's resolve to empower Pakistan's youth, emphasizing the importance of skill-based education in enabling young girls and boys to gain global recognition.

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, the Chairman said Pakistan's youth are poised to gain global recognition through the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program (PMYSDP).

This initiative aims to equip young people with market-driven conventional and high-tech skills required for career progression, ultimately bringing their capacity at par with international standards, he added.

This initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's vision to equip the youth

with market-driven skills, thereby enhancing their employability and contributing to the country's economic growth, Rana Mashhood Ahmad said.

The PM skill program promotes inclusivity, striving for gender equality, inclusiveness of differently abled young individuals, marginalized youth and empowering youth workers engaged in the informal sector. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme is taking a significant step forward by introducing international certifications for various skill programs, he said, adding that these programs include artificial intelligence, digitalization e-gaming or e-sports, electrician, plumbing, solar system, UPS installation, mechanics, marketing, repairing, beautician courses and digital marketing all designed to boost global recognition and consumption of Pakistani youth.

This initiative aims to empower young Pakistani girls and boys with market-driven conventional and high-tech skills, bringing their capacity at par with international standards, he added.

This move is expected to increase the employability of Pakistani youth, both locally and internationally, he mentioned.

Responding to a query, Rana Mashhood highlighted that Pakistan is becoming a hub for skill-based education, attracting students from over 20 countries. These international students are visiting Pakistan to acquire high-end skills in various fields, including technology, vocational training and entrepreneurship, he added.

This influx of international students is a testament to the quality of education and training being offered in Pakistan, he mentioned.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presides over important meeting at CPO, regarding maintaining peace and tranquility, improving the investigation system.

IGP Islamabad orders swift arrest of fugitives, enhances security measures

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over an important meeting on Sunday at Central Police Officer, Islamabad regarding maintaining peace and tranquility, improving the investigation system, and ensuring the arrest of wanted suspects in ongoing cases.

A public relation officer told APP that the meeting was attended by DIG Headquarters and Security Jawad Tariq, AIG Establishment Abdul Haq Umran, and AIG Investigation and Complaints Syed Inayat Ali Shah.

During the meeting, IGP Islamabad reviewed the investigation system and examined pending cases. He directed officers to make investigations more effective and ensure the arrest of fugitives in ongoing cases.

IG Rizvi said that, in line with modern demands, the investigation process is being equipped with advanced techniques. All officers are directed to resolve

ongoing cases based on merit.

The purpose of renewing the investigation writ is to ensure timely and merit-based completion of investigations, improve the handling of criminal cases, and tighten the noose around criminals, aiming to eliminate crime from society, he added.

Additionally, during the meeting, the IGP Islamabad emphasized enhancing security measures to maintain peace in Islamabad. He directed that checks at the city's entry and exit points be made more effective.

The security of the city will be further reinforced by ensuring surveillance and monitoring through the high-tech Safe City cameras.

Moreover, officers stationed at security checkpoints were instructed to improve security, maintain a strict watch on suspicious vehicles and individuals, and ensure the use of all safety gadgets, including bulletproof jackets and helmets.



ISLAMABAD: Students pose for group photo during the Alumni Evening of Model College for Girls G10/4.

Women empowerment—An imperative to sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an era of gender diversity where the culture of inclusivity emerges as a trend for sustainable development, women's representation in leadership positions and raising a breed of well-educated and trained women folk has become crucial for nations.

As women participation in policy making and execution, is now a global known fact, creating more and more education and leadership opportunities for female segment in countries like Pakistan where half of population comprises women, is an enormous challenge.

Better gender balance in business leadership is also inextricably linked with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under United Nations (SDG 5); attainment of gender equality, is impossible without women's sizable representation at the top.

By ignoring their vibrant participation, the na-

tions' not only lack revered values of justice, harmony and tolerance but also overall development and a sense of security against intolerant behaviors of male dominant societies.

"Women representation in different walks of life including economy, policymaking and management is important to ensure gender equality," remarked Fouzia Khan Bhattani, an educationist from Quaid-i-Azam University. "Traditionally in societies like ours, policies about women are formulated by men. The question is: how such policies formulated without representation of women, can be fruitful as women know more about their issues."

She said women can bring different perspectives and viewpoints in decision-making ensuring innovative and better solutions for communities. "Their integration in decision making and policies for their welfare and economic independence, can address multiple societal problems."

In this context she quoted the example of domestic violence where the women are subjected to a coercive living only because of their economic dependence on male family members.

"When they are solely dependent on male members and are not financially self-sufficient, they are obviously on a weaker side," Fouzia Khan said. "Having women in leadership positions can provide them opportunity to contribute in nation building and breaking the shackles of stereotype thinking about their position and abilities in families and society as a whole."

She said it is commonly observed that in many cases women executives deliver much better than the male hierarchy. "But, for elevating them to this pinnacle, we need a realistic thinking about women, provide them better education, training and employment facilities."

As women comprise half of our population,



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong giving a donation check to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

Interfaith dialogue to bring scholars from seven religions on one platform

ISLAMABAD (Online): Despite the general perception of religion as a source of division, it holds immense transformative potential to address global challenges and promote unity in a divided world. In this regard, interfaith dialogue and cooperation remain essential for countering polarization. By working toward common goals, religious communities can demonstrate the enduring relevance of faith in tackling issues of inequality and conflict.

Aimed at fostering this understanding, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) is collaborating with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), University of Management & Technology (UMT), Lahore, Gift University, Gujranwala, Islamic Foundation, UK, and The Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK, in holding an international seminar on 'The Role of Religions in Fostering Peace, Harmony, and Justice' on December 4, 2024.

The event will bring together prominent international and local speakers representing seven major faiths, i.e. Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, and Baha'ism, alongside scholars, religious leaders, policymakers, and civil society representatives.

