India's ex-PM Manmohan dies

NEW DELHI (Reuters): Described as a "reluctant king" in his first stint as prime minister, the quietly spoken Manmohan Singh was arguably one of India's most successful leaders. The first Sikh in office, Singh, 92, was being treated for age-related medical conditions and died after he was brought to hospital after a sudden loss of consciousness on

Frontier Post

PM condoles with Azeri envoy F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the embassy of Azerbaijan here on Thursday and condoled with Azerbaijan's ambassador over the loss of precious lives in an airplane crash in the region of Aktau in Kazakhstan. The prime minister prayed for the persons who lost lives in the unfortunate accident and for grant of patience to the bereaved families.

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PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

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Involvement in May 9 riots

Mly court sentences 60 more 'culprits'

RAWALPINDI: Sequel to the involved in Bannu Cantt incident. announcement of the May 9 punishments in light of the Supreme Court's Martial has promulgated the punishments to the following remaining 60 culprits after examining all evilegal rights to the convicts, completion of due process and the appropriate legal proceedings.

Niazi, 10 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House inciinvolved in Jinnah House incident. Raees Ahmed s/o Shafi Ullah, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Arzam Junaid s/o Junaid Razzaq, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Ali Raza s/o Ghulam Mustafa, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Raja Danish s/o Raja Abdul Waheed, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in GHQ attack incident. Syed Hassan Shah s/o Asif Hussain Shah, 9 years rigorous attack incident. Ali Hussain s/o Khalil ur Rehman, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in AIMH Rawalpindi attack incident. Zahid Khan s/o Muhammad Nabi, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PRC Mardan incident.

Sohrab Khan s/o Riaz Khan, 4

years rigorous imprisonment, in Jinnah House incident.

Fahim Sajid s/o Muhammad Khan, years rigorous imprisonment, decision, the Field General Court involved in PAF Base Mianwali incident. Hamza Sharif s/o Muhammad Azam, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office dences, ensuring the provision of all Faisalabad incident. Muhammad Arslan s/o Muhammad Siraj, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Muhammad Hassan Khan Niazi s/o Hafizullah Umair s/o Abdul Sattar, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Noman Shah s/o dent. Mian Abbad Farooq s/o Amanat Mehmood Ahmad Shah, 4 years rig-Ali, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, orous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

Ikram Ullah s/o Khanzada Khan, 9 rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. Muhammad Ahmed s/o Muhammad involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident. Pirzada Mian Muhammad Ishaq Bhutta s/o Pirzada Mian Qamar ud Dind Bhutta, 3 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Multan Cantt Checkpost incident. Muhammad Abdullah s/o Kanwar Ashraf Khan, 4 years rigorous imprisimprisonment, involved in GHQ onment, involved in GHQ attack. Amjad Ali s/o Manzoor Ahmed, 2 rigorous imprisonment, years involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident. Muhammad Raheem s/o Naeem Jinnah House incident. Khan, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

Ehsan Ullah Khan s/o Najeeb Ullah Khan, 10 years rigorous imprisonment, years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PAF Base Mianwali inci-involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara dent. Muneeb Ahmed s/o Naveed incident. Brig (Retd) Javed Akram s/o Ahmed Butt, 2 years rigorous impris-Chaudhary Muhammad Akarm, 6 onment, involved in Rahwali Gate rigorous imprisonment, Gujaranwala incident. Muhammad Ali involved in Jinnah House incident. s/o Muhammad Boota, 2 years rigorous ment, involved in Chakdara Fort inci- Usman s/o Mian Muhammad Usman, 2 Faisalabad incident.

dent. Ameen Shah s/o Mashter Khan, years rigorous imprisonment, involved

Mudassir Hafiz s/o Hafeez Ullah 6 years rigorous imprisonment involved in Jinnah House incident. Sajjad Ahmed s/o Muhammad Iqbal, years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Khizar Hayat s/o Umar Qiyaz Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. Muhammad Nawaz s/o Abdul Samad. years rigorous imprisonment, volved in Rahwali Gate involved Gujaranwala incident. Muhammad Bilal s/o Muhammad Afzal, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PAF Base Mianwali incident.

Muhammad Suleman s/o Said Ghani Jan, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident. Asad Ullah Durani s/o Badshah Zada, 4 years rig-Nazir, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, orous imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident. Ikram Ullah s/o Shah Zaman, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Chakdara Fort incident. Muhammad Farrukh s/o Shams Tabriz, 5 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident. Waqas Ali s/o Muhammad Ashraf, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. Ameer Zohaib s/o Nazeer Ahmed Sheikh, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in

Farhad Khan s/o Shahid Hussain, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in AIMH Rawalpindi incident. Izzat Khan s/o Awal Khan, 2 rigorous imprisonment involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident. Asher Butt s/o Muhammad Arshad Butt, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident. Saqlain Haider Khuram Liaqat s/o Liaqat Ali Shahid, imprisonment, involved in ISI Office s/o Rafiullah Khan, 9 years rigorous 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office s/o Kanunan Khain, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt Checkpost incident. Zakir Hussain s/o Shah Faisal, 7 years rigorous imprison- incident. Mian Muhammad Akram imprisonment, involved in ISI Office



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khadar Farhadov at the Embassy of Azerbaijan to offer his condolences for the unfortunate accident of an Azeri airplane in Aktau, Kazakhstan.

Pak-China partnership, an anchor of regional stability, prosperity: PM

F.P. Report

describing it as "an anchor of region-al stability" and "a beacon of hope for minister highlighted that both lead-two iconic leaders. global peace and prosperity".

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to cultural exchanges, education, and defence production," the prime minister said while addressing an event of unveiling of sculptures of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Chinese leader Mao Zedong at the PM House.

recognized the immense in various fields from the China- our all-weather strategic partnership under these challenging global circumstances'

He said Quaid-e-Azam was the founder of Pakistan and his great continent through outstanding leader- Mohenjo Daro and Harappa.

The niece of Chairman Mao ship and great sacrifices by the ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Zedong Mao Xiaoqing also graced Muslims. Appreciating the great work Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the event. He said the historic bonds done by Chinese renowned artist and done by Chinese renowned artist and Thursday underscored the importance between Pakistan and China spanned sculptor Yaun Xikum who made the of the all-weather strategic partner-ship between Pakistan and China, shared values, of mutual respect, prime minister said he had wonderfully, captured the essence of these

The prime minister recalled that "We are proud of our collaboration Pakistan-China relations and "today during his recent visit to China in June this year, on the recommendais an anchor of regional stability tion of President Xi, he went to Xian and had the opportunity to visit the Terra Cotta museum, a symbol of past glorious and heritage. Similarly, he said Pakistan proudly traced its histoleadership played a decisive role in ry to the Indus Valley civilization, carving out Pakistan from the sub- whose relics were preserved in

Tarar hails 9 convictions — military trial of mastermind, accomplices

Saqib Mushtaq

Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday, welcoming the convictions of those involved in May 9 arson, underlined the need for military trial of its mastermind and his accomplices.

Talking to the media, the minister said the military courts have convicted some 60 individuals involved in the May 9 attacks on Lahore's Jinnah House, PAF Airbase Mianwali, Qila Chakdara, and other sensitive installations. "This is a significant step forward, as those responsible for attacking sensitive installations have been brought to justice," he said, while attributing the the media. attacks to a "nefarious conspiracy masterminded by the PTI founder".

He declared it a landmark day for Pakistan as justice was served to those who attempted to undermine the nation's defense institutions. "This will strengthen national security, establish the rule of law, and ensure that no one dares to attack defense installations again for fulfilling the dreams of the enemies," he added. "This day marks a turning point for Pakistan. Justice has been served, and the rule of law has prevailed. The martyrs can now rest in peace knowing their sacrifices have been honored," he remarked.

Highlighting the due process of the law followed during the trials, he said the decisions in these cases were not taken in the haste. "The prosecution spent extensive time gathering evidence and ensuring all legal requirements during the trial process," he explained. The trials adhered to Pakistan's constitutional framework and international treaties, he said while stressing on the right to fair trial given to the accused. "The accused were given opportunities to engage legal counsel of their choice, access court records, and meet their families," he said, adding the trials were not conducted in absentia. He said the convicted individuals have two avenues for appeal as they could appeal within the military judicial hierarchy and through writ petitions in high courts.

evidence, including video and technical records, demonstrating the involvement of realm of art and culture.

the convicted individuals in vandalism and ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for attacked the Jinnah House, destroyed national symbols, and desecrated the uniforms of our brave soldiers," he regretted. He also condemned the burning of an aircraft displayed at the Mianwali Airbase which had been used by national hero MM

> On the occasion, the minister criticized ongoing efforts by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to weaken the nation through foreign lobbying and misinformation campaigns, asserting that these attempts would not succeed. He said the country is on the path of progress which is also admitted by the PTI founder today in conversation with

> Pak-Turkiye centuries-bound ties to develop further in future: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that Pakistan-Turkiye friendship defied borders and people of the two countries had centuries-old bonds which were getting stronger and stronger with the passage of time.

> Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Yunus Emre Institute, Turkish Culture Center at Allama Iqbal Open University, he said Pakistan, Turkiye friendship had its roots in history even before the creation of Pakistan. Referring to the Khilafat movement in early 20th century, he said family elders used to tell touching stories about how the Muslims of the subcontinent donated for their brothers in Turkey.

He said Pakistanis visiting Turkiye, or return testify that the respect, warmth and affection they received there was second to none. Expressing his gratitude to the leadership, government and people of Turkiye, he said hearts of both people beat in unison He said Yunus Emre was a great Sufi poet and scholar whose writings were still as relevant as they were in his times.

Paying tributes to Dr Halil Toker Director Yunus Emre Institute, Pakistan, the minister said that he had made a great contribution to promoting Turkish culture in Pakistan. Tarar said during his recent visit to Turkiye, he met the Head of Presidentia The minister said there are irrefutable Communications Dr Fahrettin Altun and it was agreed to enhance cooperation in the

Major martyred, 13 terrorists killed

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces killed 13 Khwarij terrorists while another eight terrorists sustained injuries in three separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province whereas a Major Muhammad embraced martyrdom durng exchange of fire.

'On reported presence of Khwarij, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Jani Khel, Bannu District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly, two Khwarij were sent to hell," said an Inter Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release. Another intelligence based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District. In ensuing fire exchange, five Khwarii were effectively neutralised by security forces, while eight khwarij got injured. "However, during intense exchange of fire, Major Muhammad Awais (age: 31 years, resident of District Narowal), a brave officer, who was leading his troops from the front, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat,'

it further said. In a third encounter that place in South Waziristan District, own troops successfully neutralised six Khwarij, while khwarij eight



Sindh Bank Pays Tribute To

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

On Her 17th Death Anniversary December 27, 2024.

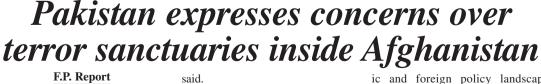




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ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office the Afghanistan remained high on the bilateral agenda.

"Trade connectivity and people to ment.

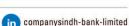
border with Afghanistan. said that Pakistan's major concern of Pakistan's major concern of terror terror hideouts and sanctuaries inside hideouts and sanctuaries inside Afghanistan remained high on our lateral agenda. bilateral agenda," she added. The Addressing the yearly roundup spokesperson said Pakistan remained briefing, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz engaged with Afghan authorities on exchanges during the year amplified Zahra Baloch said Afghanistan all issues of priority and would like to remained a priority on the agenda of enhance cooperate in trade, transit Pakistan's diplomatic outreach. trade, security and border manage-

"We have had some incidents on marked by enhanced regional and global ties. Baloch said, "Our diplomatic efforts throughout the year were aimed at increasing Pakistan's international profile and enhancing relations with countries in all regions of the world". She said frequent high-level our efforts as visits with Azerbaijan, China, Belarus, Belgium, Egypt, the United kingdom, Turkiye, Iran, Jordan, Russia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia people contact were a priority in our engagements with Afghanistan," she an active year for Pakistan's diplomat-The outgoing year 2024 remained and others helped develop important

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ISSI inaugurates 'China Corner' to further promote China Studies

'China Corner' at the ISSI Library. The event was graced by Ambasasdor Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to Prime Minister/Minister of State (Foreign Affairs), as Chief Guest. and Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head of Mission at Embassy of China in regional connectivity. Pakistan, attended as Guests of

The event was attended by promi-'China Corner' to be established in a think-tank in Pakistan.

In his welcome China in Pakistan with multiple instiwith the China Institute of Contemporary International and practition
Relations (CICIR) as part of the Joint
Working Group of CPEC on Mr. Shi Yu Working Group of CPEC on Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, stated International Cooperation. He further of Mission at Embassy of China, that the 'China Corner' will provide collection of more than 600 physical and 5000 electronic books, journals, newspapers, and monographs related to China studies that are available for scholars to benefit from

China in 1949, the Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partners and narrative and leveraging this underrelationship has followed a steady iron-clad friends and that the friend- standing for shared progress and progression and has now evolved into ship between the two countries has prosperity.

Govt stands

firm against

PTI pressure

tactics: Talal

F.P. Report

constitution.

The Senator

cessful. Senator empha-

logue within the country.

that Pakistan seeks to main-

tain cordial ties with its

neighboring countries, but

will not hesitate to take

action against any entity

that attempts to disrupt the

nation's peace and stability.

Senator emphasized that

PTI should cease its hate-

based lobbying efforts and

instead adopt a more mature approach to

By promoting maturity and respect, Chaudhry encourages PTI to engage

more positively and pro-

ductively. Senator Talal

Chaudhry emphasized that

the government has formed

a committee to address cer-

tain issues, and PTI must

take this development seri-

Locals, traders

hold jirga

F.P. Report

BANNU: Bannu Qaumi

Commerce and District Bar

Association held joint meet-

ing regarding deteriorating

law and order, installation of

barriers at entrances in the

According details, the absence of police and being limited to police stations was

called a question mark. The

leaders announced their full

support for all the demands

of Bannu Qaumi Jirga and

their struggle side by side.

General Secretary Ghulam

Qibaz Khan, other officials

were present. Shoaib khan

Saduzai Advocate, Malik

Haroon Khan Advocate,

Asfandiar Khan Advocate

and other advocate officials

presented concerns regarding

the closure of inner-city

while briefing the media after

the joint meeting, said that

the 16 points presented dur-

ing the peaceful sit-in of the

Qaumi Jirga should be

immediately implemented by

the Chief Minister and the

Apex Committee.

Bacha Advocate,

city, on Thursday.

Chamber

addressing issues.

Talal Chaudhry stated

Partnership, and is now an indispen- rock and as stable as Mount Tai. The ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study sable factor of stability in the region Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of and beyond. It encompasses diplo-Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) matic, political, economic, security, of both countries, and China is ready organised the inaugural ceremony of defence, technological, educational, people-to-people cultural, The China-Pakistan domains. Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), powerfully mani-Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, fests the commitment of the leader-fascinating about Pakistan China Ambassador of Pakistan to China, ship on both sides to foster transfor-relations that has perplexed scholars mational economic development and

During his remarks, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi stated that Pakistan-China relationship has surpassed the nent members of diplomatic commu- traditional construct of inter-state nity, bureaucracy, civil society and relations and is now a comprehensive the media. This is the first ever and unique partnership built on mutual trust, mutual support and mutual respect as its foundational principles. address, The establishment of 'China Corner' Ambassador Sohail Mahmood high- at ISSI is not only about studying lighted that ISSI has been serving as China but also to build bridges and an important hub for research on make synergy between both countries to work together. It holds immense tutional collaborations with Chinese potential as a space where ideas will think tanks and universities. ISSI is flourish and the future of Pakistanalso a dialogue partner for the China bilateral relationship shall be Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum supported. He encouraged students, scholars, researchers, policymakers International and practitioners to make full use of

added that the 'China Corner' has a emphasized that ISSI has made outstanding efforts to promote mutual understanding and information about cooperating with ISSI and also conscholars to benefit from.

He also emphasized that since the founding of the People's Republic of Pakistan and China are all-weather understanding China's development

salience of bilateral relationship is shared by highest level of leadership to work with Pakistan to help build a China-Pakistan community of shared

Home

In his address, the Chief Guest Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi elaborated that there is something very fascinating about Pakistan China of international relations abroad for years. The history of both countries shows that despite huge differences between the people and philosophies of the two countries the relationship continued to strengthen. Pakistan was among the first to recognize China, it was also the first to advocate for Chinese membership in the UN.

In the shape of CPEC Pakistan has been fortunate enough to be the first symphony in the Chinese orchestra of BRI. To recognize the cooperation between two countries is not only good for the two countries but for the entire region. He added that the Chinese leadership had reaffirmed to the Prime Minister in their latest meetings that CPEC will not only continue to go forward but would also be enlarged and expanded.

Earlier, in his opening remarks Dr comprehensive access to information and resources about China's governance model, economic policies, and China. Chinese Embassy has been diplomatic strategies. This repository will be a resource for fostering



LAHORE: Managing Director, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt is being welcomed by organization's officers.

CTD budget enhanced to acquire digital monitoring systems F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has approved an additional fund of over Rs1.9 billion for the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to strengthen operations against terrorism. The funds will be utilized to purchase state-of-the-art digital media monitoring software, open-source intelligence systems, modern machinery, and vehi-cles, enhancing the department's capability to combat terrorist threats.

Sources revealed that the funds, requested during the current financial year, will be allocated for software acquisition, transport, and essential equipment. With a noticeable rise in terrorism incidents, particularly in KP and Balochistan, this funding marks a critical step toward enhancing counter-terrorism measures in Punjab.

Earlier this year, in April, the CTD Punjab identified 25,432 suspected terrorists linked to various banned organisations. A report compiled by the department details the affiliations and personal information of these individuals. Among them, 8,926 suspects were linked to the same organisation, while 968 were reportedly influenced by the ideology of Daesh, an internationally designated terrorist group. The CTD has intensified surveillance of these individuals, focusing on tracking their activities and preventing further security

2025 must be year of progress F.P. Report

MULTAN: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said that national unity and accountability was pivotal for steering Pakistan toward progress and prosperity in the com-

ing year. Talking to media, he said that the government has set the country on the right path of progress and stabil-"We must strive to make 2025 a year of development and prosperity for the country. Hope is essential, and efforts must align with this vision," he said The minister welcomed recent steps toward political reconciliation, including the formation of negotiation committees by both sides and agreements to avoid divisive rhetoric. He urged all political leaders to constructively engage while respecting the democratic mandate of each party.

Sharjeel reviews progress on Red Line BRT project



F.P. Report

KARACHI: A high-level meeting presided over by the Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Inam the Memon reviewed progress in the Red Line project.Issues pertaining to progress on construction of the bus deports and terminals, utilities shifting and other allied works came up for discussion in a meeting which attended Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, the CEO Trans Karachi Tariq Manzoor Chandio, the international lenges are addressed to consultants and others. The complete the project as per for mass transit in Karachi work done so far was the timeline. He said that as a whole. The potential

ants presented recommendations on how some of the Sharjeel works should be done to meet international stanongoing the challenges. Talking to the Line media on the sidelines of

the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister, Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Red Line BRT is amongst the major initiatives concerning infrastruc-

meeting, Senior Minister Inam Memon asked the Department to remain in dards and resolve some of close liaison with the utility service providers. He said coordinated efforts must be made regarding the resolution of issues like utility transfers and expedite construction.He said the Sindh government is committed to a modern, efficient, and eco-friendly transportation system for Karachi people. This track of the Red Line tural development in BRT stretches along the 26 Karachi and that the chal-kilometers' journey, sup-BRT stretches along the 26 posed to be the backbone explained to the participants by CEO Trans changer for Karachi combarrachi Tariq Manzoor muters, and any further capacity of the Red Line BRT is a game capacity of the Red Line BRT has the ability to carry thousands of passengers Chandio.During the meet-ing, international consult-be afforded.During the traffic on the roads.

Woman shot dead for 'honour' in Karachi

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A married woman was gunned down in a suspected honour-killing case in Karachi's Quaidabad on Thursday, according to police. Razia Sanaullah, 40, was shot and killed inside a home in Gulshan-i-Buner, police said.

Speaking to media, Malir Superintendent of Police (SP) Saeed Rind said the police suspected involvement of close relatives behind the murder. "During the initial probe, police have received some clues, which have suggested that the incident might be an outcome of so-called honour," Rind said. He said that close relatives were "unhappy" with the woman's activities to the extent that they did not attend her funeral prayer. Her

neighbours, however, attended the funeral. The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for legal formalities and the police were further investigating the case. Last month, a woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband in the name of so-called honour on the outskirts of the metropolis.

In September, a newlywed couple was gunned down, and their relative was injured over "honour" in Orangi Town. In July, a

young woman was allegedly the help of the viral video. axed to death in the name of honour by her maternal grandfather in Marfani Goth within the remit of the Awami Colony police sta-

Man arrested harassing woman: District Central Police in Karachi have arrested a suspect, identified as Amir, for allegedly harassing a woman at a market in Sector 5M North Karachi. The incident came to light after a video of the incident went viral on social media

Senior Superintendent of (SSP) Police Central Zeeshan Siddiqui said that the woman was shopping at a stall when three youths, including Amir, allegedly harassed her. The SSP said that Amir was arrested with the incident.

A case has been registered against Amir and others at Bilal Colony police station and raids are being conducted to arrest his two accomplices. Read More: Karachi man strips naked in front of passerby woman in Surjani

Earlier in a separate case, the footage of an incident came to light, showing a man harassing a pedestrian woman in Karachi In the disturbing video, a woman was subjected to harassment while walking on a road in Pak Colony area of Karachi, later fleeing the scene. Authorities report that although the video of the incident has been emerged, the victim has not yet come forward to report the incident to the police, however, the police have apprehended the suspect involved in

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CHAIRMAN PURCHASE COMMITTEE KHYBER MEDICAL UNIVERSITY KMU Road, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar Ph No. 091-9217703 (Ext: 164), 091-9217696

Faryal pays glowing tribute to *Shaheed* BB

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Mrs. Faryal Talpur, President Pakistan FAISALABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senator Talal Chaudhry Sindh Assembly, paid glowing tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto issued a stern warning on Thursday, emphasizing that the government will not succumb to external or on her 17th martyrdom internal pressure from the anniversary. She described Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and all matters will be addressed in accordance with the law and the democracy.

Faryal Talpur emphasized PTI's attempts to sway forthat Shaheed Mohtarma ed the eign entities will be unsucing struggle for democracy, sized that PTI's foreign human rights, and social lobby will not achieve its justice continues to serve as goals. Instead, he urged a guiding light for the PTI to focus on resolving Pakistan Peoples Party and internal issues through diathe nation.

She stated that Shaheed Mohtarma

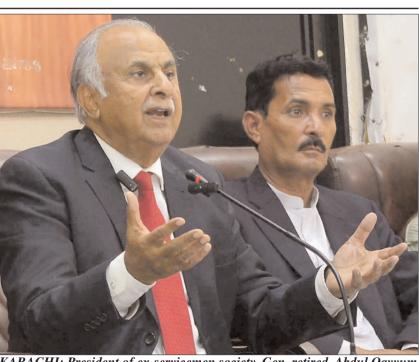
ment to courage, resilience, of Shaheed Mohtarma the rights of the oppressed. She stood fearlessly against Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Peoples Party Women's tyranny and injustice, dedi-Wing and Member of the cating her life to the dream courage and commitment of a progressive and prosthat defined her legacy. perous Pakistan.

ther said that the leadership ship, the Pakistan Peoples of Shaheed Mohtarma Party continues its struggle her as an extraordinary Benazir Bhutto paved the for the rights of the people leader, a beacon of hope for way for empowering and is realizing the vision the people, and a symbol of democracy.

