IMF to approve next tranche

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund is expected to approve the next \$700 million tranche for Pakistan in its meeting scheduled to be held on January 11, 2024, it was learnt on Friday. The Fund's Executive Board is likely to approve the next installment for Pakistan in its meeting in January next year which is part of a \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) programme.

Frontier Post

Afghans return continue F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As many as 257,889 people have returned to Afghanistan through three border points of Khyber Pakthunkhwa till December 7 last. The spokesman of Khyber Pakthunkhwa Home Department told media that overall 6,242 illegal foreigners were deported via Torkham border from where 253,643 people also repatriated to Afghanistan.

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PM advocates equal rights for minorities

— govt's economic reformative steps reignited investors' confidence

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday reaffirmed the equal rights for minority comracy and social opportunities for their uplift and mainstreaming.

session with the students of Aga Khan University, said the minorities were equal Pakistanis as Madina State had also guaranteed equal responsibilities and rights for the citizens. Calling for infusing a sense of confidence in the people, he said that meritocracy should be enforced, and social opportunities for minorities should be cre-

To a question, he said that the people of Pakistan enjoyed freedom of expression and considering the country's political history, any particular incident could not be associated with the government of that

tenure, he was referring to, the journalists were shot at and faced many such acts which were against the freedom of expression. "You have a freedom of expression and speech. You spoke your heart before the prime minister. After this, your allegation of no freedom of speech would carry lesser weight," he remarked.

About the rights and status of Gilgit Baltistan, he said GB was and would remain part of Pakistan. He said the matter of rights should be tackled peacefully without any resentment. "The political procedure should move forward. The GB signing of a standay agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the execution of the annual budget 2023-24 and improvement in the fiscal and external accounts. should be our Singapore. Our identities are associated with each other," he remarked.

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON DC: US

State Department Spokesp-

erson, Matthew Miller stat-

ed that the US is monitor-

ing the trial of former Prime Minister, Imran

When asked by The

Frontier Post whether the

US will agree to former

Prime Minister Imran Khan

demand of summoning US

Islamabad to testify in his

case related to the "cypher"

Miller stated that the US

does not comment on cases

which are under trial but he

hoped that Pakistan will

honor democratic princi-ples and that the US is fol-

lowing the case against the

former prime minister but

have no comments about

the charges framed against

officials in

Matthew

Embassy

controversy.

To a question, the prime minister said after the 18th amendment, health was a devolved subject with the provinces having all the funding to spend on the sector. The visionary leadership is essential to munities and called for enforcing meritoc- address the challenges, especially the management of funds, he added. About the lack of education research, the prime min-The prime minister, in an interactive ister said allocating billions of rupees for the parliamentarians amidst the higher education and research crisis was unjusti-

> He said some individuals might have this realization, but it should be at the policymaker's level. He urged the students to keep raising their voices for the promotion of education to jolt the people at the helm of affairs. To another query, he said he was not worried about the educated people moving abroad as they were not divorced from the society rather they would continue to contribute to the country;'s develop ment through their remirttances.

particular term. He said that the includes involving the violations of freedom of speech were not limited to a particular GDP, this is not a curse. This is quite natural. The gaps should be filled. Of our of some useful individuals. The prime minister, responding to a huge population, if some useful individu-query by a university student about the als go abroad, they are not divorced from als go abroad, they are not divorced from arrest of journalists, said that during the our society," he commented. Earlier, in his opening remarks, he said that the educational institutions had always been very close to his heart. He also gave a historical account of the education and research from the Greek period to the modern era experiencing unprecedented modern tools.

Meanwhile, the Caretaker Prime Minister said that the investors had regained confidence after the successful signing of a standby agreement with the

(Continued on Back Page)

Kirby has no aid commitment

for Ukraine to announce

F.P. Report

WASHINGTON DC: White House National Security

Spokesperson, John Kirby stated that at the moment he

has no aid commitment for Ukraine to announce but he

arged the Congress to immediately pass the supplemen-

tary aid package that President Biden has been seeking

John Kirby while answering questions of the media a

the White House also stated that the US is keeping an

eye on the growing relations between Russia and Iran

Kirby said that defence relations between the two coun

ries are expanding and that Russia continues to use

ranian made drones to target locations inside Ukraine.

Kirby refused to comment about the on going inves

igation in New York where an Indian citizen is being

harged of planning to assassinate a US citizen of Sikl

origin. After Canada, US is the second country in las

ew months which has accused the government of India

being involved in trans national criminal activities

Kirby also announced that a number of countries which

are partners of the United States will be jointly monitor

ing the safety of shipping activities in the Red Sea and the region to insure the protection of US interests.

PPP ready to serve people: Zardari



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Former President & co chairman of Pakistan people's party Asif Ali Zardari Has said that PPP has over the years always strived to alleviate the problems of the common man. Right from its inception the vision set by its revolutionary leader ZAB, PPPs slogan of "Roti Kapra Aur Makaan" lies at its core values and ethos, the fulfillment of which has cost the party dearly for which it has paid in blood of its martyrs. No party in the history of the modern world has given more sacrifices than us for the fulfillment of its manifesto.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari Siad, PPP has continuously evolved and learnt from its experiences and we thus are ready to serve the people of Pakistan with a renewed vigor and sense of duty. A few key areas that we have highlighted for rehabilitation in the coming years are as follows.

He Further Said, The complete digitalization of key departments like the food, Education and health to ensure transparency and good governance. these departments provide services essential to the wellbeing of the common man. Former President & Co Chairman of PPP Asif Ali Zardari Added That, The further strengthening and implementation of the antiharassment laws to ensure that women in our society are allowed to work without fear or prejudice. PPP has always been a champion of women's rights and gave the Muslim world its first woman prime minister amongst many other firsts.

5 terrorists killed in operation

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Mullazai, Tank District, on reported presence of terrorists. After an intense fire exchange, five terrorists were sent to hell. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against Law Enforcement Agencies as well as extortion and target killing of innocent civilians. A cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists present in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) here Friday issued notice to Deputy Commissioner Hangu for not allowing the workers

single member bench the deputy commissioner sident, Yousaf Khan.

appeared on behalf of the petitioner and argued that DC Hangu has rejected application of his client regarding workers convention while other parties were allowed to hold workers convention. He maintained that JUIF has recently organized a workers convention at Hangu. The court adjourned hearing till December 12 and issued notice to the respon-



Palestinians prevented from praying at Al Aqsa Mosque

350 people killed in fresh Israeli attacks

GAZA (Reuters): As Israel-Hamas more horrible by the day [...] beyond week, overnight and in the early hours war continue, the Muslim worship- belief, literally," WHO spokesman of this morning, more and more resipers heading to Al-Aqsa Mosque are Christian Lindmeier told a press briefyoung worshippers get close enough to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, any more hospital to the Bait-al-Maqdis — which is contained and bulance, and bulance, and bulance and bula sidered Islam's third holiest site pushing them away with tear gas and water spray.

Only some older worshippers are Friday prayer at Al Aqsa Mosque. Last week, it was around 5,000. In a shocking incident, the 650-year-old Great Omari Mosque was destroyed as the oppressor Israeli forces continued to bombard the besieged Gaza

Israeli bombardments," it added. According to "Heritage for Peace" over 100 archaeological sites were demolished completely or partially during the Israeli aggression on the besieged strip. Besides other archaeological sites, 2,000 years old church third oldest Roman graveyard and a museum were also hit by Israeli

El Amal Hospital in the Khan Younis area of southern Gaza witnessed "tragic conditions" after the Israeli forces bombed a house next to the facility. The Palestine Red Crescent Society has now shared videos showing the "tragic condi-tions" inside the hospital after the attack. The medical group says "dozens of injuries and casualties" have been brought to the hospital. Amid a deteriorating health infra-structure in the Gaza Strip, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the beleaguered territory "cannot afford to lose another ambulance or a single hospital bed".

"The situation is getting more and

The Israeli forces don't even let the lose any more health facilities, anothmore," he added. A group of armed Israeli settlers, along with Israeli soldiers, launched an attack in the village of Khallet al-Babaa, injuring three allowed to get past. Usually, around Palestinians south of Hebron in the 60,000 to 70,000 worshippers attend occupied West Bank, Al Jazeera

reported citing Wafa news agency.

Local activist Rateb al-Jubour told the Palestinian news agency that dozens of armed settlers broke into the village and detained several residents. The soldiers destroyed the vil-Strip, it emerged on Friday. lage's water network and arrested its Taking to X, formerly known as chief. Civilians in the occupied West lage's water network and arrested its Twitter, Quds News Network shared Bank have witnessed an uptick in setpictures of the rubbles of the historic tlers' violence since October 7, masque. "The destruction inflicted including the killing of at least nine lence in parallel to Israel's war with upon the Great Omari Mosque, the Palestinians, UN figures show. Hamas in Gaza, another territory oldest mosque of Gaza built over 650 Earlier, six Palestinians were mar- where Palestinians seek statehood. years ago, as a result of the ongoing tyred in raids by Israeli forces across

The Palestinian Authority is work the West Bank, health ministry said.

Dozens have been killed and injured in an Israeli air strike targeting a house near the al-Amal Hospital and the Palestinian Red Crescent's headquarters in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis, the rescue service has - Saint Porphyrius —, the world's said. "The bombardment led to the shattering of glass and the breaking of doors and windows, in addition to extreme panic among 14,000 displaced people who are taking shelter inside PRCS facilities," the Red Crescent also said on X.

At least 350 people have been homes across Gaza in the last 24 hours as more air strikes are taking place with the Israeli military redereported. The eastern and southern can't be eradicated. The Israeli milijust put out a statement saying it has its forces killed a Reuters journalist in targeted 450 targets in the Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon on October 13, which according to Al Jazeera, are said the incident took place in an residential homes.

What we have seen in the past review.

dential homes are being targeted prevented from entering and praying ing in Geneva. "The health system is across the Gaza Strip, in addition to there on Fridays, Al Jazeera reported. on its knees. Gaza cannot afford to public facilities like schools, hospitals, clinics, shops and markets being destroyed completely. Israeli forces killed five Palestinians during a raid near Tubas, a town in the occupied West Bank, on Friday, the Palestinian health ministry said.

The Israeli military spokesperson's office said it was checking the report. The West Bank has seen a surge in violence in parallel to Israel's war in Gaza, another territory where Palestinians seek statehood. Israeli forces martyred five Palestinians during a raid near Tubas, a town in the occupied West Bank, on Friday, the Palestinian health ministry said. The Israeli military spokesperson's office said it was checking the report. The West Bank has seen a surge in vio-

ing with US officials on a plan to run Gaza after the war is over, Bloomberg News reported, citing Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. The preferred outcome of the conflict would be for the Hamas which controls Gaza to become a junior partner under the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), helping to build a new independent state that includes the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, Ramallah-based Shtayyeh said in an interview to Bloomberg News on Thursday.

"If they (Hamas) are ready to come killed in direct air strikes on their to an agreement and accept the political platform of the PLO, then there will be room for talk. Palestinians should not be divided," Shtayyeh ploying its tanks and armoured vehi- said, adding that Israel's aim to fully cles in parts of Shujaiya, Al Jazeera defeat Hamas is unrealistic and it sides of Gaza City are also under tary, responding on Friday to a heavy air strikes. The Israeli military Reuters investigation that determined active combat zone and was under

PML-N demands accountability: Nawaz

It is pertinent to mention Adiala jail after several that international media

here that last week former months of being impris- was not given access to

Prime Minister of Pakistan, oned and being kept away cover the Imran Khan trial

Imran Khan interacted with from the media. It is also which is being held inside

local journalists inside the important to mention here the jail.

US monitoring

Imran's trial: Miller

to support Ukraine.

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has renewed his demand to hold accountable those elements behind his ouster from power in 2017 and responsible for Pakistan's "destruction" He said this while addressing the party's parliamentary board meeting flanked by PML-N President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif, Vice President Maryam Nawaz and other leaders in Lahore on Friday.

Speaking about the corruption cases registered against him and his family registered against him and members, Nawaz said those who lodged "bogus cases" should be taken to task. "Our party leaders were put behind bars in false cases address, said they wanted and I am being delivered to serve the nation but at to the country only to form justice after a period of the same time, he demand- a government but also justice after a period of the same time, he demandsupremo said. He was those individuals involved involved in corruption and referring to the graft cases in the alleged victimisation political victimisation.

PML-N strikes seat adjustments with IPP

AHORE: As political parties go into electioneering mode ahead of upcoming polls slated for February 8 2024, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) ha secured another significant political alliance after land ng a seat adjustment deal with Jahangir Tareen-led Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP).

Sources told media that the major political develop nent comes after PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif met PP patron-in-chief Tarin on Thursday at the former's Model Town residence in Lahore. During the meeting also attended by PML-N's Rana Sanaullah, Ayaz Sadiq and IPP's Aun Chaudhry — the two sides mulled ove the prevailing political situation in the country and dis cussed the prospects of seat adjustment ahead of the upcoming general elections.

his family members following the infamous Panama Papers revelations.

Nawaz, today's seven years," the PML-N ed to hold accountable wanted action against those

of the PML-N leaders Nawaz, who returned to the country after ending a fouryear self-imposed exile in London in October this year, said he did not return

PTI show: PHC issues notice to DC F.P. Report

convention of PTI.

The notice was issued by Justice Ejaz Anwar Khan to Hangu on a writ petition filed by PTI Hangu Pre-

Sikandar Shah advocate

No substance in Imran's accusations about illegal immigrants: Solangi

QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting Solangi on Friday said the there was no substance in the former chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) 'accusations' with regard to illegal immigrants who had returned to their countries on the voluntary basis.

'The accusations by PTI former chairman in his tweet are baseless. About 0.5 million illegal immigrants have left the country voluntarily and none of them was forced out of the country," he said while addressing a press conference along with Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai. The minister said Pakistan was acknowledged for its hospitality in the world and added the tweet was just a tactical move to gain political mileage, over other political parties in the backdrop of upcoming general

elections. To a query, he said the caretaker elections in the country. "There across the should be no doubt regarding the conal antenna. duct of general elections in the whole country on 8 February 2024," Murtaza Solangi remarked. It was the responsibility of the caretaker government to meet the financial, administrative or security requirements of the ECP, which it would discharge Bolan on the priority basis ", the min-registered political party like others.

ments, he added.

He reiterated that the Preamble of the Constitution clearly stated that the and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza country would be run by its elected representatives. Solangi said today Pakistan Stock Exchange 100-Index had crossed the 66,000 mark, in addition to improvement in rupee-dollar parity. The next government would surely have the country in a better financial state, he added.

spreading the rumours that Pakistan not on the agenda, but today Bloomberg reported that the country was on the agenda of the IMF Board meeting on January 11. "We are availability on terrestrial antenna. He happy that the country is moving said he would visit Radio Pakistan towards economic stability", Murtaza Solangi remarked.

He said during his visit to PTV Quetta Center, there was a discussion regarding the terrestrial broadcasting of PTV Bolan. He said that about 43 per cent of the geographical area of the country comprised of Balochistan government was fully determined to and the PTV would make efforts to conduct free, fair and transparent ensure the broadcast of PTV Bolan across the province through terrestri-

Murtaza Solangi said that broadcast of Hazaragi language programmes on PTV Bolan would be started from December 17. "We will endeavor to meet the technical and human resource requirements of PTV

along with four provincial govern- ister assured. To a question, he said that the caretaker government's powers and duration were limited, but it would take all possible steps for the betterment of Quetta Press Club and the welfare of Balochistan journalists.

To another query, he said that some political parties were demanding the level-playing field, just to play a victim card that would help them get sympathy of the electorate. He made it clear that the caretaker regime had He said some elements had been no favourite political parties in the electoral race. To another question, he said that presently PTV Bolan was available only on cable and satellite but now plan was afoot to ensure its Quetta on Saturday to review its performance.

He said that every inch of Radio Pakistan land would be protected and nobody would be allowed to occupy it illegally. Ruling out the privatization of PTV and Radio Pakistan, he said these were national broadcasters, promoting coutnry's narrative. He said national broadcasters would be modernised so that they would be able to compete with best workd broadcasters in due course of time. To another question, he said that representatives of all political parties including PTI were being invited in current affairs programmes of the PTV and Radio Pakistan as it was a



72 new cases reported on **Friday**

LAHORE (APP): Dengue virus remains active in Punjab and about 72 new cases were reported on Friday. The latest Health Department data reveals a total of 14,721 confirmed dengue cases Punjab this year.

Lahore takes the lead in this unfortunate count with a staggering 6,756 cases, followed closely by Rawalpindi with 2,648, Gujranwala with 1,559, Multan with 1,413 and Faisalabad with 878 cases. The situation continues, with Lahore reporting 37 dengue cases, Rawalpindi Gujranwala four, Multan nine, Faisalabad seven besides Sheikhupura and

Kasur reporting two new cases each. Attock, Okara Khanewal, Rahimyar Khan, Toba Tek Singh and Vehari reported one case of dengue virus each in last 24 hours. Currently, 55 dengue

patients are undergoing treatment in various hospitals across Punjab, with 21 of them in Lahore district hospitals. Punjab Health Secretary Ali Jan Khan issued a compelling plea to citizens, urging them to maintain clean and dry surroundings as a preventive measure against dengue fever. He also called for cooperation with the Health Department teams, which are working tirelessly to combat the outbreak.

PSCA reunites four kids with their families

LAHORE (APP): The Safe Authority has reunited four lost children with their parents in different areas of Punjab including Lahore.

According spokesperson for the authority, the lost children were reunited with their parents in Kot Lakhpat and Green Town localities of Lahore, Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar.

Five-year-old six-year-old Fatima, Kanwal Batool, seven-year-old Sufyan and twoand-a-half years old Komal were reunited through Emergency 15 helpline, while whereabouts were identified through calls. Parents reported the missing children on Emergency 15. and the Lost and Found Centre at the Safe Cities diligently matched the calls, confirming the identities of the children. A spokesperson said the PSCA Lost and Found Center had successfully reunited more than 5,000 people till date. In cases of loss, the public is encouraged to report immediately on Emergency 15 for prompt assistance.

KMC's Council to meet again on Dec 11

KARACHI (APP): The adjourned general meeting of the Council of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will be held on December 11 at 3 PM in the Council Hall of the KMC building at M.A Jinnah Road. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will preside over the meeting. Various issues will be discussed in the meeting.

Sehat Sahulat cards are for the poor only: Javed

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health people of Punjab is unbearable. Minister Professor Dr Javed Akram has said the government wants to give the Sehat Sahulat cards only to the poor seg-

ments of society in the province.

He was addressing the 33rd meeting of the steering committee on Health Facilitation Programme at the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company, presided over by Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

The Punjab minister, while expressing his views, said that there was room for further improvement in the health facility programme. When the caretaker setup was installed, he added, Punjab owed the insurance company Rs 200 billion for the health cards. Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the cabinet took revolutionary steps regarding the health cards, he added. He said that major decisions were still being taken to address the deficiencies in the health facility programme. "We are not political people; so

we only want welfare of people," he said.

Dr. Javed Akram said the caretakers also faced a negative campaign while improving the Sehat Sahulat programme. He said that a database of the real beneficiaries was being created in Punjab and added that before formation of the caretaker government, Rs 260 million a day were

result of the revolutionary measures in the health facility programme, we have reduced the expenses by 50 per cent," the minister said. He said that the federal government was still obliged to give Rs 7 billion to Punjab under the Health Facilitation Programme. He said that the government was spending Rs 70 billion to improve the conditions of the government hospitals in Punjab. He disclosed that about 90 per cent of cesarean operations were done instead of normal delivery to earn money in the province. Likewise, he added that heart patients had two stents inserted instead of one.

He said the government was still bearing 60 per cent of the expenses of patients, who get treatment on the health card in private hospitals of Punjab. All types of emergency, dialysis, cancer treatment and trauma treatment are still being done free of charge through Sehat Sahulat card, he clarified. The health facility programme would continue uninterruptedly in the province, he said. He said the rate of return of premium for the health facility programme by the previous government was very low. He said that all over the world, the rich help the poor and the healthy help the sick. He said that under the leadership of Dr. Nadeem Jan, the health facility programme should improve now, adding that in every cabbeing spent on health facility card.

He said that such a huge burden on the inet meeting, "we have an agenda to improve the health facility programme".

CM visits Communication and Works Dept

Mohsin Naqvi visited Communication and Works (C&W) Department here on Friday and presided over a meeting, in which progress on the ongoing projects for welfare of masses in the province was reviewed.

tion and restoration work of the building. Naqvi ordered for restoring the ancient building to its original condition adding 2023 to date. He gave briefing about that historical significance of the building progress being made on the ongoing being constructed in 1908 should be maintained. The CM ordered for timely completion of the ongoing development projects, along with ensuring high quality of the development projects. He termed ongoing across the province which will C&W Department a vanguard of the cost Rs.46 billion.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Punjab government. Mohsin Naqvi urged the officers and staff members of the C&W Department to continue working with hard work, adding that completion of development projects should be ensured within the stipulated timeline.

The C&W secretary, while giving a

The CM witnessed different sections in briefing about departmental affairs, perthe C&W office and reviewed constructformance and development projects, stated that 925 officers and staff members had been awarded promotions since June development programmes in the health sector and upgradation programme of the hospitals. He said that 15,000 square feet upgradation work of the hospitals is

Protest against murder of registrar PEC Engineer Asim Lang

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A terrorist incident occurred on the night of December 4 in the Bahara Kahu area of Islamabad, resulting in the brutal murder of the innocent and qualified assistant registrar of PEC Engineer Asim Lang and his wife Rida e Noor. Their one-and-a-halfyear-old daughter also PEC, Engineer Azhar relevant federal institusustained injuries in the attack.

In this regard, a press conference was held at the Islamabad Press Club members of the Engineer Pakistan Engineering Council's management the governing body, the strongly Chairman and members incident. Contractor and the management of of for the heinous act.

Participants in PEC, Engineer Zahid Arif pants have demanded the countrywide protests.



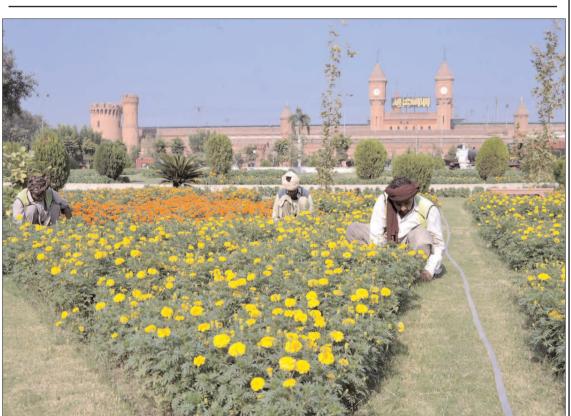
Engineer Islam, Samreen Engineer Imran Khan gated and the murderers Cheema, Khadim Hussain Bhati, arrested and punished. Dr. Ashfaq Sheikh and Ahmad Muhammad committee, members of Iqbal. All participants Council, strongly condemned the

Association of Pakistan, Hussain Shah, Chairman and civil society reprethe PEC to express deep sor- Association of Pakistan, protested row and condemnation and members of CAP, press club. Participants of especially the Sikandar Hayat Khattak, stern action against perpress conference included showed solidarity with petrators otherwise, the Engineer Ijaz Hussain the deceased's family engineering and civil

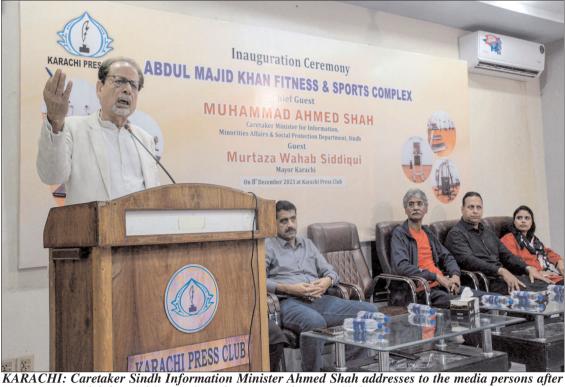
former vice chairman of from the officials of the Dr. tions that this incident Hussain, should be fully investi-Engineer should be immediately

After the press confer-

ence, employees of the Muqarab Pakistan Engineering the Young Engineer's Association of Pakistan, the Contractor Engineer Syed Ashfaq Association of Pakistan, Contractor sentatives peacefully outside the Engineer the protests demanded Ansari voice chairman of members. The partici- community would start



LAHORE: PHA workers hoeing the park near Lahore Railway Station with colorful seasonal flowers and plants.



inaugurating Abdul Majid Sports Complex at Karachi Press Club.

Development process to continue under guidance of member City Council

Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the process of development in the city will continue through the consultation and guidance of the members of the City Council.

He said this while talking to the Provincial Law Minister Muhammad Umar Soomro in his office on Friday.

He said that laws are being enacted through resolutions in Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Council for the improvement of local government affairs so that better facilities can be provided to the citizens. Present local government leadership making all efforts that the city council work as the central platform citizens and for the development and improvement of Karachi.

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi if further legislation is needed for the structure of Karachi, which will be betterment of the city. Rule of law create a welfare socie-

ty, provision of justice and access to legal aid should be ensured equally for every citizen, he said.

Mayor Karachi said that the KMC perform its functions under the Local Government Act, which lays down policies related to the administrative and prefers to solve its problems. and financial management of the local government system in the province. He said that Karachi is the Sindh government in the formulaadministratively divided into seven tion of legislation and policies districts and 25 towns. The chairman through the KMC council will of the union committees established in each town is a member of the KMC council and is familiar with the probfor the solution of basic problems of lems of his area. KMC is making all efforts for the improvement and

completed in due time, he said.

