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NA passes resolution condemning Israeli war on Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (INP): The also laid before the House day passed a resolution categorically condemning Israeli war on Palestinians.

The resolution moved by Shazia Marri denounced the continued Israeli aggression which has led to the loss of over thirty thousand lives of Palestinians since October last year.

The resolution called upon the federal government to play a more proactive role in pushing the international community to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza.

The House also offered fateha for the Palestinians martyred in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar laid before the House two bills today. These included: The Civil Courts Amendment Bill, 2024 and the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Amendment Bill, 2024

The chair referred the bills to the standing committees concerned.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar Ramazan specific.

These included: Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Amendment Ordinance 2023, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation Amendment Ordinance, 2023, Pakistan Postal Services Management Board Amendment Ordinance, 2023, the National Highway Authority Amendment Ordinance 2023, the Criminal Law Amendment

Ordinance, 2023, the Privatization Commission Amendment Ordinance, 2023 and the Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Ordinance, 2023. The House also passed a resolution moved by the Law Minister extending the period of the ordinances for a further period of one hundred and twenty days.

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Naveed Qamar and others Minister for Commerce Jamal Kamal Khan said the temporary ban on export of bananas and onions is



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah

Handful miscreants bent on sabotaging Pakistan, IMF deal: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar said on Friday said a handful of miscreants associated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was bent upon sabotaging Pakistan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that was crucial for economic

"In a bid to disrupt Pakistan's ongoing talks with IMF, some miscreants protested in front of IMF and World Bank offices in United States and indulged in sloganeering against Pakistan Army," he said while addressing a news conference here.

longing to the PTI were urging the IMF to give funds to Pakistan only if their jailed leader was released, he said, regretting anti-national party continued to hold sit-in and protest outside the

"This is a fashionable crowd and these are the enemies of Pakistan who are left with no love for the country," the minister said while paying tributes to the overseas Pakistanis hard-earned money to the country by doing white and blue collar jobs



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan addressing the concerns regarding the ban on the export of bananas and onions in National Assembly Session.

NA extends seven ordinances amidst opposition tumult

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 2023, the Privatisation National Assembly passed a resolution on Friday, amidst ruckus by the opposition, extending seven ordinances for a period of

The resolution moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar – received approval under Article 89 of the Constitution.

The extended ordinances include the Pakistan **Broadcasting Corporation** (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, the Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, the National Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance,

Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, and the Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Ordinance, 2023. The resolution brought

by Tarar received 130 votes in favour, while sixty-three lawmakers, mainly from the PTI-SIC, opposed it, tearing up copies of the agenda. The opposition la-

belled the assembly proceedings as "unlawful". Speaking on the floor of

the House, PTI leader Omar Ayub stated, "We reject the extension of the ordinances." He criticised the rushed legislation, questioning if it was tantamount to selling off the country.

PTI leader Asad Qaiser condemned the hurried introduction of bills and emphasised granting more time to the opposition



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in a meeting with Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir during his visit to GHQ.

FO rejects news regarding visit of IAEA delegation to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP) Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has rejected the news circulating on Media regarding the visit of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation to Paki-

In response to media queries regarding this visit, she said any stories regarding the visit of a high-level IAEA delegation to Pakistan are fake news. She said no official from IAEA is currently visiting Pakistan, nor are any policy talks planned in the near future with IAEA. She further said that Director General IAEA visited Pakistan in February 2023.

Bilawal forms committees to negotiate with political parties for Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari ha formed committees to negotiate with other political parties for the Senate elections to be held in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on April 2, 2024.

According to private TV channel, the fourmember committee of Punjab included Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Hasan Murtaza, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Ali Haider Gilani.

The channel said PPP committee for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) included Sved Khurshid Shah, Faisal Karim Kundi, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha and Shuja Khan.

EC directs re-polling on 6 polling stations of **PB-50**

QUETTA (INP): The Election Commission suspended the notification of the victory of the winning candidate from Balochistan Assembly Constituency PB-50 Qila Abdullah and directed re-polling at 6 polling stations.

According to the Election Commission, re-polling at 6 polling stations of PB-50 will be held on March 19, 2024 from 8 am

to 4 pm.

It should be noted that the notification of Zamrik Khan, the successful candidate from PB-50, will remain suspended until the result of re-polling.

Car-bike collision in **Hub claims** 3 lives

HUB (APP): Three people have been killed due to the fire that erupted after a collision between a car carry ing Iranian petrol and a motorcycle near Gadani Mor in Hub, an area of Balochistan in the wee hours of Friday.

According to the police, the fire brigade extinguished the fire, but the vehicle and the motorcycle were badly burnt, private

news channels reported. The motorcyclist was et not be identified, police sources said, adding, the rescue teams shifted the bodies to the hospital.

People have been left at the mercy of those waving prohibited arms freely: SC

Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday issued written order regarding hearing on a case pertaining to the license of sub-machine guns and prohibited bores weap-

In response to the question raised by the top court, Mr. Muhammad Saeed, who was then the Deputy Inspector General of Police ('DIG') of the Mardan Region stated 'That the document in question (permit) was not issued' by him. It seems that the Province was only interested to save the former DIG but not interested to ascertain who had issued the said document/permit, it said.

It said, "The population is left at the mercy of those publicly brandishing SMGs and other prohibited bore weapons and the police, the home departments of the provinces and the Ministry of Interior appear uninterested in keeping the

ISLAMABAD (APP): The people safe. In the area of virtually every market, marriage hall, school and even hospital there are SMGs on open display, including pickups with guntoting men; the police look the other way and do not challenge when they are illegally double-parked. A great sense of inse-

curity must undoubtedly be felt by the majority of the law abiding citizens, who are also intimidated by such offensive behaviour. This lawless state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

"We are informed that

licenses for prohibited bore weapons are issued 'for the purpose of protection or sports'. With regard to whether any other document or permit allowing possessing and carrying prohibited bore weapons the Ministry of Interior skirts the query; it does not provide an answer", it said.



ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary General and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, flanked by his party Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali and senior leader Asad Qaiser talking

Opposition calls out govt's amendments in ordinances without consultation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The opposition on Friday that claimed the government's amendments in various ordinances would cast direct impact on the lives of the people.

