

Independent

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Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on the matters related to economy

Sworn in as 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz directs to prepare an action plan to revive national economy

Also directed immediate engagement with the IMF to advance discussions on the EFF

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday took the oath as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Shehbaz Sharif, who was elected to the country's top office for the second time. Held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the swearing-in ceremony was attended by outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and his cabinet members, parliamentarians, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, services chiefs, governors, chief ministers and diplomats.



Later Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan on an emergency basis to revive national economy.

He gave these directions while presiding over a meeting to review strategies for country's economic revival and growth in Islamabad today. He said his government will work for improving the country's economic landscape, promoting investment opportunities and facilitating the business community. He said economic revitalization stands as the foremost priority of his administration, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action to address pressing economic concerns.

Bugti meets NP & BNP-Awami leaders; discusses political situation: CM vows to find sustainable solution to issues being faced by people after improving governance in province

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited the residences of President, National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and central leader of Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A), Mir Asadullah Baloch separately here on Monday. Also accompanied with the Chief Minister was central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and Member National Assembly, Ejaz Jhokrani. Moreover, during the meeting with NP President, the members of provincial assembly from PPP and National Party were also present. They were included: Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Liaquat Lehari Sardar Sarfraz Domki, Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Khair Jan Baloch. During the course of meeting, the overall political situation of the country and province was discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that he is desirous of taking all political parties along to put Balochistan on path of development. He stressed that he has to find sustainable solution to the issues being faced by people after improving governance in the province. For the purpose, all political parties have to play their role, adding he stressed further. Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we are preparing a comprehensive roadmap of development of Balochistan and it would be our effort to benefit everyone from development in every nook and corner of the province. He said that it would also be our utmost endeavour to bring remarkable improvement in all sectors including service delivery.

In major blow: ECP rejects SIC's request for reserved seats allocation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea for allocation of minority and women reserve seats in national and provincial assemblies. A five-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, firmly stated that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is not entitled to have reserved seats for women and minorities. The Election Commission also stated that Sunni Ittehad Council is not entitled to avail special seat allocations for women and minorities. The ECP reached its decision with a 4-1 ratio, with member Punjab Babar Hasan Bharwana, submitting dissent in a note. The SIC submitted a plea in ECP claiming the allocation of seats based on inclusion of PTI-endorsed candidates within their party. This plea, conveyed by SIC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza through a PTI representative, was submitted to the electoral watchdog. Following the Supreme Court's ruling declaring their intra-party polls "unconstitutional" and stripping them of the electoral symbol of the "bat", PTI candidates participated in the elections as independents.

CM Balochistan attends oath taking ceremony of Premier

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti participated in the oath taking ceremony of the new Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad on Monday. The Chief Minister especially went to Islamabad to attend the oath taking ceremony of newly elected Prime Minister. Mir Sarfraz Bugti also greeted Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of Prime Minister for second term.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Muneer shake hand with Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital.

PPP fully endorses PM's offer for Charter of National Reconciliation: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, stated on Monday that the PPP fully supported the offer made by newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for a 'Charter of National Reconciliation.' Speaking in the National Assembly, he recalled the Prime Minister's offer during his maiden speech in the House to collaborate on a Charter of National Reconciliation. "We not only endorse it but also urge the Opposition to participate in this process for the broader interests of the country," he stated. Bilawal Bhutto stressed the need for discourse among all the lawmakers. He said the Parliament was the mother of all institutions, and if this institution was strengthened, it would ultimately empower the masses.

Condemns raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP: We are "war prisoners" not political in Balochistan: Sardar Akhtar Mengal

Independent Report
QUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP) and Member National Assembly, Sardar Akhtar Mengal has alleged that we are "war prisoners" not political ones in Balochistan and demanded of the authorities to release all political prisoners immediately. The President BNP was speaking in session of National Assembly, Islamabad on Monday. Sardar Akhtar Mengal criticized the government for not doing much for people of Gwadar, which is otherwise most affected due to the recent torrential rains saying that Gwadar, which is called the "ornament" is sinking. He said that it would have been better to provide helicopter for rescuing the people in Gwadar. Referring the media persons, Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that they (media persons) try to show us the right path. He added that he was expecting that Prime Minister would make announcement for release of the detailed journalists. The BNP on the occasion condemned the raid at residence of Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai in Quetta. Adding he also said that we are the war prisoners, not political prisoners.