The seminar is timely as the contemporary global landscape, marked by fast-paced changes in lifestyles, thought patterns, and decision-making criteria, is witnessing a growing skepticism toward religiosity. Since the dawn of the industrial age and now entering the Fifth Industrial Revolution, the relevance of religion has been overshadowed by modernism, post-modernism, and the dominance of science and technology. In this environment, religion is often viewed as unnecessary or divisive.

However, while societal advancements promise progress, they have also deepened humanity's struggles with justice, peace, and harmony. Rising conflicts rooted in racial, ethnic, and national divisions, as well as the intensifying fight for resources, threaten the social fabric. These challenges underscore the need to recognize and amplify religion's potential as a unifying force.

The seminar aims to counter prevailing narratives by highlighting shared principles of compassion, justice, unity, and peace inherent in all major religions. It will provide a platform for academics, religious leaders, and policymakers to explore how these values, practiced through mutual understanding and respect, can transcend divisions of race, color, caste, and nationality to build a cohesive global society.

The seminar will feature a diverse lineup of prominent international and local speakers, including academics, researchers, and religious leaders. Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, the event will focus on key topics such as the shared ethical teachings of religions on peace, justice, and harmony, the role of interfaith dialogue in fostering mutual respect and reconciliation, best practices from global examples of religious cooperation contributing to social cohesion, and strategies to address contemporary challenges such as social divisions, extremism, and injustice through interfaith collaboration.

The ground-breaking flight took place from Islamabad to Sukkur, where Mehwish ensured seamless engineering operations during the journey.

"Mehwish Anwar's unwavering dedication, hard work, and consistency have set a remarkable example for others," he said and added that her achievement has been hailed as a beacon of progress for women in the aviation industry.

Civil society activists condemn escalating state terrorism in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Civil society activists have strongly denounced India's use of state terrorism as an official policy in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the Modi-led Indian regime has intensified repression to suppress the Kashmiri struggle for right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, activists argue that IIOJK has been gripped by a new wave of state-sponsored oppression since Narendra Modi

came to power, particularly following the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. They highlight that the killings, arrests, torture, property seizures, and dismissal of employees have become routine in the territory.

Since the revocation of Article 370, more than 940 Kashmiris have been martyred by Indian troops, with over 25,365 individuals arrested and 2,449 tortured. The Modi regime has also targeted public and private properties, using draconian laws to stifle dissent.

"The Hinduva-driven policies of the Indian government aim to erase Kashmir's identity and subdue its people's legitimate demand for the right to self-determination," said the activists. The activists called on the international community to hold India accountable for its crimes against humanity, emphasizing the need for global action to protect the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri people.

A report issued by International Finance Corporation (IFC) also refers to an increased understanding of the importance of gender-diverse leadership for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

"When more women are empowered to lead, everyone benefits. Decades of studies have shown women leaders helping to increase productivity, enhance collaboration, inspire organizational dedication and improve fairness," opined Chairperson Pakistan Academy of Letters Dr Najiba Arif.

"Different experiences provide us with different strengths, skills and perspectives.

HSA completes screening for over 150,000 paramedical candidates in five hospitals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Health Services Academy (HSA) has completed its first large-scale recruitment drive for paramedical staff across Islamabad's five major teaching hospitals, marking a significant milestone in the city's healthcare sector.

Over 150,000 candidates participated in skill and written tests during this historic initiative, setting new benchmarks for transparent and effective recruitment.

The recruitment aimed to fill critical positions at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad, Federal Medical College (FMC), Federal Government Polyclinic, and the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM). The screening process began with skill tests in early November, followed by written tests, completing all stages within three months of meticulous planning and execution, showcasing HSA's dedication to fairness and precision. Approximately 48,000 candidates underwent specialized evaluations for typing and short-

hand skills, while over 100,000 candidates completed written tests, demonstrating the vast scale of the recruitment initiative. This unprecedented achievement underscores HSA's ability to efficiently handle large-scale recruitment while upholding high standards of accuracy and reliability.

Reflecting on this achievement, Chief Examiner and Director of Quality Assurance at HSA, Nadeem Sajjad Kayani lauded the exceptional teamwork across sections, including secrecy, verification, venue management, and security. He expressed gratitude to Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of HSA, Professor Dr. Abdullah Khan and the Ministry of National Health Services for their unwavering support throughout the process.

HSA integrated advanced technologies like Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) systems for efficient and precise results grading while maintaining quota-based categorization. Public sector institutions, including the police, Secretariat Training Institutes,



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian artists performing during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

Afnan Khan slams PTI's chaotic politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan Sunday stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was damaging the country's reputation with false claims and prioritizing their agenda over the country's well-being.

He suggested they should not compromise the country's national interests over their personal gains.

Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, while speaking to a private news channel, accused the PTI of blackmailing the state by politicizing the dead bodies, despite having no video evidence to support their claims.

Afnan Ullah further criticized the PTI leadership for abandoning their supporters during a recent protest in Islamabad, adding that the PTI leadership, including Bushra Bibi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin

Gandapur, were accused of retreating from the scene, leaving their supporters to face the consequences alone. Senator urged the PTI to shun its chaotic approach to politics and refrain from damaging Pakistan's reputation with false narratives and work towards the betterment of the country. Pakistan's economy is on the path to recovery, but the PTI's nefarious agenda may jeopardize this progress, potentially leading to the country's downfall, he added. Senator accused the PTI of promoting a culture of violence and intolerance in the country.

He further added that the PTI's leadership is responsible for inciting violence and hatred among their supporters, which is damaging the country's social fabric and democratic values.