He said that KMC has been receiving the help and guidance of the Sindh government in the development of the city and it is satisfactory that the provincial government has decided to develop the largest city and economic center of the country

He said that the support and guidance of the relevant departments of encourage us to continue the journey started for the construction and development of Karachi.

Law Minister Soomro appreciated the efforts of KMC to make the local development, while work is under- government system of Karachi stable Law Minister Umar Soomro said way on several major development and efficient and assured all possible that KMC will be provided assistance projects to improve the basic infraction of the cooperation in this regard.

PML-N to filed strong candidates in south Punjab: Rana Sanaullah

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim mittee had been formed to resolve due to terrorism threat, as the gov-President Rana Sanaullah Khan has Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah agencies were responsible to tackle said that strong and wining candidates and Kot Addu, adding that the party terrorism threat and conduct free the 5th Parliamentary Board meeting party workers were not in a position to care of all security measure in spe-of Dera Ghazi Khan division at the win the seat, then new candidates cific areas was also a responsibility party secretariat here on Friday, he said that the PML-N had come forward with politically strong and win-sions regarding tickets would be upcoming elections ing candidates in all 30 provincial and finalised by Dec 14, but due to He said that electrons in the said that electrons in the said that electrons is the said that electrons division, as it was the most important complete schedule. division of south Punjab. The former

To a question, he said that deci-

League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab matters related to Muzaffargarh, ernments and law-enforcement will be introduced in south Punjab, workers would be accommodated in and fare elections as well as pro-Talking to the media after attending most of the constituencies and where vide protection to masses. Taking of political parties, he added. He hoped and prayed for peaceful

He said that election schedule 15 National Assembly constituencies Nawaz Sharif's appearance in appeal consisted of 54 days, and if the in DG Khan division. He added that case in the court, they might extend process of finalising candidates the party faced some issue in 2018 for date till Dec 16, adding that candicompletes till Dec 15-16, then it choosing candidates in the DG Khan dates would be finalised along with would be within time-frame. He said that courts were here to provide jusdivision of south Punjab. The former

To another query, he said that tice and anyone, who faces injustice, interior minister said that a sub-comelection could not be postponed could move courts.

Governor Sindh for uprooting corruption to make country a welfare state

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Mohammed Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said we have to uproot corruption to make the country a welfare state. He was addressing at a seminar organized by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on International Anti-Corruption Day at the Governor's House.

Besides IGP Sindh Rifat Mukhtar, Chairman NAB and Deputy Chairman, Barrister Shahida Jameel, the seminar was also attended by well-known religious scholars and others. The Governor said we have to be committed for a corruption free society. He said that corruption seriously affected a society and the economy of the country. He said, "If we want a strong and welfare state, we have to root out corruption." He further said that NAB was working under a three-pronged strategy of awareness, prevention and enforcement.

7,997 cases registered

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown on underage drivers and others having unlicensed vehicles or bikes in the province is under way currently. The CTO office sources told APP that so far, a total of 7997 underage drivers have been booked across the Punjab province, and cases were registered against them. In this regard, more than 3,500 motorcycles and vehicles were impounded. The Punjab IG says that legal action will be taken against parents who provide cars and motorcycles to underage drivers.

PFA discards 2,000 litres adulterated milk

Authority's enforcement teams under the machines and disposed of 50 maunds of Muhammad Asim Javed placed screening not up to the mark. pickets in different areas of the city on Friday morning and disposed of 2,000 litres of adulterated milk besides imposing hefty fines. The authority inspected several chicken and milk carrier vehicles at the entry and exit points of the city, aiming to tainted milk poses a threat to users' health ensure the provision of healthy and adulteration-free food to citizens.

that dairy steams inspected the quality of tion to consumer, he added.

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food 51,000 litres of milk with lactoscan supervision of its Director General milk due to found the milk sample results

> He said that teams disposed of thousands of litres of milk after finding contamination of powder, hazardous chemicals and polluted water in the milk.

The director general said that the use of and causes stomach and intestinal diseases. A process plan will be developed for PFA DG Muhammad Asim Javed said complete traceability of milk from produc-

Russian delegation visits PU

LAHORE (APP): A delega- welcomed the delegates from People's tion Friendship Moscow, which is Russia's leading and one of the largest universities, visited Punjab University and called on Acting Chancellor Prof

Abdullah Khan Durrani. President Golden Ring develop relations with Economic Forum Husnain Mirza and faculty members were also present on the Dr. Abdullah Khan Durrani Direction & Regulation of with Pakistani universities.

and said that PU was pro-University moting academic relations with Russia and Central Asian states.

> imparted at Russian universities and Russian universities to ben-

Scientific Cooperation Mr. Shiiapov Timur Ilhamovich and Deputy Dean Faculty of **Economics** He said that quality International Affairs Ms.

Vladimirovna higher education was being Anna Popkova were of the view therefore that both the institutions Pakistani universities must were making efforts to grow bilateral relations between Pakistan and efit from their advanced Russia. They said that they knowledge and experi- came to Pakistan to prooccasion. In his address, ences. Head Center for mote bilateral cooperation

Kohat had applied for study leave for the period (730 days on half average pay) w.e.f. 01-01-2019 and you were adjusted for the purpose of pay w.e.f 01-01-2019. Due to out-break of Covid-19 pandemic, you cancelled your unavailed portion of study leave vide notification dated: 13-12-2020 w.e.f 09-06-2020 to 31-12-2020 (202 days). After arrival from study leave you were also temporarily adjusted at the same college w.e.f 08-06-2020 vide notification dated: 13-11-2020. Furthermore, you left for studies again w.e.f 15-02-2021 without forwarding your leave case properly. Hence you are considered absent from your duty.

Absence Notices have been served upon you by Principal concerned but you did not resume your duty. Afterwards, Directorate of Higher Education served absence notice on your address as well as Principal contacted you to resume your duty but still you failed to comply. You are hereby directed in your own interest to report for duties within 15-days of the issuance of

this notice and explain the reason of your wiliful absence from duties failing which it will be presumed that you are no more interested in your service and ex-parte action will be taken against you culminating in your removal / dismissal from service

NF(P)#2940/23 DIRECTOR HIGHER EDUCATION KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA



Corruption root cause of slow pace of development F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Paskhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has said that corruption is outcome of greed that has negatively impacted country's economy discouraging both national and foreign

In a message issued here in connection with World Anti-Corruption Day, KP Governor termed corruption root cause of slow pace of development in the country. He said that corruption has given birth to problems in all social sectors affecting lives of peo-

He said that corruption has also crept into private sector damaging infrastructure of the country adding that corruption is also a threat to democratic norms and rule of law besides damaging confidence of people on the state.

Governor said that we should combat corruption and make efforts to strengthen system that has been devised to ensure accountability of corrupt. He also appreciated efforts of anti-corruption department and all other organizations that have been working to eliminate corruption. He also lauded National Accountability Bureau for involving stakeholders in war against corruption.

Cold and dry weather to prevail in KP F.P. Report

Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Friday predicted that mainly cold

and dry weather is expected in most districts of the province. It said that dense foggy conditions are expected over Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Peshawar, Swabi and D.I. Khan districts, as well as, over Motorway

(M1) / Highways in morning and night. Travelers on Motorway/highways were advised to take precautionary measures. During the last 24 hours cold and dry weather pre-vailed over most districts of province. Rainfall recorded (in mm) during the last 24 hours at different stations of KPK was nil. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different

stations of KP were Peshawar 26/04, Chitral 19/01, Timergara 21/03, Dir 21/00, Mirkhani 23/01, Kalam 17/-04, Drosh 18/05 Saidu Sharif 21/03, Pattan 24/13, Malam Jabba 14/04, Takht Bhai 23/04, Kakul 19/04, Balakot Parachinar 20/01, Bannu 25/07, Cherat 14/04, DI Khan City 25/09.

Tribal leaders meets with KP Minister

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A group comprising tehsil chairmen and tribal leaders from newly merged districts met with Dr. Aamer Abdullah, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, in Peshawar on Friday. The discussion centered around development processes, public issues, and potential collaboration

Among the attendees were notable figures such as Tribal Leader and Tehsil Chairman Said Badshah Bajaur, Chairman Taj Maluk from South Waziristan Lower, Tehsil Chairman Ahmad

to address these concerns.

Chairman Maulana Saleh from South Waziristan and Orkazai from Orakzai.

caretaker minister emphasized reaching out to relevant authorities to involve ects. local public representatives in identifying new schemes about the solarization of under the World Bank's mosques, the caretaker Risk Project for the merged districts. He highlighted the ongoing solar energy projcancellation of a con- ects in merged districts, tentious committee by the aiming for their prompt federal government, allow- completion and benefits to ing funds for these districts the community. He also to be utilized through the reported the release of province, incorporating the funds for the Ghalanai perspectives of local chair- road, with resumed con-

cial constraints Election Commission ects in Orakzai and restrictions on new proj- Waziristan.

Upper Kurram, Tehsil efforts to secure funding for ongoing projects in merged districts. He noted that funds have been allocated Chairman Maulana Tahir to TMAs for salary payments, and efforts would be During the meeting, the made to include the opinions of local body chairmen in the planning of new proj-

Peshawar City

Addressing a question minister mentioned two struction and ongoing Acknowledging finan- efforts to secure funds for and vital communication proj-



Pakistan Life Style Furniture Expo.

KMU hosts Pakistan innovative road show

T.M. Report

Business Incubation Centre KMU (KUBIC) in collaboration with Aspire Pakistan and Ejad Labs Pvt Ltd successfully organized the Pakistan Innovative Road Show on 8th December 2023 at (KMU), Peshawar. This innovation and entrepreneurship in the healthcare sector and was attended by Faculty, investors and medical students from all medical disciplines of KMU.

The Pakistan Innovative Road Show, a groundbreaking initiative by KUBIC, Aspire Pakistan, and Ejad Labs, showcased their unwavering commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the medical community. This event is part of their wider initiatives to conduct similar activities throughout the province to empower medical students and prepare them for the challenges of the healthcare industry.
Vice-Chancellor

commended the collabora- preneurship in the healthcare tive efforts of KUBIC, sector. KUBIC provides Aspire Pakistan, and Eiac innovation in the country's healthcare sector. Under his visionary leadership, KMU is dedicated to providing a platform for students to explore their entrepreneurial aspirations, contributing to ing organization committed the growth and development to unlocking the entrepreof Pakistan's healthcare innovation landscape.

During the event, KUBIC startups 3MAJORS Pvt Ltd had an opportunity to share their remarkable success story as recipients of the World Bank ISF Award 2023. Their innovative projects have not only made a tion dedicated to fostering a significant impact in the culture of entrepreneurship

serve as inspiration for aspir- They provide startups and Furthermore, Camel Black mentorship, networking, and Pvt Ltd, through their dedi- resources necessary to cated assistance and highquality services, encouraged students to explore remote job opportunities in the healthcare sector. Their pres-Khyber Medical University ence and engagement during the event showcased the event aimed to promote immense potential for remote employment and

how it can shape the future

of the industry.

The Pakistan Innovative Road Show drew an enthusiastic response from the participants, who embraced the opportunity to witness the innovative projects, collaborate with industry experts, and explore avenues for personal growth and development. The event served as a catalyst for encouraging students to unleash their entrepreneurial potential and contribute to the advancement of the healthcare sector in The Business Incubation

Centre KMU (KUBIC) is a prestigious platform at Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, dedicated to fos-KMU, Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, tering innovation and entreaspiring entrepre Labs in fostering a culture of the necessary guidance, support, and resources to transform their ideas into successful ventures that address the challenges faced by the healthcare industry. Aspire Pakistan is a lead-

potential neurial Pakistan's youth. They aim to inspire, train, and mentor individuals to become successful entrepreneurs and contribute to the country's economic growth.

Ejad Labs is a renowned innovation-driven organiza-

healthcare industry but also and innovation in Pakistan entrepreneurs. entrepreneurs with access to develop and scale their inno-

vative ideas. Workshop arranged

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A one-day workshop in Peshawar focused on the prevention of infectious and deadly epidemic diseases in animals through vaccination. The event, organized by the Livestock Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with Dollvet, a prominent pharmaceutical company from Turkey, and Orion Group, high lighted the increasing economic losses caused by animal diseases globally due to climate change.

Dr. Huseyin Zengin,

2012 and later in Pakistan

during 2021-22.

ID, and other relevant officers participated in the workshop. The Director General of Livestock, Dr. Alam Zeib Mohmand, mum capital. expressed gratitude to the organizers, emphasizing the negative impact of the Peshawari corn soup hese diseases on the international economy. said stressed the need for conrolling these diseases through the use of local and limited-scale vaccines in Pakistan, with collaboration from international companies and institutions. Yasir Wazir, the manager of Dollvet showcased Company, seven different vaccines developed by the company, citing their effectiveness in treating diseases ike LSD (Lumpy Skin Disease) that occurred epidemically in Turkey in

Demand of chicken corn soup increases

PESHAWAR (APP): The demand of chicken corn soup has increased manifold in the city following significant drop in mercury level where great rush is being seen on its outlets.

At night, Peshawartie and visitors are being seen gathering in front of stalls of corn soup made of chickens, eggs and others delectable ingredients to keep themselves warm i winter. The increasing chil has multiplied demand or chicken corn soup a Peshawar known for city of hospitality where people of other districts can also be seen in large numbers. enjoying chicken sour either by standing near its stalls or sitting in shops and restaurants at night.

Residents of Nowshera Charsadda, Kohat and Khyber have started coming to Peshawar where they were enjoying winter food like chicken corn soup, Chappli Kabab and other cuisines during winter. The vendors set up their temporary stalls at various bazaars and squares including Qissa Khwani, Hashtnagri, Tehkal and cantonment to earn maxi-

"I came from Wapda Town Nowshera to enjoy that is full of taste and ener Professor Ehtisham Qaiser while talk ing to media at Qissa Khwani. He said use of extra ingredients and sauces make it more attractive and delectable. People get boiled eggs, chicken pieces. chicken liver and aromatic spices in a single cup.

Muhammad Khurshid, resident of Pabbi while taking a sip of soup at Hashtnagri bazaar said despite the fact that there was so much dust around the stall, he could not resist the temptation of the Peshawari corn soup. Azmat Ali, a vendor shopkeeper said chicken corn soup was high in demand and last night, he has prepared three drums of corn soup and it was all sold out like hot cakes. He said chicken corn

soup was a good edible to sell during the evenings and we open shop at 6pm every day keeping in view of people high rush. A plain bowl of chicken corn soup costs Rs 60 and each addition adds Rs 20 more, he said. He said that most people take its parcel for home to keep their loved one warm.

Sustainable development and NFC Award

Hina Khattak

TATIONAL Finance Commission (NFC) Award is formed to distribute the financial resources between the fedgovernment and provincial governments. The taxes collected from the provinces form a divisible pool. This pool includes income tax, sales tax, capital gain tax, wealth tax, and customs duties tax. The distribution of revenues between federation provinces is governed by Part VI of Chapter 1 of the constitution of Pakistan. According to Article 160, the President shall constitute

National Finance Commission consisting of the Minister of Finance of the Federal Government, the Ministers of Finance of the Provincial Governments, and such other persons as may be appointed by the President after consultation with the Governors of the Provinces. The first six NFC awards were exclusively population-driven. resources were distributed purely on provincial needs as evinced by the size of their population. The larger nomic inequality, the surge the population of a province in terrorism and recurring Climate Change. the higher its share. With the climate change disasters continued to enjoy share ranging resource 57.88% between 60.27% during 1974-2006. the other hand, On Balochistan, with the smallest population, received the smallest share of resources at a minimum of 3.8% and a maximum of 5.30%.

After a consensus was formed in 2010, a new resource-sharing formula was formally applied in the 7th NFC Award. This Award made significant changes in the design of the resource distribution mechanism. It introduced multiple indicators for the horizontal distribution of the resources. According to the formula, the population was given a weightage of 82% while the rest of the 18% points were distributed among backwardness/poverty (10.3%), inverse population density (2.7%),and revenue/generation (5%). But, contrary to popular belief, the 7th NFC Award did not offer a progressive, equitable and efficiency-

The NFC's focus on population as the main determithwarts its original objective

based formula.

socio-economic Other factors like an outdated census, the KP-FATA amendment, and the undocumented migrants make the weightage on population quite deteriorating. Despite a rising imbalance in the economic and demographic outlook of various provinces, there has been no progress in the distribution of federal resources. The future NFC awards include a gradual shift from a population-based distribution of resources to an efficiencyseeking sustainable sharing of resources.

For the sustainability of the NFC award, three things should be considered i.e. social progress, economic development, and the environment. For a sustainable formula to work for Pakistan, equity should be the base of the formula. As ly population-driven, they deprived other provinces of their just share in the resources. This inequity in the distribution of resources created a development gap among the provinces. With biggest population, Punjab coerce the formation of a sustainable formula for the just horizontal distribution of resources.

The National Finance Commission holds a lot of political influence. The first step towards the sustainability of the NFC awards is the shift of NFC from a political body to a technical body. With experts from the fields of Finance, accounting, economics, law, social protection, climate change, and sustainable development, it should be transformed into a practical body. The experts will scientifically analyze the present needs of the provinces while taking care of the needs of the upcoming generations. Its decisions should not necessarily be consensus-based research-based. As some experts and academics have already argued, the mechanisms exclusively based on consensus always suffer

The existing parameters do not guarantee the just distribution of resources and sustainable development of the country. The 15th Finance Commission of nant of resource distribution India provides a better picture of a sustainable formula

from inertia.

of addressing the country's for the distribution of needs. resources. It gives a weight of only 15% to the population and includes other merger under the 25th important indicators as determinants of the devolution of resources like area 15%, income distance 45%, demographic performance 12.5%, tax effort 2.5%, and forest and ecology 10%. It addresses the issues of climate change by allotting 10% to the forest and ecolo-

Pakistan presently faces serious development challenges due to the worsening state of the environment, increasing pressure on natural resources, and climate change. As per the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranks 5th most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change. However, climate change affects each province quite differently due to factors like topography, infrastructhe prior awards were main- ture, and the level of development of that province. Rural Sindh, Balochistan, and KP are more vulnerable to climate change with limited resources for environmental rehabilitation. For this reason, NFC should the existing social and eco- address the issue through sustainable financing of The UNDP

Human Development Report Pakistan's Human Development Index (HDI) ranks at the 161st place globally. The Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap Index places Pakistan at 145th out of 146 countries. These alarming indicators mirror the miserable state of social development in the country. Southern KP, Balochistan and Rural Sindh are the most backward areas of the country which require adequate funding for the upheaval of the social development sector. Time is an essential

dimension of sustainability. If we do not understand the meaning of being sustainable today, then tomorrow will be too late. By acknowledging the suggestions mentioned above, we will equitably meet the present's basic needs without compromising on future generations' capacity to meet their own needs. By working towards social progress, equitable economic development, and environmental protection, we will lay the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous

PESHAWAR: Tribal elders called on KP Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah.

Dr. Usman Quddus

EMOCRACY is a phenomenon that is categorized as people's rule. It involves civic participation through voting. Democracy is also understood as opposed to authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Authoritarianism political dispensation of Pakistan are is concentrated power in the hands of a single ruler or a small group of individuals, and they exercise significant control over the government and society.

ism where the government seeks to public and private life. Totalitarian regimes typically suppress opposition, manipulate information, and system, individual freedoms and human rights are severely restricted. Fascism, dictatorship, and the like terms are derivative of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.

fails, it's the people that fail" attributed to George Bernard Shaw, the ocratic scene with the major political and their consequent re-election to

parties is dominated by authoritarianism and nepotism all the way while the political parties decry the lack of democracy. Fingers in the pointed towards the establishment for interference in public mandate but the political parties themselves fail to reform themselves for the self-serving interests of their leader-Totalitarianism on the other hand ship. This is a hypocritical standis an extreme form of authoritarian- point of political forces in Pakistan as they are themselves the harbinger exert total control over all aspects of of authoritarianism and wish to trade one undemocratic force for the other. All the party chairmen of political parties are lifetime holders of such demand unwavering loyalty to the office of 'chairman' contrary to demruling party or leader. In a totalitarian ocratic principles. Even the claimed anti-status quo party 'Tahreek Insaf 'has Imran Khan as the lifetime

chairman. Nepotism further contributes to the phenomenon of authoritarianism and The quote "It's not democracy that totalitarianism in the democratic dispensation of Pakistan as major party positions are dominated by kinship Irish playwright, critic, and public ties. There is no provision in law barintellectual is very apt for Pakistan ring direct entry of sons and daughin today's times. The Pakistani dem- ters of party heads as party supremos

premier positions. Thus, party politics rioration of every institution. in Pakistan is being run mostly on the patron of royal ascensions with a party's chairman progeny inheriting the headship directly with no resist-

This speaks volumes about the prevalent totalitarianism within the political parties in Pakistan. Moreover, the reserved seats are distributed mostly based on kinship to a major political player rather than merit considerations. This can be verified by enquiring about the kinship ties of many women candidates who are chosen for such seats.

Democracy is symbolic of the rule of law, human rights, and accountability while deprecating despotism, dictatorship, and aristocracy. People of Pakistan have over time strived hard for the ideal of democracy, however, the cherished ideal is far from nigh. It is imperative considering Pakistan's failing experiment with sham democracy during different time periods. Successive governments have failed over time in Pakistan with cult following at its peak and the condition of people at large becoming poorer with the dete-

New leadership can bring solace to Pakistan with invigorating ideas for ameliorating the miseries of people. This requires limiting terms for the chief executive in Pakistan to bring new leadership at repeated intervals just like in the case of the U.S.A. where democracy has performed at its brightest.

Moreover, restricting terms for the chief executive will require only a slight modification to the constitutional system in Pakistan while greatly aiding the cherished dream of democracy. Saying this, it is mandatory that undemocratic forces do not intervene in such a scenario to limit the tenure of the office of prime minister. The other reform that may benefit the constitutional setup of Pakistan can be limiting the tenure of premiership from five years to four years as it is repeatedly seen in Pakistan's political scenario that peobecoming hegemonic after a certain period consequently non-democratic forces step in to end the tenure of chief executive

For the lack of democracy, only

political parties are to blame themselves. An important reason for the lack of democratic values in Pakistan is that democratic forces let them get used by the establishment. One such instance is the passing of an amendment to section 500 PPC on defamation that pertains to punishment for ridiculing the army. There is no doubt that Pakistan occupies a strategic place in world politics where the army is of cardinal importance to Pakistan. However, it would have been better if an amendment to PPC was made prescribing punishment for discrediting the army in times of war

This would have served democratic values which were promised by the founding fathers on the creation of Pakistan. Stifling objective debate on the performance of armed forces is manifestly against the fundamental ple feel regarding the majority party perpetuate their narrative. The phenomenon of thesis, anti-thesis, and conclusion as presently not allowed to perpetuate in Pakistan certainly contributes to totalitarianism which in the long run will affect every seg-

ment of society. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was promised the ideal of democracy. However, the words of Faiz Ahmad Faiz still ring true that the promised moment has still not come. The lack of democracy and democratic norms in Pakistan is primarily due to the political parties themselves that are not willing to enforce democracy on themselves while carrying out appropriate reforms. It is not surprising that most of the dictators were more democratic than the politicians including the likes of Ayub Khan openly acknowledging the freedom to speech against him by Justice Kayani. Prime Minister Kakar recently visited LUMS and open-heartedly accepted the responses. The same kind of attitude is hoped one day to be adopted by all our party supremos who remain mostly aloof to middle-class responses. Democracy is an attitude of consultation and deprecating of authoritarianism. All the institutions of Pakistan should adopt this attitude right to speech. Moreover, there is no while deprecating one-man showbar in Pakistan on the armed forces to manship. However, it is hoped that the lead one day comes from the major political forces in Pakistan.

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Prohibited drugs seized

OUETTA (INP): The drug inspector launched crackdown against sale of prohibited and government hospital medicines and seized huge According to details, taking notice of surge in complaints regarding sale of government hospital medicines at medical store located at Jinnah Road Quetta, senior drug inspector raided the medical store. During operation, huge quantity of prohibited and government hospital medicines were recovered. The medicines stock was taken into official custody and samples were sent for laboratory test. A case was registered against culprits under Drug Act 1976 and investigations were kicked off.

Blind murder case solved

Arifwala police solved blind murder case of a man and arrested two women including his wife. Two months earlier, Naheed Akhtar along with her sister Sidra killed her husband Mubarik Ali in Qabola Sharif town of Arifwala and buried his body in yard of the house. The accused women chalked out drama of kidnapping of Mubarik Ali after killing him. The police held the two women over suspicion and during investigation they admitted the crime and dead remains of the deceased was dug out and shifted to hospi-

Large cache of narcotics seized

PISHIN (INP): Bal-Frontier ochistan Constabulary (FC) in a joint operation with Customs officials conducted targeted operations in various areas of the province against drug smugglers. Acting on a credible tip-off, FC recently seized a substantial haul of prohibited chemical ephedrine nd other non-permissi ble items in the Yaro area of Pashin district. The operation resulted in the confiscation of approximately 3400 kg of ephedrine, a banned substance, alongside other items including urea, cigarettes, and tires. The smugglers had ingeniously hidden these items within trucks in an attempt to avoid detection. The estimated value of the seized items is a staggering Rs63 million. The confiscated goods were promptly handed over to customs authorities after being intercepted during the attempted smuggling.

