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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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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.

The prime minister, in a message on the fifth anniversary of the Operation Swift Retort, paid tributes to the professional capability 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.

their operational superiority Force (PAF) had shot down falsifying the Indian claims. "No one should have doubt that Pakistan is a peace-loving country that was determined to protect its sovereignty as well as the regional security," he remarked.

iterated the resolve that Pafifth anniversary of 'Operaagainst the people of Pakistan, the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity

The prime minister said that the Pakistani armed forces had proved 27, 2019, the Pakistan Air 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. A press release issued by the army's The prime minister remedia wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) to-

kistan would forcefully re- day, said: "Feb 27, 2019, spond to any aggression against it. INP adds: On the our history, demonstrating the resolve of the people of tion Swift Retort', Pakistan's Pakistan and the professionarmed forces have vowed to alism of the armed forces in respond to any aggression response to unwarranted aggression from India, motivated by political considerations and electoral concerns.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Murtaza Solangi Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing a PeaceFLIX International Conference and Award Ceremony.

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

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

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

He was addressing the Peace-FLIX International Conference in Islamabad

Murtaza Solangi said political parties shoulder immense responsibility in the pursuit for peace.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) com-

bined all petitions related to

minority and women re-

serve seats of Sunni Ittehad

Council (SIC) on Tuesday

and postponed the hearing

headed by Chief Election

Commissioner (CEC)

Sikandar Sultan Raja and

including members Nisar

Ahmed Durrani, Shah

Muhammad Jatoi, Babar

Hassan Bharwana, and Jus-

A four-member panel,

until Wednesday.

seats petitions, defers

hearing until today

the role of National Counter-Terrorism Authority and other organization in combating the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

He added that national and international thinktanks 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 He also commended Pakistan is facing economic,

Naseem represented Muttahida Qaumi Move-

ment (MQM) leader Khalid

Maqbool Siddiqui. Barris-

ter Ali Zafar represented

the Sunni Ittehad Council,

stating they were there to

secure their allocated seat.

from Pakistan Muslim

League Nawaz (PML-N)

and Farooq H. Naik from

Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) asserted that they

were representing their re-

Azam Nazir Tarar

Murtaza Solangi fur-

ther said the media, being an agent of change, has a greater role in challenging extremist ideologies and championing inclusivity as well as amplifying voices of moderation and facilitating dialogue in the society.

He also appreciated the role of US Embassy in Islamabad for initiating measures for sustainable peace and conflict prevention in the Pakistani

ECP merges SIC reserve Dozen dead after bus falls into deep ravine in Khanpur

KHANPUR (Online): A passenger bus fell into a ravine in Sarbrot area of Haripur, as a result of which 12 people died and 5 people were injured.

According to media reports, the accident took place in Tehsil Khanpur, the rescue official said that there is a possibility of an increase in the number of deaths due to the accident, children and women were also on board the bus that suffered the accident.

Police say hat the passenger bus was going from Haripur to Rawalpindi.



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.



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

swearing-in of the new house and he will face

dual constitution viola-

tion cases including one

of dissolving the assembly despite VONC mo-

tion and another of denying calling the session of the lower house of the

Criticising the PTI founder, Bilawal Bhutto

said the man who is incar-

cerated in Adiala Jail is not

ready to learn from his

mistakes. "PPP too made

mistakes but one has to learn from it."

exercise their power in

He urged everyone to

parliament.

President Alvi to face dual constitution violation charges, says Bilawal

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

Talking to media men outside the Supreme Court after hearing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's presidential reference, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said President Arif Alvi is 'violating' the constitu-tion of Pakistan by denying summoning the NA session for the swearingin 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 they will replace Arif Ali

their respective constitutional domain and under-

lined the need for respecting each other despite political differences, as this is the only way forward to steer the country out

JUI to follow ministries:

PESHAWAR (INP) -Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI)

cupying ministries.
The JUI Chief while

Maulana Rehman said that since 1973, not a single piece of legislation has been passed in accordance with the Is-

They always thought of the development of the country. JUI would neither support nationalism nor

truth instead of occupying

Fazlur Rehman

Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that they have not learnt to surrender and announced to follow the path of truth instead of oc-

addressing the participants of the Majlis-e-Shura meeting said that the JUI was defeated. The first constitution, he asserted, was made in 1973 in which there are many services of the el-

lamic spirit.

sectarianism.



Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pak Army concludes

Job Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pakistan

Army" was held at Multan.
The training was conducted 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.

as well as sub-conventional operations, culminated with field manoeuver & battle inoculation exercise, employing air and ground

Commander Multan Corps witnessed the exercise as Chief Guest. The Chief Guest expressed satisfaction over mutual understanding and the training standards achieved.

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

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

The accused while pleading not guilty have reected the charges. Upon it court has sum-

noned 5 witnesses of NAB 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 being indicted. You should tell if you are involved in

this case or not. 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 provide copies of challan again sought 7 days more The court remarked

we have already given enough time to you. More time 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 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. Therefore, these documents 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

Govt planning to further increase in fuel prices from March 1st

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Pakistan has been planning to raise the prices of petroleum products again, following a recent hike in electricity costs. Reports suggest a potential increase of Rs 4.50 per liter for gasoline, Rs 2.50 per liter for diesel, and Rs 2.92 per liter for kerosene. Light diesel oil prices are expected to remain unchanged. According to media reports, this news comes after Nepra (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority) approved a Rs 7.05 per unit increase in electricity prices to adjust for fuel costs. This move is expected to burden consumers with an addi tional Rs 66 billion.

SP martyred; two key terrorists killed in Mardan operation PESHAWAR (APP): Super-

intendent of Police (SP) Ijaz

Khan was martyred while three other officials, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), sustained injuries during an encounter with terrorists in Mardan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday Khvber The encounter took place in Zara Mata area of Mardan where law enforcement agencies were engaged in a fierce exchange of fire with terrorists, leading to the martyrdom of SP Iiaz Khan. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesman confirmed the incident, saying that the brave SP fell victim to the terrorists' indiscriminate firing.

Syed Murad Ali Shah Murad Ali Shah takes oath as

Sindh Governor

administers oath to

Sindh CM for 3rd consecutive term

Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday administered oath to Syed Murad number. Ali Shah as the Chief Minister of Sindh.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the lawn of Governor's House, which was attended by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (retd) Magbool Bagir and members of the caretaker cabinet. Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Fakhar Alam Irfan presided over the ceremony.

Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, Consul Generals of different countries, renowned industrialists and

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan people from different walks of life attended the swearing-in ceremony in large

> The Governor also congratulated Syed Murad Ali Shah on assuming the office of Chief Minister. INP add: Syed Murad

Ali Shah on Tuesday took oath as Sindh Chief Minister (CM) for a third consecutive term during a ceremony held at Governor

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori administered oath to Murad Shah in a ceremony attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP MNAs and MPAs, representatives of business community and others.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar inspects the farewell guard of honour during ceremony held at CM House in Karachi.

Outgoing caretaker CM presented guard of honour

KARACHI (APP): The Outgoing Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar was presented a guard of honour here at the Chief Minister House on

The Guard of Honour, which is part of the farewell ceremony was attended by the Sindh Chief Secretary Dr. Fakhre Alam, Provincial Secretaries, Additional IGP Karachi and other senior officers. The Caretaker Chief Minister received the saluted by the active police cops The Caretaker CM Bagar thanked all the officers and staff of

PTI founder supports President decision of not summoning NA session

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): 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 20seater is being made prime minister'. He reiterated his demand for the resignation of the CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja

Pakistan Army shoots down Indian spy quadcopter RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Army has shot down In-

dian spying quadcopter that intruded into country's air-



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.

Air taxi service launched in Sindh, Balochistan

KARACHI (INP): Air taxi service has been launched in Sindh and Balochistan which was now available for all airports, airfields, and landing strips in the two provinces by Sky Wings Aviation.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sky Wings Aviation, Imran Aslam said that the air taxi service was initially available in Sindh and Balochistan and would eventually be obtainable at all airports in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa too.

"Four air taxis are on

hand for the service's start. The initial hourly fee for the service is Rs 95, 000," he added. Imran Aslam said that three passengers at a time would be able to use each of the air taxi service's

'We were contacted people who wanted to fly for enjoyment to get a bird's-eye view of Karachi and its environs or by those who wanted to fly in an emergency to various locations in Sindh and Balochistan," the Sky Wings CEO said.

Daily Aoice 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 low-

middle-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

Ajaz Ahmed

Pakistan's marginal contribution to global natural disasters. policymakers seem preoccupied with climate mitigation, ie, GHG emission reduction. COP28 refreshed the resolve of countries to achieve the Nation-ally Determined Contributions; however, the NDC's focus in Pakistan is on climate cioeconomic challenges mitigation. For example, the NDC document has cal aspirations relating to climate mitigation and cost estimates. However, it hardly makes a change adaptation.

