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5th anniversary of 'Operation Swift Retort': Pakistan resolved to safeguard its sovereignty, regional security: PM

Armed forces vow to respond to any aggression against the country

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that being a peace-loving country, Pakistan was resolved to safeguard its sovereignty and regional security.

a message on the fifth anniversary of the Operation Swift Retort, paid tributes to the professional capabil-ity and resolve of the Pakistan's armed forces. On February 27, 2019,

the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had shot down two Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace. One of the Indian pilots was captured by Pakistan, but was later handed over as a gesture of peace.

The prime minister rial integrity with "full said that the Pakistani might and without any



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

Pakistan Army shoots

down Indian spy

quadcopter

ISLAMABAD (APP): armed forces had proved hesitation" On February 27, 2019, the Pakistan Air Force their operational superiority falsifying the Indian (PAF) had shot down two claims. "No one should have Indian planes that had vio-

doubt that Pakistan is a lated Pakistani airspace. peace-loving country that One of the Indian pilots was determined to protect was captured by Paki-The prime minister, in its sovereignty as well as stan. the regional security," he remarked.

over as a gesture of peace. The prime minister reiterated the resolve that by the army's media wing, Pakistan would forcefully respond to any aggression the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) today, against it.

said: "Feb 27, 2019, marked INP adds: On the fifth a significant event in our anniversary of 'Operation history, demonstrating the Swift Retort', Pakistan's resolve of the people of armed forces have vowed to Pakistan and the profesrespond to any aggression sionalism of the armed against the people of Paforces in response to unkistan, the country's warranted aggression from India, motivated by politisovereignty and territocal considerations and electoral concerns.

Murad Ali Shah sworn in as Sindh CM

, but was later handed

A press release issued

KARACHI (APP): The newly elected Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday took oath of the office at the Governor House. Sindh Governor

Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori administered the oath to him as the 38th Chief Minister in an im-

pressive ceremony. Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, outgoing Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar, Chief Secretary Fakhr-eam provinc ies, PPP leaders and dignitaries attended the ceremony. Murad Ali Shah got 12 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 Au-gust 18, 2018 to August 17, 2023



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) presenting a report on the activities and accomplishments of PANAH to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of The election commis-

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday sion further said that the said that it is mandatory to hold the presidential elec-tions within 30 days after submitted to any presiding officer by 12pm on March 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 noted. started preparations for the presidential elections and the first session of all as-

semblies under constitutional bindings. "The election commission will issue the schedule

of the presidential election and public notice on March 1." the ECP said in a statement. "According to the Constitution, one day will election. The statement be given to submit the nomi- came a day after National

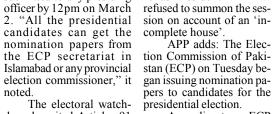
Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf summoned the maiden sitting of lower nomination papers can be house of Parliament on Feb submitted to any presiding 29 as President Arif Alvi 2. "All the presidential candidates can get the

tion Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday began issuing nomination papers to candidates for the

dog also cited Articles 91 and 130 of the Constitution which stated that the National Assembly shall meet on the 21st day following the general elections. The ECP said all the assemblies will be formed by February 29, paving the way for the presidential

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According to an ECP spokesperson, the candidates can submit their nomination papers at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as the offices of provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till 12 noon pm on March 2.

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 employ-

ment and benefiting from

each other's experiences,

while further consolidating

longstanding fraternal rela-

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The training which en-

President emphasizes early prevention of diseases to avoid expensive treatment

against various diseases was treatment which was exsuch habits would also help reduce burden on the health system.

He expressed these views during a meeting with ent latest platforms to spread a delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) that called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr to present a report on the activities and accomplishments of the organization, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president

ISLAMABAD (APP): awareness among the President Dr Arif Alvi on masses about the signifi-Tuesday said that adoption cance of preventive meaof preventive measures sures against non-communicable diseases and heart prerequisite to ward off diseases. He also underscored the need about the pensive in Pakistan and role of media, local population, mosques and non government organizations to create such awareness, besides utilization of differ-

awareness messages. PANAH President Major General (retd) Masud Ur Rehman Kiani briefed the president about the role of the organization and public awareness campaigns including holding of walks, seminars, The president lectures and training ses-stressed upon creating sions.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to further enhance defence ties



RAWALPINDI (APP): Air Arabia Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the Gen-

Meetings were fo cused upon further promoting Pak-Saudi defence ties, particularly between the two Air Forces through joint military exercises and

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Army has shot down Indian spying quadcopter that intruded into country's airspace along the Line of Control.

Pakistani forces at 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 Indian Army can be seen in the pictures which confirms that the quadcopter belongs to the Indian Army.

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

President Alvi to face dual constitution violation charges, says Bilawal

ment.

from it.

ing-in of the new house and

he will face dual constitu-

tion violation cases includ-

ing one of dissolving the as-

sembly despite VONC mo-

tion and another of denying

calling the session of the

lower house of the parlia-

founder, Bilawal Bhutto

said the man who is incar-

cerated in Adiala Jail is not

ready to learn from his mis-

takes. "PPP too made mis-

Criticising the PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday asserted President Arif Alvi will face dual constitution violation charges after his retirement.

Talking to media men outside the Supreme Court after hearing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's presidential refer-Bilawal Bhutto ence, Zardari said President Arif Alvi is 'violating' the constitution of Pakistan by denying summoning the NA session for the swearing-in of the new lawmakers.

It's a constitutional requirement to summon NA session by February 29, Bilawal said and added the president is denying discharging his duties.

The PPP leader said the only way forward to they will replace Arif Ali as steer the country out of cripresident after the swear- ses.