QUETTA: MNA Haji Malik Shah Gorgage meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sardar Bugti. MPA Mir Zaheer Ahmed Buledi is also present

Achakzai urges political unity to overcome national crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai Monday urged all political groups to collaborate in addressing the numerous challenges facing the nation and guiding it through the crisis. Speaking in National Assembly on point of order, he said that Parliament should have more power and be the main center of authority. He also highlighted that the country's constitution brought the people together nationwide and its sanctity must be ensured.

Presidential polls: Zardari, Achakzai set for showdown as ECP approves nomination papers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presidential election in Pakistan is scheduled for March 9 when Asif Ali Zardari, the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), will vie for the prestigious office. National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has called for a joint session of Parliament on March 9. The National Assembly secretary has issued a notification of the joint session. The scrutiny of nomination papers for candidates vying for the role of president was held on Monday. The final list of eligible candidates will be released on March 5 (Tuesday). Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers have been approved after scrutiny, making him eligible to contest for the coveted presidential seat. However, Mahmood Khan Achakzai's nomination papers have not been approved yet, as reservations have been raised against them.

ECP lifts ban on postings, transfers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday allowed the transfers and postings of officials. According to a notification issued in this connection, the ECP lifted the ban on transfers and postings imposed due to the general elections held on February 8, 2024. The notification stated that as the general elections have been held so there was no need to continue the ban. The elected government will now regulate all matters relating to such transfers, the notification added.



QUETTA: Activists of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) are holding protest rally against the raid on the house of Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman of the PkMAP, in Quetta.

IMF recommends Pakistan to jack up GST on medicines, petroleum to 18pc

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended the government of Pakistan to implement 18 per cent General Sales Tax (GST) on food, medicine, petroleum products, and stationery. According to details, the IMF experts have recommended the newly-elected government of Pakistan to end sales tax relaxation in its report dispatched to Islamabad. The IMF team visited Pakistan in December 2023, and dispatched its report in February 2024 with a set of recommendations ahead of the FY2024-25 budget. The IMF has recommended bringing several dozen items under the standard rate of 18% GST, including unprocessed food, stationery, medicine, POL products and others. The IMF estimated that rationalizing GST rates could generate 1.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) revenue, which equates to Rs1,300 billion in national exchequer. Overall, the IMF has called for the removal of all distortionary tax policy changes related to compliance, including the abolition of minimum taxes and additional taxes, as well as the abolition of the Ninth and Tenth Schedules.

World leaders felicitate Shehbaz Sharif on assumption of PM office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Different world leaders felicitated the newly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the country's chief executive and wished progress and prosperity. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in separate messages on Monday congratulated Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for taking oath as 24th prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on Monday called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him on his election as the country's chief executive. The prime minister expressed his gratitude to President Erdogan for his gracious gesture of brotherhood and fraternity. He underlined that enduring people-to-people bonds, and strong religious and cultural linkages underpinned a robust Pakistan-Turkiye relationship. Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed that Pakistan looked forward to welcoming President Erdogan for the session of Pak-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), being scheduled to be held in Islamabad in near future. Recalling strong bonds of friendship that exist between the governments and peoples of the two countries, both the leaders expressed their desire and commitment to work closely with each other to take the bilateral relationship to unprecedented heights of cooperation and fraternity.



him success during the next five years of rule. Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and stan. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman wished Shehbaz Sharif success, and the people of Pakistan steady



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shake hand with Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari after the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital, Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif also seen in the picture.

Raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP: Lawyers observe boycott of courts' proceedings in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The lawyers community observed boycott of the proceedings of courts against alleged raid at the residence of Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), here on Monday. The call for protest and boycott of the courts proceedings was given by the Balochistan Bar Council (BBC). According to a senior leader of BBC, Rahib Buledi Advocate, the lawyers didn't appear in the courts as mark of protest against the alleged raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP. He condemned the alleged raid at the residence of Mehmood Khan Achakzai and termed it violation of chaadar and chaardeewari. He said that Chairman PkMAP raised voice for supremacy of constitution and law in the parliament recently. Mehmood Khan Achakzai is also candidate for President of the country in the Presidential elections, he added. It may be mentioned that the local administration got vacated a piece of government land during a raid on Quarry road on Sunday night.

Shehbaz farwell outgoing PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): A smartly turned out contingent of the three services on Monday presented a farewell guard of honour to outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saw him off after the guard of honour and farewell meeting with the staff of Prime Minister Office.

Peace, security top priority: Amin Gandapur

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, stated on Monday that peace and security will be the top priority of his government, with no compromise to be made. Speaking to the media in Charsadda, he emphasized that the police force would be provided with necessary financial resources on a priority basis. He assured that the police would be ensured provision of vehicles and other necessary equipment. He highlighted that

development and prosperity are not possible without peace and security in the region. He also mentioned that the reduction in poverty, provision of employment opportunities to people, and uplift of weaker sections are the second important priorities of the provincial government. Furthermore, he stated that construction and development of infrastructure will be the third important priority. The Chief Minister clarified that when he talked about reforms in the police, it should not be

perceived as a threat. He emphasized, "We do not believe in retaliatory actions, but reform is our duty." He expressed the desire for a system where no one can commit violence or injustice against anyone else, aiming for a better and fair system for the coming generations. Earlier, he offered condolences to the family of martyred SP Ijaz Khan in Sherpav village, Charsadda and met with the children of the martyred. He praised the bravery and sacrifices of the police in the line of duty.



RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with Chaudhary Muhammad Akram keenly viewing Science & Arts Exhibition of Punjab College of Commerce.

All-out efforts to be made to provide relief to people: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak on Monday said that all-out efforts would be made to provide relief to the people and all the welfare projects of the city would be completed within stipulated time frame. The Commissioner along with Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khuram Geelani chaired an introductory meeting with the newly elected 23 Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of Punjab elected from Rawalpindi Division. He said all the welfare projects of the city would be completed in time along with elected members of provincial assembly. "Our commitment is to provide relief to the people with the help of the

political leaders," the Commissioner said. The administration and the elected representatives would play their constructive role to solve the problems of the people, he added. Engr. Aamir Khattak said that the primary responsibility of the administration is to serve the people. The suggestions of the newly elected members of the provincial assembly would also be utilized for the completion of all the projects including Rawalpindi Ring Road and Dadocha Dam projects, the Commissioner informed. He said that practical steps would be taken in the light of the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.



MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Rizwan Qadeer leading awareness walk about 'Clean Punjab Campaign' organized by the Waste Management Company.

Six power pilferers booked in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) caught six power pilferers during an ongoing crackdown here on Monday. According to official sources, task force teams raided at various areas of the district and caught six accused involved in electricity theft from main lines and meter tampering. The task force teams also imposed a fine of Rs 262,551 on pilferers. On a report of the Fesco, police also registered cases against pilferers.

KP assembly approves over Rs.159 billion for one month budget

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly with Speaker, Babar Salim Swati in chair Tuesday approved one month budget of over Rs. 159 billion for the province. KP Chief Minister, Ali Ameen Gandapur moved the motion for budget approval under rule 150 of the Provincial Assembly Procedure and Conduct Rules. Among Rs. 159 billion, Rs. 40 billion

ANF recovers 128 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover more than 128 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 40 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Jeddah at Peshawar Airport. 63 kg hashish was recovered from Zakhakhel Khyber area and 58.8 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects rounded up near National Highway Hyderabad.



HYDERABAD: A Group photo of ENT Specialists with Pakistan Society of Otorhinolaryngologist Sindh (PSORL) Prof. Atif Hafiz.

06 dead, 1378 injured in 1274 road traffic crashes in Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1274 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1274 were injured. Out of these, 610 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 768 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 667 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 160 pedestrians, and 557 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 252 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 280 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 115 in with 142 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 87 victims.