In fact, most policy expected returns on investment in climate adand indirect benefits. While focusing on GHG emission reductions is important, Pakistan's current climate policy takes a lopsided view of change. climate Policymakers and planners must understand that what is needed is investment in climate change adaptation, which could protect against the impact of

natural disasters driven by climate change. A poor country's resource-constrained government may invest billions in critical basic infrastructure like roads, schools, and water supply. But one bout of flooding monsoon knocks down what took decades to build. Such damage aggravates the vulnerability of affected communities by impeding their access to resources and services, and results in delayed

Conversely, access proves adaptive capac- economy. Moreover, the -- Courtesy Dawn

recovery.

nity resilience, whereas impacts for aligned busi-Notwithstanding investing in climate adaptation can protect key agrochemicals, rented infrastructure, resulting greenhouse gas emissions and the country's greater vulnerability to

climate change-driven building. The relinquished resources in terms of avoided cost could be used for highsource development. Investing in climate adaptation is also critical to preventing the ag-

gravation of existing so-

such as poverty, in-

equality, unemployambitious but impracti- ment, gender disparity, and food insecurity. These challenges often get worse when a natural disaster hits, as the strong case for climate masses are pushed into poverty and hunger. However, climate resildocuments on climate ience can save human change are silent on the lives in addition to reducing the economic cost of natural disasters, aptation and their direct which cannot be achieved through focusing simply on emission reduction.

Over a third of involved in the agriculture sector, which is directly exposed to climate change-driven natural disasters, resulting in serious implications for food security and livelihood of the low-skilled rural population. The 2023 FAO report on the state of food security and nutrition says that over half of Pakistan's population suffers from moderate to severe food insecurity. This underscores the need to protect the agriculture sector against a worse food crisis. Climate change's impact on agriculture cussions for industry through its linkages with the sector, which uses agricultural output thereby the overall per-

ity and builds commu- risk also means adverse nesses such as seeds, 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 areas such as human re- rural migrants. Climate change-driven natural disasters often destroy small business establishments such as roadside cafes or food stalls, resulting in the masses slipping into poverty 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 such as training and information about climate change and extreme weather events.

Lastly, the implementation of climate adaptation has diverse possibilities from the investment point of view. Pakistan's population is For example, there are several low-cost climate-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 repertential 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 industrial output and more prudent use of scarce resources, also a to basic services im- formance of the high-value investment.

Israel's partner

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 punishment for its wrongs, inciting more offences and more US support. Why should the US not be considered complicit in Israel's inhumanity in Gaza? 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 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 executive branch but Congress as well has been over-committed to Israel opinion, largely formed by Israel sympathisers and their Christian right

politicians. Policy and not going to oblige 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 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 Acclaimed Harvard professor

Stephen his article 'America is a Root Cause of Israel and Palestine's Latest War' in Foreign Policy.

has 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 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 di-

lemma of whether or not as pressures of public to put pressure on Israel, Biden is seeking Saudi help to hold out the promise ally, and the lure of cam-normalisation with Israel paign funding, orchestrated by AIPAC, have port for the two-state hypnotised American solution. The Saudis are Courtesy Dawn

politics have aligned to without an irrevocable 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 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

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 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 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 stability if they continue to ignore the Palestinians and reject their aspirations, their story, and

even their presence". --

Commerce News

CPEC new phase focuses on industrial cooperation, agriculture: Ambassador

start a new phase of China 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 Beyond that, in the concept of building a

projects will get sharper focus, he said.

'Going forward, we very good progress that has been made," Hashmi said. "We have all the ingredients in place", including good-quality infrastructure, he said.

"These are areas which we also find

Hailing China's global development, livelihoods, vision, he said the global open economy, (and) visions proposed by

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan second phase of CPEC, community with a shared and China have decided to the two elements of future for mankind, 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 development with the rest

of the world. They "demonstrate 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 emphasized for a long time" he added

> Hashmi noted that at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October Xi announced an eightpoint agenda in relation to to pursue the next phase along these lines," Hashmi said. the Belt and Road Initiative

compliance China, including the Belt 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 Coastal Comprehensive Development (KCCDZ) project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost Pakistan's economy and enhance industrial and development cooperation between Pakistan and

China, covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are reclaimed.