Way Tot Chipowering and is realizing and realizing and the people, and a symbol of women, protecting the of its great leader. Mrs. Faryal Talpur urged party In her message, Mrs. strengthening democratic workers and the nation to aryal Talpur emphasized institutions. She also laudhonor the memory of Shah-Benazir Bhutto's unwaver- President Asif Ali Zardari Bhutto by upholding the and Chairman Bilawal principles she stood for: they are carrying forward social justice. She called on Shaheed Mohtarma everyone to renew their Benazir Bhutto's mission commitment to unity and vision. She remarked that the dreams of Shaheed

and selfless dedication to Benazir Bhutto's philosophy of reconciliation, while Under

Mrs. Faryal Talpur fur- Bilawal Bhutto's leaderleadership of eed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Zardari, stating that democracy, equality, and with determination and to building Pakistan where Benazir President Asif Ali Zardari is Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Bhutto's life was a testa- undoubtedly the custodian can flourish.



KARACHI: President of ex-servicemen society, Gen. retired, Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference.

Former students' leaders seeks role in PPP affairs

PESHAWAR: Former activists of the People's Students Federation (PSF), PPP students' wing have asked the party leadership to take steps for the activation of the party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing a function held here in connections with the death anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto here on Thursday, they said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has potential to organize and strengthen the party.

For this purpose the forstudent activists demanded of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardardi and co-chairman President Asif Ali Zardari to handover Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto province.

the party affairs in Khyber and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Pakhtunkhwa to Aseefa against the military dictator-Bhutto Zardari to organize ships. the party, saying all party wings will extend full support to her to achieve this

function was held at ty. They said that Shaheed Peshawar Press Club (PPC) with former president PPP district Peshawar Israr Khan Nehqi in the chair. Former PSF leaders from across the province attended the event.

Addressing the participants of the function, Ghani Gul Engineer Biland Mehsud, Tarakai, Fazale Rabi, Akhtar and urged the party leader-Zaman, Bacha Hussain and Haq Nawaz paid glowing ence for the revival of the tributes to the struggle of

They said that whenever PPP come to power, it had worked for the welfare of the poor, workers and down-The death anniversary trodden classes of the socie-Zulfikar Ali Bhutto turned the country into a nuclear while Shaheed power Benazir Bhutto gave missile programme to make defence of the country impregnable. The speakers said that the former students' activists have spent their lives for the Khan strengthening of the party ship to utilize their experilost glory of the party in the

Kalam Bibi International Women Institute. Bannu Bannu Township Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Cancellation of Advertisement No. 3(24)

Reference to the Advertisement No. 3(24) of the RFP for Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu, which was published in the daily newspaper "The Frontier Post" Peshawar on 13-12-2024 and also uploaded on the PPRA website. This advertisement is hereby treated as cancelled due to technical

Vice Chancellor Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu Bannu Township, Bannu, Ph; 0928-633810



Meeting of Cabinet Supervisory Committee on outsourced hospitals held

F.P. Report

Pakhtunkhwa Supervisory Committee regarding outsourced hospitals was held today under the chairmanship of Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health Ihtesham Ali. The meeting was attended by committee members, including Minister for Local Government and Development Arshad Ayub and Minister for Agriculture Major (Retd.) Sajjad Barakwal. While other participants included Special Secretary Budget and Development Habibullah, Director General Health Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Managing Director KP Health Foundation Dr. Affairs Departments.

committee was briefed on sourced.

Continuous Supply of

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber akhtunkhwa for Health Ihtesham Ali has stated that the supply of medicines in Kurram district is ongoing, with medicines being provided to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Parachinar, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital ΓHQ) Sadda, and Basic Health Units (BHUs) in the area.

Medicines in Kurram

He further shared that the consistent supply of meditines has resulted in a tenfold increase in outpatient department (OPD) visits. He highlighted that today, additional medicines donated by Karachi-based organization JDC and the Governor of Sindh are being delivered to DHQ Parachinar. A total of 2,500 kilograms of medicines are being transported to the district today.

The Advisor Intesham Ali assured that the supply of medicines will continue uninterrupted until the situation in the region normalizes. He also clarified that reports circulating on social media about the deaths of 100 children are baseless. He urged media outlets to verify such news by seeking an official statement before publishing.

During the meeting, the districts, have been out-

Adnan Taj, and represen- and related agreements. It being referred to hospitals tatives from the Finance, was informed that 19 hos- in Peshawar despite the Partners (IPs) for the cur-Law, and Parliamentary pitals across the province, availability of specialists including those in tribal in outsourced hospitals.

need for providing attrac- 15, 2024.

F.P. Report the current status of out-sourced hospitals, their Noted that patients are ing in remote areas, which are currently lacking.

Peshawar City

The committee stressed the immediate completion of the Health Foundation's Board of Directors. It also directed the activation of Search Nomination Committee and completion of the Health Foundation Board January

Additionally, the committee instructed engagement with hospital-operating organizations to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services.

A detailed briefing on establishing a one-window operation for outsourced hospitals will be presented in the next meeting. The committee also directed the timely payment of outstanding dues to Implementing rent quarter. The next n outsourced hospitals. meeting of the committee

He emphasized the is scheduled for January



PESHAWAR: Advisor to CM on Forest and Wildlife Pir Musawwar Khan talking to media after inaugurating fish aquarium and auditorium at Peshawar Zoo.

Benazir's memory will forever live in people's hearts: Governor

Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Karim Kundi, on Thursday expressed that the memory in the hearts of the people.

In a statement at the eve 17th martyrdom anniversary of Benazir taught us that everything we are reminded of the added. martyrdom of a great leader who sacrificed her

Abbas Majid

Marwat

assumes

charge as

RPO Kohat

Syed Adnan

He emphasized that her sacrifice continues to of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto inspire and guide the will forever remain etched nation, and her legacy will never be forgotten. sacrifice

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

sized that the memory of

will always remain alive in our hearts. He said that December

27th marks a tragic chapter in Pakistan's history, when Benazir Bhutto, with her blood, tried to write the country's destiny.

He further said that after her martyrdom, we real-Bhutto, Governor Kundi can be sacrificed in the ized that her dream, strugsaid, "On December 27th, love for the country, he gle, and determination gle, and determination continue to empower us to Governor Kundi emphamove forward.

(APP): life, leaving a beacon of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto her sacrifice and pledge to Khyber light for the people of will always remain alive in follow her path, striving to follow her path, striving to give Pakistan the position it deserves, said Faisal Karim Kundi.

He called December 27th a grievous tragedy that deprived Pakistan of its unparalleled leader.

Governor Kundi reiterated that the martyrdom of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was not just a sacrifice of one individual, but became integral part of Today, we remember Pakistan's destiny.

Public servants are change agents in lives of people: DG NIPA

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: "Public servants are the change agents in the lives of the people. National progress and prosperity is contingent upon the decisions and role of public servants." These views were expressed by Director NIPA/PPSA/PARD Peshawar Capt. (Retd.) Usman Gul while addressing graduating officers on highlighted that NIPA the eve of graduation cere- Peshawar mony of the 36th Senior umbrella support and Management Course here guidance of the Rector at NIPA Peshawar in which 31 officers from imparted the best possible groups/services of the enhance skills, knowledge Federal & Provincial base and core competen-Governments participated. cies of the trainee officers

administrative and support and ICT interventions. staff of the three premier. He added.



36th SMC.

The Director General under the NSPP Dr. Ijaz Munir, occupational training while aiming to

graduating officers of the reflect these traits in your reflected by the Course the occasion.

respective workplaces to enhance the quality of put his utmost potential your decisions and provide and services in amelioratpeople." He urged them to with the people so that campus. people come to you with Instructors, faculty and sis, strategic management of NIPA Peshawar deserve weeks. untiring efforts in making

Review Committee's feedback in which the graduatofficers expressed their utmost satisfaction with the quality and impact of the 16-week rigorous training programme

The Director General lauded the dedication and hard-work of the adminis-PESHAWAR: DIG Abbas Majid Marwat officially tration of the three training assumed his duties as the Regional Police Officer institutes and extended appreciation to DS Admin Mr. Asad Zia Siddiqui who (RPO) of Kohat on Thursday. Upon his arrival at the Regional Police better public service to the ing and strengthening the Office Kohat, he was warmly welcomed, and a physical and training have friendly interactions infrastructure of the entire ceremonial guard of honor was presented by a smartly turned-out police contin-

The Chief Instructor open hearts and think of SMC Mr. Tariq Bakhtiar you as friends. The presented the course report Director General while to the Director General appreciating the efforts of and explained the rigorous The ceremony was in evidence-based decitive the SMC faculty stated journey of the training tended by chief sion, public policy analythat the dedicated faculty course spanning over 16-The Director all commendation for their General awarded course completion certificates to training institutes and 31 your responsibility to the course a success as the graduating officers on

Marwat's comes as part of recent large-scale transfers and postings of senior police officers within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Prior to his new role, DIG Marwat served in various key positions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other provinces of Pakistan. Known for his professionalism, integrity, courage, and dedication to duty, he is widely recognized as a competent officer with a deep understanding of

District Police Officer

Dr. Zahidullah Khan and

other senior police officials accompanied him during

the occasion.

police operations. While assuming his responsibilities as RPO Koĥat, DIG Abbas Majid Marwat reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring law and order in the Kohat region, including its tribal districts. He vowed to take all necessary measures to combat crime and maintain peace in the area.

Meeting discusses to establish of advisory board

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A Task Force, constituted by the Secretary of Higher Education Department meeting here Thursday to support the cussed were the advisory establishment Advisory Board and function, mandate, and Common Center (CFC) by the Minerals Development Department. The meeting (CFC), as well as defining was held at the National Centre of Excellence in and responsibilities in the Geology (NCEG), University of Peshawar. The meeting was con- explored the identifica-vened by Dr. Abdul tion of resources and DIG Abbas Majid Pak-Austria

> Technology, Haripur. detailed discussion regarding the tasks assigned to the Task

establishing a Mine and Minerals Company for (HED), Peshawar held a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Other key topics disof an role on the structure, Facilitation organogram of the proposed Common Facilitation Center its composition, roles, (NCEG), PC-II proposal. Peshawar. The Task Task

explored the identifica-Mateen, Chairman of the technical experts neces-Department of Mineral sary for the successful Resources Engineering at establishment of the CFC. The members of Task appointment Fachhochschule Institute force Prof. Dr. Liaqat Ali, art of recent of Applied Sciences and Director, National Centre

of Excellence in Geology mendations The session focused on (NCEG), Prof. Dr. Ishaq Ahmad, Engineering, UET Pakhtunkh Peshawar, Prof. Dr. ing weeks.

input to the Secretary of Chairperson, Department Mines for developing a of Physics, University of PC-II proposal aimed at Peshawar, Dr. Safeer Ahmad Department of Physics Islamia Peshawar, Mr. Asad Ur Rehman, Director, Minerals, DG Pakhtunkhwa participated in the meeting.

Other notable attenwere Minhajduddin Shah, Ex-Chairman, All Pakistan Commercial Association (APCEA), Ali Hassan, Consultant, APCEA , Sartaj Ahmad Coordinator, Khan, and Dr. Saad Khan Assistant Professor,

The Task Force is set to ubmit its final recom-Secretary of the Minerals Chairman, Development Department of Mining Department, Khyber Engineering, UET Pakhtunkhwa, in the com-



IKD and KMU launch certificate **xourse in Andro-Urology**

F.P. Report

reproductive medicine and open new avenues for structured curriculum that counsel patients.

infertility treatment. KMU

PESHAWAR: The Institute Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul region. of Kidney Diseases (IKD) Haq, handed over the Hayatabad, Peshawar, in course launching notifica-(KMU), Peshawar has At the occasion Dr. Abid titled the Vice Chancellor, highfirst of its kind in Khyber emphasized that the pro- lenges. Pakhtunkhwa, is designed gram would not only

addressing infertility and integrates

Scheduled to commence in January, this six-month on improving participants collaboration with Khyber tion to IKD Assistant certification program is tai- understanding of infertility University Professor Dr. Mir Abid Jan. lored for medical doctors and sexual health issues. and aims to enhance knowl- equipping them to effecintroduced a groundbreak- expressed his gratitude to edge and skills in address- tively manage cases using ing critical issues such as evidence-based approach-Certificate in Andro- lighting the significance of infertility, male sexual es. It will also address soci-Urology. This initiative, the this collaborative effort. He health, and associated chaletal stigmas and miscon-

to enhance the expertise of strengthen ties between 20 participants, who will providing participants with medical professionals in IKD and KMU but also receive training through a the tools to educate and

Vice sexual health issues in the knowledge with practical experience.

The program will focus ceptions surrounding infer-Each session will enroll tility and sexual health,

Qila Bala Hisar: Peeping through annals of history

Carrying a documented tors of great rulers various history of 2500 years and dynasties, who stayed here being among the oldest before marching to the living cities of South Asia, subcontinent via Khyber Peshawar always bore Pass for strategic and ecostrategic credentials due to nomic gains. its geographical location.

Indo-Pakistan subconti- fort's old main entrance enjoyed pivotal strategic Trunk (GT) road that leads importance for invaders to Afghanistan and Central and warriors who marched Asia on the through the historical Pushkalavati (Charsadda) Khyber Pass to the sub- in the North and Hund and continent for establishing Taxila on the East. Several their dynasties and monar-

construct forts and gar- among them probably near risons to gain military Bala Hisar Fort. strength in the region as their power strongholds including Afghans Muslim for safety of their forces rulers, Mughals, Ghauris, and people against exter- Ghaznavis and Tughlaq nal aggression.

Located opposite to Jinnah Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Park (old Cunningham Park) on main GT Road, Gor-Kathri

An amalgamation of

Being a gateway to the Mughal architecture, the Peshawar also directly faces the Grand branches of the past Bara River used to flow through These rulers used to interior Peshawar with one

"Most of invaders etc had to conquer Bala Qila Bala Hisar (The Hisar before proceeding to said. Bala Hisar Fort) is a glar- Punjab and other parts of ing example of this legacy subcontinent," said Dr. and catches view of every Abdul Samad Khan, visitor entering Peshawar Director Archeology and City from the East. Museums Khyber

"Recent excavations at every viewer with its huge tory dating back to 2,500 years and one can estimate bricks, the 92 feet high ing those times," Samad 'Peshawar-Historic City of and is explained as forti- Hisar.



Jaipal, vicinity and commander might be Bala Hisar. Mehmud Ghaznavi gar-

area and built of red also been constructed dur- tioned in his book used for its significance tects of existing Bala throwing King Humayun in Bala Hisar reads, and revealing stories of

Frontier ruler of traveller visited Peshawar ed."

Dr. Dani says, a channel Muhammad

(now Khyber fied or walled portion of a and

He said Afghan Durrani He further states that in Pakhtunkhwa)' that when town where the royal rulers used it as their win-11th century AD, Raja Hiuen Tsang, a Chinese palaces used to be situat- ter camp in early 19th cen-However, Senior tury and named it "Bala Hindushahi dynasty was in 630 AD, he spoke of a Research Officer at Hisar" a Persian word defeated in Peshawar's 'Royal Residence,' that Directorate of Museums meaning 'the high fort' Archeology and referred to renowned Bakhtzada historian Abul Fazl as of fort but Sher Singh, on of ancient and modern day Peshawar risoned the fort with his of old Bara River sur- argues that there were dif- claiming that Bala Hisar this edifice impresses ascertained the city's his- army to monitor security rounded by a high spot ferent opinions about the was redesigned and rebuilt Ranjeet Singh, constructed Hisar still stands high in situation in this region. was perhaps the present origin of present day fort by Mughal emperor the fort again with the heart of Peshawar as a Renowned historian, Dr elevated fort. The Chinese but mostly Mughals were Zaheeruddin Babar in unbaked bricks. The only symbol of national pride, Spreading on 15.4 acres that the fort could have A.H. Dani has also men- word "Kung Shing" is believed to be the archi- 1526. However, after over- inscription available today boasting of its grandeur

had destroyed this fort due the First Anglo-Sikh War to fear of reorganization of in 1845-46, the British warring tribes and local East India

in it, Hamyun decided to 1849. rebuild the fort and use it for his conquest of India," ment for successive rulers The colonial rulers Ghauris, Sikhs as well as a resi- in Bala Hisar till the pres-Ahmed Shah Durrani and out his son Taimur Shah Bakhtzada said.

Sikhs captured Peshawar and foreign tourists and and Bala Hisar in 1834 visiting dignitaries by preafter the battle of senting a rare view of its Nowshera and Hari Singh huge battlements and Nalwa also used it as a architectural designs. Bala Maharaja Ranjeet Singh of hoisting on it Pakistan's during Sikh rule. Sikhs national flag on August also tried to rename it as Samargarh but the name serving as Frontier Corps remained unpopular.

Sikhs, however, had by Shershah Suri, Afghans 'Victory to Porak.' After ages.

reconstructed the outer "When he was staying walls of Bala Hisar in

"At the time of Sikh Shahi annexation Bakhtzada said. "This fort British rulers in 1849, had also been a key settle- Bala Hisar had mud walls. like Hindu Maharajas, replaced its structure with Ghazanvis, red bricks in its present Tughlaqs, Mughals and shape and stationed troops dence of Afghan king, ent cantonment was laid Peshawar, This architectural won-

After the death of der has always been a cen-Taimur Shah in 1793 AD, ter of attraction for local residence for Hisar also enjoys respect 14, 1947. Presently it is (FC) headquarters.

With hundreds of years destroyed a major portion down the road and series orders of his father conquests passed, Bala



In brief

Policeman killed in Nowhsera Syed Waliullah Shah

Unidentified culprits shot and killed a policeman who was spending the night at his sister's house. The police have registered a case and started an investigation. In this regard, Noor Islam, son of Abdul Hanan, a resident of Aba Khel Nowshera Kalan, filed a report stating that he was in the Masjid for Fajr when prayers received information that his son, Irfan, who had gone to spend the night at his sister's house in Samandar Ghari Nowshera Kalan, was found unconscious. Noor Islam stated that he, along with other relatives, rushed to the scene and found his son, Irfan, lying dead. Irfan had been shot and killed by unknown individuals using firearms. The reason for the murder is not yet known. Meanwhile, a person injured in a firing incident between two groups over a minor altercation succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. The death toll from the incident has now risen to three. Among the injured was Naeem, son of Raees, who was undergoing reatment Unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries, bringing the total number of fatalities in the incident to three.

Tehsil press club elects cabinet F.P. Report

KARAK: Tehsil Press

Club Takht Nusrati registered annual elections have been completed, Muhammad Rauf unopposed as president, Hufzur Rahman elected General Secretary, elections were held under supervision of Tehsil Bar Association President Shafiullah Advocate, according to details of Tehsil Press Club Takht Nusrati. The elections for the year 2025-26 were conductd in a transparent man ner under the supervision of Tehsil Bar Takht Association President Nusrati Advocate Shafiullah and under the chairmanship of Convener Election Shadnawaz, Secretary Election Ahmed. Tauseef Convener Shad Nawaz announced the election results in the presence Tehsil Association President Shafiullah Advocate other Tehsil Administration Officers, according to Muhammad which Khattak was Raouf unopposed as President, Rehman. Hufzur Secretary, General Khan Vice Manoor President, Umar Hayat Finance Secretary, Lal Siddique Tabsum Giant Secretary, Qaiser Information Haleem

die in mishap

Secretary while Amir

Siyab was elected

Office Secretary.

NEELUM: Two tourists including a woman died and a child injured when Neelum near Sanduk area of Azad Kashmir. According to rescue officials, the victims, Malik Ali Nayyar and Hajra Aslam, were residents of Sialkot. Rescue officials and locals were busy in rescue and relief operation. So far, there was no report about

151 illegal

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Coast Guards arrested 151 illegal immigrants during an opera-tion from Balochistan border. The arrested persons were traveling illegally without any legal documents and passage. After initial investigation, all these persons have been handed over to the FIA authorities for further investigation and other legal actions.

Empowering women at work Seminar highlights challenges and achievements

F.P. Report

MULTAN: The Lodhran "National Day for Pakistani progress.

ment representatives, to Women discuss pressing issues Department Punjab, highsuch as workplace harass- lighted the lack of gender-Pilot Project (LPP), under ment, gender inequality, sensitive workplace polithe USAID-funded Subh-e- and work-life balance, cies and transparency in Nau, Local Works Pakistan while celebrating the conproject, successfully organtributions of Pakistani ized a seminar titled women to the nation's



Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan. "Empowering Work: Women Challenges, Achievements, and the Way Forward."

The seminar brought together 62 participants, including youth, civil society organizations (CSOs), working women champions, academia, and govern- Monitoring

A panel discussion titled "Challenges Faced by Women Working Held in collaboration with Pakistan" was a centerpiece and shape a more inclusive the Women Development of the event, featuring future. Speaking on the signer and proper seminar spotlighted the various sectors. Ms. marked as National Rohma, Chairperson, Anti-Sexual Committee at BZU, emphasized the need for anony-opportunity to celebrate the mous reporting channels, peer support networks, and

gender equality data. She underscored the department's efforts, including gender audits, working women's hostels, and daycare facilities, to create more inclusive workplaces. Dr. Abdul Saboor, Chief

of Party, Subh-e-Nau emphasized the cultural and structural barriers impeding women's workforce partici pation. He called for fostering resilience, collaboration, and supportive networks to empower women Working Women's Day in Harassment Pakistan, Dr. Saboor further pivotal role women play in Pakistan's economy and strict enforcement of anti- society while addressing harassment measures. Ms. the barriers they face in Ushna Tariq, Gender achieving equitable oppor-Monitoring Specialist, tunities."

Quaid turns global history by creation of Pakistan E.P. Report accept him as a great leader Azam Muhammad

HAFIZABAD: A renown

activist of Tehreek-e-Pakistan, most senior journalist Rana Muhammad Yousaf Waheed has said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a versatile and committed personality. His greatest achievement was changing the course of history by changing the direction of

geography and establishing

Islamic state in the world at

the largest

Pakistan,

Quaid-e-Azam simultaneously fought against the British Government and the Hindu majority and won means without any arms or nation, he added. army. Seeing the unique

F.P. Report

Police Officer (RPO), has

stated that the law and

order situation in the divi-

sion is satisfactory. The

protection of lives, proper-

ty, honor, and dignity of cit-

izens is the top priority and

no compromises will be

one is above the law, and

actions are being taken to

eradicate crime and narcotics in the region. Police

stations and checkpoints are

treating visitors with respect,

and instructions have been

issued to all police personnel

to ensure this.

He emphasized that no

made in this regard.

Regional

MINGORA:

right thinking, principles and consistency.

In his special statement, Quaid-e-Azam, ruled the hearts of the Muslims of India. For more than thirty years, Quaid-e-Azam strove hard for fundamental rights and a digni-Muslims of the subcontinent. In fact, his biography is the story of the renais-

around the world are ing a capable personality amazed and are forced to and character like Quaid-e-hurt by this.

public facilitation at offices

firmly. The people of Swat

Cooperation between the

public and police is essen-

e-Insaf and former provin-

the establishment of Swat

tued to all police personnel Town Ship in the Swat Khan. Notable journalist ensure this.

Valley, calling it a gift for Zia-ul-Haq was also pres-RPO appealed to the people of Khyber ent on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Shaukat views Yousafzai, a founding Swat

tial for lasting peace.

public to cooperate with the Pakhtunkhwa. He praised

police in eliminating crime. the residential project, situ-

involved in crime and tak- ful mountains, as a unique

ing the law into their own and attractive development

hands will be dealt with that will draw people in.

and Malakand Division are that Swat's natural beauty

patriotic and peaceful, and already attracts tourists,

their sacrifices for peace and the addition of modern will not be overlooked. residential projects like Cooperation between the Swat Town Ship will fur-

leader of Pakistan Tehreek- Odigram, where he spoke

cial minister, has welcomed Ghafoor Khan Adil, Shah

warned that those ated in the midst of beauti-

after being convinced of his Jinnah in front so that the real dream of the Quaid can

On the other hand, on the Rana Muhammad Yousaf occasion of the birth Waheed said that the anniversary of the founder who of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam changed the map of the subcontinent only by his religious insight and high PML-N the party claiming legal ability and ability, to be the successor of Quaid-e-Azam could not hold any ceremony, while the administration officials forgot the day of the Quaid. Engaged in Christmas celefied way of life for the brations organized by the Christian community.