In a press talk at Parliament's Media Centre, PTI Secretary General and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, flanked by his party Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali and senior leader Asad Qaiser, criticized the government for carrying out legislation without any consultation with the op-

Omar Ayub alleged that no one was given the chance to go through the seven ordinances, which were tabled in the House to seek its consent for their exten-

"We have objection to this as the standing committee concerned of the House should have held deliberations on them," he added. Barrister Gohar Ali said

legislation was the function of the Parliament, however, the legislators should have been given three days for deliberations on the laws before their passage by the

173 nomination papers issued to 78 candidates for 11 seats of **Senate from Balochistan** Peoples Party's Mir

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 173 nomination papers were issued the elections on 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan, here on Friday.

According to the spokesman of Election Commission of Pakistan, the process of receiving and submission of the nomination papers was started on

On the first day, 173 nomination papers have so far been issued to 78 candidates, who approached the Provincial Election Commissioner's office here.

However, no nomination paper was submitted by any candidate on first day, the spokesman of ECP informed.

Prominent among those collected the nomination papers on first day were included: Pakistan Changez Khan Jamali, Sabir Baloch, Mir Naimatullah Zehri, Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi and Rozi Khan Kakar. Similarly, among those

collected papers from Pa-kistan Muslim League-Nawaz were: Shahzaib Durrani, Aurangzai Khetran and Tariq Hussain. Balochistan The

Awami Party's Ejaz Sanjrani, Kohda Babar and Mobin Khilji were also those who collected the nomination papers for Senate elections. National Party's Mir

Jan Muhammad Buledi also collected the nomination paper for the Senate elections from Balochistan. The process of collec-

tion and submission of nomination papers would remain continued today (Saturday) as well.

PM, newly-pick cabinet members visit GHQ.

Civil, Military leadership reiterate commitment to work together for prosperous, secure Pakistan

PM says Pakistan is destined to rise and the role of the Armed Forces in ensuring peaceful rise of Pakistan cannot be over-emphasized

Independent Report

AWALPINDI: Civil and Military leadership of the country have reiterated the commitment to upholding national interests and working together for a prosperous and secure Pakistan.

This was expressed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir during Prime Minister's visit to General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. He was accompanied by key members of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister vas received by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and was preented guard of honour.

Floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada was laid by the Prime Minister, to pay tribute to the martyrs.

President Zardari visits mausoleum of **Bhutto family**

LARKANA (INP): Presi dent Asif Ali Zardari on Friday visited the mausoleum of the martyrs of Bhutto's family at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.

He visited the grave of former prime minister and chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, laid a flo-ral wreath at the grave and offered "Fateha"

Asif Zardari also visited the graves of founder-chairman of PPP Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Madar-e-Jamhooriat late Begum Nusrat Bhutto, late Shireen Amir Begum, late Mir Murtaza Bhutto and late Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto and laid floral wreaths and offered fateha.

He also prayed for the development and prosperity of the country.

The president was

accompanied by Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah on the occasion. Earlier, on his arrival at

Sukkur Begum Nusrat Bhutto Airport, the president was received by Chie Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh, DIG Sukkur range Commissioner Sukkur and other top officers of the Sukkur ând Larkana divi

DSP gunned down in Sibi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Superintendant of Police Khalid Mari on Friday died after armed men opened fire at him in Sibi district of Balochistan.

of Asghar Mari who contested recent general polls as independent candidate from Sibi The DSP was way nome when armed men tar-

Deceased was brother

geted him at Cainak Chowk spraying him with bullet shots. Resultantly, he suf fered critical injuries and

succumbed to injuries while way to hospital. The assailants man aged to escape. Local administration is looking into

the incident. Further probe is un

Minister and Cabinet members engaged in discussions with military leadership on matters of national security,

tary preparedness. They were briefed on the current security environment, threat spectrum, response to the security threats and ongoing counter terrorism operations.

regional stability and mili-

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured that the Government shall provide all the resources required for ensuring opera-tional readiness of the Armed Forces.

net appreciated the professionalism, operational readiness, and sacrifices of Pakistan Army in war

During the visit, Prime against terrorism. They also commended the dedication of the Pakistan Army in safeguarding the nation's territorial integ-

rity and ensuring peace and

stability. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is destined to rise and the role of the Armed Forces in ensuring peaceful rise of Pakistan cannot be over-empha-

The COAS thanked the Prime Minister for the visit and reposing confi-

dence in the Army.
The COAS affirmed that Pakistan Army will continue to measure up to The Prime Minister the nation's expectations and members of the Cabiand will resolutely support the Government in addressing the security challenges facing Paki-



LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari showering flowers on the grave of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at his mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto.

President Zardari's gratitude shows Pak-China ties now at high level: Wang Wenbin

BEIJING (APP): President that after President Asif Ali Zardari's positive statement is commendable and his gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping also shows that the relations between Pakistan and China are now at a high level, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson,

Wenbin said on Friday. In his letter, President Zardari thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending warm congratulations on his re-election as

the President of Pakistan. President Zardari also expressed his commitment to working closely with the Chinese President to deepen practical cooperation, strengthen the allweather partnership, and foster a shared community for the benefit of the two countries.

"We commend President Zardari's positive statement," Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in response a question raised by APP.

Zardari's election, President Xi Jinping expressed congratulations pointing out that the two countries are good neighbors, friends, partners and brothers.

"The ironclad friendship is a historical choice and the treasures for the two peoples," he added.

Wang Wenbin said that President Zardari's gratitude also shows that the countries' relations are now at a high level.

"We are ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward our traditional friendship and build a China Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," he added.

While replying to President Xi's letter, President Zardari expressed his commitment to working closely with the Chinese President to deepen practical cooperation, strengthen the allweather partnership, and foster a shared community for the benefit of the two

The spokesperson said countries. Major blow to anti-polio struggle in Balochistan:

Second polio case reported from Chaman district

Independent Report QUETTA: It is no less than from Chaman and second a big blow to the anti-polio endeavours in Balochistan as another polio case has been surfaced from the province on Friday. ccording to the Health Department sources, the new case of polio has been reported from Chaman district.

The sources confirmed that the polio virus was detected in a 52-month old child belonging to Chaman.

Earlier, polio case was reported from Dera Bugti on Thursday last. Needless this, no polio case had been reported during last three years in the province. Meanwhile, after reporting of new polio cases from the province, a special polio immunization campaign has been planned in nine districts of the prov-

ince. The campaign would

be run in Kech. Khuzdar.

Lasbela, Hub, Dera Bugti,

Sibi, Naseerabad, Usta

Muhammad and Jaffarabad

to mention here is that it is

first case of polio reported

one from Pakistan. Prior to



QUETTA: Security personal stan alert while Muslims offering first Friday prayers during the Muslim's holy month of Ramadan.