Pakistan's Northern regions transformed into winter wonderland: report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's northern regions have transformed into a breathtaking winter wonderland, mesmerizing tourists and locals alike where Naran and Kaghan, two popular tourist destinations, received heavy snowfall, turning them into a paradise for winter sports enthusiasts and nature lovers.

A report aired by a private news channel said that the snow-clad mountains, trees and roads presented a picturesque view, attracting a large number of tourists from across the country.

The recent snowfall in the northern regions has transformed the area into a winter wonderland, with snow-capped peaks, frozen lakes and picturesque valleys.

Popular destinations like Naran, Kaghan, Hunza and Skardu are now more alluring than ever, offering a range of activities such as skiing, snowboarding, trek-

king and ice skating. The temperatures in the region dropped significantly, with some areas experiencing temperatures as low as -10°C.

"It is a dream come true to see Naran and Kaghan covered in snow," said a tourist.

"The scenery is breathtaking, and we are having an amazing time here," he added.

Another tourist commented, "We have never seen snowfall before, so this is a thrilling experience for us. The roads are slippery, but the scenery is totally worth it."

The local administration and tour operators will also take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of tourists, including clearing roads and providing emergency services.

"Naran and Kaghan are truly heaven on earth, the snowfall has made them even more beautiful," said a tourist from abroad.



ISLAMABAD: People making drawing on the check during their visit to different stalls in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German Embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel.

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

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

KOHAT (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, expressed his commitment to restoring peace in Kurram district and stressed the need for local efforts in resolving the region's security challenges.

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

The grand jirga was attended by various political figures, including Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, Awami National Party's Mian

Ifthikhar Hussain, PPP Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, Jamaat-e-Islami's Professor Ibrahim, Quami Watan Party's Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, National Democratic Movement's Bushra Gohar, former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori, Kohat Mayor Qari Sher Zaman, Ibn-e-Ali, Ahmed Ibrahim Pracha, Asif Pracha, Haji Noor Jat, Maulana Abdullah Wahid, and other tribal elders. Commissioner Kohat, Motasim Billah Shah, moderated the event.

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

peace within the community.

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

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



Federal Minister For Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, receiving the honorary shield from the Rector of the University during the convocation ceremony at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Chinnot - Faisalabad Campus.

Governor pledges to protect, promote cultural values of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday pledged to protect and promote the cultural values, traditions, and language of the province.

He said, "I congratulate the people of the province." He said that on Sindh Culture Day, the people of the province wear Sindh caps and ajrak to express their love for their culture.

Sindh Culture Day, he wished a very happy Sindh Culture Day to the people of the province.

He said, "I congratulate the people of the province."

He said that on Sindh Culture Day, the people of the province wear Sindh caps and ajrak to express their love for their culture.

PTI leaders at new heights of cowardice: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the current leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is at the lowest level of cowardice.

In a statement, she said the PTI is hiding its disgrace and infamy behind fake news and rumours. She said, "Those who ran away, leaving the workers behind, now have no shame in talking about their workers?"

She said that attacking the federation with mobs does not lead to

an NRO. The real culprits behind PTI's downfall are Gandapur and Bushra Bibi, she added. The media around the world witnessed how Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi's vehicles were attacked with sticks and stones by their own workers. Those who are now making provocative statements should be ashamed of themselves, she maintained.

The Information Minister added that Bushra Bibi alone was enough to harm the PTI founder and his party.

Technical support for restoration of religious sites discussed

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora chaired a significant meeting at the National College of Arts (NCA) on Sunday, where discussions focused on the technical support required for the restoration and upgradation of religious places of worship, including Gurdwaras, churches, and other places of spiritual importance. The meeting was

attended by NCA Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Murtaza Jafferri and faculty members of the institution. During the meeting, Arora emphasized the importance of collaboration with third-party experts to provide technical input and support for the restoration and preservation of these religious sites, ensuring their historical and cultural significance is maintained for future generations.

Two killed in separate violent incidents in DI Khan

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

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

Furthermore, he informed the police that they had enemy in their native village Paharpur.

Maa Boli Punjabi poetry forum set up

SARGODHA (APP): The foundation of Bazm Gul Aaad Pakistan and Awami Mushaira organized by Anjum Arts Society was laid during a ceremony at Punjab Arts Council Sargodha.

The special guests of the ceremony were Divisional Vice President PML-N Chaudhry Rahim Dad, Station in-charge APP Sargodha Makhdoom Shah Latif, Advocate High Court Ghulam Shabbir, Advocate Malik Shahid Hamid, Riyaz Ahmed and Syed Ulfat Hussain Kazmi. On this occasion, Founder and Chairman Syed Iqbal Hassan Kazmi aka Bali Shah, President Syed Fazal Shah, Vice President Ghulam Hussain Gul Tard,



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

KP CM inaugurates CTD investigation, Intelligence block

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Sunday visited the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Headquarters here and inaugurated the newly constructed Investigation and Intelligence Block.

The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, including an auditorium, conference rooms, a library, offices, and advanced technological infrastructure.

During the visit, CM Gandapur received a detailed briefing on the provincial government's initiatives to enhance CTD's capacity. CM Gandapur praised the progress made in forensic labs, with advanced equipment and expert personnel now in place.

He said that CTD has also been provided with bulletproof vehicles, jammers, drones, night vision devices, and thermal guns to effectively seal with terrorists.

On the occasion it was said that CTD's significant achievements include a 50 percent increase in convictions and a rise in remand durations from an average of 1.4 days to 25 days. In 2024, courts rejected 123 bail applications, up from 55 in 2022.

The Chief Minister commended the CTD for its effective operations, stating, "In 2023, the CTD setup in KP was minimal. He announced an additional funding of Rs 1 billion for further enhancements, including bomb-proof vehicles, sniper rifles, and high-tech kits.