Three killed, two injured on road

FAISALABAD (APP): Three people, including a boy, were killed while two women sustained injuries in two accidents here on Monday. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said a speeding truck hit a motorcycle near Dumar Flour Mills on Narwala Road. As a result, Tariq Masih and his wife Shahnaz of Chak No 8-JB died on the spot. In another accident, a three-year-old Arsalan of Chak No 66-JB Dhandra was killed while his mother Nazia Imdad and grandmother Zahida Habib were injured.

Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

KARACHI (APP): A two-member delegation of the Germany-based Deutsche Welle (DW) international broadcaster visited the University of Karachi on Monday. The DW Director of Programs for Asia, Debarati Guha, and the Head of the Urdu Department Adnan Ishaq visited the KU Radio station and the TV newsroom established in the KU Department of Mass Communication along with the KU Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the chairperson MCD Dr Asmat Ara and other faculty members. They appreciated the television and radio labs and production work of the stu-

dents. Dr Asmat Ara briefed the DW delegation about the daily radio bulletin on-air by the KU MCD Radio 90.6 and students working on different projects in the TV news lab. Earlier, speaking to the students and faculty members of various departments of the varsity, at the Jinnah Khan Auditorium of the Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Debarati Guha informed that DW, stationed in Bonn, Germany, aims to engage with young journalism students and provide them with valuable insights into DW's work in Asia. She said that they would like to give them a

perspective on journalistic ethics and standards, and would like to discuss constructive journalism and opportunities at Deutsche Welle. According to her, DW gets around 1.5 billion people views from different parts of the world in a month and she shared that DW focuses on promoting democratic values and traditions, free trade, justice, and cultural values. She mentioned that they strive to be unbiased in broadcasts and provide unbiased analysis and mentioned that DW is providing programs in different 11 languages in Asia. "We try to prioritize youth in our broadcasts and content, we want to promote a culture

of dialogue in society and our target group is mostly youth. Debarati Guha said that DW is not present in Iran and China due to media censorship issues, whereas in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India they face the same issues as the native media outlets, on the other hand, they have not faced any problem during covering topics in Jakarta, Indonesia. She claimed that DW journalists meet international standards everywhere in the world. She observed that the work of the media is not to solve problems but to point them out. She added that earlier we were ahead in ra-

dio but now radio is slowly disappearing. We produce programs in 32 languages worldwide and operate with over 4,000 employees around the globe with people of 150 nationalities and have offices in 18 countries around the world. On this occasion, the KU VC Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that the local media also needs to ensure training and implementation of ethics. We have tried our best to keep the communication department updated with the help of technology and advanced curriculum. He informed the audience that KU MCD has also introduced a course related to social media marketing.

International News



Children stand amid the rubble of a mosque and makeshift shelters that were destroyed in Israeli strikes in Deir El-Balah in central Gaza.

Haley beats Trump in first Republican primary in Washington DC

WASHINGTON (Online): Nikki Haley has become the first woman to win a Republican primary following victory in Washington, DC. The former ambassador to the United Nations was declared the winner late on Sunday. The victory offers a small boost to her campaign, but former United States President Donald Trump retains a huge lead in the race to become the Republican candidate in November's presidential election. Trump's only remaining challenger for the nomination won 62.9 percent of the vote in the capital. The controversial former president took 33.2 percent. The

result handed Haley all 19 delegates at stake. "It's not surprising that Republicans closest to Washington dysfunction are rejecting Donald Trump and all his chaos," Haley campaign spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said in a statement. However, the GOP appears ready to look past that chaos, which includes numerous legal cases, including efforts to brand Trump ineligible to run in November. Haley faces near-impossible odds in her quest to win the Republican nomination to take on likely Democratic nominee President Joe Biden in November.