Daily soice of Masse, Independent

Irsa controversy

On Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif avoided a public showdown with the PPP — a key ally whose support he must retain to keep the minority PML-N government in power — by rescinding the contentious appointment of retired bureaucrat Zafar Mahmood as the new Irsa chairman. However, it remains unclear if he moved with such speed just to appease the PPP, or whether his advisers had realised the 'illegality' of one of his administration's first major acts.

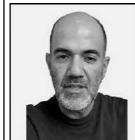
It appears that the appointment was made under a controversial ordinance seeking to restructure Irsa. The ordinance became infructuous as former president Arif Alvi had refused to sign it, as it could have caused friction between the centre and provinces.

The ordinance, prepared by the caretaker government towards the end of its tenure, in breach of its mandate and without consulting the provinces or the CCI, had suggested substantive changes in the 'federal structure' of the water regulator, which monitors the distribution of Indus waters among the provinces in accordance with the Water Apportionment Accord, 1991. The ordinance aimed to revise Irsa's composition, vest its chairman with vast powers, and cut the provinces' role in its decisionmaking functions. The chairman was empowered to also review and settle provincial grievances, rendering Irsa members ineffective. Currently, the Irsa chairmanship rotates among the four provincial members, and the authority's decisions on water issues are made based on majority votes.

Since these proposals allow the PM to exercise a lot of power on Irsa through its chairman and the federal government and effectively have complete control on the authority's decision-making functions, the ordinance had drawn wide opposition from the Sindh caretaker cabinet and experts. At a time when certain centralist forces are touting the reversal of the landmark 18th Amendment and curtailment of the provincial share of federal taxes under the NFC award as the solution to Pakistan's economic and political problems, the attempt to 'centralise' Irsa and reduce the provincial role in decision-making could exacerbate centre-province and interprovincial disharmony. Besides, the message Islamabad tried to send to the smaller provinces by appointing a strong proponent of Kalabagh as Irsa's head was

unmistakable. In this context, nobody can fault PPP's Naveed Qamar for calling out the PM for his "very serious, illegal and unconstitutional" order to, intentionally or unintentionally, attempt to use the infructuous ordinance to "usurp" the rights of the provinces through the appointment of the Irsa chief. "On the very first day, if we start encroaching upon the rights of the provinces, how do we function as a federation?" he asked. While making consequential decisions like this. Mr Sharif should not forget that ill-advised actions can have very serious ramifications for the federation, even if these suit his own party's politics.

TikTok wars



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Long before Pakistan's latest hybrid regime imposed its unannounced ban on the social media site X, TikTok was shut down four times between 2020-21. YouTube was also temporarily banned by Pakistani authorities in the recent past. But the TikTok story takes us far beyond our own uniquely militarised context.

Earlier this week, 81 per cent of members in the US House of Representabill to ban TikTok. The only way the fastestgrowing social media app amongst the young can avoid being kicked out of the US market is for its parent company, ByteDance, to divest entirely within six months. The layperson has been led to believe that China owns and hence controls — ByteDance. In fact, like most contemporary tech companies, it is mostly financed by global inves-

The bill still has to be cleared by the US Senate before going to the White House, but the fact that it has been floated shows how the contradictions of a complex global political economy have become acute and will likely intensify. On the one hand is the fact that capitalism is a fully globalised economic system in which But the problem is that China and many other non-Western economies are major players due to the outsourcing of the most of the modern era, manufacturing industry from Western countries been sustained despite after the end of the Cold War. On the other hand is by the interests of West- of ideas on social media.

fallouts due to the unfettered globalisation of capi-The far right in West-

ern countries grew out of the global financial crisis of 2007-9. But today, it is a supposedly 'liberal' Democratic president in the US that is ratcheting up geopolitical tensions between the pre-eminent global superpower and its emergent rival, China. Cutting-edge digital

technology embodies these contradictions. The world's most profitable tech companies include Google, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia and Meta. All of them are headquartered in Silicon Valley and can, on the surface. be considered 'American' companies. But to take just one example: Apple's most well-known and marketable commodity, the iPhone, is largely manutives voted in favour of a factured in China by an outsourcing company named FoxConn. While there have been attempts to shift some production to India after Covid. the vast majority continue to be manufactured in China.

At an even more mo-

lecular level, China is the world's biggest market for semiconductor chips the single most important intermediate good in the manufacturing of electronic devices. The US is highly reliant on Chinese companies for materials that are vital for semiconductor production, like gallium and germanium. Long before the prospective TikTok ban, the Biden administration articulated its plans to roll back China's growing influence by announcing trade bans which equate to 'choke points' in the semiconductor supply chain. globalised supply chains supersede any particular 'national interest'. For Western dominance has contradictions generated the increasing insularity ern traders, merchants Courtesy Dawn

of politics in the face of and manufacturers to seek profit across the world on the one hand, and the imperatives of empire-building in the name of individual nations — whether Dutch, British, Fren--ch or American — on the other hand. But in our hyperdigitalised, globalised present, contradictions are of a different magni-

> Where does that leave the mass of the world's people? First of all, we must avoid the binary that technology companies and their social media platforms are harbingers of democracy while the state — whether US, Pakistani or another — is exclusively the bad guy. Most tech companies facilitate states when the latter impose censorship and demand access to our data for sur--veillance pur-poses. Tech companies also use data to make us into dumbed-down consumers — this 'platform capitalism' has earned these companies trillions, turning them into the most profitable businesses in history. Yes, it is essential that

we fight for the freedom to

use social media apps for anti-establishment causes. We must resist the ban on X, which is all about suppressing disclosures against post-poll rigging and repression in Pakistan. We must defend TikTok's mostly unfiltered algorithm, which has allowed the most pro-Palestinian content since Oct 7, 2023. In a similar vein, we must not to be drawn into geopolitical wars such as that which Washington is propagating against China. But there are also other wars — class, ethno-national, patriarchal, ecological — in which the mass of the world's people are pitted against both capitalist technology firms and the coercive surveillance state. These are the wars which will ultimately determine our collective fate. It is this long-term horizon which must guide our battle

Words vs works



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

Muslim-majority societies in general, and South Asian Muslim societies in particular, face numerous conflicting issues with regard to everyday life. These admittedly are very complex problems, which do not lend themselves to easy solutions. This article will focus on what the writer thinks is a major issue and its possible solutions. This issue may be seen as the vast difference between the words we profess (ideals), and the works or actions we demonstrate (realities) in daily Muslim-majority so-

cieties are quite proud of having a great religion, great people, a great culture, a great ethical system, etc. Indeed, we may be great in many ways, as we claim. Nonetheless, what needs to be noted is that a nation or a community becomes great not necessarily by claiming greatness, but through evidence on the ground. No society is perfect; that is a given. But what is not a given is the huge difference between our words and actions.