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and

(PCJCCI) Industry President Moazzam Ghurki expressed these views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday. Ghurki said that mega

project, being built with an expected investment of USD 3.5 billion, would also house a state-of-theenvironment-friendly KCCDZ envisages four new berths for the Karachi ensured as state-oi-tne-art fishing port, with a world-class fisheries 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 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 **Independent Report** dazzled with anticipation

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

The groundbreaking unveiling showcased commitment to driving

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 sunlight not only from above but also from below



sustainable future for Pakistan's energy needs. reflection technology! Over 260 esteemed guests, 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 Zhou, the dynamic CEO of

thanks to ingenious light

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 generation performance. With Pakistan's burgeoning market for renewable energy solutions, Sunova Solar's offerings couldn't have Sunova Solar, the event come at a better time.

LCCI demands withdrawal of power tariff hike

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday urged 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

LAHORE (APP): Lahore (NEPRA) has jacked up the 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.

MULTAN: Vendor displaying tomato bags for bidding at Vegetable Market.

OGDCL earns

Rs123.296 bln profit in

first half of FY 2023-24 ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil of Rs123.296 billion and and Gas Development Limited (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, dividend to shareholders at 2023 (July-December),

posting a profit of Rs123.296 billion. "Net sales revenue clocked at Rs.235.375 billion translating to Profit after tax

earnings per share of Rs28.67," the OGDCL said company's Board of Directors (BoD) announced the first interim cash 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

LESCO detects 57,806 power pilferers in **167 days** AHORE (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. The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that 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

Chief Executive Officer.

Awareness session on "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" organized in collaboration with Nutrition International and Punjab Food Authority, here on Tuesday.

The program was attended representatives of edible fortification is simple but mills, biscuit practical method to meet the 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

nutrition elements in the food.

A and D are on the top, he added. He said that

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

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

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

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

The Directorate of Small Dams of the Irrigation (CCA) and 0.3414 Acres

Department's spokesman Feet (AF) water storage.

people died and 15 people were injured.

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.

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 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

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 Iniversity. 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 Aitchison College. He position in medical 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



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

Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday issued bailable removing prosecution's arrest warrants of Tehreem objections. At this, the Elahi, the wife of former court extended the judicial federal minister Moonis remand of the teenage Elahi, and co-accused, Saira driver for another 13 days Anwar, over nonand ordered for producing him on March 11. Defence their bail cancellation in C police had registered a case against Afnan which revolves around charges of headed by recklessly crashing his Shehram high-speed car Chaudhry, heard the another vehicle.



(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 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 provide free justice at top priority basis. doorsteps of the masses.

appearance in a petition for

The division bench,

Justice

Sarwar

money laundering case.

He said that earlier complaints are also 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 percentage of resolved complaints is 99.9 %, he

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

cancellation of Rasikh

Elahi, Tehreem Elahi and

other accused in money

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

court to cancel the bail

It pleaded with the

The bench adjourned

laundering case.

He said that 150,000 **Money laundering case:**

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 this system.

ANF seizes over one ton drugs in seven operations

RAWÂLPINDI (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

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 country provided they are that our young generation equipped is exposed to a variety of dangerous drugs and it is

Guest speaker Prof dangerous drugs and it is
the collective responsibility of the state and society to play their role to get rid of the menace

of the drug addiction.

He was addressing a seminar on 'The Changing Landscape of Drug Abuse in Pakistan: Exploring Recent Trends & Challenges Faced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa'

here at UoM on Tuesday. He said that the younger generation, which makes up more than 60%

potential to actually turn Pakistan into a wealthy

of Peshawar informed participants of the seminar that there are seven million drug addicts in the country. Every year, about 250,000 people die in Pakistan because of drug-related

Prof Dr Johar Ali added that the increasing number of addicts is a huge burden on the fragile healthcare system of the



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 Randhawa, Corruption Establishment

(ACE) Director General

Sohail Zafar Chattha,

Addressing the ceremony, Sohail Nasir, Deputy Chairman NAB, highlighted that the bureau's primary objective

officers of NAB and

hundreds of affectees

attended the ceremony.

is to serve the nation and country. 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 Doha at Peshawar Airport. | Secretary Mines and Pak Arab Housing scandal.

focusing on subsidies which

fuel overcapacity and over-

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

a little bit of compromise, a

the source told AFP on con-

dition of anonymity, call-

ing a potential agreement a

has yet to take effect as not

enough countries have rati-

very good outcome".

little bit of political will,

'The final push needs

The 2022 agreement

But it was seen as a

matic source.

filed by granted to the accused. International News

LHC issues bailable

arrest warrants of

Moonis Elahi's wife

LAHORE (APP): The prosecution for bail

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 following a request by the UN General Assembly in 2022 to issue a non-binding opinion on the legal consequences of the Israeli oc-

On the sixth and last day of hearings, Turkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister achieving a negotiated Ahmet Yildiz told judges the cause of conflict in the re-

"The unfolding situation 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,



A police officer puts handcuffs on Oleg Orlov, the 70-year-old human rights campaigner and co-chair of the Nobel Prize winning Memorial group, after Orlov was sentenced to two and a half years in jail on charges of repeatedly "discrediting" the Russian army, in Moscow.