Patriotic circles have expressed their surprise at sance of the Muslims of the the complete neglect of the war through purely con-subcontinent and their glo-Quaid Day during the stitutional and democratic rious emergence as a PML-N regime when it is in power at the center and He urged that the need in Punjab and said that the and great achievement of today is that every individ- silence and indifference Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad ual should play his role for shown on the occasion of Ali Jinnah, thinkers, intel- the betterment of the coun- Quaid Day. The soul of lectuals and politicians try and the nation by keep- Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad

Yousafzai emphasized

ther enhance the region's

charm. He expressed these

with senior journalists

Asad Ali, and Murad Ali

Town Ship in

Shaukat views during a visit to

accept him as a great leader Azam Muhammad Ali be fulfilled.

RPO directs to prioritize argued the tourists to keep

Farmers to be equip with modern tools F.P. Report

a vigil eye on their children

so that no child falls into

TOBA TEK SING: District Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner in which various issues related to the development of the agricultural sector and provision of facilities to the farmers were considered, on

Thursday. Deputy Director Agriculture Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Noshair Ali Khan gave a detailed briefing on wheat cultivation strategy, green tractor scheme, availability of fertilizers, livestock card and use of pesticides in the meeting. The participants were informed that the use of modern technology and quality seeds is being ensured for maximum pro-

duction of wheat. Deputy The Commissioner directed to ensure the distribution of tractors under the Green Tractor Scheme in a transparent manner. He said that no hindrance in the supply of fertilizers to the farmers will be tolerated and special attention will be paid to the quality of the fertilizers. Regarding the Livestock Card, the farmers will be provided with modern facilities related to animal health and food. Strict instructions issued to the Department of Agriculture to ensure effective use of pesticides and their quality.

Addressing the meeting measures for improvement. the Deputy Commissioner said that agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy and for its development. The government is taking all possible steps. All resources will be utilized to solve farmers' problems and increase agricultural pro-



F.P. Report

HUB: Provincial Minister

of Industry, Trade and Agriculture Mir Ali Hassan

first democratically elected

female Prime Minister of

prominent world leader

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

and said that "Daughter

East" is not only a historical

figure but also a living

movement and beacon. He

said that the 17th anniver-

sary of Shaheed Mohtarma

Benazir Bhutto will be cel-

ebrated with devotion and

respect. Fatiha will be recit-

ed for martyr Bibi across

the country including Hub

district. Workers from dif-

ferent parts of the country

will lay wreaths at the shrine of Benazir Bhutto

Grand meetings and ral-

lies will be held on this

occasion and the speakers will express their views

and recite Fatiha.

Superintendent suspended for facilitating timber mafia Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat suspended the superintendent of at office on charges for facilitating the smuggling of building timber and ordered immediate inquiry against him. Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Kohat has been appointed as an inquiry officer and has been directed to submit a report with recommendations within 3 days.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Kohat also made a surprise inspection of Tanda Dam Kohat in the guise of an ordinary tourist. He, on this occasion issued instructions to suspend the staff on duty and take immediate legal action against them for pathetic cleanliness conditions and negligence in the safety of tourists. He also ordered immediate action against the owner of the boat for not keeping life jackets in

regarding Shaheed Bibi. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the Bhutto family has the said dam. Commissioner Kohat an important position in the has sought an immediate country's politics and the explanation from the XEN history of the Bhutto family is full of sacrifices for Irrigation on this serious democracy. He said that the negligence by tomorrow Bhutto family has cultivatand in case of unsatisfactoed democracy by sacrificing their lives. Shaheed ry reply, action will also be taken against him. He also Bibi Benazir Bhutto always issued directions to all the fought for democracy and Deputy Commissioners and the District Police Officers positive politics in the poliof the entire division to ics of Pakistan. take stern legal action against the timber mafia and those who damaging forests and negligent in cleaning and protecting the tourists at tourist spots. He

was jailed during the mar- from the most powerful eral state.

tial law period but did not men. Martyr Mohtarma compromise on democracy Benazir Bhutto is still today and proved that she is the owner of a strong nerve. The role of Martyr Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Zehri paid tribute to the was very important for democracy and this cultivathe Islamic world and tion of democracy continues today in the form of President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Asifa Bhutto and other leaders and workers. He said that Pakistan Party workers, President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are following the Bhutto Shaheed was to steps taken by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the restoration and promotion of democracy.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri

BB martyrdom a

backstab for democracy

Bibi played a great role in the evolution of the status of women in Pakistan. Some of the other changes made by the first and only woman prime minister in Pakistan's political arena Ministry of Women's appointment of women to the Supreme Judiciary. initiatives were These intended to have a longterm impact by placing women in powerful and influential roles.

lifetime,

and will always be the flame of hope that burns in the heart of every Pakistani woman because of her dedication to uplift the status of women in Pakistan. He said that according to Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's mission, the struggle will continue for a free and sovereign Pakistan, an empowered parliament and constitutional rule.

He said that the mission

of Mohtarma Benazir

end poverty, unemployment and economic misery the from country. Accomplishing this mission is the first priority of said more that Shaheed Pakistan Peoples Party. He said that December 27 is the darkest day in the country's history and the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto was the murder of Pakistan's bright future. If the workers and farmers include the creation of the are prosperous, then Pakistan will be prosper-Development and the ous. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's patriotism, enduring struggle and steadfast leadership will always remain indelible in the hearts and minds of the Pakistani nation. He further said that Peoples Mir Ali Hassan Zehri Party is determined to further said that during her make the dream of martyr Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto a real-Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's ity that Pakistan should be charisma, leadership skills, a high example for the Mir Ali Hassan Zehri compassion and intelli- world as a prosperous, further said that martyr gence were the qualities progressive, egalitarian Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto that distinguished her even and strong democratic fed-

People warned not to purchase Nawab of Dir lands

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Former two-time provincial minister and prominent Pakistani Khawaja politician Muhammad Khan Hoti on Thursday warned sellers and purchasers of lands of the late 'Nawab of Dir', Shah Jehan Khan, of legal actions in case they did not stop the practice.

Speaking at a crowded news conference at the Timergara press club, Mr Hoti said that her mother was the real daughter of the Nawab of Dir and she had her legal and sharite inheritance right to get share in his property. Husband of Nawabzadi Bacha Sultana, Muhammad Zahir Shah Khan, grandson of the late Nawazada Muhammad Nawaz Khan and son of present on the occasion.

they had got a stay order from the Peshawar High

trial for years due to delay- daughters and one son, said ing tactics of the respondents. Responding to a query, he said that they had filed the case against other legal heirs of Nawab of Dir out of which 39960 kanal when his mother was alive, who had the right to get her share in the property.

to Islamic sharia the share deceased's property was equal to the share of two sons in case of multiple siblings. He said that there were reports that some elements of the land mafia were selling and purchasing the lands in question. He warned those people to give up the practice; otherwise they would be deprived of the lands in case the petitioner party wins the case. He said the persons involved in selling and pur-Sher Shah Khan were also chasing the land-in-question, were committing con-Hoti pointed out that tempt of court and he would likely proceed

against it. Muhammad Zahir Shah,

that the Nawab of Dir inherited a total of 143,856 kanal of lands from Chakdara to Lowari Top, were donated to the state while Mr Hoti's mother had the right to get her share in Hoti said that according rest of the 103,896 kanal of lands. The legal attorney of a daughter in the asked all people in Lower and Upper Dir to stop purchasing the disputed lands.

performance: The Dispute Resolution Council of Jandol chairman Fazal Mabood Jan and other members Thursday presented their one-year performance, stating that the forum received 117 applications from the public, out of which 63 were decided. They said that 39 decisions were sent for court orders, while decisions on 15 applications were still pending. The DRC chairman said that 23 disputes were pending since the year 2023, which Court on Aug 8, 2026 and the case had been under the legal attorney for four help of DRC members. have been resolved with the

DC calls for improvement in health facilities

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: A meeting of the District Steering Committee on Health Thursday was held under the chairmanship of DC Abbottabad Sanaullah Khan to review the performance of the health department and implement

DMO IMU Health, Syed Sohaib Shah, presented a detailed briefing on the department's performance and shared updates on the execution of decisions from the previous meeting. Deputy Sanaullah Commissioner ensure the appointment of facilities and patient care at

staff in all healthcare facilities, including DHQ Hospital, Basic Health Units, Type-D and RHC facilities, and Family Welfare Centers. He also emphasized the importance of taking strict action against absentee staff and ensuring a consistent supply of medicines. The DMS of DHQ Hospital reported on the hospital's operations.

The DC instructed officials to enhance the hospital's performance, ensuring staff attendance, maintaining cleanliness, and improving emergency, dental, and treatment services for patients. He fur-

the Women and Children Hospital, particularly in emergency services and admissions. Additionally, directives were issued to enhance service delivery across all departments in DHQ Hospital, focusing on emergency and dental services. The meeting was attended

by Regional Director General Health Hazara Division Dr Israr Ahmed, DMO IMU Health Syed Sohaib Shah, DMS DHQ, Deputy/Acting District Health Officer Dr Shehzad Iqbal, Health Coordinator Dr Ashfaq, Dr. Yasir Khan, Dr Wasil, and represen-Khan directed officials to ther emphasized improving tatives from the Population and Health Departments.

Two tourists F.P. Report

a car fell into River retrieving the bodies.

immigrants held

DPC Wana commits for journalists' welfare attached to the member- cabinet and the formation

WANA: The District Press Club Wana convened a general body meeting under the chair of president Mujeebur-Rehman Wazir to discuss and finalize matters unanimous decision, the general body approved the membership of five new individuals, namely Saeedur-Rehman Wazir, Roshan Khan Wazir, Umar Wazir, Wazir, and Mubashir Waseem Sajjad Wazir.

that the new members committee for the 2025 would not be eligible to elections. The committee cast votes in the upcoming comprises Ahmad Noor as elections. The decision is chairman, with Shahzadin believed to ensure that the and Naik Muhammad as new members first actively members. related to membership. In a engage in the press club's activities and familiarize has released the schedule themselves with their for the upcoming elections responsibilities before parresponsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully in its electory described by the responsibilities before participating fully described by the respective participation fully described by the respective participat toral processes.

President was the dissolution of the club's 26 and December

ship approval, stipulating of a three-member election

The election committee Candidates intending to During the meeting, contest the elections can Mujeeb-ur- submit their nomination Rehman Wazir announced papers between December

Matta square in Swat named after **Shaheed constable Mushtaq Ahmed**

F.P. Report

condition

Pakhtunkhwa Government has named Matta square fice of the Shaheed. after Shaheed police constable, Mushtaq Ahmed. According to

Thursday, the famous Upper Swat Shaukat Khan

MINGORA: The Khyber square was associated to said it was a token tribute to recognize the supreme sacr- the brave police cop, who The spokesman said the duty. Later, the SP unveiled action was taken due to the plaque of the Shaheed Swat efforts of district police Mushtaq Square Matta.

police spokesman here Swat Nasir Mahmood. SF laid down life in line of

The Frontier Post U5



NASA probe attempts closest ever approach to the sun

expected to make history by the spacecraft will endure Earth's closest star.

'No human-made object the sun were the equivalent has ever passed this close to of the length of a 100-yard a star, so Parker will truly (91.4-metre) American footbe returning data from ball field, the spacecraft uncharted territory," Nick should have been about 4 Pinkine, mission operations metres (4.4 yards) from the manager at Johns Hopkins end zone at the moment of Laboratory, said in a United as the perihelion. When the States space agency blog. probe first passed into the Parker was on course to fly 6.1 million kilometres (3.8 million miles) from the boundaries of the sun's sun's surface at 11:53 GMT. atmosphere and collected With the spacecraft out of close-up images of coronal contact, it will be before streamers, cusp-like strucmission operators confirm tures seen during solar

flying into the sun's outer temperatures of up to 982 atmosphere, called the corodegrees Celsius (1,800 na, on a mission to help sci-degrees Fahrenheit), NASA entists learn more about said on its website. If the distance between Earth and Physics its closest approach - known solar atmosphere in 2021, it found new details about the

6 9 2 , 0 0 0 k m / h has been gradually circling distance from the sun. (430,000mph), fast enough closer towards the sun, Aljazeera

YORK: NASA's to fly from Washington, DC, using flybys of Venus to Solar Probe is to Tokyo in under a minute, gravitationally pull it into a tighter orbit with our solar system's star. One instrument on board the spacecraft captured visible light from Venus, giving scientists a new way to see through the planet's thick clouds to the surface below, NASA said.

By venturing into these extreme conditions, Parker has been helping scientists tackle some of the sun's biggest mysteries: how solar wind originates, why the corona is hotter than the surface below and how coronal mass ejections massive clouds of plasma that hurl through space - are formed. Flyby is the first of three record-setting close passes with the next two its health after the close eclipses.

Since the spacecraft expected to bring the probe back to a similarly close back to a similarly close from the sun —

Sudan slides deeper into famine, experts say

hit Sudan is sliding into a The committee is linked to vival," the FRC said. "It is "widening famine crisis" the Integrated Food Phase not merely a lack of food that has been marked by Classification (IPC) - a worsening starvation and a global initiative by UN surge in acute malnutrition, agencies, aid groups and an independent group of governments to identify an independent group of food security experts says. famine conditions. Famine has spread to five areas, with 24.6 million government announced it people - about half the pop- was suspending its cooperulation - in urgent need of ation with the group, accus-

been caused by the 20- Sudan's sovereignty and month civil war that has dignity", Reuters news devastated Sudan. Various agency reports. The IPC mediation efforts aimed at had first identified a famine ending the conflict between in August at the Zamzam the army and the paramili- camp in Sudan's Darfur tary Rapid Support Forces region, where about half a (RSF) have so far failed. million people were taking The army and RSF had refuge. In its latest report, jointly staged a coup in the FRC said that famine 2021, but a power struggle had now also hit the Abu between their commanders Shouk and al-Salam camps plunged the country into a in Darfur's besieged city of civil war in 2023. It has led el-Fasher, as well as two to one of the world's worst areas in South Kordofan humanitarian crises, with state. "Famine is the most the UN-backed Famine extreme manifestation of Review Committee (FRC) human suffering, representwarning that a "greater ing a catastrophic collapse the conflict across the catastrophe" could unfold if of the systems and country.

Sudan's military-backed

food aid, the experts said. ing it of issuing "unreliable The hunger crisis has reports that undermine

of health, livelihoods and entire communities in a state of desperation," by May, and there was a risk of it spreading to 17 other areas. "In areas of high conflict intensity, the hostilities severely disruptfarming activities, resulting in farmers abandoning their crops, looting and stock destruction," i

Both Darfur and South Kordofan have been hit imagination. by some of the worst violence, with scores of civilians killed, raped and abducted by gunmen. In May, US special envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello said that some estimates suggested up to 150,000 people had been killed in Syria's newly appointed

Taiwan's presidential hopeful Ko charged with bribery

TAIPEI: Taiwan's former a sentence of 28 and a half arrest in August, though he presidential candidate Ko years in prison for Ko, who Wen-je has been charged for allegedly accepting bribes and misusing political dona- bribes and embezzling donations. Ko was indicted by tions of more than T\$68 milprosecutors following probes lion. into alleged corruption in the announced charges against redevelopment of a shopping several members of Ko's centre in Taipei during his time as mayor of the Taiwanese capital and campaign finance irregularities during his 2024 presidential of Taipei from 2014 to 2022, run. The Taipei District previously denied wrongdo-Prosecutors Office said in a ing in a real estate develop-

is accused of accepting T\$17.1 million (\$522,392) in Prosecutors also Taiwan People's Party (TPP) over the misuse of political donations.

Ko, who served as mayor statement that it was seeking ment case following his

acknowledged the misreport ing of campaign funds. A Taipei court ruled the following month that Ko, a surgeon by training, should be released from custody as prosecutors had not met the standard of there being a "high possibility" he committed a crime. Ko, who came third in January's presidential election with about 27 percent of the vote, had been widely seen as a contender for the presidency in

Nepal hosts hot air balloon festival

International

KATHMANDU (AFP): With Nepal's snowy Himalayan peaks as a backdrop, the sky Pokhara transformed into a vibrant canvas of colours for the country's first hotballoon festival Tourism is a major earner for Nepal, which saw over a million foreign visitors this year after a post-pandemic bounceback, and investments are being made in hotels and airports to cater to travellers.

"We felt that we must bring a balloon festival like this to Nepal," Sabin Maharjan, an organiser of the event, told AFP. Hot-air balloons from more than 10 countries participated in the festival. "A ride here can be very exciting as you can see mountains, hills and

lakes," Maharjan added. "All passengers tell us that they are very happy such a festival will boost our tourism." The balloons created a mesmerising display against a stunning sight of the snow-capped Annapurna range. "It is spectacular," American balloon pilot Derek Hamcock, 67, said. "As soon as you go above the small range here you see all the Himalayas. Unbelievable, every time you see them it is unbelievable."

Balloons shaped as a rat and a frog from were among those joining in the fun, slowly drifting with but a profound breakdown the breeze. "You never know where you are social structures, leaving going," said Diego Criado del Rey, 29, a balloon pilot from Spain. "So it is pretty added. The FRC predicted much you and the nature that five further areas in not fighting, but being Darfur could face famine together. You go where the nature tells you." Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority issued a notice for the skies over Pokhara for a duration of nine days to allow balloon flights. Although more than two centuries have passed since France's Montgolfier brothers made the first manned flight, ballooning can still capture the

Syria's FM tells Iran not to spread chaos

CAIRO/DUBAI (Reuters): foreign minister, Asaad Hassan al-Shibani, told Iran not to spread chaos in Syria but to respect the Syrian people's will and the

country's sovereignty. In a post on X, Shibani said: "Iran must respect the will of the Syrian people and the country's sovereignty and security. We warn them from spreading chaos in Syria and we hold them accountable for the repercussions of the latest remarks." He did not specify the remarks he was referring to. In a televised speech, Iran's Supreme Ayatollah Ali Leader Khamenei called on Syrian youth to "stand with firm determination against those who have orchestrated and brought about this

Hundreds escape Mozambique prison amid election protests

1,500 prisoners have escaped from a prison in Mozambique, taking advantage of ongoing political unrest triggered by disputed election results, police say. Thirty-three people were killed and 15 injured in clashes with guards, police chief Bernardino Rafael told a press conference.

About 150 more fugitives have since been recaptured, he added. Protests erupted in response to Mozambique's highest court confirming that the ruling Frelimo party, in power since 1975, had won October's presidential elections. Mr Rafael said groups of anti-government protesters had approached the prison in the capital Maputo. Prisoners used the unrest to knock down a wall and escape, he

Mozambique has been rocked by unrest since disputed elections in BBC reporter found Maputo was like October. Official results showed the a ghost town on Christmas Eve, with ruling Frelimo's candidate for presi- almost all businesses shut and people dent, Daniel Chapo, winning. Fresh staying at home to avoid being caught protests erupted, when the constitutional court ruled that Chapo had won the election, while revising his margin of victory downwards. Initial banks and factories have been looted, killed in three months of protests results in October said Daniel Chapo vandalised and set ablaze around the since the elections.

gained a 71% share of the vote to his main rival Venâncio Mondlane's 20%. The court has now ruled that he won 65% to Mondlane's's 24%. A up in the worst unrest in the city since

Frelimo first rose to power in 1975. Frelimo's offices, police stations,

At least 21 people have been killed in the unrest, the interior minister said. Mondlane, who has since fled Mozambique, had been calling on his supporters to demonstrate against what he said was a rigged vote. In a weekend social media message, he said there could be a "new popular uprising" if the result was not overturned. About 150 people have been

Dozens not thousands killed on Mayotte by Cyclone Chido: French PM

PARIS (BBC): French Prime victims". Minister François Bayrou believes dozens of people died when Cyclone Chido hit the French Indian Ocean territory of Mayotte on 14 December, due to many areas of Mayotte being rather than thousands as some have inaccessible and the fact that victims feared. Bayrou told BFMTV he were buried within 24 hours in accorthought the "alarmist and sometimes dance with Islamic customs. There is terrifying numbers put forward won't be borne out in reality".

The confirmed death toll on Mayotte so far is 35 but, in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, local prefect François-Xavier Bieuville feared that it would "definitely be several hundred" and could reach Info radio that investigations in the sands," "I have never been alarmist, I was storm to hit the territory in 90 years, Mayotte, killing 120 people in simply unable to give the number of bringing winds of up to 260 km/h Mozambique and 13 in Malawi.

Officials said it had been difficult to determine the scale of fatalities in the wake of the disaster 10 days ago, also uncertainty about the true population of Mayotte, a French Indian Ocean territory. Officially it has 320,000 residents, but authorities estimate about 100,000 to 200,000 undocumented migrants may also be

living there. "I think [the number of dead] will thousands. The prefect told France be in the dozens and not in the thouthe prime minister told field were progressing well that BFMTV. The archipelago is one of 'allow us to think that we will cort he poorest parts of France, with roborate this figure of 35". Defending many of its residents living in shanty his initial remarks, Bieuville insisted towns. Cyclone Chido was the worst

(160mph) and flattening areas where people lived in shacks with metal France held a day of national

mourning in the wake of the cyclone. President Emmanuel Macron visited the territory last week, and was heckled by angry locals demanding more aid in devastated areas. Some survivors went for a week without water, communication or electricity. Authorities restored water in the main points of the territory, Bieuville said. Even if this water is still sometimes a little difficult to deliver, our fellow citizens have water." He also said there was no fuel shortage any more and cars could now be filled up.

The prime minister had earlier said that a field hospital would also be operational. Cyclone Chido moved on to continental Africa after hitting

US census data shows how M Eastern and Hispanic residents differ in identity

Census Bureau gets public feedback available for questions about race and and Moroccan had the highest rates of about how it should tally people into ethnicity. People descended from places marking their race as Black. People new race and ethnicity groups, the such as Lebanon, Iran, Egypt and Syria with Omani, Emirati and Saudi backagency has released new research had been encouraged to identify as reflecting how US residents from differ- white, but now will have the option of Asian, the report said. ent backgrounds regard their racial and identifying themselves in the new Earlier this year, the US government

changed how it categorizes people by race and ethnicity to more accurately count residents who identify as Hispanic and of Middle Eastern and North African heritage. Before this year, the categories hadn't been changed in 27 years. Under the revisions, questions about race and ethnicity that previously were asked separately on forms will be combined into a single question. That will give respondents the option to pick multiple categories at the same time, such as "Black," "American Indian" and 'Hispanic." Research has shown that large numbers of Hispanic people aren't sure how to answer the race question when that question is asked separately because they understand race and ethnicity to be similar and they often pick 'some other race" or do not answer the

group. Results from the 2020 census, which asked respondents to write in their backgrounds on the form, suggest that more than 3.1 million US residents identify as Middle Eastern and North frican, otherwise known as MENA.

