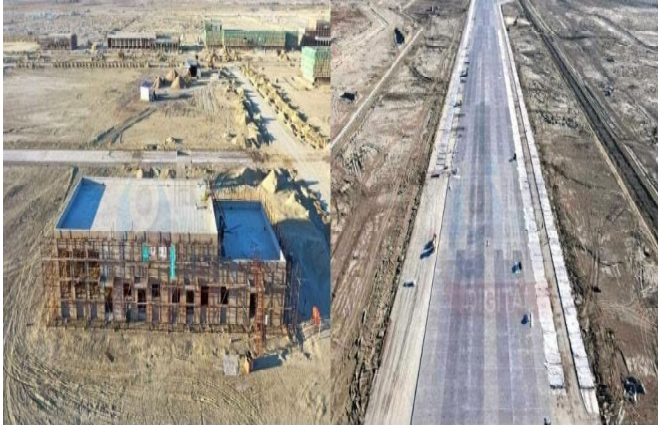


QUETTA VOICE

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A view of Gwadar International Airport

Gwadar Airport Emerging as Premier Aviation Hub: Nawaz

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a candid address to party workers in Quetta, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif painted a promising future for Gwadar Airport, declaring it as the frontrunner for Pakistan's premier aviation hub.

Reflecting on the PML-N's commitment to Balochistan's development, Sharif emphasized the extensive network of roads laid

down during his tenure, connecting the province with the rest of the country. He proudly noted the significant reduction in travel hours from Quetta to Gwadar, a tangible outcome of the infrastructure investments.

PMLN Launches Massive Develop

Asserting that his party had spearheaded massive develop-

ment projects in Balochistan, Nawaz Sharif expressed confidence in Gwadar Airport's ascent to national acclaim.

The former premier subtly criticized the incumbent government, without explicitly naming it.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, asserting that the Paki-

sthan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had failed to live up to its promises

of change in the region.

As political sentiments echoed in the hotel's halls, Nawaz Sharif's words resonated with the party faithful, painting a picture of hope and progress for Balochistan under the banner of PML-N.

The event underscored the ongoing political narrative, with leaders positioning their parties as the architects of Balochistan's transformation.

Despite fuel delivery, UN warns Gaza operations 'on verge of collapse'

GAZA: The World Health Organisation (WHO) head has said that the Israeli military incursion into Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza was "totally unacceptable". Reuters reports.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference in Geneva that patients and staff must be protected even if hospitals were used for military purposes. "Hospitals are not battlegrounds," he said.

Tedros said the organisation had no reports of the number of deaths and injuries in Gaza for the last three days, making it harder to assess the state of the healthcare system there. He said one WHO staff member had described it as: "No water, no electricity, only bombing, bombing, bombing." Tedros reiterated calls for a ceasefire and better access for aid into Gaza, as well as for the release of Israeli hostages being held there by Hamas.

UN trucks have planned to bring fuel into the Gaza Strip today, an Israeli military spokesman said on Wednesday.

"I know today that there's going to be fuel entering to the UN facilities inside the Gaza Strip," Lt-Col Richard Hecht said in an interview with CNN.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned there is no safe place for the Hamas fighter behind the October 7 attacks and "no place in Gaza" the army wouldn't reach, AFP reports.

"They told us we wouldn't reach the outskirts of Gaza City and we did, they told us we wouldn't enter Al-Shifa (hospital) and we did," he said hours after troops raked the territory's biggest hospital. NEWS DESK



Trapped Coal Miners

Rescue workers on the spot for the recovery of trapped coal miners in Dukki Balochistan. Photo Daily Quetta Voice

Tragedy Strikes: Miner Succumbs to Suffocation

Hussain Zarkoon:

DUKKI: In the heart of the wind-blowing town of Dukki, the tragedy struck the tight-knit mining community.

Rahimullah, a diligent miner and the son of Karimullah met an untimely demise due to suffocation in the depths of the local coal mine.

This is not the first time, a coal miner lost his life such kinds of untoward incidents are the order of the day in the dust-blowing town of Balochistan province.

Wednesday Dawned Like Any Other Day

Wednesday dawned like any other day, with miners descending into the earth's belly, their

faces etched with determination. Little did Rahimullah's family know that this routine venture would turn into a heart-wrenching ordeal.

As the coal mine's embrace tightened, an unforeseen calamity unfolded, robbing Rahimullah of breath and life.

Miners Community In Distress

Swift action ensued as fellow miners rushed to rescue their comrade, pulling him from the subterranean darkness.

Urgently, Rahimullah was transported to the local hospital, where the gravity of the situation unfolded.

Despite the medical team's valiant efforts, the grip of suffocation had proven too severe, leaving an irreplaceable void in the community.

As the news reverberated through Dukki, grief draped the town like a heavy shroud.

Rahimullah's legacy, rooted in the toil of the mines, became a poignant reminder of the risks borne by those who extract the earth's treasures.

The mining town mourned, weaving tales of resilience and loss, etching Rahimullah's name into the collective memory of a community

forever changed by the somber events in the coal mines of the area.

7 terrorists killed in KP's Tank district: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Seven terrorists were killed by security forces in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district, the military's media affairs wing said on Wednesday.

A press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security forces conducted an IBO in the general area of Kiri Machan Khet last night after receiving reports about the presence of terrorists.

"During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists as a result of which seven terrorists were sent to hell.

Terrorists hideouts were also busted during the operation."

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including recent target killings of police in Tank and surrounding areas," it added.

