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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 257, Shaban 17, 1445 AH Wednesday February 28, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Rain wreaks havoc in Gwadar, inundates entire coastal town

Residents forced to leave their houses as urban flooding brings life to halt in Gwadar, with streets, shops completely submerged; Caretaker CM grieved over flood situation in Gwadar, directs to take prompt action

created extraordinary situ-

PDMA and district admin-

istration are busy in the res-

cue activities. However,

hardships are being faced in

provide clean drinking w

Meetings were fo-

He mentioned that the

ation Gwadar.

Independent Report

GWADAR: Heavy rains wreaked havoc in Balochistan's coastal city of Gwadar on Tuesday, bringing life to a halt as water completely submerged roads, streets and houses, disrupting the power transmission system after over 15 hours of downpour, A rain-producing system entered the country through Balochistan on February 25, under which parts of the province and upper areas were expected to receive heavy downpours and windstorms

from today. The rainwater entered houses and shops, driving people out of their shelters. Videos showed the entire coastal town heavily inundated with rainwater gushing down on the roads and vehicles making their way through knee-deep water.

Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister ter on emergent basis.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to further enhance defence ties





GWADAR: View of stagnant rain water after flash flood caused by heavy downpour of winter season, in The Chief Minister Gwadar: said that the continuous rain

5th anniversary of 'Operation Swift Retort': Domki holds farewell meeting with CM Sectt: officers and staff **Independent Report**

carrying out relief activities QUETTA: The caretaker because the link roads are Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki held farewell meetinundated in the rain water. The Chief Minister said that necessary direc-

ing with the officers, staff tives have been issued to the district administration to and security personnel at the Chief Minister's secre tariat on Tuesday. During the course of

guard its sovereignty and meeting, caretaker Chief regional security. Minister appreciated the services of officers and other staffers of the CM secretariat during the duration of interim government. He also distributed shields and commendation

certificates among the offic-ers of CM secretariat. **Murad** Ali

Shah sworn in as Sindh CM KARACHI (APP): The newly elected Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday took oath of

Pakistan resolved to safeguard its sovereignty, regional security: PM Armed forces vow to respond to any

aggression against the country

One of the Indian pilots was ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister captured by Pakistan, but Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that being a was later handed over as a gesture of peace.

The prime minister peace-loving country, Pakistan was resolved to safesaid that the Pakistani armed forces had proved their operational superiority falsifying the Indian The prime minister, in

a message on the fifth anniclaims. versary of the Operation 'No one should have Swift Retort, paid tributes doubt that Pakistan is a to the professional capabilpeace-loving country that ity and resolve of the was determined to protect its sovereignty as well as Pakistan's armed forces. On February 27, 2019, the regional security," he

the Pakistan Air Force remarked. (PAF) had shot down two The prime minister re-Indian planes that had vio-lated Pakistani airspace. iterated the resolve that Pakistan would forcefully



62 newly elected MPAs likely to take oath: First session of 12th Balochistan Assembly to be held today

Governor nominates MPA-elect Zamarak Khan Achakzai as Presiding Officer for today's session

Independent Report Ouetta: The first session of 12th Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held today (Wednesday) at Mr. Achakzai, MPAthe Assembly's Hall here. elect, Ms. Rahila Hameed The newly elected Khan Durrani would ad-MPA from PB-50, Killa minister oath to the newly Abdullah, Mr. Zamarak Khan Achakzai would administer the oath to the

The

elected members of assembly. As many as 62 memnewly elected members of bers of assembly are likely to take oath in the today's the assembly at maiden session

per the notification issued

here by the Governor Sec-

minister oath to the newly

In case of absence of

retariat the other day.

session of the newly formed assembly. It may be mentioned Governor here that the Balochistan's Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has provincial assembly had come into being under a nominated Zamarak Khan Presidential Order on 30th Achakzai as the Presiding March, 1970, after disso-Officer for taking oath lution of one unit and defrom the newly elected claring Balochistan as a members of assembly, as separate province.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a ceremony of Pakistan Universities Debating Championship 2023-24 organized by Higher Education Commission at BUITEMS

Governor emphasizes on providing necessary facilities to youth for polishing their hidden potential Independent Report



RAWALPINDI (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief cused upon further promotof the Air Staff, Pakistan Air ing Pak-Saudi defence ties, Force called on General particularly between the Fayyadh bin Hamed Altwo Air Forces through Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces and His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Turki Bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz. Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Forces, Chief of the General Staff, during his visit to Saudi Saudi Armed Forces.

Political leaders' support for reconciliation has greater impact in fostering peace: Info Minister

Govt, international institutions, grassroots organizations contributing uniquely for peace promotion

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said political leaders' support for reconciliation and mutual respect has greater impact in fostering peace in the society.



He was addressing the Peace-FLIX International Conference in Islamabad Tuesday . Murtaza Solangi said political parties shoulder immense responsibility in the pursuit for peace. He also commended the role of National Counter-Terrorism Authority and other organization in combating the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

He added that national and international think-tanks as well as peace organizations have conducted invaluable research and facilitated dialogue to comprehend the new dynamics of peace and conflict. The Minister said preservation of societal peace assumes paramount significance at a time when Pakistan is facing economic, politi-cal, environmental and other challenges.

Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pak Army concludes

RAWALPINDI (Online): Closing Ceremony of "On Job Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pakistan Army" was held at Multan.

The training was con-ducted from 15 January to 26 February 2024 with a view to foster joint employment and benefiting from each other's experiences,

while further consolidating longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The training which encompassed conventional as well as sub-conventional operations, culminated with field manoeuver & battle inoculation exercise, employing air and ground forces.

he office at the Governor House. Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan

Tessori administered the oath to him as the 38th Chief Minister in an impressive ceremony. Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, outgoing Caretaker

joint military exercises and Chief Minister Justice technological collaboration. (Retd) Maqbool Baqar, During the visit, the Air Chief Secretary Fakhr-e-Chief was awarded King Alam, provincial secretar-Abdul Aziz Badge of Honor ies, PPP leaders and digni of the Excellent Class by taries attended the cer emony

Murad Ali Shah got 112 votes of the Sindh Assembly members in the election for chief minister on Monday. This is the third time

he has become the chief minister. Earlier, he remained the Sindh chief executive from July 30, 2016 to May 28, 2016, and August 18, 2018 to August 17 2023.

Pakistan Army

shoots down **Indian spy** quadcopter RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Army has shot down Indian spying quadcopter that intruded into country's airspace along the Line of Con-



Pakistani forces a

12:55 pm on Sunday last shot down an Indian Army quadcopter that was

spying in the area near LoC, says in media reports.

It is pertinent to mention that the remains of the quadcopter were found yesterday. An insignia of the In-

dian Army can be seen in the pictures which confirms that the quadcopter belongs to the Indian

It should be remembered that on this day in 2019, the Pakistan Air Force also shot down Indian warplanes that violated Pakistani air-space in Operation Swift Retort.

OUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing staff of CM Secretariat during a farewell meeting

President Alvi to face dual constitution violation charges, says Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Arif Ali as president after the swearing-in Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman of the new house and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari he will face dual conon Tuesday asserted President Arif Alvi will face dual constitution violation charges after his retirement.