Trump won the first eight nominating contests by significant margins and is expected to increase his lead in this week's Super Tuesday races, which will see 15 states vote. Despite the small and symbolic victory in DC, the primaries later this week are thought likely to test the former South Carolina governor's determination to fight on. Trump's campaign issued a statement shortly after Sunday's vote was declared, sarcastically congratulating her on being named "Queen of the Swamp by the lobbyists and DC insiders that want to protect the failed status quo". "Tonight's results in Washington DC reaffirm the object of President Trump's campaign - he will drain the swamp and put America first," the statement

added. The US Supreme Court is expected on Monday to rule on an earlier decision by the Colorado Supreme Court that disqualified Trump from running for president. Referring to the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol, the Colorado court invoked a Civil War constitutional provision preventing those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

Canadian, Italian PMs' soiree scrapped amid pro-Palestinian protest

Monitoring Desk
MONTREAL: A soiree to be attended by the prime ministers of Canada and Italy on Saturday in Toronto was cancelled over "security concerns", the Canadian leader's office said, as pro-Palestinian protesters picketed the venue. Hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators had gathered in front of the Art Gallery of Ontario, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was due to host his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, according to Canadian media reports.

"Due to security concerns, the event was cancelled," Jenna Ghass-abeh, a spokesperson for the Canadian prime minister's office, said without giving further details. Meloni, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, is visiting Canada ahead of a leaders' summit in Italy in June. Earlier in the day, the two leaders held talks where they discussed what Meloni described as a "very difficult Middle East crisis".

Bangladesh Nobel winner fears for future as woes mount

DHAKA (AFP/APP): Bangladesh Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus says it is a "million-dollar question" why the prime minister hates him, but says many believe she sees him as a political threat. Yunus, 83, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty with his pioneering microfinance bank but has earned the enmity of long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Iran conservatives secure bulk of seats in elections

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iranian conservatives secured the bulk of seats in elections for a key clerical body and the national legislature, local media reported on Sunday, estimating a record low turnout. Authorities were still counting ballots two days after Friday's vote for members of parliament and for the Assembly of Experts, which selects the Islamic republic's supreme leader. The election, in which a vetting process

barred many hopefuls from running, took place with Iran suffering a severe economic crisis deepened by international sanctions. The official IRNA news agency put the turnout at around "41 per cent" among 61 million eligible voters. No official figure had yet been announced. The reformist daily Shargh predicted the next parliament would be "in the hands of radical conservatives" who "took advantage of the opportunity created by the low participation".

Indian police hunt more suspects in gang rape of Spanish tourist

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Three Indian men have appeared in court after the gang rape of a Spanish tourist on a motorbike trip with her husband, with police hunting four other suspects, reports have said. The attack took place on Friday night in eastern India in Jharkhand state's Dumka district, where the couple were camping.

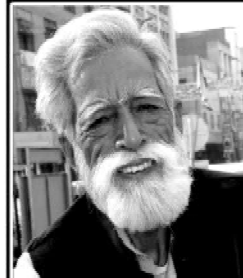
A total of seven men are accused of carrying out the brutal assault. "We have formed a team to hunt the remaining suspects," senior local police officer Pitamber Singh Kherwar told AFP. On Sunday, three accused were seen being escorted into court with sacks on their heads by police officers holding ropes tied around their waists.

S. Korean doctors rally as healthcare standoff escalates

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Thousands of South Korean doctors protested on Sunday in Seoul in an escalating standoff with the government over medical training reforms, which has seen junior doctors quit en masse, plunging hospitals into chaos. Around 10,000 junior doctors quit and stopped working nearly two weeks ago to protest hikes to medical school admissions

from next year meant to combat shortages and an ageing society. The striking professionals have defied a Feb 29 government deadline for them to return to work or face legal action, including possible arrests or suspensions of their medical licenses. The protesters wore black masks and waved signs saying: "We oppose the medical school admissions increase".

CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Sardar Abid Aleem

Publisher and Chief Editor of

Daily Millat, Faisalabad

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.

APNS
All Pakistan Newspapers Society



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, shake hand with, Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif after the oath taking ceremony, at President House in the Federal Capital.

