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Govt. committed to steer country out of economic crisis: **PM Shehbaz**

Govt fully committed to provide educational facilities, vocational training to women

M U Z A F A R A B A D prime minister called for (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reiterated the government's resolve to steer the country out of the challenge of economic crisis by bringing structural reforms in the economic sector to provide maximum facilities to the

people of the country. He said that the government was fully committed to increase tax to GDP ratio, tap the huge potential of natural and agriculture resources, stop smuggling, power theft, and losses of the State Owned Entities.

Addressing a cheque distribution ceremony among the affected people by torrential rains and snowfall in the area, the he maintained.

setting aside all the differences in the larger national interest to work as a nation to ensure that the country was developing at a faster pace

Currently, he said the country's tax collection target for the current fiscal year was 1.2 trillion which was not up to the true potential due to tax evasion by certain sections. He said tax evasion was one of the biggest challenge that would to be resolved to increase the country's re-

sources. "If we have no resources, how we will build the infrastructure of health, education and other important sectors,³

AWARAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir giving a cheque to a relative of Shuhada during the visit at Awaran district

Mehmood Achakzai asks ECP to delay presidential election as the electoral college for the presidential poll is incomplete

the election as the electoral

college is "incomplete". In a letter to the chief election commissioner on Friday, Achakzai said that stated that electoral college for a presidential election was "still incomplete". "As yet no one was

elected on those reserved seats and without nominations and proper election on these seats, if the presidential election is conducted as per the schedule that would be denial of their votes, which otherwise is against the fundamental rights, law

and constitution," stated the letter. "Under the above circumstances, it is submitted that the proposed election to the office of the President of Pakistan is clearly impossible, therefore the

INP adds: Mehmood

Visits Awaran district **Success of Balochistan is** success of Pakistan: COAS

Promises army's support for people of Balochistan; Vows to bring peace and prosperity with people's support

ing the provision of easy

agricultural loans, seeds,

fertilisers, solar tube wells

and guidance by agriculture

experts, so that they can

cultivate their lands and

Later on, COAS inau-

gurated Cadet College

lege in Balochistan for the

Pakistan.

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, NI (M) visited Awaran district of Balochistan. During the visit, COAS was briefed on the security situation and efforts being undertaken by Pakistan Army in the socioeconomic development and agriculture potential of the province COAS interacted with

become partners in the the local elders, farmers and progress and development families of Shuhada and assured them of the Army's unstinting support for their security and welfare, while Awaran and interacted with paying rich tribute to the faculty members and stusacrifices rendered by the dents. The Army Chief appreciated the establishment Shuhada of yet another Cadet Col-

While interacting with the notables and farmers of

President Alvi presented farewell guard of honour

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday was given a farewell guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Army.

The guard of honour ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Dr Arif Alvi will relinquish the charge of his office on March 9 (Saturday) after election of a new president.

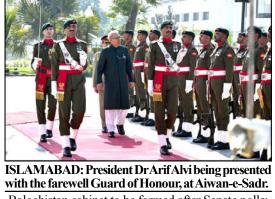
Meanwhile, the elec-tion of the 14th president of Pakistan will be held to-morrow (March 9).

In apparent rebuff to PTI IMF says its scope is limited to economic

Awaran, COAS empha- people of the area. He reitsized the importance of agerated his commitment that riculture and Army's com-Pakistan Army will conmitment to the Green Pakitinue development and restan Initiative (GPI). COAS lief activities in Balochistan said that farmers will be in collaboration with the provided with all kinds of concerned civil departagricultural facilities, includments

COAS remarked "Success of Balochistan is success of Pakistan. People of Pakistan are proud of the brave people of Balochistan who have stood tall against all odds. Armed Forces of Pakistan and Law Enforcement Agencies will continue to render their services in support of the people of Balochistan for peace and prosperity.

Êarlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Corps Balochistan Corps



Balochistan cabinet to be formed after Senate polls: Asif Ali Zardari to be elected as President with thumping majority, believes CM Independent Report

with Maulana Fazlur QUETTA: The Chief Min- Rehman and provincial leadister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has Islam (JUI) for support in



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with the families of the deceased and injured in the wake of recent torrential rains and heavy snowfall.

IT Initiative Programme held under Ultra-soft System:

Youngsters have to learn modern skills for leading



Independent Report parliament house in

SLAMABAD: Asif Ali Zardari, the joint candidate of PPP and the PML-N, and Sunni Ittehad Council's candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai are vying for the

blies.

secret ballot.

office of President. The President is elected by an electoral college comprising members of the Sen-4:00 pm. ate, National Assembly and

the Sunn



İslamabad tomorrow in

which the members of National Assembly and the Senate will exercise their right to vote Similarly, the provincial

assemblies will hold their sessions tomorrow for the election. Polling will begin at 10:00 am and continue till

successful life, insists Governor **Independent Report** pants of IT Initiative

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that the younger generation has to learn modern skills along with education for leading successful life. This is why, we are determined to make them skilled besides being degree holders.

The day is not far away when when the youngsters from Balochistan would not go to abroad and other provinces as night watchmen, labourers or drivers for earning livelihood but they would be hired as the successful professional, IT expert, civil engineers, researchers or scientists.

These views were expressed by the Governor while addressing the partici-

1 students of free IT and AI courses.

QUETTA:

Balochistan Assembly has

adopted a joint resolution

demanding of the provincial

government to approach

federal government for de-

claring Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

presented by the Member

Provincial Assembly be-

longing to Pakistan Peoples'

Muhammad Sadiq Umrani

in the session with Deputy

Speaker Ms. Ghazala Gola

in the chair also demanded

Party (PPP),

democratic hero.

The joint resolution

as martyr at official level.

to approach federal Govt. for

assembly.

The

Mir

Ultra-soft System here in Quetta on Friday. The UNHCR Quetta head, Taspy Baklay, Director General of National Institute of Management, Muhammad Aslam Ghani. Commissioner Afghan Refu-gees, Arbab Talib, head of Ultras-soft System, Asif Naeem and others were also present. Besides them, the

Programme held under the

male and female students getting training of the courses of artificial intelligence and online business vere also present.

that the Governor Balochistan had started the IT Initiative Programme for generating means of livelihood for the unemployed

youth of the province few months back

4 terrorists killed in

> **NW IBO Independent Report** AWALPINDI: On 8 March 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in North Waziristan District, on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of

operation, intense fire ex-QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul change took place between Wali Kakar distributing laptops among the Batchown troops and the terrorists, as a result of which four terrorists were sent to hell.

BA demands provincial Govt. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained declaring ZAB martyr officially Independent Report Mir Muhammad Sadig actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. Sanitization operation

Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak is being conducted to elimiand other members of the nate any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of According to the conthe area appreciated the tent of resolution, the due operation and expressed legal process and fair trial their full support to elimiwas not done in the case of nate the menace of terror-

death sentence of ZAB, as ism. ruled by the Supreme Court in it's onion the other day. As per the resolution, the death sentence of ZAB was judicial murder. It was also asserted that ZAB was physically hanged to death, but practically he is still alive among the masses.

to declare Zulfiqar Ali The resolution de-Bhutto (ZAB) as national manded of the House to ask The joint resolution provincial government to approach federal governwas presented on behalf of the Chief Minister Mir ment for declaring ZAB as Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, martyr officially and declare Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, him national hero

he tour provincial assem-Knan Acnakzai Ittehad Council (SIC) Voting is held through a backed presidential candidate — on Friday asked the A joint session of the Election Commission of Paparliament will be held at the kistan (ECP) to postpone

same may kindly be post-poned or delayed till completion of electoral college accordingly in the best interest of justice, fair play and equity.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding Quetta Development Package

CM directs to ensure speedy completion of QDP by working round the clock

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to ensure speedy completion of the Quetta Development Package by working round the clock.