The ISPR said a sanitisation operation was being carried out in the area to eliminate any other militants, further said that locals "appreciated the operation and ex-

pected their full support to the security forces in elimination of menace of terrorism".

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the banned militant

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year.

On Monday, two soldiers were martyred while one terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in MirAli area of KP's North Waziristan district.

Last week, a Pakistan Army officer and three soldiers were martyred in an IBO in the Tirah area of KP's Khyber district while terrorists attacked the Pakistan Air Force's heavily guarded M.M. Alam Base on November 4.

On Nov 3, 17 security personnel were martyred in an ambush, bomb blasts and security operation in Gwadar, Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat. In September, data compiled by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies said the number of militant attacks in August was the highest tally for monthly strikes in almost nine years.

NEWS DESK

Balochistan Cabinet Greenlights Information Commission

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In a significant development for transparency and information access in Balochistan, the Caretaker Information Minister,

Jan Achakzai, announced the approval of the Information Commission by the Balochistan Cabinet.

Achakzai, emphasizing the importance of the commission, revealed his dedication to its establishment, working tirelessly for its Rules of Business approval.

He stated that the appointment of four Information Commissioners for the inaugural Balochistan Information Com-



mission is imminent.

This commitment to transparency and governance priorities was conveyed during a meeting with Mir Bahram Lehtri and

Mir Bahram Baloch, underscoring the government's dedication to fostering openness and accountability in the province.

IMF 2nd tranche 'expected this week'

NEWS DESK: IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Wednesday said the agreement for the release of the second tranche, amounting to \$3 billion under the Standby Arrangement (SBA) with Pakistan, was expected this week.

"I expect an agreement of the review to come within this week," Georgieva told Bloomberg Television's Haslina Amin in an interview in Singapore.

The confirmation from the top official comes amid reports of the IMF advising Pakistan against creating a group of preferred investors or distortions in the country under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and to ensure transparency and accountability in its business deals.

The IMF executive board had approved the much-needed nine-month SBA with Pakistan "to support its economic stabilisation

programme". The approval had allowed for an immediate disbursement of \$1.2bn, with the rest to be phased over the programme's duration—subject to two quarterly reviews.

"If the second quarterly review is successful, it will allow for the release of the second tranche worth \$710m.

The IMF's technical staff initiated the first evaluation of the short-term loan agreement on Nov 2, which concluded on Nov 10.

Dawn quoted informed sources as saying the IMF and the Pakistan authorities had covered most of the areas during policy-level discussions and there was a problem area left out.

The two sides were reported to have had back-and-forth clarifications on Tuesday on the finalisation of the

PM Kakar foresees ML-1 as coming most favourable transit route for region

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar foresees the Main Line (ML-1) railway project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as most favourable transit route for the regional countries.

The prime minister on Wednesday vowed to complete ML-1 on a priority basis, saying the project would also improve connectivity between the country's seaports with its economic zones.

While chairing a meeting to discuss ML-1 here at the PM House, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the project would contribute to the improvement of communication network in the country.

The prime minister said there existed huge potential for foreign investment in Pakistan Railways and stressed the need for early materialization of its projects. He stressed meeting the targets of the project within stipulated time and directed the formulation of a comprehensive reform strategy



for Pakistan Railways to maximize the benefits of the ML-1.

Emphasizing transparency in the implementation of ML-1, he said, the project would result in the creation of new employment opportunities and reduced travel time and freight rates. The meeting was told that the ML-1 project was in its final stage of modalities and its ground-breaking would be performed by early next year.

The project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will

be laid from Karachi to Multan.

Also, the railway infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood will be upgraded as per international standards. In the next phase, the 796-kilometre-long rail track from Multan to Peshawar will be laid in line with the requirements of the future. The meeting was attended by caretaker federal ministers including Shamsud Akhtar and Sami Saeed, PM's Adviser Ahmad Khan, PM's Special Assistant Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the ministries concerned.

VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Nawaz Gains Electable Support, Meets JUI, PKMAP, NP for Key Alliances

Editorial: QUETTA: In a strategic move, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has gained the support of over two dozen electables...

During his two-day visit to Quetta, Sharif held crucial meetings with key political players, including the Baloch National party National Party (NP), Jamiat ul Ulema Islam (JUI), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP)...

Bilawal Suggests PML-N To Focus On Lahore Instead Of Quetta Sharif's visit comes after Bilawal Bhitto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), suggested that the PML-N leaders focus on Lahore instead of Quetta...

Nawaz Gains Support Of BAP, PKMAP, NP, and JUI Notably, meetings with JUI, NP, PKMAP, and BAP indicate a strategic effort by PML-N to maximize support in Balochistan for the upcoming general elections.

The NP and PKMAP both nationalist parties, had an alliance with PML-N after the 2013 elections when Dr. Malik Baloch served as the Chief Minister of Balochistan for two and a half years.

Despite having a majority in the house, the PML-N decided to appoint Dr. Baloch as CM. However, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri took over for the remaining period, only to be removed through a vote of no confidence by Mir Qaddus Bizenjo, leading to the establishment of BAP and dealing a blow to the PML-N.

As of this report, no delegation from the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) has contacted the former premier. These developments provide a clear snapshot of party positions in the upcoming general elections in Balochistan.

The underground arena

By Rafia Zakaria:

CONCERNS have grown further with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) reaching the Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza. According to reports, those from whom are inside the hospital compound, armed personnel vehicles or tanks have surrounded the premises and army personnel were not permitting anyone out or into the medical facility.