Imran supports President decision of not summoning NA session

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder on Tuesday said that President Arif Alvi did the right thing by not summoning the National Assembly (NA) session.

The former premier said this during an informal interaction with journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday. He claimed PTI won the election, but 'rigging' was done to 'snatch' PTI's seats. Founder PTI said there could be no greater theft than the public mandate, the whole nation is saying that a 'rigged 20-seater is being made prime minister'

He reiterated his demand for the resignation of the CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja.

PPP to join **Punjab** cabinet

in 2nd phase AHORE (INP): The Pa-tistan 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 provincial cabinet, which will be offered after the

PeaceFLIX Punjab budget is finalized. rnational (Negotiations are currently and Ceremony underway between the two parties to finalize the specific ministries and potential candidates.

· . .

the society.

Tuesday

PTI announces countrywide protests on March 2

takes but one has to learn ISLAMABAD (INP): Paki-He urged everyone to stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on exercise their power in Tuesday gave a call for a countheir respective constitutrywide protest on March 2 tional domain and underagainst the alleged rigging in lined the need for respectthe general elections 2024, ing each other despite posaying that other political parlitical differences, as this is ties will also join them.

In a press conference after meeting PTI founder

Imran Khan, Secretary Genfor peace. He also comeral Omar Ayub, who is also mended the role of National the party's candidate for the Counter-Terrorism Auprime minister's slot, lathority and other organizamented "large scale" rigging in tion in combating the scourge of terrorism and the polls. extremism.

He said PTI would stage countrywide protests against the "rigging" in polls alongside other political parties.

ganizations have con-"Our seats were stolen ducted invaluable research with just a stroke of pen. The and facilitated dialogue to people gave the mandate to comprehend the new dythe former PTI chairman. namics of peace and con-flict. The Minister said Nation's mandate and our seats have been attacked. preservation of societal Avub said peace assumes paramount



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

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): significance at a time when Pakistan is facing eco-Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting nomic, political, environmental and other chal-Murtaza Solangi has said

ceFLIX Inte Ceremony Murtaza Solangi

lenges

political leaders' support for reconciliation and mutual respect has greater imther said the media, being pact in fostering peace in an agent of change, has a greater role in challenging He was addressing the extremist ideologies and Peace-FLIX International championing inclusivity as Conference in Islamabad well as amplifying voices Murtaza of moderation and facilitat-Solangi said political paring dialogue in the society.

ties shoulder immense re-He also appreciated the role of US Embassy in sponsibility in the pursuit Islamabad for initiating measures for sustainable peace and conflict prevention in the Pakistani soci-

APP adds: Federal Minister for Information, He added that national Broadcasting and Parliaand international thinkmentary Affairs Murtaza tanks as well as peace or-Solangi said on Tuesday that the Government of Pakistan, international institutions and grassroots organizations had been contributing uniquely for promoting peace, toler-ance, and harmony in the country

eral Staff, Saudi Armed Forces and His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Turki Bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Forces, during his visit to Saudi

technological collaboration. During the visit, the Air Chief was awarded King Abdul Aziz Badge of Honor of the Excellent Class by Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces.

The counsels for the

are not readable despite the

with regard to this reference.

the view we don't want to

raise obstructions in the

process of indictment.

be provided during court's

time. We will come back

after 7 days because former

chairman PTI has said he

wants to run the case

speedily. Therefore, we

have filed application for

providing the documents

court wants to indict then

this thing be also brought

on record that about 50

documents are not readable

and even then indictment is

the court to indict the ac-

cused and took the plea all

the record will be provided

to the lawyers of accused

NAB DPG requested

being made.

The lawyers said if the

Therefore, these documents

The lawyers were of

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

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of have already given enough time to you. More time Accountability Court (AC) cannot be given. Islamabad has indicted PTI accused took the plea copfounder and his wife Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds ies of reference have to be financial scandal reference. provided 7 days before in-The accused while dictment. Near about 50 pleading not guilty have redocuments are such which

ected the charges. Upon it court has sumfact these documents are of moned 5 witnesses of NAB paramount importance on March 6 for regular trial of reference

Both of the accused, their lawyers Suleman Safdar, Zahir Abbas Chaudhry and Usman Gill and NAB Deputy Prosecutor General (DPG) were present in the court during the hearing of the case. The court read out

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

compassed conventional as The former chairman well as sub-conventional PTI replied what I have to operations, culminated with do by reading charge sheet field manoeuver & battle inas I know what is written therein. Both the accused pleaded not guilty. Commander Multan

The counsels for the accused while requesting to provide copies of challan again sought 7 days more time

while recording the state-The court remarked we ments of the witnesses.



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.

oculation exercise, employing air and ground forces.

Corps witnessed the exer-Murtaza Solangi furcise as Chief Guest. The Chief Guest expressed satisfaction over mutual understanding and the training standards achieved



natural

climate

change

monsoon

recovery.