To get out-of-school children enrolled School admission campaign starts across Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The school admission campaign has been launched by the School Education Department on eve of new academic year all over the Balochistan province. According to the official sources, the School Education Department has targeted to get 2,69,143 children enrolled during the new academic year in province. In all six committees have been formed for admission of the children in schools, the official sources informed. The Department has also decided to launch extensive mass awareness campaign about admission

of children in the schools. During the campaign, awareness walks, seminars and corner meetings would be conducted to create much needed awareness about importance of education and thus get maximum out-of-school children enrolled in the schools. In addition to this, the Education department officers and staff would also attempt to convince the parents to send their children to schools after visiting their homes. It may be mentioned here last year, 2,36,327 children had been enrolled in the province.



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Muhammad Fareed Afridi examining the documents of Kohda Babar for Senate election. MPAs Aghar Umar Ahmadzai and Farah Azeem Shah are also present.

Khetran greets Shahbaz Sharif on becoming PM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The member of Provincial Assembly Balochistan, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has extended congratulations to Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on being elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan. In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran expressed the hope that Mian Shahbaz Sharif-led government would take the country and province to development.

He prayed for the development of Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that it is our collective responsibility to resolve the long-standing issues being faced by the country/province. He further hoped that Mian Shahbaz Sharif would play his wholehearted role for development of the province and resolving the problems of its people without any discrimination.



QUETTA: Deputy Director Sports Syed Naem Akhtar presenting a memorial shield to Provincial Secretary Imran Khan on his services during Golden Jubilee of Barney Hockey Club.

3-Day workshop starts to determine NAP for Health Protection 2024-28

QUETTA (APP) A three-day consultative workshop was started to determine the National Action Plan (NAP) for Health Protection 2024-2028 in Balochistan on Monday till Wednesday.

UNOCHA and UNFPA. While addressing the participants of the workshop, Additional Director Health Dr. Faheem Khan said that the workshop appreciated the collaborative efforts to tackle the challenges of health protection in the area. In the consultation workshop, the determination of the action plan of the Balochistan Health Department under the National Action Plan for Health Security will also be observed, he said.

He said that implementation of international health regulations would be required capacity building in 19 different sectors including biological hazards, biochemical events, natural disasters, disease control such as border management

USC to launch Rs 7.5 b PM's Ramadan Relief Package today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Store Corporation (USC) is all set to launch Rs 7.5 billion Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package 2024 on Tuesday (March 5). The prime minister had announced a special subsidy of Rs 7.5 billion to provide edible items to the people subsidized prices during the holy month of Ramadan, a USC spokesman said on Monday. Under the package, he said, the USC would give subsidy on 19 basic food items, including flour, ghee, edible oil, sugar, pulse gram, white gram, besan, dates, rice, tea, spices, milk and beverages. The spokesman said the USC would ensure abundant availability of all food items at its outlets to meet the needs of the public during the holy month. Only the poor families comprising around 200 million people registered with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) under the PMT-60 category instead of PMT-40 would be able to benefit

from the targeted subsidy, he added. The BISP beneficiaries would get a 10 kilogram flour bag for Rs 648, ghee Rs 365 per kg and sugar for Rs 109 per kg, while the subsidy of Rs 25 per litre would be given on edible oil, the spokesman said. Similarly, he said, the subsidy of Rs 25 per kg on pulse gram and white gram, Rs 50 per kg on gram flour (besan) and dates, Rs 25 per kg on Basmati rice, Silah rice and broken rice, Rs 100 on tea (800 grams), and Rs 30 per liter on packed milk. Spices and beverages would also be available at cheaper prices, he added. The USC, he said, would provide total 20 kg flour, 5 kg each of sugar and ghee, and 3 kg each of rice, pulses, and cooking oil to the families registered with the BISP, while there would be no limit for the purchase of other food items. The spokesman advised the deserving individuals not registered under the BISP to immediately contact the Programme's