New research released this month by the Census Bureau showed that more than 2.4 million people, or around 80%, who wrote that their background was MENA did so under the white category in the question about their race on the 2020 census questionnaire. Almost 500,000 people, or more than 16%, who wrote that they were MENA identified themselves as "some other race," and almost 139,000 MENA people, or identified as Asian. Almost 50,000 MENA write-ins, or 1.6%, did so under the Black race category. Among MENA subgroups, people of Lebanese and Syrian backgrounds had the highest percentages of people iden-A Middle Eastern and North African tifying their race as white, and people

WASHINGTON (AP): As the US category also was added to the choices who identified as North African, Berber grounds identified at the highest rates as

> In a separate report also released this month, the Census Bureau said there was a noticeable variation regarding racial identity among different US Hispanic groups in the 2020 census. "Some other race" and American Indian and Alaska Native responses were most common among people from Central America.

White and "some other race' responses were most prevalent among residents from South America. Black alone responses and "Black and some other race" answers were most common among people from the Caribbean, the report said. There also was variation by region and state. The Northeast and West - particularly California, Maryland and New York - had the highest share of Hispanic respondents reporting that they were "some other race" alone. Identifying as white alone or "white and some other race" was most common among Hispanic respondents in the

'Broken': Domestic violence impacts women, children in Gaza

is not just because she has five children, nor that they have been dis- live in the street and the cover of conplaced several times since the start of cealment has been removed from my İsrael's brutal war on Gaza 14 months life. ago and are now living in cramped, cold conditions in a makeshift tent in the al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis. Samar is also a victim of domestic violence and has no way to escape her abuser in the cramped conditions of

around the face leaving her with a swollen cheek and a blood spot in her eye. Her eldest daughter clung to her all night following that attack, which happened in front of the children. Samar does not want to break up her family - they have already been forced to move from Gaza City, to the Shati camp in Rafah and now to Khan heard my screams and crying and Younis - and the children are young. came to calm the situation between Her eldest, Laila, is just 15. She also has 12-year-old Zain, 10-year-old Dana, Lana, seven, and Adi, five, to think about.

On the day that Al Jazeera visits her, she is trying to keep her two younger girls occupied with schoolwork. Sitting together in the small tent, which is made from rags, the three have spread out some notebooks around them. Little Dana is huddled up close to her mother, seemingly wanting to give her support. Her younger sister is crying from hunger the loss of privacy has added a whole new layer of pressure. "I lost my privacy as a woman and a wife in this conversation with my husband. I between me and my husband, I want-

children more in my home. Here, I

A loud argument between a husband and wife drifts through from the tent next door. Samar's face turns red with embarrassment and sadness as bad language fills the air. She does not want her children to hear this. Her instinct is to tell the children to go out Two days ago, her husband beat her and play, but Laila is washing dishes in a small bowl of water and the argument next door brings her own problems back into sharp focus. "Every day, I suffer from anxiety because of the disagreements with my husband. Two days ago, it was a great shock for me that he hit me in this way in front of my children. All our neighbours

"I felt broken," Samar says, worried the neighbours will think she is to blame - that her husband shouts so much because she is a bad wife. "Sometimes, when he screams and curses, I stay quiet so that those around us think he's screaming at someone else. I try to preserve my dignity a little," she says. Samar tries to preempt her husband's anger by attempting to solve the problems facing the family herself. She visits the aid workers every day to ask for food. and Samar seems at a loss as to how to She believes it is the pressures of the help them both. As a displaced family, war that have made her husband this

Before the war, he worked in a small carpentry shop with a friend and place. I don't want to say that my life this kept him busy. There were fewer was perfect before the war, but I was arguments. Now, she says: "Because able to express what was inside me in of the severity of the disagreements

psychological support sessions with other women, to try to release some of the negative energy and anxiety building inside her. It helps her to hear that she is not alone. "I hear the stories of many women and I try to console myself with what I am going through, through their experiences.

As she talks, Samar gets up to start preparing food. She is fretting about when her husband will return and whether there will be enough to eat. A plate of beans with cold bread is all she can rustle up right now. She cannot light the fire because there is no gas. Suddenly, Samar goes silent, fearful that a voice outside belongs to her husband. It does not. She asks her daughters to sit down and look at their maths problems. She whispers: "He went out shouting at Adi. I hope he is in a good mood.

Later on, Samar's husband, Karim Badwan, 42, sits beside his daughters, crammed inside the small tent they are living in. He is despairing. "This is not a life. I can't comprehend what I'm living. I'm trying to adapt to these difficult circumstances, but I cannot. I've turned from a practical and professional man into a man who gets so angry all the time." Karim says he is deeply ashamed that he has hit his wife on several occasions since the war began. "I hope the war ends before my wife's energy runs out and she leaves me," he says. "My wife is a good woman, so she tolerates what I A tear rolls down Samar's bruised face as she listens.

Karim says he knows what he is doing is wrong. Before the war, he never dreamed he would be capable of harming her. "I had friends who used to beat their wives. I used to say: 'How

GAZA: The face of Samar Ahmed, could scream without anyone hearing ed a divorce. But I hesitated for the does he sleep at night?' Unfortunately, long. "My father shouts at me a lot. 37, shows clear signs of exhaustion. It me," Samar says. "I could control my sake of my children." Samar goes to now I do it. "I did it more than once, Sometimes he hits my sisters. My but the hardest time was when I left a mark on her face and eye. I admit that this is a huge failure in terms of selfcontrol," Karim says, his voice trembling. "The pressures of war are great. I left my home, my work and my future and I am sitting here in a tent, helpless in front of my children. I can't find a job and when I leave the tent, I feel that if I talk to anyone I will lose my temper.

Karim knows his wife and children have endured a great deal. "I apologise to them for my behaviour, but I keep doing it. Maybe I need medication, but my wife does not deserve all this from me. I am trying to stop so that she doesn't have to leave me." Samar's despair is compounded by the loss of her own family who she left in the north to flee the bombing there with her husband and his family. Now, she is desperately lonely. Her greatest fear is that she will completely burn out and become unable to care for her family, as she worries her husband already has. The responsibility for finding water and food, caring for the children, and thinking about their future, has all taken its toll and she lives in a constant state of fear. As the eldest child, Laila is developing severe anxiety from the fighting between her father and mother and she fears for her mother. She says: "My father and mother quarrel every day. My mother suffers from a strange nervous state. Sometimes she shouts at me for no reason. I try to bear it and understand her condition so that I don't lose her. I do not like seeing her in this state, but

the war did all of this to us.' Laila still sees Karim as a good father and blames the world for allowing this brutal war to go on for so

mother cries all night and wakes up with swollen eyes from sadness over what we are living." She sits in her bed for long hours thinking about their lives before the war and her plans to study English. "I try to be strong for my mother." The family is not alone. In Gaza, there has been a marked rise in domestic violence with many women attending psychological support sessions offered by aid workers in clinics. Kholoud Abu Hajir, a psychologist, has met many victims since the start of the war at clinics in the displacement camps. However, she fears there are far more who are too ashamed to talk about it. "There is a great secrecy and fear among the women about talking about it," she says. "I have received many cases of violence away from group sessions women who want to talk about what they are suffering and ask for help.' Living in a constant state of instability and insecurity, enduring repeated displacement and being forced to live in tents crowded very closely together have deprived women of privacy, leaving them with nowhere to turn.

"There is no comprehensive psychological treatment system," Abu Hajir tells Al Jazeera. "We only work in emergency situations. The cases we deal with really require multiple sessions, and some of them are difficult cases where women need protection. There are very severe cases of violence that have reached sexual assault, and this is a dangerous thing." The number of divorces has risen - many between spouses who have been separated by the Israeli armed corridor

between the north and the south. women and children, particularly, Abu

psychologist, says it is impossible to give children in Gaza the support they need these in "Unfortunately, what children are experiencing during the war cannot be described. They need very long psychological support sessions. Hundreds of thousands of children have lost their homes, lost a family member, and many of them have lost their entire family.

Hajir says. Nevin al-Barbari, 35, a

Being forced to live in difficult and sometimes violent - family circumstances has made life immeasurably worse for many. "There is very clear and widespread family violence among the displaced in particular ... Children's psychological and behavioural states have been affected very negatively. Some children have become very violent and hit other children violently." Recently, al-Barbari came across the case of a 10year-old child who had hit another with a stick, causing severe injury and bleeding. "When I met this child, he kept crying," she says. "He thought that I would punish him. When I asked him about his family, he told me that his mother and father have a big fight every day and his mother goes to her family's tent for days. "He said he missed his home, his room and the way his family used to be. This child is a very common example of thousands of children.'

It will be a long road to recovery for these children, al-Barbari says. "There are no schools to occupy them. Children are forced to bear great responsibilities, filling water and waiting in long lines for food aid. There are no recreational areas for them. "There are so many stories that we do not The war has taken a terrible toll on know about, that these children are living every day." — Aliazeera

The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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Big-time merger of Honda and Nissan

T is official. What has been speculated for some months now is now a fact. Honda, the second largest Japanese automaker and Nissan, the third largest, have announced that they would be merging the two companies.

The whole process would be complete by 2026. Nissan as the larger shareholder will have a majority in the combined board postmerger. Nissan is the largest shareholder in the smaller Mitsubishi carmakers. Mitsubishi said that it would be considering being a part of the megamerger.

The Honda-Nissan merger would create the third largest automaker in the world after Toyota and Volkswagen. In a press conference held on Friday, the chief executives of all the three companies, Honda, Nissan and Mitsubishi, announced the merger plan and explained the reasons for the decision.

Honda CEO Toshihiro Mibe said, "The rise of Chinese automakers and new players has changed the car industry quite a lot. We have to build up capabilities to fight with them by 2030, otherwise we'll be beaten.' That is a candid confession from the Japanese automakers who have dominated the global car scene for more than half-acentury, and literally broke the monopoly of American and European carmakers.

The merger move can be seen as the Japanese showing enough alacrity in the face of the changing situation, and responding to it. The merger is expected to yield combined sales of \$191 billion and a profit of \$19 billion.

The merger has ramifications for Honda's and Nissan's international tie-ups. French automakers Renault said that it would discuss with Nissan the changes brought about by the merger. Honda's Mibe said that Nissan's arrangements with Renault would continue and so would Honda's with the aware of the risks and was American carmaker General Motors.

There are two challenges that the two Japanese auto majors have to face after the merger. It is the production of electric vehicles (EVs) or hybrids because that is the future because of the pressure to curb carbon emissions. America's Tesla and China's BYD are seen as the lead players, and in Japan there are smaller car manufacturers who have displayed agility with the new technologies needed to make the EVs Honda and Nissan want to move into the EV market in a big way and with a strong base.

Meanwhile, Honda has made it clear that the merger with Nissan was not because of the losses that Honda was making. As a matter of fact Honda has recovered from its losses and its two-wheelers are still dominating the market.

The carmakers, especially the fossil-fuel dependent vehicle manufacturers, are moving out of their comfort zones of producing the petrol- and diesel-run cars. It is not the case that Tesla and BYD will make the other car manufacturers redundant. The demand for cars will continue, and in place of ICE vehicles, it will now be EVs, and neither Tesla nor the Chinese EV-makers can meet the global demand on their own.

So there is time for the car manufacturers to switch to the new technology of EVs and keep their share of the global car market. Tesla and Chinese EV-makers have shown what the future looks like. The others have no other option but to change and adapt.

It should not come as a surprise that major changes are taking place in the way industries are being run. They have run in a certain way for the last 150 years, based on fossil fuels like coal and oil. The crisis of climate change has made it necessary to change the mode of production, especially the energy sources that were in use till now. Clean and renewable energy is the demand

There are many countries, governments and industries which are still resistant to the idea of decarbonising the economy, but it cannot be resisted for too long. Switching to green energy is inevitable. And the carmakers are moving in the right direction.

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December 27: A metaphor for sacrifice for the country and people

Sharjeel Inam Memon



remembered for cen- and conviction. turies. December 27, tal act of terrorism. This come her. date has become a symbol

try and its people. decided to return to her in democracy. homeland after eight years in exile, her friends and relatives strongly urged her opposed to Pakistan and its not to, warning of the dangerous situation and threats governments shared intelli- first blow against Shaheed gence reports with her, and Bibi through a brutal terror-Pakistan's intelligence ist attack on Shahra-eagencies also conveyed that Faisal peril. Party leaders and vived the devastating bomb advised her against return- supporters sacrificed their very last moment.

Bhutto's mausoleum. To threats. those urging her to reconsider, she had a single,

this critical juncture," she restored in the country. But cannot abandon my country Pakistan will only increase. and my people in their time I will stay with my people. of need.

She often reiterated her Pakistan, emotions. We know how to script she had written, later Very few individuals **OME moments in a** in history have embraced poignant passage, she nation's history are death with such courage

When 2007, stands as a deeply Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto martyrdom of Mohtarma nation seemed to converge Benazir Bhutto in a bru- at Karachi airport to wel-

A sea of people gathered of sacrifice for the coun- in support of her vision for a peaceful democratic revo- do. When Shaheed lution, echoing her belief Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto that Pakistan's survival lay

> The overwhelming support unsettled the forces

On the same day, these to her life. Several foreign hostile forces struck their near Karsaz, her return was fraught with Karachi. Although she surthose in her close circle blasts, more than 200 of her quickly.'

final resting place within asked if she would continue fering for the sake of her ments to Shaheed Bibi's the grounds of Shaheed her campaign despite the people.

"Those forces want me to singular leader who fought *Information*, unwavering response: abandon my campaign and against two military dicta- and Mass Tra Pakistan's security was at leave. They do not want torships-those of General Government of Sindh

stake. "If I do not return at true democracy to be would say, "history will if democracy is not posed by extremist and sep-

Under Upon her return to regimes, Pakistan faced Shaheed belief: "We are a people of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto country was divided during reasoning, of ideas and brought with her a manulive, and we know how to published under the title Yahya Khan, while the Reconciliation. In one regimes of Zia-ul-Haq and

imprisonment, and murder and federalist forces, allow history, marked by the October 18, 2007, the entire of the soul never truly heal. movements I was willing to do anything to spare my children the pain I had suffered from my father's death, but this was the one thing I could not

her Reconciliation, Shaheed explains why she returned terrorism, and the governwrote, "Pakistan is in dan- Pakistani flag could not be further described the perthat time, saying, "Pakistan lenges head-on. is a bundle of dry fuel, If she had n which can catch fire very

forces were determined to Shaheed Bibi's life was her career, she bravely eliminate her. Yet, she under constant threat from engaged in politics during remained resolute in her those opposing her mission. some of the most critical decision. Before returning, On October 19, during a and dangerous periods in 18th she wrote her last will and press conference at Bilawal the country's history, endur-

> Shaheed Her resolute reply was: Benazir Bhutto stands as a

Pervez Musharraf.

By restoring democracy she countered the threats remember us as cowards. I restored, the dangers to aratist forces that endan gered the nation's security.

significant challenges: the Ayub Khan and General Pervez Musharrat embroiled Pakistan in glob-"I had endured the torment of my father's arrest, wars crushed democratic tragic day in our national returned to Pakistan on and knew that such wounds ing extremist and separatist

> On April 10, 1986, when Shaheed Bibi first returned to Pakistan, and again on October 18, 2007, the country's security was in jeopbook ardy. In 2007, religious and sectarian extremist forces Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto dominated politics through to her homeland despite ment's writ had eroded in being fully aware of the regions like Swat and the threats to her life. She tribal areas, where even the ger of Talibanization as raised. Despite these risks. well as balkanization." She Shaheed Bibi returned to her homeland, risking her ilous state of the nation at life to confront these chal

Recognizing the grave today might have been ing to Pakistan until the lives for the cause of dangers posed by the grow- unimaginable. The democ-Pakistan's survival and the ing power of extremist and racy we see in Pakistan Shaheed Bibi was fully restoration of democracy. separatist groups, Shaheed now, the weakening of ware of the risks and was The Karsaz tragedy Bibi sacrificed her life to extremist, fascist, and sepa-convinced that certain made it evident that save Pakistan. Throughout ratist forces, and the testament, specifying her House in Karachi, she was ing immense personal suf- Amendments-are all testa-

Mohtarma and ultimate sacrifice.

authoritariar

If she had not returned during those critical times. the situation in Pakistan strengthening of federal democratic ideals-symbolized by milestones like the Constitutiona

Writer is Minister for Transport

NATO needs to 'shift to a wartime mindset'

Yossi Mekelberg

mer Dutch prime minis- ment in soft power. ter, did not mince his words, calling on memturbo charge defense spending."

Cynics would probably

secretary-general taking a 'rather safe than sorry" time for cynicism or look-tion. ing for ulterior motives, but for recognizing that this was a genuine battle cry for Western countries in the face of military threats coming from different directions.

security organization, has been hanging on to the post-Cold War euphoria of its "total victory" over the Soviet bloc, in both military terms, and more significantly from an ideological-perceptual view. superiority and valuebased triumph has led Western countries to erroneously imagine that they are invincible.

Kuwait, the wars in the weaponization Balkans, genocide in Rwanda, and many other flashpoints. Moreover, leading powers, mainly Jamming to disrupt civil Russia and China, have gradually become disgruntled and begun to challenge a unipolar international system dominated by the US.

Despite mounting evidence to the contrary, NATO members preferred to believe that they could procrastinate on investing in defense to meet these growing global threats, and simply enjoy the divistandards and public services. But Rutte's speech heed to Russian no aggression against Georgia in 2008 and in the Crimea in 2014, and their refusal to accept the likelihood of Putin launching an all-out war on Ukraine, was signaling their weakness to Moscow, with dis-

astrous consequences. NATO has also paid scant attention to Russia's many years of aiding and abetting the Assad family's brutality in Syria — a has been responsible for more than half a million deaths and immeasurable suffering for the rest of the population. message

twofold. First, while Russia is spending 7 to 8 percent of its GDP on which also defense, amounts to a third of its budget, and as China is quickly catching up when it comes to its own defense expenditure, the average spend for NATO members in Europe and Canada is estimated at just 2 percent of their GDP, which is insufficient to meet future threats. These figures are a sig-

nificant increase on only a to a moment of epiphany provided by the onset of current Putin's war against Ukraine, but also to more than just a nudge from the US during the first Trump administration, an issue that was one of his articles of faith back then, and one that he is likely to pursue with even more zest in his second term.

To be sure, these figures are somewhat deceptive in terms of military preparedness, as a large proportion of countries' defense budgets tends to be allocated to pensions and other items that do not directly contribute to combat power.

to NATO members is to accept that the world has entered a period of longmilitary capabilities and tary-general.

N the occasion of preparedness that should his first major be complemented with speech as NATO diplomacy in its widest chief, Mark Rutte, a for- sense, including invest-

Modern increasingly becoming of bers to "shift to a the hybrid type, and wartime mindset and although kinetic wars, as our in Ukraine or the wars in defense production and Gaza and Lebanon, have proved to be still a large facet of warfare, it is say that this was a new cybersecurity and cyberdisinformation, the introduction of AI, migration, approach, warning of and regular and irregular existential dangers, or forces, that all require even soliciting bigger close attention in terms of budgets. But this is no new skills and prepara-

The cost of military platforms is also soaring exponentially, and with Western economies growing sluggishly, the diverting of resources to defense expenditure, For too long, the West, whose benefits are not members of whom comeasy to measure and prise this international demonstrate, while public services are yearning for additional resources, has become a polarizing issue in many societies.
As NATO's new secre-

tary-general underlined in his remarks, the threat to Europe is no longer theo-A combination of military retical or abstract but now sits on its doorstep: "Hostile actions against Allied countries are real and accelerating. Malicious cyber-attacks From the early days of on both sides of the the post-Cold War era in Atlantic. Assassination the 1990s, there have been attempts on British and profound military-securi- German soil. Explosions ty challenges, among at an ammunition warethem Iraq's invasion of house in Czechia. The migrants crossing illegally into Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland.

> Any delay in building capabilities to respond to these types of threats will only encourage Putin, and others, to undermine NATO's member states.

aviation in the Baltic

region.

As a result of the war in Ukraine, since February 2022 much of the focus has understandably been Putin's threat to Europe, but the challenges dends of peace by invest-ing in their economies and and Iran and this pair's originating from China improving their living collaboration with Russia are also a major concern. With Donald Trump electpresented a strong case ed for a second term, tenfor ending the denial of sions with Beijing are danger, rightly reminding almost guaranteed to rise, the organization's members but at the same time his ber states that their paying return to the White House considering his prickly relations with NATO in his first term, do not necessarily suggest easy relations with NATO.

Trump sees the rest of NATO's members as freeriders at the expense of the US, although this has changed considerably and most countries are now meeting the expectation of spending 2 percent of their GDP on defense. Still, after four years of regime that has only ironclad commitment by recently collapsed, but the Biden administration which for nearly 14 years to its NATO allies, it remains to be seen if a second-term Trump and his hawkish appointees to key foreign and defense posts will be more amenable to playing the leading role in NATO, including in terms of providing a nuclear umbrella. NATO as a collective

security instrument has come full circle since its formation in 1949, when the fault lines between the two rival US and Soviet blocs were very clear and demonstrated the need to defend Europe and the rest of the world from Soviet aggression. But in the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall, NATO became a collective secufew years ago, mainly due rity mechanism in search of a purpose, and its members on more than one occasion disagreed on how to respond to crisis situations, and acted unilaterally instead of collectively. The war in Ukraine and

the challenges emanating from China are contributing to the 21st century model of NATO as defender of the West and its values, and the decisions by Finland and Sweden to join the organization after decades of sitting on the fence have demonstrated a general fear of Russia.

But this still leaves open the question of whether member states The second challenge are capable of meeting all of the current challenges by developing a clear collective security vision term instability, with supported by diplomacy increasing threats to and the allocation of ade-Western values and ways quate resources, as they of life. This situation were urged to do by the requires an increase in organization's new secre-

Buddhist heritage of Pakistan: A bridge to peace and harmony

PAKISTAN, dominantly such religions,

Hinduism, Sikhism, and try. **Buddhism.** Among these religions, Buddhism left largest religion and domia rich archaeological and nant religion in at least civilisational heritage. eight countries. Seven Buddha was born in countries have more than present-day Nepal. He through the subcontinent and visited present-day Pakistan during his meditation journey.

Consequently, Buddhism Mongolia flourished in present-day Pakistan, spanning over a millennium. This peri- lion Buddhist pilgrims od left a rich heritage in want to visit religious Pakistan, including phi-losophy, art, culture, lion, five per cent want to architecture and stupas. visit Pakistan, which is This heritage spreads almost 2.9 million people from northern Pakistan who want to visit Pakistan. to southern Afghanistan. However, according to the This insight explores foreign ministry, only 1500 how Pakistan's Buddhist heritage peace and harmony between Pakistan and

Buddhist nations. Buddhism thrived in the Gandhara region, which now encompasses modernday Peshawar, Swat, and Taxila, from the 2nd cen-billion by 2033. It genertury BC to the 8th century AD. This era saw the birth of a remarkable cultural legacy, evident in its architecture and a unique blend of Buddhist and Greek elements. The ruins of Takhti-Bahi in Swat, dating back to the 1st century (Figure 1), and the billion annually. Figure 3 tains Buddhist carvings tourism

Abdur Rehman

Muslim country, tament to this fascinating has a rich history and blend. The archaeological heritage of many other sites at Taxila further as enrich this cultural tapes-

> Buddhism is the fourthsouthern fifty per cent Buddhist travelled population, which include Cambodia (96%), Thailand (92%), Myanmar (79.8%), Bhutan (75%), Sri Lanka (70%), Laos (66.8%) and (53%). According to a Gallup survey 2016, around 58 mil-

can bridge in Pakistan annually. The economic potential of these heritage sites is substantial. In 2022, the World Bank reported that Pakistan attracted US\$16 billion in tourist spending, which can reach US\$30 ated a revenue of US\$3.7 billion in 2024, and US\$5.533 billion in revenue is expected by 2029. According to Business only Recorder, Buddhist pilgrims have the advertising revenue. generate potential to US\$900 million to US\$1.3

industry

people visit Buddhist sites

gious tourism).