OPINION

and

Daily **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

AjazAhmed Notwithstanding investing in climate ad-Pakistan's marginal con-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 policymakers seem preterms of avoided cost occupied with climate could be used for highmitigation, ie, GHG emission reduction. COP28 refreshed the resolve of source development. countries to achieve the Investing in climate Nation-ally Determined adaptation is also criti-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. These challenges often to climate mitigation and 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 resildocuments on climate ience can save human

change are silent on the lives in addition to reexpected returns on inducing the economic vestment 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 Over a third of current climate policy Pakistan's population is For example, there are takes a lopsided view of involved in the agriculchange. ture sector, which is di-Policymakers and planrectly exposed to climate ners must understand change-driven natural that what is needed is disasters, resulting in investment in climate serious implications for adaptation, food security and liveliwhich could protect hood of the low-skilled against the impact of rural population. The natural 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 population suffers from billions in critical basic moderate to severe food infrastructure like roads, insecurity. This underschools, and water supscores the need to proply. But one bout of tect the agriculture secflooding tor against a worse food knocks down what took crisis. Climate change's decades to build. Such impact on agriculture damage aggravates the vulnerability of affected cussions for industry communities by impedthrough its linkages ing their access to rewith the sector, which sources and services, uses agricultural output and results in delayed

Conversely, access thereby the overall per-

ity and builds commu- risk also means adverse nity resilience, whereas impacts for aligned businesses such as seeds, aptation can protect key 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 lowians, mainly women and skilled workers, who impact investments in mostly comprise poor children, have been slaughtered in Gaza. areas such as human re- rural migrants. Climate change-driven natural of massive US military disasters often destroy small business estabaid and financial assistance has been the bedlishments such as roadrock of Israel's national side cafes or food stalls,

power. America's absoresulting in the masses lute political support, slipping into poverty especially its wilful adunemployment. vocacy at the UN, has One remedy is to climate-proof these small shielded Israel from punishment for its businesses. This can be wrongs, inciting more helpful in the recovery offences and more US and building of resilsupport. Why should ience of the domestic economy. It might rethe US not be considquire only simple actions ered complicit in Israel's such as training and ininhumanity in Gaza? formation about climate

we change and extreme weather events. Lastly, the imple-

mentation of climate adwo aptation has diverse possibilities from the investment point of view. several low-cost cliand mate-adaptation options, which could be taken up by households and local communities with minimal institutional support. The use of nature-based adaptation options for temperature and flood management, farmers' capacity development, and timely communication of disaster information are just a few examples. However, implementing climate mitigation is generally high cost and can only be financed by an institution.

It has a minimal poalso has serious reper- tential for climate risk mitigation in the short run. Thus, investing in climate adaptation not only makes economic as an input. This affects sense but is, with the

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 intransigence. world public opinion The blanket US while some 30,000 civil-

thy thus given have enabled Israel to violate Palestinian rights for its Seventy-five years unrestrained expan-sionist policies without any political cost. Acclaimed Harvard professor Walt Stephen his article 'America is a Root Cause of Israel and Palestine's Latest War' in Foreign Policy.

has We are mistaken if attribute Washington's iron-clad support simply to the rk of the Israel lobby (AIPAC). Israel is embedded in America's body politic, where its influence is pervasive deep-rooted. Granted Washington needs a reliable ally to

look after its strategic and economic interests in the Middle East. But lenges 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. Not just the execu-

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 and their Christian right the ally, and the lure of cam- normalisation with Israel paign funding, orches-trated by AIPAC, have port for the two-state hypnotised American solution. The Saudis are Courtesy Dawn

politics have aligned to without an irrevocable enhance American support for Israel and diminish Washington's leverage. It is complete con- ested in normalisation. fidence in this support He has added the tragic that has incited Israel's events of Oct 7 to

Israel's partner

protection and sympasummarised this well in will not succeed. Even

brought little change to the US position. Joe Biden, known to be the most pro-Israel president ever, has no empathy for the Palestinians. He is taking a minimalist approach by focusing only on the humanitarian issue, and Israel. He is fighting a tough election where he China, menaced by Iran, is under siege on many fronts: immigration, economy and perceived weakness in meeting foreign policy chal-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, hoping it will cause Biden to lose the Muslim vote in key swing states, and thus lose to Trump, his preferred choice. He may prolong the war till the elections. To escape the dilemma of whether or not rael, Biden is seeking Saudi help to hold out stability if they continue promise of

politicians. Policy and not going to oblige process of establishing a Palestinian home. And Netanyahu is not inter-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 Party to attach conditions to aid to Israel in the Foreign Affairs Act 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 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 even here, he is not put- shape and influence ting enough pressure on events in the region is now challenged by 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 different America and Israel where this change takes place. In America, policies have to recover the moral purpose the US always claimed but rarely measured up to. In Israel, as the Haaretz editor-inchief said in a recent article in Foreign Affairs, "Israelis cannot expect to ignore the Palestinians and reject their aspirations, their story, and even their presence". --

Commerce News

industrial output and more prudent use of scarce resources, also a to basic services im- formance of the high-value investment. proves adaptive capac- economy. Moreover, the -- Courtesy Dawn

CPEC new phase focuses on industrial cooperation, agriculture: Ambassador

infrastructure, he said.

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

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"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 Daily

Company

Beyond that, in the concept of building a

h i g h - q u a l i t y underscore Beijing's goal of Economic development and the universal prosperity and sustainable nature of the sharing high-quality projects will get sharper focus, he said.

Going forward, we Last year marked the are very excited to start the the notion of win-win that 10th anniversary of the next phase, building on the President Xi Jinping has very good progress that has been made," Hashmi emphasized for a long time", he added. said. "We have all the ingredients in place",

including good-quality Forum for International Cooperation in October Xi announced an eight-"These are areas which we also find point agenda in relation to to pursue the next phase along these lines," Hashmi said. the Belt and Road Initiative

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

development with the rest of the world. They "demonstrate

Hashmi noted that at the third Belt and Road Hailing China's global development, livelihoods, with

Development LESCO detects 57,806 power pilferers in **167 days**

AHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company reclaimed. (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. The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 53,333 FIRs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil of Rs123.296 billion and and Gas Development earnings per share of Rs28.67," the OGDCL said Limited (OGDCL) on Tuesday in a news release. The company's Board of Directors (BoD) announced announced the financial results for the first half of the current fiscal year ended on December 31, dividend to shareholders at 2023 (July-December), posting a profit of Rs123.296 billion.

the first interim cash the rate of Rs2.50 per share. "This is in addition to the interim dividend already

"Net sales revenue paid@Rs.1.60 per share i.e. clocked at Rs.235.375 billion 16 percent to its shareholders translating to Profit after tax

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 ChiefExecutive Officer.