PFA destroys adulterated milk

MULTAN (INP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Friday seized and destroyed 2000 liters of adulterated milk during a routine inspection at Shershah Toll Plaza on Multan Road. Acting on a tip-off, the Dera Safety Team, supervised by the Director of Operations. stopped a milk-carrying vehicle for inspection. Using a modern lactometer, the team detected a lack of fat and natural nutrients in the milk indicating adulteration. Additionally, the test confirmed the presence of added water, further compromising the quality of the product. The authorities swiftly seized the entire consignment of 2000 liters and proceeded to dispose of it in accordance with safety protocols. Commenting on the seizure, the Director General of Punjab Food Authority emphasized the ongoing efforts to combat the sale of adulterated food within province. He stated, We are actively monitoring city entry and exit points to prevent the delivery of unsafe and unhealthy products to consumers. Our goal is to ensure the availability of clean and nutritious food for all citizens of Punjab.'

Two under custody criminals killed by accomplices

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Two under custody criminals were killed in ambush by accomplices here, police said on According to details, the police was taking back two under custody accused after recovery in Sheikhupura when culprits ambushed the police party in Kasoki police station jurisdiction in Hafizabad in attempt to free the cohorts.

Both under custody criminals were killed in firing of their accomplices. The attackers fled the scene after retaliatory firing of police. The bodies were shifted to hospital. The killed criminals were wanted by different police stations in various cases.

Admn's appointed at fertilizer shops to end hoarding: Taking notice of complaints of farmers regarding shortage, black marketing and district, Commissioner Sundas

Commissioner Faisalabad,

Salut Saeed, and Deputy

Commissioner Abdullah

Nayar Sheikh on Friday

inaugurated a new Child

Development Center at Hilal

Ahmar Maternity Hospital.

The center, established

under the auspices of the dis-

needs of children who visit

Commissioner Saeed high-

lighted the importance of the

Autism-afflicted children

design, Saeed noted, "The

presence of children-attrac-

tive pictures and LEDs in

the wards creates a welcom-

ing environment for young

patients." He expressed sat-

isfaction with the initiative,

stating, "There was a need

for such a children's center

in Faisalabad. Such a facility

is very important." He con-

gratulated the organizers and

their team for establishing

Highlighting the center's

declared, "People from all

the center.

accessibility,

demand our attention."

Speaking to the media,

the hospital.

fertilizer dealers at govern- according to indents of the ment prices in the district fertilizer dealers already for Hafizabad.

ing held to review availabildepartment Hafizabad is Khalid Rasheed committed to ensure provi- Election Officer ment to monitor supply of of the country. fertilizer by the fertilizer companies to fertilizer dealers in the district so that not eve of celebrating National

of district administration panies working at district of the nation and secure and agriculture department level had been directed to future of new generation.

State-of-the-art child

development center opened

facilities, calling it "a very

During his visit, the

opment center and the hospi-

tal. He expressed apprecia-

tion for the Deputy

Commissioner's efforts in

establishing the first Child

hemophilia, thalassemia and

hyperactivity disorder. They

will receive check-ups and

interacted with children dur-

ing his visit, distributing

gifts and spreading joy.

Commissioner about the

center's aims and objectives,

emphasizing their commit-

ment to providing standard

treatment for children with

autism. He reiterated their

determination to continue

taking steps to make chil-

The inauguration ceremo-

dren useful citizens of socie-

briefed

Commissioner

Commissioner

Deputy

Sheikh

welcome

trict administration, aims to Commissioner toured vari-

identify and address the ous parts of the child devel-

center, stating, "The purpose Development Center. He of establishing this center is elaborated on the services

to identify the problems in offered by the center, the children coming to the explaining, "The center will

hospital and provide them house children with autism

with treatment." He specifi- spectrum disorders, speech

cally mentioned the need for and hearing problems, cere-

addressing the challenges bral palsy, muscular dystro-

faced by children with phy, intellectual disability,

emphasizing.

Praising the center's treatment here.'

Saeed ty.

over Faisalabad will bring ny was also attended by their children here for treat-

ment." He assured the com- Medical Superintendent Dr

munity that the center would Hafiz Mukhtar Randhawa,

provide the best medical and other doctors. The open-

Additionally, he revealed a significant step forward in

plans to establish a similar ensuring the well-being of

center in the children's hos- children in Faisalabad.

ing

at shops and warehouses of ensure supply of fertilizers avoiding shortage of fertil-While addressing a meet- izer.

Election commission ity of fertilizer to farmers, stresses voter participa-DC said that district admin- tion: District Election istration and agriculture Commissioner Hafizabad sion of fertilizer to farmers Asghar said that vote is a at fixed prices and in this national trust and right use connection concrete steps of vote to elect representaare being taken. She said tives of concerned area is that special teams were con- national obligation of stituted consisting of offi- everyone for strengthening cers of district administra- democratic system as well tion and agriculture depart- as progress and prosperity They expressed these

only overcharging, black- Voter's Day on 7, marketing of fertilizers December (today). They officers could be eliminated but pro- said that object of celebratvision of fertilizers to ing of National Voter's Day deserving farmers also be is to create awareness ensured instead of middle- among students, civil socieman or commission agents. ty particularly among DC said sometimes women regarding imporovercharging of fertilizer in delay in supply of fertilizer tance and power of vote in Deputy by the companies created democratic system. They shortage of fertilizer and said that the right use of Irshad has posted officers representatives of the com- vote could be change fate

Development Center marks

Assistants

promoted

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: In Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, the clerk

community was won over

by the promotion of assistant

to superintendent from 16th

grade to 17th grade in the

education department across

While addressing a meet-

Pakhtunkhwa province in

general and the clerk com-

munity of Lower Dir who

got grade 16 to 17 promo-

ion in the education depart-

ment across the province

and said that the team of the

director of elementary edu-

cation. His promotion was

made possible by his round-

the-clock efforts, on which

all the promoted clerks con-

Notices served to own-

ers: In the light of the orders

of the provincial govern-

ment and the higher officials

of the food department and

on the special instructions of

the Deputy Commissioner

District Lower Dir.

gratulate the community.

of Khyber

he province.



a press conference.

Girls middle schools sport festival concluded Syed Waliullah Shah

Education Officer (DEO) Female Nowshera Dur Shehwar distributed prizes among students of Government Girls Middle Schools at Government Primary School Rashakai, on Friday.

The event was organized after conclusion of Government Girls Middle Schools Sport Festival while Deputy DEO Nancy and sport's teacher Asima Khattak were also pres-

The students had performed and Marchpast while Government Girls Middle School Khattak Building secured 1st position in the competition. DEO stressed upon cocurricular activities for physical development of students with educa-

Prohibited drugs seized in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): The drug inspector launched cracking of the members, they down against sale of prohibcongratulated the clerk com- ited and government hospital medicines and seized huge quantity of drugs.

According to details, taking notice of surge in public complaints regarding sale of government hospital medicines at medical store located at Jinnah Road Quetta, senior drug inspector raided the medical store.

During operation, huge quantity of prohibited and government hospital medicines were recovered The medicines stock was taken into official custody and samples were sent for laboratory test. A case was registered against culprits under Drug Act 1976 and investigations were kicked off.

Protection from influential persons sought

F.P. Report

LARKANA: The protests against the alleged abuses of the influential people in Larkana district and against the alleged abuses of the influential people in Badh, last day the residents of Vadaful village in Larkana staged a sit-in at SP Chowk shouting slogans against and Aqil jail, but due to the area of Larkana district. the alleged abuses of the influential people.

In the hands of the protesters, banners and placards were written on which the slogans of illegal abuses of influential people were written. Speaking on this occasion, Aurangzeb Solangi, Abdul Majeed Solangi, Abdul Rashid High Court and said that then how will the right of Solangi and others protested and said that the influen-

demanding a ransom of Rs 15 lakh from us after their royalties allegedly seized threatening to kill us if we do not pay them.

While we have filed the office of SSP Larkana weakness of the police, we have been threatened by people attempt murderous attacks on us when they go to our agricultural land. He

Waheedfil and others are loss of life. On the other hand, citizens and school students staged a sit-in at Hyder our privately purchased Chowk, the busiest part of agricultural land and are Badh city, against the loot-Chowk, the busiest part of ing of senior teachers of Government Boys High School Tufail Ahmed Soho such a threatening report at and other teachers by unknown persons in Badh Addressing the long sit-in, teachers Ali Anwar Askari, these dangerous and influ-ential people, and those Asghar Ali Nunari and others protested and said that it is sad to say that there is no respect for good teachers in appealed to the caretaker this society when in Chief Minister of Sindh and Larkana district. If the the Chief Justice of the teachers are being looted, the Larkana police should the common man be be made bound to take redressed? So that there tial people of the village, action against the influen-Baduchal Phil, Alidnofil, tial and protect them from restlessness in the cities.

Nutrition based diet stressed for healthy nation

medicines to help create a chose the best food and

F.P. Report

laboration of UNICEF and Coordinator World Food Program and Khattak said that the from DHO office to City Benazir Development awareness campaign will Hospital. Program, organized by the continue for the next ten Provincial Nutrition Cell, days. a special awareness walk

planning, DHO organized all the LHVs, LHWs and paramedics were directed the public about the best development of children and better food, medicines.

Dr. Mutjab Faroog, Deputy DHO Dr. Niaz Ali, District Coordinator Khattak and paramedics including LHWs, LHWs participated on this occasion. He gave a special briefing on medicines and needed for the best urged all the LHVs, opment of children. LHWs and Paramedics to create awareness among out of awareness and to

better, healthier society medicines for their chil-KARAK: Under the col- while the district Nutrition dren, then the participants

districts of the province have been included in the campaign, which are less to raise awareness among urban and more in rural and hilly areas such as Kandukhel, Sirajkhel and Gudi. He said that the awareness campaign will not be limited only to the health department, it will Nutrition also include the education department, local repre-Kashif sentatives, media, schol-

In order not to be left all the people in their create a healthy society, areas about the best food, the parents themselves

ars and leaders so that any

person of the district can

get the food and medicine

needed for the best devel-

Kashif also took a special walk

present, these 19 Eight power thieves caught

SARGODHA (INP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company Sargodha has caught eigh power pilferers from various areas of the district.

According pokesperson here on Friday, a crackdown was aunched in various areas and FESCO teams, accompanying task forces, raided different localities and Tahir, Hayat caught Waqar, Hamaad, Sajid Majeed, Kamran and Ahmed.

What Pakistan expects from loss & damage (L&D) fund

Murad Khan

Dubai, the COP28 President change. Dr. Sultan al-Jaber announced the operationalization of Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund, Conference ized. (COP28), although a lot of questions are yet to be damage fund: Pakistan wel-Pakistan will be benefited from this fund.

(L&D) fund? According to The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the term refers to the economic, social, and cultural losses and damages caused by anthropogenic climate change to natural and human systems, including human-induced extreme weather events and slow onset events such as sea level rise, rising temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial melting, ecosystem degradation, and desertifica-

History: The formal agreethe Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and damage. (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, led to the establishment

Before the COP28, The L&D fund had Subsequent Developments and Challenges which is considered the 1st but at the opening day of the step towards the success of the COP28 it has been operational-

Pakistan's stance of loss &

answered about the opera- comes the establishment of a tionalization, finance, struc- fund to address loss and damage ture & Criteria, countries con- caused by climate-induced disaster effected countries like country in the globe Universe which is highly vulnerable to the catastrophic climate change and What is Losses & Damages early this year resulted in losses and damages of over US\$ 30 billion refocused the global attention towards this critical issue.

Pakistan, as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, galvanized support for establishment of the Fund in COP 27 in Sharm placed on the Agenda of the Conference, and then pushing for a consensus agreement.

Pakistan congratulates the developing countries for their exemplary solidarity and stead-Fund for Loss and Damage. We also appreciate the underment at the 19th Conference of standing and cooperation of the developed countries in recognizing the urgency to act on loss

While media briefing the KP, similarly the Sindh, Executive Secretary of UN Baluchistan and Gilgit Baltistan

Conference (COP 28), in Loss and Damage due to climate approach, a Transitional Climate approach, Committee - which drove forward progress much faster". He added "Loss and damage was a win, but we're kidding ourselves if we important for Pakistan because think it's a tick in the box for our country is no 7th or 8th in finance and support at this COP; more is required." He said that the climate change

its step. But it is just a start. for Pakistan: According to the mate migration, effecting more tribution, text of the language asters. Prime Minister of UN 2022 report, by 2030, develand so many others as well, Pakistan Anwar-ul-HaqKakar oping countries would need but it is hoped that climate dissipated is said that Pakistan is the 6th more than \$300bn annually to fight climate change. "Loss and damage finance needs are closely connected to our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate Fund, but I think the L&D fund

change.

Dubai gave this COP a spring in

According to the report of PDMA (Provincial Management Authority), till June 2020 just in international climate finance" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 311 people has been died due to Monsoon flooding including 117 el Sheikh, first by having it children, 43 females and 151 males and 381 people have been injured. Similarly due to the devastating flood, 91468 houses damaged, due to which 406538 people were evacuated, 674318 displaced and 69775 have been fastness in pushing their case for rescued. In the most affected areas of D.I Khan, Charsadda, Nowshehra and other districts of KP 6577 live stock was lost and 107220 acres of land has been

So this was just the story of of the L&D fund. This fund was Climate Change Simon Stiell said provinces have also been badly

baldly effected.

the 1st day of the Nations tance to economically develop- over the last year, on loss & dam- is very much important for a stating disaster from the flood,

Climate Change Expert and COP28 Delegate Mr. Hafiz Jawad Sohail from Pakistan says "L &D Fund is very much the list of vulnerable countries to disasters, win on Loss and Damage here in although it's Corban emission is less than 1% but Pakistan is facing devastation loss due to Why L&D fund is important flooding, glacier melting and clithan 33 million people, which is a strong case of climate justice'

Hafiz Jawad added "Many people says that the success of COP28 was closely related to the operationalization of L&D should not be in the form of debut or loan, but this should be like a climate finance or like

About the L&D Fund he said that the task of operationalization of this has been given to world Bank and it is hoped that it will be operationalize within 6 months, which is really a big challenge and if the world bank fails in the operationalization of the Fund, then a separate secretariat will be established for the operationalization of this fund, which will make further delay for the effected countries.

during the visit to Pakistan the to the L&D fund, gap between UN Secretary General, António community, organizations and

specifically created to provide At "Sharm el-Sheikh I said we effected from the devastating Guterres has already said that govt. will be the big challenges financial and technical assis- would do things differently. So flood, that's why the L&D Fund Pakistan is facing the sever dev- fo the L&D Fund. so it should be benefited from

the L&D Fund. International expert's opinion about L&D fund: During a Panel discussion about Loss and Damage Fund of the sideline of COP28 in UAE, MS. Elisa Sutanudjaja, the Executive Director of Rujak Center for Urban Studies explained the effected people from climate disaster by showing the drowning pictures of the people's homes in Jakarta City due to sea level rise as a result of climate change and said that the L&D fund was need of the earth and it is hoped that the people of effected countries will be benefited from this fund, but the local community should be involved instead of giving

funds to the countries. Similarly, talking to the same event, Mr. Simon Stump, the Senior Desk officer climate finance & Advisor to the German TC Member from Ministry for Economic cooperation and Development (MBZ), said that different countries are announcing funds for L&D, but I think it will take time for full operationalization, as it's mechanism, structure and so many things are have to decide vet. Mr. Simon said that the L&D fund should be utilized by community and Organizational level At the end he said that and Germany have already Pakistan has struggled a lot for announced 10 billion dollars for the voice of helpless people green climate fund. Simon from climate change in the globe added that arrangements, strucin the last CO27 at Egypt and ture, mechanism, criteria, access

Talking to the conclusion remarks of the event, MS. Anika Schroeder, the Policy Officer for Climate change and development Misereore.v said that the L&D fund is long process and the NGO's should translate the language of the documents, but I think the capacity of the local authorities should be increased, similarly the standards should be properly defined and the community engagements should be ensured for the success of the Loss & Damage Fund.

According to the reports 18 countries pledged to give money for L&D Fund, the UAE alone said it would commit \$100 million to the fund, Other countries promising to contribute to the fund included Germany, with \$100 million; Britain, with up to 60 million pounds (\$75.89 million); the United States, with \$17.5 million; Japan, with \$10 million; and the European Union (including Germany), with at least EUR 225 million (\$245.6 million), similarly the UK pledged up to 60 million pounds to the L&D Fund.

The operationalization of Loss and Damage (L&D) fund on the starting day of the COP28 is a great achievement, but the structure & mechanism, policy, allocation for the effected countries and accessibility of the community & NGO's to the L&D fund are the main challenges, which will be decided by the time, not just promises.

Murad Khan is an environmental journalist who tweets on @Muradonline123.



UK paid Rwanda an extra £100m for asylum deal

has given Rwanda a further Dame Meg Hillier, chair-£100m this year as part of woman of the Public ing he believed it was desits deal to relocate asylum Accounts Committee, he seekers there. The payment disclosed the full cost of the was made in April, the policy so far. Sir Matthew Home Office's top civil ser- stressed that the extra payvant said in a letter to MPs, ments were not linked to after £140m had already the new treaty signed this been sent to the African week between UK and

said another payment of the policy, which was ruled £50m was expected next unlawful by the Supreme year. The revelation came Court last month. hours after Rishi Sunak vowed to "finish the job" of spokesperson would not go

Rwanda as part of the gov-Sir Matthew Rycroft ernment's attempt to amend

Home

reviving the plan after the into specifics on what the resignation of his immigra- money would be spent on tion minister this week. The but said it was going scheme to send some asy- towards the economic lum seekers to Rwanda for development and growth of processing, in order to deter Rwanda. The payment was people from crossing the made when Suella English Channel in small Braverman was home sec-Suella boats, was first announced retary, though allies of hers by then-Prime Minister say it was signed off by the Boris Johnson in April prime minister. Labour branded the revelation of But it has been repeated-ly delayed by legal chal- with shadow home secrelenges and no asylum seek- tary Yvette Cooper adding: ers have been sent from the "How many more blank UK so far. Until now it was cheques will Rishi Sunak known that the government write before the Tories had spent at least £140m on come clean about this the policy. Sir Matthew had scheme being a total previously refused to dis-farce?" she said. Earlier, Mr close updated figures, say- Sunak held a press confering ministers had decided ence where he urged Tory to set out the costs annually. MPs to back his plan. The But in a letter published to prime minister was speak-

ing he believed it was destined for failure.

Mr Sunak insisted the new emergency legislation set out by the government would end the "merry-goround of legal challenges' over the flights of some asylum seekers to Rwanda. The bill compels judges to treat Rwanda as a safe country and gives ministers the powers to disregard sections of the Human Rights Act. But it does not go as far as allowing them to dismiss the European Convention on Human Rights, as some on the right of the Conservative Party have called for. The bill faces opposition from MPs in different factions of the Conservative Party when it returns to Parliament next week. Also, former Home Secretary Braverman reiterated that it would fail to "stop the boats" and called on the government to fully exclude international law The task of steering the bill through Parliament falls to Michael Tomlinson, who was appointed illegal migration minister. He will work alongside Tom Pursglove the minister for legal migration, after the prime minister Dame Diana Johnson, ing a day after immigration split Mr Jenrick's vacan chairwoman of the Home minister Robert Jenrick role in two.

'Contaminated syrups found in new regions'

osaid several contaminated about similarly contaminatsyrups and suspension ed medicines made in India medicines had been identi- and Indonesia, which were fied in countries in the linked to the deaths of Mediterranean, South-East events have been reported Asia and the Western to the WHO regarding the

Pacific. Pharmix Laboratories in vigilance and test products been Pakistan, the WHO said, made by the company Pakistan. The contamina-and were first identified in between December 2021 tion levels ranged from the Maldives and Pakistan. and December 2022. The 0.62% to 0.82%, compared Some of the tainted prod- contamination was found in to the accepted level of not ucts have also been found Alergo syrup in a routine more than 0.10%, accordin Belize, Fiji and Laos. examination by the ing to the alert. The prod-Pharmix was not immedi- Maldives Food and Drug ucts are variously designed ately available for com- Authority in November, and to treat allergies, coughs ment. The medicines, liq- confirmed by the Australian and other health issues. uids containing active regulator. A follow-up "The substandard products ingredients to treat various inspection at Pharmix man-referenced in this alert are conditions, contained unacceptable levels of the contaminant ethylene glycol, Regulatory Authority of result in serious injury or WHO said.

Pakistan, found that a num- death," the WHO warned.

The alert is the latest in a ber of other products were World Health Organization line of warnings from WHO also contaminated. It has ordered the company to stop making all oral liquid medicines and issued a recall alert in November. A WHO regions of the around 300 children world- total of 23 batches of Americas, the Eastern wide last year. No adverse Alergo syrup, Emidone suspension, syrup, Ulcofin suspension acific. Pakistan-made syrups, the and Zincell syrup are The affected products agency's statement said, but affected, the WHO said. manufactured by it urged countries to step up Only Alergo so far has found outside

HIV vaccine trial in Africa halted

trial of an experimental programme's independent HIV vaccine in Uganda, data and safety monitoring of oral pre-exposure pro-Tanzania and South Africa committee had "recomhas been stopped early after mended that even if we preliminary data suggested continue we will not be it would not be effective in able to show that the vacaccording to the trial's chief While there are drugs that investigator. The news is can reduce the risk of getthe latest blow to efforts to ting HIV and treatments find an effective vaccine that can control the virus against a virus that has so and prevent people from far claimed about 40 mil- developing AIDS, the lion lives globally. Another deadly immune condition 39 million are living with resulting from untreated HIV, the majority of them HIV, experts say an HIV

part of a wider initiative AIDS as a public health called PrEPVacc, began in threat. The trial, led by December 2020 with the African researchers with enrolment of 1,512 healthy support from various adults aged 18-40 and was European institutions like terminated another trial in due to end in 2024. Imperial College London, Pontiano Kaleebu, chief was testing two different investigator for the pro- combinations of experi- failed to show benefits.

infection, cine can be effective". vaccine would be an

KAMPALA (Reuters): A gramme, told Reuters the mental HIV vaccines. It was also testing a new form phylaxis (PrEP), a drug that reduces the risk of get ting HIV, to see if it was as effective as existing drugs. That part of the trial is ongoing. Participants were mostly drawn from populations at high risk of infection like sex workers, gay men and fishermen.

A statement released by the vaccine trial programme said the failed trial, which was the only remaining active HIV vac-The trial for the vaccine, important tool in ending cine efficacy trial in the world, underscored "how challenging it is to develop an effective HIV vaccine Researchers in South Africa 2020 after tests of a vaccine in more than 5,000 people

Guyana military helicopter crash kills 5 officers

that five military officers identified those who died aboard a helicopter that as a retired brigadier genercrashed near the border al, a colonel and two lieuwith Venezuela have died tenant colonels. The two and two others survived.

had vanished about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east known. of the Venezuelan border Mark Phillips said authoriduring bad weather while ties are still trying to detertransporting officers car- mine what caused the helirying out a routine inspec- copter to crash, with offition of troops in the forest-cials stressing during a ed area. Searchers found news conference that there row with Venezuela over a the wreckage.

drowns in sorrow at the have to find out what haptragic (loss) of some of our pened. The search and resfinest men in uniform," cue has now transitioned to President Irfaan Ali said in a search and recovery," statement posted on Phillips

survivors include the co-The military helicopter pilot, and their conditions weren't Prime Minister was no indication to sug-"My heart pains and gest any hostile fire. "We

GEORGETOWN (AP): social media, calling the Associated Press. Army Guyana's government said loss "immeasurable." Ali Chief Brig. Gen. Omar Chief Brig. Gen. Omar Khan told reporters that Guyana's Defense Force lost contact with the brand new Bell 412 EPI aircraft after it took off from Olive Creek settlement in westimmediately ern Guyana following a refueling stop. The crash in the mountainous and heav ily forested area is the worst in Guyana's military history. It occurred during an escalating diplomatic vast region known as Essequibo, which is rich with minerals and located near massive oil deposits.

The region abuts the border

The claims Essequibo as its own.

Venezuela, which

and therefore lacks the authority to make such a request. Following the July coup that toppled Niger's resident Mohamed that President Bazoum, the West African regional bloc ECOWAS imposed sanctions including shutting borders with the member country, suspending financial transacassets.

ABUJA (AP):

International

tions and freezing Niger's Neighboring Nigeria cut off power that supplied 70% of Niger's electricity. Niger challenged the sanctions at the ECOWAS Court of Justice in the Nigerian capital Abuja arguing they were causing severe hardship for Niger's citizens, including by curtailing supplies of food and medicine. Niger's coup leaders asked for a provisional halt to the sanctions pending a final judgement on the issue.

Delivering the ruling, Justice Dupe Atoki called Niger's junta the result of unconstitutional change of government" and said that it is not recognized as a member state of regional bloc. "Therefore, to the extent that the request for provisional measures in the name of Niger has been brought by an unconstitutional and unrecognized government, it is ... inadmissible," the judge said.
The ruling could further complicate efforts to resolve the political crisis in Niger and return the country to civilian rule. The junta, which has appointed a prime minister, has set a possible three-year timeline to return power to civilians, which ECOWAS has rejected. Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé - who has emerged as a mediator between Niger and the regional bloc - was visiting Niger ahead of an ECOW-AS summit scheduled in Abuja to discuss the coup

in Niger and other political crises across West África. Niger's deposed president, Bazoum, is still his unconditional release and reinstatement as one of the conditions for lifting

the sanctions.