In so many surveys, we always stand near the bottom — whether it is is amazed as to who is countless very good corruption, security of really corrupt! Wher- people as well, doing life, respect for human rights, or religious freedom. Despite our claims to greatness, in our daily lives — on the streets, in our offices — we tend to show less than ideal conduct. Look at the way the public has encroached on the roads, public thoroughfares, markets, shopping plaindiscipline is seen on the roads everywhere —

pride, though all suffer. We are indeed very

good at upholding and observing our religious or cultural practices, which include rituals, customs and attire that are supposed to show our religiosity. We are even by those who progood even in almsgiving and philanthropy, but in practice, we tend to lack and concern for the of our lives to underlarger society, as re- stand which aspects required by our faith. Generally, I think a great It is clear that we need many of us do not even think about these issues. Often, people say it is the rulers (only) who are corrupt, completely ignoring the fact that we — as common people waste no time in making unethical choices.

some other world, or do they rise from amongst us? Blaming our politicians, or bureaucracy, does not absolve us from the way we treat our society. Rich or poor, low or high, illiterate or educated, all seem to contribute to this mess. A beggar who does not need to beg but still does so is a corrupt human; a wealthy person feeding the cycle of corruption who disseminates fake news is corrupt. If one moves through small or big bazaars, or tries to drive on the roads, one ever we — the common marvellous things for folk — can, we usurp the rights of others with impunity, and then blame the police or politicians. Not that they are angels, but perhaps we all compete in this corruption.

I think one particular issue plaguing society is the habit of showthat lack the spirit that

Group Pakistan, President

Pakistan Businessmen and

Intellectuals Forum and All

Karachi Industrial Alliance

and former provincial min-

ister Mian Zahid Hussain

has said that the economic

conditions are improving

and confidence of investors

community on Friday, he

said that the improved situ-

ation infuses confidence in

the local and foreign inves-

tors while the central bank

reduction in the interest

said the business commu-

Talking to business

is rising

in both rural and urban cent human being. The settings. Breaking basic double standard is retraffic laws and disci-flected well through repline is seen as a mark of cent stories of corruption and moral degradation even by those who belt out slogans of justice. It was their actions that betrayed them. Why, one wonders, is there so much gap between words and works, fess godly attributes, yet resist them so easily?

We need to underin ethical values, care take a rigorous scrutiny quire serious attention. to pay attention to our act-i-o--ns, not so much to our slogans. Self-critique should lead us to focus more on good conduct, proving that actions speak lou-der than words. In Islamic ethics,

Moreover, I wonder the contradiction bewhere our leaders come tween belief and action from; do they fall from is called hypocrisy (munafiqat) — an act condemned in strong words. The Quran emphasises competing in good acts (fastabiqul khayrat), because the goal of you all is to Allah; it is He that will show you the truth of the matters in which ye dispute" (5:48). Rather than focusing on who is right we need to focus on what is right (action). Sometimes, people take is corrupt; a blogger refuge behind their religious garb to do all sorts of unethical things. This has led to tarnishing the

name of religion. No doubt there are society in their personal and professional capacity. There are people who always think of doing something good for others and society as a whole. There is no dearth of such people.

Let us, therefore, ing off via actions that try to do what we can to zas. The most agonising are symbols of piety, but make this society a little better with each passing qualifies one as a de- day. -- Courtesy Dawn

During the current

However, it was the

vear, the overall economic

conditions were better than

new government's respon-

sibility to improve further

the conditions, and they

will continue to receive the

unconditional support of

said there was yet to be an

immediate solution to

Pakistan's economic prob-

lems. A long battle will have

will be a test of the new

minister, and success will

The business leader

the business community.

last year, he added.

Economy improving,

confidence of investors

rising: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chair-man of National Business least four percent.

was also considering some to be fought for this, which

rate. Mian Zahid Hussain government and the finance

ISLAMABAD: MNAAnjum Aqeel and President

ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari taking oath from newly

elected cabinet members of F-8 Traders Association.

nity wants the Central Bank be the only option.

Commerce News

Temporary ban on banana, onion exports implemented for Ramazan: Jam Kamal Khan

Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday addressed concerns regarding the ban on the export of bananas and onions, clarifying that other legislators regarding perception. the restriction is specifically for the agricultural exports. duration of Ramazan and

is temporary. following the submission highlighting of a summary by the Ministry of National Food Security, and a agriculturists.

attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and the impact of the ban on

Minister Jam Kamal The decision to that the ban would remain government's sensitivity to the concerns raised by

and export association, aims to ensure an adequate

ISLAMABAD (APP): said a press release domestic supply of these Federal Minister for issued here. domestic supply of these essential commodities This move came in during the holy month, response to a calling which would ease common people and does not create shortage false

The government's decision reflects its commitment to balancing Khan assured the assembly the needs of local consumers with the impose the ban was made in effect until the 15th of interests of agricultural at the cabinet level the following month, producers. While the ban presents a short-term restriction on export opportunities for farmers. underscores the

price escalation redicted by the sensitive price index observances.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Mr. Muhammad

Aurangzeb calls on by Ambassador of the European Union (EU), Dr. Riina Kionka & discussed matters of mutual interest, economic & financial relations between the EU & Pakistan.

Finance minister apprises EU, Ambassador on vital reform priorities of Govt

Friday apprised the European Union (EU) Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka about the important reform of priorities the

Government.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Aurangzebm, said a press

also shared possible areas

Federal Minister for including digitization, Finance and Revenue Mr. export competitiveness, Muhammad Aurangzeb on livestock and dairy production.

The Ambassador acknowledged the economic agenda of the Government and assured the Finance Minister of EU's continued support to Pakistan.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr.Riina Kionka called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad

ISLAMABAD (APP): of mutual collaboration Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed the Ambassador of the EU and appreciated longstanding bilateral relations and development cooperation between EU

> He thanked the Ambassador for EU's ongoing support in flood-affected areas of Pakistan.

and Pakistan.