February 29,

The PPP leader

Bilawal said and

added the president is

denying discharging

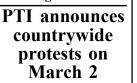
said they will replace

his duties.

stitution violation cases including one of dissolving the assembly despite VONC motion and another of Talking to media men outside the Sudenying calling the session of the lower preme Court after house of the parlia-

hearing of Zulfikar Ali ment. Criticising the PTI Bhutto's presidential reference, Bilawal Bilawal founder, Bhutto Zardari said Bhutto said the man President Arif Alvi is who is incarcerated in 'violating' the consti-tution of Pakistan by Adiala Jail is not ready to learn from his misdenying summoning takes. "PPP too made the NA session for the mistakes but one has to learn from it.

He urged everyone to exercise their power in their respective constitutional domain and underlined the need for respecting each other despite political differences, as this is the only way forward to steer the country out of crises.



respond to any aggression

against the people of Paki-

stan, the country's sover-

eignty and territorial integ-

On February 27, 2019,

without any hesitation".

the Pakistan Air Force

(PAF) had shot down two

Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace.

One of the Indian pilots was captured by Paki-

stan

INP adds: On the fifth

against it.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday gave a call for a countrywide protest on March 2 against the alleged rigging in the general elections 2024, saying that other political parties will also join them.

In a press confer-ence after meeting PTI founder Imran Khan, Secretary General Omar Ayub, who is also the party's candidate for the prime minister's slot, lamented "large scale" rigging in the polls.

He said PTI would stage countrywide pro-

tests against the "rig-ging" in polls alongside other political parties. "Our seats were stolen with just a stroke of pen. The people gave the mandate to the former PTI chairman. Nation's mandate and our seats have been attacked," Avub said.

here on Tuesday.

Also present on the OUETTA: The Governor occasion were Vice Chancellor BUITEMS, Profes-Balochistan, Malik Abdul sor Dr Khalid Hafeez, Di-Wali Khan Kakar has stated that youth are our precious rector General HEC, Dr Zahoor Bazai besides people belonging to differ-ent walks of life. asset and as such there is a dire need to provide necessary facilities and opportu-

Addressing the gather-ing, Governor on the occanities to youth so that they are able to polish their hidden potential. The Governor was adsion congratulated the winning students of debating championship and stressed dressing the Balochistan Public Sector Universities the need to promote extra Debating Championship curricular activities among 2024 organized by the the male and female stu-Higher Education Commisdents in all educational insion at the main auditorium stitutions.

of Balochistan University He also said that it is of Information Technology, very necessary to promote sports and other healthy activities in the society.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori administering the oath to the Newly-elected Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi indicted in 190mln pounds financial scandal reference

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has indicted PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds financial scandal reference. The accused while

iected the charges.

The former chairman PTI replied what I have to do by reading charge sheet as I know what is written therein. Both the accused pleaded not guilty.

The counsels for the accused while requesting to pleading not guilty have reprovide copies of challan again sought 7 days more

Upon it court has sumtime. moned 5 witnesses of NAB The court remarked we on March 6 for regular trial have already given enough time to you. More time

of reference. Both of the accused, their lawyers Suleman Safdar, Zahir Abbas Chaudhry and Usman Gill and NAB Deputy Prosecu-tor General (DPG) were present in the court during the hearing of the case.

charge sheet to the accused. The court inquired from the accused you are being indicted. You should tell if you are involved in this case or not.

cannot be given. The counsels for the accused took the plea copies of reference have to be provided 7 days before indictment. Near about 50 documents are such which are not readable despite the The court read out fact these documents are of paramount importance

with regard to this reference. The lawyers were of the view we don't want to raise obstructions in the process of indictment.

On job training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pakistan Army concludes in Multan.

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Daily A oice of Masse Independent

New funds

Pakistan plans to seek a new loan of \$6bn from the IMF under its Extended Fund Facility for a period of three years, Bloomberg reported last week, citing unnamed officials. Discussions with the lender on the new facility are expected to begin in March or April, following the completion of the last review of the ongoing nine-month \$3bn Stand-by Arrangement. The latter arrangement with the IMF, which is due to end soon, had helped the country avert default last summer. However, Pakistan's other creditors - multilateral, bilateral, and commercial included — have thus far been reluctant to help the nation shore up its shrinking foreign exchange reserves and improve its external sector outlook, in spite of the present IMF programme. Their reluctance is evident from the fact that only \$6.3bn in foreign loans, or 35.75pc of the annual budgeted target of \$17.6bn, in the first seven months of the present fiscal year to January, has materialised. But it was not unexpected as foreign creditors are waiting for a larger and longer arrangement between Islamabad and the Fund for medium- to long-term reform policy clarity under the elected government. Two of the three top global rating agencies, Moody's and Fitch, recently cautioned that a larger IMF package is crucial to Pakistan's longer-term economic stability and to unlock other foreign inflows to cover the country's annual financing gap of \$22-25bn for some years.

An IMF spokesperson recently said the Fund was ready, if requested, to support the post-election government through a new arrangement to address Pakistan's financing challenges. It, nevertheless, remains unclear if the authorities have started doing their homework towards a quicker conclusion of the deal — billed as being tougher than the current one — with the global lender. The government was compelled to agree to a slew of measures to cut public expenditure, impose additional taxes on corporates and salaried individuals, hike borrowing costs, increase energy rates, etc, to meet IMF goals under the ongoing loan. Coupled with the unannounced import control to curb the dollar outflow, these measures have caused the economy to contract and kept price inflation up, making matters even more difficult for struggling lowmiddle-income households.

It is also not apparent how far the incoming minority set-up will be ready to go to secure the IMF funds. But it is as clear as day that it would not have much room to manoeuvre while dealing with the lender of last resort, given the nation's vulnerable external position and its need for securing financing from its multilateral and bilateral partners to stabilise and grow the economy and avoid defaulting on its mounting debt. It is also clear that the new government will have no choice but to make difficult and unpopular decisions, no matter what the political costs.

Flawed climate policy

Over a third of

OPINION

AjazAhmed Notwithstanding investing in climate ad-Pakistan's marginal con- aptation can protect key tribution to global infrastructure, resulting greenhouse gas emis-sions and the country's greater vulnerability to avoid the cost of reclimate change-driven building. The relindisasters, quished resources in natural policymakers seem preterms of avoided cost occupied with climate could be used for highmitigation, ie, GHG emission reduction. COP28 areas such as human rerefreshed the resolve of source development. countries to achieve the adaptation is also criti-