Up to 600 NK defectors deported by China 'vanish'

SEOUL (Reuters): Up to 600 North Koreans have "vanished" after being forcibly deported by China in October, a Seoul-based human rights group said, warning they may face imprisonment, torture, sexual violence and execution in the isolated state. The report by the Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG) came about two months after South Korea lodged a protest with China over the suspect ed repatriation of a large of number of North Koreans who were trying to flee to

South Korea. The TJWG said hundreds of defectors were transported in guarded buses and vans from Chinese detention centres across the border into the North on Oct. 9, calling the incident the largest such mass repatriation in years. The identity of the defectors remains unknown, but most of them are women, it said. 'No communication has been established with the defectors since they were sent back," the group said in a statement. "Those forcibly returned face the prospect of torture, sexual and genderbased violence, imprisonin concentration ment camps, forced abortions and execution as their authoritative regime brands them

'criminals' and 'traitors.' North Korean state media has not commented on the but had case, long denounced defectors as "human scum", and leader Kim Jong Un has tightened borders further over the past few years. Beijing's foreign ministry denied in October that there were "so-called defectors" in China, but said that North Koreans had illegally entered for economic reasons, and that China always handled the issue according to the law. Seoul's unification ministry and foreign ministry did not immediately comment.



DUBAI: Activists participating in a demonstration at the COP28 UN Climate Summit.

UN says Africa faces unprecedented food crisis

of Africans can't afford a healthy diet, ity of Africa's population - about 78% and a fifth are undernourished due to or more than one billion people -"unprecedented food crisis," United Nations agencies said in a 1.4 billion people are confronting high levels of hunger and malnutrition as the hit on world grain supplies from Russia's war in Ukraine compounds the ills of African conflicts, climate change and the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report

It warned that "millions are expected to be at risk of worsening hunger in the near future." With a young population set to double by 2050, Africa is the only rapidly growing region where people are getting poorer, and some are beginning to celebrate coups by soldiers who promise a better life.

Despite its wealth of natural resources, Africa is far from meeting its commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2025. Armed violence in West and Central Africa munities, while in East Africa climate

ABUJA (AP): At least three-fourths rocketing prices for food. "The major- nourished since the start of the panremain unable to afford a healthy diet, compared with 42% at the global report released with the African level, and the number is rising," said Union Commission. The continent's the report from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the World Food Program and the African Union Commission. In 2022, as many as 342 million Africans were "severely food-insecure," the report said. That represented 38% of the 735 million hungry people around the world,

Among those affected the most by the food crisis in Africa are children under age 5, 30% of whom are stunted because of malnutrition, the report said. "The deterioration of the food security situation and the lack of progress towards the WHO global nutrition targets make it imperative for countries to step up their efforts if they are to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030," Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO regional has uprooted millions from their com- representative for Africa, said alongside officials from the other agencies. as incomes fail to keep pace with sky- more Africans have become under- the UN agencies said.

demic, bringing the total of the undernourished to nearly 282 million last year. "After a long period of improvement between 2000 and 2010, hunger has worsened substantially and most of this deterioration occurred between 2019 and 2022" during the pandemic, the report said. In Nigeria, which is Africa's largest economy and a top oil producer, nearly 93% of the country's more than 210 million people are unable to afford a healthy diet, the report said.

Such situations are leading many to question why Africa's governments are failing to use the continent's wealth to make life better for citizens. While Nigeria has been battling growing hardship as a result of austerity measures introduced by the nation's new leader, the government budgeted millions of dollars for cars and house renovations for the president and his wife - even though her office is not recognized by the country's constitution. "We hope the findings will trigger the momentum for agrifood systems transformation along with other systems such as educhange and extreme weather pose The agencies noted he continent is cation, health and energy, for better severe threats to farmers. Many families increasingly find it difficult to eat COVID-19. They said 57 million environment and a better life for all,"

Democracy activist still feels under the watch of Hong Kong police

before returning it to her this year under certain con-

authorities. view with The Associated Press that Hong Kong's national security police left the city to pursue fur- affected her mental health. ther studies in September.

Chow, who left Hong Kong dents like Chow reflects the for Canada and doesn't plan severe erosion of the freeto return to fulfill her bail doms promised to the forconditions, said she still mer British colony when it feels under the watch of the returned to China in 1997. Chinese territory's police But both the Beijing and after moving to Toronto. Hong Kong governments Chow is one of Hong have hailed the security law, Kong's most prominent saying it brought back stayoung activists and was bility to the city. Hong arrested in 2020 under a Kong leader John Lee hit Beijing-imposed national out at Chow's decision to security law that was enact- not return to Hong Kong to ed following 2019 anti-gov- meet her bail conditions. He ernment protests. While she called Chow a "liar" and has not been charged and said attempts by police to was released on bail, police offer her lenient treatment confiscated her passport eventually led to them being deceived. Chow will be pursued for life unless ditions, including a visit to she turns herself in, he said. mainland China with Chow rejected the government's claim that police had Chow said in an inter- offered her leniency, insisting her personal safety and freedom had been infringed. She said the restrictions called her twice to ask her imposed by the authorities about her status after she on her daily life had badly

They keep trying to make post that her passport was and the police asked the AP day the security law was me feel like I'm under their only returned to her so she to refer to their earlier state- enacted.

detained by the junta. BANGKOK (AP): Pro- eyes," she said. The intimicould pursue a master's ments and transcripts of ECOWAS has demanded democracy activist Agnes dation of Hong Kong dissided agrees after the careed to affect the careed the careed to affect the national security authorities. During that trip in exhibition on China's achievements and the headquarters of tech giant Tencent, she said. She was asked to pose for photos. Later, police asked her to passport to her, she said. ly long time" whether to She said her trip showed the Hong Kong police were adopting more of the style mainland Chinese authorities to "control" and "intimidate" political dissidents. "If I did not make my story public, these photos, these letters might one day become the evidence of my patriotism. That is something I do not want to see," she said. In response to questions about Chow's She said in an Instagram comments, the government

go to mainland China with including Lee's. They have condemned her decision to leave. Lee said Chow was August, she visited to an arrested for alleged collusion with foreign forces and that those who have committed that offense have become foreign agents. Chow said that framing

was "ridiculous," pointing write a thank you letter to out she has not been them before returning her charged three years after her arrest. She said her decision Chow pondered for "a real- to move to Canada and not return to Hong Kong was publicize her experience. entirely her own decision. 'So we could clearly see that the national security law has become a political tool to the authority to make up accusations and to intimidate political dissidents, she said. She said she was stopped from contacting her friends in Demosisto, a now-defunct political party she co-founded with other prominent activists Nathan Law and Joshua Wong. Demosisto was disbanded on June 30, 2020, the same

Armenia, Azerbaijan agree to take steps towards normalisation

NAGORNO-KARABAKH: rule of the territory and led ters relations, in a move wel-Union and the United States. The two countries have been process amid mutual distrust. locked in a decades-long conflict over Nagornooffensive against Armenian

separatists in September. In a joint statement they had agreed to seize "a long-awaited peace in the region" and hoped to sign a and to reach the peace treaty principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity," the added. statement Azerbaijani September's

Armenia and Azerbaijan most of its 120,000 residents have said they will exchange to flee the region, which is prisoners of war and work internationally recognised as towards normalising their part of Azerbaijan. Until announcement, the two comed by the European countries had argued bitterly on the outline of a peace

The statement said Baku

will free 32 Armenian pris-Karabakh, which Azerbaijan oners of war, while Yerevan reclaimed after a lightning will release two Azerbaijani servicemen, in agreements reached during talks between the office of Armenian Prime issued, the two sides said Minister Nikol Pashinyan and the administration of historical chance to achieve a Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev. The two countries also said they "will continue peace treaty before the end their discussions regarding of the year. "The two countries the implementation of more their discussions regarding tries reconfirm their inten-tion to normalise relations ures, effective in the near future, and call on the interon the basis of respect for the national community to support their efforts". Armenia's ministry foreign Yerevan had "responded positively to the offer of US offensive in Nagorno- Secretary of State Antony Karabakh ended ethnic Blinken to organise the Armenians' three decades of meeting of the foreign minis-

Azerbaijan in Washington". European Council President Charles Michel described the developments as a "major breakthrough in Armenia-Azerbaijan relations" while the US welcomed the statement and the prisoner exchange. "This commitment represents an important confidence-building measure as the sides work to finalise a peace agreement and normalise relations," State spokesman Department

Matthew Miller said in a statement. As part of the deal, Armenia also agreed to lift its objections to Azerbaijan hosting next year's international conference on climate change. Countries had been unable to agree on an eastern European host for the 2024 climate talks, with Russia vetoing countries in the EU and Azerbaijan and Armenia rejecting each others' bids. A decision on the meeting's location and presidency is due within the next week. Michel as mediators at those

supports the bid of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 29th Session of the Conference of [COP29] to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, by withdrawing its own candidacy"

Aliyev and Pashinyan have met on several occasions for EU-mediated normalisation talks, but the process had stalled over the last two months as two rounds of negotiations failed to take place. Azerbaijan had refused to participate in talks with Armenia that were planned in the US on November 20, over what it said was Washington's "biased" position. October, Aliyev declined to attend a round of negotiations with Pashinyan in Spain, that time accusing France of bias. French President Emmanuel Macron Chancellor Olaf Scholz had been scheduled to join The joint statement said that talks. — Aljazeera

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UK's politics and migration issue

REAT Britain has plunged into another sociopolitical crisis on the issue of Sunak's government Emergency Rwanda Legislation as the British lawmakers are scheduled to hold their first vote on controversial legislation next week. The ruling Conservative Party faced fresh infighting after Sunak's government unveiled its latest attempt to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, which sparked the resignation of the immigration minister who demanded tougher measures to combat the curse. The recent bill compels judges to treat Rwanda as a safe country and proposes giving ministers powers to disregard sections of human rights legislation. But hardliners including former Interior Minister Suella Braverman and former Migration Minister Jenrick want powers to go further and dismiss the European Convention on Human Rights altogether, to prevent the courts from halting the extradition of illegal migrants.

Illegal migration has become a great challenge to nations across Europe and North America ranging from the US, Canada, Italy, Germany, and Spain to the UK, Poland, and Belarus because people from Asia, Africa, and Latin America move illegally from their countries through sea or land routes to secretly enter wealthier nations in the West. A mass exodus of the population from poor, developing, and violence-hit nations is underway to reach prosperous Western countries. Refugees of diverse colours, creeds, and backgrounds have caused unimaginable social, economic, administrative, and law and order issues for the host nations. Consequently, multiple Western nations introduced strict immigration regimes to curb the number of migrants from certain developing countries that restricted legal migration but encouraged illegal exodus and volunteer

human trafficking.
Interestingly, the UK was one of the lucrative destinations for migrants from across the globe because of Great Britain's Royal immigration laws, human rights standards, and civil liberties. However, the criminals and crooks instead of educated/talented individuals took full advantage of the UK's domestic laws, and hundreds of thousands of people made refuge and got asylum in England or entered secretly into Great Britain giving birth to countless social, economic, and administrative issues in that nation. The mass influx of migrants put pressure on public services including healthcare, housing, and education along with promoting an informal economy, unemployment and strict job competition for native people. Meanwhile, the continuous arrival of asylum seekers through boats from the English Channel led to a sharp rise in street crimes and caused serious security and law and order issues for the government. Previously, the Johnson administration struck a deal with Rwanda to deport all illegal migrants to Kagali until their legal status was defined by the courts/ authorities. However, the agreement was challenged by human rights groups in the UK's top Court which declared the UK-Rwanda migrant deal unlawful and void. The British Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the government scheme would put asylum seekers at risk of ill-treatment and they could be sent back to their home countries once in

Presently, the issue makes immigration a major political battleground in the UK's general election expected next year, while this quandary has put enormous pressure on Sunak's government under threat from a party split. Currently, promises to clamp down on illegal migration English Channel is a key election strategy as the political groups get ready for next year's nationwide polls. The ruling Conservative party has made repeated efforts to stop the mass influx of illegal migrants along with putting a halt to arrivals through lawful means. But the UK's Supreme Court foiled all such attempts by British leaders so far. The resolute politicians are considering extraordinary measures including cancelling Great Britain's human rights laws and abandoning the European Convention on Human Rights, so the judges could not unturn their future policies about undocumented migration. Interestingly, there are several other methods to curb illegal migration that involve measures including border security, immigration policy reforms, and international cooperation. However, mixed generations and legatees of Anglo-Indians have now become the worst enemy of refugees otherwise, Britians had been living with the lower classes throughout the past.

International Anti-Corruption Day

HE National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has organized a seminar on Curbing Corruption through a Documented Economy in collaboration with civil society organizations and also planned an awareness walk to mark International Anti-corruption Day today, December 9, 2023. The NAB authorities perceive the public-private partnership as crucial to combat corruption and stress individuals to hold themselves accountable and work together to combat corruption in society. As said, each citizen including students and children should take on an active role in preventing corruption or corrupt practices in their surroundings. While everyone should be committed to performing their duties diligently and honestly.

Historically, corruption has been a longstanding issue in Pakistan, seriously affecting various sectors including politics, bureaucracy, national institutions, business as well as the common public. It has hindered development, eroded public trust, and impeded economic growth over the past decades. Despite efforts to address it through reforms and anti-corruption bodies, the challenge not only persists but is shaped into a grave challenge, requiring sustained commitment from authorities, civil society, and citizens to combat this menace and promote transparency and accountability in

Combating corruption involves a multifaceted and a whole of national approach while the role of the LEAs including the Police, FIA, NAB, the legislature, the judiciary, academia as well and the masses is of utmost importance. There is a general trend in our society that people do not perceive damage to public/ government property as their own loss and unjustly use government resources for their personal benefit. Meanwhile, witnesses never feel their national and moral responsibility to report that loss to concerned authorities. Rather a majority of the masses offer bribes to have done their rightful job, or obtain an entitlement under the law, while public servants categorically demand unlawful favour, graft, or bounty to perform their official duty or deliverance of service to the public. Hence, the service-providing departments such as local government. police, revenue department, health and education departments have become hubs of corruption instead of being vanguard against this evil.

There is a dire need for implementing transparent processes, open government initiatives, and clear accountability mechanisms within the government institutions and anti-graft watchdogs, that can help reduce opportunities for corruption. The introduction of rigorous legislation, use of modern technology, education and training of staff, and public awareness could play pivotal roles in cultivating a culture of honesty and integrity among citizens and public officials. So, our society could liberate itself from this menace once and for all



Why Palestinian resistance is no numbers game

Ramzy Baroud

keen on releasing fundamentally heavy price they continue 2.3 million people living in may seem rational to ask: even argue that living in what is the point of releas- Gaza during a time of genodetainees from Israeli far less safe than being a prisons if the price of political prisoner in Israel doing so is the deaths of under "normal" circum-**15,000** stances.

HERE is a reason

Palestinians

than

dead and missing in the Israeli

The logic may sound even

more puzzling when we con-

sider that, between Oct. 7 and

than 3,200 Palestinians in the

West Bank including East

Nov. 24 and Nov. 30 is

for

groups not to resist in the

first place, because doing so

could multiply the harm

inflicted upon them by their

captives in Gaza, whether

civilians or soldiers, in terms

of numbers, Palestinians

approach the issue from an

entirely different perspec-

tive. All Palestinians are

captives, according to the

reality on the ground,

victims of Israeli colonial-

Megiddo, Ofer or Ramleh

prison, for example, and

being a prisoner in an isolat-

ed, walled-off Palestinian

occupation in Area C of the

West Bank is rather techni-

colonizers and oppressors.

oppressed

and

during

rational

nations

swaps

Palestinians in Gaza?

to be released, they would not power. This entitles it to cereven amount to 30 percent of tain rights as per, for examgenocide in the Strip so far. ous responsibilities. For right when he said last

different Most Palestinians well their prisoners, despite the from the incarceration of the know that the US and Western-dominated internato pay for their freedom. It Gaza now? Some would tional institutions will not their own resistance provide protection for Palestinians are able to Palestinians based on any influence outcomes. ing a few Palestinian cide is more confining and kind of moral rationale, or means that they are political even their love for animals.

ago, when the international Indeed, Convention, but also numer- Guterres pronounced it out- people.

This was illustrated by the pitiful it imprisons Palestinians as Nov. 28, Israel detained more display of Palestinian Authority an expression of power and control over every aspect of President Mahmoud Abbas during a Palestinian lives. Though Jerusalem.
In particular, the number of Palestinian women and in May. "Protect us," he said, some of the detainees are considered, in the eyes of Israel, "security prisoners," children detainees released repeatedly, before making an analo- many were detained for several prisoner between the gy between Palestinians and ani-Palestinian resistance and mals. "Aren't we human beings? the Israeli army between Even animals should be protected. If Nov. 24 and Nov. 30 is insignificant compared to those detained during the same period. But mathematical equations are irrelevant well know that the US been detained for visiting the families of other prisoners or for mourning the deaths of Palestinians well know that the US is a been detained for visiting the families of other prisoners or for mourning the deaths of Palestinian youths killed by Israel. Israel detained these in liberation wars. If we and Western-dominated internation- women for the same reason resort to this kind of logic, al institutions will not provide procolonized tection for Palestinians based on any Ben-Gvir kind of moral rationale, or even their love for animals. This realization dawned on Palestinians generations ago, when the international commu-While Israelis see all their nity failed to enforce a single UN resolution on Israel.

those rights and completely ignored all its responsibilities. Over the same period, because all Palestinians are Palestinians have appealed to - and even implored - the ism, military occupation and international community to apartheid. The difference enforce international law on Israel, unsuccessfully. between being a prisoner in

This was illustrated by pitiful display of Israel. Authority Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas town under Israeli military during a speech at the UN General Assembly in May. "Protect us," he said, repeatedly, before making an anal-True, those in Megiddo ogy between Palestinians denied proper food, medi- mals should be protected. If move about. But how is that you protect it? Protect us." new factor to a long-skewed cost.

decades, Israel has abused month that the UN has neither the "money nor power" to prevent genocide in Gaza. Guterres and other top UN officials must be aware of the marginal role that the on keeping all Palestinian international community is playing in the Israeli war on US stance in support of no, this is not a numbers As long as Washington continues to serve as the vanguard of ters, whether they are being Israeli war crimes in killed in Gaza or held cap-Palestine, Tel Aviv has no tive in Israeli prisons, for reason to stop. So, Palestinians all issues are every other occupied, colo- called liberation. It is for are subjected to more vio- and animals. "Aren't we nized people have done in this coveted collective free-lence, torture even. They are human beings? Even ani- this situation: resisting, dom that Palestinians have this situation: resisting. dom that Palestinians have Through their resistance, fought, generation after gen-

equation that is largely controlled by Israel and its

By releasing their prisoners - as a direct result of agents; in fact, political This realization dawned actors who can redefine the on Palestinians generations rules of the game altogether. Palestinians So, clearly, the issue is community failed to enforce approach the issue of pris-In fact, even if all not related to numbers, but a single UN resolution on oners as part of a larger Palestinian prisoners - there rather to power relations. Israel. Regarding the ongo- struggle for liberation. are about 7,000 of them Under international law, ing conflict, the internation- Those who can free 100 or according to Addameer - were Israel is the occupying al community has proved to 7,000 detainees would set a be particularly irrelevant; to historical precedent that extent that UN will, eventually, allow them the total number of Palestinian ple, the Fourth Geneva Secretary-General Antonio to free the whole Palestinian

Israel is fully aware of the power and representation of the prisoners' issue because control over every aspect of social media posts, their WhatsApp status or for no reason at all. Many Palestinian women have been detained for visiting the that far-right National Security Minister Itamar banned Palestinians from celebrating their children's freedom.

Specifically, wants to control every aspect of Palestinians' lives their actions, real or symbolic, and even their anger. joy and all other emotions When Palestinians are released through prisoner exchanges, they emerge proudly and with heads held high, from Israeli dungeons, despite the numer ous obstacles and restric tions and Israel's insistence

captives. For Palestinians, this is Gaza because of the strong an unparalleled victory. So, game. Though Palestinian individual mat Palestinians are doing what linked to one single project cine and the freedom to you have an animal, won't they hope to introduce a eration, however high the

AI governance cannot go without Sino-US cooperation

Shen Yang

INCE the launch of unethical purposes. The development.

AI technology is rapidly advancing, particularly in machine learning and combilities. These advancements signal AI's potential to better understand and emulate human thought processes, fostering greater efficacy across sectors, including improving productivity and driving economic growth. Yet the transformative

impact of AI on the labor

market is a double-edged sword. True, AI is creating new employment opportunities. But it is also true that AI ensure could make certain professions obsolete. So it is essential to take measures to prevent or minimize job loss or displacement. Besides, education and policy adjustments are required to help workers to improve their skills and/or learn new skills, in order to adapt to the changes in the job market. And while governments and educational institutions must collaborate to provide necessary training and resources, and prepare workers to navigate the new work environdeveloping strategies that mitigate job losses and harnesses the potential for creating new jobs, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach

to the evolving AI landscape. To be sure, the future of AI extends beyond its standalone advancement and convergence with diverse fields such as bioscience, materials science and energy. In healthcare, for instance, AI applications can enhance precision medicine, improving treatment and facilitating the discovery of new medicines. As for energy management, AI holds the potential to optimize energy distribution, reduce waste and contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development. Ethical and moral considerations have become increasensuring transparency in AI needs to make concert decision-making, addressing issues of accountability and preventing the inappropriate use of AI technology have become challenges.

Also, public understanding and acceptance of AI are crucial for the healthy development and responsible use of AI. Education, advanced education in particular, can help individuals better understand the potential and limitations of AI and its social impact. Governments, educational institutions and businesses should therefore work together to popularize knowledge about AI, so as to foster rational discussions on and responsible use of AI, ensuring it develops robustly and contributes positively to society. As the impact of AI continues to expand globally, the establishment of an international unified set of AI rules and usage standards has become increasingly crucial. These rules and standards should encompass demands for transparency in AI decision-making, safeguard data privacy and prevent AI from being used for

ChatGPT-3.5 in international community, on November 2022, the its part, must collaboratively in international community, on field of artificial intelli- strive to formulate and gence, especially the Chat enforce these standards Generative Pre-trained through cross-border cooper-Transformer model, has ation, not least because AI made significant progress, holds immense potential in creating substantial oppor-tunities and, equally sub-stantial, risks. As such, both data analysis and pattern China and the United recognition, AI can predict States, as global leaders in and address global conflicts, AI, can play pivotal roles in environmental issues and shaping the AI sector's international economic challenges. So international organizations and governments can leverage AI technatural language processing, nology to manage resources more efficiently, respond to plex decision-making capa- crises, and promote global peace and prosperity. This makes it necessary for China and the US to participate in global discussions on AI governance, because of the significant influence of the two countries in the research and application of AI technology, as well as their crucial roles in shaping relevant policies and standards related to AI.

Since the overarching goal of global AI governance is to technological advancements humankind as a whole while mitigating potential adverse impacts, global cooperation under the framework of a community with a shared future for mankind is paramount for the healthy development of AI. By sharing best practices, coordinating policies and establishing global standards, we can maximize AI technology's global benefits. The development of AI technology should be inclusive and equitable, and its benefits should ment, the focus should be on extend to all. Hence, considering the needs and interests of different countries and social groups throughout the technological advancement process is crucial to ensuring that. Also, leveraging AI to optimize resource utilization and environmental protection strategies will have a profound impact on building a sustainable future. The development of AI creates both opportunities and challenges, so it is imperative for the world, especially China and the US, to collaborate to ensure AI development propels economic growth and technological innovation, fosters global cooperation, safeguards social justice, and promotes environmental sustainability.

ever, the international comingly important due to AI's munity, particularly leading rapid development, and nations in AI technology, efforts. Through collaboration and strategic policy formulation, the international community can help AI technology become a powerful force driving collective human development, not a source of division and contradictions. As leaders in AI technology, China and the US play a crucial role in global AI governance and the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. And global collaboration can help us establish ethical standards, adapt to the changing job market, improve global governance and spread knowledge about AI education. To make such a scenario a reality, governments and businesses need to make collective efforts and implement coordinated policies. In short, by holding regular dialogue and fostering global cooperation, we can achieve a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable future and make AI technology a positive driver for the common destiny humankind.

For this to happen, how-

The China Daily

AST year in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) opened the door to further

mate change and food insecurity. The International Fund for Agricultural Development's commitment to expanding its investments to support smallholder farmers has gained increased urgency at COP28, which is being held in Dubai from Nov 30 to Dec 12. Mitigating the impact of

climate change is more take advantage of the winurgent today than ever. There is a critical yet widening gap between the growing needs and the decreasing invest- inaction today will lead to ment for climate financing in severe economic and social sustainable agriculture and repercussions in the future. resilient food systems. As This will leave smallholder outlined by IFAD, every dol- farmers - who have conlar spent on climate resilience tributed the most with the now can prevent up to \$10 fewest resources - unprebeing required for emergency aid in the future - that is sig-mate crisis. This will lead to a resilient and sustainable empowering rural women nificant. While smallholder reduced food production, agrifood system are at the and youths, crucial actors in farmers are responsible for increased food prices, exac- center of IFAD's operations building climate resilience

Bolstering the front line supply and being on the front lines of climate challenges, the funding allocated for them to bolster climate resilience remains remarkunveil the untapped poten- ably inadequate. Shockingly, tial of smallholder farmers small-scale agrifood systems amid the challenges of clireceived \$5.53 billion, only 0.8 percent of global climate finance in 2019-20, according to the Climate Policy Initiative.