The Chief Minister was chairing a review meeting about progress of the Quetta Development Package here on Friday.

He also directed to start work on the service road of Sariab road immediately.

Similarly, the protected U-turns should also be built on the roads under Quetta Development Package. He said that the maintenance expenditures can be met by making the impor-

tant sites of newly built roads commercialized. He stressed that the

work on service road should be completed within six

months instead of one year.

He assured that all administrative assistance including timely release of the funds would be extended for the package. The Chief Minister also directed to prepare the development projects in view of the requirenents of at least next 25 years.

The Law Department should prepare recommendations of the review on Land Acquisition Act, he essed further. sti Moreover, the Chief

Minister directed to the planning and development department to consider bringing the railway track in use for mass transit.

While on the other hand, the mass transit should also be reviewed on the land located around the railway track, he directed the concerned authorities further.



QUETTA: MPAs Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Haji Barkat Ali Rind, Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Mir Younis Aziz Zehri and Molvi Noorullah expressing their views on a joint resolution presented in Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Deputy Speaker Ghaza Gola

issues

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says its scope is restricted to economic issues and it cannot interfere in any country's inter

nal and political affairs. IMF spokesperson persons before the session of provincial assembly here Esther Perez confirmed that on Friday, the Chief Minthe fund received on Feb 20 ister said that the PPP a letter from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which demanded linking the release of the next tranche election with political stability in

Pakistan and responded that it (IMF) was concerned about economic matters.

She said the Fund was international an organisation and its mandate was restricted to economic issues only.

"IMF does not comment on local and political issues and encourages fair and peaceful resolution of disputes," she reiteriated.

The Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI), in the letter, asked the IMF to factor in the country's political stability in any further bailout talks. The PTI sent a letter to the IMF detailing its position.

Administrator MCQ transferred; Hamza Shafqat given addl: charge

Independent Report QUETTA: The Administrator Metropolitan Corpora-tion Quetta (MCQ), Abdul Jabbar has been transferred and directed to report in the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) with immediate effect.

According to the official notification issued here by S&GAD on Friday, the Commissioner Quetta, Hamza Muhammad Shafqaat has been given the additional charge of Administrator MCQ in addition to his own duties

firmly believed that the central leader of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari would be onciliation, and he is in favour of taking all along elected as President of Paafter his election as Presi kistan for the second time, with thumping majority. Speaking to the media dent

Regarding formation of Balochistan cabinet, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the cabinet of province would be formed after elections of Senate.

He also said that the PPP and Muslim League-Nawaz would form the cabinet in consultation with

PML-N to vote for Zardari in presidential election: Maryam



LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that 'unlike' outgoing president, Asif Ali Zardari would follow the constitution in 'letter and spirit' after taking office as President.

According to details, Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari co-chaired a joint parliamentary parties meeting of the PPP and PML-N in which a mechanism was devised for the presidential election in the Punjab Assembly

Speaking on the occasion, the PPP chairman said that he came to meet the Punjab Assembly members to seek support for Asif Ali Zardari in the presidential election. He said that Pakistan is currently going through a crisis and all political parties have to play their role to take the country out of crises.

Supply of wheat to be ensured at official rate: **CS** assures to provide relief to masses in Ramadan

Independent Report sion of edibles should be en-

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has assured to provide maximum relief to the general public during holy month of Ramadanul He also said that sup-

ply of wheat would be ensured at the official rate in sasta bazaars. He asked the Deputy

Commissioners to pinpoint the sasta bazaars well before the holy month in order to facilitate the masses. Moreover, the provi-

Mubarak.

sured at the utility stores. The Chief Secretary was presiding over the

meeting of Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners here on Friday. He congratulated all the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on holding the general elections

successfully. The Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners briefed in detail about provision of best facilities in schools and healthcare institutions

would speak to all political parties for mustering their support for Presidential

He also mentioned that other coalition partners. the talks have been done

the presidential election He said that Asif Ali Zardari is the kind of rec-

It may be mentioned

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Daily **Independent**

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Result tampering

The botched conduct of the Feb 8 election continues to haunt the Election Commission of Pakistan. After failing to meet the legal deadline of Feb 22 to publish all Form 45s, the Commission finally released the documents on Tuesday, in the process triggering another storm of complaints regarding blatant and, in some instances, rather crude ma-nipulation of electoral results. The Form 45, which is a tally of all votes cast at a polling station for each of the contesting candidates, is the formal documentation of the first and most important step in the post-poll vote-counting exercise. A copy of it is supposed to be issued to the nominee of each candidate who witnesses the count of ballots. Since the result of an election is built on the consolidation of individual Form 45s issued by presiding officers from each polling station, the integrity of these forms is what ultimately legitimises the poll exercise.

In the case of the recent general election, many candidates had complained that the Form 45s they received from the presiding officers in their respective constituencies were showing very different results than those announced by the ECP after unlawful and as yet unexplained delavs

There were several rival candidates and even entire parties endorsing the PTI's claim of victory on various seats based on the Form 45s collected by them, even though official results had declared some other candidate as the winner. Since the ECP's copies of its Form 45s had not been shared till earlier this week, it was impossible to determine where exactly the official count and the Form 45s issued to candidates had deviated. The documents now released seem so full of inconsistencies and errors that they have bolstered the persistent allegations of widespread tampering with results and strengthened independent observers' demands for a transparent audit of election results.

Where, on the one hand, the ECP insisted on rigid interpretations of election rules and laws to deny the PTI its bat and the Sunni Ittehad Council its share of reserved seats, it cannot expect the nation to look the other way when it comes to its own violations of legal deadlines and failure to explain the glaring anomalies in its announced results. This duplicity cannot be condoned. Given how crudely vote counts have been overwritten in some of the Form 45s shared by the ECP, the Commission must explain why it considered it appropriate to announce winners and allocate seats based on seemingly tampered documents without conducting some kind of cross-checking first.

It must also organise an immediate, independent audit of the election results that have been contested, which all important stakeholders should be invited to witness. It will prove extremely difficult for the nation to move forward unless these disputes are resolved.



tions.