Nation-ally Determined Contributions; howcal to preventing the agever, the NDC's focus in gravation of existing so-Pakistan is on climate cioeconomic challenges mitigation. For example, such as poverty, inthe NDC document has equality, unemployambitious but impracti- ment, gender disparity, cal aspirations relating and food insecurity. to climate mitigation and These challenges often cost estimates. Howget worse when a natuever, it hardly makes a ral disaster hits, as the strong case for climate masses are pushed into change adaptation. poverty and hunger. In fact, most policy However, climate resil-

change are silent on the lives in addition to reexpected returns on investment in climate adcost of natural disasters, aptation and their direct which cannot be and indirect benefits. achieved through fo-While focusing on GHG cusing simply on emisemission reductions is sion reduction. important, Pakistan's

current climate policy Pakistan's population is For example, there are takes a lopsided view of involved in the agriculclimate change. ture sector, which is di-Policymakers and planners must understand change-driven natural that what is needed is disasters, resulting in investment in climate serious implications for change adaptation, food security and liveliwhich could protect hood of the low-skilled against the impact of rural population. The tion options for temnatural disasters driven 2023 FAO report on the by climate change. state of food security A poor country's and nutrition says that

resource-constrained over half of Pakistan's government may invest billions in critical basic moderate to severe food infrastructure like roads, insecurity. This under- However, implementing schools, and water supscores the need to proply. But one bout of tect the agriculture secmonsoon knocks down what took crisis. Climate change's decades to build. Such impact on agriculture

vulnerability of affected cussions for industry communities by impeding their access to resources and services, uses agricultural output only makes economic and results in delayed as an input. This affects recovery. Conversely, access thereby the overall per-

to basic services im- formance of the high-value investment. proves adaptive capac- economy. Moreover, the -- Courtesy Dawn

ity and builds commu- risk also means adverse nity resilience, whereas impacts for aligned businesses such as seeds, agrochemicals, rented machinery, etc.

It is important to highlight that Pakistan has a relatively big informal economy which provides livelihood to a large fraction of lowskilled workers, who impact investments in mostly comprise poor rural migrants. Climate change-driven natural Investing in climate disasters often destroy small business establishments such as roadside cafes or food stalls. resulting in the masses slipping into poverty and unemployment.

One remedy is to climate-proof these small businesses. This can be helpful in the recovery and building of resilience of the domestic economy. It might require only simple actions documents on climate ience can save human such as training and information about climate

ducing the economic change and extreme weather events. Lastly, the imple-

mentation of climate adaptation has diverse possibilities from the investment point of view. several low-cost climate-adaptation oprectly exposed to climate tions, which could be taken up by households and local communities with minimal institutional support. The use of nature-based adaptaperature and flood management, farmers' capacity development, and timely communication population suffers from of disaster information are just a few examples. climate mitigation is generally high cost and flooding tor against a worse food can only be financed by

an institution. It has a minimal podamage aggravates the also has serious reper- tential for climate risk mitigation in the short through its linkages run. Thus, investing in with the sector, which climate adaptation not sense but is, with the industrial output and more prudent use of scarce resources, also a

Israel's partner

Daily **Independent**

Tougir Hussain

No US policy shames its professed 'value-based foreign policy' as much as its Israel policy. Washington has been effectively sitting on the sidelines in contempt of world public opinion while some 30,000 civilians, mainly women and children, have been slaughtered in Gaza.

Seventy-five years of massive US military aid and financial assistance has been the bedrock of Israel's national power. America's absolute political support, especially its wilful advocacy at the UN, has shielded Israel from wrongs, inciting more the US not be considered complicit in Israel's inhumanity in Gaza?

we attribute Washington's iron-clad support simply to the work of the Israel lobby (AIPAC). Israel is embedded in America's body politic, where its influence is pervasive and deep-rooted. Granted Washington needs a reliable ally to look after its strategic and economic interests in the Middle East. But over the decades, a bevy of high-profile Israel sympathisers in the think tank community, media and financial world have exaggerated Israel's value as an ally and its vulnerability in the region, to make a case for the policy of endless US support and the risks of putting pressure on Israel.

tive branch but Congress as well has been over-committed to Israel as pressures of public to put pressure on Isopinion, largely formed by Israel sympathisers Saudi help to hold out and their Christian right the ally, and the lure of cam- normalisation with Israel paign funding, orchestrated by AIPAC, have port for the two-state

enhance American support for Israel and diminish Washington's leverthat has incited Israel's intransigence. The blanket US protection and sympathy thus given have enabled Israel to violate

Palestinian rights for its unrestrained expan-sionist policies - without any political cost. Harvard Stephen his article 'America is a Root Cause of Israel and Palestine's Latest War' punishment for its in Foreign Policy. offences and more US has brought little support. Why should change to the US position. Joe Biden, known

president ever, has no We are mistaken if empathy for the Palestinians. He is taking a minimalist approach by focusing only on the humanitarian issue, and even here, he is not putting enough pressure on Israel. He is fighting a is under siege on many fronts: immigration, economy and perceived weakness in meeting foreign policy challenges In this fraught environment, the last thing Biden wants is to alienate the majority of voters by pressuring Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu will not yield to pressure anyway,

Trump, his preferred choice. He may prolong the war till the elections. Not just the execulemma of whether or not rael, Biden is seeking to get Netanyahu's suphypnotised American solution. The Saudis are Courtesy Dawn

politicians. Policy and not going to oblige politics have aligned to without an irrevocable process of establishing a Palestinian home. And Netanyahu is not interage. It is complete con- ested in normalisation. fidence in this support He has added the tragic events of Oct 7 to Israel's long list of alibis to deny the Palestinians their rights and to

resume his expansionist policies with a vengeance. Moves in Congress by progressive politicians in the Democratic Acclaimed Party to attach condiprofessor

tions to aid to Israel in Walt the Foreign Affairs Act summarised this well in will not succeed. Even if does, such conditions can always be waived by the president.Only the threat of unilateral The Gaza conflict US action will work. That won't happen, not

in an election year. America does not to be the most pro-Israel realise how much influence it would have had in the region and the larger Muslim world had it not appended itself to Israeli expansionism. Washington's ability to shape and influence events in the region is now challenged by tough election where he China, menaced by Iran, rivalled by India and hindered by Saudi Arabia. On many issues, America is walking alone. Both the US and Israel

are locked in policies that are not only morally bankrupt but also go against their respective national interests. The Palestinian future depends on a change of policies within the US and Israel. It will be a difhoping it will cause ferent America and Israel Biden to lose the Muswhere this change takes lim vote in key swing place. In America, polistates, and thus lose to cies have to recover the moral purpose the US always claimed but rarely measured up to. In Israel, as the Haaretz editor-in-To escape the dichief said in a recent article in Foreign Affairs, 'Israelis cannot expect stability if they continue to ignore the Palestinpromise of ians and reject their as-

pirations, their story, and even their presence". --

Commerce News

CPEC new phase focuses on industrial cooperation, agriculture: Ambassador

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan second phase of CPEC, and China have decided to the two elements of start a new phase of China Pakistan Corridor (CPEC) with a lot sustainable nature of the of focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture, mining and energy

Last year marked the are very excited to start the 10th anniversary of the next phase, building on the Corridor, which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. "Having dream of the set of

"Having drawn from the excellent progress that was made during the first 10 years of this corridor, both China and Pakistan have decided to start the new phase with a lot of focus on industrial cooperation and agriculture, as well as mining and energy, (with)

a renewed focus on renewable energy," he told China Dailv

Beyond that, in the concept of building a

community with a shared future for mankind, underscore Beijing's goal of high-quality Economic development and the universal prosperity and sharing high-quality development with the rest projects will get sharper focus, he said. of the world.

They "demonstrate "Going forward, we the notion of win-win that President Xi Jinping has emphasized for a long time", he added. Hashmi noted that at

ingredients in place", including good-quality the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October infrastructure, he said. Xi announced an eight-These are areas which we also find

point agenda in relation to alignment with, so both the Belt and Road Initiative Pakistan and China agreed and that the global community lauds the program as it advances to pursue the next phase along these lines," Hashmi innovation development, livelihoods,

LESCO detects

57,806 power

pilferers in

167 days

told media here Tuesday that

with

Development

reclaimed.