This year's COP28 sounds an urgent alarm to global leaders, policymakers, private sector investors and development banks that investment in smallholder farmers must be prioritized to dow of opportunity for increasing climate adaptation. The truth is that our This will leave smallholder pared in the midst of the cli-

achieve sustainable develop-

ment goals. China is responding to the clarion call to nations to do their bit. In 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced China's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 at the United Nations General Assembly. Studies estimate that improvements in agricultural technologies combined with shifts in dietary patterns agrifood systems by nearly 50 percent by 2060 in China. But this goal will only be accomplished by engaging and empowering smallholder farmers, who constitute 90 percent of the agricultural workforce and cultivate over 70 percent of the arable land China's third agricultural census conducted in 2020. The focus on the smallholder and

Nil Quaye-Kumah ty, and ultimately failure to integrating climate change adaptation to promote sustainable agriculture in China. For instance, in Oinba, Shaanxi province, a region that is highly vulnerable to climate change, the Sustaining Poverty Reduction through Agribusiness Development South in Shaanxi Project is offering essential technical guidance to local policymakers, companies and smallholder farmers to navigate various natucould slash emissions from ral disasters, particularly droughts, to expand insurance coverage to safeguard smallholder farmers' livelihoods and promote digital technologies for farm oversight and crop monitoring. In the same province, IFAD has scaled up digital tracking systems and provided farmers in the country, according to with sustainable ways of rearing pigs with less environmental impact.

IFAD China is also 35 percent of the world's food erbation of hunger and pover- in China. We are actively within small-scale agrifood

systems, by providing them with necessary skills and resources.

Through projects such as Hunan Demons-Revitalization upskilled tration, rural women are engaged in sustainable agricultural practices. In the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, IFAD's initiatives have helped predominantly female farmers install biogas converters for electricity, thereby reducing deforestation and their annual workload by 60 days. Knowledge continues to be central and its exchange, together with the plethora of experience gathered through South-South cooperation, can harness the most resilient agricultural practices for climate adaptation. Such collaborations are currently facili- come

tated between China and other developing nations via platforms supported by IFAD China. For instance, we have facilitated knowledge exchange dialogue between China and Pakistan to address climate change adaptation and mitigation, focusing on tackling Pakistan's deforestation, desertification and water management.

At a time of rising food insecurity, the decision-makers at COP28 are urged to rethink the climate agen-Developed nations, international financial institutions, private investors and other stakeholders should collaborate and address the unmet financing needs of smallholder farmers. It's now or never for us to safeguard smallholder farmers, who sustain the current generation and generations to

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EU's attempts to adopt a bloc-wide policy on Beijing are not proving easy

the 1970s by Henry Kissinger, the former US secretary of state who died on Wednesday at the has often been repeated over of a unified foreign policy the fact that Europe is becoming default aligned with ours. across a European bloc that an increasingly important foreign currently comprises 27 countries with differing interests.

The question implies that there could be significant potential benefits for other foreign powers ly common criticism of China wants the opposite; in other words, it favors a splintered EU culture. so that it can attempt to "divide and rule" across the continent. This is one reason why the latest annual EU-China summit, part of process that has been taking place for about a quarter of century, will be more important than most. There has been an undenithe conclusion of the summit on Thursday and Friday.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other top EU officials, including High including

HERE is a reason why

turned out to be a defanged,

neutered variant of the policies

advocated by Suella Braverman

and Robert Jenrick, who right-

ly resigned in protest. The Tory

Left-wing caucus is too large,

too petulant, too intent on polit-

Even the modest reforms that

Sunak actually agreed to may turn

out to be too much for the One

Nation caucus, despite the cau-

tious welcome it gave the plans

ment increasingly reciprocated by

their values and interests.

immigration

Rishi Sunak's last-ditch

proposals

policy focal point for China and, until the pandemic, Beijing's influence had generally grown across much of the continent.

This can be seen in Eastern if there was a single interlocutor and Central Europe, where China within the EU that they could regularly holds "16+1" summits speak to. However, an increasing- with the aim of enhancing and expanding cooperation in the within Europe is that Beijing fields of investment, transport, finance, science, education and

There are also examples in key Western European states, such as Italy, which was the first, and so Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. Underlying this, it is becoming increasingly clear that China is tailoring its approach able chill in relations, as a result around the bespoke needs of indiof which the two sides might fail vidual states or subgroups of even to issue a joint statement at countries, such as the 16+1 grouping in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the overtures to The backdrop to this is the Europe come with a clear quid pro quo, as highlighted by Italy's decision to sign up to the BRI in return for Chinese investment.

In the aftermath of the pan-Representative of the EU for demic and Russia's invasion of divided Europe have also been Foreign Affairs and Security Ukraine, Brussels has therefore publicly highlighted by several Policy Josep Borrell, to enforce a sought to bring the bloc more Chinese officials. Fu Cong, the common bloc-wide stance on closely together around a ambassador to the EU, cast

said to have been asked in increasingly concerned in recent ting speeches. Von der Leyen said years about whether the nature of last month that "we must recog-China's external interventions in nize that there is an explicit ele-Europe represent a "divide and ment of rivalry in our relationage of 100. This famous query rule" strategy designed to under- ship. We must also recognize that mine the continent's collective China's views on the global secuthe years to highlight the lack interests. The context for this is rity architecture are not by

> The direction in which the EU's policy on China is currently heading is clearly more hawkish. Even on issues in which breakthroughs have been made in recent years, such as the bilateral Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, the "long grass" of Brussels has prevented ratification of the deal by the European Parliament as a result of concerns about Beijing's behavior. A central challenge facing von der Leyen and Borrell is therefore the splits within the 27-member bloc on the issue of Beijing. It is far only, G7 country to endorse overly simplistic to say there is an East-West dichotomy on the continent, in part because Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban favors strong ties with

Nonetheless, clear differences France, Spain and Germany, which do much more business with China. Perceptions of a

like "people quarreling with each

The positions taken Western European nations such as Germany and France are particularly problematic Brussels, given that both countries want to continue with extensive economic engagements with China.

The longstanding, deep business ties between Berlin and Beijing are well-documented, so it is no surprise that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is more equivocal on the matter than von der Leyen and Borrell. What has surprised many people, however, is the relatively soft stance taken by French President Emmanuel Macron, which was evident during a joint visit to Beijing with von der Leyen this year. Remarkably, he took a business delegation that was estimated to include about 50 people. This was about four times larger than a similar delegation that accompanied Scholz on a visit to China last year.

Perhaps most surprising of all was the fact that Macron moved English, the term is significantly away from the prior are evident between the more French position on Taiwan. So hawkish Eastern European while von der Leyen was assertnations, such as Poland, the ing during the trip that "stability Czech Republic and Lithuania, in the Taiwan Strait is of paraand Western counterparts such as mount importance" and the "threat of use of force to change the status quo is unacceptable,' Macron described Taiwan as a "crisis that is not ours" and suggested that Europeans should stay out of the issue and not be "America's followers." All of this China. But despite their attempts stronger policy on China. Von der doubts, for example, on whether together highlights the challengto enhance unity on the issue of Leyen and Borrell have led the all member states support the ing backdrop to this week's bilat-Beijing, Brussels is struggling to way on this, even though the for- agenda of Borrell and von der eral summit. Not only are overall find common ground across the mer does not have a formal for- Leyen, saying that "Europe has EU relations frozen, they could 27 member states. Worse still, top eign policy role. Most recently, not formulated a coherent policy yet go from bad to worse in the EU officials have become both of them have made hard-hit- toward China" and that it looks year ahead.

Russia outlines its vision of a 'world majority' to rival the West

week hosted its Annual two-day forum known as the Readings, which is organized by the Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations. The main theme of the

forum Transformation of the World Order: Eurasian Dimension." Among the participants were Russian presidential adviser Yuri Ushakov, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Commonwealth of Independent States Committee Executive Chairman Sergei Lebedev and other Russian and foreign scientists and politicians.

One of the most frequently heard terms at this year's forum was the concept of "world majority" (in expressed as "global majorbut many Russian translations use this wording). This denotes a non-Western group of countries that the Russian authorities hope will be able to build a 'new, fairer and more democratic system of international relations." Given the strategic importance of this forum, which is commonly joined by well-recognized speakers who Russia's foreign policies, what conclusions can be drawn from these discussions of the preferred world order for Moscow (and its

Ushakov noted that "the theme of this year's forum is very relevant - 'horizons of post-globalization.' It is obvious that the model of globalization, which was formed largely by Western states - naturally, in their own interests - has outlived its usefulness and is in a deep crisis." Further, according to President Vladimir Putin, "a new, fairer (system) is emerging .. a democratic system of international relations that meets the needs of the world majority." Expanding on the logic of the concept "world majority, Ushakov argued that, in the system of international relations that is currently being built, a more significant role will be played by countries that are "committed to their sovereignty and

majority of the planet's population," he noted. Importantly, he added that the most important instrument of global governance, the vanguard of the "world majority," are the BRICS member states and Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE, six countries that will join the bloc from Jan. 1, 2024. However, Ushakov did not specify which countries outside of this association might also be included in the "world majority."

overwhelming

and

the

Dr. Diana Galeeva

Russian eyes, the term's meaning is largely "non-Western." In a similar vein, Lavrov concentrated on the development of multipolarity. He said: "Multipolar systems, if we look back in history, are not a new phenomenon. In one form or another, they existed before. For example, during the 'concept of European powers' of the 19th century or between the two world

wars of the 20th century." The Russian foreign minister further clarified between these and the cur-

Union, the Community of Latin American and the impression that, in Caribbean States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The last three might be interesting examples, showing how the Russian view of the "world majority" particularly involves the Middle East and the Islamic world. Even without a clear def-

inition of the term, this new concept has become very popular within Russia's narratives. remain about how best to summarize it and why it is the fundamental difference only now appearing on Russia's foreign policy rent "edition" of multipo- horizon. In an article last larity, arguing that this was month, Valdai Discussion a chance to acquire truly Club program director planetary scale, based on Timofei Bordachev the basic principle of the explained: "Russians love

In addition to BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Lavrov included in the new international structure the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the CIS, as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

stated, new players representing the Global South the forefront of world polinumber is growing, stating: "We justifiably call them the world majority. Not in words, but in deeds, they strengthen their sovereignissues, demonstrating independence and putting their national interests at the forefront, and not someone else's whims.'

As one example, he cited a statement by his Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, that "the world is much more than Europe." Lavrov concluded: "It is clear that the meaning of this statement is that the world is independent foreign polition of interstate communithe "collective West," precy." "It is these countries ... cation and for a more equisented as an entrenched developed the idea that the fact that the world is changing can be seen in the many examples of multilateral the BRICS nations. In addition to BRICS and the Cooperation Shanghai Organization, Lavrov included in the new internastructure tional the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the CIS, as well as the the biggest intellectual plat-Association of Southeast forms of foreign policy for-Instead, he simply offered Asian Nations, the African

UN Charter, which is the to invoke the concept of the sovereign equality of states. world majority - a set of Before, decisions affecting countries in the world that the whole world had been link their development with made or controlled by a the main trends of globalsmall group of countries, ization, but are capable of dominated by the Western expressing their own views community, for obvious on fair forms on interna-reasons. Today, Lavrov tional order." He wrote that tional order." He wrote that this concept had previously senting the Global South been expressed "rather and the East have come to restrainedly," as Western countries played the key tics. He enthused that their role and were able to offer fairly optimal solutions for everyone. However, the ongoing crisis in the Middle East might open a new chapter in how the US ty in resolving pressing and Europe are perceived in the world order. So, this could be the turning point that Russia aims to use as an opportunity to further attract and unite states as part of a new understand-

ing.
To sum up, Russia's "world majority" includes itself along with the Global South and the East, which together constitute the majority of the world's much larger than the West. economy and its popula-Russia consistently advo- tion. This is briefed as cates for the democratiza- standing in opposition to speech, "contributes to the formation of such a world order and is the locomotive of this objective process. diplomacy. Among the This course has been a premost striking evidence is occupation in Russia's forthe cooperation between eign policies, especially since the start of the Ukraine war, as it offers an opportunity to secure a leading role amid a storm of political uncertainty. The Middle East war has also been seen by Russia as a special opportunity to broadcast the concept from the biggest intellectual plat-

It's over for this Conservative Party: Too many Tory MPs hate their own voters

Allister Heath

irreconcilable ideologies.

The Tories are pathologically divided, almost comically so, seeking to be the home of centre-Left technocrats and genuine Right-wingers, social democrats and free marketeers, anti-car ecoical hara-kiri: it was prepared warriors and petrolheads, sup-to veto any genuinely novel porters of national self-governporters of national self-government and lovers of international bureaucracies, advocates of "net zero immigration" and those who is still too low, supporters of last night. Left-wing Tory MPs opponents of the woke ideology are convinced that they have the and devotees of critical race theomoral high ground, and are ready ry and extreme trans activism.

to gang up with Labour and damn the electoral consequences. especially in a first-past-the-post, ed, merely slowed down, they sees them as a fundamental part that account for the majority and the distribution of global elitism. Finally, Russia, as Jenrick, who put principles before two-horse system like the UK's, argue, just as the West assumed of "protecting the UK's democrative of the world economy benefits." Lavrov also Ushakov concluded in his power, is a considered, thoughtful but this ideological incompatibilipolitician convinced that Sunak's ty has gone too far. It is preventplan won't deliver what Tory voting the Government from reflecters are rightly demanding. This is ing public opinion. We live in an why the Government may well be increasingly politicised world: the doomed. Unlike Jenrick, too culture wars are real, and too panions, who tend to be other many Conservative politicians many Tory MPs are on the wrong dislike their own voters, a senti- side.

For years, this subversive minority - probably at least a third a conservative electorate enraged of the parliamentary party on a by the Government's betrayal of bad day - has found more in com-Dozens of Tory MPs - they are mon with their more centrist Labour and Lib Dem MP "coloften quite open about it - are leagues" than with the "Tory embarrassed by the suburban atti-Right", party activists and the tudes, the quiet patriotism and the cultural conservatism of Tory broader Conservative electorate. They tend to hold Red Wall and Britain. On most issues, they disagree with those they pledged to lower-middle-class voters in the represent, and generally find the greatest contempt, assuming them views of much of Right-leaning to be easily connable oiks. To Middle England to be cringewordescribe such politicians as useful thy, especially on immigration. idiots for the Left would be too The Prime Minister is far from kind; they are the Left.

Even though they supposedly Leftist Tory MPs to force out Liz represent the Conservative Party,

able, ungovernable coalition of The causes that exercise them, if there are any, tend to be either ultra-local, statist-technocratic (tweaking tax credits for the film industry) or cretinously Left-leaning (cutting prison sentences, continuing the rush to net zero or allowing gender self-recognition). These Left-leaning Tory MPs have too much respect for credentials and pseudointellectual "expertise", and too little for common sense or traditional values, believe that a net 745,000 a year which they dismiss as irrational and "low status". Even when they Israel and apologists for Hamas, do believe in some conservative or classical liberal principles, they are defeatists who think such ideas are "on the wrong side of All parties are heteroclite, history". Wokery can't be defeat- holds these treaties "dear", but

socialism was inevitable in the

These renegade MPs suck up to outlets such as the BBC, better to relate to their dinner-party commembers of the new, "high-status" ruling class. They spend much of their time on Twitter, or if young enough, on TikTok, lapping up nonsense. They are hooked on Left-wing podcasts refoulement reigns supreme. The that reinforce their insularity, choice is thus either the status quo their sense of comradeship with "rival" politicians and lull them into believing that their progressive views - often held by just 10-30 per cent of the electorate, almost none of whom vote Tory are the mainstream and everybody else are extremists.

Their electoral strategy has been simple: shower the Tory base with cash and other perceived goodies - in the form of the have declared war on their own triple-lock pension, massive Truss, but he is stuck trying to hold together a party that has degenerated into an unmanagedegenerated into an unmanage
their icons and heroes are invariably "progressive" - Tony Blair, Covid handouts and frozen planing laws - and hope that it does
The Telegraph

The Telegraph

n't notice when it is betrayed on every other issue. It might have worked once, but no longer. The One Nation Caucus counts some 106 Conservative MPs, refuses to leave the European Convention on Human Rights and doesn't want to repeal the Human Rights Act. Most of its members have accepted the Blairite legal revolution, and are in fact substantially to the Left of where New Labour was in the late 1990s on tax, immigration, welfare, and law and order. The One Nation position is clear: it believes Conservative governments "played a vital role in creating and protecting the ECHR as well as the Refugee and Torture conventions", and the group not only Such a vision is ic legacy". incompatible with a more conventional interpretation of British conservatism, but it has now been implicitly accepted by Sunak and

James Cleverly. The Supreme Court judgment on Rwanda demonstrated that Britain, under current treaties, cannot lawfully control its borders. The principle of nonpromoted by the One Nation folk (tweaked slightly by Sunak), and political oblivion, as Braverman warned yesterday, or a Brexitstyle disentanglement from international treaties that no longer Sunak' Tragically, work. approach will satisfy nobody, and won't change the country noticeably before the election. This disaster is on the Tory Left: they voters, and will be held responsi-

More balanced joint efforts, more innovations

Chen Zhi

HINESE leaders have repeatedly emphasized the significance of innovationdriven development. However, some skeptics wonder if China can achieve innovation and development solely through the advocacy of nationwide collaborative efforts and centralized technological projects. Through resources. It is worth noting that nationwide joint efforts, the plan such practices are not exclusive aimed to achieve breakthroughs in

blameless, having mobilised

During World War II, the United States established the Office of Research and Development, rapidly researching and producing strategic products such as radars, penicillin, missiles, and laying the foundation for the Manhattan Project, which resulted in nearly 8,000 inventions, 3,000 patents and 2,500 scientific papers, laying the groundwork for post-war prosperity and the technological foundation of innovation in the

In the 1960s China had to mobilize various advantageous forces to build atomic bombs, nuclear, missiles and satellites, in order to independently develop such technologies to defend itself. This approach of nationwide mobilization to drive dynamically evolving. Following China's transition to a market economy, the government moved from allocating technological resources promoting technological innova- nationwide system for key core and coordinating capabilities.

The "National Medium- and Long-Term Science Technology Development Plan (2006-2020)" released in 2006, outlines 16 major scientific and core technologies, integrate resources and accomplish challenging tasks related to significant strategic products, key common technologies and major engineering projects within specified timeframes. Practice shows that centralized resources and nationwide joint efforts have been a crucial and successful experience for China. However, as the world is undergoing unprecedented changes, scientific and technologi-

nificant challenges. Market forces and contractual mechanisms are becoming fundamental elements in the innovation system various economies. Also, there is a global trend toward a national approach in critical industries such as integrattechnological innovation has been ed circuits, artificial intelligence, should be primarily undertaken by quantum technology, and other key or future industries. The Chinese government is reevaluating the entities, using administrative measures for impact of these changes on technoresources and facilitate collaboralogical cooperation and innovation tive efforts is a significant test of to market-oriented approaches for and establishing a new type of the government's organizational

cal innovation, too, is facing sig-

technological challenges, which require policy innovation and institutional innovation to overcome.

First, there is the challenge of balancing the relationship between the "invisible hand" and the "visible hand". In other words, a nationwide system needs to leverage the decisive role of the market in resource allocation and mobilize the enthusiasm of various links and entities, including industry, academia, research, and application. The State needs to focus on systematic planning, organization and integration, particularly addressing key issues such as market failure and market realization.

Second, it is crucial to clearly define the boundaries of the nationwide approach, which should be limited to the only industrial sectors driven by key core technological challenges. It is not meant to be generalized and applied to all sectors and industries. In areas where market mechanisms can better function, the power of the market should be relied on, following the laws of industrial development, and core technological challenges enterprises guided by demand. Finally, how to organize various coordinate diverse

During the era of "two bombs and one satellite" in the 1960s and 1970s, State-owned entities played a predominant role given the arduous tasks, poor conditions and limited time. However, in the current stage, there is a greater need to leverage the roles of leading enter prises, small and medium-sized private enterprises, and new research and development institutions. Organizing and incentivizing these entities have become practical challenges. As early as the 1940s, the US' OSRD designed flexible research and development contracts, especially in terms of intellectual property clauses, granting ownership to the contracting unit in most cases while retaining the government's right to use and compulsory cross-licensing. This effectively stimulated the enthusi-

asm of enterprises and universities Therefore, for China's key core technological challenges, in most cases, the collaborative system should be based on a market-oriented operation system guided by the government. Task-leading institutions should organize and coordinate joint efforts, forming collaborative innovation entities to carry out concerted efforts. This necessitates the establishment of a clear and stable work ing mechanism and incentive system, creating a collaborative innovation ecosystem across multiple departments, levels, and

Germany is the sick man of Europe

EW countries are more aware than Germany important it is to keep public finances in order. in public finances. But few countries have accounting. Germany's highest court

ruled current spending plans unconstitutional, it finally destroyed the nation's cherished myth of fiscal prudence. The stakes could not be higher for Germany and its neighbours. chancellor Former

Angela Merkel liked to evoke the idea of a frugal Swabian housewife when she lectured others on sensible economics. It was her government that enshrined a debt-break into the constitution in 2011.

governments German have pretended to stay within this strait jacket, while wriggling out of it. In 2020, Covid spending was the excuse. But the crises didn't stop there. The war in Ukraine brought a painful energy crisis and a U-turn on defence policy. Last year, Chancellor Olaf Scholz won approval for a 100?billion (£86?billion) fund to whip the country's armed forces into shape. Arguing that the debt brake hampered essential investment, Scholz's coalition reallocated Covid funds to green projects and industrial subsidies. But a constituKatja Hoyer

The money had been indulged in more creative allocated to everything from semiconductor and battery factories to infrastructure and subsidies for had already been spent; the government declared 2023 as another emergency year to make this legal in retrospect. With big question marks over the remaining funds, German industry is deeply concerned about its future.

Economy Robert Habeck warned of a 0.5 per cent drop in growth next year while Scholz told lawmakers that the ruling marked the beginning of "a new reality", one which makes "goals more difficult for our country to achieve".

This new reality will bring more than economic problems, piling pressure onto a fragile and unpopular coalition government - a record 8 out of 10 Germans are unhappy with its work. The necessary cuts will hit Germans amid a cost-ofliving crisis. The number of Germans not being able to heat their houses properly has already doubled since

Such public discontent is country knows this better neath are visible to all. tional court ruling declared than Germany. Priding

itself in learning from its history, it hasn't forgotten Germany of how such relabelling illegal, that it was almost exactly a prtant it is to keep blowing a 60?billion hole century ago that a deep economic crisis nearly toppled fragile, inter-war democracy. Massive borrowing temporarily created an illusion of prosperity but the debt-fuelled economy the steel industry. Half of it of the "Golden Twenties" crashed badly a decade later, allowing the Nazis to rise to power with devastating consequences for Germany and the whole world. Economic

triggers existential fears in Germany. Waiting in the wings to benefit from the situation is the Right-wing Alternative Deutschland (AfD), currently the second most popular party with the backing of over a fifth of the electorate. Next year, elections will be held in three eastern German states where the AfD leads the polls. In Thuringia, it might even win outright, which would pass the state premiership to Björn Höcke, a far-Right firebrand charged with using Nazi rhetoric. Germany's belief in its own "bouncebackability" has been shaken to its core. Berlin is no longer in a position to lecture, or indeed bail out, fellow European states. As the fog dangerous when coupled of Germany's self-delusion with political division. No lifts, the deep cracks under-

The Telegraph



Weekly inflation goes up by 1.16%

weekly inflation, measured essential items for all expen- week Indicator (SPI), witnessed lowest consumption group an increase of 1.16 percent up to Rs 17,732, decreased for the combined consump- by 0.17 percent and went ended on December, 7, the last week's 307.11 points. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday, groups from Rs 17,732- wheat flour (0.35%), pulse The SPI for the week under 22,888 decreased by 0.14 gram (0.27%) and vegtioned group was recorded at 311.78 points as compared to 308.20 points dur
22,889-29,517; Rs 29,51844,175 and above Rs 44,175

an increase of 42.68 percent. items remained stable.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 cov- ed a decrease in their aver-

review in the above-men- percent whereas for consumption groups from Rs ing the past week, according it increased by 0.96 percent, 1.27 percent and 1.65 percent As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined of 15 (29.41%) items consumption group in the increased, 14 (27.45%) items week under review witnessed decreased and 22 (43.14%)

The items, which record-

by the Sensitive Price diture groups. The SPI for the tomatoes (9.82%), potatoes (4.34%), chicken (2.99%), tea packet (2.58%), diesel (2.31%), rice basmati brotion groups during the week down to 306.59 points from ken (2.00%), vegetable st week's 307.11 points. ghee 2.5 kg (0.43%), cook-The SPI for consumption ing oil 5 liter (0.38%),

etable ghee 1 kg (0.16%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average for Q1 (1108.59%), cigaprices on a week-on-week rettes (94.20%), wheat onions (2.52%), electricity charges for q1 (2.03%), pulse moong (0.88%), sugar (0.84%), bananas (0.67%), firewood (0.55%), LPG (0.42%), tea prepared (0.37%), pulse masoor (0.10%), mustard oil (0.09%) and curd (0.02%)

(WoW) included (YoY) basis, the items that witnessed decrease in prices included onions (22.59%) tomatoes (6.97%), mustard oil (4.04%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (3.00%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (1.30%) and bananas (0.01%).

The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on YoY basis included gas charges basis, included flour (85.05%), chilies (8.42%), eggs powder (81.74%), garlic (73.09%), rice basmati broken (68.53%), rice Irri 6/9 (60.94%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), gents sandal (53.37%), (50.56%), tea packet (44.65%) and pulse mash (44.04%).



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing fishes displayed by a roadside vendor at Khanna Pul area.

