Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

President for implementing job quota for persons with disabilities

President Dr Arif Alvi has underscored the need to implement employment quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at all levels of the Government for their financial empowerment. He suggested that government departments should identify jobs for PWDs and provide them employment as per their skill... (Details on Page 8)



holds PATDC, single country exhibition

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Third meeting of Pak-KSA Defence

Jamadi-us-Sani 27, Wednesday, January 10, 2024





military technologies and the need for defence industrial cooperation between the two

states towards the fulfilment

Both sides reaffirmed their

desire to enhance defence

cooperation in all domains to achieve self-sufficiency in the

field of defence production.

Forum reiterated the need

to explore further avenues

for defence cooperation and

stan-Africa Trade Conference

was underway in Cairo, Egypt

from January 9-11 where Paki-

stan was represented by a large

deep appreciation for Pakistan's

historic ties with the Southeast

Asian countries, particularly

Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia.

expand bilateral trade ties with

the key countries and sought

their assistance in strengthen-

ing its engagement with the

Association of Southeast Asian

situation in Gaza, the prime

minister stressed the need for

dialogue among nations and for

intensifying collective efforts to

end the violence and bring last-

He also praised the diplomat-

The diplomats thanked the

ic envoys for their efforts to build

stronger ties with Pakistan and

caretaker prime minister for

sparing time to interact with

them and said they would

continue to work closely with

Pakistan to enhance bilateral

their respective countries.

ing peace in Palestine.

Referring to the ongoing

Nations (ASEAN).

He said Pakistan was keen to

PM Kakar also e

of shared objectives.

The two sides deliberated enhancing the pace of collab-







Daily Spokesman Vol: 17, Issue: 271 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Collaboration

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: 3rd Meeting of Pakistan-KSA Defence

Collaboration was held at

GHQ, Rawalpindi on 8 Janu-

The forum underscored the

significance of historical relations between the two brother-

ly states. Participants discussed

issues of bilateral interest and

evolving security environment.

upon rapid advancements in oration.

Caretaker PM

跨 Spokesman Report

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

and Africa had enjoyed excellent

political relations over the years,

stressed the need to enhance

trade and economic linkages

which were vet to realize their

He also highlighted the

importance Pakistan attached

to Africa and expressed the

desire to strengthen ties with

African countries, at the bilat-

The prime minister met a

group of resident envoys repre-

senting African countries as well

as select Asian countries over

lunch, the PM Office Media

by the Ambassadors of Alge-

ria and Sudan as well as High

Commissioners of Bangladesh,

Brunei, Malaysia, Mauritius,

and South Africa. Other partic-

ipants included the Charges d'

Affaires of Ethiopia, Indonesia,

Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Tuni-

The caretaker prime minster

mentioned that the 4th Paki-

sia, and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was attended

Wing said in a press release.

eral as well as regional level.

ISLAMABAD:

full potential.

underscores need

to enhance trade,

economic linkages

Caretaker

acknowledging that Pakistan commerce minister.

Haq Kakar on Tuesday, while business delegation led by the

with African countries

ary 2024.

Solidarity

Rawalpindi: A meeting on Trilateral Defence Collaboration between Pakistan, the KSA and Türkiye.



PTI founder, Bushra Bibi indicted in Toshakhana case

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court indicted on Tuesday Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana reference.

Accountability Court Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the decision during a hearing in the case today which was conducted in Adiala jail.

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Deputy Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi and Amiad Pervez, Special Prosecutors Irfan Bhola, Sohail Arif and

others appeared in the court. Imran Khan and his wife have been

named in the list of accused for possessing gifts received from international dignitaries, which they were obligated to deposit in the Toshakhana.

The reference, which alleges that Imran failed to share details of the gifts he retained from the Toshaskhana (during his time as the prime minister) was filed by lawmakers from the ruling coalition

sticking point in national politics after corrupt practices under sections 167 the Election Commission of Pakistan and 173 of the constitution. "A criminal disqualified the PTI chief for making proceeding will be initiated against him "false statements and incorrect declara- over filing a false statement." tion" last month.

The judgement added that the former 1(P) has been for his current parliament Khan in Toshakhana case on March 9.



The Toshakhana issue became a major premier was found to be indulged in

membership", the ECP said in its 36-page detailed judgment of the reference.

"The amount in his bank account was around half of the value of the state gifts. Imran Khan was bound to declare the cash and bank details in his returns but

he didn't declare it," ECP decision read. "Imran Khan being declared disqualified and unseated from his National Assembly seat," the ECP said, adding: "He has been disqualified under Article 63, 1(P), over submitting a false statement and declaration".

Following this. bility Bureau (NAB) had launched probe "His disqualification under Article 63, against former Prime Minister Imran

$\mathit{calls} \, \mathit{on} \, \mathit{main}$ political parties



ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner to the UK, Jane Marriott is meeting the main political parties in Pakistan across Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, as part of routine engagement. In Islamabad she met PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. In Karachi, she met leaders from PPP, GDA. and MQM-P. In Lahore, she met PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, and will meet leaders from IPP and PML-Q. She will continue to engage with other parties in the coming weeks. In all meetings she discussed a range of issues including UK-Pakistan relations, the economy, and the importance of timely, inclusive, and peaceful elections.

British envoy Economic Coordination Committee announces additional funds for Intelligence Bureau

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal

Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, today. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter Provincial Coordination Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr. Muhammad Jehanzaeb Khan, Minister for Law and Justice, Water Change Mr. Ahmed Irfan Aslam, Advisor to PM on Finance Dr. Waqar Masood, Federal Secretaries, and other senior government officers of the relevant ministries.



ECC was presented with five agenda an item of which first summary was from Intelligence Bureau for provision of additional funds of Rs. 250 Million during the current financial year 2023-24. The Intelligence Bureau briefed the committee about recent Resources and Climate surge of terrorism which needed effective counter measures to thwart nefarious designs of terrorists. The Economic Coordination Committee approved the funds as Technical tion to NFML for ensuring

(TSG) for up gradation, technical enhancement and field activities of Intel-

es on need basis. The summary of Ministry of Industries and Production for approval of mechanism for sale of imported urea at a basket price along with locally manufactured urea was discussed at length. The ECC approved the mechanism for weighted average price with the direc-Supplementary Grant reasonable price for urea accorded its approval.

and Ministry of Industries & Production to provide oversight to the whole

The Economic Coordination committee considered and approved the summary of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination for provision of Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) amounting to Rs. 3,568.719 Million in favour of Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), and urged the provinces to clear

their pending liabilities. ECC also considered the summary of Finance Division for signing the addendum to the Subsidiary Grant Agreement (SGA) regarding financial inclusion & infrastructure project and exemption from relending policy of release of funds to State Bank of Pakistan and

Police get two-day physical remand of PTI founder in May 9 cases



跨 City desk

RAWALPINDI: A special anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday approved two-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in cases pertaining to May 9 riots

Special ATC Judge Malik Ijaz Asif heard the cases regarding May 9 riots, wherein military installations were attacked after deposed premier's arrest, in Adiala Jail – where Imran Khan is incarcerated.

The investigation officers (IO) of the cases registered against PTI founder appeared before the ATC

Global Health Security Summit to explore opportunities for sharing expertise, knowledge: Dr Nadeem

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Global Health Security Summit will serve as a great opportunity to bring together, international and national experts in the concerned field of health and learning by sharing expertise and knowledge for a safer world.

In a media briefing, Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the two-day Global Health Security Summit will start from January 10 here in the federal capital.

He said that the strategic objectives of the conference are to collaborate with global leaders to ensure equity-based pandemic preparedness financing for low and middle-income countries and mutual exchange

of knowledge and rich experience with member states and experts around summit thematic areas which focuses on vaccine equity, patent deregulation and transfer of technology.

The minister said that the conference will secure global and regional partnerships with international organizations for aligning its health security priorities with those of global and regional priorities, to strengthen its core capacities through technical assistance.

He said that the event will explore opportunities of joint working and pool funding for health security, across the region and globe in addition to the sustainable domestic funding for its five-year health security plan 2024-28.

Saudi Arabia records historic 58% surge in Umrah pilgrims: 13.55 million in 2023 News Desk the number surged to 13.55 million, thanks will provide their services during the Hajj

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Minister announced that the number of pilgrims who have performed Umrah during the year 2023 reached a record number of 13.55 million.

The increase in the number of Umrah pilgrims is estimated at five million or 58 percent while compared to the year 2019,

The minister made the remarks while addressing the 3rd annual Hajj and Umrah of Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah Services Conference and Exhibition at Jeddah Superdome. The four-day conference is being held under the patronage of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, Saudi Gazette reported.

"Previously, the largest number of Umrah pilgrims from outside the Kingdom was in 2019, estimated at 8.55 million and this year

to the elaborate facilities and arrangements made by the Saudi government. This figure is the largest in the history of foreign Umrah pilgrims," he said. Al-Rabiah said the current edition of the conference witnesses the participation of ministers and leaders from more than 80 countries.

The conference will also see the signing of Hajj agreements with each of the participating countries. "More than 35 companies

this year, compared to 20 companies last year," he said. The minister noted that Saudi Arabia

launched projects worth more than SR5 billion to develop the infrastructure at the holy sites. "Last year, we worked to train more than 40,000 workers in the Hajj and Umrah system, and this year we are working to train more than 120,000 people to

serve the pilgrims.

Article's publication against core values of journalism: Solangi

and others.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that publishing of the article in the name of former PTI chief by the popular foreign media outlet-The Economist was against the core values of journalism.

Speaking in talks shows of different private news channels, the minister said it was a "ghost column" and not a "guest column".

There was no basis for The Economist to assert that it was a "guest article" as the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief had no such facility in the jail, he added.

"The article of the ex-chairman of PTI is as ghost as his posts on 'X."

Solangi said the caretaker government had rightfully expressed its reservations as the PTI chief himself even did not own the content of the article.

"The Economist should better speak the truth to its readers," he said while referring to the PTI's contradictory stances of touting the article as the production of artificial intelligence and a search engine at the same time.

The minister said the people were well aware of reality of May 9 incidents, as the statements, tweets and speeches made by the PTI leaders on that day were on the record.

Investigation of the people involved in the rioting on that day was under- chief as they had never resorted to

A probe body, he said, had been

formed for holistic investigation of the

May 9 incidents. The committee was

mandated to determine causes, respon-

sibility, and the future course of action

to prevent recurrence of such events.