Senate unanimously passed resolution in favour of innocent Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators of all political parties on Monday during the Senate Session unanimously passed the resolution that was moved against the Israeli force's massacre of the innocent people of Palestine. Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan presented the resolution which stated that the Israeli army carried out a brutal massacre on 29th February 2024, on innocent and unarmed Palestinians who were gathered to receive aid (food supplies, medicine, etc.) as a result hundreds of Palestinians were murdered in cold blood. The resolution further stated that the people of Palestine are already being starved due to the blockade from the International Community by the Israeli

army. "This House strongly recommends and urges the International Community to take action such that the siege of Gaza be lifted immediately and Muslim countries be allowed all access and cover for delivery of aid" it added. Dr Afnan Ullah Khan criticized the weak stance of the international community for not practically helping the innocent Palestinians. Meanwhile, Senator Pulwasha Muhammad Zai Khan highlighted that Israeli forces not only killing innocent Palestinian people but also making fun of the martyrs by capturing their pictures. Senator Faisal Javed informed the upper house that around 01 million are affected in Ghaza due to the infectious disease. They are not being

provided the medicine and other necessary things. Senator Kamran Murtaza said that today, again hundreds of innocent people of Palestine have been martyred who were gathered to take aid. This issue is relevant to humanity and it should be ended for the sake of humanity, he added. Senator Aon Abbas said that one child is being killed every 15 minutes in Palestine and around 10,000 children have been killed so far. Senator Khalida Ateeb said that we hold the first rally in Karachi in solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine. We should boycott Israeli products and this step should be taken at the government level. Senator Taj Haider

said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto decided to use our resources for the betterment of Muslim countries and he united the Muslim countries but unfortunately, he was hanged. He urged the government and masses to stay within your resources to get rid of foreign loans, adding that only this way we can get honor in the world. Senator Mohsin Aziz said that we should probe the issues within the Muslim Ummah as without resolving these issues, we cannot make progress and stand at the international level with honor. Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand said that Palestinian-injured Children were being operated on without anesthesia which is so painful that a human cannot bear it.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inspecting the Guard of Honor presented by a contingent of Pakistan's Armed Forces upon arrival at the Prime Minister House.

UN Chief congratulates Shehbaz on becoming PM

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif after he was sworn-in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, saying he was looking forward to working with him on a number of issues. On Sunday, the National Assembly elected Shehbaz Sharif as the Leader of the House by 201 votes, defeating Omar Ayub of the Sunni Ittehad Council. "We congratulate Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the post of Prime Minister of Pakistan and we look forward to continuing cooperation with the country on a wide array of issues," Stéphane Dujarric, the UN Chief's spokesperson, said in an email to APP.

Asad Qaiser demands judicial commission investigate cipher case

ISLAMABAD (INP) - PTI leader Asad Qaiser on Monday demanded a judicial inquiry into the cipher case. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the former NA speaker stated, "Our position on the cipher case is clear: we demand a judicial commission is formed and the truth will come out." The cipher case revolves around a diplomatic cable that the Federal Investigation Agency alleges was never returned by the PTI founder. The PTI has long maintained that the document contained a threat from the US to oust the PTI founder as the prime minister of Pakistan. Asad Qaiser recalled that an extremely hostile attitude had been adopted towards Pakistan's ambassador in Washington.

Pointing to the lawmakers sitting on the treasury benches, Qaiser asserted that all of them had called the cipher "false", but later on, the same diplomatic cable was used as a tool to punish the PTI founder and the former foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi. In January, both the PTI founder and Qureshi were sentenced to 10-year rigorous imprisonment in the cipher case by a special court established under the Official Secrets Act. About the proceedings against the PTI founder, Asad Qaiser said that the party founder was being subjected to long court proceedings of up to 14 hours in a single day. He also alleged that judges had been held at gunpoint to extract sentences [against the PTI founder].



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik inaugurates "Spring Thaw 2024" National SimEx Conference at NDMA Headquarters.

LHC moved to remove Sanjrani as Senate chairman

LAHORE (INP): Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday moved to remove the Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani from his post. As per details, a citizen named Mashkoor Hussain filed a plea in Lahore High Court seeking the removal of Sadiq Sanjrani as Senate chairman. The plea stated that Sanjrani has been elected as a member of the Balochistan Assembly and he cannot retain both seats at the same time. Hence, the court should bar him from performing duties as Senate chairman and order to vacate his senate seat, the plea stated.