This meant that the fuel for the generators being used to run the hospital was also not being delivered — and a couple of days ago, it ran out. All premature babies that were relying on incubators to stay alive would die, hospital officials announced.

Many patients in intensive care units were already dead. Medical staff from Doctors Without Borders who were providing care in the hospital said that they would not leave the hospital until their patients had been evacuated. Overworked and utterly traumatised, the medical staff has remained in the hospital.

On the Israeli side, it was the same thing: points since the beginning of the war. The hospital was a front for Hamas to hide fighters and hostages they insisted even as the rest of the world winced at the painful images of tiny babies in incubators that would soon stop providing them with the heat, light and oxygen they needed to survive.

Then, perhaps responding to the world that saw its actions as inordinately cruel, they shared a different explanation. In a hastily produced video, an Israeli commander appeared in what he said was the 'basement' of the Rantisi paediatric hospital. The news he pointed to was supposed to be proof that Hamas had been using the hospital for nefarious purposes.

Hepointed to a motorcycle, this motorcycle, he went on to say, had been used by Hamas fighters in the attack on Oct 7. Little later, he entered a makeshift living room with dark vinyl couches all along the walls of the room. Behind him, multiple emergency exits were visible. This room, the audience was told, was the one used by Hamas to house its points at the IDF forces. The curtains were not covering any windows but blank walls. This, the commander insisted, was proof that the room had housed hostages and were used to film videos.

What Israeli forces had actually been hoping to find in the hospitals was some entrance to the tunnels that Hamas is known to have dug under Gaza. This tunnel network is supposed to be over 480 kilometres long with areas inside them wide enough and reinforced with sufficient concrete to transport large construction equipment such as bulldozers.

According to the New York Times, which has published a long report, the latter are a vast maze of passageways under the most densely populated portions of Gaza. Often, access to these tunnels is through innocuous-looking doors with padlocks. While Israeli continues to kill children and destroy babies in attacks on hospitals in Gaza, the Muslim world has chosen not to go beyond a statement of condemnation. The joint resolution, issued after the emergency summit meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic

Cooperation in Riyadh last week, is yet another shameful act of betrayal of the hapless Palestinian people, some are facing a genocide, their inaction virtually makes these countries abettors in the mass killing being carried out by the Zionist forces in Gaza. Last week, leaders of Arab and predominantly Muslim countries met as Israel's attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip killed more than 11,000 people, more than half of them women and children. Yet they could not agree on even a minimum plan of action against Israeli aggression and war crimes. Such inaction by the Muslim world has certainly given the Zionist state, which has tacit support of the United States and some other Western countries,

Is climate change responsible for irregular weather patterns

Laiba Fatima

Climate change is actually increasing in greenhouse gas emissions which brought significant changes in Earth's weather patterns. It is characterized by changes in weather over a longer period of time, merely abnormal variations to the climate and its effect on different parts of the earth. The many causes contribute to climate change such as industrial processes that release greenhouse gases such as Methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide for stratospheric use of refrigerants and air conditioning. Deforestation, Biodiversity loss as species struggle to adapt to a changing environment.

At even faster rate. A due to an abrupt change in weather patterns has caused the southwest to experience less precipitation than normal. However, over the activities of a tropical storm in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean has surpassed during the past 20 years. The southern United States is very sensitive to alter weather condition specially to temperature and to drought small changes in the availability of water specially in this arid region will cost them suppress the summer dryness. Bangladesh has been fighting the effects

of climate change for decades. Due to rising sea levels coastal communities and island nations are at higher risk associated with climate crisis. Bangladesh is at number 7 on German watch's Climate risk index (CRI) for cumulative risk between 2000 and 2019. Same is the case with Philippines. In short I can sum up that Man is the only contributor of climate change and irregular weather patterns. Day by day trees have been cut down for construction purposes. Our life is totally dependent on trees as

The effect of pollution on the nutritional status of infants

Marwa Amin:

Pollution is a global problem which is increasing day by day. Pollution not only destroys our natural environment but also our human health. Its harmful effects on respiratory system is well documented not only on humans but also on infants killing them prematurely. According to WHO About 92% of people are living in the world where the air quality is unhealthy and especially when infants breathe in such polluted air it badly affects their respiratory system which is underdeveloped. However polluted air accounts for 20% of newborn deaths worldwide, having complications of low birth weight and preterm birth. Children are more vulnerable to pollution as compare to adults as their bodies are not fully developed and their developing lungs and brain are more prone to air pollution, same is the case with their immune system which are weaker than adults it mostly increase the risk of respiratory diseases (asthma, pneumonia, and premature death) and it affects their cognitive development. It also affect the learning and developmental potential of a child for example when a child get sick it might miss their school which further limit

their learning process. As per records in 2019, 476,000 infants died in their first month of life from health effects associated with air pollution exposure. The uncontrolled death of infants associated to air pollution are related mostly to household air pollution while in south Asia death tolls of infants reaches to 50% (36,000) attributable to household air pollution. In sub-Saharan Africa nearly 86% (236,000) deaths of infants are associated with household air pollution while in south Asia death tolls of infants reaches to 50% (36,000) attributable to household air pollution. We need to stop this

As far as concern with Pakistan so a record as highest death toll of infants in a year and pneumonia is a leading cause of it. Biomass fuel (wood, crop residues, animal dung) which is mostly used in every house of Pakistan leading to incomplete combustion which cause a serious health concern specially in infants which increase the awareness against this evil. Industrial waste should be disposed off at safer side which should not pollute air quality and also water. Small steps should be taken to abolish pollution, only this can save our infants from premature death.