Dr.Riina Kionka congratulated the Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue on his recent appointment to office and looked forward to collaborating with the new Government.

Engro fertilizers engages dealers for urea price enforcement

ISLAMABAD (APP): In commented that "Engro a bid to support the Fertilizers has always Government's efforts to adhered to highest standard ensure urea availability at official prices, Engro Fertilizers has urged its dealers to comply with company guidelines on pricing and strictly ensure product availability to the farmers.

To enforce guidelines of selling Urea at MRP, Engro Fertilizers hosted dealer conferences in Lahore, Multan and Hyderabad, said a news farmers. release received here on Friday

participants, Engro Fertilizers VP Marketing Atif Muhammad Ali

Further, Engro Fertilizers has not increased the selling price of imported urea to facilitate the Government in providing support to

prices.

of integrity and holds the

same expectations from its

dealers. To support the

prosperity of farmers,

Engro dealers must ensure

urea availability at official

At the conference, the dealers were also updated on the recent gas price hike prices that exists among

Addressing the event Engro and the disparity of gas different fertilizer players.

Weekly inflation up by 1.35 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): week. As compared to the The weekly inflation corresponding week of last measured by the Sensitive year, the SPI for the Price Indicator (SPI), combined consumption witnessed an increase of 1.35 per cent for the review witnessed an combined consumption groups during the week ended on March 14, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 327.21 points as compared to 322.86 points during the past

group in the week under increase of 32.89 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16

=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the

lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, increased by 0.91 per cent and went up to 320.06 points from last week's 317.18 points.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI (APP): Eight

ships namely, MSC Rowan, Athenian, Grammy Brave, Silver Zoe, FSM, Dravin, Al-Rayyan and CP carrying Shenzhen, Container, General Cargo. Gas oil, LPG, LNG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Terminal, Engro Terminal, Southern Gas Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile three more ships, Bharadwaj, MSC Spring-III and Hafnia Shanghai scheduled to load/ offload River Sand.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Telenor Khurram Ashfaque calls on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

Muhammad Mr. Aurangzeb, at the Finance release issued here. The Finance Minister Division. Finance Minister Zong, JS Zindigi sign MOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): mobile network operator, and JS Zindigi, a leading digital financial services provider, announced a lucrative partnership to offer Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) within the My Zong App (MZA).

JS Zindigi is a digital financial services provider in Pakistan, offering a comprehensive suite of mobile wallet solutions and digital banking services. Based on a dedicated team empowered by the latest technology, upholding the highest ethical standards

seeking to create value for Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading their stakeholders and a responsible contribution to society, said a news release. This collaboration brings greater financial convenience to Zong 4G's broad user base. My Zong App users can now open JS Zindigi wallet accounts directly within the app, enabling them to avail a range of JS Zindigi's digital financial services.

This integration will allow users to effortlessly top-up their mobile accounts, settle postpaid bills and to purchase Zong 4G data bundles

Tokyo stocks end higher over value stock gains

finished 13.08 points, or 0.49 percent.

TOKYO (Xinhua/APP): Tokyo stocks closed higher on Friday as value stocks led the gains despite overnight losses among tech heavyweights on Wall Street.Japan's benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, snapped the three-day losing streak by going up 111.41 points, or 0.29 percent, from Wednesday to close the day at 38,807.38. The broader Topix index, meanwhile,

PHC CJ to

retire on

April 14

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief

Justice of Peshawar High

Court Justice Ibrahim Khan

would retire on April 14.

The present Chief Justice

PHC, Justice Ibrahim Khan,

became an Additional Judge

of Peshawar High Court in

permanent judge of PHC in

2018 and the Chief Justice

of the high court on July 6,

2023. After the retirement of

Justice Ibrahim Khan, the

number of judges in the

High Court would be reduced to 14.

Man awarded

10-year jail

for selling

prohibited

drugs

SARGODHA (APP): Chairman Drug Court Syed

Khalid Javed Bukhari

decided a drug case on

Friday and awarded 10-

year jail term to a medical

store owner after solid

evidence was presented

against him about violation

Inspector Sahiwal Fahim

Zia had sent a challan in

2017 against medical store

According to the secution, Drug

of the rules.

prosecution,

became

ADB delegation calls on KP CM, discusses mutual cooperation

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Asian (ADB) called on Chief Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Ámin Khan Gandapur at Pakhtunkhwa House, Islamabad and discussed with him matters related to mutual cooperation with focus development projects of public welfare being carried out in the province with the financial assistance of the bank, said an official press release issued here on

Provincial Minister Arshad Ayub was also present on the occasion.

Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister termed the Asian Development Bank as an important development partner of the provincial government and said that his government wanted to continue this partnership employment opportunities

effective manner. He added that work development projects in priority areas of his the various sectors with

was in progress. However,

the chief minister said that

incumbent provincial

government also wanted to further enhance and extend this mutual cooperation and partnership to different sectors including water supply, solar energy, flood protection, solid waste management, urban transport, agriculture, livestock, food security and other sectors of social services."We expect special cooperation from our development partner for the development of newly merged districts and other backward areas of the province," he said and

added that providing

Healthcare Departmen

Minister Khawaja Imran

Nazir, marked a significant step

towards this endeavor. Both

ministers emphasized the

government's commitment to

leveraging the expertise of

seasoned health professionals

for system enhancement.

During the meeting, Provincial

Minister of Primary and

Secondary Health Care

Khawaja Imran Nazir

expressed gratitude for Chief

Minister Maryam Nawaz

Sharif's dedication to

improving healthcare.

KARACHI: Senior Leader of MOM-P Sved

Mustafa Kamal visiting Aukhwat Foundation

Punjab govt to initiate

think tank to boost

healthcare systems

Independent Report

LAHORE: In a bid to enhance

healthcare services across the

province, Punjab Minister for

Specialized Healthcare and

Medical Education Khawaja

Salman Rafig has announced

the formation of a dedicated

think tank. The initiative aims

to revamp the health sector,

with a focus on flagship

programs at various levels of

healthcare facilities. The inaugural meeting of the Health

Advisory Committee, chaired

by the minister alongside

Primary and Secondary

in a more integrated and an to the people and employment among our number of talented youth are the government. Apart from the financial assistance of this, he said the government Asian Development Bank also plans to initiate a program for renovation of all major cities in the province. He further stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project assisted by ADB was an important project of the provincial government; we need special cooperation for implementing Phase-II of this project as well.