PTI chairman and his associates who

had got themselves ousted from the

country's politics. They had the oppor-

tunity, but they preferred to en mass

resignation from the National Assem-

bly and then dissolution of the provin-

cial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber

anybody for their own follies, he added.

defence installations and tried to insti-

gate rebellion within the state insti-

The PTI leadership could not blame

He said that they attacked the

Solangi said leaders like Benazir

Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Nawaz

Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gilani should

not be compared with the former PTI

Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister said it was the former

He said the sentence of ex-PTI chief was suspended in one case only, but he was still being tried in many cases such as Toshakhana, Al-Qadir Trust

Murtaza Solangi said that the intra-party elections of PTI could not compared with other parties as its own leaders had challenged their credibility before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He said the caretaker government could not give a statement in favor or against any party and if anybody had objection over the ECP, they could reach out the court for redress of their

Regretting propaganda over the delay in the general elections, he reiterated the government's commitment for holding the polls on February 8.

The power to fix or change the date of elections solely rested with the ECP under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, he said, expressing full confidence in the Commission for holding free, fair and transparent elections.

Concerted efforts were underway to maintain law and order, he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to provide security to leaders of all the political parties.

To another query, he said the government would extend all-out assistance to the ECP for holding the elections.

As regards the level-playing field to the political parties, the minister said round of the talks with them.

nomination papers of some 80 per cent PTI candidates had been accepted.

To another query, he said the visit of Maulana Fazlur Rehman to Afghanistan was not in his personal capacity. However, the government had no objection if any political leader wanted to play its role in improving the bilateral relations of Pakistan with any coun-

He clarified that the government would not negotiate with any armed group and there would be no compromise on the Constitution.

Solangi said the caretaker government was established under the Article 224 of the Constitution. The election would be held in time which would eventually lead the country towards economic and political stability, he

He said the caretaker government stabilized the economy with administrative measures especially against the illegal smuggling.

The minister said the caretaker government would bequeathed the country to the elected government in

a better economic shape. He said Pakistan was a democratic country and women had been enjoying all the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

To another query, he said the government was in contact with the Baloch protestors and had immediately released children and women in first

ABHI & foodpanda collaboration game-changer for home chefs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: In the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, while many businesses struggled to stay afloat, a heartening story of resilience and entrepreneurial spirit emerged from Lahore, Pakistan. Shamshad Ahmed, the owner of a school canteen named POLA G LunchTime, faced daunting challenges when schools shut down. His journey from near closure to thriving success stands as a testament to the power of innovation and collaboration in times of crisis.

When the Pakistani government ordered schools to close to curb the spread of COVID-19, Ahmed's primary source of income came to an abrupt halt. His business, once bustling with the energy of schoolchildren, was suddenly quiet and deserted. Ahmed faced the stark reality of the pandemic's economic fallout, a narrative familiar to many small business owners globally.

AJK PM orders Chief Secretary to contact Punjab IĞ after murder of Kashmiri youth

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while taking a strong notice of the cold-blooded murder of a Kashmiri youth by unknown assailants near Islamabad international airport, has directed the Chief Secretary to stay in touch with the IG Punjab to ensure arrest of the accused immediately. It may be recalled here that, the slain youth, who hailed from Dadval Azad Kashmir, was gunned down by unknown attackers near Islamabad international airport on his return from abroad. The AJK premier expressed his profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. The Prime Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir to contact the IG Punjab to ensure immediate arrest of the accused and safety of passengers on their return from foreign countries. Meanwhile, Minister Communications Azhar Sadiq called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq in this regard. On the occasion, the PM directed the visiting minister to provide full support and assistance to the family of the murdered youth.

14th National Wushu Championship held in Lahore

Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: In the 14th National Wushu Championship held in Lahore, women athletes of Azad Kashmir including Momina Rani Silver, Sania Shahzad, Bushra Siraj, Bakhtawar Gilani won bronze medals. The women athletes reached the victory stage by working tirelessly and made the name of Azad Kashmir bright in the sport of Wushu in the world of sports. The players who received medals met in the office of Director General Sports Youth and Culture Malik Shaukat Hayat Khan along with President AJK wushu Association Muhammad Irfan Mughal. As a reward for the hard work of the association, medals of Azad Kashmir came and we were patronized with

City Traffic Police to continue traffic awareness activities in Faisalabad



跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Protecting the life and property of citizens from traffic accidents and preventing the factors that lead to fatal accidents is the first priority of City Traffic Police Faisalabad. For this, raising traffic awareness among the citizens is the need of the hour. In this regard, the Education Unit of the City Traffic Police organizes traffic awareness seminars in various schools, colleges and public and private institutions, as well as awareness camps. Friendly measures will save precious human lives on the roads. Lady Senior Traffic Warden Iram Naz, in-charge Education Unit, City Traffic Police Faisalabad, while giving a lecture to the participants in road safety traffic awareness seminar at Qasr Behbood Technical Education Center, told the participants to ensure compliance with city traffic rules. Obey the stop line. Do not violate the one way. Obey the traffic signal. Ensure the use of motorcyclist helmets.

Festival sheds light on importance of literature in shaping society

跨 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

THATTA: 3rd Literature Festival organized under the aegis of Sindh University Thatta Campus she lights on the importance of holding literary gatherings and book reading. The event was participated by students, eminent literary figures, social activists and ideologists who eulogized the efforts of varsity for promoting literary activities in the historical district of Sindh. Addressing the participants of the festival at Sindh University Thatta Campus stalwart historian and educationist Dr Abdul Ghafoor Memon said that Thatta had a glorious past but it has lost contact with the modern world following unavailability of facilities and the distance of youth from literature. "Our girls are unaware of the modern methodologies of learning"; he claimed.

leaning up

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Anti-encroachments Cell of CDA seize the pushcarts and other stuff of vendors during Anti-encroachments operation at Faizabad area of the Federal Capital.



Dottani, Suleman Khel tribes demand to resolve issues of Tehsil Toi Khullah

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Dottani Tribe Youth Alliance and Suleman Khel Tribe Youth Alliance from Toi Khullah Tehsil in South Waziristan Lower (SWL) District jointly held a rally in Wana Bazar on Tuesday regarding their demands and

The protesters along with the All-Political Alliance also shouted slogans against the government

They demanded that the basic facilities of life should not be provided apart from mobile network maintenance, deployment of ladies worker in Nadra Center.

local political parties held a press



Later, the protestors along with and Shoaib Suleman Khel, President centre and Suleman Khel and Dottani of Selman Khel Tribe Youth said, that tribes are facing huge problems. conference at District Press Club in this modern era Tehsil Toi Khullah is deprived of basic facilities of life On this occasion, Abdullah, pres- PTCL network, mobile, 3G, 4G and

They said that for a long time there is no television and cable system in Tehsil Tou Khullah and due to which

a bright future.

The protest organizers also clarified in the press conference that the announcement of boycott of the polio campaign for the last one month has been maintained

They said as a result, around 6,000 children have lost their polio vacci-

They said that due to the incompetence of the district administration, Tehsil Toi Khullah has reached the verge of destruction.

Dottani tribe Alliance added that if the government does not resolve our legitimate demands so they will be forced to close Wana Dera Ismail Khan Road in protest.

It should be noted that the All-Political Alliance, including the Councilors Alliance, announced their full support to the said press conference, ident of Dottani Tribe Youth Union due to lack of ladies worker in Nadra hundreds of children are deprived of expressing their solidarity.

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is only political party of Kashmiris: Sardar Atique

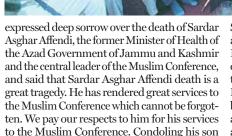
Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan has said that the Muslim Conference is the only political party which is the most literate party of Kashmiris, along with the Kashmir Libreation Movement and accession to Pakistan Movement. The Muslim Conference was not created by any ruler, but it is the result of the historical natural

expressed these views while talking to the senior workers and officials of the Muslim Conference during his visit to Muzaffarabad. He said that Muslim The Conference is the representative party of Kashmiris, the workers should maintain unity in their ranks, the Muslim Conference has come out of difficult situations, the time is not far when the Muslim Conference will emerge once again across the state. Regional bias has prioritized the commitment of everyprocess. Muslim Conference is not a party of one living in the region on ideological basis, even

any clan and tribe, it is a bufft of all tribes. He today Mujahideen are following the thoughts of Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the state party is fully representing the Kashmiri nation. He said that the first party of the state, the Muslim Conference, has its roots in the people and those who wanted to destroyed the Muslim Conference have always been disappointed.

President Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan also visited Abbaspur to condolence of Sardar Asghar Affendi family and



Sardar Hasan Affendi and other dear relatives.

Former Minister Chaudhry Yasin Gulshan, Pres-

ident of Muslim Conference District Poonch

Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Dr. Sardar Razak Khan and others were also present on this occasion. President Muslim Conference said that the deceased leader rendered unforgettable services to the people of Azad Kashmir as the Minister of Health Will be remembered. The he was a sociable, poor-loving and compassionate person. As a minister, the deceased did record construction and development works in his constituency and alleviated the deprivations of the people. With the death of Sardar Asghar Affendi, the land of Poonch has lost a great leader.





SERVICES		
Namaz T	imings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12:14 pm	
Asr	3:38 pm	
Maghrib	5:16 pm	
Isha	6:45 pm	

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20
Warman Dalies

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	922259
Rawalpindi	9270601-2

ENQU	IKY
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
$C\Lambda\Lambda$	0281002

HOSPITALS

HOSFII	ALJ
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEDADTMENTS

PELWUI	MILITIS
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	d 9270151-3
Islamabad Metrop	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,

FG-14 Center in progress, Director General urges speedy completion of

ISLAMABAD: Director General Housing Authority visited Sector G-14 markaz and the Project Director briefed the Director General on the project and informed the manage ment that the work of G-14 Center is in the final stages. The Director General Federal Government Employees Housing Authority advised that the work of horticulture and street lights should be completed as soon as possible and on this subject the Director General Housing Authority highlighted the importance of the project.

Later, the Director General visited Sector F15 and urged for speedy completion of the work. Director General Federal Government Employees Housing Authority appreciated the work of Project Director, Director Land, Director Revenue, Director Planning, Director Security and Director Finance. The Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority further directed that all facilities should be provided to the residents of

 $Ms. Mube en \ Ul$ Basharat a PhD Scholar of Computer Science Department of HITEC University Taxila, will defend his research dissertation

News Desk

It is notified for the information of all that Ms. Mubeen Ul Basharat a PhD Scholar of Computer Science Department of HITEC University Taxila, will defend his research dissertation on Friday January 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM in IQBAL Auditorium of the University. The topic of his research is "Analysis of Nonlinear Engineering systems by Neuro-Optimized Techniques"

The research has been supervised by Dr Muhammad Nazir. Defence is open to all interested individuals can attend the open defence and be seated by 10:45 AM.