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 Coastal Comprehensive

Zone Industry (KCCDZ) project in the President China-Pakistan Economic Ghurki expressed these Corridor (CPEC) will views in a think-tank boost Pakistan's economy session held here at and enhance industrial and PCJCCI Secretariat on development cooperation Tuesday. between Pakistan and

China, covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are project, being built with an expected investment of USD 3.5 billion, would the also house a state-of-theenvironment-friendly KCCDZ envisages four new berths for the Karachi

boost the country's trade potential. The project, he added, would also build up Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and (PCJCCI) the confidence of global investors towards the Moazzam country and its entire ecosystem for providing and offering a lucrative environment to set up businesses and gain profits. Ghurki said that mega Furthermore, it has the potential to boost industrial cooperation between Pakistan and

07 paisa against dollar

The Rupee on Tuesday Tuesday urged 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

Sunova Solar to revolutionize Pak's energy landscape via cutting-edge solar products

Independent Report LAHORE: Sunova Ŝolar, a global leader in renewable energy solutions, set the stage for a paradigm shift in the country's energy with sector the introduction of cuttingedge Tier-1 Solar products in a momentous event held in Lahore, Pakistan.

Sunova

The groundbreaking unveiling showcased Solar's commitment to driving sunlight not only from above but also from below innovation and shaping a

dazzled with anticipation Attendees were captivated by the unveiling of two incredible modules boasting power ranges of up to 590 W and an astonishing 705 W respectively. These cutting-edge modules aren't just about raw power - they represent a leap forward in sustainability with their double-glass, bifacial design. Imagine harnessing the power of

thanks to ingenious light Pakistan's energy needs. reflection technology! Over 260 esteemed guests, But the excitement including industry luminaries like Mr.

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 solutions, Sunova Solar's offerings couldn't have

Malik, Director of Strategic Projects, gathered to witness the unveiling of Sunova Solar's groundbreaking innovations. Under the guiding light of Vincent Zhou, the dynamic CEO of 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

Authority

power tariff by Rs. 7.05 per Industry (LCCI) on unit on account of fuel the charges adjustment (FCA). government to withdraw

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.

MULTAN: Vendor displaying tomato bags for bidding at Vegetable Market. **OGDCL** earns Rs123.296 bln profit in

first half of FY 2023-24

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 collaboration Nutrition International and Punjab Food Authority, here on Tuesday.

attended oil manufacturing companies,

"Benefits of Edible Oil Fortification" held FAISALABAD (APP): An 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 in women and children population in Pakistan are with facing deficiency in micronutrients. The micronutrients. deficiencies of iron, vitamins The program was A and D are on the top, he

by added. He said that representatives of edible fortification is simple but mills, biscuit practical method to meet the nutrition elements in the food.

Awareness session on ISLAMABAD (APP):

> 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 closing of Rs 302.31 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

China due to its proximity with Karachi. the financial hub of Pakistan. PCJCCI Senior Vice **Rupee sheds**



Tauseef, former chairman

of NEPRA, and the

visionary Usama Khalid

ndependent

Wednesday February 28, 2024

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 Medical Edward 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



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 million-acre cultivated Small Dams of the Irrigation (CCA) and 0.3414 Acres Department's spokesman Feet (AF) water storage.

portrait of the Nawab of was a great decision. He Bahawalpur, the Punjab said that there are many examples of Nawab of Governor while addressing a ceremony said that the Bahawalpur Nawab of Bahawalpur was subcontinent and Punjab in the benefactor of Pakistan the fields of education, and he rendered invaluable health and public welfare. services for the country

He said that it has always especially in the fields of been a matter of pride for health and education. him to come to King Governor Punjab said that Edward Medical Nawab of Bahawalpur also Iniversity. He further said he made very first visit to played a very important role in the establishment of King Edward Medical Pakistan. He added that University as Chancellor. Nawab of Bahawalpur He stated that this established Bahawalpur institution has the oldest House and Mosque in and most prominent Aitchison College. He position in medical further stated that after the education and research. Governor Punjab said that Maharaja of Patiala, Nawab of Bahawalpur his grandfather was also a graduate of this institution. contributed the most in the He further said that Dr. construction of King Edward's Patiala Block. Maqbool Ahmed is an He said that Nawab of example for the alumni of Bahawalpur's inclusion of King Edward Medical University

Bahawalpur in Pakistan

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 recklessly crashing his high-speed car

Shehram into petition



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 FAISALABAD: Number

of complaints filed with the office of Federal Ombudsman has recorded a phenomenal increase due to the confidence of people

DHA accident: enjoyed by this institution, said Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Federal Ombudsman. Addressing a meeting in Faisalabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here on Tuesday, he said that during last year the federal ombudsman office resolved 194,000 complaints in addition to submitting recommendations to doorsteps of the masses.

Wafaqi Mohtasib was receiving only 20,000 complaints while its number has now jumped to 194,000 and it is expected to cross the limit of 2 to 2.5 lacs within the next year. These complaints are positively resolved within days while the 60 percentage of resolved complaints is 99.9 %, he

added He said that 9 million expatriates are sending precious foreign exchange of \$ 30 bn per annum and efforts have been made to

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

International News

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 cancellation of the accused. stating that the trial court awarded bail in violation of Justice law

It pleaded with the Sarwar court to cancel the bail filed by granted to the accused.