Hailing China's global vision, he said the global open economy, (and) visions proposed by China, including the Belt compliance internationally accepted and Road Initiative and the standards when building new projects"



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov called on Interim Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali.

PCJCCI advocates for Karachi coastal project under CPEC to boost Pakistan's economy

LAHORE (APP): The Port Trust (KPT). inclusion of Karachi Pakistan-Chin Coastal Comprehensive Chamber of Comme Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and (PCJCCI) Zone Industry (KCCDZ) project in the President Moazzam China-Pakistan Economic Ghurki expressed these Corridor (CPEC) will views in a think-tank boost Pakistan's economy and enhance industrial and

development cooperation Tuesday between Pakistan and Ghurki said that mega China, covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are USD 3.5 billion, would the also house a state-of-theenvironment-friendly art fishing port, with a

KCCDZ envisages four world-class fisheries new berths for the Karachi export processing zone to

boost the country's trade potential. The project, he added, would also build up the confidence of global investors towards the country and its entire ecosystem for providing and offering a lucrative environment to set up businesses and gain profits. Furthermore, it has the potential to boost

industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China due to its proximity with Karachi. the financial hub of Pakistan.

PCJCCI Senior Vice

Rupee sheds 07 paisa against dollar

The Rupee on Tuesday weakened by 07 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.27 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.20. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.3 and Rs 282.2, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 87 paisa to close at Rs 303.18 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.31 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Sunova Solar to revolutionize Pak's energy landscape via cutting-edge solar products dazzled with anticipation.

Independent Report LAHORE: Sunova Ŝolar, a Attendees were captivated global leader in renewable by the unveiling of two incredible modules boasting energy solutions, set the stage for a paradigm shift power ranges of up to 590 in the country's energy W and an astonishing 705 W respectively. These with the sector introduction of cuttingcutting-edge modules edge Tier-1 Solar products aren't just about raw power in a momentous event held - they represent a leap in Lahore, Pakistan.

Sunova

forward in sustainability with their double-glass, The groundbreaking bifacial design. Imagine unveiling showcased Solar's harnessing the power of commitment to driving sunlight not only from innovation and shaping a above but also from below,



sustainable future for thanks to ingenious light Pakistan's energy needs. reflection technology!

Over 260 esteemed guests, But the excitement didn't stop there. Sunova Solar also introduced a game-changing bifacial 615 W module, engineered to perfection with its sleek rectangle cells, delivering unparalleled power generation performance. With Pakistan's burgeoning market for renewable energy

including industry luminaries like Mr. Tauseef, former chairman of NEPRA, and the visionary Usama Khalid Malik, Director of Strategic Projects, gathered to witness the unveiling of Sunova Solar's groundbreaking innovations. Under the guiding light of Vincent solutions, Sunova Solar's

Zhou, the dynamic CEO of offerings couldn't have Sunova Solar, the event come at a better time. **LCCI** demands

withdrawal of power tariff hike LAHORE (APP): Lahore (NEPRA) has jacked up the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on

urged the Tuesday government to withdraw the recent hike in electricity tariff as the industry especially export-oriented unit are unable to afford hike in the price of their basic input for production. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said in a media statement here that National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

power tariff by Rs. 7.05 per unit on account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA). They said that repeated hike in power tariff is hitting exports and local businesses, while the majority of businessmen have been sent electricity bills many times more than their monthly income. Electricity is the main input for the industries, if its tariff is not lowered, the manufacturing sector will be destroyed completely thus turning the country into mere a trading place.

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 57,806 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) in 167 day of grand anti-power theft campaign.



said.

OGDCL earns The LESCO spokesman Rs123.296 bln profit in first half of FY 2023-24

and Gas Development earnings per share of Company Limited Rs28.67," the OGDCL said Company Limited Rs28.67," the OGDCL said (OGDCL) on Tuesday in a news release. The announced the financial results for the first half of the current fiscal year ended on December 31, 2023 (July-December), posting a profit of Rs123.296 billion.

"Net sales revenue clocked at Rs.235.375 billion translating to Profit after tax

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil of Rs123.296 billion and company's Board of Directors (BoD) announced the first interim cash dividend to shareholders at the rate of Rs2.50 per share. "This is in addition to the interim dividend already

paid @ Rs.1.60 per share i.e. 16 percent to its shareholders.

the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 53,333 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 17,666 accused have been arrested. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 76,659,409 detection units worth Rs 2,934,186,637 to all the power pilferers Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal

Power Division and the LESCO ChiefExecutiveOfficer.

"Benefits of Edible Oil Fortification" held FAISALABAD (APP): An awareness session titled "Benefits of Edible Oil Fortification, Vitamin A and D deficiency in Pakistan, use of Open and Unrefined Oil and its adverse effects on health"

was organized in with collaboration Nutrition International and Punjab Food Authority, here on Tuesday. The program was

attended bv representatives of edible mills, biscuit manufacturing companies.

hotels and marquees. Zonal Manager Food

Fortification Program Mohammad Irfan explained about the fortification program and adverse effects of loose or unrefined oil. He said that more than half of the women and children population in Pakistan are facing deficiency in micronutrients. The micronutrients. deficiencies of iron, vitamins A and D are on the top, he added. He said that fortification is simple but

Awareness session on ISLAMABAD (APP):

practical method to meet the nutrition elements in the food

session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on

ndependent

Wednesday February 28, 2024

National News

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Nawab of Bahawalpur benefactor of Pakistan, rendered invaluable services for the country: Baligh

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Muhammad Puniab Balighur Rahman attended the unveiling ceremony of the portrait of Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Abbasi, Nawab of Bahawalpur, in recognition of his services at King Edward Medical University today as a special guest. The guest of honour Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtesham, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Prof. Mahmood Ayaz, Pro Vice Chancellor KEMU, Prof. Ijaz Hussain, Chief Executive Officer Mayo Hospital Prof. Ahsan Nauman, Prof. Saira Afzal, Prof. Muhammad Moeen and a large number of faculty members were present in the ceremony. After unveiling the

portrait of the Nawab of Bahawalpur, the Punjab Governor while addressing a ceremony said that the Nawab of Bahawalpur was the benefactor of Pakistan and he rendered invaluable services for the country especially in the fields of health and education. Governor Punjab said that Nawab of Bahawalpur also played a very important role in the establishment of Pakistan. He added that Nawab of Bahawalpur established Bahawalpur House and Mosque in Aitchison College. He position in medical further stated that after the Maharaja of Patiala, Nawab of Bahawalpur contributed the most in the construction of King Edward's Patiala Block. He said that Nawab of Bahawalpur's inclusion of Bahawalpur in Pakistan



HARIPUR: People rescue victims of a passenger bus accident at a road, as a passenger bus fell into a ravine in Sarbrot area of Haripur, more than 12 people died and 15 people were injured.

37 dams constructed, designs of seven projects completed in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): To told APP on Tuesday that avert floods and waste of 37 small and medium dams rainy water, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government constructed 37 small and medium dams while 24 are being built in different rivers and water channels while designs of seven dams completed in the province.