Pakistan vows support to UNICEF for launching public welfare projects

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday assured the government's full support to the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for launching projects of public welfare in Pakistan.

"The government will provide all possible facilities to the UNICEF for launching welfare projects in education, health and other sectors," he said while talking to the UNICEF's representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadil who called on him here.

During the meeting, Abdullah Fadil briefed the prime minister on the steps taken by the UNICEF in various areas of

He told the prime minister that during last five years, around US\$1 billion worth of projects had been established in a range of fields including humanitarian aid, clean drinking water, food supply, education, and health under UNICEF in Pakistan.

PM Kakar appreciated the UNICEF Pakistan for successfully launching a number of projects of public welfare.

Terming UNICEF's role in anti-polio drive in Pakistan as of special importance, he said a positive change about anti-polio vaccination drive was being seen among



of the government of Pakistan and the

The interim prime minister also appreciated UNICEF for taking steps in education sector in Azad Jammu and Kashmir despite intense Indian criticism.

He asked Abdullah Fadil to constitute a new and effective strategy to provide education to the out of school children in Pakistan.

He also supported the steps taken by

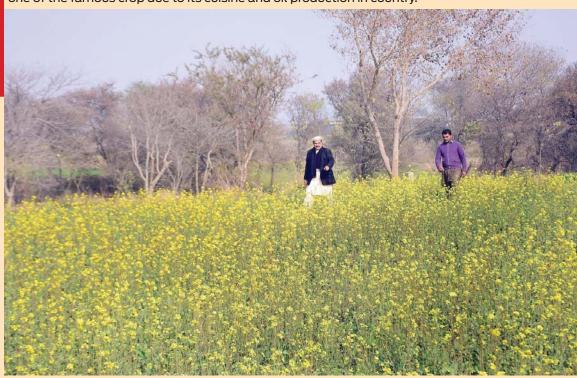
the masses due to mutual collaboration UNICEF for introducing modern technology in the education sector in under developed areas of the country.

"The illiteracy rate in the country can be brought down significantly by helping the students of remote areas getting access to the state of the art information through tablets," the prime minister added.

PM Kakar assured that the government of Pakistan would fully support the projects launched by the global body for creating job opportunities for the youth.

Golden crop

ISLAMABAD: A view of the stunning and flourishing mustered crops at Golra area as mustered is one of the famous crop due to its cuisine and oil production in country.



Monthly BoM meeting held at Punjab Council of the Arts, Murree

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Council of the Arts, Murree advisory board for cultural activities met at Punjab Council of the arts, Murree. The second meeting was presided over by the renowned poet & scholar Muhammad Asif Mirza. At the start, Assistant Director (Programme) presented the execution report for previous BoM meeting decisions which was appreciated by the board. However, she further elaborated that due to coming elections

proposed cultural activities for January 2024. She urged the BoM to come forward to

propose new options. asked the forum to be more participatory in the next meeting. He stated that the ent financial constraints. Likepresent weather condition was the cause of such attend- ble in January as no proper ance as people generally moved to other cities. Later on, the President discussed Murree due to three month the proposed cultural activities which were facing a shortthe cultural activities funds age of funds for execution & wouldn't allow the proper nue generating ideas& spon-

ber,2023 grant & this will be the programs with minimal be postponed for the coming a challenge for us to Execute budget for January. Thereaf-

Amjad Butt & Irum Abbasi submitted that a program for January 2024 may be The president of the BoM designed to promote local singers & poets in the last week of January under preswise, snow festival is not possisnow fall hasn't been recorded yet. On the other hand, in winter

Vacation drama festival were not released in Decem- asked the members to design participation therefore, it may

months. The meeting concluded with the reservations from the president BoM that the least interested members detail may be forwarded to the competent forum with recommendations to replace them with vigilant & active members after the next meeting in February, 2024. Last but not least, the president appreciated the efforts of the council for revival & asked to contact the relevant forums at MURREE through BoM members to originate reve-

Pakistan, Lebanon sign accord for media regulatory bodies' cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Lebanon have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation between the regulatory bodies of their media which would eventually further strengthen the bilateral relations. The MoU was signed between the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and the Audiovisual Council of Lebanon (CNA) in Beirut, said a news release said here on Tuesday.

The MoU is aimed at fostering friendly relations and cooperation between the two regulatory bodies of Pakistan and Lebanon. Ambassador of Pakistan to Lebanon Salman dent Abdul Hadi Mahfouz between the two countries



Athar signed the MoU with expressed optimism that the President of the National Audiovisual Council of Lebanon Abdul Hadi Mahfouz on ble ties between Pakistan behalf of PEMRA. Speaking and Lebanon. He highlighted on the occasion, CNA Presi-

signing of the MoU would forge strong and sustainathe existing cordial relations

and emphasized the significant benefits that would arise from effective collaboration in the field of electronic media regulations. Ambassador Salman Athar, in his remarks, congratulated both sides for successfully signing the MoU. Recognizing Pakistan and Lebanon as brotherly countries sharing common values, he underscored their mutual support on various regional and global issues. The ambassador elaborated on the main objectives of the MoU, emphasizing the establishment of a practical mechanism to enhance communication, exchange experiences and share information in the field of electronic media regu-

Int'l workshop on curriculum development through Project Based Learning & CDIO held



ISLAMABAD:-National and International speakers of an International workshop at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) deliberated upon the ways of curriculum development through Project based learning and CDIO.

The international workshop on "Curriculum Development through Outcome Based Education and CDIO" was organized by Faculty of Engineering and Technology of IIUI at the Faisal Masjid Campus on Tuesday.

The workshop was sponsored by Higher Education Commission and British Council Pakistan under PAK-UK Education Gateway Mobility Grant.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Raheman, Acting President IIUI, while addressing to the participants, appreciated the efforts of the Faculty for organizing such an informative and innovative workshop.

The workshop also received accolades from Dean Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, who expressed appreciation for the initiative, emphasizing its significance in fostering professional development among future educators.

Dr. Dr. Taqi Ahmed Cheema (Dean Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, GIKI), Dr. Tabbi Wilberforce Awotwe from King's College London, Dr. Gareth Thomson, Dr. Sarah Junaid from Aston University, Dr. Fareeha Azmat, University of Warwick also shared their insights during the workshop. At the end, CDIO and Lego activity was also performed by Dr. Sarah, Dr. Tabbi, Dr. Muftooh, Dr. Umar Mansoor.

KSrelief distributes 2,895 food baskets in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has distributed 2,895 food baskets in Pakistan, benefiting 20,265 needy individuals in flood-affected areas.

The distribution is part of the third phase of the Food Security Support Project in Pakistan, SPA reported.

The aid comes as part of relief projects provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through its humanitarian arm, KSrelief, to achieve food security and alleviate the suffering of the needy in the Pakistani regions affected by the floods.

New book Taliban's Return: Pakistan's Strategic Crossroads' explores complex AfPak relations

ISLAMABAD: Journalist Raja Furqan Ahmed unveils his latest book, "Taliban's Return: Pakistan's Strategic Crossroads," offering a profound analysis of the historical and contemporary complexities shaping the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Ahmed's book delves into the nuanced historical backdrop, shedding light on multifaceted factors influencing the dynamics between the two nations. Focusing on the evolving landscape under the Afghan Taliban rule, the book meticulously examines its implications specifically for Pakistan. Readers can expect comprehensive insights, meticulously researched and presented, providing a deeper understanding of the geopolitics in this pivotal region.

Drawing upon his extensive expertise as an Islamabad-based journalist specializing in AfPak relations, militancy and terrorism, Raja Furqan Ahmed presents a comprehensive study in "Taliban's Return: Pakistan's Strategic Crossroads." The book thoroughly explores historical foundations, contemporary challenges and potential opportunities for Pakistan under Taliban rule.

Last day of registration for AIOU convocation

👺 City desk

ISLAMABAD: The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is scheduled to take place on January 31, 2024, and today (Wednesday 10th January) is the last day for registration. Meanwhile, according to AIOU, the eligibility criteria for registration



has also been amended and the condition of at least 70 percent marks has been removed. Now all the graduates from Semester Autumn 2004 to Spring 2022 can register on http://convocation.aiou.edu.pk.

The convocation is of great importance in the life of a student, Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has advised students to take advantage of this opportunity, register themselves and make this convocation a memorable moment of life.

AIOU Convocation 2024 will be held on January 31, 2024, at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, who is also the Chancellor of the University, will be the chief guest at the event. Students from Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and Rawalpindi Division (Attack, Chaklala, Jhelum, and Rawalpindi) will participate in the convocation at Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad.

The convocation for the Karachi chapter is scheduled for March 3, 2024, while Lahore's convocation will be held on March 28. Quetta will host its ceremony on May 19, and the convocation for

Peshawar is scheduled for June 9, 2024. PhD graduates are required to register in Islamabad only.

The students of MPhil programs will be awarded gold medals and degrees at the convocations held in their respective cities. For more details about the convocation, students can contact convocation@ aiou.edu.pk or 051-9571717.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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Pakistani student praises China's environmental protection efforts

Pakistani student visited the Yellow River in Pinglu county, Shanxi province and praised China's efforts to protect migratory birds from Siberia.

"The spectacle attracts many tourists and photographers, including Pakistani student Anees Ur Rahman this winter. "These birds fascinate me, and their presence enhances the beauty of our planet," he said.

His passion for birds and nature drove him to travel thousands of kilometers from Pakistan to study wildlife protection at Beijing Forestry University. During his time in China, Rahman has regularly participated in field visits and has conducted research on wild bird habitats across the country, giving him in-depth knowledge of China's ecosystems and bird conservation efforts.

Wang Chao, from Pinglu's forestry bureau, said, "In recent years, the environment of the Yellow River Basin has been continuously improving, and the number of wild swans wintering here has peaked at over 10,000."

China's bird resources are among the richest in the world, with four of the nine major global bird migration flyways passing through the country, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administra-

The administration's monitoring efforts confirm that the populations of more than 20 rare and endangered bird species in China have increased significantly in recent years. The revival of the crested ibis is especially notable, with its population soaring from just seven in the 1980s to 7,000 last year.