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 of Pakistan but its percentage is hardly 0.4 %, he added. He said that article 34 is being exploited to resolve the complaints which could not fall within the purview of the federal ombudsman. "In this connection Alternate Resolution Dispute mechanism has been evolved", he said and added that the consent of both parties is imperative for

National News

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 Doha at Peshawar Airport. Secretary Mines and Pak Arab Housing scandal.

Page 03 Speakers seek state, society

role in keeping youngsters from drug addiction

that our young generation equipped the collective Dr Johar Ali, Dean of Social Sciences United and society to plant and society to play their role to get rid of the menace

of the drug addiction.

DIR LOWER (APP): Vice of the population, has the Chancellor University of Malakand (UoM), Prof Dr Pakistan into a wealthy Rashid Ahmad has said country provided they are with is exposed to a variety of contemporary information.

participants of the seminar that there are seven million He was addressing a drug addicts in the country. seminar on 'The Changing Every year, about 250,000 people die in Pakistan Landscape of Drug Abuse in Pakistan: Exploring Recent Trends & because of drug-related

Challenges Faced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' Prof Dr Johar Ali added that the increasing here at UoM on Tuesday. He said that the number of addicts is a huge 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**

LAHORE (APP): National Minerals and senior 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 Sohail Zafar Chattha,

officers of NAB and hundreds of affectees attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Sohail Nasir, Deputy Chairman NAB, highlighted that the bureau's primary objective is to serve the nation and country. He the 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

fishing, the WTO hopes to

conclude a second package

focusing on subsidies which

fuel overcapacity and over-

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

'The final push needs

matic source.

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 their bail cancellation in money laundering case. The division bench, headed by

Chaudhry, heard the

solve their problems on provide free justice at top priority basis. He said that 150,000

this system.

Declare Israel's occupation illegal, Arab states urge ICJ

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

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.

President Emmanuel Ma-

cron opened the door on

Monday to European na-

tions sending troops to

Ukraine, although he cau-

tioned that there was no

consensus at this stage as

allies agreed to ramp up ef-

forts to deliver more muni-

leaders gathered in Paris on

Monday to send Russian

President Vladimir Putin a

message of European resolve

Some 20 European

tions to Kyiv.

France's Macron does

not rule out Europeans

sending troops to Ukraine

Russia does not win.'

Ahmet Yildiz told judges the occupation was the root tions posed to the court cause of conflict in the re-

"The unfolding situa-tion after October 7 proves once again that, without addressing the root cause of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there can be no peace in the region," he said, describing the occupation of Palestinian territories as

"the real obstacle to peace" and urging the judges to declare it illegal. taking part in the hearings,

On the sixth and last day of hearings, Turkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister Aburd Vilie to Id index the settlement, calling the quesprejudiced. Palestinian factions have also come under international pressure to end their own divisions

another vehicle.

over their response to Israel's occupation, the war in Gaza and what political system might follow it.

Earlier on Monday, the Arab League's secretary general Ahmed Aboul Gheit described the occupation as "an affront to international justice" in a Israel, which is not statement read out by a 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

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

the tracks on Sunday. "We have ordered an inquiry," Northern Rail-ways spokesman Deepak Kumar said, adding that no one was hurt in the incident.

PARIS (Internews): French Kremlin's narrative that The train, running at Russia is bound to win a war 100 kilometres per hour, now in its third year. There was captured in a video is no consensus at this stage to send troops on the that went viral on social media. The incident hapground," Macron told reporters. "Nothing should be pened after the train stopped at a railway staexcluded. We will do everytion in Jammu for a crew thing that we must so that change, local media reports said. But it began

A White House official said that the United moving down a slope after the driver and his as-States had no plans to send sistant got off. All road troops to fight in Ukraine crossings on the route and that there were also no were closed to prevent plans to send NATO on Ukraine and counter the troops to fight in Ukraine. accidents.

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 day," Kristersson said on B U D A P E S T / S T O C K H O L M : Sweden stands ready X. to shoulder its responsi-Hungary's parliament ap-proved Sweden's Nato acbility for Euro-Atlantic security." Hungarian Prime cession on Monday, clear-ing the last hurdle before Minister Viktor Orban's government has faced pressure from Nato allies the historic step by the to fall in line and seal Nordic country whose neutrality lasted through two world wars and the Sweden's accession to the alliance

simmering conflict of the Cold War. Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg immedi-ately welcomed Hungary's vote ended months of delays to move. "Sweden's membercomplete Sweden's secuship will make us all stronger and safer," he said on X. rity policy shift and fol-Stockholm abandoned its lowed a visit by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf non-alignment policy for greater safety within the Kristersson on Friday during which the two North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in the wake of countries signed an arms Russia's invasion of Ukraine

"Today is a historic in 2022

Hungary's

deal

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

mined Orlov's guilt and orders a sentence of two years and six months [...] in a general regime penal colony," the judge said.

sault on Ukraine. The 70-year-old, a key figure of the Nobel Prize-winning Memorial group, is the latest target of Kremlin repression, which has intensified since the oftrial Jordan air-drops **Monitoring Desk**

WTO braces for battles on fisheries, agriculture in UAE talks

Monitoring Desk

ABU DHABI: The world's trade ministers are set for tough negotiations on Tuesday at a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in Abu Dhabi, with fisheries and agriculture taking centre stage.

a little bit of compromise, a The closed talks will little bit of political will, take place on the second day of the WTO's 13th ministethe source told AFP on conrial conference which is dition of anonymity, callscheduled to run until ing a potential agreement a Thursday but could go into over-time amid divisions.