Peace, love and brotherhood is identity of Sindh: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that the identity of Sindh was peace, love and brotherhood.

On the Sindh Culture Day, he said that the nations were defined by their culture. He wished Day of Culture to the heirs of the great Sindh civilization living all over the world. The Chief Minister said that the hospitality was an integral

tradition of Sindh. He said, "I am proud that I was born in Sindh, the land of Sufis."

He said, "I and my family had frequent opportunities to serve Sindh, which I consider an honor." Murad was of the view that celebrating the great civilization of Sindh was always a joy.

"We are determined to making Sindh a cradle of peace, and bring back the great era of Sindh civilization," he remarked.



FAISALABAD: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan is addressing certificate distribution ceremony at Jamia Salfia.

PA speaker says: Right to govern belongs to elected representatives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has said the right to govern the country belongs to the elected representatives of the state.

Attending a prize and certificate distribution ceremony at Jamia Salfia Faisalabad as the chief guest on Sunday, he said it was unacceptable to burn anyone's house under the guise of dissent, said a media release issued here. Malik Ahmad

stressed that acts of vandalism and arson in the name of politics would not be tolerated as politics was not about chaos and unrest but a means to serve the public.

He commended the country's institutions and law-enforcement agencies for maintaining law and order, stating that they deserve appreciation for their efforts and sacrifices. He made it clear that acts of vandalism under the guise of politics would not be tolerated.

GCU campus to be inaugurated in Chiniot this month: Minister

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

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

education to materialize the dream of national progress and prosperity," he added.

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

He said that national unity was imperative for

development of the country. "We should end our personal vendetta and prefer to national interests," he added.

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

CPWB rescued 42 child beggars in November

MULTAN (APP): The Child Protection Bureau (CPWB) intensified its anti-begging initiatives and rescue operations throughout November and 42 children were taken into protective custody.

This was disclosed by CPWB spokesperson Naveed Mukhtar. He added that children were successfully reunited with their families. He said the children taken into custody included beggars, runaways, missing persons, and other vulnerable individuals. Rescue operations were conducted at various locations across the city, with additional support from the Child Help Line (1121), which received calls regarding children in need of protection.



HYDERABAD: Members of National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony are wearing Sindh traditional dresses as they holding celebration rally on the occasion of Sindh Culture Day, at Hyderabad press club.

CM felicitate Sindh people on culture day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has conveyed her heartfelt congratulations to the people of Sindh and the Sindh community worldwide.

In her message on Sindh Culture Day being celebrated on Sunday, the CM acknowledged the hardworking and hospitable Sindh people, offering heartfelt greetings from the people of Punjab.

She emphasized the importance of Sindh's rich cultural heritage, noting that its vibrant symbols such as the Ajrak and Sindh cap, along with the region's captivating music and poetry, greatly enhance the cultural beauty of Pakistan. The chief minister highlighted the

importance of Sindh's ancient and beautiful civilization, which she described as a source of attraction and admiration for all. She also pointed out the uniqueness and diversity of Sindh culture, praising it for its distinctiveness and contribution to the multicultural fabric of Pakistan. "Our resolve is to make AIDS-affected people productive citizens of the state through treatment and guidance."

She highlighted, "AIDS patients deserve sympathy, not hatred." Madam Chief Minister said, "Inequality in access to AIDS prevention, testing and treatment must be eliminated." She added, "Services of communities active in the eradication and treatment of AIDS."



LAHORE: Citizens visiting parks on holiday in the provincial capital.

SHO among 2 suspended for corruption

FAISALABAD (APP): Two police officers including Station House Officer (SHO) of FIEDMC police station have been suspended on charge of abuse of powers and corruption.

A police spokesman said here on Sunday that City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil had received complaints against SHO Ahmad Ammar and Muhabbar Ghulam Mujtaba. He ordered an inquiry.

The inquiry officer found both police officers guilty of abuse of powers and corruption.

Harnessing youth potential for nation building

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

As the lesser education and employment opportunities make the youth easily lured by vested interests and extremists to sabotage activities. So, this bulge can only be fruitful if political parties ensure continuity of policies, cordial atmosphere to education and employment and an overall political will for a strong democracy in the country.

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

Like many other parts of the world, being young in Pakistan is also both exciting and frustrating. The space for young in Pakistani society is vast and full of possibilities if the potential in different sectors of economy is fully exploited. But there are fears as well in view of a major chunk generally being intolerant as recently seen in protests of political parties.

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

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

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

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

Before exploring the significance of youth involvement in nation-building, the challenges of formulating better strategies and policies must be addressed. For fostering their participation in fruitful activities, we must heed youth's demand of justice and merit in all arena of life.

"Empowering them through education, entrepreneurship and employment would help them contribute directly to nation's economic development," Waqas said.

"Youth are often less



HYDERABAD: Large number of people enjoying the performance of folksinger during the Sindh Cultural Day celebrations at Sindh Museum.

Shaza Fatima pledges to revamp Internet infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

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

acknowledged that challenges exist, but assured that the government is diligently working to address them.

She emphasized that every citizen has the right to express their opinions and while digital platforms provide ample opportunities for self-expression, their temporary unavailability does not stifle citizens' freedom of speech.

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

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



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas participate in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Diversification vital for growth: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that diversification of economic activities across various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global markets.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said as Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of the international economy, diversification can prove to be a pivotal strategy for sustainable

growth and resilience. He said in today's interconnected world, economies are increasingly interdependent. "By investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with economic downturns in specific industries," he added.

He said more over, diversification fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture of creativity and adaptability, adding that innovation is a driving

force behind economic progress, and diverse industries provide a fertile ground for new ideas and inventions.