"The provincial government has a lot to do different sectors specially in tourism, health, education, PHE and others," he remarked and said that the government would like to work in a partnership with ADB for providing basic facilities in the sectors of social

Robbers gangs busted, stolen motorcycles recovered

MULTAN (APP): Police claimed to have arrested two gangs involved in motorcycle snatching and recovered Rs 1.5 million motorcycles from their possession.

According spokesperson for police, SHO Sadar Nazakaat along with his team raided and arrested two members of Adnan Dani including ring leader Adnan and Bilal.

Likewise, ring leader of Fida Hussain alias Fida gang named Fida Hussain was arrested by the police.

Police have also recovered 14 stolen motorcycles from the arrested suspects. 20 cases were

traced from the arrested accused. Further action was being taken by the police against the accused



NAWABSHAH: President Asif Ali Zardari offers Fateha on his father Hakim

Minister inaugurates Ramazan Dastarkhwan in Panah Gar Mardan

Independent Report PESHÂWAR: Provincial Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru has inaugurated the Ramazan Dastarkhwan at the Panah Gah run by the Social Welfare Department at the District Headquarters Hospital, Mardan. Members of Provincial Assembly, Iftikhar Ali Mashwani, Tufail Anjum, Abdul Salam Afridi, Ehtsham Advocate and Zarshad Khan besides Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Fayaz Khan Sherpao,

Igbal also participated in the inauguration ceremony. On this occasion, the

minister was informed that Sehri and iftar facilities were regularly provided to common people including patients' caregivers. Talking to the media persons, Zahir Shah Toru said that at the moment a total of 11 Panah Gahs were functional in the province where quality food was provided in iftar and Sehri to the people. To a question, the minister informed that a special campaign was going on Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital Dr. Javed throughout the province to control prices.

Record of cases registered against Imran Riaz, Azam presented in LHC

LAHORE (Online): Record of the cases registered against the journalist Imran Riaz and PTI leader Azam Swati has been presented in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The petition regarding provision of details of the cases came up for hearing in LHC Friday.

FIA and IG Punjab presented details of cases on the order of court.

details of the cases from FIA side.

According to state counsel one case is registered in cyber crime Lahore against the journalist Imran Riaz, one in City police station Sangla Hill Nankana Sahb and two cases in police station Attock and Sadar police station Chakwal.

owner, Hamza, a resident The other different of Sahiwal, alleging that Deputy Attorney five cases registered General (DAG) Tariq against Imran Riaz have Bashir submitted the been cancelled. he was selling prohibited medicines without having

Governor hosts ceremony for gold medalist students of Khyber Girls Medical College

Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Friday arranged a ceremony to give cash prizes to the top three gold medalists of Khyber Girls Medical College (KGMC).

The ceremony was also attended by Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali, Vice Dean Muhammad,faculty members, students and parents of gold medalist

cash prizes to three students of KGMC including Tasneem Zehra of Upper Dir who won the gold medal in the session of 2017-18, Mahnosh Saleh winner of the gold and professionalism.

medal in a session 2018-19 and Ayesha Iqbal who was on top in 2019-20.

Ten students from merged districts including four girl students of Mohmand, two from South Waziristan, and one student each from Khyber, Bajaur, North Waziristan and Frontier Region Peshawar were also given prizes. Cash assistance was also given to forty class IV employees of

Addressing The governor gave ceremony, the governor congratulated students and their parents expressing hope that new doctors would tirelessly work for the betterment of the ailing community with passion



LAHORE: US Consul General, Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins meeting with Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan.

7 dead and 1276 injured in 1195 road traffic crashes in Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1195 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 7 people died, whereas 1276 were injured. Out of these, 566 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 710 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus

The majority (73%) victims and at third Multan.

involved Motorbikes, therefore enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 700 drivers, 57 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 406 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 232 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 251 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by reducing the burden of

Faisalabad 97 in with 105

International News

Putin asks voters, including in annexed Ukrainian areas, to determine Russia's future

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President

Vladimir Putin appealed to voters, including in annexed parts of Ukraine, to be united in determining Russia's future by casting ballots in this week's presidential election which he is

all but certain to win. "It is vital to underscore our cohesion and resolve and move forward together. Every vote you cast is valued and meaningful." Putin said in a video address first shown in the Russian far east and reported by national news agencies.

"I therefore ask you in the coming three days to

Polls open in Russian vote to extend Putin's reign

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russians started voting on Friday in a three-day presidential election that is set to hand veteran leader Vladimir Putin another six-year term as the raging conflict in Ukraine spreads further into Rus-

In power as president or prime minister since the final day of 1999, the former KGB agent is cast-ing the election as a show of Russians' loyalty and support for his military assault on Ukraine, now in its third vear.

Polling stations in a country spread over 11 time zones opened at 8am on Friday (8pm GMT Thursday) on the Far Eastern Kamchatka peninsula and will close on Sunday at 8pm (6pm GMT) in Russia's Kaliningrad exclave, wedged between EU members Poland and exercise your right to vote."
Putin, 71 and in power as president or prime minister since 2000, faces three challengers in three days of voting beginning on Friday. None of the challengers has criticised

Opinion polls show he is supported by a majority of Russians, with one survey last month giving him 75% support.

Two candidates who had hoped to run on a platform of calling for an end to the war in Ukraine, officially described by Russia as a "special military operation," were ruled ineligible.



A woman votes in Russia's presidential election in the far eastern city of Vladivostok.



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the driver's seat of a new main battle tank after a training exercise for tank crews at an undisclosed location.

The first ship to use a new sea route approaches Gaza with 200 tons of aid

Monitoring Desk WADI GAZA: A ship carrying 200 tons of aid approached the coast of Gaza on Friday in a mission to inaugurate a sea route from Cyprus to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the enclave five months into the war between Israel and Hamas. The ship, operated by the Spanish aid group Open Arms, left Cyprus on Tuesday towing a barge laden with food sent by World Central Kitchen, the

rity chef José Andrés. It could be seen off Gaza's coast Friday morning.

Israel has been under increasing pressure to allow more aid into Gaza. The United States has joined other countries in airdropping supplies to the isolated region of northern Gaza and has announced separate plans to construct a pier to get aid in. Aid groups said the airdrops and sea shipments are far less efficient ways of delivering the massive amounts of aid charity founded by celeb- needed in Gaza.