Business Recorder has also claimed that Pakistan can almost double its revfrom tourism. enue Tourism contributes about 10% to the GDP and employs one in ten people 2022, the travel and tourism sector contributed 5.9% to Pakistan's GDP.

The restoration of damaged sites and infrastructure development are necessary to attract tourism. In this regard, the Khyber and film industries by Pakhtunkhwa restoration of the Landi Kotal Stupa and a master plan to restore and prethese stupas and sites in information boards to 3D virtual form in collaboration with the Lahore and train local guides. University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

However, these efforts only preserve the heritage; to promote Buddhist her its marketing to attract itage tourism. By integrattourists must be further ing government resources enhanced. Promoting Pakistan's religious tourism sites has remained absent from the country's social and electronic media due to content creation on more commercially viable niches generthese ating engagement and

It needs a comprehensive strategy. Uxi Mufti sophisticated technologi observes that religious Buddhist statues at the shows the annual expected tourism sites often fail to Lahore Fort, which con- revenue growth in the attract influencers' attenin tion despite their cultural muhammadar3488@gmail. and inscriptions, are a tes- Pakistan (including reli- and historical significance com

due to their perceived limited monetary potential. To attract more tourists Pakistan needs to follow a comprehensive strategy.

*Pakistan can leverage social media influencers **Buddhist-majority** from countries to promote its Buddhist heritage by colworldwide. However, in laborating with content creators in their native languages, such as Chinese influencers sharing ir Mandarin clips. *Pakistan can also col

laborate with domestic and

television

international

(KPK) incorporating Buddhist Government has taken stories and showcasing many initiatives, like the archaeological sites and present-day locations. Government *The needs to develop modern serve Takht-i-Bahi. The accommodation facilities government is also work- near these sites, install ing on digitally preserving multilingual signage and

cater to diverse tourists

Pakistan can develop comprehensive public-pri vate partnership approach with private sector innova tions like digital mapping augmented reality, venture capital investments, cross border tourism strategies and multimedia story telling, the country can transform historical sites into economically viable destinations that attract diverse audiences through marketing and

approaches. Writer can be reached at

History-making probe attempts closest-ever approach to the sun

Probe was set to can cause geomagnetic zoom by the sun storms, or major disturon Tuesday during a bances of the planet's record-breaking flyby, magnetic field, that can coming within 3.8 mil-affect satellites as well as lion miles (6.1 million power and communicakilometers) of the solar tion infrastructure on releases from the sun. surface during humani- Earth. ty's closest approach to

from Washington, DC, in territory. under a minute, accordthe agency shared December 16 during a NASA Science Live presentation on YouTube.

The mission has been building up to this historic milestone since it launched on August 12, 2018 — an event attended by the probe's namesake, Dr. Eugene Parker, an astrophysicist who pioneered the solar solar research field of helio-

Parker was the first living person to have a spacecraft named after him. The astrophysicist, whose research revolutionized humanity's understanding of the sun and interplanetary space, died at age 94 in March 2022. But he was still able to witness how the spacecraft could help solve mysteries about the sun more than 65 years after the mission was originally envisioned.

The probe became the first spacecraft to "touch the sun" by successfully Hopkins flying through the sun's corona, or upper atmos- Laboratory, in a state- near phere, to sample parti- ment. cles and our star's mag-

of the spacecraft's seven- energy and radiation that year mission, the Parker no spacecraft has ever data to enlighten scien- continues to thrive. tists about some of the

sun's greatest mysteries.

Heliophysicists have Parker's flyby much hotter than its sur- occur on March 22 and

Scientists also want to understand how coronal expected to get so close mass ejections, or large to our star that if the disclouds of ionized gas tance between Earth and from the sun's outer field, atmosphere, are struc- would be about 4 yards

(692,000 kilometers per ing questions and uncovenough to reach Tokyo exploring uncharted solar entist Nour Rawafi.

> "Parker Solar Probe is shared manager from

Ashley Strickland

The spacecraft was Now, the time has built to withstand the limited piece of data that expected to remain active come for Parker's closest extremes of the sun and relays the overall state of The uncrewed space- and final flybys, which has flown through coro- the spacecraft, he said. craft was expected to fly could complete the nal mass ejections in the at 430,000 miles per hour answers to these endurpast with no impact to data and images gathered this year during two hour), which is fast er new mysteries by Solar Probe project sci- become available to mis-

The spacecraft probe the fastest human- Helene Winters, Parker thick and 8 feet (2.4 January, Rawafi said. made object in history, Solar Probe's project meters) wide. On Earth

approach, around mid-solar cycle, the sun's night between Thursday magnetic poles flip, caus-Rawafi said.

The immense set of the vehicle, said Parker during the flyby won't major displays of auroras sion control until Parker is has moved away from the equipped with a carbon sun in its orbit, which ing to NASA. The speedy changing the field of foam shield that is 4.5 will occur about three at our planet. The solar flyby would make the heliophysics," said inches (11.4 centimeters) weeks later in mid-storms are also responsi-Perfect timing to see Johns before launch, the shield an active sun

> Parker was the first living person to have a spacecraft named after him. The astrophysicist, whose research revolutionized humanity's understanding of the sun and interplanetary space, died at age 94 in March 2022. But he was still able to witness how the spacecraft could help solve

> mysteries about the sun more than 65 years after the mission was originally envisioned. The probe became the first spacecraft to "touch the sun" by successfully flying through the sun's corona, or upper atmosphere, to sample particles and our star's magnetic fields in December 2021. Over the last six years of the spacecraft's seven-year mission, the Parker Solar Probe has collected data to enlighten scientists about some of the sun's greatest mysteries. Heliophysicists have long wondered how the solar wind, a constant stream of particles released by the sun, is generated as well as why the sun's corona is so much hotter than its surface. Scientists also want to understand how coronal mass ejections, or large clouds of ionized gas called plasma and magnetic fields that erupt from the sun's outer atmosphere, are structured. When these ejections are

> aimed at Earth, they can cause geomagnetic storms, or major disturbances of the planet's magnetic field, that can affect satellites as well as power and communication infrastructure on Earth. Now, the time has come for Parker's closest and final flybys, which could complete the answers to these enduring questions and uncover new mysteries by

> xploring uncharted solar territory. "Parker Solar Probe is changing the field of heliophysics," said Helene Winters, Parker Solar Probe's project manager from Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, in a statement. "After years of braving the heat and dust of the inner solar system, taking blasts of solar energy and radiation that no spacecraft has ever seen, Parker Solar Probe continues to thrive.'

Applied

"After years of bravnetic fields in December ing the heat and dust of Christmas Eve, the shield makes the inner solar system, could face temperatures approach, the sun is taking blasts of solar up to 1,800 F (980 experiencing solar maxi-Over the last six years taking blasts of solar Solar Probe has collected seen, Parker Solar Probe

A blisteringly close

June 19.

The spacecraft was fields that erupt of an American football from the end zone, the sun. When these ejections according to NASA.

University's was tested and able to

degrees C).

perature so the electron- between its highs and and how all those stars instruments can operate Young, associate director and billions of other long wondered how the solar wind, a constant stream of particles planned as the first of the released by the sun, is spacecraft's final three Laboratory pumps water long wondered how the sun, is spacecraft's final three Laboratory pumps water long wondered how the around 6:53 a.m. ET on as expected. A unique for science in the plannets that may or may be planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles planned as the first of the by the Applied Physics long wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant stream of particles was cooling system designed the planned wondered how the solar wind, a constant constant wind, a constant constant wind, a constant constant wind, a constant w generated as well as why closest approaches, with through the craft's solar Center in Greenbelt, Rawafi said he hopes that the sun's corona is so the other two expected to arrays to keep them at a Maryland. steady temperature of ing close approaches to A t m o s p h e r i c enabling scientists to

the sun. to conduct its flyby Prediction called plasma and mag- the sun were the length autonomously because announced in October best," Rawafi said. "Give mission control is out of that the sun has reached us the strongest event the spacecraft contact with the probe solar maximum, or the you can do, and the kham be about 4 yards due to its proximity to peak of activity within its Parker Solar Probe can ruins.

the closest

Just over a year after Physics withstand temperatures the Parker Solar Probe 2,500 degrees first launched, the sun Fahrenheit (nearly 1,400 entered a new solar degrees Celsius). On cycle. Now, as Parker closest its mum, meaning that the Meanwhile, the space-craft's interior will be at to witness most of a solar solar system that allows us to learn about all the a comfortable room tem- cycle and the transitions other stars in the universe ics systems and science lows, said Dr. C. Alex interact with the billions

> The spacecraft was set international Solar Cycle sun's activity. Panel

11-year cycle. At the peak of the

At this proximity, the and Friday, Parker will ing the sun to transition probe would be able to send a signal called a from calm to active. fly through plumes of beacon tone back to mis- Experts track increasing plasma as well as within sion control to confirm solar activity by counting a solar eruption if one the success of the flyby, how many sunspots appear on the sun's sur-The beacon tone is a face. And the sun is for the next year or so.

The sun's increasing activity became obvious on Earth in May and October, when coronal mass ejections released by the sun were directed ble for generating auroras that dance around Earth's poles, known as the northern lights, or aurora borealis, and southern lights, or aurora australis. When the energized particles from coronal mass ejections reach Earth's magnetic field, they interact with gases in the atmosphere to create different col-

ored light in the sky. "Both of those storms caused auroras to be visible down to the very bottom of the United States," Young said. "But the May storm was an especially strong storm. In fact, we think it could be a 100- to possibly 500-year event, and that caused auroras very close to the equator, which is extremely unheard of. It was a worldwide event that millions and, hopefully billions, of people, were able to see, and it may not happen again."

The data gathered by Parker Solar Probe could enable scientists to better understand solar storms and even how to predict them, Young said.

The sun is the only star that we can see in detail, but we can actually go to and measure it directly," Young said. Young said. "It's a laboratory in our

the sun puts on a spectac-Scientists from NASA, ular show during the 320 F (160 C), even durthe National Oceanic and probe's close approaches, Administration and the gain insights into the

> "Sun, please do your deal with it."

- CNN itself ever more diplo-

not get any easier

auspiciously for

when the untenability of

eign policy for years.

many of the group's com-

ernment following a

state ally in the region.

This

then October.

stormy

manders in Lebanon.

supreme

than ever.

Nasrallah

Regionally,

Iran had a roug

2024, and 2025 may

Iran when, on matically isolated from January 1, it joined the West.

Brics, a grouping of alternative power centhe US in listing the Council, tres to the West. It was Islamic Revolutionary members yet another feather in Guard Corps as a terrorits diplomatic cap fol- ist organisation. In Pezeshkian, lowing re-establishment response to the execution accepted lifting of ties with Saudi of an Iranian-German restrictions on WhatsApp Arabia and its membership of the Shanghai closed three Iranian con- is just a drop in the buck-Co-operation Organisation last year. Having tackled the protests of 2022-2023, backed mosque in Hamburg that had been the government seemed to be finding its balance active since the 1950s. again. Few, then, would Germany also joined Germany also joined have expected just how France and the US in stormy of a year awaited it. But as it turned out, on Tehran for its support and his country more 2024 became a year for Russia's war in

the policies of its govern-Domestically, ment and those of its Khamenei and others in leader, the establishment Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, appeared to have realised became more evident that continued repression Tehran their government. In February, only 40 per had to witness the cent voted in parliamen- Israeli unprecedented battering of its so-called Axis of Resistance, a coalition of the Islamic Republic's anti-western and anti-

Ukraine.

Israel militias that have been at the core of its for-With Israel continuing its liner president (and assault on Gaza, Axis loyalist), Tehran. member Hamas has lost Khamenei Ibrahim Raisi. This sudmuch of its capabilities. Earlier Israel killed its an opportunity to bring leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran and his succesthe reformist and centrist sor, Yahya Sinwar, in factions in from the cold. Gaza. It also assassinated After two rounds of pres-Hezbollah leader Hassan alongside This weakening of the public elected Masoud Axis was an important factor in the overthrow of Bashar Al Assad's gov-

decade-long civil war in Syria. This also meant Dr Pezeshkian ran on a more modest programme that Iran losing its main than had his reformist predecessors, such as Supporting the Axis was a strategy that had, until this year, allowed Tehran to take the fight promised to democratise to Israel without having the country. to engage in direct mili-

decades.

In contrast, the new tary confrontations with President has promised little more than good "Khamenei Doctrine" failed when, governance and limited for the first time, Iran and Israel exchanged direct blows in April and mandatory women.

In what has been a Pezeshkian's tories belonging to two previously been involved inside Iraq and Syria. Mr return to engagement in the country. Khamenei's claim of with western powers, keeping war away from the country has since ing the country's diplo- within Iran's establishseemed implausible. And matic isolation and pro- ment to pursue a more as the year comes to an end, both the Axis of its people. Resistance and the

> his work cut out for him. historic The hardliner-domi- reform.

passed a draconian hijab bill that runs counter to his pledge. On Tuesday, In June, Canada joined the Cyberspace High the US in listing the Council, most of whose accountable political prisoner, Berlin and Google Play, yet this sulates in October. et. Meanwhile, Iran is Earlier in the year, it shut facing energy shortages down a landmark Iran- and power cuts with little precedence in its modern history.

However, as tough as 2024 has been for Iran, the most important chalimposing new sanctions lenge to Dr Pezeshkian broadly - begins in the new year with the inauguration of US presidentelect Donald Trump.

Mr Trump has pledged to double down on his "maximum would not bode well for policy against Iran. According to recent reports, many in the establishment tary elections, lowest in seek to resume attacks on Iranian territory. remains unclear whether An helicopter crash in Mr Trump would give May changed that to a such attacks his godegree, when it led to the ahead, but he certainly death of Iran's then hard- could use the threat to add more pressure on

Yet as menacing as Mr den demise gave Tehran Trump's second term appears to be, the next four years could also provide Tehran with an opportunity. The presiidential elections (which dent-elect has repeatedly featured, once more, the stated his preference for lowest presidential elec- a deal with Iran, which tion turnouts in Iran), the could materialise if Tehran shows flexibility. Pezeshkian, the first There are already media reformist head of govern-reports in Japan that ment in nearly two Iran's leadership might ask Tokyo to meditate between Tehran and

Washington. If the Iranian government wants a deal with Mohammad Khatami, Mr Trump, it will need to who had been president cut its losses and from 1997-2005 and had acknowledge the fact that its quixotic promise to "destroy Israel" has delivered little but isolation and misery for its people.

It would have

reforms in areas such as recognise its setbacks internet freedom and the and accept a deal comhijab for mensurate to the balance of power in the region. It would also need to year, Iran administration is filled counter its own domestic launched attacks on terri- with veterans who had hardliners who rail against both a deal with nuclear powers - Israel in negotiations with the the West and any concesand Pakistan – as well as US. He has pledged to sions to popular demands

Yet the stakes are high with the purpose of eas- enough to motivate many viding economic relief to conciliatory path. And so, while the new year Having experienced a could prove challenging rough start to his presi- for the country, it might dency, Dr Pezeshkian has also end up being one of

MENA's transformative role in climate adaptation dioxide green-Sara Al-Mulla **\LIMATE** change availability in the region Furthermore, it is estimated made to acti-The MENA region has

agendas of governments in the Middle East and North driven water scarcity is pro-Africa due to the profound jected to negatively impact impact it has on the the region's gross domestic region's economies, com- product growth, potentially **munities and ecosystems.** causing a MENA region are at the percent by 2050. center of multifarious clitious adaptation and mitigation efforts.

alarm on the necessity of clithe day. The MENA region is prone to extreme heat, with a World Bank study forecasting that tempera- uncertainties, tures will soar as high as 56 change is likely to weaken degrees Celsius if global regional food systems and temperatures rise by 4 C above pre-industrial levels. This would translate to summer heat in parts of Algeria, rity situation in the region Saudi Arabia and Iraq intensifying by up to 8 C by 2100, highlighting the dire implications of inaction for one of the world's hottest regions. Furthermore, data derived

from 2018 figures published lion people will be flung into by the Food and Agriculture poverty due to severe cli-Organization gloomy outlook for water lives and livelihoods of lowresources. The region is currently the most water-stressed area globally, with about 60 percent of the nificant public health risks, population residing in areas with an estimated 40 percent experiencing severe water of lost working hours being stress. According to projec- due to heat stress by 2030. Intergovernmental Panel on existing health burdens, Climate Change, an increase leading to a number of heatin temperature of up to 2 C related illnesses and deaths, could lead to devastating particularly among vulneraimpacts, with freshwater ble

continues to be a declining by between 15 firm fixture on the percent and 45 percent. Consequently, this climatesubstantial Cities and areas across the decrease of 6 percent to 14 The MENA region is also

mate risks, highlighting facing heightened risks from the urgent need for ambi-rising sea levels. Nearly a quarter of the region's coastal GDP and a fifth of its Experts are sounding the urban coastal areas are highly susceptible to these mate action plans to mitigate changes. By 2030, some 100 the effects of climate change million residents could be on the region, where vulner- exposed to coastal flooding, abilities are intensifying by threatening critical infrastructure, including 43 major port cities.

Due to these multiple climate domestic agricultural productivity, thereby severely aggravating the food insecuand pivoting communities to increased reliance on food imports, which are frequently subject to price and supply fluctuations. The World Bank estimates that 132 milpaints a mate events jeopardizing the

MENA income communities. Moreover, weather events will pose sigthe This will also exacerbate populations.

that the rates of climate vate the Fund migration will increase substantially due to the effects Damage, for which \$853 of climate change.

for Responding to Loss and emissions. accentuate the urgency for funding solutions for devel- deforestation by 2030.

Another milestone agreemillion has been pledged ment was the launch of a Such perilous projections thus far. It aims to arrange global initiative to end

The key outcomes of COP28, through the UAE Consensus and across the Presidential Action Agenda, included the unprecedented and noteworthy decision to shift away from fossil fuels in energy systems, emphasizing the importance of doing so in a manner that is fair, systematic and inclusive of all affected communities. Additionally, an agreement was set to accelerate the global energy transition, reflected in tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, while also significantly reducing non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions. Another milestone agreement was the launch of a global initiative to end deforestation by 2030. Additionally, emissions are targeted to peak by 2025 in alignment with the 1.5 C climate pathway, focusing on both sustainable development and poverty eradication. COP28

also sparked significant momentum toward advancing climate adaptation finance, going beyond the initial goal of doubling funding. Other declarations addressed the growing need to design and implement policies that maximize public health benefits from climate change mitigation and prevent dire health impacts, in addition to providing ample support to vulnerable agricultural

adaptation strategies in order of climate change. to mitigate the effects of climate change. That is why change conference was a

future in the region. lines comprehensive agree-

regional governments to oping countries that are vul- Additionally, emissions are adopt sustainable climate nerable to the adverse effects targeted to peak by 2025 in

pivotal milestone toward included the unprecedented toward a more sustainable shift away from fossil fuels in energy systems, empha-The UAE's presidency of sizing the importance of COP28 was instrumental in doing so in a manner that is shaping the global climate fair, systematic and inclusive lenges, in addition to a set of reflected in tripling renewdeclarations to advance cli- able energy capacity and

producers impacted by climate change. alignment with the 1.5 C cli-The key outcomes of mate pathway, focusing on COP28, through the UAE both sustainable developlast year's COP28 climate Consensus and across the ment and poverty eradica-Presidential Action Agenda, tion. COP28 also sparked mangrove significant accelerating the progress and noteworthy decision to toward advancing climate adaptation finance, going restoring 100 million manbeyond the initial goal of doubling funding. Other declarations addressed the growing need to design and agenda, culminating in the of all affected communities. implement policies that UAE Consensus, which out- Additionally, an agreement maximize public health benwas set to accelerate the efits from climate change ments to tackle climate chal- global energy transition, mitigation and prevent dire health impacts, in addition to providing ample support to afforestation program in the mate actions globally. On doubling energy efficiency vulnerable agricultural protuce the first day of COP28, a by 2030, while also signifiducers impacted by climate cantly reduce greenhouse restoring 30 percent of natural protuctions. landmark agreement was cantly reducing non-carbon change.

gas been making significant strides in the area of climate action, demonstrating its commitment to aligning the region's contributions to the global climate agenda. At COP28, the UAE and the Foundation announced a joint \$200 million investment aimed at leveraging artificial intelligence and technology to tackle climate change's impact on global food sys-

Khamenei Doctrine lie in

Iran has also found

This funding supports several key initiatives, which harness the power of AI to enhance agricultural services for smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries, in addition to finding solutions to protect palm trees from pest threats and bolstering agricultural resilience through climate vulnerability diagnostics, mitigation-adaptation assessments and high-quality weather forecasting

technologies. At COP29 last month, the announced UAE Mangrove Alliance Climate Strategy, which is designed to accelerate global conservation momentum efforts and emphasize the UAE's commitment to groves by 2030. In tandem, the UAE also unveiled the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance, with the goal of doubling global energy efficiency rates by 2030.

The Middle East Green Initiative, led by Saudi Arabia, is the largest

green spaces across the mate change, conserving 30 Kingdom and other MENA percent of land and coastal countries. Its ambitions include the planting of 50 billion trees across the region and restoration of 200 million hectares of degraded land.

example, Electricity Company has King partnered with Abdullah University of launch a groundbreaking Rabigh Power Plant. This initiative, overseen by the Ministry of Energy, focuses capture technology that utilizes freezing techniques to capture carbon and treat various pollutants. The process achieves a carbon purity of up to 99 percent, marking a significant step forward in gies. the country's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emis-Meanwhile, Oman is tak-

ing significant strides toward becoming a global leader in green hydrogen production. It aims to scale up the production of green hydrogen, with investments projected to reach up to \$140 billion by 2050, supporting a production capacity of 7.5 million to 8 million tonnes per

National Climate unveiled by the government 300 initiatives designed to bolster the country's climate adaptation efforts.

The strategy sets a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by gas emissions by expanding ral habitats affected by cli-

areas and protecting 17 species that are either endangered or endemic to the region.

Considering the many collective efforts expended In another pioneering by MENA countries, several Saudi critical aspects must be considered progress. Monitoring and tracking the effectiveness of Science and Technology to climate initiatives through big data is essential for evalresearch project at the uating commitments to meeting climate targets. Additionally, greater investment in green technologies on testing innovative carbon and infrastructure, alongside strengthening cooperation with innovators from the private sector or research centers, will be key to unlocking many new solutions powered by emerging technolo-

Collaboration with subject matter experts can also provide the necessary expertise to address the many complex challenges facing the region, in addition to transferring skills to developing a sizable and competent green workforce. Regulations should also support climate action agendas with the aim of enforcing efficiency targets and mitigation measures.

As the region faces some of the most severe impacts Change Plan 2030 recently of climate change, the necessity for transformative cliof Qatar outlines more than mate policies has never been more pressing. The momentum seen since COP28 has been pivotal to securing a greener, more resilient future, but sustained efforts will be necessary to meet both regional and global climate targets.

-Arab News



PSX stays bearish, loses 1,991 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foods Limited with paisa against the US dollar the Saudi Riyal decreased continued with bearish WorldCall Telecom with the previous day's closing Rs74.12, respectively. trend on Thursday, losing 49,879,145 shares at of Rs278.47. 1,991.49 points, a negative Rs1.72 per share and TRG However,

last trading day. A total of 628,026,201 increase of RS120.01 pshares were traded during share price, closing at the day as compared to Rs7,430.81, whereas the decreased by 05 paisa to 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,200 to Rs234,911 pshares the pre-runner-up was Mitchells close at Rs289.39 against by Rs1,200 to Rs234,911 whereas A total of 628,026,201 increase of Rs198.81 per respectively. vious trading day, whereas Fruit Farms Limited with the price of shares stood at Rs17.44 rise in its per share Rs33.582 billion against price to Rs266.05. Rs54.455 billion on the last

trading day. whereas the share price of close at Rs9,001.90. 53 companies remained unchanged.