The 2022 agreement has yet to take effect as not There is little hope for enough countries have ratimajor breakthroughs with WTO rules requiring full fied it. But it was seen as a consensus among all 164 major achievement, marking

member states. But progress could be made on a new global agreement on fisheries subsidies. After a 2022 deal which banned subsidies contributing to illegal, un- cused on environmental

just the second accord concluded by the WTO's full membership since the global trade body was created in 1995, and the first fodeclared and unregulated protection.

very good outcome".

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 soon as next week, Joe yet. My hope is by next Monday we'll have a ceasefire," Biden said. Biden said, though Hamas officials said the U.S. Hamas is reviewing a

proposal agreed at a meeting in Paris last week between Israel, the United States and mediators from Egypt and Qatar, the most serious push for a ceasefire since the last truce collapsed after a week in November. Two senior Hamas officials said Biden's remarks sug-Ramadan is coming gesting the agreement had already been reached in principle were premature.

There were "still big gaps to be bridged", one Hamas official said. "The primary and main issues of the ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces are not clearly stated, which delays reaching an agree-

Monitoring Desk fensive in Ukraine. The court has deter-MOSCOW: A Russian court on Tuesday sentenced top human rights campaigner Oleg Orlov to two and a half years in jail for denouncing Russia's as-Orlov was accused of discrediting the Russian

army in a column written for the French online publication Mediapart, and fined in October after a first

aid into Gaza AMMAN: The Jorda-nian army on Mon-

day said it had carried out a series of humanitarian aid drops of food and other supplies into the besieged Gaza Strip, one of them by a French army plane

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

the UN's top court. New Zealand set to scrap world-first

WELLINGTON (Internews): New Zealand will repeal on Tuesday a world-first law banning tobacco 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

all the hostages out," Biden said. have banned sales to those Earlier on Monday, born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut Biden said he hoped a nicotine content in smoked ceasefire agreement would tobacco products. be hammered out by Mon- ment.

The operation came on the same day that two human rights groups accused Israel of further

limiting humanitarian aid into Gaza — where the UN has warned of famine - despite an order from

president's remarks were premature as it studies a truce offer. Biden's comments, recorded on Monday and broadcast after midnight on Tuesday, come as ne-

tobacco ban since October last year.

gotiators try to hammer out the first extended truce deal in a war that has obliterated the Gaza Strip

up, and there's been an agreement by the Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramadan, as well, in order to give us time to get

Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

Wednesday February 28, 2024

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The memory of the humiliating defeat suffered by the Balakot. Hindutva led India and its air force at the hands of the Pakistan Air Force remains vivid in the minds of the Indian bigotry rulers, even as five years have passed since the incident 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 face defeat.

'Operation Swift Re- thwarted India's aspiratort' was launched as a befitting response to the misadventures of the fascist Modi regime, whose air

airspace on the night of Feb-ruary 26, 2019, targeting Pakistan Air Force in coun-tering India's aggressive in-

The myth of India's conventional military superiority was shattered by the Pakistan Air Force, which downed two Indian Air and captured an Indian pilot, Abhinandan, alive. Pakistan's victory in the to haunt India.

stan."

The

The confusion caused by 'Operation Swift Retort' led to the Indian Air over, the Indian govern-Force mistakenly shooting down its helicopter, resulting in casualties, including the pilot. This incident sent a clear message to India – "Don't mess with Paki-

operation tions to establish itself as a dominant military force in the region while showcas- and an accurate count of the ing the firm resolve, capacforce violated Pakistan's ity, and capability of the strike.

tentions. On February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force conducted an aerial strike near Balakot, targeting a re-

ligious seminary that India Force aircraft in a dogfight claimed was a militant camp, alleging the killing of more than 300 terrorists. However, Pakistan and sevbrief air combat continues eral international observers refuted the claim, citing no casualties and missed targets by the bombs. Morement failed to provide substantial evidence of the

Balakot strikes. The Indian opposition, particularly the Congress, has raised doubts about the Balakot surgical strikes proclaimed by the BJP government. Rahul Gandhi and Navjot Singh Sidhu demanded validation casualties resulting from the

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azam Nazir Tarar, leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), on Tuesday said that only political parties with representation in the Parliament could qualify for the allocation of

women seats.

reserved seats.

granted reserved seats. He said that SIC didn't make PML-N party in its petition about reserved seats, reserved minority and while other political parties filed petitions with the Elec-Talking to media outtion Commission. The side Election Commission Commission, he said of Pakistan (ECP), Azam merged all the petitions con-Nazir Tarar pointed out cerning allocation of minorthat Sunni Ittehad Council ity and women reserve

(SIC), without winning any seats. seats or participating in the The PML-N leader election, is now demanding pointed out that there is a lot of discussion on the de-The political parties lay in allocating reserved seats, and same individuals

that have secured seats in the parliament are entitled have also asked the Election to reserve seat allocations. Commission to postpone He further said that the case. Ali Zafar has re-

DC directs ACs, magistrates for complete supervision of polio teams

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday directed the Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and magistrates to actively supervise the polio teams across various subdivisions of the

federal capital.

missioner Islamabad on commenced on February 26 and will continue till March

Talking to APP, the spokesman of ICT, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that like other parts of the country, an anti-polio drive is being continued in Islamabad vaccinating children under the age of five years which

In the inaugural phase of the campaign, the Assistant Commissioner City conducted on-site visits in the subdivision to evaluate progress and implementation strategies.

This included assessments of micro-plans and target coverage, ensuring that every aspect of the vaccination effort was meticulously executed.