Shameful capitulation

By Zahid Hussain:

THERE had never been more expectations from the Arab countries to stand up in support of the Palestinian people after their occupation. After all, many of them have been Muslims, some of the Zionist state of Israel. But one had hoped that the ongoing atrocities committed by the Zionist forces in Gaza would have shaken them out of their slumber. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

While Israel continues to kill children and destroy babies in attacks on hospitals in Gaza, the Muslim world has chosen not to go beyond a statement of condemnation. The joint resolution, issued after the emergency summit meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Riyadh last week, is yet another shameful act of betrayal of the hapless Palestinian people, some are facing a genocide, their inaction virtually makes these countries abettors in the mass killing being carried out by the Zionist forces in Gaza. Last week, leaders of Arab and predominantly Muslim countries met as Israel's attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip killed more than 11,000 people, more than half of them women and children. Yet they could not agree on even a minimum plan of action against Israeli aggression and war crimes. Such inaction by the Muslim world has certainly given the Zionist state, which has tacit support of the United States and some other Western countries,

free rein to commit the worst war crimes. Earlier, according to some media reports in the Arab world, four 'influential countries' in the Arab League had been instrumental in preventing the adoption of concrete plans of action against Israel, and, instead, proposed vague clauses that had either opposed the proposal or abstained from endorsing them. The UAE and Bahrain, ties with Israel, were among the countries who opposed the proposal with Saudi Arabia and Egypt also believed to number among the states that opposed the proposal against Israel.

In a watered-down joint resolution in the subsequent Arab-OIC summit only called for an end to the conflict in Gaza and rejected justifying Israel's actions against Palestinians as self-defence. The communique demanded a halt to the Gaza siege, the permitting of humanitarian aid into Gaza and stopping arms exports to Israel. However, the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation was not even mentioned, rendering the joint statement toothless. This abandonment of the Palestinian people facing barbarism by the Israeli killing machine is being linked to the undemocratic nature of the regime. Their continuing political dependence on the US, which is complicit in the Zionist regime against Palestinian men, women and children.

Increasing margins If not now, when?

By Arooj Waheed Dar:

THE economic turmoil in Pakistan can be attributed to several reasons including, but not limited to, exclusive institutions and lack of equal opportunities, that have culminated in low productivity and low economic growth. Exclusivity coupled with lack of entrepreneurship, particularly for women, have resulted in the death of innovation, limiting investment by the richer segments in non-productive sectors.

Sustainable and inclusive development requires that equal opportunities must be available for all irrespective of age, gender, religion, etc. Despite this realisation, policymakers have failed to effectively address the issue of gender disparity and financial inclusion, limiting the entrepreneurial potential of women in Pakistan. With low levels of saving and investment, the primary focus of the majority of the population in Pakistan remains centred on seeking employment rather than creating job opportunities. In terms of entrepreneurship, Pakistan presents a dismal situation for women who toil

away, employing their skills and talents for meagre daily wages, or for no pay. According to the Labour Force Survey for 2020-21, only two per cent of employers in Pakistan are women, representing a mere 0.1pc of the total working female population. Eighteen per cent working women are own-account workers. A staggering majority of never attended school and only 6.25pc have graduated with formal degrees. While training programmes are in place, those who are engaged for women focus primarily on skill provision such as tailoring, cooking, beauty parlour training, and so on. No counselling is provided on entrepreneurship. Lack of access to credit

and/or initial capital prevents women from pursuing and creating decent work opportunities. Additionally, the lack of options for safe and affordable transportation inhibits the capacity of women to engage in entrepreneurial activities. In Pakistan, a large part of female mobility is controlled — women need permission and an escort. While men have the cost-effective option to commute by motorcycles and bicycles, women either choose to stay at home, or remain dependent on males to accompany them due to cultural constraints. Commuting via public transport poses the risk of harassment, while travelling by rickshaws, O-rishaws and cabs is becoming increasingly unaffordable. All these coupled with the atrociousness of the idea of a female travelling by Bykea keeps women restrained at home.

The sheer magnitude of the consequences of these formal mandates serious action is required from policymakers. Historically, the government has exerted fruitless effort in trying to raise tax revenues by burdening the salaried classes beyond its capacity, but has failed to implement more sustainable and productive ways to raise revenues. What better way is there to increase the tax base than to productively engage more than half the population confined at homes due to fear of harassment, burden of household responsibilities, lack of mobility, cultural norms, or lack of knowledge? These constraints are not difficult to evade — digitalisation presents an optimum solution to the problem. With the advent of e-commerce, it is becoming increasingly critical to provide digital access to women so they can engage in economic activities from the safety of their homes. To improve digital access for females, measures need to be taken to expand device ownership, internet access, as well as digital literacy. Currently, women in Pakistan remain disadvantaged across all three domains. Through digitalisation, women will have easy access to markets and better knowledge of opportunities for innovation and growth. Within the US, meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters are routinely being branded as fans of Hamas, even if they happen to be Jewish. Donors are withdrawing their support from universities and other institutions, unless they effectively criminalise any manifestations of empathy for Palestinian lives. Dissenters against the Zionist credo are losing their jobs. Belgium is determined to lobby any legislators who diverge from its desired path of unquestioning acquiescence to the Jewish state's nastiest Nazi-like inclinations. The American congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian in the House of Representatives, has been targeted. Her comrades in the Squad have stood by her and her fellow members will face challenges next year from rivals funded by the American Public Affairs Committee. But Apac and its allies such as the Anti-Defamation League are also at war against fellow Jews who don't bite the Zionist bullet, notably groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace and