Pakistan and France.

peace and stability.

French companies are

sectors of both countries.

potential for foreign invest-

flights to France, terming it

could prove beneficial.

Ambassador

investing in

Unilever Pakistan Foods (SBP). Limited witnessed a maxi-As many as 450 compa- mum decrease of Rs232.60 nies transacted their shares per share closing at in the stock market, 113 of Rs20,767.41 followed by them recorded gains and Nestle Pakistan Limited sustained losses, with Rs198.10 decline to

Rupee gains 10 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The a positive step for enhanc- and pointed out the vital

diaspora in France and the

The establishment of the

France-Pakistan Business

promote mutual economic

President Emmanuel Mac-Galey ron and Pakistani Prime

Sardar Zahoor Igbal

challenges have been over-

He also expressed hope

between butions of the Pakistani

French Ambassador to ing bilateral cooperation.

has highlighted the growing acknowledged the contri-

During a meeting with increasing number of Sardar Zahoor Iqbal, Chairman of the France-education there. Visa facili-

Pakistan Business Forum, ties for students have been

the ambassador empha- improved to support educa-

He stated that the ties Forum has created a plat-

between the two nations are form to foster trade rela-

on solid ground, with Frantions. Ambassador Galey ce recognizing Pakistan's praised the forum's efforts

contributions to regional to connect businesses and

Pakistan, and efforts are for a "new era of coopera-underway to boost partner-tion" following recent

ships between the private meetings between French

pointed out the significant Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

ment in Pakistan, especially echoed the ambassador's

in industries like dairy, optimism, noting that past

where French expertise political and diplomatic

benefits.

sized expanding diplomatic, economic, and cultural the establishm

However, according to Rs1,400 per tola change of 1.77 percent, Pak Limited with the Forex Association of The price of 24 karat per closing at 110,423.32 46,907,628 shares at Pakistan (FAP), the buying tola gold increased by points as compared to Rs70.45 per share. and selling rates of the dol- Rs1,400 and was sold at 112,414.81 points on the Nestle Pakistan Limited lar in the open market stood Rs274,000 on Thursday witnessed a maximum at Rs277.90 and Rs279.40

The Japanese yen went down by 01 paisa and tion reported. closed at Rs1.76, whereas a The prices decline of 66 paisa was wit- and ten gram silver remainnessed in the exchange rate ed constant at Rs3,350 and of the British Pound, which Rs2,872.08 respectively. traded at Rs348.81 as compared to the last day's clos- international ing of Rs349.10.

The three top trading Pakistani rupee on The exchange rates of from \$2,614, companies were Fauji Thursday appreciated by 10 the Emirates Dirham and ociation reported.

of

The ambassador also Ambassador to France, his proactive approach and

Sardar Zahoor shared his

sized French companies to

stani embassy and govern-

opportunities in Pakistan.

companies, we can enhance

keeping costs reasonable,"

high-level

als in France, to explore Khan,

Asim Iftikhar, in advancing support.

for support from the Paki- tive outcomes.

Pakistan-France ties strengthen

with focus on trade, investment

role

these efforts.

100-Index of the Pakistan 93,341,113 shares at in the interbank trading and by 03 and 01 paisa which per share, closed at Rs278.37 against closed at Rs75.78 and

Business

Gold rates up

The price of 24 karat per Rs1,400 and was sold at against its sale at Rs272,600

Rs289.44, according to the that of 10 gram 22 karat State Bank of Pakistan gold went up to Rs215,335 gold went up to Rs215,335 from Rs214,235, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Associa-

The prices of per tola

The price of gold in the increased by \$14 to \$2,628 The exchange rates of from \$2,614, the Ass-

Pakistani to Ambassador Galey for

vision for further collabora- regular high-level interac-

tion, suggesting targeted tions in advancing mutual efforts to attract medium-interests. Prime Minister

He emphasized the need times, resulting in produc-

ment in encouraging busi-nesses, particularly those including President Haji

The discussion also remains committed to serv-

touched on leveraging ing as a bridge between the

French technology and two nations. They aim to expertise in sectors like deepen ties in trade, cultur-

dairy production. "By colal exchanges, and public laborating with French diplomacy.

production quality while governments and the pri-

Looking ahead, Sardar new opportunities. The

Zahoor revealed plans for growing collaboration is

between officials from both investment, and cultural

owned by Pakistani nation- Aslam, Secretary

meeting under-

France-Pakistan

Chief

scored the importance of

Shahbaz Sharif has already

met President Macron three

and

Coordinator Mian Atiq,

With efforts from both

vate sector, Pakistan and

France are set to unlock

meetings expected to enhance trade,

MULTAN: Labourer unloading potato bags from a delivery truck at Vegetable Market.

SBP injects over Rs575b into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs575.8 billion in the market through Open Market Operation (OMO) reverse repo purchase on Thursday.

The SBP, as per results issued here, conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on December 26, 2024 for 8-day tenor and accepted an amount of Rs575.8 billion offered through 3 bids.

The central received 3 quotes for 8-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs575.8 bil lion at the rate of return ranging from 13.07 to 13.10 percent. The SBP accepted the entire offered amount at 13.07 percent rate of return.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Star Gazer, Hoegh Gandria, Energy Centaur, Eva Hansa and uinning scheduled to load/offload Rice, LNG, Gas oil, Palm oil and Coal, He welcomed the recent come. countries, aiming for a partnerships, paving the decision to resume Pakistan He credited the leader-International Airlines (PIA) ship on both sides for work-Macron to Pakistan in relationship in the years to berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Elengy Terminal, Oil Terminal, Liquid and enhanced oil produc-Terminal and Bulk tion from the Pasakhi-5 Terminal during last 24 hours respectively.

Meanwhile three more ships, African Baribird, Meritime Kelly Anne and Nymph Thetis scheduled to load/offload Cement and Palm oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the same period.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three GSF Genesis, ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and Kasia-I left the port on Monday morning and other ship Darya Jaya is expected to sail on today afternoon.

Acargo volume 175,945 comprising 123,561 tonnes imports cargo and 52,384 tonnes export cargo was handled at the Port, including containerized cargo carried in 3,567 Containers (541 TEUs Imports and 3,026 TEUs export) during the last 24 hours.

Fifteen ships at outer anchorage of the port, out of them a container vessel GFS Ruby & three more container vessels, San Francisco, Kyoto Express and Xpress Altair are expected to take berths at Container Terminal 1 & 2 on Thursday.

US holiday retail sales

NEW YORK (Reuters): US retail sales rose 3.8% between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24, as intense promotion to drum up sales in what was expected to be a highly competitive holiday season for retailers prompted last-minute shop-

above a 3.1% increase last year, handily beating Mastercard's forecast in September of a 3.2% rise, with the last five days of the season accounting for 10% of

Major retailers including Walmart, opens new tab, Target, opens new tab and Amazon.com, opens new tab ramped up promotions and value messaging to attract customers amid a shorter-than-usual holiday even though core inflation season with just 23 days had returned to more reabefore Christmas. sonable levels.

Sesame output grew by 455% in 5 years

Minister for National Food past five years. Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on total value of sesame stakeholders to focus on Wednesday said that exports has surged by sesame production has 366%, reaching \$1.073 bil-processing technologies, increased by 455 percent lion annually, making and the exploration of new during last five years, reaching 1.119 million tons

annually. While addressing the International Investment Conference on Sesame, the minister said that sesame exports have grown by 327%, amounting to 0.760 million tons per year.

The minister highlighted sesame as a high-value cash crop with significant export of collaboration between economy by generating potential and praised the Ministry of National valuable foreign exchachievements of Pakistan in Food

He further noted that the

Pakistan the third-largest sesame exporter globally. Rana Tanveer empha-

sized that the inclusion of sesame in the National Enhancement Oilseeds Program (NOEP) has transformed it from a neglected crop to a major contributor to Pakistan's economy.

He pointed out that Security

agriculture departments.

The minister urged all value addition, improved processing technologies, global markets for sesame products, including refined sesame oil.

He called upon the Ministry of Commerce to play a vital role in promoting Pakistan's sesame products in international markets. "Strengthening sesame production will not only reduce edible oil imports sesame's success is a result but also bolster Pakistan's

Pasakhi-5 Well in Hyderabad: OGDCL revives and enhances oil production

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakiand production company, has successfully revived district of Sindh. The well is part of the Pasakhi Development & Production (D&PL), Lease OGDCL holding a 100% working interest.

optimization OGDCL deployed a rig to to Pakistan's energy securiinstall an artificial lift system (ESP) at the well to By leveraging innovative enhance oil production. technologies, the company stan's largest exploration Previously, the well was is striving to enhance operproducing 480 barrels of oil ational efficiency and per day (BPD) on natural unlock the full potential of flow. Following the instal- the nation's hydrocarbon lation, oil production from resources well, located in Hyderabad the well has increased sigmarking an impressive increase of 420 BPD.

OGDCL's

initiative, energy supply, contributing ty and economic growth.

The company is commitnificantly to 900 BPD, ted to driving progress in the oil and gas sector, exploring new opportuniinitiative ties, and ensuring a reliable aligns with its broader strat- energy supply for the counorking interest. egy to optimize energy out-As part of a strategic put and ensure sustainable nomic development.

'ICCI focuses on strengthing Industry-academia linkages'

significant step towards fostering collaboration betw- the critical role of acadeeen academia and industry, mia-industry collaboration Dr. Anis, Vice Chancellor of Riphah International Univ- innovation, and employaersity, visited the Islamabad bility of graduates. Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

to bridge the gap between societal contribution. educational institutions and the corporate sector.

ed by prominent members initiatives that can bring of the ICCI, including sen- meaningful outcomes for ior executives, industry both sectors. experts, and key faculty

Both sides emphasized in enhancing research,

Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Acting President ICCI wel-The meeting served as a comed the Vice Chancellor platform for an engaging and appreciated Riphah discussion on strengthening University's dedication to academia-industry linkages academic excellence and

He underscored the significance of joint ventures, The session was attend- internships, and research

Dr. Anis highlighted the members from Riphah importance of aligning aca-

evolving requirements of the industry.

He stressed that universities must not only focus laboration. on theoretical knowledge but also equip students with practical skills, entrepreneurial mindsets, and exposure to real-world challenges.

Nasir Mehmood Chaudsized the need for continu- vation, and contribute to ous dialogue between academia and industry.

innovation and competi- initiatives effectively.

During the meeting, both

parties agreed to establish a formal framework for col-Key areas of focus included research partnercapacity-building ships, programs, internships, and

organizing joint seminars and workshops. This initiative is expected hry, Acting Senior Vice to create new opportunities President of ICCI, empha- for students, promote inno-

national economic growth. The meeting concluded He stated that fostering a with a mutual commitment culture of collaboration to maintain regular commuwould not only address nication and work towards skill gaps but also drive implementing the discussed

Asia stocks up as 'Santa Rally' persists Taipei all edged up 0.1 per-APP): Asian stocks rose in

thin Boxing Day trade on Thursday, extending a "Santa Rally" with key markets Hong Kong and Sydney still shut for the nolidays Japan's Nikkei index cl-

osed up 1.1 percent, boosted by comments from the Bank of Japan governor and share price gains for top-selling automaker Toyota.

China's plans for massive bond issuances in 2025 also bolstered investor sentiment.

"Even though many in the region are still shaking off a bit of a holiday hangover, with several markets closed for Boxing Day, Asian stocks opened higher, riding a favourable wave from China's financial juggernaut," Stephen Innes from SPI Asset Management.

cent, while Seoul lost 0.4 percent and Singapore shed 0.1 percent. Jakarta and Wellington were closed.

analyst at Ned Davis Research, noted that the 'Santa Claus rally could still be alive, with strong seasonality into the end of the year' Stock markets have tra-

last five trading days of the year and the first two in the new year, a trend known as the "Santa Claus rally".

Among a number of possible reasons advanced by experts include the festive holiday mood and purchasing ahead of the end of the tax year.

Innes said remarks from Bank of Japan governor Kazuo Ueda in which he refrained from signalling a potential interest rate hike

enced bullish regional sentiments"

Japanese market heavyweight Toyota ended nearly six percent higher after London Stockton, an reports in the Nikkei business daily said it aimed to double its return on equity -- a key measure of a company's financial performance.

In thin corporate news on Thursday, Japan Airlines ditionally fared well in the reported a cyberattack that caused delays to domestic and international flights and prompted a temporary halt to ticket sales.

However later in the day the carrier said its systems had been restored after the 'large data attack''

Markets had been closed across Europe and North America for Christmas. Dow Jones closed up 0.9 percent on the eve, while the tech-heavy S&P 500 rallied 1.1 percent.

European central banks cut rates in 20124

BRUSSELS/LONDON (APP): European central banks cut their rates this year, albeit slowly, as inflation declined towards each

country's targets. After rapid rate hikes over the previous two years in the face of high inflation, the first monetary easing steps were taken in the second half of 2024, though not collectively by all European central banks. Many countries' central banks remained cautious

The European Central Bank (ECB) had raised its key interest rates at 10 consecutive meetings beginning in July 2022.

2024, the ECB's refinancing rate was at a record high of 4.5% and its marginal lending facility rate at

In June, the ECB lowered its key interest rates for the first time in five years, cutting all three poli-cy rates by 25 basis points in a bid to stimulate the eurozone economy through cheaper borrowing costs.

The landmark decision was followed by continuing rate cuts, and the bank ended the year with four in total, lowering its deposit At the beginning of facility rate to 3%, main refinancing rate to 3.15%, and marginal lending facility rate to 3.4%. The decision came after slow economic growth in the eurozone and inflation going down towards the 2% target. inflation

Analysts say the bank may cut its rates to 1.5% by the end of 2025, while the market expectation is for a total cut of 100 basis points

UAE, China lead Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports in October RIYADH (Arab News): SR795.1 million. Mineral Managers' Index, which point, processing exports Saudi Arabia's non-oil products worth SR300.5 measures business activity valued at SR3.77 billion, Saudi Arabia's non-oil products worth SR300.5

exports surged in October, million were also exported with the UAE and China to China in October. emerging as the Kingdom's top trading partners, show- sector is a cornerstone of casing its ongoing efforts to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, diversify the economy which aims to reduce the under Vision 2030. Outbound shipments to crude revenues. The initiathe UAE reached SR5.86 tive has been a key driver of billion (\$1.56 billion), a economic policy since its featured

rise of 54.2 percent comlast year, according to the progress in this direction. latest report by the General Authority for Statistics. Mechanical and electrical equipment topped the list of exports to the UAE, valued at SR3.11 billion, followed

receiving shipments worth since the Vision 2030 SR2.35 billion. Chemical reforms began. products accounted for and rubber goods valued at Saudi Arabia's Purchasing

Strengthening the non-oil Kingdom's reliance on launch in 2016, and officials among pared to the same month have pointed to tangible

Speaking at the World Economic Conference in Riyadh last month, Saudi Minister Arabia's of Economy and Planning, Faisal Al-Ibrahim, highby transport parts worth lighted that the non-oil sec-SR713.5 million and chem- tor now accounts for 52 ical products at SR503.8 percent of the Kingdom's illion. real gross domestic prod-China was the second- uct. He further noted that largest destination for non-oil economic activities Saudi Arabia's non-oil have been growing at an exports during the month, annual rate of 20 percent

This diversification push SR826.3 million of these has been underscored by exports, followed by plastic recent economic indicators.

in the non-oil private sector, rose to 59.0 in November from 56.9 in October.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, and November's figure represents the fastest pace of growth since July.

prominently exports. Saudi Arabia's Land imported SR820.7 million worth of non-oil products, while Egypt and Turkive received SR808.8 million SR767.9 million, respectively.

Overall, Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports reached SR25.38 billion in October, billion, respectively. reflecting a 12.7 percent year-on-year increase com- experienced robust growth, pared to the same period in

Maritime routes continued to play a vital role in billion facilitating the Kingdom's Machinery and equipment non-oil trade, handling topped the list of imported shipments worth SR15.41 billion in October. King percent of total imports and Fahad Industrial Sea Port in reflecting a 6.9 percent Jubail was the top exit annual increase.

followed by Jeddah Islamic Sea Port at SR3.53 billion. Other key ports included Jubail Sea Port, which han-

dled outbound shipments

valued at SR1.86 billion, and King Abdulaziz Sea Port, which processed European markets also SR2.36 billion worth of Land routes accounted export partners. Belgium for SR5.20 billion of non-oil exports, while air shipments

contributed SR4.75 billion. airports, King Among International in Khalid Riyadh and King Abdulaziz International in Jeddah handled exports valued at SR2.25 billion and SR2.38 While non-oil exports

Saudi Arabia's imports declined by 3.8 percent year on year to SR72.01 October. in goods, comprising 25.7

raise 3.8%

ping among consumers.

The sales jump was well

all holiday spending.





CENTURION: Kamran Ghulam played a brilliant knock scoring 54 off 74 balls to steer Pakistan

Dane Paterson five-for, Corbin Bosch's four rock Pakistan

Kamran Ghulam, who Jansen shelled, and bowling again. scored an entertaining brought up his half-centudragged Pakistan out of slogged Paterson, only to do to Pakistan at one well outside off the hole they were put in top edge him to fine leg, Centurion, blitzing them stump, the tentativeness of during the morning ses- where none other than with the ball in the second his stroke revealing his sion. But five wickets for Rabada stood to take the hour of the first session. lack of confidence; it was

chip away at Pakistan to frenzy. on the day, reducing them more for South Africa which to 209 for 9 by tea.

had been building up the nicked off in Corbin partnership the other side Bosch's next over, before of lunch, and continued in Salman Ali Agha and similar vein. But with the Aamer Jamal set about clouds menacingly mov- another rebuild. With ten ing right overhead, the minutes to tea, the duo luckless Kagiso Rabada were closing in on another was brought in for another 50-partnership, but one excellent but fruitless more South African burst spell. It produced the most would prove the knockout engaging cricket of the blow. day, with both KGs -Rabada and Ghulam - down a couple of chances locking horns on more in the slips off the outside than one occasion. Rabada edge, so Bosch found the grew increasingly frustrat- inside edge of Jamal as he ed with Ghulam's stub- chopped on, before a surborn resistance and got prise close enough to tell him, Paterson saw the back of in less than family-friend-

Dane Paterson meant catch that sent a full Bosch

before lunch, and so it South Africa had put

bouncer from

crowd along to frustrate South balls. It kissed the outside (ESPNCricinfo): An 81- engaged, Ghulam edged Africa, ensuring they will edge, and both openers between one to the slips that Marco start the final session were back in the pavilion.

South Africa continued to SuperSport Park into a cashed in after a superb slips again. opening hour of bowling retain their stranglehold One wicket brought from Rabada and Jansen, going haywire, Saud openers Shan

> moment Temba Bavuma road. He gloved a hook threw the ball to debutant through to the wicketloosener well outside off successfully reviewing to stump. Masood, who had been forced to deal with an unerring fourth-stump frustrating for Pakistan line all of the first hour, after a magnificent first slashed at it, with a thick bowling went unrewarded. outside edge carrying to With Rabada and Jansen Jansen at third slip to give him a first-ball wicket.

ing edges started to find gritted out a way to off the them. Paterson nipped one two leading bowlers. with Ghulam responding Agha. With Naseem Shah away from Ayub, who was swiftly dispensed with, uncharacteristically them, though, would go ly terms to go back to the bowling crease. Mohammad Abbas and defensive, accumulating a on to show they are side-Khurram Shahzad plugged painstaking 14 off 35 kicks to no one.

owling again. Paterson wasn't done, South Africa had start- though because Babar and ry, but South Africa would ed the day by doing to Azam, returning to the Rizwan not be denied. Ghulam Pakistan what they always side, also had a prod at

and Paterson meat and drink for the With Pakistani defenses

Shakeel went for the other Masood and Saim Ayub extreme, looking to take Rizwan and Ghulam proved again. Rizwan rode their luck to survive. every ball on, but it was The story of the open- just six deliveries before ing session changed the that strategy ran out of Bosch. He began with a keeper, with South Africa

> send him on his way back It will be all the more had his eyes light up as he hour of South African nipping it around, it was obvious why Bavuma had All of a sudden, the opted to put Pakistan in. good balls that kept miss- But somehow, they had

> > The two who followed

Konstas shines on Australia debut but **India** rally

(ESPNCricinfo): Teenager Sam Konstas hit a pulsating final. half-century on his Australia debut on a fourth Test against India in

Sports

Melbourne. The 19-year-old opener, Australia men's youngest his 18th birthday. Test batting debutant since 1953, smashed 60 from 65 balls, featuring six fours and two sixes.

Konstas was Kohli, clashing shoulders beating the ba with the India batter at the his first over. end of an over, before by Ravindra Jadeja.

century in 12 innings crowd. before departing for 57 after lunch.

Marnus Labuschagne on 83 for the fourth wicket attempting evening session.

Labuschagne's quick. But departure for 72 led to Australia losing three wickets for just nine runs, with the lively Bumrah removing Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh in quick succession.

Akash Deep then took the late wicket of Alex Carey for 31 with the new ball, before the hosts closed out the day on 311-6.

87,000 packed into the fifty with two off Siraj. MCG for the traditional peratures pushing close to reception. 39 degrees.

needing to win the series 3- Labuschagne, who both hit

M E L B O U R N E 1 to guarantee a place in the their highest scores of the game. World Test Championship

It has been quite the rise for Konstas, who has only thrilling opening day of the played 11 first-class match-New South Wales in 2023, less than two months after

action after skipper Pat Cummins won the toss and chose to bat, Konstas was also engaged in a fascinating ground. involved in a heated con- early battle with Bumrah, frontation with India's Virat with the India pace bowler beating the bat four times in

Konstas got off the mark departing to a standing ova- at the start of Bumrah's section after being trapped lbw ond, before attempting a reverse ramp shot with just Khawaja rediscovered his Test cricket, much to the form, hitting a first half- delight of the Melbourne

The teenager continued to show no fear, ramping answer," Ponting said. Bumrah for four, six, four and Steve Smith then put in the same over and to charge as Australia pressed home Mohammed Siraj, prompttheir advantage in the ing some choice words and a fiery stare from the India

He then clashed shoulders with former India skipper Kohli at the end of the 10th over, with the players exchanging words before the tension.' Khawaja and the two The umpires calmed the situation down.

Konstas was unruffled, smashing Bumrah for 18 in the next over and geeing up the crowd to keep up the A crowd of more than noise, before reaching his

An eventful 90-minute Boxing Day Test, which innings came to an end took place under cloudy when he fell to Jadeja, but skies but sweltering tem- left the field to a rapturous

Australia will be further The five-match series is encouraged by the return to level at 1-1, with both sides form of Khawaja and

well set on 68, though Carey's late wicket leaves the Australia tail exposed es and made his debut for and sets up a potentially recalled in place of pivotal first session on day

One of the images of the Pitched straight into the day was Kohli, 36, barging into Konstas after the India bowlers around the

> Kohli appeared contact with Konstas, who was walking down the pitch to speak to his opening batting partner Khawaja.

Speaking to host broadcaster Seven Network, for-Fellow opener Usman the 11th ball he had faced in mer Australia captain Ricky Ponting says Kohli was probably to blame.

'That man [Kohli] might have a few questions to

"When you're out there batting, the batsman owns the wicket. The crease is his. Especially between overs like that.'

Konstas played down the incident at the end of the day, saying: "I was just doing my gloves and I think he accidentally bumped me. But that's just cricket,

International Cricket Council can suspend players for "inappropriate physical contact" if deemed serious enough, though it is not yet clear whether either player will face any further action.

That incident summed up what was set to be a chastening day for India, who grew visibly frustrated as the Australian top order collectively found form.