"China's rich biodiversity and its commitment to environmental conservation were key factors in my decision to study here," Rahman said, adding that he saw an opportunity to contribute to and learn from a vibrant research community, particularly given the rapid environmental changes in China.

To better safeguard birds during their migrations, China has set up a comprehensive network to protect them, including breeding, wintering and resting stations, and wetlands and natural reserves, covering almost every key node of the migratory bird flyways.

"Over the years, I have witnessed positive changes in China's environmental practices," Rahman said. "Stricter regulations, increased investment in renewable energy, and a growing emphasis on sustainable development indicate a significant shift toward a more environmentally conscious approach."

Baluchistan - A Gem within the Jewel - III

its developmental journey, the collaborative efforts between the Pakistan Army, the government, and local communities exemplify the collective commitment to a brighter and more prosperous future for Baluchistan.

Now come to the issue of missing persons in Baluchistan. Pakistan's position on this matter reflects the delicate balance between ensuring national security and addressing the legitimate concerns of families and activists. The nation places a premium on national security, especially in regions prone to insurgent activities.

Baluchistan has witnessed instances of separatist movements and violence, prompting security forces to take action to maintain law and order. The government has taken steps to address the concerns raised by families of missing persons and human rights organizations. Special commissions and tribunals have been established to investigate cases and ensure a fair and transparent process. The government asserts its commitment to upholding human rights standards in dealing with these

One challenge faced by the government is the complexity of investigating cases related to missing persons. Baluchistan's vast and rugged terrain, coupled with the presence of various armed groups, makes conducting thorough and independent investigations challenging. The government contends that such challenges can hinder timely and conclusive resolutions.

Pakistan faces the delicate task of striking a balance between national security imperatives and safeguarding human rights. The government asserts that actions taken by security forces are in response to genuine threats to state

to prevent abuse of power and ensure accountability.

Acknowledging the need for greater transparency and accountability in addressing the issue of missing persons, efforts are being made to strengthen investigative processes, ensure due diligence in legal proceedings, and provide families with timely and accurate information about the status and whereabouts of their loved ones. Pakistan emphasizes the importance of dialogue as a means of addressing the root causes of discontent in Baluchistan.

The government recognizes that political, economic, and cultural

grievances need to be addressed comprehensively to build trust and create an environment conducive to reconcil-

In Pakistan, when the government and enforcement agencies take strong actions against terrorist

for human rights promptly voice their concerns. Interestingly, these advocates often remain silent when other countries implement even more stringent measures against such elements within their borders. Our judicial justice system is widely acknowledged for its flaws and delays, with cases taking years to conclude and often resulting in the punishment of the innocent while the actual culprits go free. In such circumstances, whenever our agencies detain a suspicious person for investigation and evidence collection, accusations of forceful and unlawful arrests arise.

I firmly believe that our agencies do not apprehend innocent individuals without reason, and there is always

s the province continues stability and that measures are in place someone is innocent and has not acted no country in the world compromises against the state or armed forces, there is no reason for anyone to apprehend them. There is always a story behind every missing person, and our religion emphasizes the love for our country, the nation that has granted us identity and freedom. This loyalty is particularly evident when we consider the struggles for freedom faced by the Palestinians and the people of Kashmir in Occupied Kashmir.

> Notably, not all individuals reported as missing are under the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies; some have affiliations with terrorist organizations and engage in conflict against the state.

Individuals with ties to terrorism may go into hiding to evade arrest. Additionally, some people become missing due to personal vendettas, seeking refuge in remote areas to escape potential revenge from adversaries. Others may be connected to

elements, those who claim to advocate cross-border smuggling and various criminal activities, prompting them to remain in hiding. The classification of these individuals as missing persons can be intentional or unintentional, influenced by design or lack of awareness.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of every individual to recognize the significance of our freedom, an independent country, and a patriotic army. While it may be easy to immediately blame agencies for allegedly apprehending innocents, it is essential to remember that these arrests have led to the disclosure of many terrorists, anti-state elements, and foreign spies. Terrorists never admit their crimes themselves, and investigations are crucial to extracting information from them. National substance behind these arrests. If security is a non-negotiable aspect, and

on this front.

The operation against terrorists and anti-state elements is not limited to Baluchistan only; it is carried out all over Pakistan. The actions are taken against only culprits who, in turn, raise their arms against the State and the Pak Army. These false accusations from these anti-state elements don't represent the voice of the whole province.

Now, let's come to the Baloch Unity Council's protest in Islamabad. There's an ongoing discussion and a requirement for an inquiry to determine whether their grievances regarding the disappearances of their loved ones are legitimate or if they are manipulating public sentiments to provide a protective shield for terrorists. Additionally, concerns have been raised about the protest leader, Dr. Mah Rang Baloch, and his familial connection to his father's involvement with the BLA and attacks on state institutions. The question arises: in a scenario where everyone claims innocence, who is responsible for acts of terrorism, suicide attacks, and the targeting of civilians and military personnel? If these matters are to be decided through public gatherings, does this not render the role of courts, the state, and its legal authority obsolete? Seeking decisions based on personal choices through crowds seems rath-

Readers, Baluchistan is an important part of Pakistan and is the heart of the country. Pakistan, the Pak Army, and the people of the country acknowledge the importance of this key province of the country. Baluch people also appreciate the steps of the State taken for their benefits. It is imperative to address the malicious intentions of anti-state elements decisively, employing strong measures, as these actions are intended to undermine the strength of Pakistan.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Playing With Higher Education in Pakistan - II

letter to HEIs and Universiasked to hire TTS faculty and discouraged BPS faculty appointments in universities. It was aimed to 'reduce' financial burden in terms of Pension liabilities. However, the current rise in TTS salaries increased the salary budget of universities many fold. The salary of a single TTS professor is more than the salary of two BPS professors.

To gauge the performance of the faculty working as per TTS system a formula was designed. It focused more on the number of publications not quality of research, and for that HEC developed Research Journals policy and a space was created for fake research and making money.

TTS teachers were compelled to publish their work in those journals which are recognized by HEC only. These journals charge 'publication fee' from the researchers and faculty. Some editors I approached regarding the matter told that, previously HEC used to give financial support to research journal however it has reduced it to a nominal amount now and push us to charge research-

The fee varies from 20,000 in Z and Y Category to 300,000+ in X category journal. As per lok Sujaj's report in some cases the complete process of publication is phony

EC introduced TTS (Tenured where they are mentioned as 'Reviewer'. It is express speed. As a result there is thousands Track System) and through a happening right under the nose of HEC and of BPS faculty who are working on the same as per sources HEC's high rank officials are ties in 2010, universities were also involved in this black market, because at the end it is HEC that look into the matter of registrations, categorization, and approval of these journals. In fact the HEC's officials established TTS system for making money and not academic development.

The absence of a clear service structure



and promotion policy, As per 10 Q Power and Functions HEC Act, the BPS (Basic Pay Scale) are pushed to join the race of publications as well.

The promotion of BPS faculty is in fact a fresh appointment. The post is every time created through F&PC and advertized. The candidates have to apply and compete. To strengthen ones position BPS faculty members try to publish more work irrespective of quality. They pay higher fee to X and W and the reviewer in some cases doesn't even category Journals. The process of 'promotion/ know the name of these research journals appointment' takes more than four years at

position for more than fifteen years.

Along with that HEC Islamabad is trying harder to sustain its pre 18th amendment position by controlling Syllabus, Finance, planning, curriculum, Policies and standard of education and even after devolution Higher education remained a federal subject in practice under Ministry of federal education and Professional Training. They are doing experiments time and again and make decisions in a rush.

For example, in the last two years two scheme of studies (2020 and 2022) were adopted. Similarly the TTS system of teaching and research has been amended over fifty times in two decades. Along with BPS system, TTS was introduced without ground work and proper financial impact. Now HEC is planning to introduce a third system called University Pay Scale (UPS). There is no consistency in HEC's policies which has worsened the standard of higher education in Pakistan.

The HEC leadership lacks vision and is more interested in their political affiliation than academic development. Now the time is ripe for establishing and strengthening provincial HECs for the development of higher education in Pakistan.

The writer is a Lecturer in AWKUM. He can be reached at sohail.baber@conceptschools.edu.pk

The Lingual Dilemma: a Crisis of Identity - II

Shumaim Sohail

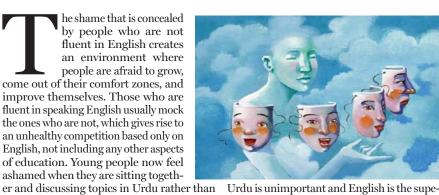
he shame that is concealed by people who are not fluent in English creates an environment where people are afraid to grow, come out of their comfort zones, and improve themselves. Those who are fluent in speaking English usually mock the ones who are not, which gives rise to an unhealthy competition based only on English, not including any other aspects of education. Young people now feel ashamed when they are sitting togeth-

English. There is the constant fear of being rior language judged by peers, and the pressure of proving intellectual skills just by English proficiency.

Younger children have been impacted to an even higher level where they clearly state that they hate Urdu. Their content intake also comprises only English cartoons and rhymes etc. This development of sentiment of hatred against their own national language is very concerning. The future rests in the hands of youth, and if the youth is ashamed

of its language, its culture then there can not the coming generations are well-equipped in be many high hopes for the future.

Parents play a huge role in this case as well. Nowadays parents start talking to their children in English at a very young age so they can ensure that their child doesn't not fall behind from others. This makes children believe that



The remnant of colonialism flashes in front of us and mocks at us. English is very impor-

tant, there is no doubt about that but the national language and its protection is vital to the survival of the nation. We need to bring a change in the thinking patterns of society, and this depends on the youth to first build their narratives on personal understanding. Once the youth break free from this mindset of lingual

dilemma, they can ensure that

both languages for all the challenges that will come their way.

The writer is a student of social sciences and can be reached at basiliskfang10@ gmail.com

China's top diplomat presents diplomatic goals for 2024

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday presented China's diplomatic work for 2024, saying that China will always be confident and self-reliant, and fulfill its duties as a responsible major country.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when addressing a symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2023.