The Directorate of Small Dams of the Irrigation Department's spokesman Feet (AF) water storage.

were constructed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including 15 operated by the provincial government and 11 supervised by WAPDA. Similarly, 19 dams were constructed in merged districts having 0.1377 million-acre cultivated (CCA) and 0.3414 Acres

was a great decision. He said that there are many examples of Nawab of Bahawalpur subcontinent and Punjab in the fields of education, health and public welfare. He said that it has always been a matter of pride for him to come to King Edward Medical University. He further said he made very first visit to King Edward Medical University as Chancellor He stated that this institution has the oldest and most prominent

education and research Governor Punjab said that his grandfather was also a graduate of this institution. He further said that Dr Maqbool Ahmed is an example for the alumni of King Edward Medical University. **DHA accident:** ATC extends

judicial remand of teenage driver LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended judicial remand of

Afnan, an underage driver involved in a car accident that resulted in the tragic death of six family members in Defence, for another 13 days. Earlier, the police produced the accused before ATC Judge Arshad Javed and requested to extend his

judicial remand. The police submitted that the challan (Charge-Sheet) was in final stage of the preparations and it would be filed soon after

removing prosecution's objections. At this, the court extended the judicial remand of the teenage driver for another 13 days and ordered for producing him on March 11. Defence C police had registered a case against Afnan which revolves around charges of headed by recklessly crashing his high-speed car into Shehram another vehicle.

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain during a farewell meeting with Khyber

Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali. **Public confidence increasing** on Wafaqi Mohtasib: Qureshi

Independent Report Wafaqi Mohtasib was FAISALABAD: Number receiving only 20,000 of complaints filed with the office of Federal complaints while its Ombudsman has recorded number has now jumped to 194,000 and it is expected a phenomenal increase due to the confidence of people to cross the limit of 2 to enjoyed by this institution, said Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, year. These complaints are Federal Ombudsman.

Addressing a meeting in Faisalabad Chamber of percentage of resolved Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here on Tuesday, added he said that during last year the federal ombudsman expatriates are sending office resolved 194,000 precious foreign exchange complaints in addition to of \$ 30 bn per annum and efforts have been made to submitting recommendations to solve their problems on

provide free justice at top priority basis. doorsteps of the masses. He said that 150,000 doorsteps of the masses.

Money laundering case: LHC issues bailable arrest warrants of Moonis Elahi's wife

Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants of Tehreem Elahi, the wife of former federal minister Moonis Elahi, and co-accused, Saira Anwar, over nonappearance in a petition for

International News

cancellation of the accused, their bail cancellation in money laundering case. stating that the trial court The division bench, awarded bail in violation of Justice law It pleaded with the Sarwar

Chaudhry, heard the court to cancel the b petition filed by granted to the accused. court to cancel the bail

He said that earlier complaints are also included in the total complaints resolved by this office. Appeals against the decisions of the federal ombudsman could be lodged with the President 2.5 lacs within the next of Pakistan but its percentage is hardly 0.4 %, he added. He said that positively resolved within 60 days while the article 34 is being exploited to resolve the complaints omplaints is 99.9 %, he which could not fall within the purview of the federal ombudsman. "In this connection Alternate He said that 9 million

Dispute Resolution mechanism has been evolved", he said and added that the consent of both parties is imperative for this system.

ANF seizes over one ton drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over one ton drugs and arrested nine accused. said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 1 kg Ice drug and 766 grams heroin were recovered from the possession of a passenger going to Bahrain at Faisalabad Airport. 969 grams Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Sohail Zafar Chattha, Doha at Peshawar Airport.

Speakers seek state, society role in keeping youngsters from drug addiction

DIR LOWER (APP): Vice of the population, has the Chancellor University of Malakand (UoM), Prof Dr Rashid Ahmad has said that our young generation is exposed to a variety of dangerous drugs and it is the collective responsibility of the state

potential to actually turn Pakistan into a wealthy country provided they are equipped contemporary information.

Guest speaker Prof Dr Johar Ali, Dean of Social Sciences University and society to play their role to get rid of the menace of Peshawar informed participants of the seminar of the drug addiction. that there are seven million drug addicts in the country. He was addressing a seminar on 'The Changing Every year, about 250,000

Landscape of Drug Abuse people die in Pakistan in Pakistan: Exploring Recent Trends & because of drug-related issues Challenges Faced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' Prof Dr Johar Ali

added that the increasing here at UoM on Tuesday. number of addicts is a huge He said that the burden on the fragile younger generation, which healthcare system of the makes up more than 60% country



PESHAWAR: Traffic warden making driving licenses through DL-Van for journalists in front of Press Club.

NAB distributes cheques of Rs 1.67 bln among Pak **Arab Housing victims**

Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore, in a ceremony held on Tuesday, distributed cheques worth Rs 1.67 billion to the affectees of the Pak Arab Housing scandal.NAB Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir and Director General Lahore Amjad Majeed Olakh were the chief guests of the ceremony. Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Director General

ing in Abu Dhabi, with fish-

eries and agriculture taking

over-time amid divisions.

centre stage.

member states.

truce offer.

since October last year.

all the hostages out,"

LAHORE (APP): National Minerals and senior officers of NAB and hundreds of affectees hundreds of and attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Sohail Nasir, Deputy Chairman NAB, highlighted that the bureau's primary objective is to serve the nation and the country. He emphasized that common people are beneficiaries of NAB policies, enabling them to recover their plundered money. He mentioned that NAB Lahore is actively recovering looted funds from 2,226 affectees of the Secretary Mines and Pak Arab Housing scandal.

LAHORE (APP): The prosecution for bail cancellation of Rasikh Elahi, Tehreem Elahi and other accused in money laundering case. The bench adjourned further hearing till March 18. The prosecution had approached for bail

Declare Israel's occupation illegal, Arab states urge ICJ

clare it illegal.

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: Arab states urged international judges on Monday to rule the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories illegal and Turkiye described the occupation as "the real obstacle to peace" on the final day of hearings in a case examining its legal status.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been hearing arguments from more than 50 states following a request by the UN General Assembly in 2022 to issue a non-binding opinion on the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation.

sian army, in Moscow.

On the sixth and last day of hearings, Turkiye's has said the court's involve-ment could be harmful to ment could be harmful to Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmet Yildiz told judges the achieving a negotiated settlement, calling the quesoccupation was the root tions posed to the court prejudiced. Palestinian faccause of conflict in the retions have also come under

"The unfolding situa-tion after October 7 proves international pressure to end their own divisions over their response to once again that, without addressing the root cause of Israel's occupation, the war the Israeli-Palestinian conin Gaza and what political flict, there can be no peace system might follow it. in the region," he said, de-

Earlier on Monday, scribing the occupation of the Arab League's secre-Palestinian territories as tary general Ahmed Aboul "the real obstacle to peace" Gheit described the occuand urging the judges to depation as "an affront to international justice" in a Israel, which is not statement read out by a

taking part in the hearings, representative. Indian runaway

> train takes 70-km journey

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian Rail-ways said on Monday it had ordered an investigation after a runaway freight train loaded with gravel travelled 70 kilometres (43 miles) without a

Cold War

deal

Hungary's

A police officer puts handcuffs on Oleg Orlov, the driver 70-year-old human rights campaigner and co-chair Around 50 carriages of the Nobel Prize winning Memorial group, after set off solo, careering Orlov was sentenced to two and a half years in jail from the northern state of on charges of repeatedly "discrediting" the Rus-Jammu and Kashmir to

Punjab, before being brought to a halt by wooden blocks placed on **France's Macron does** the tracks on Sunday. not rule out Europeans We have ordered an

inquiry," Northern Railways spokesman Deepak Kumar said, adding that no one was hurt in the incident.