But that late burst of wickets, led by the irre- important to stick to your pressible Bumrah, dragged plans and post-lunch we

Labuschagne was look-Steve Smith also looks ing well-placed to reach three figures before he spinner charged Washington Sundar, Shubman Gill, and clipped the ball straight to Kohli at mid-off.

Travis Head, scorer of two centuries in his previ-Australian had clubbed the ous three innings, departed for a duck after shouldering arms to a Bumrah delivery that nipped back and change direction to make clipped the top of his off stump.

Two overs later Marsh attempted a heave across the line but could only edge through to Carey for Bumrah's third wicket of the day and 24th of the series.

Deep then made the most of a late burst with the new ball with a beauty of a delivery that feathered Carey's edge.

The biggest crowd I've ever played in' - what they

Australia batter Sam Konstas: "It was quite surreal with the big crowd, the biggest crowd I've ever played before.

"I just played with freedom and backed myself. Lucky to get a few runs. A bit disappointed with the way I got out but hopefully we have got a bit of momentum for tomorrow."

India batting coach Abhishek Nayar: "A lot of credit to the way Sam played. The intent he showed sort of put us on the back foot. "But it took a lot of char-

acter for our bowlers to stick in there. It wasn't the easiest conditions to bowl. At times like that it is the visitors back into the came back really strong.

Haaland penalty saved as Man City held by Everton

Manchester City's crisis his first-time attempt wide continued with a laboured of the post on this occa-Premier League draw sion. against Everton at Etihad

Stadium. once all-conquering, are in 36th minute through Iliman staggering fall-off, with taking a touch from just one win now in their Abdoulaye past 13 games in all com- cross and sending a petitions.

champions sixth in the far corner. table, three points adrift of on Thursday.

but cannoned back off the post - and the hosts were nance shortly after.

grabbed deserved opener in the 14th of a deflection off Jarrad Branthwaite.

It should have been two

Pickford as Portugal international sent

victory coming on 4

a December against Forest. minute as Bernardo Silva club's greatest moment by latched on to Jeremy claiming the Champions Doku's pass and managed League in 2023 to seal the to bobble home a finish Treble, but he, his players into the far corner courtesy and the supporters will be content just to win another game at the moment.

But with their first clear-

adium. cut chance of the game,
Pep Guardiola's side, Everton drew level in the Doucoure's The result leaves the outside of his boot into the

Nottingham Forest in regain the lead seven minfourth and 11 behind lead- utes into the second half ers Liverpool, with those when left-back Vitalii two sides still yet to play Mykolenko chopped down Savinho inside the area, but and play against, and their City almost made the Pickford dived the right perfect start in the third way to keep out Haaland's Josko spot-kick. City pushed for Gvardiol's towering header the winner but failed to prise open the Everton backline and were left to rewarded for their domi- suffer again, with their last

Guardiola led City to the

The ex-Barcelona and

MANCHESTER (BBC): when Phil Foden fed a pass Bayern Munich boss sug- Pickford's sprawling stop form, and Thursday's per- narrowly formance suggests they Haaland's face a tough battle to chance. achieve that feat.

Europe's elite club compe- was unfamiliar territory amid a Ndiaye's marvellous strike, campaigns and at the start and though City recycled for them to extend that run, offside. delightful finish with the but the season has not panned out in such a way de City had the chance to decline continues.

Their previous slick play has turned slow and ponderous, which made it easiconfidence ebbed away November. after conceding another soft goal with the defence empty for Everton? watching on.

It started well as Silva's napping and his deflected effort gave City the lead, but they were unable to build on that early goal despite numerous chances.

After scoring the first, Silva's failure to find the net from around 15 yards out proved to be costly as Everton recovered.

Savinho's thunderous volley was kept out by

Erling Haaland had a sector the onrushing Silva gested before the match at the start of the second ond-half penalty saved by inside the box, but the that a top-four finish was half, while and Mateo that a top-four finish was half, while and Mateo "at risk" in their current Kovacic flashed a strike wide before gilt-edged The prolific Norwegian, who has 13 City have competed in league goals this season, outpsyched tition for 14 consecutive Pickford for the penalty of this term most would the ball and Haaland headhave taken it for granted ed in, the flag went up for

Guardiola sent on Kevin Bruyne and Ilkay their remarkable Gundogan in an attempt to change his fortunes, but the side were met with a smattering of jeers at the fulltime whistle, having now er for Everton to sit back gained only five points and play against, and their since the start of

Glass half-full or half-

Everton had kept three straight clean sheets comdarting run caught Everton ing into this game and although their backline was breached, they have now managed credible consecutive draws against Arsenal Chelsea and here against

> Whether their glass is half-full or half-empty at present depends on perspective.

Boss Dyche will point to his side being difficult to beat, having lost only two of their past 13 top-flight matches - but on the other hand, they have won only three of their 17 games so far this season.

This draw leaves them in 15th place, edging five points clear of the relegation zone, and it came through Ndiaye's exquisite effort, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the travelling supporters.

could They snatched it late on when Orel Mangala's deflected strike wrong-footed Stefan Ortega but the ball drifted the wrong side of the post. leaving Everton the happier side with the result but without a victory against City in their past 16 meet-



SAN FRANCISCO, CA: LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers shoots the ball during the game

Kohli fined 20% of match fees after heated altercation with Konstas

shoulders while moving towards across the pitch between bumped into him.

Konstas' Usman Khawaja and umpire Michael Gough interrupted to cut the altercation short.

physical contact with a my mind whatsoever." Player, Player Support - Ricky Ponting Personnel, Umpire, Match # A U S v I N D Player, Player Support (including a spectator dur- A International Match". No formal hearing December 26, 2024 was required as Kohli accepted the sanctions.

Replays that emerged Australia captain Ricky first three Tests. Konstas (ESPNCricinfo): Virat later in the session showed Kohli has been fined 20% that Konstas had turned of his match fees and around from the crease awarded one demerit point after the last ball of the after his heated altercation tenth over, and was walking with Australia's 19-year-old straight towards the other debutant Sam Konstas dur- end while looking at his ing the fourth Test at the gloves, whereas Kohli -The incident while tossing the ball in his occurred after the tenth hand - was looking straight over of the morning when ahead and went from way Kohli and Konstas bumped outside the pitch right shoulders while moving towards Konstas and "I think the emotions got

Both players immediate-ly looked back for a heated told Channel 7 in the secexchange of words, before ond session. "I didn't quite opening partner realise; I was doing my gloves, then [there was] a little shoulder charge. But it happens in cricket." In heat of the moment, "Have a look where things do happen. But on

Kohli was sanctioned for Virat walks. Virat's walked breaching Level 1 of the one whole pitch over to his ICC Code of Conduct that right and instigated that relates to "inappropriate confrontation. No doubt in

Referee or any other person pic.twitter.com/zm4rjG4X9 - 7Cricket (@7Cricket)

walks,"

Ponting observed on commentary for Channel 7 while watching the replay of the incident. "Virat's walked one whole pitch over to his right and instigated that confrontation. No doubt in my mind, whatsoever. While talking to Star

Sports at the end of the day, former India coach Ravi Shastri said what Kohli did was "unnecessary" "When you see that, it's

not needed at that moment of time," he said. "I think Virat will realise that later, with the stature he has in the game, he's captained the side for many, many years. In heat of the moment, reflection, I would say it was unnecessary. You don't want to see such things. There's a line, you don't

want to overstep that line." debut with a stunning halfcentury off just 52 balls, by "Have a look at where Nathan McSweeney four scoring a stunning century former times in six innings in the in Adelaide in 2014.

replaced McSweeney for this Test, and struggled to 5 off 21 after being beaten several times before moving to 27 off 38 at the time of the altercation with Kohli. By then, Konstas had

reverse-scooped Bumrah for a six over the slips which had followed a more straightforward scoop that had fetched him four runs after moving across and flicking the ball over the

wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant. Konstas finished on 60 off 65 balls with six fours and two sixes, having scored 34 from 33 against Bumrah and 20 from 19 off Mohammed Siraj.

Tests between India and Australia have been highintensity, and known to throw up such altercations and controversies, especially involving Kohli. Ĥe had Konstas made his Test once collided - when he was captain - for an altercation with the opposite captaking on Jasprit Bumrah, tain Tim Paine in 2018-19, the best bowler of the and had a duel with series, who had dismissed Mitchell Johnson while



In brief

ANF recovers 149 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in 7 operations recovered over 149 kg drugs worth over Rs 40 million and arrested 4 drug dealers, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 30 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a passenger going to Jeddah at Peshawar International Airport. In another operation, 31 intoxicated tablets were recovered from a parcel near a park in Islamabad and a suspect was arrested. 150 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia through a courier office in Karachi. In an operation, 90 kg opium and 10 kg heroin hidden for smuggling were recovered in Chagai district, Balochistan. In 5th operation, 45 kg hashish was recovered from an uninhabited area of Coastal Line Pasni in Balochistan. 3 kg hashish was recovered from a suspect in Hyderabad. In 7th operation, 1 kg heroin and 500 grams ice were recovered from the possession of a motorcyclist intercepted near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza Attock. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process.

Parveen death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Thursday (December 26) marks a poignant day in Pakistan's literary calendar as the nation observed the 30th death anniversary of its cherished Parveen Shakir, the illustrious poetess affectionately known as the "Poet of Fragrance," whose contributions to Pakistani literature remain unparalleled. Born in Karachi on November 24, 1952, Parveen Shakir became a prominent figure in the literary landscape after successfully passing the competitive examination for civil channel reported. Parveen Shakir started writing from a young age, she wrote both prose and poetry and also contributed in writing columns in Urdu newspaper, and fewer were written in English dailies. In 1977, she made her literary debut with the publication of her first poetry collection, 'Khushbu' (Fragrance), which garnered exceptional acclaim within literary circles. Her popular poetry work includes Sadbarg, Khud Kalami and Inkar which were compiled in the book Mahe-Tamam. Parveen Shakir died in a road accident in Islamabad in 1994 at age of forty-

34,600 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 34,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 38,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam 1470.93 feet and was 72.93 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 17,700 15,000 cusecs and cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1132.25 feet, which was 83.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,800 cusecs and 4,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 19,700, 26,700, 20,900 1,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a Ototal of 10,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,700 cusecs released from Chenab Marala.

Minister chairs meeting on 100MW solar power plant

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal on Thursday chaired a meeting regarding the installation of a 100-MW solar power plant in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), an area that remained neglected and faced long-duration electricity load-shedding.

Secretary, Chief Minister of Kashmir Affairs & GB, Additional Secretary of the Planning and senior officers concerned, according to a news release.

18-hour load shedding was this project. creating a sense of deprivation among the people.

in the area.

tioned that he invited and operation. The meeting was attend- Chinese companies to He stressed the need for ed by the GB Chief install solar systems in the early completion of Gilgit-Baltistan. He direct- energy projects in Gilgited the Power Division to Baltistan under the Public immediately initiate work Sector Ministry of Planning, Chief on solar energy and com- Programme (PSDP). of the Energy Ministry of plete a transparent bidding process to select the best the early completion of the company for the purpose.

Ahsan Iqbal termed the was the best source of pro- step' toward resolving the severe power shortage in viding electricity and energy crisis.

negligence and said that the steps should be taken for

Capital

He also directed that a clear time-line and matrix He stated that in such be set to increase power circumstances, no investor generation in GB, instructwould be willing to invest ing that the solar project be included in PC-1 and a During his recent visit to comprehensive strategy be China, the minister men- prepared for its generation

Development

The meeting appreciated Naltar 16 MW Hydropower a news release. Ahsan Iqbal further said Project, calling it a 'wel-Addressing the meeting, that off-grid solar power coming' and 'important

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting State-of-the-Art Immigration and

Passports Headquarters.

Minister visits Palestinian Embassy to reaffirm help

Federal Minister for Sci- COMSTECH's commit- posed convening Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal to reaffirm support.

reaffirmed Palestinian cause.

Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary high-lighted COMSTECH's initiatives aimed at supporting Palestinian youth, including the provision of 5,000 scholarships and felelaborated

Embassy of Palestine here ernment and people's ing Palestine. in Islamabad on Thursday steadfast support for Ambassado Palestine. Sharing insights Zaid, expressed heartfelt During the meeting with from his recent visit to gratitude to the govern-Dr Zuhair Zaid, Amba- Oman, he revealed discusssador of the State of sions with educational the people of Pakistan. He Palestine to Pakistan, he ministers from other coun- acknowledged their stead-Pakistan's tries about joint actions to fast support, emphasizing unwavering support for the assist Palestine in the education sector.

> is committed to extending al institutions in Palestine.

To further strengthen

ence, Technology, and Fedment to fostering education, Dr Khalid tional opportunities for education ministers from Maqbool Siddiqui, accom- Palestinians and strength- the OIC (Organization of panied by Coordinator ening their access to quality
General of COMSTECH, education.

Islamic Cooperation) member countries in Islamabad Dr Khalid Maqbool to devise a comprehensive Choudhary, visited the Siddiqui reiterated the gov- long-term plan for support-

Ambassador Dr Zuhair ment, COMSTECH, and that these efforts will never forgotten by He assured that Pakistan Palestinian people.

This visit reflects Pakis practical support for the tan and COMSTECH's rehabilitation of education- continued commitment to standing in solidarity with Palestine and contributing these efforts, Dr Khalid to its educational and insti-Maqbool Siddiqui stated tutional development.

National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) Higher Education Commission (HEC), successfully concluded the National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) for the Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP). The closing ceremony marked the culmination of an intensive threeweek training designed to empower early-career academics with essential professional competencies.

NAHE

concludes

NFDP at

UVAS

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The

According to a report by the Higher Education Commission, Dr Muhammad Rana, Younus Vice Chancellor, UVAS, Lahore was chief guest in the closing ceremony. He praised NAHE's pivotal role as HEC's dedicated capacitybuilding arm in advancing the professional development of higher education faculty across Pakistan.

Distinguished speakers included Dr. Aneela Zameer Durrani, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Dr. Amir Ghafoor Bajwa, Director, University Diagnostic and Dr. Laboratory Muhammad Asif, Director, Veterinary Academy.

During the ceremony, the speakers highlighted the significance of NAHE's initiatives in enhancing the quality of teaching, research, and academic leadership. They emphasized the vital role of professional development in preparing educators to meet the evolving challenges of higher education and foster student success. NAHE is already executing various programs for Faculty

Development. Faculty development is essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in higher education set-

By improving the capabilities and effectiveness of university faculty, institutions can better contribute to multiple SDGs. Faculty development aligns with and supports various SDGs including SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG-5 (Gender Equality), SDG-8 Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG-10 (Reduced Inequalities). SDG-13 (Climate Action) SDG-16 (Peace, and Justice and strong Institutions).

By investing in faculty development, educational institutions can significantly advance the SDGs, ensuring quality education for all and fostering innovation, and promotes sustainable development across various sectors.

The program concluded with the distribution of certificates by the honorable Vice Chancellor, recognizing the participants' commitment to self-improvement and academic excellence This cohort of 32 partic-

ipants underwent a rigorous curriculum encompassing effective teaching methodologies, research grant writing, and professional ethics.

NAHE's efforts in organizing training reflect its dedication to fostering academic excellence, a core objective under HEC's vision for higher education in Pakistan. The faculty development

program serves as a cornerstone for equipping fresh PhDs with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for impactful academic careers

Police achieves 75% reduction in crimes

Islamabad Capital Territory Police has marked a significant achievement, reporting a 75% reduction in serious crimes in 2024 compared to the previous year.

This milestone was shared during the annual review meeting led by Inspector General (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Syed Ali Raza in the federal capital, an official told APP.

Serious crime statistics According to official data, serious crimes in Islamabad decreased from 269 cases in 2023 to 200 in 2024. This significant decline is attributed to the proactive measures and strategic planning implemented by the Operations Division.

DIG Syed Ali Raza emphasized that the police's vigilant efforts, including targeted operations and improved intelligence systems, have played a pivotal

role in enhancing the city's security. Arrests and recoveries

The Operations Division made 24,387 arrests in varcriminal cases throughout the year, recovering stolen goods valued at over Rs. 2.38 billion. The crackdown on criminal elements also led to the dismantling of 657 gangs involving 1,531 individuals. Vehicles recovered included 429 cars and 763 motorcycles.

Drug control efforts Under the "Nasha Ab Nahi" campaign, the Islamabad Police registered 1,723 cases and apprehended 1,811 individuals involved in drug trafficking. This included 45 suspects targeting educational institutions. Recovered contraband included 417 kg of hashish, 533 kg of heroin, 24 kg of crystal meth (ice), and 18,931 bottles of alcohol.

Specialized units and new initiatives

cialized units such as Margalla Patrol, Ababeel Squad, and City Watchers has contributed significantly to crime prevention. These units are tasked with ensuring constant surveillance and rapid response to incidents.

Achievements challenges

The Islamabad Police managed security at 1,628 law and order events during the year, with commendable dedication despite numerous challenges. Tragically, four officers embraced martyrdom in the line of duty, while 29 were recognized for their bravery and awarded medals.

"Protecting the lives and property of our citizens remains our foremost responsibility. Our teams are working relentlessly to make Islamabad a model of safety," DIG Ali Raza remarked, expressing his gratitude to the force for their unwavering The introduction of spe- commitment.

PR plans new express Karachi-Lahore train

Pakistan Railways is plan- working on preparations meals.

ning to launch a high-speed for the launch of this mod- Read More: Pakistan express train lar to the Green-Line January next year. Express that operates between Islamabad and Karachi via Lahore, a staterun news agency reported.

An official in the Ministry of Railways told goal of this new train service is to provide passengers with advanced amenities and an enhanced travel experience.

Currently, the official said the teams from rele- is trying to improve the Cantonment Station.

between ern train, which is expect- Railways to induct 80 Lahore and Karachi, simi- ed to begin by the end of High-Capacity freight wag-

In order to reduce the need for imports, accord- locations like Rawalpindi, ing to the official, Lahore, Khanewal, Bah-Pakistan Railways is com-mitted to enhancing pas-Hyderabad, and Drigh senger services media that the primary employing innovative ress, which was launched coaches domestically.

atmosphere, the department Islamabad

(INP): vant departments are quality and hygiene of the

ons in 2024

With stops at important

by Road, the Green-Line Exptechnologies to construct by the then-prime minister at Islamabad's Margalla He said that in order to Railway Station in 2015. provide passengers with a currently takes roughly 20 clean and comfortable hours to travel from to Karachi



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Science & Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with Coordinator General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudary visited Embassy of Palestine.

Distt admin targets street beggars; arrests 67

ISLAMABAD (APP): The teams, arrested six beggars. Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has intensified its efforts to curb street begging. and tions, led by Assistant arrested 11 more beggars. Commissioners (ACs) from various areas. As a result, the administration managed to arrest 67 beggars over the past few days.

According spokesperson for the ICT Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz with a focus on rehabilitaadministration, AC Rural Memon, directed all assis-apprehended 13 individu- tant commissioners to necessary. als, while AC City detained maintain daily operations 12 professional beggars.

Similarly, AC Industrial administration activities.

In another operation, AC Shalimar rounded up 14 istration's efforts by dis-individuals, while AC Ru- couraging practices that ral targeted areas notorious enable begging mafias. for organized begging and Authorities emphasized conducted targeted opera- for organized begging and Furthermore,

Secretariat apprehended sustained initiative. eight beggars, and AC City detained three more, send- need ing all of them to jail.

against professional beg- tion has appealed to the gars, ensuring that public public for cooperation in gars, ensuring that public Area, with the support of spaces remain clear of such

The DC also urged citizens to support the admin-

that this campaign is not a one-time effort but part of a The DC highlighted the

coordinated for actions to address the On this occasion, DC issue comprehensively

The district administrareporting areas where begging is prevalent.

'Yunus Emre Institute-Pak Chapter' established (PPI): tutions like AIOU are remarked.

ISLAMABAD University (AIOU) on Thursday.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the oresence distinguished gathering of academia, diplomats, and cultural enthusiasts.

Speaking on the occa-Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh underscored the transformative power of education in nation-building, citing examples such as China, which lifted 700 million people out of poverty through educa-

He said it is heartening to see that 50% of university students in Pakistan are female, however, the fact that 26 million children are still out of school is a stark reminder of the challenges we face.

The Minister said insti-

ed the Yunus Emre cational inclusivity. He Institute Pakistan Chapter praised the establishment inclusive education. here at Allama Iqbal Open of the Yunus Emre University (AIOU) on Institute at AIOU as a milestone in strengthening cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and

Türkiye. Turkish language, culture, and the shared Turkish-Islamic heritage.

He said this collaboration with AIOU will undoubtedly deepen the countries. historic bonds between our two nations and open new academic exchange.

The Ambassador hosting the which will introduce Turkish culture and landents and scholars. "This Türkiye and Pakistan," he education.

Federal Minister for making significant contri- Chancellor of AIOU high-Maritime Affairs, Qaiser butions toward bridging lighted the university's Ahmed Shaikh, inaugurat- this gap and fostering edu- commitment to fostering global partnerships and

He expressed optimism that the Yunus Emre Institute would enrich the academic and cultural environment of the university and enable students to Ambassador of Türkiye to He said the Yunus Emre explore Turkish hermal Pakistan. the Vice Institute has a global repu- and its profound influence on Islamic civilization. He said the Yunus Emre explore Turkish heritage The Yunus Emre Institute, operating under Ministry of Culture of the Government of Türkiye, has branches in over 80

> The newly established branch at AIOU is expectavenues for cultural and ed to become a hub for cultural and linguistic of exchange, furthering the Türkiye expressed his mission of unity and mutugratitude to the AIOU for al understanding between Institute, Pakistan and Türkiye.

> The event concluded with a formal ribbon-cutguage to Pakistani stu- ting ceremony, followed by a tour of the Institute's partnership is a testament facilities, showcasing its to the enduring friendship state-of-the-art resources and shared values between for language and cultural

Rawalpindi Police arrest 5 drug peddlers

Thursday arrested five drug ammunition. peddlers, two liquor suppliers and four illegal arm owners from different areas of the district.

According to a police spokesman, the Taxila Police during an operation held four drug peddlers with more than 04.5 kilograms hashish. The arrested accused included Usman, Jawad, Faizan and Amanullah.

Similarly, the Ratta Amral Police arrested accused Waqar on the recovery of 1.44 kilograms hashish. The Gujar Khan Police

likewise, nabbed accused Qaiser with 10 litres of liquor, while the Civil Lines Police recovered 5 litres of liquor accused Waseem.

Meanwhile.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The accused were arrested for Police on the recovery of a Rawalpindi Police on having illegal arms and 30 bore pistol each, while Accused the New Town Police Imran and Abid were held recovered a 9 mm pistol by the Taxila Police and Ali with ammunition from Rehman by the Gujar Khan accused Ammar Razaq.

Police bust street criminal gang; arrest two

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have busted a street criminal gang by arresting two of active members of Mubashir gang allegedly involved in street and other crimes and recovered cash Rs 118,500, five snatched mobile phones, weapons and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, New Town police held two street criminals namely Mubashir and Farhan and recovered Rs 118,500, five stolen mobile phones, weapons and other items.

A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. The accused have been shifted to jail for identification parade, he added.

Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Muhammad Haseeb Raja said that police are making efforts to net other members of the gang.

IE extends condolences

KABUL (BNA): The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed deep sorrow over the crash of an Azerbaijani passenger plane in Kazakhstan. The Ministry conveyed: "We are deeply saddened to learn that an Azerbaijani passenger plane crashed in the 'Aktau' region of Kazakhstan, resulting in the loss of dozens of lives and injuries to several others." The statement extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the government of Azerbaijan.