As anticipated, Chinese President Xi Jinping, known for his deep and affectionate sentiments towards Pakistan, was the first head of state to extend congratulations to Mr. Shahbaz Sharif upon assuming the office of Prime Minister. This gesture reflects

President Xi's special regard for Pakistan, highlighting his reputation as one of the most benevolent leaders globally, particularly towards Pakistan. As the leader of

China, one of the fastestergy growing nations worldwide, President Xi's support will give added confidence to the newly elected Prime Minister, who is soon to face significant ecoaimed at driving economic nomic, financial, and politiexpansion by focusing on cal challenges. The brief yet impactful message not infrastructure developonly conveyed congratulament projects that directly tions but also emphasized

a revitalized vision for the future of Pakistan-China cooperation which was delineated into five distinct areas, underlining a roadmap for their continued collaboration. Firstly, emphasis was

placed on nurturing and preserving the longstanding friendship between the two nations. Secondly, emphasized exchanges and cooperation across a wide spectrum of fields. The third to advance and upgrade the west and beyond. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The fourth to deepen cooperation and foster resilience. Fifth to ensure tangible benefits for the populace of both na-

tions While all five elements hold significance, the joint development of an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) emerged Central to this vision is the

as particularly pivotal, development of human tion, food security, and agwith far-reaching implicaand social capital alongside institutional reforms This revamped iteration of CPEC, built upon a inclusive growth, emphareassessment of its initial sizing indigenous soluframework (CPEC-1) tran-

segments of society. Crescends its previous focus on infrastructure, energy, ating an enabling environment for the private sector to drive economic growth and enhance national competitiveness. It focuses on enhancing living standards through investments in education, healthcare, social services, and poverty alleviation initiatives besides uplifting rural communities aimed at improving the overall quality of life for tions. It also covers food all Pakistani citizens.

The Innovation Corridor will foster technological advancement through the establishment of research and development centers, fostering collaboration between universities and industries, and investing in digital infrastructure aimed at ushering the country into a new knowledge revolution by introducing disruptive technologies such as mi-

cro-electronics, computers, telecommunications, human-made materials, stimulate economic activrobotics, and biotechnolity. Such as expanding exogy. By catalyzing signifiisting industrial zones and cant increases in produccreating new special ecotivity and giving rise to ennomic zones to attract tirely new economic secforeign investment. It intors, the corridor serves as a platform for innovation cludes improving transportation networks to faand entrepreneurship. It cilitate trade domestically, aims to position Pakistan regionally and globally, as a hub for technological diversify Pakistan's exexcellence, driving ecoport basket and expand its nomic growth and enhancindustrial base and connect ing competitiveness glo-Gwadar with the landbally. Through strategic inlocked countries, thus vestments and partnerships, the Innovation Coropening new vistas to the ridor seeks to propel Pa-The Livelihood-Enkistan forward as a leader hancing Corridor aims to in technological innova-

ricultural and environmental protection. This vision

aims to ensure inclusivity and accessibility, extending the benefits of CPECand II to a wider range of people and regions in Pakistan. This initiative envisions empowering local communities, providing skills training, facilitating access to financing for small businesses, and offering clear information about opportunities. While achieving this ambitious vision requires careful planning and collaboration among stakeholders, it holds immense potential to uplift all of Pakistan through equitable development.

Since its announcement five months ago, the upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has transitioned from the drawing board to practical implementation. The Chinese Ambassador recently unveiled promising developments regarding CPEC, announcing the successful launch of the Growth Corridor, Livelihood-Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, and Green Corridor, alongside the Open Corridor.

underway in collaboration with Xinjiang province to revolutionize Pakistan's agricultural sector, aiming to modernize and boost productivity. This initiaaddress water scarcity tive involves introducing challenges. high-quality seeds, lever-

nology and implementing comprehensive training programs to cultivate skilled human resources. Additionally, infrastructure is being developed for storage, preservation, value addition, marketing, and exports of staple crops, cotton, vegetables, and fruits. Development cooperatives in selected agricultural hubs will ensure maximum benefits to farmers regardless of land holdings. Moreover, several

Chinese companies are poised to invest in green energy projects, including photovoltaic and other renewable energy initiatives with low carbon emissions.

They are committed environmentally to friendly and high-tech projects. Many Chinese companies are pledging to establish manufacturing facilities.

The completion of Rashakai SEZ Phase-I was also announced by the ambassador, marking a new stage of high-quality development for CPEC. These advancements inject new momentum into fostering an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future. Sizable progress has been made to convert the Khunjerab Pass into an all-weather border by upgrading customs and logistics services to facilitate seamless trade and movement of people. Secondly, efforts have been directed towards making the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) fully operational, enhancing connectivity and accessibility to the region. Additionally, operationalizing the Pak-China Friendship Hospi-Concrete plans are tal and accelerating the expansion of the desalination plant and other key projects have been expedited to improve healthcare facilities and

aging cutting-edge tech- memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements have been inked between China and Pakistan, covering commerce, communication, and transport sectors, notably including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail project, whose cost has been reduced from \$9 billion to \$6.7 billion. Spanning 1,733 kilometers, ML-1 will link Peshawar to Karachi, significantly enhancing Pakistan's transportation infrastructure. Additionally, an MoU between The United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Ltd for a \$1.5 billion investment aims to boost the refinery's production capacity, significantly increasing the country's petrol and high-speed diesel produc-

> Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, a dynamic leader known for his proactive approach, will undoubtedly take President Xi's letter seriously. The letter, while extending congratulations, underscores an unwavering commitment and resolve to propel both CPEC-1 and the Upgraded CPEC-2 forward with accelerated momentum to yield tangible results. It emphasizes the imperative of giving undivided attention to both phases of CPEC and calls for building the capacity of government and private institutions to handle the influx of massive investment. President Xi's directive underscores the urgency of developing managerial skills to navigate highly precise and high-value projects, enhancing transparency and expediency in processing proposals and projects, and creating highly efficient and effective enabling conditions to ensure the timely completion of corridors and projects within the agreed-upon timeframe and with the intended

Thirdly, multiple output and outcome.

and communication projects. Instead, it embraces a multifaceted approach centered on fostering economic prosperity, industrial development, ICT, livelihood projects, mining and mineral exploration and development, agriculture, political, economic, education, science and technology, cultural, and people-to-people rela-

security and research, media exchanges, space cooperation, urban sustainable development, climate change, vaccine development, transportation, en-In essence, the upgraded CPEC delineates five distinct corridors, each tailored to address key priorities and aspirations. A Growth Corridor,

bridge socio-economic tion and advancement. The Green Corridor disparities by empowerin Pakistan is committed ing individuals and communities by harnessing the to promoting environmental sustainability by pripotential of the country's youthful population and oritizing investments in capitalize on the growing renewable energy sources, social consciousness to clean technologies, and transition towards a sustainable waste management. Emphasizing the imknowledge-driven society. portance of moderniza-

Commerce News

that prioritizes sustained, advocates for energy conservation, commercialization of renewable energy, tions and involving all and the adoption of advanced biofuels and synthetic fuels. It also calls for the implementation of alternative propulsion methods and energy-efficient urban infrastructure. Through these initiatives, the Green Corridor aims to mitigate environmental degradation, enhance energy security, and build resilient communities, ensuring a more sustainable and prosperous future for Pakistan The Open Corridor

Upgraded CPEC, President Xi and Shahbaz Sharif

By Qamar Bashir Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC, CEO ATV

Dar urges political parties for Charter of Economy

within the limits.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday urged all political parties to get united and sign a Charter of Economy to get the country out of financial trap.

In his farewell speech, the Senator said that time has come to work together for the betterment of Pakistan.Ishaq Dar thanked his party leadership for honoring him with the role in the Senate of Pakistan since 2002.

He said that during his tenure, he witnessed many ups and downs and the Senate played an important role in the parliamentary history of Pakistan and will always be remembered in golden G-20 countries. words.

He said difference of



ISLAMABAD: Women visiting stalls at 10th National Women at Work commemorating International Women's Day organised by Lok Virsa with the collaboration of Devcom-Pakistan and dtn.