Rupee gains 24 paisa against Dollar

(APP): Pakistan (FAP), the buying Rs306.26, according to which traded at Rs356.67 Pakistani Rupee on Friday and selling rates of the the State Bank of compared to the last closgained 24 paisa against US Dollar in the open market Pakistan (SBP). The ing of Rs357.46. ing and closed at Rs283.87 Rs285.8 respectively. against the previous day's closing at Rs284.11.

Dollar in the interbank trad- stood at Rs283.5 and Japanese Yen went up by

However, according to close at Rs305.99 against witnessed in the exchange closed at 77.30 and the Forex Association of the last day's closing of rate of the British Pound, Rs75.68 respectively.

s285.8 respectively.

Ol paisa and closed at Emirates Dirham and the The price of the Euro Rs1.96; whereas a Saudi Rival decreased by decreased by 27 paisa to decrease of 79 paisa was 06 paisa and 07 paisa to

The exchange rate of the

Stock markets mostly rise before US jobs

Stock markets mostly markets, however, will the adverse consequences of and the dollar depend firmed Friday before the investors view the data as a my release of key US jobs data, stepping stone to a March but Tokyo was knocked by rate cut and soft landing, or the yen's recent rally.

data and what impact it sharper economic slow- concerns, also as China's for US interest rates amid main indices ended on a Reserve may cut borrowing by the Nasdaq as tech costs in early 2024 as inflagiants outperformed.

after a succession of hikes Europe was largely ahead were behind last month's nearing the half-way rally for global equities.

ing to take off, however, as the yen continued to rise owing to acceptance that against the dollar, hurting buying might have been too exporters. The strong in November. There is surged almost four percent also some reticence among at one point Thursday after traders owing to concerns Bank of Japan boss Kazuo that the weaker economic readings suggest that the US tary policy "will become economy could tip into even more challenging recession. Friday's figures from the year-end and come as inflation continues heading into next year". to come down and US job openings and private pay- the bank was on the brink of

rolls slowed in November. to provide additional indipolicy, notably an absence of cations of the labor market interest-rate hikes, put in softening, a welcome sign place to kickstart growth. at \$70.58 per barrel Brent for employers," said Jose The comments were made a North Sea crude: UP 1.9 per-

(AFP/APP): Brokers. "Its impact on Ryozo Himino played down an adverse effect on con-

All eyes were on the jobs sumer spending and a would have on the outlook down." Wall Street's three speculation the Federal strong note Thursday, led

Asian markets mostly Hopes for lower rates ended higher Friday and stage.Tokyo dropped more December was still wait- than one percent, however, currency

The remarks suggested shifting away from its long-'The jobs report is likely running ultra-loose monetary at Interactive day after Deputy Governor cent at \$75.48 per barrel.

on whether such a move on the econo-

Elsewhere, oil prices jumped about two percent after tanking earlier in the week on slowing demand

economy struggles.

Key figures around 1115
GMT -London - FTSE 100: UP 0.3 percent at 7,539.45 pointsParis - CAC 40: UP 0.8 percent at 7,488.96Frankfurt DAX: UP 0.2 percent at 16,667.61EURO STOXX 50: UP 0.6 percent at 4,498.63Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 1.7 percent at 32,307.86 (close)Hong Kong

- Hang Seng Index: DOWN 0.1 percent at 16,334.37 (close)Shanghai - Composite UP 0.1 percent at 2,969.56 (close)New York - Dow: UF 0.2 percent at 36,117.38 (close)Dollar/yen: UP at 144.55 yen from 144.10 yen ThursdayEuro/dollar:

DOWN at \$1.0785 from \$1.0797Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2584 from \$1.2587Euro/pound: DOWN at 85.70 pence from 85.76 penceWest

Intermediate: UP 1.8 percent

Branches of authorized Banks to remain open on Saturday, Sunday F.P Report

KARACHI: In order to facilitate the intending pilgrims to deposit application forms along with dues for Hajj 2024, State Bank of Pakistan on the request of Ministry of Affairs & Religious Interfaith Harmony has directed 15 authorized banks to keep all their designated branches open from 09:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday (i.e. 09-12-2023 and 10-12-2023) throughout the country.

Earlier, in terms of Hajj Policy, the Ministry of Affairs Religious Interfaith Harmony has authorized 15 banks (viz. National Bank of Pakistan, Habib Bank, United Bank, MCB Bank, Allied Bank, Bank of Punjab, Bank Alfalah, Zarai Taraqiati Bank, Faysal Bank, Askari Bank, Bank Al-Habib, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Soneri Bank, Meezan Bank and Bank Islami) to collect application forms along with dues from intending pilgrims for Hajj 2024 w.e.f. 27th November 2023 till 12th December 2023 throughout the country.

Pakistan earns \$206.928 m by exporting transport services during July-September

Among the sea transport services,

earned US \$206.928 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first three months of the current fiscal million whereas the exports of year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows a decline of 6.78 percent as compared to \$221.969 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed a decrease of 42.86 percent, going down from \$52.660 million last year to \$30.090 million during the months under review.

the exports of freight services dipped by 69.59 percent from \$42.060 million last year to \$12.790 other sea transport services however increased by 63.21 percent from \$10.600 million to \$17.300 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport witnessed an increase of 3.58 percent going up from \$163.449 million last year to \$169.298 million during July-September 2023.

the exports of passenger services

services dipped by 18.92 percent, from \$ 8.670 million to \$ 7.030 million, in addition, the export of other air transport services increased by 9.06 percent from \$49.669 million to \$54.168 million.

Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the months under review witnessed a growth of 69.75 percent going up from \$3.670 million to \$6.230 million during this year, it added.

Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services witnessed a decrease of 12.93 per-Among the air transport services, cent from \$1.160 million to \$1.010 million, while the export of postal increased by 2.84 percent, from and courier services decreased by \$105.110 million to \$108.100 mil- 40.18 percent, from \$2.190 million lion, whereas the exports of freight to \$1.310 million, the data revealed.

Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) Payout Ceremony

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) Ceremony, momentous event celebrating the approval and disbursement of successful claims, took center stage in Lahore on December 8, 2023. The ceremony not commemorated claims payments but also emphasized the critical collaboration needed between the financial sector and agricultural stakedriving resilience and sustainabili- Insurance in Pakistan. He ty in Agriculture Sector of

Distinguished particiincluded Mr. Zafar Masud, Governments in advancing President & CEO of The this concept. Bank of Punjab; Ms. Elise Insurance Pakistan.



Yield Index Area underscored the need of public-private partner-ships and the role of

He highlighted that The

being faced by the country's farming community. efficacy of the area yield in This commitment was realized through collabo- yields, facilitating prompt ration with local and inter- and fair insurance payouts pants at the ceremony Federal and Provincial national insurance part- for farmers in times of need. ners. The pilot for the Area He shared insights into the executed in Pakpattan of the innovative insurance Lee, Commercial Manager Bank of Punjab continues District, focusing on model, emphasizing the Africa & Asia from to lead initiatives that wheat and rice crops. transformative impact it PULA, an International empower farmers for a Notably, TPL and PULA had had on the agriculturcompany founded in secure and prosperous approved a substantial al landscape. The event Mollis Switzerland, Mr. future. The Bank played claim benefiting affected was attended by the par-Arif Nadeem, CEO of an active role in the suc- farming customers of the ticipants from senior Pakistan Agriculture cessful payout of area area. Mr. Masud added management of BOP, Mr. yield insurance claims, that the AYII can address Mainstream Media, and Aminuddin, CEO of TPL demonstrating its dedica- to the specific needs of the the farming community

low per-acre productivity. Ms. Lee elaborated on the significance of the Area Yield Index as a globally practiced method to protect farmers against low yields, providing insurance against a pre-set historical benchmark. This insurance offers protection against all natural catastrophes and biological perils that could influence the reduction of crop yields without the requisite requirement of declaration calamity Government. Mr Aminuddin showcased the

accurately determining crop Yield Index Insurance was inception and development surance Pakistan. tion to supporting innova- farming community in this from the affected areas Mr. Masud, emphasized tive solutions for the agri- era of climate change and of Pakpattan.

Engro Corporation and its listed subsidiaries recognized among top 10 recipients at PSX awards

Corporation and its sub- of Pakistan. He said that the sidiaries Engro Fertilizers, corporate sector is fully Polymer Chemicals and Engro being set by the Government Powergen Qadirpur, were to create a conducive busipresented the prestigious ness environment and restore Pakistan Stock Exchange Top 25 Companies awards Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar at a ceremony held in Karachi.

Chairman Corporation

F.P. Report Government for recognizing directly proportional to its acknowledges the performthe pivotal role of private Engro sector towards the economy & aligned with the direction investor confidence. Hussain Dawood also thanked the caretaker Pakistan Stock Exchange for in encouraging the corporate sector to excel.

Dawood, who was invited to Hussain Dawood said that address the distinguished "A country's potential for and the country. guests, appreciated the success and development is

ability to speak the truth. Do speak the truth? we Domestic and foreign investors will invest if they believe we speak the truth.'

Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said he personally felt proud of inspiring individuals like Hussain Dawood, who is an Honourable Prime Minister playing an instrumental role emblem of resilience, humility, and accomplishments. He acknowledged Engro Reflecting on investor the contributions of Hussain Hussain confidence, Chairman Engro Dawood towards philanthropy, business landscape

Every

ance of listed companies based on a comprehensive quantitative criterion, which includes strong corporate governance, transparency, In his speech, caretaker excellent financial and managerial performance, and compliance with Listing of Companies and Securities Regulations. In terms of qualitative criteria, PSX selected high-performing listed companies based on

Corporate Responsibility reporting on SDGs, ESG-related initiatives including Diversity & Inclusivity, PSX among other considerations.

PHDEC organized a significant workshop on Dates in Sukkur

F.P. Report

Horticulture Development date exports. Export Company (PHDEC) organized a significant workshop on Dates in Sukkur on 07 December 2023, focusing on the cultiprocessors, traders, pro-gressive growers and R&D tunities in the field. professionals. The primary objective of the workshop future trajectory of sustainlarly targeting premium global markets.

ers and exporters of dates, emerging and potential date boasting a vast array of varieties, taking into varieties. Unfortunately, account their demands in suboptimal harvesting practices have led to the markets. classification of the majority of Pakistani date varieties as industrial grades for Added Products, emphaprocessing, resulting in sized the significance of lower prices compared to value-addition intervenglobal competitors. To tions in Dates. He delved address this issue, PHDEC into the exploration of organized a workshop with innovations and technolothe overarching goal of gies in the processing of streamlining every segment dates. of the date supply chain. The workshop aimed to Senior Vice President of the provide valuable insights Khairpur Chamber of

Pakistan in the global market for

Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Markhand, the former Director of the Date Palm Research Institute in Khairpur delivered a thorvation and export of dates. ough analysis of the present The event served as a concrop status and future vergence point for industry preparations. The presentaleaders, experts, dates tion covered trends, plan-

Summar Abbas Naqvi, Professor, Institute was to deliberate on the of Horticultural Sciences at UAF, Faisalabad shared able dates farming, particu- valuable insights into navigating market dynamics. The focal point of his pres-Pakistan ranks among entation was to heighten the foremost global produc- awareness regarding newly both local and international

> Mr. Muhammad Arshad, an expert in Date Value-

Mr. Kaleem Abbasi, into harvesting and post- Commerce & Industry premarketing and raise aware- dates processing, packag- for premium global markets.

insights and opportunities course centered on the exploring prospects and strategic streamlining of the supply chain to achieve heightened efficiency. acknowledgment Mr. Ghulam Qasim diverse audience.

Jiskani, a progressive dates grower from Khairpur provided information on best practices for post-harvesting, handling and storage of dates. His insights focused on the optimal techniques to maintain the quality of dates.

Trade officers from Pakistan Commercial Sections Abroad, including Ms. Amna Naeem, TIČ from Germany; Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, TIC from Sweden; Mr. Zain Aziz, TIA from Bangladesh and Mr. Amjad Parvaiz, a leading Pakistaniorigin businessman in the UK, facilitated by Pakistan Commercial Sections in London and Manchester, collectively emphasized the impact of effective marketing on date exports. They shared market insights and highlighted opportunities for date exporters in their

respective host countries. A substantial number of participants representing processors, growers, exporters and R&D academia actively engaged in the workshop. They expressed PHDEC's commendable ini-

about potential ing and logistics. His dis- The session delved into opportunities exports, garnering positive acknowledgment from the

> Mr. Athar Khokhar, CEO PHDEC, expressed gratitude to all the participants for their presence at the workshop and provided assurance that PHDEC will continue to organize similar activities, both virtually and physically to contribute to the development of the horticulture industry Pakistan.

COURT NOTICE

IN the Court of Civil Judge V /Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.130/1, Institution. 13/4/2023 Date of hearing. 11/12/2023. Zaren Jalal VS Sherzaman etc.Notice to no. 9.Naseb Rawan s/o Umat Khan resident of Sura Mandanr Buner.Whereas above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can

not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally through dually authorized appreciation for agent or pleader in the 9 am dated court at harvesting techniques, inte-sented valuable insights on tiative in organizing the 11/12/2023 the proceeding grated processing, packag- the implementation of an workshop on promoting will be taken ex- parte. ing, logistics, effective integrated approach to sustainable dates farming Given under my hand and

Export Advisory Council charts course for Pakistan's \$100 billion export vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Export Pakistan competitively in the glob- the export sector, the council boasts Advisory Council here on Friday al market. Envisioned Pakistan's members including Mussadiq held its inaugural meeting under the chairmanship of Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, charting the course for in Pakistan threefold, he added. Pakistan's \$100 Billion Export He emphasized that Pakis

The council considered proposals to elevate domestic exports to problem. \$50 billion within the next five years, said a news release here.

The minister expressed confidence that, with concerted efforts in the country's exports. and strategic initiatives, Pakistan's

the country's economic growth. strategy could potentially alleviate aimed at boosting textile exports. the burden of debt, positioning

gross domestic product (GDP) to rise to 1 trillion dollars which could increase average per capita income

He emphasized that Pakistan needed export-driven growth to expertise of these industry leaders alleviate the balance of payments The minister also underscored

the significance of the textile sector, acknowledging its largest share He emphasized that despite this,

textile exports could reach \$50 bil- the sector operated below its full lion, contributing significantly to potential. To address this, the council discussed plans to organize a He stressed that a robust export Textile Expo, a dedicated platform Comprising prominent figures in

Zulqarnain, Fawad Anwar, Shahid Surti, Mian Ahsan, Yaqub Ahmed Aamir Fayyaz Sheikh, Shahid Abdullah, and Ahmed Kamal.

The collective wisdom and were harnessed during the meeting to address pressing challenges faced by Pakistan's exports.

During the deliberations, the council focused on identifying practical solutions to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's textile industry on the global stage. The private sector members actively contributed their perspectives. shedding light on critical issues and proposing strategies for their



In brief

Pakistan face Abrar's injury

CANBERRA (Agencies): Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed underwent an MRI scan on Friday after complaining of discomfort in his right leg during the third day of the ongoing four-day game against Prime Minister's XI in Canberra. Abrar, who was included in the side as a frontline spinner, went off the field after bowling only eight overs on the third day. Following his complaint, the 25-yearold was sent for an MRI scan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement. "Further details will be shared in due course by PCB after the medical panel assesses the MRI reports," it added. Abrar has bowled a total of 27 overs so far in the game against Prime Minister's XI and has picked two wickets. The four-day game was scheduled as part of Pakistan's preparation ahead of their three-match Test against Australia, which is set to take place from December 14, 2023, to January 7, 2024.

Usman Club clinches trophy

KARACHI (APP): Usman Basketball Club clinched the Deputy Commissioner Basketball Championship 2023 trophy after defeating Arambagh Club in grand finale at the International Abdul Basketball Courts in Arambagh here. The championship, organized by the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) in collaboration with Sindh Olympic and the Alliance of Markets Arambagh, showcased outstanding basketball prowess. In the enthralling traditional against rivals Arambagh Club, Usman Club showexceptional skills, securing a 61-51 victory. Shaf Khan led the charge with 22 points, supported by Hamza Khawaja with 18 points, and Mubarz Ahmed and Ijaz Ahmed contributing 8 points each. For the runners-up, Daniyal Marwat scored 15 points, Hasan Ali added 14 points, and Mustafaul Haq con-tributed 12 points tributed 12 points.

Mubarz Ahmed received the title of the best player of the championship, while Shaf Khan earned the distinction of the play-er of the final. Dia Shahid was acknowledged as the best player of the girls' event. The final was officiated by referees Zahid Malik, Tariq Hussain, Muhammad Ashraf, with technical duties handled by Zaima Khatun, Naeem Ahmed, and Zawal Faqar Abbas Khan. Deputy Commissioner South Captain Altaf Hussain Sario graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed cash and prizes

PBBF to host coaching course

among the winners and top performers.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to bolster the basketball coaching landscape in Pakistan, the Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has announced the commencement of the Olympic Solidarity WABĆ Level-I Coaching Course from December 11-16 at Government College University, Lahore. Secretary General of PBBF Khalid Bashir in a statement said that the FIBA coaching instructor, Milan Kotarac from Serbia, had been entrusted to lead the six-day coaching course. The programme aims to provide in-depth theoretical and practical insights to fifteen coaches, encompassing both male and female participants, during morning and evening sessions.

Zeeshan helps Pakistan start with a win at ACC U19 Asia Cup 2023

ISLAMABAD Pakistan U19 began their ACC U19 Asia Cup 2023 campaign on a high note after defeating Nepal U19 by seven wickets at ICC academy Ground No 2 in Dubai on Friday.

quick Right-arm Mohammad Zeeshan registered a six-wicket haul to tury, hitting 51 from 76 extraordinary all-round help dismiss Nepal U19 for balls including three bound-152 in 47.2 overs, according to information made available here by Pakistan cricket board. In turn, Saad Baig-led Pakistan U19 chased 153 in 26.2 overs with seven wickets to spare.

Pakistan U19's decision to bowl first paid dividends as Zeeshan ran through the Nepal batting line-up. The 18-year-old pacer picked up six wickets at the expense of 19 runs, registering the second-best figures at this level for a Pakistan bowler, bested only by Shaheen Shah Afridi who registered 6-15

armer Amir Hassan grabbed Pakistan U19 captain Aakash Tripathi 1-8) two wickets and right-armer Saad Baig (50, 56b, 5x4s) Player of the ma

(APP): Asfand got a wicket too.

ing three fours, and was the Aakash Tripathi's bowling. only top-order batter to register a score in double digits. Fifth batter in, wicketaries and two maximums.

Kandel, who came to crease after the fifth wicket fell, stitched a 70-run stand with Magar, to help stable the innings. The partnership was cut short by Zeeshan, Scores in who removed Kandel for 31 from 59, including two U19 by seven wickets fours and a six.

Left-hander

Chasing 153, Pakistan U19 faltered a little at the 51, Dipesh Kandel 31 start. Right-arm pacer Arjun Kumal 21: start. Right-arm pacer Arjun Gulshan Jha struck twice as Mohammad Zeeshan 6-19. opening batter Shamyl Amir Hassan 2-15, Ubaid Hussain was caught for a Shah 1-37, Ali Asfand 1-43) duck and his fellow opener, Shahzaib Khan, joined him 26.2 overs (Azan Awais 56

Ubaid Shah had one to his and Azan Awais (56 not Mohammad name. Left-arm spinner Ali out, 62b, 8x4s) batted (Pakistan U19).

Nepal U19 opening bat-stand that brought the chase ter Arjun Kumal con- back on track. In the 24th tributed 21 from 37, includ- over, Saad was caught off

Zeeshan, who had earlier starred with the ball, then hit a fiery 20 from just eight keeper-batter Uttam Magar balls, showcasing two fours produced a gritty half-cen- and as many sixes. For his named man of the match.

Pakistan U19 are set to play against India U19 on 10 December at ICC Academy Ground with the first ball set to be bowled at

Scores in brief: Pakistan U19 beat Nepal Nepal U19 152 all out,

47.2 overs (Uttam Magar

Pakistan U19 153-3 against Ireland in 2018.

He was supported well by his fellow quicks as left
29 including two boundaries.

Solution shortly after, scoring only 15 from by his fellow quicks as left
29 including two boundaries.

Player of the match -



match between Pakistan and Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval ground.

pays a surprise visit to Peshawar Sports Complex

PESHAWAR Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Matiullah inspected various venues

here on Friday.

During a detailed briefing, Additional Director General Sports Miss Rashida Ghaznavi, who was recently promoted to Grade-20, highlighted the rehabilitation work at Qayyum Sports Complex wherein construction work since last year continued.

Director Sports of the Merged Areas Pir Abdullah Shah, Director Operations Azizullah, Director Development Salim Raza, Director Hayatabad Sports Nimatullah Complex Marwat Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Syed Jaffar Shah were also present.

Secretary Sports on this occasion directed the development side to accelerate the pace of construction work on Qayyum Sports Complex.

He said that all the projects should be completed within the stipulated period so that the youth could benefit from these projects in time.

"It is our responsibility to do it and the ongoing work should be completed within its time, otherwise strict action would be taken against the officials of the developmental side. He said that the province has suffered from the economic crisis due to which sports like other sectors have been affected, but it is hoped that sports activities will

athletes are well aware of the problems faced by them and all resources will be used to solve these problems and to re-grow the sport in the province.

Secretary Sports | Renshaw hits century against Pakistan in Warner 'audition'

Khan paid a surprise visit to Peshawar Sports Complex and thoroughly CANBERRA (Agencies): declared at 391-9 on the build big scores, out for 53 and 49 respectively. Renshaw, who has been Pakistan in a timely reminder to Australian selectors Friday of his credentials to take over from replace the opener Warner, grabbed his chance at num-David Warner when the veteran quits Test cricket.

The Renshaw resumed day three indicated he plans to quit also fighting to regain a for the Prime Minister's XI the longer format after the on 18 and patiently com- third Test against Pakistan piled his century from 251 at the Sydney Cricket balls. It helped steer the home side to 367-4 at

billed as a "bat-off" to across with Cameron Bancroft 27-year-old contention. Warner has Ground in January.

Bancroft and Harris got

The four-day match at in and out of Australia's Manuka Oval has been side in a 14-Test career ber three, cracking eight and Marcus Harris also in fours and a six. All-rounder Cameron Green, who is Test spot, made 46 before being caught by wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed off Faheem Ashraf. Skipper Nathan stumps in Canberra, 24 runs the nod to open ahead of departed for 40 while Beau behind Pakistan, who Renshaw, but failed to Webster was not-out 21.

IOC clears Russians to compete in Paris as neutrals

Olympic chiefs on Friday soever of Russia or Belarus issue. next year's Paris Games as official function". neutrals, outside of team did not actively support the war on Ukraine.

International Olympic Committee added that there were currently Belarus who had qualified as neutral athletes.

year's Paris Olympics.

(AINs) who have qualified through the existing qualification systems of the International Federations an outright ban on Russian a neutral flag.' (IFs) on the field of play and Belarusian athletes, compete at the Olympic

conditions.

That includes the exclu-Russian

Also missing out will be "athletes who actively support the war" as well as athletes who are contracted to the Russian or

sion of "teams of athletes Belarusian passport".

gave the green light to the will be displayed at the participation of Russian Olympic Games Paris 2024 and Belarusian athletes at in any official venue or any ing sports minister said his

Russian events and as long as they Belarusian government or those IFs and NOCs. state officials will be invit-

have qualified for next year a number of Olympic letes is stained with blood'," sports have eased restric- Bidnyi told AFP IOC's executive tions, allowing athletes "We count on a responsi-"decided that from both countries to ble decision and leadership Individual Neutral Athletes return to competition under certain conditions.

Federation pressure In March, the IOC lifted

will be declared eligible to allowing them to compete as neutral athletes provided

again on Tuesday when recognising i representatives of interna- annexed territories. tional sports federations and national Olympic com- regionalIOC clears organimittees called for Russian sations from four Ukrainian and Belarusian athletes to territories annexed since be admitted under a neutral Russia's invasion began in flag for the July 26 to 2022. Russia's Olympic August 11 2024 Games in body last month launched

anthem, colours or any lete representatives also Sport (CAS).

(AFP): other identifications what- asked for "clarity" on the

In an interview with AFP on Thursday, Ukraine's actgovernment was "very conor cerned" by that call from

Matviy Bidnyi said Kyiv ed to or accredited for the was concerned that the Olympic Games Paris move gave the impression that the IOC "does not want Athletes from Russia to demonstrate the necesonly eight athletes from and Belarus have faced sary leadership in the mat-Russia and three from sanctions from a multitude ter of Olympic fairness and of sports since Moscow justice". "As aptly stated by s neutral athletes.

Iaunched its assault on President Volodymyr
In comparison, more Ukraine in February 2022.

Zelensky: 'Obviously, any Volodymyr than 60 Ukrainian athletes However, over the past neutral flag of Russian ath-

> of the IOC, which will not allow Russia to use sport

> for military propaganda. "Even if it's sport under

The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) remains suspended, the IOC having Games Paris 2024". they did not support the But only, it added, if Ukraine conflict and had no they meet strict eligibility ties to the military. suspended, the foci having suspended having suspende The issue was raised bership of Ukraine by illegally

ROC has recognised Belarusian military or Paris "as soon as possible". an appeal against its susnational security agencies". During the Olympic Additionally, "no flag, summit in Lausanne, ath-

Rashford must fight for Man Utd place, says Ten Hag

LONDON (AFP): Erik ten am sure he will get there. Hag says it is up to Marcus Rashford to force his way back into the side). The great players and have back into the Manchester team will always line them- played into the team. That's United side after he was selves up and the best play-dropped for the midweek ers who form the best team player, there has to be dedi-

win against Chelsea. The England international was left out of the starting line-up for the match at Old Trafford after a string of disappointing performances, with his attitude questioned after last week's l-0 defeat at Newcastle.