By Mahir Ali:

AMID all the horrors on show as a consequence of Israel's explicit determination to pulverise the Gaza Strip, nothing is quite as soul-searing as the tiny white shrouds. In one instance, a newborn's non-existence with a death certificate would be a birth certificate could be processed. The world occasionally wields its hands and whispers platitudes about protecting civilian lives, but refuses to demand a ceasefire. The US and its allies can barely pluck up the nerve to call for 'humanitarian pauses' — a brief and fairly meaningless hiatus before the baby killers once more flex their fingers around the triggers.

Alongside the Netanyahu regime, the chief culprit is the American political-military and corporate establishment. If it so desired, the US could have restrained Israel's genocidal impulses long ago — or, at least belatedly, last month. It chose, instead, to offer rational lethal weaponry and littoral code by aircraft carriers. Within the US, meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters are routinely being branded as fans of Hamas, even if they happen to be Jewish. Donors are withdrawing their support from universities and other institutions, unless they effectively criminalise any manifestations of empathy for Palestinian lives. Dissenters against the Zionist credo are losing their jobs. Belgium is determined to lobby any legislators who diverge from its desired path of unquestioning acquiescence to the Jewish state's nastiest Nazi-like inclinations. The American congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian in the House of Representatives, has been targeted. Her comrades in the Squad have stood by her and her fellow members will face challenges next year from rivals funded by the American Public Affairs Committee. But Apac and its allies such as the Anti-Defamation League are also at war against fellow Jews who don't bite the Zionist bullet, notably groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace and

If Not Now, which have coordinated many of the regular demonstrations in New York and elsewhere that have challenged Israeli impunity. It's not just younger American Jews who don't feel obliged to ally themselves with a state that no longer bothers to conceal its fascist faces. There are similar trends in Europe, where countries such as Germany and France were among the first to crack down on pro-Palestinian demonstrations, outlawing the Palestinian flag in some instances. Suella Braverman, the British home secretary, until this week, failed to do the same, although her dog-whistle to the far right to disrupt last Saturday's rally in London — after police refused to ban it — proved effective, and swayed the number of protesters.

Braverman, whose extremist predictions make some of her Tory colleagues seem undeservedly moderate, was sacked on Monday. By inducing former prime minister David Cameron as the new foreign secretary, Rishi Sunak must have been hoping to distract popu-

lar attention away from his government's irredeemable disarray. Unless this is topped before the next election, he is more than likely to make way as Downing Street for Keir Starmer, whose stint as Labour appears to be based on taking instructions from the Israeli embassy. He'll still win the next election, given the Conservative Party's 'evolving meltdown', but less convincingly than he would have without unequivocally latching onto the Zionist trajectory. Joe Biden is in a somewhat different position. He needs every vote he can get, and appears to have lost the reluctant backing of Arab Muslims and progressives among the Democrats. His likely 2024 rival, the appalling Donald Trump, knows that his electoral base is immune to any kind of common sense. If the multitudes disenfranchised by Biden don't bother to vote, Trump will be king. Perhaps that's why America deserves, if the multitudes disenfranchised by Biden don't bother to vote, Trump will be king. Perhaps that's why America deserves, if the multitudes disenfranchised by Biden don't bother to vote, Trump will be king. Perhaps that's why America deserves, if the multitudes disenfranchised by Biden don't bother to vote, Trump will be king.

SHC dissatisfied with police probe in Sakrand killings case

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Wednesday heard a petition seeking judicial inquiry and arrest of culprits of killings in Mari Sakrand. Four villagers were killed and scores of others including women were injured in the firing incident in Mari Sakrand village near Sakrand in Shaheed Benazirabad district. The high court bench expressed its dissatisfaction with the police inquiry into the incident and handed over investigation to DIG Police Shaheed Benazirabad.

"The families of deceased and injured in Mari Sakrand incident have been paid compensation," SSP Shaheed Benazirabad earlier told the court in police report. "The court notice with regard to producing heirs of the deceased village court has also been com-

plied with and they were provided vehicles for appearing in the case hearing," police said in its report. "You summoned family members of deceased to your office and delivered them notices," Justice Amjad Ali Saito remarked. "Why the accused are unknown in police challan," the bench questioned. "You yourself has said that the police went there in search of suspects," court further said. "Why the accused are unknown, if a police encounter took place," the bench asked. SSP Benazirabad said that the police and the plaintiffs have same stance. "If the deceased were criminals, why their families including women, court asked. "It is not compensation but relief money," SSP reported. "The village court has also been com-

Effective coordination among all agencies involved in disaster management stressed

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan Caretaker Home Minister of Balochistan Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamal has stressed the need of effective coordination and collaboration among all agencies involved in disaster management. He was speaking after inaugurating the first of its kind three-day provincial level Simulation Exercise (SimEx) organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) which kicked off in Quetta on Wednesday. The multi-hazards based Simulation Exercise was aimed at enhancing the preparedness and response capacities of key stakeholders of Balochistan during emergencies and disasters. Capt (Retd) Zubair Jamal appreciated the efforts of NDMA during the natural disasters.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of annual Margalla Dialogue 2023.