SCCI president inaugurates Bank Alfalah on Ring Road

were present.

facilitate the community.

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq on Friday inaugurated a new branch of Bank Alfalah on Ring Road, Hayatabad here on Friday. During the inauguration ceremony, the SCCI executive members Hamza Ibrahim Butt, Hafaf Ali Khan, Secretary General Sajjad Aziz, members of the business community, along with the Bank Al-Falah Regional Head Jamil Ahmad Sauval, Area Manager

opinion is the beauty of the enemies of Pakistan democracy but opposition have interest in weakening for the sake of opposition the country and all is a disaster for the country. political parties remain He said Senate is a busy fighting with each symbol of the federation other. He said that all therefore the sanctity of political parties should this House must be maintained at all costs and

make sacrifices for Pakistan. Senator Mian the protest should be Raza Rabbani in his farewell speech, said that He stressed all it was not appropriate to political parties for the talk about the country

Charter of Reconciliation whose financia and Charter of Economy to sovereignty was mortgaged get the country out of with international financial financial trap. "We should institutions. He said it is avoid personal vengeance also inappropriate to against each other and take comment on hybrid system the country forward collectively", said the over the parliament and internal politics of the Senator adding that all country. He also urged all political parties should political parties to have a work together to get grand national dialogue to Pakistan's name included in get the country part of international financial institution and hybrid

He said Pakistan is an atomic power, therefore political system.

> Turkiye CG visits SCCI SIALKOT (APP): Consul General of Turkiye Ourmus Bastug and Commercial Attache Nurettin Demir visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday to discuss ways and means to boost the bilateral trade and investment relations.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik and Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh warmly welcomed

the distinguished guests. During a meeting, President SCCI Abdul Ghafooor Malik said Pakistan and Turkiye committed to enhancing bilateral cooperation in various sectors as focused Muhammad Adil, Branch

Manager Taniya Khan, Government meetings in Regional Coordinator the past few years. He said:" We are thankful that Turkiye is Asadur Rehman and others Talking on the occasion, the SCCI chief also an important investment partner as praised the Bank Alfalah for number of Turkish firms its services and facilitation are working in Pakistan in to the business community. the domains of energy, He said the Bank Alfalah's finance, and infrastructure business-friendly policies projects. We believe that have become fruitful for the both Turkiye and Pakistan traders and asked other must harness each other commercial banks to adopt strengths and expertise to such pro-business policies to drive mutual progress and

prosperity'



RAWALPINDI: Group photo of People's Trader Cell President Tariq Waheed Butt and Secretary General Naveed Kanwal on the occasion of congratulating the newly elected President Malik Shaukat Hayat Kekezai and the newly elected Secretary General Adnan Ahmed of Central Anjuman Tajran Gwalmandi.

Envoy urges Pakistani investors to invest in Ethiopia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, on Friday urged the Pakistani business community to invest in

Ethiopia that offered comparative advantage in form of important geographical location, cheap and clean energy and skilled human resources. Addressing

Business Forum Ethiopia-Pakistan Bilateral Trade at Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Lahore, the ambassador said his country was

hosting the Invest Ethiopia Conference from April 28-

by various Government-to-

trend on Friday, gaining 190.67 points, a positive change of 0.29 percent, closing at 65,793.76 points against 65,603.09 points the previous trading day.A total of 481,704,055 shares valuing Rs16.992 billion were traded during the day compared 354,153,110 shares valuing Rs14.435 billion the last day. Some 355 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 206 of

showcase extraordinary investment opportunities highlighted the economic reforms carried out by the in Ethiopia, said a press release issued here. According to

Ambassador Jemal Beker, it was a high time for the business community of Pakistan to explore the lucrative market of Ethiopia which was a gateway to the African on

continent of more than 1.4 billion people. He said Ethiopia was a signatory to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which meant that whatever produced in Ethiopia could easily be traded to the

30 in Addis Ababa to entire Africa. **PSX** witnesses bullish trend, gains 190 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): 119 sustained losses The 100-index of the whereas the share prices of Pakistan Stock Exchange 30 remained unchanged.

(PSX) witnessed bullish The three top trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 59,083,977 shares at Rs 4.83 per share, Cnergyico Pakistan with 51,468,215 shares with 4.89 per share and Kohinoor Spining with 45,948,000 shares at Rs 5.52 per share. Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum to increase of Rs 160.00 per

share price, closing at Rs 8,050.00, whereas the runner-up was Pakistan Services Limited with a Rs them recorded gains and 29.99 rise in its per share.

Ramadan

(SBP) has announced that all its public dealing offices will remain closed on 1 Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. According to the SBP Statement issued here on Friday, the day will be observed as bank holiday for the purpose of Zakat deduction. All banks, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Microfinance banks (MFBs) will remain closed for public dealing. However, all employees of the Bank, DFIs and MFBs will attend their office on bank holiday as normal working day.

Pays tribute to Pakistani women **SBP** Director stresses for women's digital financial inclusion key to progress side with them", he said

He added that this

well as enhanced access to

imperative to support the

career progression of the

women employees and

encourage them to aim for

leadership position with

"SBP considers it is

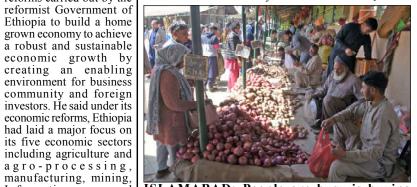
financial services.

Independent Report adding, recognizing their ISLAMABAD: Director at the State Bank of Pakistan important role, SBP has Abid Qamar Friday paid taken a number of steps tribute to Pakistani women towards financial inclusion for pivotal role in nation of women.

building and urged for women's digital financial initiative envisions greater engagement of women in inclusion as economic empowerment is key to the financial sector through Pakistan's development. Talking to PTV news increased employment in financial institutions as

channel, while paying tribute to Women on International women day he stressed that the women' financial inclusion is crucial to promoting gender equality and empowering women in all aspects of their lives.

the hope that in the coming "No nation can rise to years women in leadership the height of glory unless position should become the norm, not the exception" their women are side by



ISLAMABAD: People are busy is buying vegetables in Friday Weekly Bazaar.

PARC signs agreement to enhance livestock, dairy production

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Holstein Research Management Dairies Private Limited, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), for enhancing livestock and dairy

production in the country. Under partnership, both organizations have pledged to provide technical support for capacity building and to conduct training programs in Theriogenology, animal breeding and genetic research and development. In this regard, the PARC also organized an international seminar focusing on genetic and economic impact of Norwegian red dairy cattle.

The seminar provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to explore the potential of Norwegian red cattle in enhancing genetic and domestic breed improvement in the dairy industry. PARC's institutions, the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) and the Anima Sciences Institute (ASI).

SBP announces holiday on first

agro-processing

Communication

Technology (ICT) and

and

The ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan

Information

tourism.

ndependent

National News

Page 03

CM restores Health Card facility in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief deserving individuals, with along with financial Minister Khyber data collected from the assistance in the form of Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Ámin Gandapur, announced on Friday that free medical treatment for all residents of the province through Health Cards will be restored from the first day of Ramazan.