France's Macron does not rule out Europeans sending troops to Ukraine

PARIS (Internews): French Kremlin's narrative that President Emmanuel Macron opened the door on 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 munitions to Kyiv.

Some 20 European leaders gathered in Paris on Monday to send Russian President Vladimir Putin a message of European resolve on Ukraine and counter the troops to fight in Ukraine.

Russia is bound to win a war 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 and that there were also no plans to send NATO

settlement, calling the quesoccupation was the root tions posed to the court prejudiced. Palestinian factions have also come under international pressure to end their own divisions 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

Around 50 carriages set off solo, careering from the northern state of 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 in-

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 station in Jammu for a crew change, local media reports said. But it began moving down a slope after the driver and his assistant got off. All road crossings on the route were closed to prevent accidents.



AID is being dropped by a Jordanian military aircraft over Rafah, south-

Sweden clears last hurdle as Hungary okays Nato accession

Hungary's parliament approved 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 simmering conflict of the Cold War.

Hungary's 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 countries signed an arms

"Today is a historic in 2022

day," Kristersson said on "Sweden stands ready 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 Sweden's accession to the

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg immediately 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 Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Russian court jails

veteran activist Oleg Orlov for 2.5 years fensive in Ukraine.

Monitoring Desk 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-

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 of-

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

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

Jordan air-drops aid into Gaza **Monitoring Desk**

AMMAN: Jorda-nian army on Monday 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

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 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 the UN's top court.

New Zealand set to scrap world-first tobacco ban

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 have banned sales to those born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products.

on fisheries, agriculture in UAE talks **Monitoring Desk** fishing, the WTO hopes to conclude a second package

WTO braces for battles

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

The closed talks will take place on the second day of the WTO's 13th ministerial conference which is scheduled to run until Thursday but could go into over-time amid divisions.

There is little hope for major breakthroughs with WTO rules requiring full consensus among all 164 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

major achievement, marking 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.

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

Gaza attacks for the Muslim holy month of soon as next week, Joe Biden said, though Hamas officials said the U.S. president's remarks were premature as it studies a

Biden's comments, recorded on Monday and broadcast after midnight on Tuesday, come as negotiators try to hammer out the first extended truce deal in a war that has obliterated the Gaza Strip since October last year.

Ramadan is coming 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 all the hostages out," Biden said.

Earlier on Monday, Biden said he hoped a ceasefire agreement would be hammered out by Mon- ment.

DUBAI (Internews): Is- day, March 4. Ramadan is 10. "My national security 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.

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 suggesting 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-

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

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 Con-

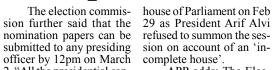
Following the conduct of the general elections 2024 and its preliminary results, the electoral watchdog has started preparations for the presidential elections and the first session of all assemblies under constitutional bindings.

"The election 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 be given to submit the nomi-

submitted to any presiding officer by 12pm on March 2. "All the presidential candidates can get the nomination papers from the ECP secretariat in Islamabad or any provincial election commissioner," it noted.

The electoral watchdog 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 way for the presidential election. The statement came a day after National



APP adds: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday began issuing nomination papers to candidates for the presidential election.

According to an ECP spokesperson, the candidates can submit their nomination papers at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as wel as the offices of provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, by February 29, paving the and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till 12 noon pm on March 2. The spokesperson said that the schedule and pub-Assembly Speaker Raja lic notice for the presiden-Pervaiz Ashraf summoned tial elections would be is-



KARACHI: Employees of National Institutional Facilitation Technologies Private Limited are witnessing Hajj Balloting for employees during the simple ceremony held at his office in Karachi.

Two Holy Mosques-places of worship not arenas for politicking: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- lowed at the Two kistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday urged the intending Hajj pilgrims to follow the codal formalities of Saudi Arabia in letter and spirit during the sacred journey.

Talking to the media, he emphasized that the Two Holy Mosques were the places of worship and not arenas for political expression or displays of na-

"Raising slogans, flags, or engaging in any other irrelevant activity is not alworldly agendas.