Rashford, 26, scored a career-high 30 times for United last season but has netted just twice in the cur-

rent campaign. Rashford, Without United produced arguably their best performance of the season on Wednesday, and the impressive form of Alejandro Garnacho in his favoured position on the left is another challenge for

be reactivated. Rashford to overcome. "Rashford is an incredi-He said that sports and ble, good player," Ten Hag said on Friday. "You can't

"It is up to them (to get

will play."
With Rashford struggling in front of goal, United's topscorer this season is Scott McTominay, who scored both goals in the 2-1 win against Chelsea to reach six for the season. It had appeared the

Scotland midfielder could be on his way out of Old Trafford during the summer transfer window and it was a similar story for England defender Harry Maguire, who has instead forced his way back into Ten Hag's side and on Friday won the Premier League player of the month award for November.

"I think we have a squad and in the squad there is internal competition," Ten Hag said when asked about the pair. "If you want a sucdo it with 11 players, he cessful season you need can't play every game, he's more than 11 players. not in this moment in the Finally, in every season, it form he was last year but I will turn and in every season Everyone kills everyone.'

"They are here, they are cation to aim for this.'

Despite United's poor season -- losing 10 of their 22 games in all competitions -- they are sixth in the Premier League table, just three points behind champions Manchester City, ahead of Saturday's home game against in-form Bournemouth. "We know where we are going and we had our setbacks, especially at the start of the season," said Ten Hag.
"Things went against us

with injuries, decisions, and sometimes you find yourselves in such a place. "You see the character of the team, we're in a better place, better form. The performances are increasing, we are performing as a team and as individuals, you have to be sharp in every game. "This league is very competitive and you see it in results this week.

Kaliwal Zalmi Cricket League action continues on Day 2 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

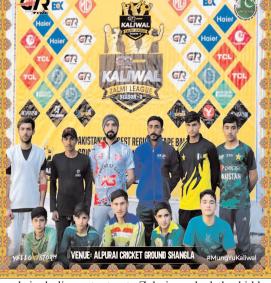
PESHAWAR: The festival of Kaliwal Zalmi League powered by GTR tyres continued on Day 2 in various parts and districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The matches of the largest and most popular tap ball cricket tournament of the province were organized in further more districts on day day of Kaliwal Zalmi League.

Youngsters thanked Peshawar Zalmi and Javed Afridi for providing another Sporting platform.

More than 500 teams

have registered in the first phase of Kaliwal Zalmi League. The first phase matches will continue till December 11 in 34 districts, after the drafts of PSL 9, the top teams will be in action in the second and final phase.

Zalmi Javed Afridi said activities to the young lages of cricketers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakhtunkhwa at grass root Afridi said that while ing well in KZL.



level. The objective of talent

level including at street Zalmi reached the hidden organizing the Village Pakhtunkhwa through the Zalmi League is to pro- talent hunt, Kaliwal Zalmi Chairman of Peshawar mote the passion for is providing an opportunialmi Javed Afridi said sports among the youth of ty to young cricketers of that Peshawar Zalmi is all the small and big all provinces to meet and trying to provide healthy cities, villages and vilages activities to the young lages of Khyber The best young cricketers Javed can go further by perform-

Women Cricket C'ship trophy PESHAWAR (APP): Saba and Asiya against Peshawar, three wickets each for the loss of two wickets with skipguided her team to victory against Bannu by taking three wickets each against Bannu in the final of the Inter-Zonal Women Cricket Championship played under the aegis of Directorate

Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University on Friday. Both Saba and Asiya grabbed three

wickets each at the time when Bannu was aiming to make a huge target after being elected to bat first. Saba took three wickets for 18 runs in her three overs spell while Asiya got three wickets for 22 runs in her three overs spell.

Earlier, Peshawar skipper Asiya Khan won the toss and invited Bannu to bat first. Bannu played well and set up a good 93-run target for the loss of three wickets with skipper Naseem again making a good 35 runs including four boundaries and two sixes. Overall Naseem of Bannu, who used to play cricket with her brothers at home, made 172 runs in four matches and was the highest scorer.

Naseem made a cracking 35 runs against strong Peshawar bowling, 56 runs in the first match against Hazara, 44 runs against Malakand, and 37 runs against Mardan, and played a key role in steering Bannu to reach the final.

As a team captain, Naseem is also a right-arm pacer as she bowled well and grabbed overall 10 wickets, two

against Hazara and Malakand and two against Mardan in the Championship. Shazia and wicket-keeper batter Abida made 23 and 21 runs laced with three boundaries each while Faryal and Jeveria scored 11 and 10 runs not out. In reply, Peshawar, a strong team

Peshawar Region wins Inter-Zonal

of the Championship, chased the target for the loss of four wickets with Bakhtawar and Naila provided a 52 runs opening wicket stand. Bakhtawar made 33 runs and Naila made 19 runs. Bakhtawar hit a cracking four boundaries and one six while Naila smashed three boundaries. Asiya and Rahat scored 11 and 9 runs while Zahra and Maliaka remained

not out for 7 and 8 runs respectively. Thus Peshawar chased the target for the loss of four wickets. Naseem took two wickets while Javeria and

Sania got one wicket each. In the other matches Mardan first defeated Hazara by two eight wickets in the last leg of the match before playing the third position against Malakand. Hazara skipper Marwa won the toss and elected to bat first by setting up only 61 runs target in the eight overs with Aleesha, Kiran, Fizza scoring 21, 13, and 11 runs respectively. For Mardan Ghazala and Nayyub took two wickets each while Aiman, Husna and Igra got one wicket each.

per Nayyab and Ghazala were the key contributors. Nayyab made an elegant knock of 30 runs including three boundaries and as many sixes while Ghazala scored 20 runs not out. Husna and Iqra went on to score. For Hazara Kiran and Fizza got one wicket each.

In the third position match Malakand gave a tough resistance to Mardan. Mardan made 84 runs with Nayyab, Aiman, Husna and Iqra were the main contributors. Nayyab scored 21 runs, Aiman (16), Husna (17) and Iqra not out 18 runs. For Malakand Rafaqat, the promising player, took three wickets, Shabnam, Eman took one wicket each.

In reply, Malakand, a team of the Governor Girls Degree College Thana, qualified from Malakand Region, skipper Rafaqat hammered an elegant knock of 37 runs including three towering sixes and as many boundaries, Misba, Huma also played well and made 21 runs and 17 runs respectively. In the last over Malakand needed four runs for victory but a good over from Nayyab, Malakand lost the positional match by just one run as Aman took two runs only in that last over. Thus Mardan got third position in the Championship, Malakand took fourth position and In reply, Mardan chased the target Hazara remained at fifth.

In brief

IRSA releases 85,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8 (APP): Indus River Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 85,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow 40,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1489.60 feet and was 89.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 20,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1169.50 feet, which was 119.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,200 cusecs and 26,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 58,400, 43,500, 39,400, and 9,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police net two bike lifters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Naseerabad police in their ongoing operation against bike lifters managed to arrest two accused and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police conducted a raid and rounded up two members of a gang namely Musa Khan and Abdul Rehman and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles and other items. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. Superintendent Police, Potohar appreciated the performance of the police team and directed to accelerate operations against a car, bike lifters

ICT magistrate arrests 28 beggars

and other lawbreakers.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Magistrate Secretariat on Firday conducted operation professional against beggars in different areas of the federal capital and arrested 28 professional beggars According to spokesman, On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, the magistrate arrested beggars from F-6 and F-7 areas and they had been shifted to Police Station Kohsar. It should be noted that operations against beggars are ongoing under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates on a daily basis, he added.

PTA carries out QoS survey

ISLAMABAD (INP): a k i s t a n Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has conducted Independent Quality of Service (QoS) survey in order to measure the performance and quality of Cellular Mobile Operators' (CMOs). The survey has been conducted in seventeen (17) x cities Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, said news release. Additionally, a joint QoS survey along with CMOs was carried out in seven cities of Gilgit Baltistan during 3rd quarter i.e. July- September 2023. During the survey Network Mobile Coverage along with QoS KPIs of Voice, Mobile and Broadband checked using state-ofthe-art automated QoS Monitoring Benchmarking Tool to

Mobile

Ouality

ascertain conformance with Next Generation Mobile Service (NGMS) licenses and Cellular Network of Service Regulations 2021.



'Political will' must to revamp health

sector: Minister Jan (APP): the main pillars of the formed well and brought a Caretaker Federal Minister development paradigm, but health reform agenda.

care system in the country.

Political parties should the country faces is the population explosion, which tion of resources in a transkeep the health reforms crossed 250 million, and parent and controllable agenda on the top of their resources are minimal to manner," he explained. He election manifestos by cater to the needs. The min-stressed the need to bring ensuring quality health ister said polio is still pres- reforms in other allied services and affordability to ent in the environmental departments of health like the masses at their doorstep, samples due to neighboring the Pakistan Medical Dental the minister said while talk-Afghanistan. ing to a private news chan-

for Health, Dr. Nadeem unfortunately in our coun-Jan, has emphasized that try, both sectors had been main pillars. One is good strong political will was a neglected in the past. He governance, and the other is must to revamp the health- said another challenge that

'We are working on two to improve service delivery by ensuring equal distribu-Council, To a query, he said the Regulatory Authority of

nel on Friday. Jan said that caretaker government, in a Pakistan and the Pakistan health and education were short span of time, per-Nursing Council.

Pakistan, Netherlands unveil joint commemorative postage stamp

Pakistan and Netherlands on Friday of the United Nations unveiled the commemorative postage stamp to mark 75 years of the establishment of bilateral relations between the two countries. Ambassador of Pakistan

Tarar and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Paul Huijts unveiled the special commemorative postage stamp issued by Pakistan commemorative Post. Secretary General Paul Huijts was accompanied by Ambassador Wouter Jurgens, Director for Asia & Oceania Department and other senior officers of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Suljuk remarks focused on the momentum of growing bilateral cooperation and high-level

General Assembly's annual session in New York and

to the Netherlands Suljuk import of manpower from the Netherlands. Pakistan, Secretary General Secretary General at the Paul Huijts in his remarks of diplomatic relations in appreciated the initiative and 1948, Pakistan-Netherlands the design of the stamp. He bilateral cooperation has underscored the steady continued to grow in progress in the bilateral diverse sectors, including political and economic relapolitical, trade and investtions between Pakistan and ment, science and technolothe Netherlands. The

Foreign Secretary, eral Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Mustansar Tarar in his Pakistan, Henry de Vries, in European Union. Islamabad on November 2, the postage stamp issued by was one of the many initiainteractions Pakistan Post has been tives that the Pakistan including the recent meet- designed by an internation- Embassy took to commemings between Prime Minister ally celebrated Pakistani orate the 75th anniversary Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and visual artist, Aisha Khalid, of the bilateral relations.

the Dutch Prime Minister who is regarded as a piothe Mark Rutte on the sidelines neer in the neo miniature global movement emerging from Pakistan.

The special design of the COP-28 in Dubai. He high- stamp symbolizes the longlighted the scope of further standing friendship and cooperation in the fields of mutually beneficial coopertrade, economics, IT and ation between Pakistan and Since the esta

gy, education, water mancommemorative agement, climate change stamp was earlier launched and cooperation at multilatinstitutions. Netherlands is the second-Qazi and Ambassador of largest trade destination for Netherlands to Pakistan's exports to the

The issuance of the com-2023. The unique edition of memorative postage stamp

Experts for urgency of climate action amid embracing 3P Approach for Climate Resilience

climate resilience while embracing the 3P Climate Resilience have agreed on the urgency of climate action.

They called for continued collaboration and innovation to meet sustainable development challenges, both in Pakistan and globally. They were speaking at a panel discussion titled "Harnessing the Private Sector's Role in Climate Resilient Development" conducted by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with German Development Cooperation (GIZ) here Friday.

The event underscored the critical role of industries in shaping a sustainable future, especially in the light of Pakistan's National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Dr Vaqar Ahmed expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts of GIZ and the private sector in his opening remarks.

He outlined SDPI's role in research and

advocacy with the federation and private partners over the years. He said that private sector leadership is crucial in advancing climate action to protect jobs and ensure sustainability. Recent smog-related disruptions highlight this urgency. When we talk here about climate resilience, we need to be inclusive of agriculture and industry. Adviser, Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership, German Nazish Shekha representing the Pakistar Development Cooperation, Sobiah Becker Business Council, addressed the chalemphasized the importance of the 3P lenges Pakistani businesses face in tran-

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The experts at a highlighted the looming increase in induspanel discussion on private sector's role in trial greenhouse gas emissions in Pakistan which is projected to rise by 300 percent Approach on Private Sector's Role in by 2030. She pointed out the direct impact Balancing People, Planet and Profits for of these emissions on industrial risks, supply chain security, and consumer markets increasingly demanding eco-friendly products.

Senior Policy Officer, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany), Florian Karner spoke about his country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 65 percent by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2045. Given the limitations of public budgets, he stressed the indispensable role of the private sector in meeting these ambitious goals. He further said that the strategies employed by the German government, including industrial decarbonisation and investments in sustainable technologies, set a precedent for industries worldwide. Research Fellow SDPI, Dr Khalid Waleed discussed carbon market mechanisms in Pakistan and emphasized the need for a holistic approach incorporating the 4Es: economy, energy, environment and equitable development. He pointed out the importance of understanding the multifaceted nature of carbon credits and the need for coordination between government and private sectors to implement carbon market strategies effectively.

Head of Initiative, Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB), Pakistan Business Council Nazish Shekha representing the Pakistan framework (People, Planet, Profits). She sitioning to sustainable models.

Police arrests 25 outlaws, recovers illegal weapons & narcotics

Capital

ISLAMABAD Islamabad Capital Territory Police apprehended 25 outlaws including 12 professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession. According to the Police spokesperson, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified its crackdown against the criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city.

He said the Aabpara police

team arrested an accused namely Saleem Sajid and recovered ten liters of alcohol from his possession, while another police team arrested an accused namely Haroon Masih involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders. The Secretariat police team arrested two accused namely Shahzad Ahmed and Zubair Ud din and recovered 751 grams of heroin from their possession. Similarly, the Karachi Company Police team arrested three accused namely Rukhsar, Sheraz and Junaid Masih and recovered six wine bottles and 20 litres of alcohol from their possession. The Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Ashiq Hussain and recovered 1,120 grams of heroin from his possession. The Khanna police team arrested two accused namely Umar Zaib and Shahzad Muhammad involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders. Furthermore the Phulgran police team arrested an accused namely Shahbaz Abbas and recovered one 30-bore pistol from

his possession. Bhara Kahu police team arrested an accused namely Jahanzaib and recovered one 30-bore pistol from his possession. The Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Fashar and recovered 230 grams of heroin from his possession. The cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. During the ongoing crackdown against professional beggars, the Islamabad Capital Police arrested 12 professional baggers and registered cases against them under the Beggar Act. ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan directed the police officials to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements.

Govt actively promoting policies to empower women: Minister

promoting policies and initiatives to foster to the country's economic landscape. gender equality and empower women across different sectors.

Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), he said that the inclusion of women in significant decisions, whether in politics, sports, or societal matters, is seen as a step towards a more progressive and inclusive Pakistan.

Dr. Umar Saif expressed his satisfaction with the impact of the World Bank's We-Fi endeavors. 'The goal is to make certain program on the crucial role of women's entrepreneurial finance, stating," 'You nities in the business world,' he added. can't go wrong in backing the entrepreneurial females of Pakistan.

my, the country can progress on the path of processes and contribute significantly to development. With 48% of Pakistan's the nation's progress.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal workforce associated with agriculture, the Minister for Information Technology and minister said that the involvement of Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, said women in various sectors, including rural on Friday that the government is actively areas, showcases a substantial contribution

He said that the appointment of women in traditionally male-dominated fields Addressing the closing ceremony of the indicates a progressive shift in societal norms. Dr. Saif mentioned that efforts are underway to ensure equal opportunities for women in the business sector.

He stated that the government has initiated various schemes aimed at providing women with the necessary tools and resources to thrive in entrepreneurial that women have equal access to opportu-

Highlighting the government's commitment to providing equal opportunities, the Recognizing the potential impact of minister said that various schemes have empowered rural women, he further been initiated to ensure that women can emphasized that by giving them autono- actively participate in decision-making

Commissioner directs authorities to complete all arrangements for elections

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner directed. Special arrangements should here on Friday directed the authorities concerned to complete all the arrangements at the earliest to ensure transparent conduct of general elections.

Chairing a meeting held here the Commissioner reviewed the arrangements being made by the administration for the upcoming general elections 2024. The Divisional Administration would

provide unconditional support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to ensure the transparent conduct of the General Elections, the Commissioner said adding, all the arrangements including security would be completed timely as per the guidelines of the ECP.

He said that 2500 polling stations

would be set up in Rawalpindi district while 1750 buildings had been selected for the polling stations. ing the pre-Assistant Commissioners should Procedures.

complete all the arrangements in their respective areas including uninterrupted supply of electricity, mobile phone sigarrangements at the polling stations, he elections, Liaquat Ali Chatta added.

Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta be made for the security of the polling stations, the Commissioner instructed.

Regional Transport Authority, Rawalpindi had also arranged vehicles for the election staff, he said.

While assigning the responsibilities to all the relevant institutions, a meeting should also be called as soon as the schedule of the election comes and an update should be taken from all the institutions, he added.

Transparent conduct of elections is indispensable for our country's security and development," he said.

The Commissioner said that considering this work as a social responsibility more than a professional one, the implementation of the Code of Conduct issued by ECP should be ensured in letter and spirit. This should be ensured by following the prescribed Standard Operating

All possible steps should be taken to implement the Code of Conduct which would be issued by the ECP regarding nals, clean drinking water, and all other the conduct of transparent and impartial

Police lodge 194 FIRs against underage drivers

Rawalpindi District Police drivers without any dison the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani registered 194 FIRs against underage drivers during last 24 hours.

According to a police spokesman, police on the directives of Rawalpindi were taking action in accordance with the law against underage drivers. The CPO had directed the City Traffic Police officers to take solid steps to control traffic rules violations and underage driving, he said.

The parents were also advised to discourage driv-

ing by underage drivers. He said, fatal road accidents occur due to speeding and reckless driving of the drivers particularly underage. The ongoing operation against underage drivers and other traffic rules violators had been accelerated on the instructions of the CPO. The underage drivers indulge in speeding, reckless driving and wheeling which leads to fatal road accidents, he added.

Police had initiated a

(APP): drive against underage crimination, he informed. Underage drivers not

> only endanger their own lives but the lives of other road users, he said adding that parents should keep a vigilant eye on their children to avert road accidents. The vehicles and motorcycles of the underage drivers were also being impounded in respective police stations, he said. In addition to issuing

> fines for underage driving, Police were also conducting awareness campaigns in schools and colleges to educate young individuals about the legal age requirements for obtaining driver's license, he added.

> A special campaign had been launched against underage drivers and those driving without driving licenses, he said adding, 2032 FIRs were registered under the campaign while 194 cases were registered during last 24 hours. All possible steps were being taken to improve the traffic situation on the city roads and facilitate the citizens, he added.

AIOU to hold convocation on January 31

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Convocation Allama Iqbal (University (AIOU) will be held on January 31, 2024, at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad. According to the AIOU, the President of the Islamic Republic Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, who is also the Chancellor of the University, will be the chief guest at the event.

The ceremony will be hosted by the Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

Federal ministers, secretaries, senior officials of HEC, vice chancellors of various universities, rectors, renowned journalists, eminent social personalities, deans, professors, principal officers, faculty members, and students of AIOU will participate in the convocation. It is pertinent to mention here that 2024 marks the golden jubilee year of Allama Iqbal Open University. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, has decided to celebrate this occasion by organizing convocations at provincial levels to involve the students in the celebration.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik chairs a high level meeting at Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

UN experts concerned

KABUL (TOLOnews): UN experts have warned that displaced migrants from Pakistan, especially women and girls, are facing widespread human rights violations in Afghanistan. A group of at least ten UN experts recently issued a joint statement, expressing grave concerns about the unregulated expulsion of Afghan migrants by Pakistan, which has placed them at significant risk. Upon their return to Afghanistan, these migrants are facing human rights violations.

The Frontier Post **FGHANISTA** JAMADI-UL-AWWAL 24, 1445 — Saturday, December 09, 2023

2 killed, 1 injured in accident

JALALABAD (BNA): One person was martyred and at least four others were injured in a traffic accident on Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The victims were the occupants of a car that was derailed and overturned into the river late yesterday between Sorobi and Mahipar area. A security source on Kabul-Jalalabad highway told BNA that one person was martyred and at least four others were injured

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

Afghan women's education part of Doha forum's session

KABUL (Agencies)" The Reconstruction Education for Women in Afghanistan is part of the agenda of the two-day meeting with the presence of foreign envoys and former Afghan officials as well as civil rights activists due to be held on Sunday in Doha, capital of Qatar.

The first day of the meeting is expected to discuss the issue of women's education in Afghanistan.

According to the agenda of the meeting seen by TOLOnews, the US special envoy for Afghan women and girls, Rina Amiri, and the former Afghan minister of education, Rangina Hameedi, will also partici-

pate in the meeting.
"In education, we find hope for future generations. Throughout history, the women." dards, promoting innova- ence of envoys of the tion, and fostering social Islamic Emirate. progress," the Doha Forum



failing to achieve such tion of girls and women have been deprived. progress, particularly when from education and higher comes to Afghan education. But how to women of Afghanistan have and the crisis in Syria.

this issue belongs to the and work. The Afghans interim government and nation of Afghanistan," said Suraya Paikan, a ing the Doha forum to pri-"The issues which are women's rights activist. oritize the issue of girls wrote on its website. "The being discussed about Wahid Faqiri, political education in their ageneducation sector in Afghanistan are obvious, analyst, said that girls and das," he said. The partici-Afghanistan, however, is which will be the depriva- women in Afghanistan pants of the session will dis-

"The rights of girls and ing the issue of Palestine

tional community includ-

solve this issue and what is been violated. They have the practical path to solve been deprived of education want from all the internacuss various issues includ-

MEW announces readiness to start TAP project

KABUL (Agencies): The acting minister of energy and water, Abdul Latif Mansour, in a meeting with the head of International Energy Projects of Turkmenistan said that the ministry is ready to implement the TAP project and other projects. According to the spokesman of the ministry, the head of International Energy Projects of Turkmenistan also announced the readiness of their country for the implementation of the TAP project and other electricity projects Afghanistan.

Matiullah Abed, the spokesman of Energy and Water, said: "The leadership of the Ministry of Energy and Water, in addition to preparing for the completion of the TAP project, emphasizes the coordination of all its province. These solar elecaspects for the implementation of this project, and the will be built in Sarobi diswork of Herat's Noor-ul-Jihad substation is proceedoperation before the arrival of winter.

Meanwhile, In the regu- lines Herat, Andkhoi, and lar meeting of the inter- Sheberghan side of Mazar, cooperation. investment the ministerial committee, presented the Afghanistan imports from plan to produce 22.75 Turkmenistan has very high need electricity to promegawatts of solar electric- quality," said Amanullah duce goods on a daily implemented during 5 ity by Turki 77 and Ghaleb, former head of Da basis need more atten- years in the country.

Zoleristan companies in Afghanistan Sarobi district of Kabul Sherkat (DABS).

tricity production machines receiving electricity from it

are from three electricity electricity that

trict of Kabul.

analysts said that since Afghanistan buys a large part of the electricity it "The projects that are in needs from neighboring economic commission of ing rapidly, which will be Turkmenistan and countries, holding joint the Prime Minister's completed and be put into Afghanistan are currently meetings between the office. Based on the plan, officials of the countries is effective for increasing large dams, canals, and coordination and mutual electricity efforts should be made

said tion, Behguzin, an economic At the same time, some analyst.

Recently, the Ministry of Energy and Water pro-posed a 5-year plan to the 200 projects of small and "More projects -transfer and distribution of because our factories that electricity -- that needs \$4 billion dollars, would be

Girls over 6th grade concerned about their educational future

KABUL (Agenices): At the expressed concern about their classmates and teachers. not being able to go to "The last day of our school school next year.

government not to prevent because we cannot go to

reopening of school for

They asked the caretaker classmates were crying classmate of Zainab.

"We said goodbye to our from attending schools. assmates and teachers. It's "I do not want us to girls above the sixth grade. classmates and teachers. It's

Zahra and Zainab, who a very sad feeling that you remain in these problems and end of the 1402 solar have just finished the sixth can't see your classmates for our children to remain in school year, a number of grade, talk about their last anymore. I spent 6 good sixth grade girls have day at school and meeting years in school and from the corner of the house," was very sad. Me and all my said Zahra, the sister and

girls from going to school school anymore, the teachers and Zainab's family, stress- Emirate has already said that in the next academic year. were also crying because ing the importance of their the caretaker government is More than two years they couldn't see their stu-children's education, have trying to provide education to have passed, and there is dents anymore," said said asked the caretaker govern-still no news about the Zainab, a sixth grade student. ment not to prevent girls "In today's world when

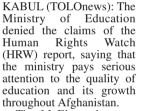
poverty and illiteracy in the future. We request the elders now on I don't want to sit in of the Islamic Emirate to solve the problem of girl's Mahboobullah, schools,' Zahra and Zainab's father At the same time, Zahra told TOLOnews. The Islamic "In today's world where

everyone is turning to technology, unfortunately, in Afghanistan as an Islamic country, girls above the sixth grade do not have the right to education and knowledge humanities," said Palwasha, a women's rights activist. More than 800 days have passed since the gates of schools were closed to girls above the sixth grade in Sher country. Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, Deputy Minister

of Foreign Affairs, said in a yesterday program (Thursday) that blocking the gates of schools is one of the fundamental reasons for people and for some countries to distance themselves

from the Islamic Emirate.