Addressing the media after a cabinet meeting, he emphasized that ensuring peace and security in the province remained the top priority for his government.During the holy month of Ramazan, he disclosed that a cash amount of Rs. 10,000 would be disbursed among approximately 850,000

data collected from the assistance in the form of Ehsas Program. An additional amount of Rs. 10,000 will be provided to an additional 150,000 people from all provincial constituencies, he said. To assist poor

people, he mentioned the government to release functional establishment of "Langar Khanay" and announced that the provincial government would organize "Sehri" and "Iftari" meals at hospitals

to facilitate the attendants of patients. Ali Amin Ganfapur further stated that youth would be provided skills training for job creation,

grants and interest-free loans to establish their businesses. He said that there would be no compromise on the development of the province and demanded the federal

arrears of Net Hydel Profit. He welcomed Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's visit to rain-affected areas and his announcement compensation for affected families after the recent rains. He added that the

martyr, national

from Shikarpur

By Adeel Ahmed

SHIKARPUR: Four more

persons were kidnapped

from Shikarpur District in

day from the

According to initial

provincial government had already released funds to the rain-affected areas. ZAB declared

with

HYDERABAD: Large number of women participating in a rally in connection of International Women's Day at Thandi Sarak.

IG Police pays tributes to all women of society

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has paid rich tributes to all the women of the society.

On exclusive message of International Women's Day, Dr. Usman Anwar and official play an said that Punjab Police salutes all brave mothers, sisters, daughters of nation especially of martyrs and ghazis. He said that on International Women's Day, Punjab Police reiterates its determination to fight against gender based crimes, sexual harassment and violence against women. The IG Punjab said that today's woman is more conscious, courageous and empowered than ever before and in all departments of Punjab App, Helpline 15.

Police, women are showing excellent skills and performance alongside men. He said that women serving in Punjab Police are our pride and valuable asset, lady police officers outstanding role in law and

order, crime control and jurisdictions of Naparkot community policing. Police Station and New The IG Punjab said Faujdari Police Station that providing equal here on Friday. opportunities and favorable environment to reports that some group of women is indispensable for armed men kidnapped the sustainable economic and five persons traveling on social development. Punjab datson vehicle from village police is ensuring prompt KB Allah Bux Soomro registration of FIRs and Rahimabad Link road near arrest of culprits in case of Khanpur who were retuning

crimes against women. back after attending the Dr. Usman Anwar religious meeting there in the said that Women Safety jurisdiction of Naparkot Police Station.

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Balighur Rahman is taking oath of office from Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan while Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is also present in the Governor House.

Asif Zardari will be elected President with thumping majority: Afridi (APP)

hero in PA PESHAWAR resolution Secretary Information PPP AHORE (APP): Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Prime Minister Zulfikar Amjad Khan Afridi has said Ali Bhutto has been that all democratic political parties would vote for Asif posthumously declared a martyr and national hero Ali Zardari to elect him for by a resolution passed the second term with overwhelming thumping majority.

În a statement issued support in the Punjab here on Friday, the PPP KP chapter's spokesman took exception to the demand of Mahmood Khan Achakzai for the postponement of presidential poll, saying it is surprising that the winner of a single parliamentary seat is

He said that no one would be allowed to hatch conspiracy against democracy and destabilize the country. He added that Achakzai is sleeping rabbit sleep and could become the President of Pakistan.

The PPP leader said that Asif Ali Zardari could be elected as President of Pakistan without allotting reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) while after sensing defeat Mahmood Khan Achakzai is bent upon adopting cheap tactics. He further accused Achakzai of making futile attempts.

Justice Malik takes oath as new LHC CJ

LAHORE (APP): Justice Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan, provincial ministers, federal and Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan on Friday took oath provincial law officers, as the 52nd chief justice of the Lahore High Court corps commander of (LHC) in a ceremony held Lahore, inspector general at the Governor's House of police Punjab, judicial officers and relatives of the here.

Punjab

Punjab Governor chief justice were also Muhammad Balighur present. Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Zaman Rehman administered the read out the notification of oath to Justice Khan. Chief the appointment of the Minister Maryam Nawaz chief justice.

International News

After taking the oath, attended the ceremony. the chief justice arrived at LHC senior puisne judge Justice Shujaat Ali Khan the LHC where he was and other judges, Punjab warmly welcomed.

SFA takes measures to ensure supply of adulteration-free food items during Ramazan: DG SFA KARACHI (APP): Director General Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Agha Fakhar Hussain on Friday briefed a meeting that the Authority is making every possible effort to ensure supply of adulteration-free food items during Ramazan ul Mubarak The DG SFA attended

the meeting held at Commissioner House here, said a statement.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Karachi, Police, Price Control Committee and senior officers of relevant departments

Protest continue for recovery of hostages

Independent Report MIRPŪR MATHĒLO: Protested in front of SSP Ghotki's office in Mirpur Mathelo for the fifth day on behalf of political and social organizations, journalists, and hostages' relatives and citizens for the recovery of the hostages who were abducted by bandits from Ghotki district. Demonstration, sit-

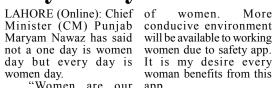
in, sloganeering for the recovery of hostages, police administration completely failed to recover the hostages.

Not a single day but every day is women day: Maryam Nawaz

women day. "Women are our

app heroes. A woman has to wage much struggle to get recognition. I myself worked hard to assert my self in party and everywhere. I am grateful to opponents to help me reach this slot. I faced harassment. I was kept in jails. She said this while addressing a function on the

eve of women international She announced to subjected to harassment



She underlined that getting underage girls employed and then subjecting them to violence is source of grave concern for us. There is need to get implement laws against forced labor sternly.

She urged that parents should take their children into confidence so that they could tell them evolve zero tolerance outside. Girls should be policy against harassment made powerful.



LAHORE: MPAs elected on minority special seats taking oath during Punjab Assembly Session.

PDMA, UNFPA launch **GBViE framework to** curb gender violence

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA)commemorated International Women's Day and inaugurated Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) framework. Director General PDMA, Muhammad Qaisar

Khan appreciated the collaboration of UNFPA and emphasized the importance of prioritizing gender equality in disaster response efforts. He stated, "On the day, we recognize the urgent need to address the critical issues of reminder of the invaluable gender-based violence, contributions of women

PESHAWAR (APP): The situations." "The GBViE framework is a crucial step forward in our collective efforts to ensure the safety, dignity, and rights of all individuals, especially women and girls, in emergency settings. By gender integrating considerations into our disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, we can better protect and support the most vulnerable members of our communities", said.Secretary Relief Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Inayat Ullah Wasim said that International Women's Day serves as a

tance each day," the official

said on condition of anonym-

ity. US officials said the "sig-

nificant capability will take

and execute," and would in-

volve a maritime corridor

bringing aid by sea from the

Mediterranean island of

ful to stress that American

troops would not be on the

ground in Gaza, which has

been under relentless Israeli

The US military has

US officials were care-

A second official said

Cyprus

particularly in emergency make to the society.

Assembly. The resolution was presented on Friday in the Assembly by Ali Haider Gillani, the parliamentary leader of the Pakistan People's Party Four more making such demand. kidnapped

North Korea's Kim guides artillery firing drill, KCNA says

aimed at the capital.

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guided an artillery firing drill by the Korean People's Army, the country's military force, on Thursday, state media KCNA reported on Friday.