North Korean leader 'drives' new battle tank **Monitoring Desk**

SEOUL: North Korea leader Kim Jong Un drove "new-type main battle tank" while overseeing military training exercises, state media said on Thursday, as Seoul and Washington wrap joint drills to improve deterrence.

Wearing a black leather jacket, Kim saluted ranks of camouflage-uniformed troops, and watched live-fire "training march" exercises from a field command post, flanked by top generals, images published by state media showed.

US Senate leader says Netanyahu an obstacle to peace Calls for 'new election' in Israel

months into a war.

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer called on Thursday for new elections in Israel, harshly criticising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an obstacle

Democrat Schumer, long a supporter of Israel and the highest-ranking US Jewish elected official, told the Senate that Netanyahu's government "no longer fits the needs of Israel" five said.

'As a democracy, Israel has the right to choose its own leaders, and we should let the chips fall where they may. But the important thing is that Israelis are given a choice. There needs to be a fresh debate about the future of Israel after Oct 7," Schumer

"In my opinion, that is best accomplished by holding an election," he

Hezbollah tells Iran it would fight alone in any war with Israel

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: With ally Hamas

under attack in Gaza, the head of Iran's Quds Force visited Beirut in February to discuss the risk posed if Israel next aims at Lebanon's Hezbollah, an offensive that could severely hurt Tehran's main regional partner, seven sources said. In Beirut, Quds chief

Qaani

met

Esmail

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the sources said, for at least the third time since Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 attacks on southern Israel and Israel's devastating retaliatory assault on

The conversation turned to the possibility of a full Israeli offensive to its north, in Lebanon, the sources said

Israeli strikes kill at least 29 Gazans awaiting aid, say Palestinian officials

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: At least 29 Palestinians were killed while

awaiting aid in two separate Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, Gaza's health ministry said. In the first incident,

Palestinian health officials in the Hamas-ruled strip said eight people were killed in an airstrike on an aid distribution centre in Al-Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip. Later, at least 21

people were killed and more than 150 wounded by Israeli gunfire at a crowd

northern Gaza roundabout, Gaza's health ministry said. In a statement, Israel's

"As the IDF assesses the incident with the thoroughness that it deserves, we urge the media to do the same and only rely on credible in-formation," the statement said. The Gaza conflict has displaced most of the enclave's 2.3 million population. Chaotic scenes and

deadly incidents have taken place during aid distributions

awaiting aid trucks at a as desperately hungry people scrambled for food. On Feb. 29, Palestinian health authorities said

military denied attacking Israeli forces shot dead aid centres, describing the more than 100 Palestinreports as "false." ians as they waited for an aid delivery near Gaza City. Israel blamed the deaths on crowds that surrounded aid trucks, saying victims had been trampled or run over.

În Deir Al-Balah, also in central Gaza, an Israeli missile hit a house on Thursday, killing nine people, Palestinian med-

At least 8 dead after migrant boat sinks off Turkey, state media says

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: At least eight people drowned when a rubber boat carrying migrants sunk off Turkey's northwest province of Canakkale, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported on Friday.

US commandos train for the unexpected in North Korea's shadow

Monitoring Desk GWANGJU: US special

operations troops in South Korea are training and preparing for unexpected threats at a time when global crises are more interconnected than ever, their commander said during an exercise this week. "Nothing in the history of the United States should give us any

faith and confidence that we know where the next threat is coming from, Brigadier General Derek Lipson of Special Operations Command - Korea said in an interview on the sidelines of joint drills. Nuclear-armed North Korea in recent years has made unprecedented strides in its

weapons programs.



Data collected through 7th digital census is strategic resource for data driven Policy making: Ahsan Iqbal

Federal, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the data collected through 7th Population and Housing Census-2023 is a strategic resource for 'Data

Driven Policy Making'.

Ahsan Iqbal appreciated PBS on completing gi-gantic activity of 7th Population and Housing Census in challenging timelines during his visit to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) after assuming the charge of the Ministry, said a press

Prof. Ahsan Igbal anticipated that it is the time to get the benefits from the digital Population Census that was conducted in 2023 and was approved unani-

Professor Ahsan Iqbal announced to conduct First Data Fest in Pakistan in 2024, the initiative of First Data Fest will be a great step towards extending the benefits of data and bridging gap between data producers and users.

As it will inform Government and Private Sec-

AC Sanjawi

visits utility

store to review

price of items

QUETTA (APP)- Assis-

tant Commissioner (AC)

Sanjawi Moeem Khan

Gichki visited the utility

store on the special instruc-

tions of Deputy Commis-

sioner Ziarat Hamoodur

Rehman on Friday and re-

viewed the prices of items

and quality of them. He

found severe shortage of

sugar and ghee in the store.

The Assistant Commis-

sioner also assured to meet

the shortage immediately

by contacting the concerned

authorities to eliminate the

shortage of essential items

in the utility stores. He said

that in order to provide re-

lief to the people under the Prime Minister's Ramadan

package in the holy month

of Ramadan and ensure the supply of self-drinking

flour, ghee, sugar, pulses, rice and other items in the stores in charge of utility

SBP to

announce

monetary policy

on March 18

KARACHI (INP): The

State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) will announce mon-

etary policy on Monday

ment issued here on Friday,

the Monetary Policy Com

mittee (MPC) of SBP will

meet on March 18 to de-

cide about the Monetary

the overall economic and

financial situation, major

indicators, data of different

sectors, and major develop-

ments taken place since the

announcement of the pre-

vious monetary policy.

The MPC will review

According to a state-

March 18, 2024.

Policy.

communities how to get benefit from Data.

"The population Growth Rate of Pakistan is 2.55% which is alarming and indicative of decline in proper allocation of resources", Prof. Ahsan Igbal.

"Efforts should be

made to work in collaboration with universities to share practical knowledge with students of Statics and relevant Field', Prof. Ahsan

For Price Governance and controlling inflation,

sion Support System for Inflation (DSSI). The live demonstration of system was presented by Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/IT)

Chief Statistician, Dr. Vaeem uz Zafar, Member (Support Services), Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal and Member (Census and Surveys) along with senior officers of PBS extended a warm welcome to the Minister and congratulated him on assuming his responsi-

Religious scholars, leaders denounce Islamophobia as a threat to global peace, harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) observed the 'International Day to Combat Against Islamophobia' across the nation, with religious scholars and leaders delivering poignant mes-sages during Friday

They unequivocally denounced Islamophobia as a manifestation of fear, prejudice, and hatred against Muslims, stressing the urgent need for its swift and complete eradication.