President Alvi presents LCCI Outstanding Contribution Award to Chinese scientist

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr. Arif Alvi presented the Outstanding Contribution Award to the first Chinese recipient. The award was bestowed upon Yang Yuanzhu, head researcher for the hybrid rice varieties and vice president of Yuan Longping Hitech, a renowned Chinese Agriculture company, in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the economic development and bilateral trade between Pakistan and China.

It was a historical moment for the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), as it was in connection with its 14th Outstanding Contribution Award celebration, Gwadar Pro-researcher for the hybrid rice varieties and vice president of Yuan Longping Hitech, a renowned Chinese Agriculture company, in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the economic development and bilateral trade between Pakistan and China.

of the award since its inception. On the occasion, President Dr. Arif Alvi delivered a major speech in which he highly acknowledged and lauded the outstanding contribution of Chinese hybrid rice to Pakistan's food production and foreign exchange earnings from rice exports. Under the leadership of Yang Yuanzhu, the country's economic development. A total of 13 people were honored this time, with Yang Yuanzhu being the first non-Pakistani recipient

10 years of efforts. In the last three years, the average annual sales of hybrid rice seeds have been around 5 million kg with a market share of about 40 percent, ranking first among all seed companies in Pakistan. With an annual uplift of over 800,000 acres of mixed rice, an annual increase of over 1.5 million tons of rice and an annual increase of over \$300million in foreign exchange, the team has made an outstanding contribution to the grain increase.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalid Hashmi interacting with Pakistanis Tourism Exhibitors at the China outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM) Expo-2023 at China National Agriculture Center.

India accused of switching pitch for World Cup semi-final clash with New Zealand

MUMBAI (INP): The Cricket World Cup has been plunged into an astonishing row amid claims the Indian board has switched the pitch for their team's semi-final on Wednesday (today) against New Zealand in Mumbai without the ICC's permission. And they could do the same in India reach Sunday's final in Ahmedabad, where three of the four group games have been played on different surfaces from those on the schedule. Pitches at ICC events are prepared under the supervision of the governing body's consultant, Andy Atkinson, who agrees in advance with the home board which of the numbered strips on the square will be used for each game. But Daily Mail has learned that the agreement has been ignored as the tournament reaches its climax, with the semi-final set to take place on a pitch that has already been used twice - potentially assisting India's world-class spinners as they seek to reach their first

50-over World Cup final since 2011. The pitch for Wednesday's game at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium was supposed to be No 7, an entirely fresh surface unused for any of the venue's four group matches. But a WhatsApp message circulated on Tuesday to a group of more than 50 BCCI and ICC officials confirmed that the first semi-final had been moved to pitch No 6, which has already staged games between England and South Africa, plus India and Sri Lanka. Atkinson is understood to have been told there is an unspecified problem with pitch No 7 - an opinion he is thought not to share. It follows concerns that plans for the final at Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, where India or New Zealand will meet Australia or South Africa, who play in Kolkata on Thursday, may also be changed unilaterally. Atkinson is understood to have grown frustrated at the lack of a straight answer about preparations for the fi-

nal, which prompted him to fly to Ahmedabad last Friday. And it has been spired that while the tournament's opening game, between England and New Zealand, had taken place on the pre-agreed pitch No 6, none of the next three matches conformed to the schedule, with Atkinson claiming in an email to his bosses that the changes had been made 'without proper notice or forewarning'. The matter was complicated by the fact that he was told by the ICC's senior events manager at the venue that the India Pakistan game there on October 14 took place on pitch No 7, as per the schedule, when it actually took place on pitch No 5. Atkinson's recommendation is that the final, too, should be played on pitch No 5, which has been used only once, though he learned last week that pitch No 6, which has been used twice - could get the nod, again bringing India's spinners into play. When he asked who authorised the various changes, the

BCCI said it was the Gujarat Cricket Association, while the GCA claimed they had been acting under instructions from the BCCI, with the requests made directly by the Indian team management. In his email, Atkinson warns: 'As a result of these actions, one must speculate if this will be the first ever ICC CWC [Cricket World Cup] final to have a pitch which has been specifically chosen and prepared to their stipulation at the request of the team management and/or the hierarchy of the home nation board'. He added: 'Or will it be selected or prepared without favouritism for either of the sides competing in the match in the usual manner, and unquestionably because it is the usual pitch for the occasion?'. The ICC independent pitch consultant works with the host and venues on their proposed pitch allocations and this process is ongoing throughout an event of this length and nature.

PUCV urges students to learn for challenging the old work

LAHORE (INP): Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has said that to move forward, students must learn to challenge the old work so that emerging sources can be found. He was addressing the national conference on "Emerging Issues in Libraries & Information Management (EILIM)" organized by Punjab University Institute of Information Management here on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Director Institute of Information Management Prof Dr Nosheen Fatima Warach, from University of Management Prof Dr Abdul Hameed, Professor of Information Science Amy VanSooy from University at Buffalo, New York, faculty members and a large number of students were present. Address the participants, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that many times in the Holy Quran, research and re-

flexion have been emphasized for which we should adopt study habits. He said that keeping up with technology in the modern age is one of the major challenges. He said that the ability of students to ask questions and familiarity with their subject is essential. He congratulated the organizers for organizing the conference. Prof Dr Abdul Hameed said that every one has to work together for the promotion of education in the country. He said that we have to understand that every human being is different from others.

purpose of organizing the conference was to enlighten the students with each other's experiences and research activities. She said that the Institute of Information Management will continue to play its role in the process of self-learning.