Mosques," he proclaimed. Ashrafi said that situ-Tahir ated in Makkah and Madina - the heart of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Two Holy Mosques were revered by millions of Muslims as the holiest sites.

"Guarding their sanc tity is not only a duty but also a responsibility of all of us," he maintained.

Reminding the purpose of Hajj, Ashrafi said it was a journey of spiritual enlightenment - a communion with the di-

Police foils NCP goods smuggling attempt, apprehends suspects

KARACHI (APP): The confidential tips, leading to Pirabad police station successfully intercepted a smuggling operation involving non-custom paid (NCP) goods and detained the perpetrators.

According to SSP West, the suspects were caught red-handed attempting to smuggle NCP goods, valued at millions of rupees, by concealing them within hidden compartments aboard passenger

In a well-coordinated effort, the police conducted two operations based on

the arrest of four smugglers and the seizure of two passenger buses. Among the confiscated items from the buses were 882 glasses, 700 water bottles, 108 thermoses, 64 cloth rolls, 34 bags of surf, 27 cotton candies, 12 juicer blenders, two carpets, an LCD TV, a crate of beer and others.

The seized buses and illicit items utilized in the smuggling attempt have been handed over to law enforcement authorities. while the apprehended in-



KARACHI: Police officials are showing arrested alleged accused criminals and recovered seized weapons and drugs to media persons during press conference held at Keamari District Police Station in Karachi.

Algerian writer Dr. Fadela's novel "When Life Desires You" published in Urdu language

literary work, an Algerian novel written by Dr Fadela Mehlaq published in the Urdu language in Pakistan.

"When Life Desires You" is a historical precedent and a pioneering step in establishing a bridge of cultural communication between two great brotherly countries, Algeria in North Africa and Pakistan in South Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

The novel was published by the Karachi Editor's Club, in Urdu language, translated by Dr. Lubna Farah, Head of the Translation Department at the National University of Languages, Islamabad (NUML) and in the English language by Professor Siham Hamouda from cate of professional compethe Republic of Tunisia, aftence as a lawyer.

KARACHI (APP): The first ter it was published in Arabic in Egypt in 2021 and French and Spanish in 2022.

The Karachi Editor's Club also issued for the first time in Pakistan two collections of short stories from Algeria in Urdu language by Dr. Fadela Melhaq (Outside the Field of Literacy) and (For display...Unpaintable) translated by Dr. Lubna Farah.

A distinguished literary talent, a brilliant academic researcher, excellent academic career, and a rich and diverse literary and scientific production, Melhaq holds many certificates such as a certificate from the Higher School of the Judiciary - Algeria, a doctorate in law, specializing in human rights and international humanitarian law, a certifi-

Ahmed Sultan Khoso as Member

Sindh Environmental

Protection

Tribunal Karachi KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Department has notified appointment of Ahmed Sultan Khoso as Member, Sindh Environmental Protection Tribunal,

Carachi, for three years. This notification shall be effective on completion of the term of present incumbent Muhammad Arif, Advocate, on 4th June 2024.

Two youth shot injured over resistance, fraudster

among two held KARACHI (INP): Two youth were shot injured over resistance during a robbery while police arrested two including a fraudster during separate actions in the metropolis on Tuesday.

According to details, armed robbers riding a motorcycle attempted to loot two youth near Lasbela Chowk Jamshed Quarters and shot injured Zunair and Atif over resistance. The culprits fled the scene and injured were shifted to hos-

A notorious robber identified as Husnain was injured and arrested after exchange of fire with police Khawaja Ajmer Nagri.

The police arrested President Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI), Joher Ali Qalandri over giving fake cheque worth Rs35 million to a

Dengue fever curable: Dr. Zulfigar

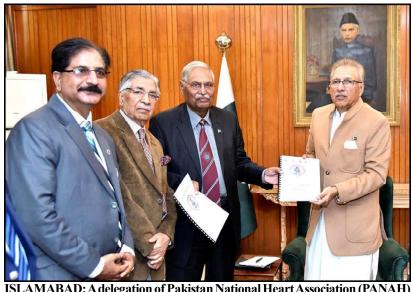
HYDERABAD (APP): Assistant Professor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences said on Tuesday that dengue fever is curable and does not spread by touching. Most of the people rush to hospitals because of panic and

Talking to APP here on Friday he said that Dengue is a viral infection transmitted by mosquitoes. It can cause symptoms such as fever, severe joint and muscle pain, rash, and in some cases, haemorrhaging.