Wang said China will give full play to the strategic leading role of head-of-state diplomacy and make every effort to ensure the success of events including the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Boao Forum for Asia, the China International Import Expo and the Forum on Global Action for Shared Develop-

China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, and strive for a favorable external environment for building a new development pattern and achieving high-quality development, Wang said, adding that it will firmly assume its responsibilities on major issues concerning the unity, cooperation and legitimate rights of developing countries and major issues concerning the future and destiny of mankind and the direction of world development.

Wang said China will remain committed to openness and inclusiveness and strengthen and expand the network of global partnerships.

Specifically, Wang said China will implement the consensus reached by the two heads of states of China and the United States in San Francisco, and deepen strategic mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Russia to consolidate their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era.

China will increase high-level exchanges and strategic communication with the EU to promote the steady and sustained growth of their relations. The country will continue to increase friendship, mutual trust and convergence of interests with its neighbors, work hand in hand with other developing countries, unite with the BRICS countries, and promote the building of a new type of international relations, he said. China will also actively implement the Glob-

al Civilization Initiative, promote the common values of mankind, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and advance mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries.

Wang said China will always uphold fairness and justice, advocate the building of an equal and orderly multi-polar world, practice genuine multilateralism, promote democra-

cy in international relations, and uphold the equality of all countries.

Calling on all countries to jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, safeguard the universally recognized basic norms governing international relations, and participate in the reform and construction of the global governance system, Wang said China will fully implement the Global Security Initiative, uphold fairness and justice, actively promote peace talks, take a constructive part in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Ukraine crisis and other global and regional hotspots, and provide more public goods conducive to world peace and development.

Wang said China will continue to pursue win-win cooperation and actively promote inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, pledging to firmly oppose all forms of unilateralism, protectionism and anti-globalization, continue to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, strive to solve structural problems hindering the sound development of the world economy, and maintain the stability and smoothness of global industrial chains and supply chains.

China will promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, increase its input on global development cooperation, help developing countries improve their capacity for independent development, make globali-

2023年国际形势与中国外交研讨会 百年变局纵深演进下的中国外交: 责任与担当



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2023 in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 9, 2024. (Xinhua/Zhai Jianlan)

of the third Belt and Road Forum for Inter-

zation more open, inclusive, beneficial to all anational Cooperation, upgrade the quality of cooperation, expand cooperation areas, and It will also fully implement the outcomes continue to provide new opportunities for the world with China's new development, he said.

China's operating high-speed railway hits 45,000 km

👺 Xinhua

BEIJING: The total length of China's operating high-speed rail tracks reached 45,000 km by the end of 2023, data from the national railway operator showed Tuesday.

The operating mileage of China's railway network amounted to 159,000 km, according to a work conference of the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd.

In 2023, the fixed-asset investment in the country's railway sector stood at 764.5 billion yuan (about 107.7 billion U.S. dollars), marking a 7.5 percent increase year

A total of 3,637 km of new tracks went into operation in 2023, including 2,776 km of



completion and operation of

tion last year includes the tion of services at 102 railway are still under construction, stations, and the advance-

said the compan

President Japarov signs order on establishment of Islamic Academy



Mews Desk

President Sadyr Japarov has signed the order on establishment of Islamic Academy in the town of Tokmok, Chui region.

The Islamic Academy will carry out activities in the field of higher professional, secondary professional, graduate and additional education.

The Academy will conduct scientific and methodological, analytical and publishing activities in the field of theological education.

The Academy will conduct in-depth researches and disseminate values of traditional Islam in accordance with the state policy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the religious sphere

Uzbekistan will create 5 million jobs in 2024, says Mirziyoyev

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a government meeting on January 8 dedicated to job creation and easing doing business, the presidential press service

According to official statistics, the number of unemployed Uzbeks is 1.3 million. This year, another 2.4 million people will join the labor market, the president underscored at the meeting.

Taking this into account, the president unveiled the plan to create 5 million (!?) jobs in 2024. In particular, 2.5 million jobs will be created in the services sector, 2.1 million in agriculture, 250 thousand in investment projects and industry, 140 thousand in construction, he noted.

While, it is planned to involve 2 million people into doing business through the introduction of new financial instruments, including a new microfinance system.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev approved the presented program for creating new jobs for 2024

The Ministry of Economy and Finance has been instructed to identify additional reserves and opportunities for creating new jobs.

Arab society has time-honored bond with majestic camels

№ News Desk

RIYADH: The bond between Arabs and camels in the vast deserts of this part of the world weaves a tale of companionship and reliance that reaches deep into antiquity.

Bedouins, the quintessential desert dwellers, found consolation and great help from these majestic creatures as they traversed the arid terrain in search of sustenance. With their resilience, camels bore the weight of countless journeys, their significance immortalized in the grand gestures of gifting them to leading figures in every age.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Otaibi, chairman of the Saudi Society for Camel Studies, says there is a profound historical connection between Arabs

Al-Otaibi highlighted the renowned she-camel Al-Qaswa, ridden by the Prophet Muhammad. This animal is considered the second most famous after the she-camel of the Prophet Saleh, and is etched in the collective memory and identity of Arabs and Muslims.

The sacred texts also mention the significance of these animals. The Qur'an makes multiple references to these creatures, emphasizing their role as a sign of Allah's great generosity. Various hadiths also highlight the revered status of camels in Arab society.

The Arabs' deep-seated attachment to camels is reflected in other ways. In ancient times, Arabs used the words wealth and camels interchangeably in their vernacular.

Dr. Hind Al-Mutairi, an academic at King Saud University, explains that camels, often referred to as the "ships of the desert," symbolize movement, work and survival in the barren and harsh environment.

These resilient creatures serve as a lifeline, protecting their owners from the perils of the unforgiving desert. The Arabs, therefore, developed an intimate bond with camels, carefully observing their well-being, strength, and unique characteristics, she said.

According to Al-Mutairi, the Arabs bestowed myriad names on camels to capture their diverse characteristics. Hundreds of names were used to describe adult camels, herds, females, males and offspring. And camels were also distinguished by weight, eyesight, milk production, and swiftness. Even camels carrying warriors or plagued by thirst were granted distinct names.

This lexicon of camel-related terms enriched the Arabic language and found expression in ancient poetry. In fact, Arabic boasts a staggering 10,046 words related to camels, as documented in the book "Camels in the Ancient Near East and the Arabian Peninsula."

Arabic poetry has long celebrated the she-camel, held in high regard by Bedouin tribes, said Al-Mutairi.

Apart from their ability to travel vast distances with heavy loads, Al-Otaibi emphasized other benefits of camels including their meat and milk, as well as their wool to make tents. Moreover, they were given as treasured gifts to kings and distinguished leaders,

symbolizing reverence and respect. Saudi Arabia is a guardian of this proud heritage, including under the leadership of

King Abdulaziz. Al-Otaibi said: "King Abdulaziz had a deep affection for camels and cared for them. He appointed individuals to oversee them, due to their vital role in the unification process, as they formed the backbone of King Abdulaziz's army."

One example of the king's interest in camels, said Al-Otaibi, was his practice of gifting valuable camel breeds to tribal leaders and loyal

These traditions continued under King Saud, King Faisal, King Khalid, King Fahd, and King Abdullah. The world-renowned Janadriyah Festival was one of the events used to showcase the bond with these animals, with races held and Saudi Arabia's heritage high-



Prince Mohammed bin Salman, even more prominence is accorded to these animals, with the establishment of the Camel Club, and festivals named after the two leaders.

ment adopted the statute of the Internation- of their heritage.

Under the reign of King Salman and Crown al Camel Organization, and in December last year, it designated 2024 as the Year of the

In addition, Saudi Arabia's passport showcases imagery of a herd of camels to demon-In February 2023, Saudi Arabia's govern-strate the attachment citizens have to this part

Shocking moment avalanche plunges towards tourists in Kyrgyzstan

跨 Spokesman Report

A British hiker captured the moment a terrifying avalanche hurtled towards his tour group on Friday, in Kyrgyzstan's Tian

Posting a video to Instagram, 26-vear-old Brit Harry Shimmin described how his group of 10 was hiking through the Tian Shan mountains when they heard "the sound of deep ice cracking", before looking up to see the wall

of snow shooting towards them. In a sobering caption, Mr Shimmin details how he'd been slightly separated from the group when the avalanche started, and speculates that if they had walked five more minutes along the Central Asian trail, they would

"Nine Brits and one American on a guided tour of the Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan. We'd just reached the highest point in the trek and I separated from the group to take pictures on top of a hill/cliff edge," Mr Shimmin writes alongside the video.

"While I was taking pictures I heard the sound of deep ice cracking behind me."

He explains that he had spotted an area for shelter right next to him, but acknowledges that he "left it to the last second to move" when the avalanche started.

"Yes, I left it to the last second to move, and yes I know it would have been safer moving to the shelter straight away. I'm very aware that I took a big risk. I felt in control, but regardless, when not have survived the experience. the snow started coming over and



it got dark/harder to breathe, I over Mr Shimmin's head as he was bricking it and thought I

might die," he adds. In the video, a thick layer of ice and snow can be seen hurtling

continues to film. He goes on engulfed in an avalanche.

to describe the feeling of being Behind the rock it was like

being inside a blizzard. Once it was over the adrenaline rush hit me hard. I was only covered in had walked five minutes further a small layer of snow, without a

"I felt giddy. I knew the rest of the group was further away from the avalanche so should be okay. When I re-joined them I could see they were all safe, although one had cut her knee quite badly (she rode one of the horses to the nearest medical facility)," he said.

"Another had fallen off a horse and sustained some light bruising. The whole group was laughing and crying, happy to be alive (including the girl who cut her

But, he says, the euphoria was $\,$ tinged by horror at how close the group had been to the deadly path of the avalanche.

"It was only later we realised 348,000 views on Instagram just how lucky we'd been. If we on our trek, we would all be dead." He described how the pack of

tourists examined the train ahead of them afterwards, taking in the scale of the danger and damage.

"If you look carefully in the video, you can see the faint grey trail winding through the grass. That was the path. We traversed it afterwards, walking among massive ice boulders and rocks that had been thrown much further than we could have run, mine and got stitched by a doctor

even if we acted immediately. "To make it worse, the path runs alongside a low ridge, hiding the mountain from view, so we would have only heard the roar

before lights out," he adds. Harry's video has already had life".

alone, as well as being shared widely on Twitter and other social media platforms. In a follow-up post, Mr Shim-

min confirmed that everyone involved had able to leave the trail safely and that one group member-and American woman who had "cut her knee to the bone" was treated at a nearby hospital.