"We can build a robust and resilient economy that can withstand the challenges of the modern world while fostering sustainable development and prosperity for all citizens of Pakistan," he added.

Iftikhar Malik said a d d i t i o n a l l y, diversification enhances our global competitiveness as a varied economic base allows us to cater to a broader range of international markets.

'FDI in corporate farming vital for food security'

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

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

"Pakistan requires substantial foreign investment to bridge its current investment gap, improve agricultural and industrial production, create jobs, increase exports, and generate

additional tax revenues," he stated. He cited examples from countries like India and Indonesia, where public-private partnerships with foreign collaborators have enhanced local production of high-yielding seeds. These partnerships circumvent the lengthy process of developing new cultivars while ensuring affordable access to high-yield seeds, ultimately boosting crop productivity and farm incomes.

Highlighting the scope of corporate farming, he noted the need for capital investment in land acquisition, agricultural machinery, and irrigation systems. "Corporate farming can also expand the cultivated area, increasing oilseed production and saving substantial foreign exchange," he said.



LAHORE: Citizens are buying second-hand warm jackets and warm clothes in Kotwali Chowk of the provincial capital on holidays.

Secondhand items in high demand as winter approaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the winter season approaches, there has been a noticeable increase in the demand for secondhand items including clothes, woollen goods, blankets and shoes at Sunday Bazar in Islamabad.

Shopkeepers at the Peshawar Mor Sunday Bazar reported that due to high inflation, consumers are preferring to purchase secondhand goods, believing them to be of better quality and imported. "The consumers believe that second-hand stuff is imported and has a fine quality," said a shopkeeper.

Visitors to the market expressed their preference for secondhand clothing, jackets, shawls, shoes and

even kitchenware as they can be purchased at relatively lower prices compared to brand-new items.

"Jackets and sweaters are in the most demand and their quality is better than the brand-new items with a long shelf life," said one visitor, Ibrahim.

Parents also find secondhand children's clothing a practical choice as the garments often do not fit well in the next season.

Another customer, Hamdan said he came to the market to purchase large-sized shoes which are not easily available in regular stores. "I bought shoes six months before and found them to be of good quality," he added.

Shaza urges business users, freelancers to continue registering IPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday urged business users and freelancers to continue registering their IPs for uninterrupted VPN access.

In a statement, she noted that the government is fully aware of the importance of secure communications.

She said that efforts are underway to simplify the process of activating and using VPNs, but for the time being, the situation will remain unchanged. "We strongly urge users to continue registering their IPs through the website of P a k i s t a n Telecommunication Authority (PTA)," she added.

'Desi Food Fever' grips Punjab cities as winters approaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the winter months continue, Desi breakfast shops across the country are expected to remain hubs of joy and tradition, serving up delicious, warming meals that bring families and friends together especially on weekends.

A report aired by a Private news channel, with the winter season sets in, breakfast shops across Punjab cities are cashing in on the Desi food craze. The shops are witnessing a surge in demand for traditional Pakistani breakfast dishes such as Saag, halwa puri, nihari, and Siri Paye, keema paratha.

The owners of these shops are attributing the increased demand to the cold weather, which is making people crave warm and comforting food, the report added.

"It is a winter tradition that we look forward to every year," said a regular customer at a popular Desi breakfast shop in Rawalpindi.

"There is nothing like a warm, delicious breakfast to bring the family together on a cold winter's morning," said a customer in Lahore.

"I love the smell of saag and halwa puri wafting through the air," said Muhammad Ahmed, a student at Punjab University.

Shopkeepers are also thrilled with the surge in demand for Desi breakfast dishes during the winter months.

"Winter is our busiest season," said the owner of a popular Desi breakfast shop in Lahore and added, "People come from all over to enjoy our traditional breakfast dishes, and we are happy to oblige."

Agri. dept achieves surplus wheat sowing in Lodhran dist

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

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

Call to increase trade with Belarus

SARGODHA (APP): Pakistan and Belarus can cooperate in agriculture, food, edible oil, electric vehicles and other sectors, whereas installation of its latest agriculture machinery could help increase orange cultivation in Sargodha region. These views were expressed by Khawaja Yasir Qayyum, President Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a brief interview to APP on the recent visit of the President of Belarus to Pakistan. He

said that in Pakistan, Belarusian tractors are considered a symbol of sustainability and strength. "Steps should be taken for their manufacturing in Pakistan. Through the transfer of technology from Belarus, Pakistan can increase its production capacity and investment should be made in joint projects. Export of meat, dairy, agricultural products and paper products from Pakistan to Belarus can be increased whereas business-to-business.

Farmers advised to remove weeds from gram crop

SARGODHA (APP): Farmers have been advised to remove weeds from gram crop to get bumper yield. A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said on Sunday that weeds were very dangerous for gram crop; therefore, farmers should remove all types of weeds from their crops. He said that growers should prefer hoeing [God] with rotary-weeder instead of using spray for weed removal.



LAHORE: A view of deserted petrol pump due to increase in petrol prices.

Pakistani food exporters extend Malaysian visit amid positive response

LAHORE (APP): Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from Malaysian buyers, a delegation of Pakistani food exporters has extended their two-week visit by an additional week to capitalize on the growing interest and finalize trade agreements.

According to a message received on Sunday from Kuala Lumpur, Saif Ur Rehman, the delegation leader, shared that the group has been successfully showcasing Pakistan's diverse and high-quality food products, particularly varieties of Nimko, which have garnered significant

attention. "By the grace of Allah, Pakistani products meet international standards and are exceptional in taste," he remarked.

The extended visit aims to strengthen bilateral trade ties, explore new market opportunities, and foster collaborations that could lead to increased export volumes. This initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to expanding its footprint in Malaysia's food market while boosting economic relations between the two nations.