The train, running at 100 kilometres per hour,

was captured in a video that went viral on social media. The incident happened after the train stopped at a railway sta tion in Jammu for a crew change, local media reports said. But it began

sault on Ukraine. moving down a slope after the driver and his as-sistant got off. All road crossings on the route were closed to prevent



AID is being dropped by a Jordanian military aircraft over Rafah, southern Gaza Strip.

Sweden clears last hurdle as Hungary okays Nato accession

Monitoring Desk B U D A P E S T / S T O C K H O L M : Hungary's parliament ap-proved Sweden's Nato accession on Monday, clearing the last hurdle before the historic step by the Nordic country whose neutrality lasted through two world wars and the

Nato Secretary General simmering conflict of the Jens Stoltenberg immedi-vote ately welcomed Hungary's move. "Sweden's membership will make us all stronger and safer," he said on X Stockholm abandoned its non-alignment policy for greater safety within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in the wake of countries signed an arms

Russia's invasion of Ukraine "Today is a historic in 2022.

Russian court jails veteran activist Oleg **Orlov for 2.5 years**

fensive in Ukraine.

Monitoring Desk 'The court has deter-MOSCOW: A Russian mined Orlov's guilt and orcourt on Tuesday sentenced top human rights ders a sentence of two years campaigner Oleg Orlov to and six months [...] in a two and a half years in jail general regime penal colony," the judge said. for denouncing Russia's as-

Orlov was accused of discrediting the Russian The 70-year-old, a key figure of the Nobel army in a column written for the French online pub-Prize-winning Memorial lication Mediapart, and group, is the latest target of fined in October after a first Kremlin repression, which has intensified since the oftrial

aid into Gaza **Monitoring Desk** AMMAN: The Jorda-nian army on Monday said it had carried out

Jordan air-drops

a series of humanitarian aid drops of food and other supplies into the besieged Gaza Strip, one of them by a French army

Jordanian forces made "four air drops carrying aid for the people of Gaza", under the direc-tive of Jordanian King Abdullah II, a statement

The operation came on the same day that two

> New Zealand set to scrap world-first tobacco ban WELLINGTON (Internews): New Zealand will repeal on Tuesday a world-first law banning to-

bacco sales for future generations, the government said, even while researchers and campaigners warned of the risk that people could die as a result. Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would Biden said. have banned sales to those

born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products.

WTO braces for battles on fisheries, agriculture in UAE talks

Monitoring Desk fishing, the WTO hopes to conclude a second package ABU DHABI: The world's trade ministers are set for focusing on subsidies which tough negotiations on Tuesfuel overcapacity and overday at a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meet-

fishing. "We're close. It's do-able for sure," said a diplomatic source.

The final push needs a little bit of compromise, a The closed talks will take place on the second day little bit of political will,' the source told AFP on conof the WTO's 13th ministerial conference which is dition of anonymity, callscheduled to run until ing a potential agreement a Thursday but could go into very good outcome".

The 2022 agreement has yet to take effect as not There is little hope for major breakthroughs with enough countries have rati-WTO rules requiring full fied it

But it was seen as a consensus among all 164 major achievement, marking just the second accord con-cluded by the WTO's full But progress could be made on a new global agreemembership since the gloment on fisheries subsidies. After a 2022 deal bal trade body was created in 1995, and the first fowhich banned subsidies contributing to illegal, un- cused on environmental declared and unregulated protection.

Biden says Israel is ready to pause Gaza fighting; Hamas says deal not done yet

DUBAI (Internews): Is- day, March 4. Ramadan is rael is ready to halt its expected to begin on March Gaza attacks for the 10. "My national security Muslim holy month of adviser tells me that Ramadan in a ceasefire they're close. They're that could be signed as close. They're not done yet. My hope is by next Monday we'll have a ceasefire," Biden said. soon as next week, Joe Biden said, though Hamas officials said the U.S.

president's remarks were Hamas is reviewing a premature as it studies a proposal agreed at a meeting in Paris last week be-Biden's comments, recorded on Monday and tween Israel, the United States and mediators from broadcast after midnight Egypt and Qatar, the most serious push for a on Tuesday, come as negotiators try to hammer ceasefire since the last out the first extended truce collapsed after a week in November. Two truce deal in a war that has obliterated the Gaza Strip senior Hamas officials said Biden's remarks sug-Ramadan is coming gesting the agreement had up, and there's been an already been reached in agreement by the Israelis principle were premature.

that they would not en-There were "still big gage in activities during gaps to be bridged", one Ramadan, as well, in orlamas official said. der to give us time to get "The primary and main issues of the ceasefire and the withdrawal of

Earlier on Monday, Israeli forces are not Biden said he hoped a clearly stated, which deceasefire agreement would lays reaching an agreebe hammered out by Mon- ment.

sending troops to Ukraine President Emmanuel Ma-Monday to European nations sending troops to Ukraine, although he cautioned that there was no consensus at this stage as allies agreed to ramp up efforts to deliver more muni-

tions to Kyiv. Some 20 European leaders gathered in Paris on Monday to send Russian President Vladimir Putin a and that there were also no message of European resolve on Ukraine and counter the

PARIS (Internews): French Kremlin's narrative that Russia is bound to win a war cron opened the door on now in its third year. There is no consensus at this stage to send troops on the ground," Macron told reporters. "Nothing should be excluded. We will do everything that we must so that Russia does not win."

A White House official said that the United States had no plans to send troops to fight in Ukraine plans to send NATO troops to fight in Ukraine. accidents. day," Kristersson said on

to shoulder its responsibility for Euro-Atlantic security." Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government has faced pressure from Nato allies to fall in line and seal

said.

Sweden stands ready plane

Sweden's accession to the alliance

ended months of delays to complete Sweden's security policy shift and followed a visit by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf

Kristersson on Friday during which the two

the UN's top court.

human rights groups ac-cused Israel of further limiting humanitarian aid into Gaza — where the UN has warned of famine despite an order from

Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

Caretaker CM inaugurates newly built cabinet Hall in CM secretariat

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurated the newly built cabinet hall in the Chief Minister's secretariat on Tuesday.

The Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Qambar Dashti and other concerned high ups briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the newly constructed building and cabinet hall.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Chief Minister said that CM secretariat is an important administrative office of the province. The addition of new

constructions in the CM secretariat would be helpful in performing administrative affairs, he maintained

The caretaker Chief Minister also inspected different sections of the cabinet hall and its building.