"After the avalanche she spent three hours on a horse to the medical centre of a nearby gold there. She was then in ER for a while in a local hospital. She's since flown back to the US," he explained.

He called the avalanche "one of the craziest experiences of my

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
64,170.57	64,237.02		
Day's High	Day's Low		
64,786.35	63,878.21		
Index Value	Change		
7,970,154,743	-66.45		
Percentage	Time		
-0.1%	9 Jan, 2024		
	5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,683.96	-10.23		
Percentage	Time		
-0.13%	9 Jan, 4:35 pm		
•	GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
37,522.37	-160.64		
Percentage	Time		
-0.43%	9 Jan, 12:14 pm		
	GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
33,763.18	+385.76		

Percentage

+1.16%

Time

9 Jan, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189.5	191.5
Bahrain Dinar	748.63	756.63
Canadian Dollar	209	211
China Yuan	39.53	39.93
Danish Krone	41.3	41.7
Euro	308.5	311
Hong Kong Dollar	36.06	36.41
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.08	925.08
Malaysian Ringgit	60.53	61.13
NewZealand \$	175.89	177.89
Norwegians Krone	27.33	27.63
Omani Riyal	731.38	739.38
Qatari Riyal	77.37	78.07
Saudi Riyal	74.7	75.4
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	27.47	27.77
Swiss Franc	332.42	334.92
Thai Bhat	8.2	8.35
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	357.5	360.5
US Dollar	280.9	283.4

China makes solid progress toward goal of becoming a trader of quality: Commerce Minister



Xinhua

BEIJING: Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao said on Tuesday that China, the world's top trader in terms of goods, is making steady progress toward its goal of becoming a trader of quality.

Wang, when delivering a special report on the nation's foreign trade development at an economic climate seminar held in Beijing, said that China's foreign trade had withstood downward pressure in 2023 as both its scale and share in global trade had remained generally stable.

Meanwhile, the nation's foreign trade structure became more optimized and its partners more diverse in 2023, which fully demonstrated strong resilience, Wang

While noting risks and challenges such as sluggish external demand, the minister pointed out that the fundamentals of China's long-term economic growth had not changed, providing strong support for the development of the nation's foreign

"We have the capability and confidence to make new progress in promoting the high-quality development of trade at a higher level," Wang said.

The minister said that the ministry, in line with the guiding principles of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and work arrangements made by the recently held Central Economic Work Conference, will make efforts to expand high-level opening up, cultivate new drivers of foreign trade, expand intermediate goods trade, service trade, digital trade, and cross-border e-commerce exports, and deepen international economic and trade cooperation.

100 Pakistani firms show up in Cairo as Pakistan holds PATDC, single country exhibition

Spokesman Report

CAIRO: The Fourth Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (PATDC) and Single Country Exhibition was inaugurated here on Tuesday with over 100 Pakistani companies in presence to enhance trade and economic cooperation and open new horizons between Egypt and Pakistan. Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries & Production Dr. Gohar Ijaz along with Minister for Trade & Industry of Egypt Ahmed Samir and Minister of Public Business Sector Mahmoud Ismat jointly inaugurated the event at the Egypt International Exhibition Center, Cairo.

A delegation comprising government officials and top business and industry professionals from Pakistan, led by Dr Gohar Ejaz is visiting Cairo for the event being held from January 9-11. More than 80 leading businessmen and chamber representatives from the countries of the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region are attending the conference to strengthen commercial ties with businessmen from Pakistan. The event commenced with an exclusive official conference, which will be followed by an inclusive two-day single-country exhibition. Ambassador Sajid Bilal, in his remarks, welcomed the attendees at the 4th Pak-Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition.



exhibition He stated that the Government of Pakistan under the "Look Africa" Policy had successfully conducted similar events in greater commercial benefits. Under this policy, he said the government aimed to find alternate with the development of bilateral trade," he Council (GCC).

100 Pakistani firms show up in Cairo markets for its goods and enhance governas Pakistan holds PATDC, single country ment-to-government and business-to-business ties with countries in the African region. "We are reaching out to MENA region to forge stronger ties with peoples, institutions and Johannesburg, Lagos and Nairobi yielding authorities. Egypt is the gateway to Africa; China and particularly the Free Trade Agreeour brotherly relations will grow stronger ment with the countries of Gulf Cooperation

remarked. The ambassador highlighted that the event coincided with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Egypt.

Ahmed Samir, in his speech, extended greetings and gratitude to Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce and TDAP for organizing this conference and bringing together a diverse group of businessmen committed to promoting bilateral trade. Such events bring about multilateral cooperation and benefit businesses in both countries and support each other's aspiration for socioeconomic development, he stressed.

The minister said that Africa was a great attraction for investments and similarly was Pakistan with its strategic position, skilled labour and vast potential. He said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Egypt was around \$400 million and he looked forward to wider horizontal diversification. Minister for Commerce Dr. Gohar Ijaz, in his inaugural address, stated that Pakistan was over 100 billion dollars economy with a population of around 250 million people. He said that Pakistan was ready to take off with investor-friendly trade, investment and industrial policies. He highlighted Free Trade Agreement with

TikTok Creator Awards

celebrate #YearOnTikTok

Gas Load Shedding Increased

ISLAMABAD: A loader motorist loaded LPG Cylinders moving through busy Faizabad road with any safety precautions, which may cause any incident any time.



₿ PNP

ISLAMABAD:

marked the end of the year with an immersive spectacle event–Year on TikTok 2023 in Lahore. The event marked a celebration of community, creativity, and self-expression where TikTok celebrated its Pakistani creator community, top videos and trends of the year with the end of year Creator Awards and exciting performances

in Pakistan

Saif Mujahid, Head of Content Operations & Marketing-Pakistan TikTok, said, "We are filled with pride as we celebrate our community who have been ka Haq (areeka haq) a driving force behind some of the most exciting content. of 2023. The members of our community have shown incredible creativity by showcasing innovative ideas to Hamza Zohaib (hamza vfx) turning their passions into successful careers,"

TikTok has continued bubaker)

the end-of-year celebrations and invite users to share their memories wrapped up in trending sounds of #YearOn-TikTok which made 2023 a year that's truly #ForYou.

The winners: Top Emerging Creator -Kazi Akber (kaziakber)

Bilal Munir (Videowalisarkar) Top Health & Fitness Creator - Bilal Kamoka

Top Technology Creator

(bilalkamokaofficial) Top Entertainer - Romaisa

Khan (romaisa.khan._) Top Food Creator-Adeel Chaudry (adeelchaudry1)

Top Fashion Creator-Aree-Top Travel Creator-Abrar

Hassan (widelensbyabrar) Top Sports Creator - Ch Waleed Rauf (chwaleedrauf) People's Choice Award -

Top Creator of 2023 -Malik Abubaker (malika-

DHO Islamabad to facilitate chemists and druggists in business promotion

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association (PCGA) Federal Branch met with Dr. Zaeem Zia, District Health Officer, Islamabad, and discussed with him matters to promote ease of doing business for the chemists and druggists in the federal capital and facilitate the better growth of their business activities. Mian Tariq Saeed Chairman, Qaiser Masood Secretary General PCGA Federal Branch, Tariq Mahmood, Arif Yar Khan, Najeeb Abbasi, Abdul Aziz, Malik Ashfaq, Usman



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari monitor such illegal activities. briefed the DHO Islamabad

Hafeez, and others were in the that the government should develop a proper mechanism to

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. about the key issues of the chem- Zaeem Zia, DHO Islamabad ists and the druggists and offered assured the delegation that he useful suggestions to resolve would take measures to address them. He highlighted the impact the issues highlighted by them. of online buying and selling of He said that the online system medicines on the genuine busi- of pharmacy licenses, mediness community and stressed cal store licenses, and distribu-

tion licenses would be further improved as per suggestions given by the delegation. He also briefed the delegation about the deployment of new ambulances arranged by the DHO Islamabad for the DHUs in Islamabad, which are equipped with modern equipment.

Mian Tariq Saeed Chairman and Qaiser Masood Secretary General Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association (Federal Branch) shared their ideas to further improve the digitization of licenses for pharmacies and medical stores to promote ease of doing business. They also shared their proposals about Nordex and Sanofi companies that needed the attention of DHO Islamabad.

Ali Ahmed Khan FrieslandCampina Global

№ PPA

KARACHI: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan announces the promotion of Ali Ahmed Khan to the position of President of the Middle East, Pakistan, and Africa (MEPA) region at FrieslandCampina.

Ali's exceptional leadership and visionary approach have been pivotal in his transformative tenure as Managing Director of FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan (FCEPL). Under his guidance, FCEPL has experienced significant growth and profitability, and continues to increase its market share across all cate-

Ali Ahmed Khan's exemplary performance has also led to his appointment to the executive board of Friesland Campi-

The Company is confident that Ali's strategic vision and leadership will continue to drive growth and success in the MEPA region for FrieslandCampina.

He will be succeeded by Syed Kashan Hasan as Managing Director of FCEPL. effective February 1st, 2024. Bringing 22 years of rich experience across commercial functions, Kashan Hasan is a seasoned professional with a history of driving performance and innovation. His career spans various regional and global roles across Pakistan, South Africa, the UK, the Middle East, and North Africa.

SMK Paracha Association to Support Youth in **Increasing Technical Skills**

№ PPA

KARACHI: SMK Paracha Association is set to support youth in enhancing their technical skills and explore avenues for their active participation in the country's economy. This consensus was reached during the annual working committee meeting, presided over by Usman arships to students and ensur-Paracha, President of SMK Paracha Association. Former Commissioner Karachi, Shafigur Rehman Paracha, Muhammad Yaqoob Paracha, Saifullah Paracha, Qasim support the young generation

mad Yousuf Paracha, Saleem ing higher and quality educaattended the meeting.

During the meeting, there was a comprehensive discussion on the annual performance and future plans. Special emphasis was placed on enhancing the technical skills of the younger generation. The provision of scholing medical facilities for those in need were also scrutinized.

Taking into account the suggestions of the members, a consensus was reached to Yagoob Paracha, Muham- of Paracha families in pursu-

Paracha, and other members tion. Efforts will be made to provide scholarships based on individual needs, and initiatives will be taken to develop the skills of the youth in line with the requirements of businesses and industries.