During the visit, the delegation participated in business-to-business meetings and product

Road safety measures during sugarcane season

SARGODHA (APP): As the sugarcane harvesting season approaches, the district emergency service Rescue 1122 has issued guidelines to prevent accidents, caused by overloaded tractor trolleys on roads.

It says that after the harvest, tractor-trolleys are often overloaded while carrying sugarcane to mills, creating dangerous traffic issues that result in frequent accidents. Thus, it has outlined several precautionary measures to reduce the risk of accidents.

As part of the precautionary measures, tractor drivers and owners have been urged to choose less congested routes.

PARC introduced 10 high-yielding pulses seed varieties during current year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali has said that the Variety Evaluation Committee of the Council during current year has approved 10 high yielding pulses varieties to boost output of pulses in the country.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that pulses play a crucial role in global food security and nutrition of the country, adding that Pakistan needs 1.56 million tons of pulses annually.

"We have become self-sufficient in mung production during 2021-22 which was 0.263 million

tons against the total requirement of 0.180 million tons," he said.

These ten high-yielding pulse varieties are poised to revolutionize the pulse output, adding that now the country is focusing on increasing the production of other pulse crops, such as chickpea, lentil and mash bean.

Out of the recommended 10 pulses varieties included 05 chickpeas and 01 mung bean variety of NIAB, Faisalabad, 01 lentil and 01 mung bean variety of Pulses Research Program, NARC, Islamabad, he said adding that 01 mung bean variety by Pulses Research Institute, AARI.

Memon for bringing reforms in Pakistan's agriculture sector

HYDERABAD (APP): The President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon has stressed the need for bringing reforms in Pakistan's agriculture sector.

In a letter communicated to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, the HCSTSI President urged the formulation of a 25-year comprehensive agricultural policy.

This proposed policy aims to address the impacts of climate change and promote strategic crop planning to ensure sustainable agricultural development. In his statement Saleem Memon highlighted the significant role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy, contributing 20% to the GDP and providing livelihoods for 40% of the population. However, he pointed out that the sector faces numerous challenges and ignoring these issues could lead to further economic losses.



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

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

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

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

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

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

This includes contributing to food security and nutrition

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

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

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Visitors are visiting on Turkey stall during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.



51ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF KHAN ABDUL SAMAD KHAN ACHAKZAI

The Pashtun Question:

Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai's fierce battle against cultural erasure, structural violence, and marginalization

By Niazbeen
Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai, also known as Khan Shaheed, was a Pashtun political leader whose life and work symbolize the struggle against both colonial and neo-colonial forms of oppression. Born in 1907 in Inayat Ullah Karez, Kila Abdullah, his commitment to Pashtun autonomy, democracy, and the rejection of authoritarianism offers a comprehensive narrative for understanding the complex nature of state power and its impact on marginalized Nations, particularly within Pakistan. Khan Shaheed's activism and ideology, when viewed through the lens of political science theories, provide crucial insights into the nature of the Pakistani

tives to justify harsh laws and suppress their political agency. Frantz Fanon's theory also sheds light on this dynamic, highlighting how colonial rule dehumanized indigenous populations through systemic violence and legal mechanisms designed to maintain control. In resistance, Khan Shaheed's formation of the Anjuman-e-Watan in 1938, the first political party in Pashtun history, directly challenged these oppressive structures. His advocacy for self-governance, education, and political rights sought to dismantle the colonial narrative and restore the autonomy denied by laws like the FCR, making his efforts a profound act of defiance against both imperial control and dehumanization.

Pashtun language, cultural rights, and autonomy exemplifies Foucault's concept of biopolitics, where power operates through institutions like the military, education, and media to regulate and assimilate identities. Khan Shaheed's struggle, seen through these theoretical lenses, was not just against political oppression but also against the state's attempt to erase the Pashtun Nation's distinct cultural and political identity. His resistance embodied a challenge to the systemic mechanisms of control and the homogenizing impulses of a neo-colonial state.

that recognized its ethnic diversity. Khan Shaheed's

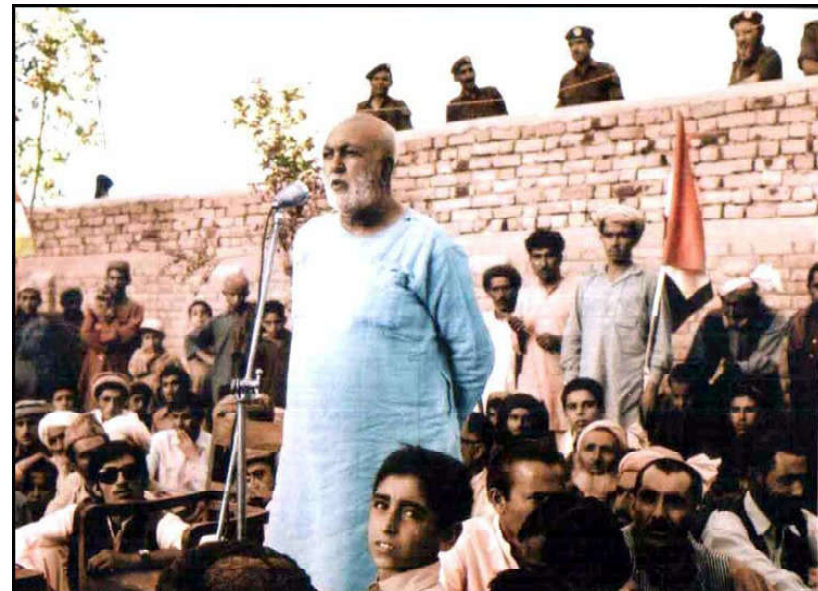
Khan Shaheed strongly criticized the Pakistani state's policies for

society. Khan Shaheed's time in prison, therefore, was not simply a personal

Pashtun were consistently reflected in the written word, fostering a stronger connection between its spoken and written forms. Khan Shaheed's commitment to non-violence reflects his belief in the power of peaceful resistance, can be analyzed through Gene Sharp's theory of challenging oppressive regimes. Through actions like his 21-day hunger strike, Demonstrations Khan Shaheed directly confronted the state's injustices and highlighted its authoritarian nature. His use of non-violent methods not only exposed the regime's reliance on force but also demonstrated his dedication to democratic principles, showing that peaceful resistance could effectively challenge and undermine state power.

bolic movement for unity and progress, redefining the structures of power and solidarity among Pashtuns.

Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai's life and political struggle exemplify the tension between centralization and federalism, between authoritarianism and democracy, and between the exploitation of ethnic nations and the pursuit of self-determination. As a political leader, intellectual, and activist, he founded the first Pashtun political party, Anjuman-i-Watan, in 1939, and launched Istiqlal, a newspaper that became a symbol of Pashtun nationalism. His advocacy for Pashtun rights was grounded in his belief in a federal, democratic Pakistan where regional autonomy was respected, and ethnic nations like the Pashtuns could govern their own affairs. His opposition to the One Unit scheme and his tireless efforts to preserve Pashtun identity and culture through his political activism were marked by personal sacrifice, including spending over 22 years in prison under both British and Pakistani rule. Khan Shaheed's journey was cut short on December 2, 1973, when an unknown assassin threw a grenade into his Quetta residence, taking his life and silencing a fierce advocate for Pashtun Rights. His commitment to the political process, even in the face of immense adversity, demonstrated his determination to challenge oppressive regimes and advocate for the political and cultural self-determination of marginalized nations in Pakistan. His enduring legacy continues to inspire the fight for a more democratic, inclusive, and just Pakistan, emphasizing the need for Civilian Supremacy, Supremacy of Constitution and the protection of ethnic identities.



state, its relationship with its diverse populations, and the constant struggle for political autonomy and justice.

Under British colonial rule, Pashtuns were subjected to the oppressive Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR), a legal framework that denied them fundamental rights and institutionalized their subjugation. The FCR enforced collective punishment, holding entire communities responsible for the actions of individuals, and stripped Pashtuns of political representation, treating them as subjects of a peripheral zone of empire. This aligns with Edward Said's theory of Orientalism, as the British administration perpetuated stereotypes of Pashtuns as "warlike" and "uncivilized," using these narra-

Pakistan in 1947, Khan Shaheed hoped for a break from colonial oppression, but quickly realized that the new state preserved many of the same imperial structures, albeit under a different guise. His efforts can be analyzed through Kwame Nkrumah's concept of neo-colonialism, as Pakistan inherited a centralized, militarized, and elitist political system that continued to marginalize regional identities, particularly those of the Pashtuns. Khan Shaheed's resistance also aligns with Michel Foucault's theory of governmentality, as he opposed the state's use of power not only to govern through coercion but to shape the behavior, identities, and cultural expressions of marginalized groups. The suppression of

provinces of West Pakistan into a single administrative unit, effectively suppressing regional identities. For Khan Shaheed, the scheme symbolized an authoritarian effort to erase ethnic diversity in the name of national unity. Scholars like K.C. Wheare have argued that federalism thrives on decentralization and respect for regional autonomy—principles that the One Unit scheme outrightly violated. Khan Shaheed's alternative vision for Pakistan proposed a democratic federal system, where provinces retained control over key areas such as education, health, and natural resources, leaving only defense and foreign affairs to the central government. His rejection of centralization was a clarion call for a pluralistic state

capacity for Pashtun autonomy, a unified Pashtun province, control over natural resources, and the recognition of Pashto as an official language resonates deeply with theories of self-determination, federalism, and the Pashtun question in Pakistan. His vision reflects democratic federalist principles, akin to John Locke's idea that legitimate government derives from the consent of the governed, and the state's duty is to protect individual rights and cultural identities. Additionally, his stance aligns with ethno-federalism, as proposed by Will Kymlicka, which argues that political systems should accommodate the distinct cultural identities of ethnic groups.

Khan Shaheed challenged centralization and sought to preserve Pashtun culture and language within Pakistan's political framework, embodying Charles Taylor's belief in the recognition of cultural rights as central to justice in multicultural societies. Beyond political autonomy, Khan Shaheed's struggle was a fight for cultural survival and identity in a state that often viewed Pashtuns as peripheral. His Political activism also intersects with the theory of structural violence, as the state's failure to recognize Pashto in education and public administration perpetuates a system of cultural erasure, denying Pashtun children access to their history, roots, and heritage

prioritizing military spending over the welfare of its citizens, especially marginalized Pashtuns. His critique, framed through Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony, emphasized how the ruling elites maintained control by focusing on militarization and neglecting key sectors like education, healthcare, and economic development. The state's policies reflected a hegemonic narrative that prioritized security and centralized power, marginalizing peripheral regions like Pashtun areas. In response, Khan Shaheed advocated for a federal Pakistan with decentralized power and provincial autonomy, calling for a reallocation of resources toward social welfare. His efforts aimed to challenge the dominant ideology of militarization and confronting the systemic inequality perpetuated by the state's priorities.

sacrifice but an act of defiance against the authoritarian state and a broader resistance against Pakistan's transition into a garrison state.