Talking about the preventive measures he said it includes eliminating mosquito breeding sites and using protective clothing and insect repellent. If you suspect dengue, seek medical attention promptly.

To a question, he said that there is no specific treatment to shorten the course of dengue fever. He said that medications are given to alleviate the signs and symptoms.

He said that in this case bed rest is essential to a speedy recovery and the patient should consume plenty of water, which will help to alleviate the illness.



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.

Reconciliation among politicians vital to strengthen democracy: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that reconciliation among the politicians holds key importance to ensure political stability and strengthen democracy in the country.

Talking to media persons outside the Supreme Court on Tuesday after attending hearing of the presidential reference pertaining to the death of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he urged all the state institutions to work within the given constitutional do-

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that the country was facing numerous challenges which could be resolved once all the political leaders started respecting one another

Politicians should respect one another, otherwise, no one would respect them, he maintained.

The PPP Chairman criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for not realizing its mistakes, which, he said, led to putting at stake the Constitution, democracy and sys-

Tech-based vision a must to transform Gwadar into energy hub: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a policy dialogue have said that Gwadar may be made an energy hub, but it is only possible through a technology-based development, vision and a community-centric social

development approach. The policy dialogue titled: 'Gwadar as an Energy Hub of Pakistan: Pathways for Sustainable Development', was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) under its Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCET) here.

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 ment is about to take office.

He further said the development of Gwadar as

has co-benefits that need to be identified. "Due to COVID-19 and unavoidable geopolitical circumstances, Gwadar has not been made functional at its full scale. It is still dependent on electricity imported from Iran whereas to make export zone functional will require more energy," he maintained. Since, the global community has demanded to make three-fold increase in renewable energy (RE) share by 2030 at the COP-28, Pakistan is looking for renewable energy support from China as an excellent candidate for solar and offshore wind en-

ergy potential, he said. Gwadar has the potential to become mix of all trageneration projects, Dr Suleri said, adding that working on this end holis-



GWADAR: View of stagnant rain water after flash flood caused by heavy downpour of winter season, in Gwadar.

Enhanced security measures for Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Urs

KARACHI (APP): In anticipation of the three-day long Urs celebrations of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, security measures are set to intensify, with a comprehensive strategy being implemented across all levels.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, issued directives outlining the security arrangements from February 29th to March 2nd, emphasizing the importance of coordination with various law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The directives include ncreased monitoring through CCTV cameras within and around the shrine premises, alongside the engagement of local authorities and stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. Measures also entail the deployment of bomb disposal squads for sweeping and clearance operations within the shrine, its vicingent monitoring is planned for visitors and devotees traveling from other provinces, with heightened vigilance at main highways, major roads, and border areas. The focus will be on thorough patrolling, snap checking, and verification procedures, in compliance with established protocols.

The IGP Sindh emphasized the need for seamless security arrangements not only to provide protection but also to facilitate safe passage for convoys of devotees and pilgrims at district levels. Law enforcement agencies, including SSPs, SDPOs, and SHOs, will ensure the execution of these measures along designated routes.

Citizens are urged to promptly report any suspicious activities or items, such as bags, parcels, or vehicles, seen within or near the shrine premises, or along major routes, to nearby police personnel or mobile units for immediate



KARACHI: A boy using hand pump at community water well to collect drinking water.

No assembly session can be called without notifying reserved seats: Gohar

PESHAWAR Speaking to the media in Islamabad, PTI leader Barrister Gohar stated that no assembly session could be called without notifying reserved seats

'The Punjab [Assembly] session was carried out in an illegal manner. The Sindh Assembly session was carried out in an illegal manner. If the National As sembly session is called that will also be illegal because the assemblies should be convened after all the members of the House are notified," he said.

He urged the Election Commission of Pakistan to take notice of this and notify the reserved seats for the Sunni Ittehad Council, the new home for PTI backed candidates.

DC reviews anti **polio campaign** SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur,

Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Tuesday reviewed the ongoing anti-polio campaign at his office here.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that on the first day of anti-polio campaign, more than 90,000 children were administrated polio drop as well as vitamin A doses.

The district administration was seriously engaged in using all its capabilities to make the polio campaign a success and efforts were being made to achieve the goal, the Assistant Commissioners and Deputy District Health Officers to strictly monitor the campaign at the taluka level. He said that the ongoing measures against the crippling will continue until the complete elimination of the disease from the country.