ISLAMABAD: Bahria University Rector Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq, called on Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed.

UN FAO calls for transformation of Pakistan's agriculture and food system

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of Pakistan (FAO) has issued a stark warning that the country's current agriculture and food system is unsustainable and incapable of meeting the nutritional needs of its growing population. Report titled "The Hidden Costs of Unsustainable Food Systems," highlights the alarming environmental, social, and economic consequences of the current system, urging a paradigm shift towards a sustainable and equitable approach. The report underscores the urgent need for a series of recommendations for the agri-food system to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, poverty, inequality, and food security. It emphasizes the need for increased data

investment, improved resource optimization, and a more holistic approach to agricultural management practices, sustainable soil management, and a large number of students were present. Address the participants, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that many times in the Holy Quran, research and re-

It suggested for optimizing resource use through improved water management practices, sustainable soil management, and a large number of students were present. Address the participants, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that many times in the Holy Quran, research and re-

It recommends that empowering smallholder farmers through access to credit, training, and market opportunities. It focuses on reducing food waste throughout the supply chain. It calls for shifting consumer preferences towards more sustainable and healthier food options.



QUETTA: Young Police officer Shahid Jameel kakar posted As SDPO District Killa Abdullah.

Advertisement for 'اطلاعات برائے رابطہ' (Information for contact) with contact details and QR code.

Supreme Court bans use of word 'sahib' for government officials

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday ordered banning the use of word sahib for government officials during hearing of a criminal case.

The chief justice was hearing a three-member bench which was hearing the bail plea of a murder accused of Mandan.

The use of word sahib by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa additional advocate general (AAG) for a police officer irked CJP Isa. When the chief justice asked him to give details of the case, the AAG said the "DSP sahib can explain."

The chief justice retorted that you have spoiled everyone by calling them sahib. "He is a DSP, not a sahib. He is an incompetent DSP."

The CJP said the use of the word sahib does not reflect an independent nation. When the word sahib is used for government employees, they think that they can't be held accountable.

He ordered to send a copy of the decision regarding the ban

(on the word sahib) to the KP IG police, advocate general and home department.

CJP Isa observed that police did not investigate the case. They consider the Supreme Court a court of magistrate.

He expressed his anger as the AAG and other officer failed to argue the case. "Are we here to see the faces of lawyers? Was the [case] file so heavy that two officers of KP had to bring it to Islamabad?"

The CJP observed why the nation was funding police. A nine-year-old boy had been murdered and police investigation was incomplete. Due to flawed investigation, the court would release a suspect and they [police] would blame the court, he remarked.

CJP Isa observed that police did not deem it necessary to investigate the case seriously as the dead boy belonged to a poor family.

He asked a police official about his burgoning wait. You are a member of a force, he said and added that in the past a belt

was used [by the officials].

The chief justice expressed his anger when the AAG sought details from the DSP. "Is it a courtroom, or your office? It is responsible attitude to do office work in the courtroom," he remarked.

CJP Isa asked police officer about evidence against the accused. The DSP (investigation) Peshawar replied that two witnesses saw the child with the accused. The chief justice said that you could add four witnesses [in the case], where is the evidence?

The DSP said the child used to work in his uncle's workshop.

The chief justice observed how an uncle let his nephew go with a stranger? "Why did the workshop inform the child's family about the incident after 16 days? Why did the police not record the statements of the workshop employees?" he asked the DSP.

The KP police [officials] are the worst [investigators], the chief justice continued.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises.

ANF foils 8 drug smuggling bids, seizes 29kg drugs, arrests 5 drug pushers

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) foiled eight narcotics smuggling bids, seized 29 kgs drugs, besides arresting five drug pushers during separate actions.

A spokesman of the ANF Headquarters said on Wednesday that on intelligence tip-offs regarding, the ANF personnel started special surveillance and managed to recover total 29 kgs drugs in eight operations. Five drug smugglers were also sent behind the bars, he added.

During search of a parcel book for Bahrain, about 400 grams ice drug concealed in two shampoo bottles was recovered from a courier office in Rawalpindi.

In another operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 79 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger. An accused, resident of Sahiwal, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-676.

A passenger traveling to Qatar via flight number QR-621 was also arrested at Allama Iqbal International Airport. Over 1.5 kgs ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of the accused, resident of Bahawalnagar.

In an operation at Sialkot International Airport, 2.3 kg ice hidden in the passenger's trolley bag was recovered. The accused, resident of Bahawalnagar, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769.

The ANF recovered 10 kilograms hashish from the possession of an accused, resident of Sajawal netted from Mohammadi Chowk, Hyderabad.

About 10 kgs heroin was recovered from secret cavities of a truck intercepted near Ali Masjid, Torkham. Drugs were being smuggled from Khyber to Punjab.

Five kilograms hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered from an uninhabited area of Zakhakhel Khyber, the spokesman said.

"Separate cases have been registered against all the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process," he added.

IHC dismisses contempt plea against Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Wednesday dismissed the pending contempt of court plea against the former three-time prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif since 2018 for non-compliance.

According to details, a plea was moved in IHC against Nawaz Sharif in 2018 by a resident over his anti-judiciary remarks after being disqualified.

The contempt of court petition was filed by a local citizen Amdan Iqbal.