On the occasion, the Assistant Commissioner issued directives to the campaign teams and emphasized the importance of comprehensive coverage, particularly in areas with high rates of resistance and denial cases

quested more time from the EC to submit a reply by tomorrow. He further said that legal position on reserved seats is clear, and the parties which have won seats in the parliament will get reserved seats.

Speaking on the occa-sion, PML-N leader Atta Tarar criticized the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), for hastily joining the Sunni Unity Council, in an attempt to secure specific seats, which goes against

He said that PTI's actions have led to their own downfall, as according to the Constitution and Law, holding intra-party elections could have avoided in this situation.

Crackdown against illegal

petrol filling

stations

launched

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Magistrate Secretariat

on Tuesday raided at dif-

ferent areas in the Secre-

tariat Sub-Division to curb

the illegal activities and up-

According to the spokesman of ICT, Dr

Abdullah Tabassum, the in-

spection was aimed at to en-

sure compliance with price

regulations set by OGRA

and maintaining accurate

measuring instruments.

During the inspections, he

found two petrol pumps

which selling petrol illegally,

arresting their owners be-

sides also sealing the pumps.

stakeholders like you, she

was eventually freed, and

she stands before you to-

day as a tireless advocate

Salavarria, a retired Special

Joseph

for trafficking victims. We are also going to

from

hear

hold the consumer rights.

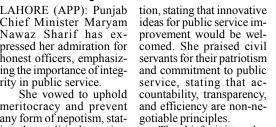
No room for political appointments: Maryam Nawaz

honest officers, emphasizing the importance of integrity in public service.

She vowed to uphold meritocracy and prevent any form of nepotism, stating that political appointments would not be tolerated under her administration. Furthermore, she underscored the government's commitment to transparency in financial matters.

Addressing officials at the Darbar Hall Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of providing quality healthcare services to the public. She directed officials to prioritize the prevention of diseases like dengue and polio, and to ensure the continuation of public utility projects in the health sector.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif also highlighted her support for officers and employees tions of various departwho demonstrate dedica-



The chief minister also stressed the importance of promptly addressing public grievances, stating that immediate action should be taken to resolve issues. She emphasized the need for institutional and organizational reforms to address people's problems.

During her visit to the Punjab Civil Secretariat, Maryam Nawaz Sharif commended the restoration project of the Civil Secretariat for preserving its historical significance. She inaugurated a museum within the Secretariat and reviewed ongoing projects.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman provided a detailed briefing on the funcments



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying swing at Japanese Park in the Federal Capital.

Solangi says: **FEB&GIF** clears educational-stipend claims within 45 days

ing and Parliamentary Af-

fairs Murtaza Solangi in-

formed the Senate on Tues-

day that the claims related

to the educational stipends

were cleared by the Federal

Employees Benevolent and

Group Insurance Funds

(FEB&GIF) within 45

days. Responding to a ques-

ISLAMABAD (APP): FEB&GIF for educational Caretaker Federal Minister stipends from federal govfor Information Broadcasternment employees

He said that as of December 2023 and January 2024, around 4,997 claims were pending for the processing. The main reasons for this delay were twofold, he said adding first, the seasonal nature of claims, as the period from August to March was the peak time tion during the question hour in the Senate, he said that on average, 35,000 to

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor ISRA University giving gold medal to a student during 5th Convocation 2024 of ISRA University, in the Federal Capital. Pakistani students to visit Japan under

JENESÝS Program **Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: On the invitation by the Government of Japan, a group of eight Pakistani undergraduate students (four from Islamabad and three from Karachi) will be visiting Japan from March 5 to 12, 2024 under the JENEYSYS (Japan-East Asia Network of this opportunity and Youths) program. A total of Japan during this short pe-49 youths have been invited riod as this may become a from the SAARC countries life changing experience for to participate in this program which is being held under the theme of Environment . JENESYS is a youth exchange program between Japan and the Asia Pacific region launched by the Japanese Government which aims at promoting mutual trust and understanding among the peoples of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. With focus on the theme of environment, the invitees from the SAARC countries during their stay in Japan will be provided opportunities to learn and deepen further their understanding of Japan's economy, society, history, politics, and diplomatic relations, and also experience Japan's diverse culture through lec-

orientation session for the visiting youth to give them useful information before their departure for Japan. While interacting with

the students on the occasion, Mr. Kazumasa Takane, Counsellor / Head of Public Affairs, advised Friday them to make optimum use of Exchange for Students and learn as much possible about issued to DC Islamabad due



contempt of court case against **DC on Friday**

in contempt of court case

court.

Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online) Islamabad High Court (IHC) will announce deci sion of contempt of court case against Deputy Com-

IHC has withdrawn second show cause notice to his absence from court

ISLAMABAD: Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan Jose Antonio de Ory posing for a group photograph along with artists during different artists painting exhibition title "Chaharbagh" at a local hotel in the Federal Capital. **Parliamentary representation key** for reserved seats allocation: Tarar

legal standpoint regarding reserved seats is evident and only parties with parliamentary seats will be

the Constitution.

The Embassy of Japan held today a pre-departure SAARC countries.

tures and visits.

them. "Since my arrival in Pakistan last year, I have had the opportunity to meet many young people in Pakistan and have found them very energetic, talented and keen to learn about Japan and its culture. He hoped that youth from Pakistan and Japan can play the role of a bridge for further promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations be-

The court while actween the two countries. cepting the plea for withdrawing show cause notice dismissed DC Islamabad The Government of Japan invites every year several groups of undergraduplea for exemption from ate/graduate students from attendance in the court.