The drill involved units that are in firing range of "the enemy's capital," the state media said, referring to Seoul, the South Korean capital and added it "fulfilled important military missions for war deterrence." Thursday's artillery drill was aimed at increasing combat readiness posture and actual war capability, KCNA said.

Kim urged to push forward with preparations so the artillery sub-units could "take the initiative with merciless and rapid strikes at the moment of their entry into an actual war.'

"He stressed the need



Ottawa Police Service officers surround a home after four children and two adults were found dead inside a neighbouring house in the Ottawa suburb of Barrhaven, Ontario, Canada.

US, Turkey kick off comprehensive talks to explore improving troubled ties

focusing on topics span-

Israel-Hamas war.

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The ning Syria, Russia's inva-US and Turkey are set to kick off comprehensive talks on Thursday to discuss if the NATO allies can move beyond deep rooted disagreements over issues such as Syria and Ankara's close ties with Russia.

Senior US and Turkish officials are set to meet Blinken and Turkish Forat the State Department eign Minister Hakan for several rounds of talks Fidan.

to train all the artillerymen number of troops joining of the whole army into excompared to last year. perts in artillery engagement ... and set forth important North Korean state media

tasks for rounding off the said Kim inspected field artillery war preparations," training of troops at a mathe report said, referring to jor military operations base the leader of the reclusive in the western region of the state. The move comes as country the South Korean and US

The drill involved militaries kicked off their units that are in firing range spring drills known as the of "the enemy's capital, Freedom Shield exercises on the state media said, refer-Monday with twice the ring to Seoul, the South Korean capital and added it number of troops joining compared to last year. "fulfilled important mili-Seoul's defence minister, tary missions for war de-Shin Won-sik, visited the terrence."

Thursday's artillery Capital Defense Command drill was aimed at increas on Thursday and ordered a firm response if North Koing combat readiness posrea made provocations ture and actual war capability, KCNA said. Earlier The move comes as this week, the North Kothe South Korean and US rean state media said Kim militaries kicked off their inspected field training of spring drills known as the troops at a major military

Freedom Shield exercises on operations base in the west-Monday with twice the ern region of the country.

Sweden joins Nato in shadow of Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Sweden on Thursday became the 2nd member of Nato in the shadow of the war in Jkraine, ending two centuries of official nonalignment and capping two years of torturous diplomacy

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson was visiting Washington, where Secretary of State

Antony Blinken was to ceremonially receive the ratification documents after the hard-fought battle to secure the green lights needed from all Nato members

"This is a historic day. Sweden will now take its rightful place at

sion of Ukraine, defense Nato's table, with an cooperation, energy, counterterrorism and the equal say in shaping Nato policies and decisions,' Nato Secretary General The conversations, Jens Stoltenberg said in a dubbed the Strategic statement.

Mechanism, will set the "After over 200 years stage for a meeting on Friof non-alignment Sweden day between US Secrenow enjoys the protectary of State Antony tion granted under Article , the ultimate guarantee of allies' freedom and security," he said.



The Korean People's Army conducts an artillery firing drill, KCNA news agency reported, in North Korea in this picture released by the Korean **Central News Agency.**

Hamas team leaves **Cairo after stalemate** in Gaza truce talks

Monitoring Desk to our people,' a Hamas CAIRO: Hamas said its statement said. Senior Hamas official

delegation had left Cairo on Thursday amid ongoing ne-Sami Abu Zuhri said Israel had been "thwarting" efgotiations on a ceasefire accord in Gaza that mediators forts to conclude a ceasefire hope to achieve before deal. He said that Israel was Ramazan early next week. rejecting Hamas's demands After four days of to end its offensive in the talks mediated by Qatar and

enclave, withdraw its Egypt to secure a 40-day forces, and ensure freedom ceasefire ahead of the fastof entry for aid and the reing month there is still no turn of displaced people. Health officials in sign of progress on key sticking points, with both

Gaza said the number of people confirmed killed in Israel's offensive had now passed 30,800. It reported 83 deaths in the past 24 hours and witnesses said the Israeli bombardments continued in Khan Younis,

Ukraine's Zelenskyy in Turkey where Erdogan is expected to press for negotiations to end Russia war

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Istanbul on Friday for talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan whose NATO-member country has sought to balance its close relations with both Kyiv and Moscow and repeatedly offered to act as a peace-broker between them. official said

sides blaming the other.

left Cairo this morning for

consultation with the lead-

ership of the movement,

with negotiations and ef-

forts continuing to stop the

aggression, return the dis-

"Hamas's delegation

the southern city of Rafah, placed and bring in relief aid and areas in central Gaza. During the talks in Istanbul, Erdogan was expected to press for negotiations to end Russia's war

in Ukraine, now in its third year, a Turkish government official said. Talks would also focus on a possible new measure that would guarantee navigational tech safety of commercial vessels in the Black Sea, the

Infosys Foundation.

Biden orders US military to establish port in Gaza Monitoring Desk ditional truckloads of assis-

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will tell Congress on Thursday that he has ordered the US military to set a number of weeks to plan up a port in Gaza to get more humanitarian aid into the beleaguered territory by sea, senior US officials said. The major announcement will not involve any US boots on the ground in the Palestinian enclave, as military personnel will stay offshore while other allies are involved, officials said.

'Tonight the presibombardment since the Oct. dent will announce in his it was "foreseen to be an State of the Union address operation that won't rethat he has directed the US quire boots on the ground." military to undertake an emergency mission to establish a port in Gaza," a unique capabilities. And senior administration offithey can do things from just cial told reporters. offshore that are extraordi-

in Nigeria's northwest re-

Borno state's Chibok vil-

them at least 100 children

aged 12 or under — were

surrounded and marched

into a forest just as they

were starting the school day,

said locals in Kuriga town,

located 55 miles (89 kilo-

meters) from the city of

Kaduna. One man was shot

nary and so that is the con-"This port, the main feature of which is a tempocept of operations that the rary pier, will provide the president has been briefed on," the official said. capacity for hundreds of ad-287 children are missing

in Nigeria's forests **Monitoring Desk** dead as he tried to save the students, school authorities ABUJA: Security forces swept through large forests said

As Kaduna Gov. Uba Sani and security officials gion on Friday in search of nearly 300 children who met with aggrieved villagwere abducted from their ers on Thursday, they pleaded with the governor school a day earlier in the to ensure the release of the students and secure their villages

'Please stay and help us, please don't leave us, The abduction of the one woman cried as the governor's convoy sped

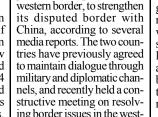
The school - located with no fencing close to naps in the decade since the nearby forests that often issue was highlighted by the serve as enclaves for armed gangs --- was "surrounded kidnapping of schoolgirls in from all angles" by the motorcycle-riding gunmen lage. Analysts and activists say the security lapses that who arrived at the school just after 8 a.m., said allowed that mass abduction remain. The victims of Joshua Madami, a youth the latest attack — among leader in the area.