Khan Shaheed's initiative to introduce a distinct Pashto orthography and reduce the influence of Arabic and Persian on the language can be examined through the lens of phonological theory, which studies the organization of sounds within a language. By advocating for an orthography that prioritized Pashto's native phonemes, he aimed to create a writing system that accurately represented the unique sounds and patterns of the language, rather than imposing foreign phonological structures. This approach not only preserved the integrity of Pashto's sound system but also reinforced its cultural independence. His extensive translation work further contributed to this effort by ensuring that the phonological nuances of

Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Achakzai: A legacy of nonviolence and democracy

By Malik Achakzai
It was an inner wisdom, a call from the natural process and support of God, as per his mentioned words, when "I started thinking the national question for freedom and liberty. As a result of these conclusions I considered the British colonialism as one of the core reason of our slavery, colonialism and invasion into our motherland, neither I had read any philosophy nor was inspired from political thinkers, but sheer spiritual mental process of my being".

It is possible that the

used to have good marks in my classes. But whenever I would ask them, what would be the outcome of my higher studies". Their reply used to be "a better job in the colonial structure". Therefore, "I rejected to become an employee of the British colonial machine in the first place because, I never wanted to be part of a structure that has invaded my motherland and enslaved my people while looting, exploiting their natural resources".

From Socrates and Plato till the day, if we have a look on the horizon of these responses become their life long way to practice them till they reach their destiny. And these are the grounds of applied researches as well in the modern era we live in.

Therefore, Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai (1907-1973) when opened his eyes in Inayatullah Karez, Gulistan a Tehsil of Quetta, he observed that his motherland was ruled by the Colonial British, his people the Pashtuns and rest of the nations in the sub-continent lived under the colonial invaders.

These figures are rarely born or selected by nature, and even in childhood they think and decide differently. Khan Shaheed narrates his thoughts in his biography that in the beginning he had decided to remain calm, peaceful and nonviolent no matter what happens, because he was having the reasons and sense based ideology. He had decided that if his elder brother, who is taking care of him and love him, go in a feud with his relatives, Khan Shaheed will not count himself in their fights—this is rare in a tribal social structure of the Pashtuns living across the region for millenniums. As he is totally focused on his mission of liberation from the powerful colonial structure through a facts and logics based ideology.

the Mosque—one of the Pashtun Afghan cultural identity and unity point where thoughts and logics can find more momentum than anywhere else. As culture is nurtured by humans through their experiences with the nature through evolutionary process of the society. And it becomes a collective social psychology and these frames and structures of that are owned become an easy way of communication and understandings. This way, he wanted to aware them through their liberation, history, and culture and unite them for anti-colonialism based national movement.

among his people when free, and in prison he would keep himself again in deeper thoughts as every philosopher involve in questioning and reasoning in solitude. If we guess his wisdom that has a sheer outcome of practice and it is a mixture of thoughts and practice, both needed for concrete ideas based school of thoughts.

Therefore his autobiography written in the days of his life sentence imprisonment is one of the biggest account putting his thoughts in a nutshell on politics, freedom, crime, love, spiritualism, psychology, media, economy, philosophy, society, literature, art and much more. This biography is no doubt an asset for the students and scholars of the above mentioned subjects because even in 21st century when technology is everywhere one cannot observe society that deeply the way he did. But for him his love of motherland and commitment for freedom would surely have made it possible to debate things in an encyclopedic way.

was a system based on the evolutionary process of the Afghan society, abrupt political change in the state structure would bring bloodshed and division among our people for decades.

Babo Sb says though Khan Shaheed's approach was questioned by the newly educated socialist Pashtun lot living in Pakistan, on "socialism vs capitalism" caused division in Afghanistan, which indeed kept us in blind following of the exported ideas. But Khan Shaheed's vision was more concrete and no doubt this conflict installed in the Afghan society brought here bloodshed, social, cultural and political division till the day that caused millions of lives and paved the way for more invasions from neighbors and global powers and wars till these lines are written. Today again we are paying tribute to the Pashtun Afghan national hero Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai whose ideology was based on the Afghan culture amalgamated with the peaceful beliefs of Islam, sovereignty, equality, unity, non-violence and a big no to the interference of invaders and interference from the neighbors in Afghanistan, creating a ground for national equality for all in Pakistan through a democratic federation of nations. Khan Shaheed's ideology and political national thoughts are living in the form of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party and its chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai who's following the footsteps of his statesman father and openly defend the sovereignty of Afghanistan in a time.



keen observation of the society, people, imposed slavery and living in a situation worse than animals would have been the reasons nature creates minds and souls to pave ways for liberation and freedom, and become someone's ideology and lifelong mission and struggle.

philosophical school of thoughts, ideologies and political movements they have sprung through the masses in time and space whenever needed. As human nature, when someone open his/her eyes they start observing the surroundings, society, nature and universe and then create questions and keep struggling to find responses to those questions. Once they find these responses, then they make

The British had invaded Afghanistan and the area he lived in was cut off from Kandahar Afghanistan through an imposed British Gandamak treaty (the regions from Sibbi, Pishin, Harnai, Zhub, Quetta and a small portion of the Khyber Agency in 1807) were called through a misnomer British Balochistan instead of the then proposed name as British Afghanistan. While the re-

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Though the colonial regime that had enslaved Pashtuns started to torture Khan Shaheed through imprisonment, torture and house arrests but it resulted vice versa. He started to believe more in his national identity based ideology, language, culture, history and the society, and would visionary see his destiny nearer by every passing moment. And that is how every torture was accepted with open hands for the reason of freedom and liberty—one of the sacred cause of human life throughout humankind history.

After the partition of the sub-continent Khan Shaheed statement to the Lahore High Court in 1956 is another political wisdom based debate that questions the state structure without naming the 23rd March 1940s resolution titled, "Pakistan resolution" by Muslim League. One of the party that struggled on the basis of a separate Muslim country. He questions that the said party had questioned the existence of the India on the basis of freedoms for fellow Muslim now where all those claims went?

The said statement is

He kept ideological awareness through speeches and writings