Rizwan Abbasi

SAARC countries to par-IHC said in its order ticipate in this short term decision is reserved which invitation. The program is will be announced on Friexpected not only to proday. The court said in its mote capacity building but order the presence of the accused on the day of decialso to develop mutual understanding among youths sion is must. The exempof Japan and that of tion plea is dismissed. Only two to three days are left. you can go abroad doubt-

lessly after Friday. The decision regarding contempt of court case will be announced on March 01.

AIOU Rawalpindi shifted to main campus ISLAMABAD (APP)

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Regional Director Rawalpindi, Nasreen Akhtar Mirza Tuesday announced that the regional campus has been shifted to the University's Main

Islamabad.

Campus, Sector H-8 everywhere I go in Pakistan She thanked AIOU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Nasir Mehmood and Director General Regional

Services Dr Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan for taking this

staff, said a press release issued here. Nasreen Mirza said the problems of the students related to the regional office as well as the various departments in the main campus will be easily handled and resolved on a priority basis.

"Students will be able to get access to other departments including admission, examination and syllabus department," sh added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic stalled at the Constitution Avenue due to VVIP movement during PSL cricketer arriving at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

US Ambassador speaks at International **Conference on Combating Trafficking** However, through the

ISLAMABAD (Online): U.S. Ambassador, Donald Blome addressed at the International Conference on Combating Trafficking and Bonded Labor of Women and Girls in Pakistan on Tuesday.

He said Human trafficking is an appalling and pervasive crime. It deprives millions

worldwide of their dignity and freedom. It is a global crisis that touches every country, including Pakistan and the United States.

"It is a real honor to inaugurate this important conference and I am particularly pleased by the involvement of PUAN (Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network). I find members of our alumni network almost

and doing all kinds of important work. And I am always proud when I see it" he said. By its nature, the

initiative to lead in providcrime of human trafficking ing more facilities for students, teachers and regional

is often hidden from view. While the real numbers are coordinated efforts of hard to confirm, an estimated 27.6 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking, including millions of women and children. Beyond the harm to individual victims, trafficking-in-persons also undermines na-

Agent from the U.S. Department of Homeland Setional security, distorts curity. He has more than markets. enriches transnational criminals and 20 years of criminal investerrorists, and is an affront tigative experience focused to our universal values. on human trafficking and These statistics are human smuggling.

Salavarria will share alarming – but we need to go beyond the numbers and his expertise on the effihumanize this danger by cacy and necessity of stakeunderstanding the experiholder collaboration in addressing this transnational ences of survivors and encrime. In the United States, gaging with those who are actively fighting against this we follow the widely used "3P" paradigm - prosecutransnational crime. We will hear today tion, protection, and prefrom Ansa Noreen - one of

vention - and I am glad to the two American experts see that it is universalized joining us today – herself a here as well — to combat human trafficking worldtrafficking survivor. Her story could have ended in wide

7 killed in accident

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.

40,000 claims per annum were being received by the clared from SSC to Masters during this period.

SC stops CDA from cutting trees till next hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has stopped CDA from cutting trees in F-9 park Islamabad till next hearing. The SC issued this order during the hearing of suo motu notice regarding cutting of trees by CDA in F-9 Park Islamabad. SC issued notice to CDA, Wild life board and government on Tuesday. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked nation is feeling in-tense need for trees and CDA is cutting trees in F-9 park.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of the case. Registrar SC presented note regarding trees chopping to judges committee. A 3-member judges committee took notice of it declaring the matter of basic rights.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing. The court appointed president and secretary of Press Association of SC as commission. President Ageel Afzal and secretary Imran Wasim have been directed to visit the park and present report.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people submitting visa forms for Korea at Manpower office.

Phulgran police, homicide unit police teams arrested murderer

ISLAMABAD (APP): dent, a special investiga-The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) Pulgran police station and Homicide Unit police teams have arrested an accused involved in a methods and arrested the murder case and recovered murder tool from his pos- and recovered murder session. A public relations tool 30 bore pistol from officer said on Tuesday

received an application from a citizen who stated, 'I am a resident of Nasir Khan directed all se-Phulgran, the accused Ali Khan opened fire on his tive crackdown against the son Ibrahim Khan with a accused involved in crimi-30 bore pistol from which nal activities and to ensure he succumbed to his inju- the safety of lives and ries and died in the hospital'

He further said after receiving the application, the Phulgran police team registered an FIR no. 46/ 24. Following this inci- crimes.

tion team was constituted. The police teams utilized all available resources used technical and scientific

accused, namely Ali Khan his possession, while furthat Pulgran police station ther investigation is underwav

ICCPO Dr. Akbar nior officials to an effecproperty of citizens on a priority basis. He said that the Islamabad Capital Police adopts a zero-tolerance policy against violence, including injustices and

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ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted road to VVIP

movement during PSL cricketer arriving at a lo-

cal hotel in the Federal Capital.

tragedy.



ISLAMABAD: Kazumasa Takane, Counsellor / Head of Public Affairs, in a group photo with the students at the orientation ceremony held today at the Embassy of Japan.

IIUI, FOSPAH organize seminar on women's property rights, protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Office of Students' Advisor of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), in collaboration with the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for protection against harassment of women at workplace (FOSPAH), arranged an awareness seminar on women's property rights and protection against harassment at workplace on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Fed-

eral Ombudsperson for to ensure the impleprotection against harassment of women at lated to harassment, it is the workplace, Fauzia important that affected Vigar said that these are high times when contri-

bution of working nuisance.

country's economy. She mentioned that a number of the females face problems at workplace that needs to be addressed on immediate basis. Calling upon the educated females, she said, it is their responsibility to explore about their property rights and raise voice on their prerogatives that are legitimate and defined. She observed that

women must be in-

creased to stabilize the

mentation of laws repeople should raise their voices against this