The Frontier Post **FGHANISTA** Jamadi Us Sanni 24, 1446 — Friday, December 27, 2024

Italy donates 4m to IEA

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Italian Embassy has pledged 4.5 million euros to Afghanistan's humanitarian fund to support relief efforts. The embassy reiterated its commitment to ongoing humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. The donation aims to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan with a swift and effective response. This donation is in addition to Japan's 1.5 million dollar contribution to support returning migrants in Afghanistan.

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

IE provide facilities for educational institutions: Kabir

Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime sizing Kabul University's Islamic Emirate's policy of Minister for Political pivotal role in advancing not allowing armed groups Affairs, stated during a academics and nurturing graduation ceremony at young talent in the country. Kabul University that the He highlighted that the Islamic Emirate has provid- Islamic Emirate has Islamic Emirate has provid- Islamic ed necessary facilities for ensured adequate support educational institutions. The press office of the enabling students to receive

Deputy PM, reported that both modern education and the event was attended by religious training. Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime al education system oper-Minister for Administrative ates within the framework Affairs; Neda Mohammad of Islamic and Afghan val-Nadeem, Acting Minister ues, free from external of Higher Education; influences. numerous professors, During scholars, and officials.

for educational institutions,

He noted that the nation-

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir comed the reopening of about employment oppor congratulated all graduates Saudi Arabia's embassy in tunities in the future.

to operate on Afghan soil and stressed that baseless accusations against Afghanistan not only fail to yield benefits but also worsen relations and incite violence.

He assured that the Islamic Emirate remains committed to protecting Afghans and will not submit to external pressures.

Kabir also distributed cash and non-cash gifts to graduates from 25 faculties of Kabul University who high grades. his remarks, achieved Mawlawi Abdul Kabir wel- offering them reassurance

Ambassador emphasizes strengthening ties with IE



KABUL (Khaama Press): tioned that Beikdeli had Ambassador to Afgha- Minister, nistan, emphasized the Javad Zarif, and briefed strengthening of relations him on his plans. of Interior during a meeting Beikdeli has recently been and economic interests. with Minister of Interior. Eskander Momani.

Afghanistan stated on emphasized the importance areas like trade, security, Thursday, that the coopera- of increasing political ties and regional stability. The tion between the two counbetween the two countries. tries' interior ministries should be enhanced within ly recognizing the Taliban, the framework of good neighborly relations.

The embassy also men-

Mohammad

appointed to this mission in Moving forward, th The Iranian Embassy in meeting with the Taliban, deeper collaboration in Despite Iran not official-

it has nonetheless increased its diplomatic relations with

This shift in diplomatic Alireza Beikdeli, Iran's met with Iran's Foreign relations reflects the growing geopolitical importance of Afghanistan for Iran, especially in the context of with the Taliban's Ministry It is worth noting that regional security concerns

Afghanistan and, during his interactions could lead to future of Iran's engagement with the Taliban will likely depend on both the evolving political situation in Afghanistan and broader

regional dynamics.

Expelled families seek shelter and assistance

URUZGAN (TOLOnews): only five or six pieces of assistance has been provid Several Afghan families bread for my 20-member ed to these families. expelled from neighbor family." country and currently residing in Uruzgan province are expelled individual, said: calling for job opportunities and permanent shelter.

They state that with the cash.' onset of winter, their children have contracted various expellee, stated: "We have illnesses, but they cannot no shelter, and no work afford medical treatment.

those expelled from neigh-bor country, said: "We take it." dream of having just one cup of tea with sugar. We authorities say that, with have arrived in this can't afford rent. We work the support of some aid province over the past five take photos."

Gul, another Islam assistance with flour, oil, or

Ahmadullah, another opportunities have been Wali Mohammad, one of provided for us. If work is

Meanwhile, local

Samiullah Akramah, the spokesperson for the governor of Uruzgan, said: "Aid "Our request is to receive has already been provided to the migrants who have come from neighbor country, and comprehensive assistance will continue to be offered to them."

According Directorate of Refugees and Returnees, the number of Afghan families expelled from neighbor country who all day and manage to buy organizations, necessary months is close to 3,000.

regarding 45th anniversary of Soviet invasion

IE statement

KABUL (BNA) Forty-five years ago, on 6 Jadi, 1358 of the Solar Hijri calendar, the Soviet Union's Red Army, with the support of its few local allies, launched an invasion of Afghanistan. This invasion posed a severe threat to the religion, freedom, prosperity, and social security of the Afghan people.

Alhamdulillah, resilient Afghan nation did not remain silent in the face of this aggression. With unity, determination, and steadfast courage, they stood firm against the Soviet forces, sacrificing their lives, wealth, and everything they owned for the cause of jihad.

As a result of the Afghan people's sacrifices, hardships, martyrdoms, and unwavering commitment, and with the help of Allah, the once-powerful Soviet forces suffered a humiliating defeat in Afghanistan and were forced to retreat after nine years.

This event demonstrates that the Afghan people are deeply committed to their faith, value their freedom and independence, and are ready to sacrifice everything in defense of their beliefs. This proud nation will stay united, firm in its faith, and triumphant. InshaAllah.

The Islamic Emirate condemns the Soviet invasion on the 6 Jadi, 1358 of the Solar Hijri calendar and honors the jihad and sacrifices of the Afghan people. IEA prays that all martyrs who gave their lives for freedom and independence are granted the highest place in paradise, and that those who were wounded or disabled are richly rewarded for their sacrifices.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan also urges future generations to follow the path of their ancestors, defending their faith and homeland with courage, standing firm against any form of invasion and oppression.

free medical camp in Balkh team of Uzbek doctors, along with a shipment of

humanitarian aid, has arrived in Balkh province. The governor of Uzbekistan's Surkhandarya region, who traveled to Hairatan port to deliver this

aid, stated that in addition the supplies, the President of Uzbekistan has dispatched a team of doctors to Balkh province to provide medical services to underprivileged patients.

The shipment includes medicines, flour, oil, meat, and macaroni, all sent to Balkh province. Alougbek Qosimov, the

governor of Surkhandarya, remarked: "Today's aid differs from previous Uzbek humanitarian assistance to ship between the two coun-Afghanistan. Uzbekistan tries and stressed the has not only brought importance of strengthen-humanitarian supplies ing bilateral relations. today but also doctors, specialists, and medical equipment to provide services to kh, commented on Uzbekpatients in Balkh province. istan's aid: "Alhamdulillah, All of this has been done this team that has arrived

Meanwhile, the deputy and treat needy and impov- doctors from both countries governor of Balkh emphasized that Uzbekistan's assistance signifies friend-

Noorulhadi Abuadris, the deputy governor of Bal-

erished patients, which is a significant achievement for both provinces and governments. Sayed Ahmad Shadab,

the deputy head of Balkh's public health department, said: "My request to our Uzbek colleagues and their government is that this aid is not enough and must continue. We need more under the directives of the President of Uzbekistan." here today is truly imporcollaboration in the health-tant. They will diagnose care sector. We hope the mology, and dentistry.

share experiences and provide health services to patients.

The team of doctors, comprising 34 members, is scheduled to provide healthcare services in Hairatan port city for five

days.

Their specialties include general internal medicine, surgery, neurology, pedicollaboration in the health- atrics, gynecology, ophthal-

Ministry to build 318 district hospitals, says Afghan Minister

Uzbek doctors launch 5-day

Noor Jalal Jalali, the acting nationwide. public health minister, stated In this meeting, Noor carried out under a well-in a meeting in Kabul that 72 Jalal Jalali added: "A speorganized plan and a transdo not have access to secondary health services.

tioned the commencement public hospitals in 318 disstated that with the construction of these 318 hospitals, an additional 10,000 beds the treatment of patients in

According to Jalali, vided for 27,000 profesties to work. We assure our there are currently 13,000 sional and administrative sisters that in the new cen-

(TOLOnews): treatment beds available individuals,

percent of district residents cial budget for the construction of public hospitals in 318 districts has been The acting Minister of approved by the Amir-ul-Public Health also men- Momineen of Afghanistan. Momineen of Afghanistan. The legal and initial proceof construction work for dures have been completed, public hospitals in 318 dis-tricts across the country. He the hospitals will practically begin.

Jalali further stated that each of these 318 hospitals would be made available for would have five medical departments.

the country, creating employment opportunities for 27,000 individuals.

The acting Minister of Public Health added: "Job opportunities will be pro-

recruitment process to be parent mechanism. Meanwhile, Mohammad

Hassan Ghiasi, Deputy Health Development at the of the Ministry, described Ministry of Public Health, rejected the shortage of female health workers in the country, stating that over 30,000 midwives are awaiting job opportunities.

Deputy Minister of Policy and Development, said: "We have more than 30,000 midwives who are not part of the system and opportunities will be pro- are waiting for opportuni-

Sharia and Islamic considerations, their expertise and knowledge will be utilized in appropriate roles.

Bakht Rahman Sharafat, the Deputy Minister of Minister of Planning and Finance and Administration the primary goal of building these hospitals as providing timely and highquality services. He added that annually, due to delays in diagnosis, 20,000 people in the country suffer from various types of cancer.

This comes as statistics provided by the Ministry of Public Health indicate that out of 400 districts, only 93 districts in the country have

First photography studio for women opens in Badakhshan's Faizabad

Faizabad, the capital of established the first photog- women. raphy studio exclusively for

and accessibility for the photos." women of this province. Bismillah Mohammadi,

manager of the women's photography stuexclusively women. My wife and I decided to create this studio, and currently, four young women are working

Sheela Sahar, the deputy manager of the women's photography studio, stated: We established this photography studio so that including handicrafts. women could comfortably

B A D A K H S H A N have come to this studio for (TOLOnews): A couple in photos and document printing say they feel comfort-Badakhshan province, has able in a place dedicated to

Ayesha, a resident of Badakhshan, said: "We are The purpose of this pho- very happy about the tography studio is stated to establishment of this stube providing convenience dio and can easily print our Muneera, another resi-

dent of Badakhshan, said: "Previously, I used to take photos at home with my dio, said: "Previously, there mobile and then give them was no photography work- to my brother to get them printed. But since this studio has been established, I come here with peace of mind to print my photos.'

Meanwhile, Faizabad municipality reports that over the past year, nearly 2,000 individuals have received work permits in various fields, past year, we have distrib-



cluding handicrafts. uted work permits to more Atiqullah Amani, the than 1,800 individuals in ke photos." spokesperson for Faizabad various fields, including tion from the Badakhshan Several women who municipality, said: "In the carpet weaving, tailoring, Directorate of Industry and

qanat construction, restaurants, and poultry farming. According to information from the Badakhshan

Commerce, more 1,000 women in 15 districts of this province are currently engaged in small busi-

have mercy on them) wrote

a book on medicine, and in

the book of medicine there

is a separate chapter on cup-

ping, in which three types of

commands of the Prophet

(peace be upon him) are

mentioned, the first is about

the truth and virtue of cup-

ping, the second is about the

place where cupping should

be performed, and the third

is about the days on which cupping should be per-

formed.

Benefits and side effects of traditional cupping therapy

cupping practitioners have claimed that cupping is a **various**Practitioners treatment traditional ious diseases to which physicians also agreed if professionally could pose risks.

Cupping Some historical sources blood sacking is one of the and makes him healthy. indicate that cupping was used thousands of years ago ment of different diseases." in ancient Egypt, China, Babylon, and Greece.

In ancient times, it was method would eliminate rheumatism, negative energy and improve physical conditions.

form the cupping also kn- gland. own as Hujamah method, in this method, the desired

using special cups.

diseases: Hakim Rohullah Yousu-

method and could cure var- fzai, a member of the Afghanistan Greece Medicine Union and owner of the executed Almomin Clinic situated in otherwise the practice the Murad Khani area of capital Kabul, told Pajhwok Therapy: Afghan News: "Cupping or best method for the treat-He said some people do

it for reward and some people for treatment adding believed that drawing blood that Cupping is effective out of the body through this for lumbar and neck discs, migraine headaches, removing blemishes and skin blemishes, According to the infor- especially on the face, canmation of those who per- cer patients, and the thyroid

Yousafzai said that about 10 patients, most of whom area is first scratched with a have skin problems, lumbar blade and then blood is disc herniations and sciatisucked in several stages ca, visit the clinic daily. According to the source, Cupping is one of the cupping has been promoted

eight years and the number of people interested in it is worker of Almomin Clin- ical perspective, cupping increasing every day.

cupping method, impure women referred to the hosblood is removed from the pital for cupping. body, he added that with this method, a person does not become weak, the blood He recommended that

after performing cupping, one should refrain from bathing, eating fried foods, dairy products and eggs for 24 hours. According to the source,

cupping

should use clean briars and fessionals: Physician cherries for each applicant when performing this procedure. However, Hakim Yousafzai advised that people who Hospital in Kabul, said that have undergone heart sur- cupping is an ancient treat-

Farahnaz Rahimi, a ic's women's branch, said should be used as a sup-While saying that in the daily up to eight girls and

Most of their clients are girls over the age of 19, because they complain of flow in his body increases pimples on their faces and undergo this method for treatment.

She said added that women who complain of knee pain, joint pain, and fatigue also use this method to treat themselves. therapy Cupping

practitioners should conducted by pro-Dr. Syed Farid Shah

Rafiei, a general internal medicine specialist at Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan gery or are infected with ment method that has been gonorrhea, H. pylori, and popular among different women during their menpeople and cultures, and als, it may not identify the very good afterwards, I felt
strual period should not do people used it as a supportarea correctly and may that it had a very good cupping because this method ive treatment to improve cause bleeding in the per- effect, and over time, my

KABUL (Pajhwok): Some best methods for treating in Afghanistan for the past will aggravate their disease. and reduce diseases. He said that from a med-

portive treatment alongside the main treatment and it has has some benefits and some disadvantages and shortcomings.

Dr. Rafai said: "Cupping can improve blood flow in the body, and when blood flow improves in the affected area, naturally the healing process and inflammation process will take place well and quickly." He also emphasized the shortcomings of cupping and said that this method should be performed by professionals and sterilized equipment should be used during its performance so that infections, especially hepatitis of Kabul, said: "About and AIDS, do not spread to

humans. If this method is per- the many pimples on my formed by non-profession- face and back, and I felt

son, and in some cases it

may even be dangerous. Dr. Rafai said there are some people who are allergic to this method and this should be diagnosed before performing this procedure. Referring to the risks of

cupping, he said some people suffering from heart disease, some people who have heart or respiratory problems or are anemic should not undergo cupping because their illness may worsen.

He advised people to have this procedure performed in reliable and reputable centers under the supervision of professionals. Some people are happy

with cupping Mahsa Kamal, a resident seven months ago, I performed cupping because of

pimples treated."

She said after one month she planned again to perform this method. Ahmad Javid, a resident of Bibi Mahro locality, said

He said that he was suffer-

ing from headaches, and one

of his friends recommended him to have cupping. He added that he had this procedure done at a cupping center in his area, and

now he was doing well. Mohammad Samadi, a resident of capital Kabul, said: "I had a lot of pimples and redness on my face, I used anti-pimples soap, but it didn't help, a friend of

mine had performed, and it helped, he gave me the address, we've had cupping done four times now, and I've gotten a little better." Mohammad Mufti Hassan Sherzad, one of the religious scholars, said: "In Islam, medicine has been

He said that Abu Huraira quoted the prophet (PBUH) as saying: "If there is any good for treatment, it is cupping. He said that the prophet has recommended cupping should take place on Tuesday on 17th, 19th and

21st of the Islamic month for greater effectiveness and impact. According to the Greek

Medicines Union, currently given a special place, Imam 32 cupping centres were Bukhari, Imam Muslim, and operational nationwide, Imam Dawud (may God including 12 in Kabul.

Bilawal, Zardari pay rich tribute to Shaheed BB

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto commemorating her unparalleled sacenduring legacy for Pakistan. He emphasized that her life was an embodiment of courage, resilience, rooted deeply in the vision of her father, Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founding leader of the PPP.

In a press release issued by the PPP said "Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was not just a political figure but a beacon of hope for the marginalized, the oppressed, and the forgotten. Her unwavering commitment to her father's vision of an egalitarian and prosperous Pakistan Bhutto's principles of democracy, tolremains an inspiration for all of us. erance, and social justice. "Her life Like Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, she believed in the power of the peo- to her struggle for a just and equitable ple and the importance of empowering workers, farmers, and the underprivileged as a cornerstone for national progress. Her philosophy of reconciliation, consultation, and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's understanding diverse perspectives vision of a just Pakistan will become laid the foundation for a forward- a reality," he said. looking Pakistan," he said.

reaffirmed his resolve to carry forwhere every citizen would have equal irrespective of their background. We terrorism, extremism, and any forces that threaten Pakistan's stability," he

mitment to addressing international These words were not just a defiant ing star. Pakistan Khappay

was the Islamic world's first elected Zardari has paid a glowing tribute to female prime minister, and her states-Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto manship serves as a guiding principle on her 17th martyrdom anniversary, for addressing global challenges and advocating for the rights of oppressed rifices, unwavering leadership, and nations. We remain steadfast in our stance on these vital issues," he said.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on the nation to unite in overand hope for millions of Pakistanis, coming challenges to democracy and constitutional governance. "Her life serves as a lesson in resilience and dedication to a cause greater than oneself. The best way to pay tribute to her is to realize her vision of a Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman democratic, progressive, and inclusive Pakistan where the dignity of every individual is upheld," he urged.

Concluding his message, the PPP Chairman appealed to party workers and the nation to renew their commitment to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir and sacrifice are enduring testaments society. It is our responsibility to realize her dream of a Pakistan free from political, social, and economic exploitation. The time is near when

Today, we are observing the 17th Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. On this ward her legacy. "Shaheed Mohtarma day, we honour a leader who embod-Benazir Bhutto envisioned a Pakistan ied the very spirit of hope, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the opportunities and access to resources, ideals of democracy and justice. She was a trailblazer who dreamt of a are determined to follow her philoso- Pakistan where the rights of all citi- from her vision to steer the country phy of human liberty and democratic zens, irrespective of colour, class and out of its current challenges. Let us norms, continuing our fight against creed, would be protected, and the work together to ensure that her power of the people would reign supreme.

Benazir Bhutto once said, Chairman also reiterated his com- "Democracy is the best revenge".

issues, including the unresolved mat-response to tyranny and dictatorship ters of Palestine and Kashmir. but reflected her profound belief in "Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto the transformative power of the people. She envisioned a Pakistan where every child could access education, where women could progress as equals, and where justice was not a privilege but a right. Throughout her life, she raised her voice and worked for the uplift of the downtrodden segments of society and women's empowerment.

Her life was a journey of immense courage and a source of inspiration and strength for us. Facing adversity and persecution, she remained steadfast in her struggle against dictatorships for the restoration and strengthening of democracy and the protection of people's political, economic and social rights. Benazir famously declared, "The fight against injustice and cruelty is the fight of my life.' She lived and died fighting for this cause, and is still alive in the hearts of millions of people. She firmly believed: "You can imprison a man, but not an idea. You can exile a man, but not an idea. You can kill a man, but not an idea.

As President of Pakistan, I reaffirm my commitment to advancing her vision of a peaceful, progressive and democratic Pakistan. Her ideas live on, urging us to rise above differences and build a Pakistan that is united, inclusive, and just. So, let us not merely mourn her loss but commit to follow her enduring legacy.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and our family sacrificed their lives for the cause of democracy and Pakistan. It is my firm belief that we, as a nation, need to draw inspiration dream of a peaceful, progressive, and democratic Pakistan becomes a reality. Her legacy is eternal, her courage unmatched, and her vision our guid-



RAWALPINDI: Security officials escorting vehicle of KP Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, arrived at Adiala jail to meet PTI founder, Imran Khan.

Hamid Raza seeks judicial commission for May 9 F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Council Ittehad chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza has called for a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9 and Nov 26.

He said Nov 26 incident was an attack on the people of Pakistan. Speaking to the media after meeting PTI founder Imran Khan at Adiala Jail, Raza stated that negotiation must conclude by Jan 31, 2025.

Raza emphasised two demands: forming a commission of senior Supreme Court judges to probe May 9 incidents and releasing CCTV footage of Nov 26 incident, which he called an attack on democracy. He also sought release of all political detainees arrested after May

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced challenging the military court convictions of its workers and supporters, terming the trials of "civilians in the military courts a blatant violation of justice".

10 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

GAZA (Reuters): At least 10 traded blame over their fail- statement said. "We affirm people were killed and more ure to conclude a ceasefire our commitment to continue than a dozen wounded in Israeli strikes on Gaza early on Thursday, medics with the Gaza health authorities said. Five people were killed and 20 wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a house in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, the medics reported. They warned the death toll could rise as many remained trapped under the rubble.

In a separate incident, five journalists were killed when their vehicle was struck in the vicinity of Al-Awda hospital in Nuseirat in central Gaza, the enclave's health authorities said. The journalists worked for the Al-Quds Al-Youm television channel. Palestinian media and local reporters said the vehicle was marked as a media van and was used by journalists to report from inside the hospital and

Nuseirat camp. There was no immediate sraeli comment on the reported strikes. Wednesday, Palestinian militant group Hamas and Israel

reported by both sides in past days. Meanwhile, a Palestinian TV channel affiliated with a militant group said five of its journalists were killed Thursday in an Israeli strike on their vehicle in Gaza, with Israel's military saying it had targeted a "terrorist cell."

A missile hit the journalists' broadcast truck as it was parked in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, according to a statement from their employer, Al-Quds Today. It is affiliated with Islamic Jihad, whose militants have fought alongside Hamas in the Gaza Strip and took part in the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war.

The channel identified the five staffers as Faisal Abu Al-Qumsan, Ayman Al-Jadi, Ibrahim Al-Sheikh Khalil, Fadi Hassouna and Mohammed Al-Lada'a. They were killed "while per-

and humanitarian duty," the

agreement despite progress our resistant media message," it added.

The Israeli military said in its own statement that it had conducted "a precise strike on a vehicle with an Islamic Jihad terrorist cell inside in the area of Nuseirat." It added that "prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians." According to witnesses in Nuseirat, a missile fired by an Israeli aircraft hit the broadcast vehicle, which was parked outside Al-Awda Hospital, setting the vehicle on fire and killing those inside.

The Committee to Protect Journalists' Middle East arm said the organization was "devastated by the reports that five journalists and media workers were killed inside their broadcasting vehicle by an Israeli strike." "Journalists are civilians and must always be protected," it forming their journalistic added in a statement on social media.

Saif denies reports of 100 deaths in Kurram

F.P. Report

Information Adviser Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Thursday termed the news of deaths of at least 100 children in the restive Kurram going on in Kurram for months, Agency due to unavailability of medicines totally fake.

In a statement, the adviser said all

1 the Thar Coal Project, securing energy independence | A trailblazer wh

driving force behind the Thar Coal Project, securing energy independence

e systems | The driving force behind the Thar Coal Project, securing energy independent

med rural healthcare systems | The driving force behind the Thar Coal Project, securing

former who transformed rural healthcare systems | | The driving force behind the Thar Coal Pro

ramme | The reformer who transformed rural healthcare systems | The driving force behind th

kinds of medicines were being pro- at federal govt for remaining tightvided to the people of Kurram, sug- lipped over Kurram massacre PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gesting that people shouldn't lend an ear to fake news surrounding medical facilities in the area. It must be noted that communal violence that had been resulted in deaths of more than 100

A few days earlier, Khyber Saif on had also lashed out at the federal government for remaining tight-lipped over escalation in the restive Kurram Agency. In a statement, the adviser blamed the government for treating people and closure of several roads leading to the district. Saif lashes out Afghanistan, not Pakistan.



A trailblazer who empowered women to claim their rightful place in society | 1 The pioneering First Woman Prime Minister of the Islamic ct, securing energy independence 📗 Initiated missile technology program for defense 📗 A trailblazer who empowered women to claim their rightful pla