Security forces did not arrive at the scene until several hours later, locals said, prompting concerns from families and analysts that the gunmen might have gone deep into the forest with the children

structive meeting on resolving border issues in the western section. **UKPM** Sunak's mother-in-law appointed to **Indian parliament**

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The mother-in-law of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was on Friday appointed to serve in Îndia's parliament, capping a career working for the philanthropic arm of her billionaire husband's firm. Sudha Murthy, 73, is the former chair of the

tries have previously agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels, and recently held a con-



China says more

Indian troops at

Himalayan

border won't

ease tensions

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China believe

that India's move to add

more troops at their dis-

puted border is "not con-

ducive to easing tensions"

a foreign ministry spokes-

contingent of 10,000 soldiers,

previously deployed at its

India has freed up a

person said on Friday.

latest mass kidnap, which analysts and activists blamed on the failure of intelligence and slow security response. 287 children in Kaduna state, near the West African nation's capital, is one of the largest school kid-

Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiris: PM

M U Z A F F A R A B A D (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiris in their just struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination.

He expressed the resolve during his meeting with Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq during his visit to Muzaffarabad today.

The Prime Minister also assured Pakistan's unconditional support to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for the Kashmir cause.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on as-

suming the office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and expressed his best wishes

He also thanked Shehbaz Sharif for undertaking the visit of Azad Kashmir immediately after assuming the office of the Prime Minister.

He said the visit of Shehbaz Sharif to express solidarity with the Kashmiris, affected by torrential rains, reflects that hearts of Pakistani people always throb with their Kashmiri brethren.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the presence of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister distributed compensation cheques among people affected by rains and snow-

fall in Muzaffarabad.

QUETTA: MPAs Mir Sadiq Sanjrani and Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti.

Daring women of Balochistan flying flags of success in all fields despite challenges: Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir struggle in the footsteps Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the women of Pakistan including Balochistan are second to none, and especially the daring women of the prov-

ince are flying flags of success in all fields despite numerous challenges and resources constraints. In a message issued on

the eve of International Women Day observed on Friday, 8th March in the country as elsewhere in the world, the Chief Minister said that the formation of civilized societies and development and prosperity

said that our women believe in waging continuous of the Mother of Nation, Muhtarma Fatima Jinnah

Similarly, the martyr Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto had told the world with her political struggle and sacrifice that our women are not second to none in any field. He said that the cou-

rageous women of Balochistan are making achievements and proving mettle in every field. These women have brightened the name of province and country through their struggle, he commended.

He also said that it is



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing Khatoone-Pakistan Awards among the high achievers women in their respective fields on the eve of International Women Day.

Issues are not resolved through violence & provocations: **Endeavours being made to resolve** demands of Chaman's dharna in peaceful manner: Speaker BA

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai says he is equally mindful of problems faced by participants of dharna and people of Chaman during last six months

months to pressurize the **Independent Report** HAMAN: The Speaker government for acceptance alochistan Assembly, demands

Captain (Retd) Abdul Speaking on the occa-Abdul Khaliq Khaliq Achakzai has stated sion, that the utmost endeavours Achakzai said that he supare being made to resolve ports demands of Chaman the demands of dharna condharna and he has never been in support in enforctinued in Chaman in the peaceful manner. However, ing passport system for he asserted that demands across the border moveare not resolved by spreadment.

ng violence or chaos. He said that he is more Speaker aware of the issues of un-The Balochistan Assembly was employment and poverty addressing the participants being faced by local people of dharna in Chaman on of Chaman due to the Friday. A large number of government's policies. He is equally mindful of the people were present at the dharna, which otherwise is problems faced by the parcontinued for last six ticipants of dharna and

people of Chaman during last six months. But, he is against mak-

ing politics on the dharna or provocation of people, just because our issues would not be resolved through violence and provocation, rather they would increase further, adding he feared. Speaker The

Balochistan Assembly also said that he is native and representative of the area, and livelihood of thousands of our people is linked with the border. Even he is also affected due to the situation like all others present in the protest sit-in



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola administering oath of the membership of Provincial Assembly to Sadiq Sanjrani, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, Muhammad Khan Lehri and Noor Muhammad Dummar.

province.

Ahmed Bugti.

CM summons GM SSGC, pledge to maintain political **CEO OESCO**

on public

complaints

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti took

notice of the public com-

plaints about sui gas and

electricity in Quetta city.

took notice of the public

complaints during the ses-

sion of Provincial Assem-

had raised the issue of sui

gas and electricity while

delivering speeches at the

ummoned the General

Manager Sui Southern Gas

Company (SSGC) and

Chief Executive Officer of

Quetta Electric Supply

Company (QESCO) over

the issues related to their

organizations today (Satur-

and QESCO would present

their point of view on the

public complaints in the

Chief Minister's chamber

The high ups of SSGC

bly held on Friday.

session

The Chief Minister

Different members

Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Pakistan to the UN, told the (APP): Pakistan has firmly rejected a UN Security long-running Intergovern-Council reform model promental Negotiations (IGN)

posed by the aspirants for permanent seats (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan), saying any expansion in the permanent category will compound the 15member body paralysis, and prevent the majority of small and medium-sized states from serving on it.

NATIONS

UNITED

The plan, presented on Thursday by India on behalf of the so-called Group of Four nations, proposes the Council's membership from 15 to 25-26, adding six permanent and four or five non-permanent members, while hinting at "flexibility" on the veto issue.

"As a member of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group, it is evident that our position has consistently opposed the issue of the creation of new permanent members," Ambassador Munir Akram, per-

manent representative of have remained stalled. Deaimed at restructuring the Security Council to make it most effective, representative and accountable. On its part, the UfC group has proposed a new category of members-not permanent

members — with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected. Emphasizing that the two basic vectors for re-

form were expansion and equitable representation, Ambassador Akram said the G-4 model would direct the effort in the "opposite direction", noting it would expand 6 new permanent seats, but only 5 new nonpermanent seats-making the proportion of the members who are permanent versus those who are nonpermanent even greater.

The Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform, which members on the Security began in February 2009 Council



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo along with Tri-Services Officers during the closing session of exercise SEASPARK 2024, in Karachi.

Pak Navy's Maritime Exercise Seaspark-2024 concludes countries are being increas-

Independent Report KARACHI: The conclud-ing session of Pakistan Navy's Major Maritime Exercise SEASPARK-2024 held at Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the session as Chief Guest. The exercise was conducted in North Arabian Sea to validate operational plans designed under realities of everevolving geo-strategic envi-ronment. Relevant elements exercises. of PAF and Pak Army also participated in the exercise

presented overview of the exercise and conduct of the to practice tri services synergy during war. Addressing the closing threadbare to draw perti- main.

session, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted that the

Exercise SEASPARKingly confronted with dif-2024 was aimed to assess ficult foreign policy choices combat readiness and opto safeguard national intererational preparedness of ests. Evolving character of Pakistan Navy to meet the war under Grey Hybrid entire spectrum of National Security Challenges in the scenarios coupled with internal security challenges Maritime Domain. The exalso complicate the threat ercise was conducted on a matrix. All these threats and two force format with Blue Force being the own and challenges necessitate a constant review of our opera-Orange Force being the entional plans through major emy forces. Successful conduct of the exercise was Earlier, Deputy Chief a testimony of perpetual of Naval Staff (Operations) readiness of Pakistan Navy in proving its capability to combat broad spectrum of exercise was discussed threats in the maritime do-

The concluding ses-

Saturday March 09, 2024

Outlined by India, seeking more permanent seats

Pakistan rejects as 'flawed' **UNSC** reform proposal

> spite a general agreement on enlarging the UNSC, as part of the UN reform process, member states have remained divided over details. The UNSC currently has five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - and 10 nonpermanent members elected

for a two-year term. "Today," the Pakistani envoy pointed out, 'the permanent members are 1 to 2 - 5 permanent members to 10 non-permanent members"-whereas in the G-4 model, in a 26member council, the equation would be 1 to 1 - 1permanent members to 14 or 13 non-permanent members," reducing the proportionality between the two membership categories by half and lessen the chances of representation for the rest of the 182 countries who will not be permanent

of the nations is not pos-sible without active partici-pation and cooperation of womenfolk in all sectors and provide them the necwomen



LONDON: High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK Dr. Mohammad Faisal, spouse Dr. Sarah Naeem, Director General FCDO Mr. Owen Jenkins, British PM's Trade Envoy for Pakistan Mr. James Daly MP and guests cutting cake at Pakistan Day Reception.