Setting goals for the year 2024, the meeting also focused on future welfare projects, the establishment of new committees, and making the association more proactive. New Committees to Collaborate on Future Projects Including searching an appropriate cemetery



Furthermore, a decision address the challenges faced members informed about the was made to conduct month- by members. These gatherings ly association meetings to will serve as a platform to keep

initiatives.

Novak Djokovic must defy wrist injury, Carlos Alcaraz threat at Australian Open

Sports Desk

Novak Djokovic is once again red-hot favourite at the Australian Open as he chases an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title, but a wrist problem and the emergence of Carlos Alcaraz put his all-conquering reign under threat.

The 36-year-old from Serbia defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in last year's final for a record-extending 10th Melbourne crown then added the French and US Open titles to his collection in 2023.

But he lost a pulsating Wimbledon final to Alcaraz, who is a different player to the one that last graced the Australian hard courts as an 18-year-old ranked outside the top 30.

The 20-year-old missed last year's event with a hamstring injury and arrives this time as a two-time major champion, world number two — behind Djokovic — and the brightest young star in tennis.

Rafael Nadal, Djokovic's long-time rival, on Sunday pulled out of the Australian Open with a muscle tear in a fresh blow to the veteran's hopes of returning to the top of the sport.

Nadal's fellow Spaniard Alcaraz opted to skip a warm-up tournament for the opening Grand Slam of the year, making his 2024 form

But Novak Djokovic dropped a set to the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka at the United Cup and then crashed to Australian Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4.

It snapped a 43-match win streak in Australia and Djokovic will begin his defence with an injury cloud hanging over him, needing treatment on his right wrist through both matches.

"I think I have enough time to get myself in the right shape for the Australian Open and that's what matters the most at this point," he said after losing to De Minaur.

"It's all part of the build-up for the Australian Open. That's where I want to perform at

Djokovic's United Cup troubles followed defeat to Jannik Sinner at the Davis Cup to end his 2023 season, with the burgeoning Italian world number four another young pretender out to dethrone him.

It will be a tall order.

Djokovic has not lost at the Australian Open since 2018 and has a 20-0 record in semi-finals and finals at Melbourne Park.

"When I'm fit, when I'm at the peak of my performance, I can win any Slam or any tournament, I know that, I'm not afraid to say that," said Djokovic.

"It's not a secret that I want to break more



records and make more history in the game." Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel Novak Djokovic's haul of Grand Slam titles makes him the most successful player in the

history of men's tennis, ahead of Nadal on 22. If he wins again in Melbourne he will over-

take the Australian Margaret Court, who won 24 majors in the women's game.

At least he no longer has to worry about Nadal, who has flown back to Spain for treat-

The 37-year-old only made his comeback prevent some late-night finishes.

last week at the Brisbane International after being out of tennis since injuring his hip at the 2023 Australian Open.

Nadal's absence could spell the end of his career in Australia, after saying in Brisbane there was a "high percentage" that 2024 would be his farewell to the tour.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev, a Melbourne finalist in 2021 and 2022, will also be a

Like Alcaraz, he chose not to play a warmup event but enjoyed a resurgent 2023 with 66 wins -- more than any other player on tour to earn five titles.

The 27-year-old, who won the US Open in 2021 for his only Slam crown, said he had never been more motivated.

"At this stage of my life, at least right now - and I hope this can last for a long time — I have just the biggest motivation ever to just continue finding my limits," he said.

Last year's losing finalist Tsitsipas will also fancy his chances, while world number five Andrey Rublev will get his campaign underway on the back of winning the Hong Kong Open.

The Australian Open starts on Sunday, becoming a 15-day event for the first time to help spread out the early-round action and

Pindi girls, Lahore boys win U-16 Inter-Division badminton team event titles

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Rawalpindi girls team defeated Gujranwala by 2-1 and Lahore boys team outplayed Multan by 2-0 to win U-16 Team Event titles of U-16 Talent Hunt Programme Inter-Division Badminton Championship at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) Gymnasium Hall on Monday.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was the Chief Guest on this occasion. He distributed prizes among the top position holders.

In the Girls' Team Event final, Rawalpindi team defeated Gujranwala by 2-1. (Gujrwl) by 18-21, 21-19, 21-18.



In the first single match, 21-15 in the first Double Hamna Irshad (Gujrwl) beat match. Rumaisa of Rawal-Sameen (Rwp) by 21-13, pindi won the second singles 21-19 and Sameen & Rumaisa match against Samha Naveed (Rwp) beat Samha & Hamna of Gujranwala by 15-21, 21-19,

by 2-0. In the first single match, Hussain Shahzad Usman of Multan by 22-20, first double match.

In the Boys' Team Event 21-16, 22-20 while continufinal, Lahore beat Multan ing their dominance Hussain & Shahzaib (Lhr) trounced Multan's Ahmad & M Ahmad of Lahore beat M Ahmad by 20-22, 21-16, 21-18 in the

Lahore beat Sahiwal by 2-0 in Girls' Team Event 3rd/4th position match while in Boys' Team Event 3rd/4th position match, Gujranwala beat Bahawalpur by 2-1.

Angelo Mathews returns as Sri Lanka name squad for Zimbabwe T20Is

COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Tuesday, unveiled a strong 16-member T20I squad for the threematch home series against Zimbabwe, which marked the return of seasoned all-rounder Angelo Mathews.

Mathews made his return to Sri Lanka's T20I side after a gap of almost three years, he last represented the Island nation in the shortest format back in 2021.

The all-rounder will add experience to the side, led by Wanindu Hasaranga for the first time.

Mathews, who represented Sri Lanka as a replacement in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, forms a part of a strong batting group that has vice-captain Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Sadeera Samarawickrama and Pathum Nissan-



the series is subject to his fitness. Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel The 16-member Sri Lanka squad also

However, Nissanka's participation in features plenty of all-rounders in the mantha Chameera lead the Sri Lankan Nuwan Thushara, Akila Dananjaya.

form of Dhananjaya de Silva, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Hasaranga and Kamindu Mendis.

Dilshan Madushanka and Dush-

pace attack, which also features Nuwan Thushara and Matheesha Pathirana.

Hasaranga will lead Sri Lanka's spin department and is accompanied by Maheesh Theekshana and Akila Dananjaya, who also played his last T20I in 2021.

The three-match T20I series will run from January 14 to 18. All three matches of the series will be held at the Rana Premadarsa Stadium here.

The two sides are currently competing in a three-match ODI series. Sri Lanka lead the series 1-0 with one match to go.

Sri Lanka T20I squad: Wanindu Hasaranga (c), Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kusal Janith Perera, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, Pathum Nissanka (subject to fitness), Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana,

Zone-IV Whites 2nd Consecutive Victory in A. S Natural Stone U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tourney

₿ Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-IV Whites defeated Zone-I Blues by 226 runs in their Second match of A. S. Natural Stone Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at Pak Star ground. The highlights of the days play was Deadly bowling by right arm leg spinner captured 6 Wickets for only 8 runs. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi. Scores in Brief:

Zone-IV Whites 298 all-out in 45 overs. Daniyal Khan Niazi 44, Owais Ahmed 44, Rana Areeb 35, Muhammad Owais Zahid 34, Musa Azad 33, Abdul Razzaq 33, Muhammad Iqrar 27. Qambar Abbas 3/44, Nadeem Khan. 2/48. In reply Zone-I Blues 72 all out in overs. Methew Rizwan 19. Muhammad Bilal Khan (rls) 6/8, Abdul Razzaq 2/15.

Bangladesh have good chance of winning T20 World Cup 2024: Shakib Al Hasan



LAHORE: Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan says his team have a good chance of winning the ICC T20 World Cup 2024.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bangladesh have come under the radar for its performances in the International Cricket Council (ICC) events. The side failed to qualify for the

playoff stage of the T20 World Cup in 2021 and 2022. The team finished in eighth position in the ICC Cricket World

Cup 2023 in India.

Shakib Al Hasan, who became a parliamentarian by winning a seat in the Bangladesh general elections, backed his side to perform well.

In an interview, the all-rounder said the conditions in the West Indies and the United States suit their team.

"The tournament will take place in the US and the West Indies." he said according to the Daily Star. "The condition will suit our style of cricket. So, we have a good chance. We have been playing really well in T20s in the last one year. The team is well-balanced, it's also in good rhythm. Everyone's playing well.

"The team played well in New Zealand as well. Of course, we have a lot of expectations."

Mohamed Salah aims to lead Egypt to African glory

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Serial goal scorer Mohamed Salah, who has Pharaohs teammates want more. conquered the world, Europe and England with Liverpool, is now dreaming of leading Egypt to African glory.

He has come agonizingly close twice with his country, being part of the teams that lost the 2017 and 2022 Africa Cup of Nations finals to Cameroon and Senegal respectively.

In between reaching those title deciders, hosts Egypt suffered a humiliating last-16 loss to outsiders South Africa that left a 70,000 Cairo crowd speechless.

Egypt are among the favorites for the 2024 title in the Ivory Coast as they seek a record-extending eighth title in the premier

African sporting event. Drawn with Ghana, Cape Verde and Mozambique in Group B, it is widely expected that Egypt

round of 16.

But captain Salah and his Much more. They want to play in the February 11 final at the 60,000-seat Alassane Ouattara Stadium in Abidjan and win it.

"I want to win this competition," said the prolific scorer in Cairo as he showed off a new haircut following social media criticism of his scraggly locks.

"Having come so close twice, I would love to help Egypt win the final and lift the Cup of Nations

"I am so happy to play in this wonderful African football tournament and my teammates and I are desperate to succeed.

"It means a lot to play for the Egyptian national team. It is a great feeling to put on the red jersey, which has been worn by some many greats in the past.

"Every time I step on the pitch

representing millions of Egyp-Follow us on our Official

WhatsApp channel "We know the streets of Cairo, Alexandria and other cities,

towns and villages will be empty when we play in the Ivory Coast. "People will either be at home

or in cafes, cheering our every move, willing us to score and wishing us success.' Salah, who arrived at Liver-

pool in 2017 after spells with Al Mokawloon in his homeland, Basel, Chelsea, Fiorentina and Roma, is no stranger to success. He helped Liverpool win the

Club World Cup and UEFA Champions League in 2019 and the Premier League one year

In his last match for the Reds before flying to Egypt, the 31-year-old whose full name is Mohamed Salah Hamed

will finish first and qualify for the I am conscious of my role – I am Mahrous Ghaly netted twice in a 4-2 league win over Newcastle United.