Two Holy Mosques- places of worship not arenas for **politicking: Ashrafi** ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz

Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday urged the intending Hajj pilgrims to follow the codal formalities of Saudi Arabia in letter and spirit during the sacred

Talking to the media, he emphasized that the Two Holy Mosques were

tionalism

avoid expensive treatment 'Raising slogans, flags, or engaging in any other ir-ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that adoption of preventive measures against various diseases was prerequisite to ward off

treatment which was expensive in Pakistan and such habits would also help reduce burden on the health system

He expressed these views during a meeting with the need about the role of a delegation of Pakistan media, local population, National Heart Association mosques and non govern-(PANAH) that called on ment organizations to crehim at Aiwan-e-Sadr to ate such awareness, besides present a report on the acutilization of different lativities and accomplishest platforms to spread tor.

ECP allows voter lists' modification till bye-polls

schedule

announcement ISLAMABAD (APP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared on Tuesday that electoral rolls would remain open for modifications until the announcement of the bye-election

from Iran whereas to make schedule. export zone functional will An ECP spokesperrequire more energy," he son, in a statement, urged the individuals seeking to transfer their votes or desire correction in the voter

Ahsan Iqbal says:

Pakistan wins

war against

terrorism with

support of

entire nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) senior

leader Àhsan Iqbal on

Tuesday said that Paki-

stan has won a big war

against terrorism with

support of Pakistan

armed forces, law enforce-

tions.

on Tuesday. list, to submit forms 21.22 or 23 to the district election commissioner or registration officer in their particular area

ince.

were discussed. QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has applauded the besides in social sector. services of renowned crick-

eter and former skipper Shahid Khan Afridi for guidance of younger generation and social sector in the prov-

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to Shahid Afridi who called on him here at the Chief Minister's secretariat here other sectors.

During the course of meeting, the matters about promotion of sports and assistance of the poor people in social sectors Balochistan.

lectures and training ses He said that they were creating awareness among the people about healthy activities and lifestyle. President Alvi appreciated PANAH for its con-

tributions in the health sec

holding of walks, seminars,

sions.

CM Domki applauds services of Shahid Afridi in social sector **Independent Report**

Mir Ali Mardan Domki praised services of Shahid Âfridi for the cause of sports especially cricket

He said that youth of the province are second to none in potential in sports and other public service. He said that if the tal-

ented youth of the province are provided better opportunities and positive direction, they may perform very well in sports and

Shahid Afridi on the occasion expressed his resolve to expand circle of social services further in

Wednesday February 28, 2024

Begins issuing nomination papers Presidential elections mandatory within 30 days after general polls: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The didates can get the nomina-Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday said that it is mandatory to hold the presidential elections within 30 days after the general elections, citing Article 41(4) of the Constitution

Following the conduct of the general elections 2024 and its preliminary results, the electoral watchdog has started preparations for the presidential elections and the first session of all assemblies under constitutional bindings.

The election commis-Assembly Speaker Raja sion will issue the schedule Pervaiz Ashraf summoned of the presidential election the maiden sitting of lower house of Parliament on Feb and public notice on March 1," the ECP said in a state-29 as President Arif Alvi ment. "According to the refused to summon the ses-Constitution, one day will sion on account of an 'inbe given to submit the nomicomplete house' nation papers.

awareness messages. PANAH President Major General (retd) The election commis-Masud Ur Rehman Kiani sion further said that the briefed the president nomination papers can be submitted to any presiding about the role of the organization and public awareofficer by 12pm on March ness campaigns including 2. "All the presidential can-

spokesperson, the candition papers from the ECP dates can submit their secretariat in Islamabad or nomination papers at the any provincial election Election Commission Seccommissioner," it noted. retariat in Islamabad, as well

The electoral watchas the offices of provincial dog also cited Articles 91 election commissioners in and 130 of the Constitution Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, which stated that the Naand Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tional Assembly shall meet till 12 noon pm on March on the 21st day following 2. The spokesperson said the general elections. The ECP said all the

that the schedule and public notice for the presidenassemblies will be formed tial elections would be isby February 29, paving the sued on March 1. way for the presidential For any details, indi-

election. The statement viduals could contact the came a day after National ECP at telephone number 051-9219335, she added.

Quoting Article 41 (4) of the Constitution, the spokesperson emphasized that the presidential election must be conducted within 30 days of the general elections.

APP adds: The Elec-She added that action Commission of Pakicording to Articles 91 and 130 of the Constitution, the stan (ECP) on Tuesday began issuing nomination pafirst session of all assempers to candidates for the blies was mandatory within 21 days of the general elec-According to an ECP tions.

presidential election.

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurating newly constructed Cabinet Hall at Chief Minister Secretariat

Operation Swift Retort showcases Pakistan's military strength, commitment to peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): The memory of the humiliruary 26, 2019, targeting ating defeat suffered by the Balakot. The myth of India's

Hindutva led India and its air force at the hands of the conventional military supe-Pakistan Air Force remains vivid in the minds Pakistan Air Force, which near Balakot, targeting a reof the Indian bigotry rul- downed two Indian Air ligious seminary that India ers, even as five years have Force aircraft in a dogfight claimed was a militant

airspace on the night of Feb- Pakistan Air Force in countering India's aggressive intentions.

On February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force riority was shattered by the conducted an aerial strike passed since the incident and captured an Indian pi- camp, alleging the killing of

Since, the global comdevelopment, vision and a community-centric social munity has demanded to development approach. make three-fold increase in The policy dialogue titled: 'Gwadar as an Enrenewable energy (RE) share by 2030 at the COPergy Hub of Pakistan: Path-28, Pakistan is looking for ways for Sustainable Develrenewable energy support opment', was organized by from China as an excellent

maintained.

dent on electricity imported

QUETTA: Renowned cricketer Shahid Afridi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan

relevant activity is not allowed at the Two Mosques," he proclaimed. Ashrafi said that situated in Makkah and Madina - the heart of the Kingdom journey of Saudi Arabia, the Two Holy Mosques were revered by millions of Musthe places of worship and lims as the holiest sites

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki at Quetta airport.

Tech-based vision a must

to transform Gwadar

into energy hub: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): full scale. It is still depen-



President emphasizes early

prevention of diseases to

ments of the organization,

President Secretariat Press

Wing said in a press release.

stressed upon creating

awareness among the

masses about the signifi-

cance of preventive mea-

sures against non-commu-

nicable diseases and heart

He also underscored

president

The

diseases

Policy Institute (SDPI) unshore wind energy poten der its Network for Clean tial, he said. Energy Transition (NCET) here.

Sustainable Development

The experts at a policy dia-

logue have said that Gwadar

may be made an energy

hub, but it is only possible

through a technology-based

In his opening remarks, SDPI Executive Director, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said the discourse on a unique subject like Gwadar as an energy hub was pertinent and crucial at a time when the new government is about to take office

He further said the development of Gwadar as a port and a modern city has co-benefits that need to be identified. "Due to COVID-19 and unavoidable geopolitical circumstances, Gwadar has not been made functional at its

Gwadar has the potential to become mix of all traditional and renewal energy generation projects, Dr Suleri said, adding that working on this end holistically, particularly its consumption aspects, an efficient utilization and best use of infrastructure should be worked out through dis-Naghman course. Chaudhry, the former advi-

candidate for solar and off-

sor and Strategic Analyst, said that keeping in view the recent developments in the Indian Ocean Region and global geopolitical landscape, it is important for the country to embrace a change of mindset



QUETTA: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai inquiring about health of a patient at Sheikh Muhammad Zayed bin Al-Nahyan Hospital.