Ministry reacts to HRW report on girls' education KABUL (TOLOnews): The



The MoE's spokesman, Mansour Ahmad Hamza, said that the education sector is active across the country without any favoritism based on ethnicity, language and area

The ministry said that no female teacher has been fired so far and legal action will be taken against the perpetrators of corporal punishment of students schools. Previously, Human Rights Watch criticized the policies applied to the education sector in Afghanistan in a report and said that the "wrong" policy of the Islamic Emirate is harming the boys, girls and women of this country.

"The ministry has taken some steps. We can say that Mushtaq, a university lecsome of these steps are to turer. Meanwhile, Maulana provide facilities for the Fazlur Rehman, the leader students," Hamza said.



opportunities within the last bility of Afghanistan and year. "When we draw such talented] teachers, we in fact present experts, engineers and doctors for the future of our country," said Jahid Mohammad

of Jamiat Ulama e Islam, a According to the MoE, Pakistani political party, nearly 2 million children met with Jane Marriott, the

the status of girls' education there. Jamiat Ulama e Islam Pakistan said in a statement Maulana Fazlur Rehman called for attention to be paid to the educational situation of "women and children " in Afghanistan.

"A legal path solution should be found for this issue because this is the adding that the departure of issue that affects the recognihave been enrolled and pro- British High Commissioner tion. Over the past two- regressive vided with educational and they discussed the sta- years, this issue has not been changes.

paid very much attention," said Mohammad Ajmal Zurmati, a political analyst. Earlier, the Human Rights Watch in a statement said the "Taliban's abusive educational policies in Afghanistan are harming boys as well as girls and women," Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report on Wednesday, qualified teachers has led to

Refugees duress didn't work, so what's next?

KABUL (Agencies):

to leave Pakistan before November closed behind this step was their these refugees were involved in illegal activities. Pakistani sources claimed that in 24 attacks, in the month of October, 14 Afghan nationals were involved. These are the claims that the Afghan government denies, and no independent sources have probed into these claims.

Why did Pakistan take this peculiar step against the refugees? According to statistics, there are

more than four million Afghans liv- its reputation around the world. ing in Pakistan. It is not possible that all four million people would be noble and honest and none of them would be involved in crimes and illegal activities. There is no corner in the world where four million people would be living and there would be can it be justified to punish millions of people because of a few?

strained relations between Pakistan long experience of dealing with and Afghanistan. Pakistan wanted to major crises, its management of use the Afghan refugees to put pres- refugees turned out to be very sucsure on the Afghan government. cessful. There were challenges with severe winter season is looming in pressed by the military and intelli-

Pakistan's big number of refugees in such a Interim government took an unprece-short period of time would put the dented decision to expel 1.73 million Afghan government in a difficult sit-Afghan refugees from its land. This uation, as the current government was move was not only unprecedented in a new and inexperienced government. terms of the number of people to be According to their estimate, it will be expelled, but the time period given economically difficult for the Afghan government to manage 1.73 million The Interior Ministry of the refugees in such a short period of Interim Government of Pakistan time and it will also affect the econoinformed the refugees on 3rd October my of Afghanistan. On the other hand, there will be a rise in unemthe 1st of this year. The reason disployment in Afghanistan, and there is also a possibility of a humanitarian national security, according to them crisis due to the large number of refugees with the arrival of winter. Some people may have engineered this plan to increase the unrest in Afghanistan so it will increase the internal pressure on the Afghan government, so a pivotal and path-breaking step was taken, which surprised not only the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan but people around the world as well. Due to this initiative of Pakistan, questions were raised about Has Pakistan reached its goal?

Pakistan believed that the Afghan government would not be able to bear this pressure and would kneel down before Pakistan and would accept its demands. The stance of the Afghan government toward Pakistan's move no crime. Some Afghans may be was completely against Pakistan's involved in illegal activities or expectations. Instead of asking for crimes. But these will be a few. How something or negotiating with Pakistan, the Afghan government focused on managing the refugees. The forced expulsion of the Although the government is not ecorefugees is related to the recent nomically strong and does not have a



ment in this regard. One is that the returning immigrants did not grow up in luxury, but they had seen many hardships, so it was not impossible for them to endure these hardships. The second thing is that the majority of these immigrants did not have a life full of blessings and comfort in Pakistan, but they did very difficult, heavy and back-breaking work, for which they earned very little money, and now that they have ended up in today's Afghanistan, they can stay like this.

I have spoken to several officials of the Afghan government about this, they are under pressure, but they are happy about the return of the refugees, maybe that is the reason why they are not negotiating with Pakistan. All the grievances of the authorities of the Afghan government are about the time frame and procedure of evacuation of the refugees, because on the one hand the number of refugees is high and the time is Pakistan anticipated that evacuating a the management of refugees, but two Afghanistan. An official of the gence, people now prefer not to take Afghanistan is based on coercion, fanatics on social media in

Afghan government told me: "What Pakistan is doing, no one in the world the American troops to leave who invaded forcibly, but 1.73 million innocent and unarmed people are being taken out in such a short time." The words of this official reminded me of a Pakistani writer who wrote "only Israel in the whole world did this to the Palestinians in 1948, but the number of deportees were half of the Afghans.

not expel the refugees nor did they send a delegation to Pakistan for negotiations. Pakistan also faced troubles in evacuating the refugees, the decision divided the Pakistani society and many politicians and political parties opposed the decision of their government. It is used to be that people in Pakistan would go to protests and demonstrations, but since peaceful protests for other politvery short, and on the other hand the ical events have been severely sup-

the Pakistani courts are also looking into this issue.

Apart from this, the government of Pakistan came under intense international pressure. The Pakistani government, which always gives importance to the pressure of foreign countries and organizations, faced the pressure in this case as well. Human rights organizations, the United Nations, some other organizations and countries have criticized this action of Pakistan and demanded Pakistan to halt this exercise.

It should be remembered that the Pakistani state tells its citizens that Pakistan came into being in the name has done. We even gave 14 months to of Islam, but the act of expelling refugees is against Islamic principles, for which Pakistan is responsible religiously and morally. This action of the Pakistani government can be interpreted as a move to grab the assets of Afghan refugees. How can a person who has been working in one place for forty years get everything done in one month? "I sold a 40-lakh shop for 8 lakhs," one of the returnees The Pakistani authorities seem to told me. Among the returnees are be very angry because the Afghan many who were born in Pakistan and government neither made any plea to do not even know the official languages of Afghanistan. Apart from this, the incidents of houses demolished by bulldozers and the beating and imprisoning of women and children have not only reached the two nations but the whole world watches these videos. Due to this, the moral value of the Pakistani government has fallen in the eyes of the people.

does not work, what will Pakistan do next?

the protest route. On the other hand, compulsion Pakistan took measures ranging from evicting refugees to blocking transit. In the last meeting with Pakistani religious scholars, the Pakistani army chief told them that he wanted to hit some targets in Afghanistan, so they should support him. If something happens like this, the matter may come to direct confrontation. The current harsh relationship has harmed both sides, this rough relationship and conflict seem to benefit the major powers especially, while the people on both sides only suffer losses.

Both nations are Muslim, share the same religion and common values, and have helped each other in times of trouble for years, given that Afghanistan needs the warm waters for trade through Pakistan, while Pakistan needs a route to Central Asia. Afghan fruits and products need access to Pakistani markets. Pakistanis should enjoy Kandahari pomegranates, and Afghans should enjoy Pakistani mangoes. In fact, this is the very demand of both nations. But the Pakistani authorities are applying pressure, playing the Afghan refugees card, blocking the corridors, carrying out attacks, so now the Afghan government should also be compelled to do something. The government of Afghanistan can block Pakistan's corridor to Central Asia, build a dam on the Kunar River, suspend cooperation for the electricity and gas pipeline projects from Central Asia to Pakistan and create many other difficulties. Indeed, both When the refugee pressure move sides have opportunities to create problems for each other, but the schism will benefit the enemies of Pakistan's current strategy against both nations only. Apart from a few

ECP expected to announce election schedule on 14th

temperature in the country, schedule for much-awaited election-related training. elections on section of the press Friday.

Political parties are busy clearing a major hurdle to related matters. the announcement of the polls. It is in the final phase to of appointment of district Commission's full prereturning officers, returning paredness and commitment officers and assistant offi- and assured the voters of cers as per the provisions of complete security, privacy the Elections Act, 2017.

provincial election arrangements, putting to resentatives.

case to the chief justice.

Shahid Bilal Hassan.

"It will be appropriate if

of Pakistan (ECP) and oth- lawyer

ers have been made respon-

dents in the petition.

(INP): commissioners as well as Amid heightened political the Election Commission Secretariat have furnished the Election Commission lists of government officers of Pakistan (ECP) is for the election duty. Their cies of the national and four expected to announce the appointment will follow the

Separately, in a message December 14, reported a on the occasion of National Voters Day, Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar in electioneering and politi- Sultan Raja said the printcal wheeling and dealing to ing and delivery of the final strengthen their position in electoral rolls had been the polls which are slated to completed successfully. He take place on February 8 said the ECP was fully cognext year. The electoral nisant of all its constitutionbody recently published the al and legal responsibilities the "bright future of the final list of delimitations regarding elections and

CEC Raja also referred Election and transparency through-According to Sections out the election process. 50 and 51 of the Elections The chief election commis-Act, a district returning sioner called on the public

LHC judge refers Imran's plea to chief justice

alleged that the ECP uncon-

that the ECP is a constitu-

A district and sessions

Raja

requested the court to grant

him more time till Monday

Abbasi

LAHORE: The single stitutionally and illegally

bench of the Lahore High disqualified him in excess

Court has referred former of its authority and that

PTI chairman Imran Khan's attempts are being made to

application in which the lat- keep him and his party out

ter challenged his disquali-fication in the Toshakhana of the upcoming elections. The petitioner has argued

LHC Justice Shujaat Ali tional body whose job is to

Khan on Friday heard the conduct fair and transparent

petition filed by the former elections, not to act as a

premier and ex-PTI chief court of law. He claimed

Imran Khan. During the that the ECP issued a notifi-

proceedings, the judge sent cation of disqualification the case file to the LHC on August 8, which was

chief justice suggesting him against the constitution and

to refer the case to a five- the law. He has requested

judge larger bench which is the court to declare the

already hearing a set of notification as unconstitu-

petitions of similar nature tional and to suspend it

under the head of Justice until the final decision of

the same larger bench hears court in Islamabad has

this petition too," Justice adjourned the proceedings

Shaukat Ali Khan recom- of the illegal Nikah case

mended. The judge con- against former premier

ducted the proceedings on Imran Khan and his wife

Imran Khan's petition at his Bushra Bibi till December

chamber. Barrister Ali 11. Senior Civil Judge

Zafar appeared in the court Qudratullah heard the case

on behalf of the petitioner. on Friday. At the outset of The Election Commission the hearing, petitioner's

the case.

Last week, the ECP also notified the final list of delimitation of constituenprovincial

assemblies, paving the way for the announcement of the election schedule. The CEC also reiterated that elections will take place at its scheduled time and maintained that the commission will ensure complete security during the polls.

He also urged the people to use their right to vote for country and nation" and cooperate with the ECP to ensure peaceful elections. Raja also reminded the people that they have "power of vote," asking them to cast their ballot while keeping in view the future of their children. National Voters Day is observed each year on December 7 to create awareness among the officer is appointed for to participate in the polls to masses about the imporeach district or a specified shape their bright future. tance of vote registration area and a returning officer The Finance Division on and encourage the elecfor each constituency for Tuesday released Rs17.4 torates to use the power of elections to an assembly. billion to the ECP for poll the ballot to elect their rep-

proofs in the court. He said

that he would also present

his arguments on the main-

tainability of the case on

that very day. Accepting the

lawyer's plea, the judge

Shaukat Tarin

quits PTI

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Forme

finance minister and PT

Senator Shaukat Tarin or

Friday announced to qui

party and politics. "I have

decided to quit PTI and pol

itics after consulting with

friends and family mem

Tarin said in a state

"The last two years were

very difficult for me due to

health and financial issues,

the former finance minister

said. Tarin, who was earlier

serving as an adviser to the

prime minister on finance

nd revenue, was elected a

senator last week in the

oy-election for a general

seat of the Senate from

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

adjourned the case December 11.

Ahmed Faraz Advocate, Barrister Saifullah Ghori, Bilal Tariq Khan, Dr. Abdul Mohaimin, Dr. Maria Hamid, Dr. Salma Malik, Faheem Sardar, Muhammad Tahir, Huma Fawad, Jahanzeb Durrani, Kanwal Malik were among those who met Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Akhtar, Mohammad Khan, Osama Malik, Usman Iqbal

present on this occasion. Putin confirms run presidency

Faisal Karim Kundi was also

neighbouring Ukraine.

If elected, the 71-year-old will extend his 24-year lead-

Bilawal meets legal team and civil society delegation F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired the meeting of central and provincial officials and legal experts of the Peoples Lawyers Forum at Zardari House, Islamabad.

In the meeting, the officials of Peoples Lawyer Forum briefed Chairman Bilawal on the presidential reference of the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto case. In the meeting, the legal aspects of the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Presidential Reference Case were discussed. Farooq H. Naik and Shahadat Awan participated in the meeting through video link while Qazi Bashir, Bahram Khan Tareen, Raheel Kamran Cheema, Sajid Tanoli, Gohar Rehman Khattak, Ghiyasul Haque and Asrar Abbasi were present. Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari, Faisal Karim Kundi, Raza Rabbani and Amna Paracha were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, a civil society delegation met Chairman PPP at Zardari House Islamabad and discussed important domestic and foreign affairs. During the meeting, the challenges faced by the Pakistani people and their solutions were discussed. On this occasion, the civil society delegation gave their suggestions and opinions regarding the problems faced by the country. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari appreciated the delegation for their services and performance in their respective fields.

Lubna Bhayat, Bilal Tariq, Javed Mohammad Anwar, Junaid, Raja Sania Kamran, Shehbaz Zaheer, Shamatul Ambar Arbab, Bulent Sohail, Kashaf Ahmed, Talha Rahmani, Bandal and Yusuf Mufti were part of the delegation. Information Secretary PPP,

MOSCOW: Russian President Putin has announced that he will run in the 2024 presidential election. Putin announced his decision to seek to extend his rule on Friday. He is almost certain to win a fifth term as president, allowing him to continue leading Russia's invasion of

ership of Russia, albeit with an eight-year stint spent formally as prime minister. His tenure is now the longest of any ruler of Russia since Josef Stalin. The decision comes as little surprise, with Russia's military campaign in Ukraine seen as having boosted patriotic support for the president. Putin announced his plan at an awards ceremony at which he presented veterans of the war with Russia's highest military honour, state-run news agencies reported. State media reported that one recipient of the Hero of Russia gold star, a lieutenant colonel named Artyom Zhoga, had asked the president to run again. — Aljazeera



ISLAMABAD: Chief Information Commissioner, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, presenting the Bi-Annual Report 2023 of Pakistan Information Commission to President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Fears of US veto loom large on eve of UNSC vote on Gaza truce

NEW YORK CITY: All eyes will be more than eight weeks of fighting has on the US during a meeting of the UN Security Council on Friday, when the 15-member body is due to vote on a draft resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. However, Robert Wood, alternate permanent representative of the US to the UN, indicated that Washington continues to dismiss the need for any additional action by the council "at this time."

The resolution was drafted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab Group of nations at the UN, and presented by the UAE, which currently occupies the Arab seat on the council. The text, seen by Arab News, demands "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza and "the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, as well as

ensuring humanitarian access.' It expresses "grave concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population, and (emphasizes) that the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law." The vote on the resolution follows a dramatic constitutional move by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday, when he invoked one of the few powers provided to him by the UN Charter by calling on the Security the OIC and the Arab Group, he said Gaza that could have "potentially irreversible implications

and security in the region.' In a letter to the council, he said

"created appalling human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.' Wood said that Washington's position on the issue remains unchanged, despite the historic appeal by the secretary-general for an immediate ceasefire. "We don't think another Security Council product right now is going to be helpful to the situation," said Wood.

His country is currently focused on difficult and sensitive diplomacy geared to getting more hostages released, more aid flowing into Gaza, and better protection of civilians," he added. The US has been working to persuade Israeli authorities to recalibrate their approach so that the targeting of Hamas facilities and the group's leadership is more precise, Wood said. This process will take time, he added as he expressed concern about the number of Palestinians killed and injured but said he remains confident that Israeli authorities are listening to the US calls. Saudi Arabia's permanent representative to the UN, Abdulaziz Alwasil, said he remains hopeful that the US, one of five nations that holds the power of veto within the Security Council, will allow the resolution to be adopted on Friday.

Flanked by 57 representatives of Summit on Nov. 11 and led by Saudi morning for meetings with members in contradiction to humanity." of Congress and representatives of Arab News

President Joe Biden's administration, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during which they would "push for accepting the resolution presented by the Arab group." Riyad Mansour, the permanent observer of the state of Palestine to the UN, also expressed "sincere hope" that the Security Council will adopt the resolution and "listen to the brave, courageous principled position of the secretary-general, (which) gives you an indication of how dangerous the situation is in the Gaza Strip.'

Asked about the possibility that the Arab ministerial delegation in Washington would fail to change the view of the Biden administration about a ceasefire call, Mansour highlighted the international isolation of the US on the issue. He said: "We are calling for a ceasefire. The secretarygeneral is calling for a ceasefire. All UN agencies are calling for a ceasefire. (Josep) Borrell (the EU's foreign policy chief) is calling for a ceasefire. The EU is doing the same, (French President Emmanuel) Macron (too), not to mention Russia and China and many others. "(Also) people in the streets, including the Jewish American community, particularly the young generation, who took over Grand Central Station (in New York), and the (other) millions in the streets. "All of them are saying, 'We want a ceasefire.' (So) those who are oppos-Council to demand a ceasefire, to an eight-member Arab ministerial ing a ceasefire are among the very help avert a humanitarian catastrophe delegation, empowered by the Riyadh small minority. The lives of children are precious, so any effort to save for foreign minister Faisal bin Farhan, their lives is in line with humanity Palestinians as a whole, and for peace arrived in Washington on Thursday and any effort not to save their lives is

World's conscience over Gaza killings questionable: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that world's conscience over the bloodshed by Israel in Gaza and

take by not treating all humans equally. Addressing an event on Friday held in connection with International Human being killed in Gaza would have a longlasting impact on peace as it would be difficult for the sufferers to forget such brutalities. First Lady Samina Alvi, diplomats from various countries and representatives of International NGOs attended the event. Dr. Arif Alvi said powerful nations to respect the human ciated the role of Human Rights

Kashmir where thousands of people had been killed with a significant ratio of women and children. He called for a world order with no

unabated human rights abuses in room for wars and humanitarianism Kashmir was questionable and the should override vested interests. Instead world was committing the biggest mis- of promoting the narrative of civilized wars, the United Nations should pursue the goal of no wars in the world, he added. The president said humanitarian-Rights Day, the president said the way ism could not get strength in world the innocent children and people were affairs compared to the vested interests that led to the wars based on the selfserving justifications of the powerful nations. He said that Pakistan was a well-legislated country vis-a-vis human rights backed by the constitution and human rights declaration and emphasised the will to ensure legal justice, that being a developing country, financial equality, empowerment, and Pakistan was evolving regarding human rights but humanity still awaited the differently-abled people. Dr Alvi appre-

rights being violated in Palestine and Minister Khalil George, Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights Rabia Javeria Agha and said Pakistan's institutions had made remarkable progress regarding legislation and the attitudinal changes towards human rights.

He told the gathering that in case of any human rights violation, Pakistan's state and judicial system took prompt action against those responsible for human rights violation and the people also discouraged such acts. The president said the world had witnessed immense development but it remained unable to address the economic disparity. He told the gathering that no religion allowed discrimination on the basis of class, creed and color but it was yet a challenge faced by the world. Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George said that Pakistan was playing an effective role promotion of human rights and peace.



GAZA STRIP: A view of destroyed houses and damaged vehicles after Israeli attacks on Khan Younus.

(Continued from Page 1)

The prime minister, addressing the ceremony marking the first auction of inclusive and robust financial ecosysissued by the Pakistan Stock Exchange, said it was the collective responsibility of the stock brokers, SECP, and other participants to promote upcoming primary market auctions to market it a remarkable ment addressed structural and macroachievement for the entire market ecosystem.

He congratulated all the stakeholders on the auction of the Government Ijarah Sukook through PSX, instead of the State Bank of Pakistan, which was aimed at simplifying the participation in government securities auction, diversifying the investors' base, and enhancing transparency.

He lauded the market participant for their interest in the auction through PSX particularly the participation of the retail market. He told the gathering that the stock exchange was a dynamic force and a heartbeat that resonated with the aspirations of business and progress.

The prime minister, who later rang did not only herald the market transactions but also a symphony of progress and prosperity. "The gong's these walls but across the financial

the Government Ijarah Sukook bonds tem that welcomes diverse voices and promotes economic prosperity shared by all," he remarked.

He said initially, Pakistan's economy faced multiple challenges at the start of 2023-2024, but the governeconomic issues to rectify the situation. He said the collective efforts of all stakeholders had successfully brought the economy back on track, leading to a lower dollar rate from 307 on September 5 in the interbank to 284 today which also resulted in a decline in inflation.

Prime Minister Kakar said the bullish sentiment in the stock exchange was made possible by an improved economy, the participation of foreign investors, a high yield, and a stable exchange rate. He said the capital market provided fuel for businesses to expand, create jobs, and contribute to the overall development of society. He reiterated the government's commitment to fostering an the gong of the stock exchange said it environment that nurtured the resilience of the capital market, recognizing its critical role as a stabilizing force that absorbed shocks and

The prime minister called for

but also embodied values of fairness and integrity. In her address, Caretaker Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar welcomed the prime minister to launch Government Sukook Auction through PSX. She said the Ijarah Sukook was a monumental and innovative product being launched for the first time beyond the State bank which had total control over government securities. Govt eager to take advantage of

technology for enhanced access to healthcare: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the government was eager to take advantage of modern technologies for enhanced access to preventive and curative healthcare for the people, particularly the most vulnerable ones.

The prime minister, addressing the HealthTech Summit held by the Aga Khan University, said the advent of modern technology in the health sector was an exciting time for patients, healthcare providers as well as the government. He said the government needed support from the experts and professionals using modern technologies in the health sector as the provision of universal health coverage was echoes reverberate not only within steered the economy toward stability. the constitutional responsibility of the government. "Through technology, corridors of the nation, symbolizing efforts to build a capital market that our dream of providing quality health our commitment to fostering an not only mirrored economic strength services will be fulfilled," he added.

PM advocates equal rights for minorities The prime minister also highlighted nology tools which necessitated the the role of the private sector and phirole of regulations and the governlanthropists in fulfilling the dream of universal health coverage. He said the potential of technology to reshape healthcare was immense as gene therapy was no more a fiction but a reali-

> Digital technology and artificial intelligence were powerful tools for healthcare providers to ensure the diagnosis far quicker than ever, he added. Calling the AKU a national asset for Pakistan, the prime minister lauded the institution's global ranking as well as its services during COVID-19 in the form of training thousands of professionals and setting up health clinics in the flood-hit areas.

> He said the AKU graduates were positively impacting society as ethical leaders and innovators and urged other institutions to emulate the best practices of the institution. He said the services of the AKU in Pakistan and across the borders, were testimony to the vision and generosity of Prince Aga Kahn who believed that the people of Pakistan deserved the best of education and health facilities.

> Prime Minister Kakar said the technology had implications for the entire way of life including ethics, religion and democracy. He also highlighted the challenges posed by modern tech-

ment. However, he said instead of containing the change, one should engage with it to use it productively.

Sulaiman President AKU Shahabuddin, in his address, apprised the gathering about the summit and its significance. He also thanked the prime minister for attending the summit which he said manifested the government's commitment to the health sector. Lt. General (retd) Dr Nigar Johar called for collaborated efforts to leverage modern technology as digitalization had brought improvements in multiple fields. She said the coordinated approach for public-private partnership at national, regional, and international levels for the achievement of er in the strength and potential of universal health coverage, was

inevitable. PM felicitates SAARC member states on 39th Charter Day: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar extended heartfelt felicitations to the South Asian Association for Regional Countries (SAARC) member states and the people on the 39th SAARC Charter Day, emphasizing the importance of unity and cooperation among the member states to realize the true potential of the region.

day when leaders with vision and foresight adopted the SAARC Charter, and pledged to work together for the progress and prosperity of South Asia". "This day reminds us of the responsibility placed on our shoulders by our peoples, to address the common challenges of poverty, illiteracy, disease and under-development," he said.

The prime minister pointed out that undoubtedly, SAARC had the immense potential to provide a sound framework to transform the lives of over two billion people residing in the South Asian region. Pakistan, as one of the founding member states of SAARC, has consistently shown its commitment to the Organization's objectives. It has actively participated in the SAARC processes and activi-

He said Pakistan was a firm believregional cooperation for national and regional development. "It further believes that result-oriented regional cooperation can be achieved only by adhering to the cardinal principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect, as enshrined in the SAARC Charter.' He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the SAARC process. "I am confident that the current hindrances to the Organization's smooth functioning will be removed, thus enabling SAARC member states to forge ahead In his message, the prime minister on the path of mutually-beneficial said "December 08, 1985 marks the regional cooperation," he added.

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