Ghana boast the third most successful Cup of Nations record with four titles, behind Egypt (seven) and Cameroon (five), but it is 42 years since they last triumphed.

Otto Addo, who quit as Black Stars coach after an early 2022 World Cup exit in Qatar, turned heads when he said the fixture against Egypt will be the easiest in the group for his country.

"Egypt are going to be overwhelming favorites to beat Ghana so all the pressure will be on them. The Black Stars will be motivated by the fact that no one gives them a chance.

"I believe it is easier to face Mohamed Salah and the other Egyptian stars than trying to break down the well-organized defenses of Cape Verde and Mozambique."



Ghana are pinning their hopes of a good run on Mohammed Kudus, an attacking midfielder who has been outstanding for attackers Andre and Jordan — as ination.

West Ham United this season. They can also call on the

they attempt to banish memories of a disastrous 2022 campaign long-serving Ayew brothers - that ended in first-round elim-

The Spokesman

Group photo

KARACHI: Group photograph of Naval officers and participants after opening brief of Exercise Sea Guard 24.



President for implementing job quota for persons with disabilities

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underscored the need to implement employment quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at all levels of the Government for their financial empowerment. He suggested that government departments should identify jobs for PWDs and provide them employment as per their skill set to increase their inclusion in the workforce.

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on implementing employment quota for Persons with Disabilities sion, Mr Ali Tahir, and senior (PWDs), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Secretary Ministry of Human Rights, Mr Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary Federal Public Service



Hasnain Mehdi, Special up almost 12% of Pakistan's them as per the nature and Secretary Establishment Diviofficials of the government help overcome existing barriattended the meeting.

members of society, the Pres-Commission (FPSC), Syed ident said that PWDs made employers to provide jobs to ties. He recalled that he had cause of PWDs.

population and affirmative actions like iob quotas could ers to their employment. He Highlighting the need underscored the need to equip by the society to encourage to make PWDs productive PWDs with employable skills them to actively participate

severity of their disability. The President empha-

sized the need for attitudinal change towards PWDs and link them with potential in socio-economic activibeen urging private schools to admit children with disabilities and take measures to promote inclusive education in mainstream educational institutions

Secretary FPSC briefed the meeting about the steps taken by FPSC for the facilitation of PWDs. He informed that PWDs were eligible to appear in CSS exams against all occupational groups and FPSC was especially facilitating them by providing those additional time and writing assistants during the exams.

The President asked the participants to identify roadblocks and difficulties in the implementation and fulfilment of job quotas for PWDs in the government sector. He appreciated the ministries for their cooperation towards the

PM vows befitting response in case of 2019-like aggression from India

Spokesman Report

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday warned that with a renewed determination and defence capability, Pakistan would befittingly respond if India resorted to any 2019-like aggression, ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-

"Pakistan will exactly do the same as it did in 2019. We will hit their planes. We will respond in the same coin... Neither our old. Our bullets are new and our determination is quite renewed and fresh," the prime minister said in the podcast with a digi-

Namaz-e-

Janaza of

Muhamamd

RAWALPINDI: Namaz-

Muhamamd Zahir (age: 41

years, resident of District

Mardan), who embraced

shahadat on 08 January

2024 in North Waziristan

District was offered at his

with full military honour.

Senior serving mili-

tary officers, relatives of

Shaheed and locals of the

area attended the funeral.

stan stand resolute and

committed to eliminate

the menace of terrorism

from the motherland at all

Armed Forces of Paki-

Shaheed was laid to rest

native hometown.

e-Janaza of Havildar

Havildar

Zahir

offered

跨 City desk

Shaheed

tal media channel.

He said that no one should ISLAMABAD: Caretaker be delusional about Pakistan's response as it had an entire defence mechanism in place to protect its people. He viewed that till the reso-

lution of the Kashmir dispute, the potential for conflict would continue to exist and anything could trigger any sort of

Coming to the upcoming general elections in Pakistan, he said the threat of terrorism existed especially in the southbullets nor determination are ern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and certain areas of Balochistan, posing significant vulnerabilcampaigns. However, the situ- any threat, regardless of wheth- Minister Kakar said the rele-



ation had not reached a level to question the legitimacy of the

entire electoral process. He reiterated the govern-

er there were elections in the country or not.

Regarding grievances and concerns of some candidates ities to candidates and their ment's resolve to respond to and political parties, Prime

vant forums of ECP and judiciary were there to address the situation.

"Our role is not to act as a judiciary or ROs (returning officers), obstructing or constructing opportunities for someone. If someone feels there is unfairness, the appropriate forums are available," he remarked.

Discussing the situation in Balochistan, he mentioned the role of militant groups such as BLA, BRA, and BLF which were considered terrorists even outside Pakistan. He opposed some segments of the society attributing their actions to underdevelopment and lack of state investment.

Business community take advantage of GSP+ by diversifying exports: EU Envoy

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka, Tuesday, advised business community of Karachi to broaden and diversify their exports to EU for taking maximum advantage of EU's GSP Plus scheme for Pakistan which has recently been rolled over for four more years up to 2027.

The EU envoy, while exchanging views at a meeting during her visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said that EU's GSP Plus for Pakistan has been rolled over without any changes to the rules framework so everything was going to stay the same up to 2027, said a statement issued here.

"GSP Plus has been extremely positive and useful in economic terms during the last 10 years as it helped in increasing Pakistan's exports to EU by 108 percent while EU imports also ascended by 40 percent

since the start of this program", she added. Riina Kionka termed GSP Plus as tremendously important for Pakistan's



economy as it was beneficial not only for textile producers but also through the trickle-down effect of all those people who work in textile factories.

While identifying Gems and Jewelry, Tourism, Handcrafts and Auto Parts etc. as potential sectors under GSP Plus, the EU Envoy noted that 28 percent of Pakistan's exports come to European single market which was a good number but it could further be enhanced.

Islamabad has been working to enhance and prosperity.

Pakistan's exports through better utilization of GSP Plus, diversifying exports, investing in value-addition, using new technologies and IT solutions for better access to EU Market, besides bringing in the SMEs who are the backbone of any

She informed that EU's delegation in Islamabad would also like to set up a platform to promote EU-Pakistan business-to-business relations which could also help the SMEs in making good connections with businesses in EU and ultimately help the SMEs in Pakistan to also benefit from GSP Plus.

Earlier, President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, while welcoming EU's Ambassador, pointed out that in addition to being a major trading partner of Pakistan, it was really encouraging to see that the EU has been supporting Pakistan's integration into the global economy while Pakistan was committed to fortify enduring, future-oriented and comprehensive part-She informed that EU Delegation in nerships with EU for peace, development

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Maritime Security Exercise Sea Guard-24 **Commences At Karachi**

KARACHI: Opening Brief of Exercise SEA GUARD-24 was held at Karachi. Commander Coast Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The exercise involves representation of various ministries, departments and organizations having linkages with maritime sector like Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Livestock and Fishing Sindh, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Narcotics Control, private entities and NGOs to support multifaceted challenges of Maritime arena both from traditional and non-traditional threats. Leadership of various organizations attended the session which includes Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Anti-Narcotics Force, Pakistan Coast Guards, PMSA, KPT, Port QASIM, with a debrief session on 18 Jan 24.

BYCO Petroleum, in addition to other prominent figures from private sector and fishing community.

Exercise Sea Guard aims to synergize efforts of stakeholders while remaining within their legal framework through a common pedestal of Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) to ensure security of Maritime Zones of Pakistan. During the opening brief participants were briefed about working methodology and contributions of JMICC to ensure maritime safety and security along our Coastline. Commander Coast Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz applauded the efforts of all stakeholders in their contribution for a safer Maritime environment. The exercise includes conduct of various practical scenario based exercises at sea along with Table Top Discussions to improve existing mechanism of security. Exercise will conclude

The Minister for Public Health of Afghanistan visits COMSTECH



№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Igbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH received H. E. Dr. Qalander Ibaad, Minister for the Ministry of Public Health, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan at COMS- and progress," said Dr. Iqbal in the TECH Secretariat Islamabad, on January 9.

During the meeting Prof. Choudhary proposed the holding of Paki-Public Health, Kabul, and COMSing and capacity building for health- ing of our citizens. care professionals at the primary

Prof. Choudhary said that we believe that by joining forces and sharing expertise, we can significantly uplift the healthcare landscape in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This collaborative forum will serve as a platform for collective growth meeting.

Dr. Qalander Ibaad expressed his appreciation for the collaborative spirit, emphasizing the shared stan Afghanistan joint health forum. commitment to progress in health-This pioneering initiative aims to care. "Together, we can overcome unite experts from the Ministry of challenges and work towards a healthier and more resilient society TECH. The primary focus of this
This collaborative effort is a testaforum will be on collaborative train- ment to our dedication to the well-be-

> Senior officials from both sides also attended the meeting.

Corps Commander visits SBBWU, interacts with students

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Corps Commander Peshawar on Tuesday visited Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) Peshawar and had an interactive session with its

students and faculty members. He applauded the tremendous while defending the motherland.

achievements of women from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all fields of life, including their pivotal role in nation-building, said a news release.

The students on the occasion paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of armed forces in the line of duty

Moonis Elahi's non-bailable arrest warrants issued

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: A local court in Lahore on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for former federal minister Moonis Elahi in a case pertaining to alleged corruption in development projects.

As per details, Judicial Magistrate Imran Abid issued the non-bailable arrest warrants for former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi's son Moonis Elahi in Lahore Masterplan corruption case.

The anti-corruption officials stated that the former minister had not cooperated in the investigation and the case is standstill because of his concealment.

Moonis Elahi is facing allegations of billions of rupees of corruption in development

projects. Accountability Court Judge Naseem Ahmad Virk conducted the hearing and issued the arrest warrants which are valid until October 5.

Seven indicted in Naqeebullah murder case

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday indicted seven accused including a

former Station House Officer (SHO) in Naqeebullah Mehsud murder case.

The ATC heard Nageebullah Mehsud's murder case, one of the most high-profile cases in Karachi, during which former SHO Amanullah Marwat and other accused including Fida Hussain, Sadaqat, Riaz, Raja Shamim and Mohsin Abbas were presented.

Former police officer Shoaib alias Shooter, who is a prime suspect in the case and secured bail, also appeared before the court.

During the hearing, the court indicted seven suspects, however, they pleaded not guilty on which the ATC judge summoned investigation officer and

witnesses in the next hearing. These accused had gone into hiding after facing allegations of murder but surrendered before the court.