National Youth Conference on Skills Development and **Entrepreneurship held**

Independent Report TURBÂT: The "National Youth Conference on Skills Development and Entrepreneurship" was organized by the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Turbat (UoT) in the video conference room of UoT. Students from departments of Management Sciences, Commerce, and Economics participated in the conference.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Vice dents in shaping their fu-ture through skill develop-Chancellor of UoT, emphasized the importance of skills and talents in today's ment and entrepreneurial competitive and evolving ventures. In his opening remarket. He stated that the marks, Dr. Waseem Barkat, University of Turbat has Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics highlighted achieved significant sucthe objectives of the concesses over time, and now ference, noting the increasboasting a robust IT infrastructure and highly qualiing saturation of the job fied faculty members. Unmarket and the necessity of derling the critical role of equipping students with skills development and en- the required skills for suctrepreneurship to lead a cess in this contemporary prosperous life, the Vice evolving time.

Chancellor encouraged the students to establish their businesses and companies instead of searching for a government job after they graduated from the University. He reiterated the university's commitment each others. to support and guide their students to become job

providers instead of job seekers. VC commended mutual respect in politics to put the country on path the organizers and resource persons for their efforts in conducting an event on harnessing the potential of stu-

meeting, it was recomextremism, adding that ending backwardness, intolerance and lawlessness, was essential for peace in the country.

GDA

HYDERABAD: Workers of GDA, PTI, JUI(F), JI and Awami Tehreek hold a protest rally against alleged rigging in general election 2024 and observe Black Day against torture and arrest of the workers of Sindhyani Tehreek and JUI (F) during a rally in Karachi.

Commissioner Makran visits different rain hit areas in Kech district

Later, he visited Nahaing bridge located on the Nahaing river.

The Commissioner on the occasion directed to concerned high ups to repair the approach of Nahaing bridge immediately and thus restore traffic there

Provincial Selection Board meets; recommends promotion of Govt officers

Independent Report It was recommended to promote Grade 20 offic-QUETTA: The Provincial Selection Board met with ers in Grade 21.

The meeting also considered cases of promotion of different grades of Agriculture, Colleges and Higher Education, Schools, For-ests, Food, Irrigation, Comofficers of different provincial government departmunication and Works, Sports, Science and Infor-During the course of mation Technology and other departments. It was recommended to promote officers of Grade 19 in Grade 20, Grade 18 in Grade 19 and officers of Grade 17 in Grade 18.

took place on February 27, 2019

A report released by the Kashmir Media Service on the occasion highlighted that on February 27, 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, influenced by the Hindutva ideology, initiated a cowardly attack in Balakot. Within 24 hours, Pakistan Air Force executed 'Operation Swift Retort,' compelling Modi to stan. face defeat.

'Operation Swift Retort' was launched as a befitting response to the misadventures of the fascist Modi regime, whose air force violated Pakistan's

PPP to join Punjab cabinet in 2nd phase LAHORE (INP): The Pa-kistan People's Party

(PPP) is poised to join the Punjab provincial cabinet in its second phase, according to sources close to the development. This move comes after negotiations between the PPP and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N).

The sources indicate that the PPP is likely to receive three ministries in the ized all the arrangements to provincial cabinet, which organize a three-day annual will be offered after the historical and cultural fes-Punjab budget is finalized. tival of Sibi from March 6 Negotiations are currently underway between the two parties to finalize the specific ministries and potenanimals. tial candidates.

7 killed in accident

release.

nicipal

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least seven passengers were killed and several badly injured in a traffic accident in Khoi Bagra, area of Rawalpindi on Tuesday. The rescue officials said that the passenger bus fell into a deep trench due to overspeeding, a private news channel reported. Seven people died on the spot while several passengers including men and women sustained injuries. The rescue team and the locals shifted the dead bodies and injured to the hospital.

more than 300 terrorists. lot, Abhinandan, alive. Pakistan's victory in the However, Pakistan and sevbrief air combat continues eral international observers to haunt India. refuted the claim, citing no

The confusion caused casualties and missed tar-'Operation Swift Regets by the bombs. Moretort' led to the Indian Air over, the Indian govern-Force mistakenly shooting ment failed to provide substantial evidence of the down its helicopter, resulting in casualties, including Balakot strikes. the pilot. This incident sent The Indian opposia clear message to India – tion, particularly the Con-'Don't mess with Pakigress, has raised doubts

about the Balakot surgical The strikes proclaimed by the operation thwarted India's aspira-BJP government. Rahul tions to establish itself as a Gandhi and Navjot Singh dominant military force in Sidhu demanded validation the region while showcasand an accurate count of the casualties resulting from the ing the firm resolve, capacity, and capability of the strike.



QUETTA: Brig. Adnan Ahmed of Anti Narcotics *meeting with acting Vice Chancellor University* of Balochistan Prof. Dr. Zainab

All set to hold 'Sibi Mela' from March 6-8

QUETTA (APP): District pated Administration had final-

Addressing the meet-Deputy Commissioner Sibi Dr. Khudai Rahim said that the annual traditional and historical Sibi Mela to 8 to put the local culture 2024 will be held with great at display, in addition to zeal

rare and exotic species of He directed the officers of all relevant depart-A high-level meeting ments, especially the Dewas held under the chairpartment of Livestock, Demanship of Deputy Compartment of Agriculture and missioner Sibi Dr Khudai Education to complete the Rahim reviewed the prepapreparations for the celrations and arrangements of ebrations of the Sibi Mela Sibi Mela 2024, said a news and make sure that there was no disturbance in the In the meeting, Addipreparations for the festi-

tional Deputy Commissioner General Ali Asghar He said that this time Magsi, SSP Inayatullah the musical program will be Bangulzai, District Educaheld in the stadium instead tion Officer Abdul Waasy of the Jirga Hall so that the Kakar, Chief Officer Mupublic do not face any Committee problem.

Muhibullah Baloch, Execu-A large number of tive Engineer PHE Shahzad people not only from all Farrukh Baloch, Deputy over the province but also Director Livestock Dr from other parts of the Farooq Luni and head all country would participate in it, he added



Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Akbar News Agency, Airport Road, Gwadar Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E.mail: dailyindisb@gmail.com. Quetta Office: Al Syed Building Jinnah road, Quetta, Phone 2842938 Fax: 2842941

Independent Report other areas. He also monitored the QUETTA: The Commisrepair and rehabilitation of sioner Makran Division affected roads and bridges. visited different areas affected due to rains in Kech district on Tuesday.

Also accompanied with him were the Deputy Director of PDMA, Rehan Dashti and officers of different other departments. The Commissioner

ment agencies, security and other civil institu-Makran visited Nasirabad, Nodaz and Tagranabad and

Addressing at the In-ternational Peace Conference, the former minister said that economic development could not be achieved without peace and stability

ments

in this region. He added that lasting beace could only be established by promoting tolerance and harmony among Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan in the chair here

He said, we will have on Tuesday. to endorse partnership and The meeting took up the cases of promotion of

of speedy progress and prosperity. Ahsan Iqbal said that attitude of hatred lead to

mended to promote officers of BSS and BCS of Services and General Administration Department serving in Grade 20.