Ghazala welcomes resolution giving ZAB as Shaheed status

500 liters of harmful

milk destroyed in

Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola on Friday welcomed the resolution for giving Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto as status of Shaheed" and declaring the former premier of Pakistan a democratic hero of the nation, in a session of the Balochistan Assembly held here.

The resolution was presented by member provincial assemblies (MPAs), in an assembly session.

In her statement issued here, Ghazala Gola said, it was a great honor Pakistan People's Party for me to chair the session co-Chairman Asif Ali of the Balochistan assem- Zardari

500 liters of detergent

(Surf) found, harmful milk

was destroyed in crack-

down against adulteration

mafia in Loralai by

Balochistan Food Author-

spokesman, a fine was also

imposed on the milk seller

involved in the scandalous

business of adulteration

besides, hundreds of liters

of expired cooking oil of a

well-known company were

also seized during opera-

tions in Loralai along with

the district administration.

Extra virgin cooking oil

According to BFA

ity (BFA) on Friday.

QUETTA (APP): Deputy bly while tabling the same resolution Ghazala Gola said that

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the most popular prime minister of Pakistan who gave the first constitution to this country and laid the foundation for making Pakistan a nuclear power.

She said that Z.A. ence filed 12 years ago by

Abdullah Zehri.

Bhutto was sentenced to death without giving a fair trial. She added that the Supreme Court has opined in the presidential refer-

located in the provincial ssembly The members of assembly would also be present on the occasion. Senator Mushahid

day).

demands release of **Imran Khan**

SLAMABAD (Online) Senator Mushahid Hussair general amnesty.

well address in Senate Friday.

litical forces should forge good relationship with judiciary, establishment and

He called for immediforces

He went on to say the SOPs, the spokesman said. espect of upper house Earlier, on-the-spot has enhanced due to issutesting of milk samples was ance of production order done to check the quality of Senator Ejaz Chaudhry of milk. Actions against the by deputy chairman Senmixed mafia were con-

ducted under the leadership of Deputy Director BFA can be held with TTP and (Loralai) Sharafuddin and in disgruntled Baloch then the presence of Additional why these cannot be with Deputy Commissioner political parties.

traditions based on tolerance & respect in Balochistan

PPP, all coalition parties

by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan on Friday. Peoples Party (PPP) and all

They also expressed coalition parties have the resolve to move ahead vowed to maintain political traditions based on tolfor public welfare and deerance and respect in the velopment in province under a unified approach.

They have also ex-Speaking on the occa-sion, Chief Minister said pressed the resolve to establish good governance, that Balochistan is the public welfare, eliminate province having traditions and it would be our endeavterrorism and establish sustainable peace in the provour to take all along for development of the province ince under leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz and its people.

He also vowed to get the masses rid of problems The members of provincial assembly were at the by establishing good governance



QUETTA: MPA Raheela Durrani cutting cake during a ceremony on eve of World Women Day sembly organized by SCAP-Balochistan.

Hamza takes measures to ensure maximum facilities to masses

QUETTA (APP): The capital city of the province. Quetta administration under the supervision of sion, measures have been Commissioner Muhammad taken for the betterment of traffic, removal of en-Hamza Shafqaat has taken croachments, cleanliness multiple measures to ensure the provision of maximum and restoration of street facilities to the people and lights in the city. governance in the provin-

The initiatives taken by the Quetta administration have brought improvement in the civic life of the to ensure civic facilities to city.

Under the supervi-

Talking to APP, Commissioner, Hamza Shafqaat on Friday said that the city administration had formulated a comprehensive plan

the masses. The city administration has decided to auction the designed parking plazas and motorcycle stands in the city to gener ate more revenue. He said the authority

would auctioned around 100 parking spots transparently and enhanced tax col lection to generate more revenue which would be spent on the development of the

nent lessons. Towards the end, recommendations were sion of the exercise was atpresented to revise war exercise helped in synergizing Naval Operaplans and strategies under the evolving maritime entions with Land and Air vironment in the region.

Operations. He stressed that the on-going strategic

competition among major PML-N

Balochistan MPAs to vote to Zardari in Presidential polls

Independent Report

QUETTA: The members of provincial assembly belonging to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Balochistan have unanimously decided to vote to Asif Ali Zardari in the presidential election being conducted today (Saturday).

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting of the PML-N's parliamentary group and party held under the chair of its provincial President, Sheiƙh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

The provincial Presi dent of PML-N said that all members of assembly of PML-N would cast their votes in the Presi dential election to be con-

ducted in Balochistan As-

tended by high ranking of-

ficers from Sister Services and notable representatives from various Ministries.



ISLAMABAD: Women activists scuffle with police personnel during Aurat March, a demonstration rally, to mark the International Women's Day, in the Federal Capital.

Punjab, Balochistan healthcare commissions join hands

healthcare commissions of Punjab and Balochistan will collaborate further to improve the healthcare service delivery systems of both provinces and benefit from their respective ambits of functioning

According to the PHC spokesperson on Friday, this was decided by the commissions in a two-day meeting held at the PHC office. Chairperson Board of Commissioners BHC Justice (retd) Abdul Hameed Baloch led an eightmember delegation comprising members of the Board and other officials, whereas Chairperson BoC PHC Justice (retd) Muhammad Bilal Khan headed his team. Detailed discussions were held regarding the health landscape of their respective provinces. The officials dilated upon various aspects and issues of quality assurance in the healthcare service delivery, implementa-

LAHORE (APP): The tion of rules and regulations, minimum service delivery standards (MSDS) and their enforcement in the healthcare establishments (HCEs). The visiting delegates appreciated the PHC for its success in bringing reforms to the provincial health sector. While welcoming the BHC delegation, Chief Executive Officer PHC Dr Muhammad Saqib Aziz briefed the delegation about the regulatory framework and its consequential impact on the quality of healthcare services, jurisdiction, working, mandate and achievements of the PHC The visiting delegates were briefed about the PHC's performance, and were told that so far the Commission had registered more than 62,000 besides preparing the MSDS for all kinds of treatment facilities and enforcement of the Standards in the HCEs. About the training of the health professionals on the MSDS.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference

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Syed has said in Senate that Imran Khan be released and all the prisoners be granted He said this in his farecial capital city. He held that the po-

owers that be.

ate release of all political

He underlined if talks

Loralai crackdown QUETTA (APP): At least was found in a well-known restaurant and was being used in cooking, the restaurant owner was fined for violating the rules, during the inspection action was

taken against 2 other restaurants for violation of