While supporting his petition, the petitioner pleaded that the PML-N supremo had been constantly disgracing the judiciary and other state institutions in the media. He pleaded with the court to initiate contempt proceedings against the former prime minister. While no one appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioner, on Chief Justice Ameer Farooq

dismissed the petition for non-compliance. It is pertinent to note that a contempt of court petition was filed in the IHC against PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif for his anti-judiciary speeches in 2018. The court had fixed the five years old petition for hearing today. The registrar's office had issued a cause list for fixing the case. It is to be noted that Nawaz Sharif landed in Pakistan after ending his self-exile of four years, last month.



PESHAWAR: Worker busy in plucking Japanese fruit at farm house.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the inaugural session of annual Margalla Dialogue 2023.

PTA incapable of identifying person who leaked audio recordings

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) on Wednesday informed the Islamabad High Court that it does not have the capacity or capability to identify the person who leaked audio recordings on social media.

"[...] The applicable laws do not vest any such jurisdiction or authority capacity in the respondent (PTA) to identify the source of the alleged audio leak," it said.

PTA's response comes after the IHC raised several questions during the hearing of petitions filed by Bushra Bibi, the spouse of ex-premier Imran Khan, and Najamuddin Saqib, son of former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar. The son of the ex-CJP had

challenged parliamentary proceedings over seeking bribes from a candidate of the Punjab Assembly, while the former first lady had challenged the ongoing inquiry related to her alleged conversation with Zulfikar Bukhari, a former aide to the then prime minister, for selling Toshakhana gifts.

"How is electronic surveillance being done, and who is doing it? Who is the competent authority for making a decision to record phone calls?"

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) says they have not permitted listening to third-party conversations to anyone. "IHC's Justice Babar Sattar had remarked during the previous hearing.

He also asked the respondent authorities—including the PTA, Prime Minister's Office and FIA—to "identify the entities and agencies that have requisite technological capability to record telephone calls and/or surveillance telecommunication."

In a report submitted in the court today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the PTA said that under Section 20 (multicous code) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Pea), 2016, an aggrieved person may approach the authority for blocking of content that harms the reputation or privacy of a person. It stated that the law also empowered the PTA to remove such content. NEWS DESK

Can proudly defend 16-month performance of my ministry: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former federal minister, Ahsan Iqbal has said that he can proudly defend the 16-month performance of his ministry during the coalition government.

The former minister took to X on Wednesday while reacting to the criticism of Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Ahsan Iqbal said that during the 16-month rule, the development projects paralyzed during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government were resumed besides launching various new development projects in the country. He said that development projects were approved for Sindh

province and funds provided for them. The Thar Coal project for which Bilawal Bhutto was taking credit was circulating in papers and no significant proceeding on it could be made during three regimes of the PPP. He said that Thar was included in the CPEC projects under the instructions of then prime minister Nawaz Sharif during the rule of PML-N and the dream became a reality.

The former planning minister further said that due to the fact that it is anational project, it played a great role in advancing it with the cooperation of the provincial government under the national spirit. Having also mentioned Sharif's cooperation, I would say that literature that we should avoid the politics of insults, he

added.

It should be noted that Bilawal Bhutto has criticized Nawaz Sharif and said that PML-N has problems in Lahore, so he has been advised to focus on other provinces. It is better to focus on Punjab, despite the support of the government and institutions in the federation and the province, the (N) League kept running away from the by-elections. The former foreign minister further said that I am ready to contest the elections after my 15 months of performance, are Shahbaz Sharif and other leaders also ready or are they hiding their faces? PPP has no fight with any institution, even today a field is being built but PPP is ready to fight elections on every pitch.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging view with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri-Moghaddam at Naval headquarters.

Gas crisis started in country to intensify in next month: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Wednesday that after the sharp increase in gas prices, a gas crisis has started across the country, which will intensify next month.

He called for taking steps to deal with the gas crisis, as it will hurt the masses and hit the economy. The price of LPG was also skyrocketing, which should be reduced to save people from the annoyance of a harsh winter, he added.

Talking to the businessmen, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the government should not delay the necessary steps to deal with the natural gas shortage in the winter. He informed that many foreign gas exploration companies have left the country due to discouragement, while the performance of local companies was unsatisfactory, due to which LNG was being imported by spending substantial foreign exchange.

LNG imports were a drain on

resources, but at the same time, they provide some relief to people and industries dependent on gas.

He said that advance agreements were made with international gas supply companies in which the interests of the country were not taken into account. Cancellation of gas supply contracts with international suppliers has become the norm, and a proper mechanism has yet to be put in place to enforce the contract.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the previous government had signed a contract for gas supply with a company from Azerbaijan. Still, this company is more interested in the EU market, which will not be taken into account in the winter. Failure by that company to provide LNG will affect not only the people but also the economy, he observed. The absence of the expected cargo could compel the government to slash the gas supply to the domestic sector, leaving Pakistan at the mercy of the spot market to fill the gap.

Education-sector reforms hold key importance to tackle emerging challenges: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed has said that reforms in education sector hold key importance to tackle the emerging challenges. Talking to Bahria University Rector Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khalid, who called on him here on Wednesday, he also shared several initiatives taken by the ministry for improvement in the education sector. During the meeting, they discussed various matters related to education, professional training and skill enhancement, a news release said. Sami Saeed reaffirmed the government's commitment to provide full support in improving the education sector. The Rector highlighted the key initiatives and achievements of Bahria University. It may be noted that this was the first time in the country's history that the budget of the Higher Education Commission has been increased from Rs40 billion to Rs70 billion in the current fiscal year.