Fertilizer mafia busted in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The district administration of Mirpurkhas, acting on the orders of Inspector General of Sindh, conducted raid and sealed the warehouses of four fertilizer dealers who were found involved in hoarding and black marketing of fertilizer.

According to district administration office, the dealers were selling fertilizer at exorbitant rates, exploiting the farmers and creating an artificial shortage. During the raid, the local administration sealed the warehouses of four dealers.

The IG Sindh had sent a list of 21 fertilizer dealers to DIG Mirpurkhas, who forwarded the instruction to SSPs to take immediate action against the violators with the help of the district administration. The list contained the details of 525 metric tons of fertilizer stock that was supposed to be released on November 26, 2023, but that the stock was withheld by the dealers. The official price of the fertilizer was Rs 3400, but the dealers were charging Rs 5200 to Rs 5500 per bag.

New Zealand's cricketer Tim Seifert arrives in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Famous cricketer of New Zealand, Tim Seifert on Tuesday reached Karachi. Tim Seifert arrived

in the metropolis to join the squad of Karachi Kings to play the Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches.

It is pertinent to mention here that Karachi Kings is scheduled to compete against Islamabad United at the National Bank Stadium on February 28.

President emphasizes early prevention of diseases to avoid expensive treatment

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

He expressed these views during a meeting with 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.

ISLAMABAD (APP): awareness among the masses about the significance of preventive measures against non-communicable diseases and heart

He also underscored the need about the role of media, local population, mosques and non government organizations to create such awareness, besides utilization of different latest platforms to spread

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, lectures



KARACHI: Supporters of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), Jamaat-e-Islami Party protest alleged rigging in the elections in front of the Press Club, in the Federal Capital.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The memory of the humiliating defeat suffered by the 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

Retort,' compelling Modi to 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 airspace on the night of February 26, 2019, targeting Balakot.

The myth of India's conventional military superiority was shattered by the Pakistan Air Force, which downed two Indian Air Force aircraft in a dogfight and captured an Indian pilot, Abhinandan, alive. Pakistan's victory in the brief air combat continues executed 'Operation Swift to haunt India.

ASF seizes foreign currency, gold from Bangkok-bound passenger at Karachi airport

money laundering bid at the Karachi airport by seizing foreign currency of 16mln rupees and gold jewellery from the possession of a Bangkok-bound passenger.

ASF spokesperson relayed that foreign currency of Rs16 million and 251 grams of gold were confiscated from a passenger flying to Bangkok.

The man was taken into custody after recovery of the foreign currency and gold. Separately, Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): The attempt to smuggle foreign Airport Security Force currency and recovered (ASF) on Tuesday foiled a more than \$23,000 from a passenger at Jinnah International Airport.

According to spokesman for Customs, the Airport Collectorate of Customs at Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Karachi intercepted a passenger. During the search, the customs officials recovered \$23,000 concealed in the shoulder bag of the accused. The recovered foreign currency is worth more than Rs6million. He was traveling to USA via Turkish airline.



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of the Press Club, in the Federal Capital.

2nd SMIU Global **Research Congress Starts from Feb 28**

two-day 2nd SMIU Global Research Congress (2nd SMIU GRC 2024) along with six International Conferences organised by Sindh Madressat-ul-Islam University will begin from Wednesday (February 28).

The Consul General of China Yang Yundong, Consul General of Turkiye Cemal Sangu, Vice Chancellor, SMI University Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Memon, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and others shall inaugurate the Congress at 9:30 am.

The research scholars from the USA, UK, Russia, UAE, and Nigeria, vicechancellors, academicians and experts of different fields from other parts of the country shall participate in the ceremony.

The Six International Conferences will also be inaugurated at different

KARACHI (APP): The Madressat-ul-Islam University. Vice Chancellor of SMIU Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai will deliver opening speech in the inaugural session. Thereafter, panel dis-

cussions and technical sessions will be held at the Main Building, Talpur House and I.T. Tower of SMIU. A panel discussion on "Integrating Sustainability Across Teacher Education Curricula: Challenges, Opportunities and Practices" will be held at 11:30 am. Dr. Keith Casey Barton (USA), Dr. Shereen Mustafa Narejo, Secretary of School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Dr. Sajid Ali, Professor at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Dr. Anjum Bano, Professor at Iqra University, Karachi, Dr. Abdul Sattar Almani, Professor at University of Sindh, Hyderabad, Salma, CEO Dubeen, Dr. Hina Kazimi, CEO TAF Foundation and Dr. Shahida Sajjad, Vice Chancelplaces of the Sindh lor Metropolitan University.