QDM demands increase in number of Green buses; improve services

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Quetta Development Mahaz (QDM) has demanded of the government to increase number of Green Buses besides improving its quality of service. In a press release issued here on Monday, it was mentioned that the QDM had welcomed the launch of Green bus service on a route between two universities. Then the initiative was also owned considering it a gift and asset. However, it was con-

sidered an insufficient thus there is a need to make increase in the number of buses and routes. According to the press release, it stressed to take every possible steps for improving and expand the service of Green buses. It was demanded of the provincial government to make arrangements for at least 50 buses immediately so that all segments of society including male and females may have the facilities of pleasant and cheaper journey.

Raid on house of Achakzai exposed reality of new puppets: Hafiz Hamdullah

QUETTA (INP): Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI-F) central leader, Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah has said that raid on house of PKMAP chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai has exposed the reality of new puppets that how much authoritative they are. In a statement on Monday, the JUI-F leader strongly condemning the incident said that the raid

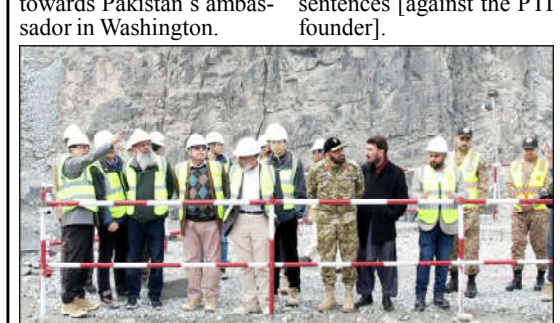
on house of elderly politician violated the sanctity and privacy. Hafiz Hamdullah further stated that Mehmood Khan Achakzai was among the senior politicians of the country and the political leadership should restrain from adverse actions. He said that raids of administration on house of senior politicians were intolerable.

Bizenjo given PPP ticket for Senate

Independent Report
QUETTA: The leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has been given the party ticket for Senate here on Monday. The central leader of PPP, Ejaz Jhokrani gave the ticket of party for Senate. Also present on the occasion were member of National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgej and provincial president of PPP Mir Changez Jamali as well as Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Zahoor Buledi, Ubaid Gorgej, Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Liaquat Lehri.

Unknown assailants injured a person

QUETTA (Online): Unknown assailants shot and injured a person in Quetta. According to the details, last night in Hazara Town area of Quetta, unknown attackers opened fire outside the house of Haji Ramzan and escaped. He is the Vice President of Balochistan Shia Conference. The injured was shifted to hospital. Police are taking further action.



Chairman WAPDA Lt. Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani inspecting ongoing construction work during his visit to Diamer Basha Dam.

3-day Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024 would be held from March 7 to 9

Independent Report
QUETTA: Three-day Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024 would be held from March 7 to 9 at Pak-Japan Culture Center Quetta to enlighten the visitors regarding the diverse Japanese cultural and traditional heritage through various themed calendars displayed in the exhibition. Pak-Japan Friendship Society Quetta in collaboration with Conciliate-General of Japan in Karachi would organize the event of "Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024" to be held on

March 7 at Pak-Japan Culture Center in Quetta. Japanese Calendars Exhibition is an annual feature being regularly held, providing the audience a chance to experience various aspects of Japan. The calendars on display would portray various subjects of Japanese art, culture, heritage, sports, industries, agriculture, environment, photography and lifestyle. The calendars describe Japan's scenery, everyday life of the Japanese and beautiful culture in a compressed manner.

DC inaugurates tree planting drive of spring in Chaman

CHAMAN (APP)- Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain @ Raja Athar Abbas officially inaugurated the tree planting campaign in connection with spring at DC office. On this occasion, in a message to the youth, Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain @ Raja Athar Abbas said that the people, especially the youth of Levies should plant saplings near their police stations, checkpoints and check posts and

play their part in making the Green Pakistan project a success. He said that we all need a clean and natural environment saying that natural disasters were increasing day by day as a result of climate change due to deforestation in Pakistan and climate change was being happened which was causing death and diseases for human health. To prevent these climate changes, it is necessary to plant more plants to make the environment like nature's desire.



Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan visiting different affected areas of Jewani.