The escalating tide of Islamophobia in the Western world, they warned, not only precipitates a clash between civilizations but also poses a grave threat to

Emphasizing Islam's core message of security and

peace for all humanity, Ashfaq Pittafi, Maulana they lamented that Islamophobia fosters interfaith animosity and erodes understanding between civilizations. Furthermore, they underscored Islam's teachings of promoting interfaith harmony, categorically stating that Islam is neither an extremist religion nor does

it endorse terrorism. PUC Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, along with esteemed scholars including Allama Abdul Haq Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Asad Zakaria Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Farooq,

Abu Bakr Hameed Sabri. Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Haq Nawaz Khalid, Maulana Obaidullah Gormani Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan, Maulana Hanif Osmani, Maulana Muhammad Asghar Khosa, Maulana Anwar-ul-Haq Mujahid Maulana Abdul Malik Asif Maulana Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Abdul Hakeem Athar, Maulana Abdullah Haqqani, Maulana Abdul Waheed Farooqui, Maulana Abu Bakr Hamza, Maulana Habib Rehman Abid, Maulana Aminul Haque Ashrafi, Maulana Izharul Haque Khalid Sahibzada Hamza Tahirul Hasan, Maulana Saadullah Ludhianwi, Maulana Anisur

Rahman Baloch.

PM, US ambassador discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan Donald Blome paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual

The prime minister expressed satisfaction on the present state of bilateral relations. He emphasized the need to maintain the positive momentum by regular convening of existing dialogue mechanisms, focused on trade, investment, energy, health, defence, education, agriculture and climate change.

The prime mnister said that his government would focus on macro-economic reforms to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment. In this regard, he also highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) that has been established to fast-track foreign investments in priority sectors in Pakistan.

A number of issues of bilateral and regional significance were also discussed during the meeting, including the situation in Gaza and the Red Sea, developments in Afghanistan, as well as the case of Dr Aafia Siddiqui, which was raised forcefully by the prime minister.

While congratulating the prime minister on his re-election, ambassador Blome said that the U.S. considered Pakistan an important partner and hoped to work with the government to build stronger ties



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Igbal, receives comprehensive briefing at Pakistan **Bureau of Statistics.**

of America to Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Quetta district admin warns stern action against illegal petrol pumps

DG BCSA, participants

of 3rd MCMC visit TBTTP

Wildlife component office

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta district administration has decided to take stern action against the illegal mini petrol pumps operating in the

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States

The administration has directed the owners and operators of illegal mini petrol pumps to close down their outlets, otherwise stern action would be taken against them.

The Assistant Commissioners of Quetta have issued official letters addressing the owners / operators of the illegal mini volved in the illegal business.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Director

General Balochistan Civil

Service Academy (BCDA),

Dr. Hafeez Jamali along

with faculty members and

participants of 3rd Mid-

career Management Course (MCMC) visited the TBTTP Wildlife Compo-

nent office here on Friday.

occasion were Secretary

Forests and Wildlife, Abdul

Rauf Baloch, Chief Conser-

vator Syed Ghulam

Muhammad and CDS Syed

Also present on the

petrol pumps to close their illegal business within five days. Otherwise, their outlets would be sealed and FIRs would be lodged against them on violation, it has been warned by the Assistant Commission-

Prior to this, the Commissioner Muhammad Shafqaat had also taken notice of the operation of illegal mini petrol pumps in Ouetta and directed to take action against those in-

technology, EB X sense fly.

sion, Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Abdul Rauf Baloch said that GIS and

Remode sensing is require-

ment of the present era.

He said that no de-

partment can process with-

out using modern technol-

ogy and procedure without

DG BCSA appreciated the initiatives of For-

ests and Wildlife and an-

nounced to continue activi-

ties with Forest department

coming at par.

Speaking on the occa-

with longest freight train run ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has shattered records with its latest freight

Pak Railways breaks record

Muhammad

train journey, marking a significant milestone in the nation's transportation sector. The historic freight train, spanning an impressive length of over 2,500 feet and comprising a whopping fifty coaches, embarked on its journey propelled by the formidable GE U40 locomotive engine, said Railway spokesperson on Friday. He said that this monumental train journey commenced from Karachi, the bustling metropolis of Pakistan, carrying a staggering load of over 3,000 tons of cargo destined

This monumental initiative not only signifies a breakthrough for Pakistan Railways but also promises substantial benefits for the nation, he added.

By transferring such massive quantities of cargo via rail, the spokesperson said the endeavor was poised to alleviate the burden on road traffic significantly, easing congestion and enhancing transportation efficiency across the country.

Moreover, he said the shift towards rail transport for freight purposes aligns with

global efforts towards environmental preservation, as it effectively reduces pollution and carbon emissions associated with traditional road transport methods.



LAHORE: Pakistan Railway's longest freight train on way to its destination.

No one to be allowed to violate official price list, warns Additional DC

Independent Report QUETTA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Arif Khan Kakar has categorically stated that no one would be allowed to violate the official price list during the month of Ramadanul Mubarak in Chaman.

He said that stern action is being taken against the profiteers and hoarders. He said that several

shops were sealed and many shopkeepers were arrested on the charges of profiteering in Chaman on directives of the Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retd) Raja Athar Abbas.

The teams headed by

missioner Arif Khan Kakar, Assistant Commissioner Habibullah Tehsildar Sadar, Abdul Razzaq Miani, SHO Levies and Police have been continuing inspection of different outlets including biscuit factories and bakery shops. Many shops were arrested on charges of profiteering besides poor cleanliness and hygienic condi-

In addition to this, inpection of utility stores is also being done in the town to check the prices there. It is being ensured by

the administration to ensure availability and selling of the edibles and other



Hidayat-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

DC Suhbatpur chairs meeting for provision of facilities to people in Ramadan

QUETTA (APP)-Deputy Commissioner (DC) Suhbatpur Mir Miran Khan Baloch on Friday chaired a meeting to implement official price control of edible items to provide maximum facilities to people in the Holy month of Ramadan. Assistant commis

sioners of Anjuman Tajran Urban Action Committee and utility stores and others participated in the meeting Addressing the meet-

ing, Deputy Commissioner Suhbatpur Mir Miran Khan Baloch said that the traders community should play their vital role to cooperate with the administration to implement the price control of items and provide cheap food items to the people during the month of Ramadan.

He said that by serving the poor and needy people in this blessed month, we could have peace of mind and beautify our hereafter. Legitimate profits should be earned hoarding and high sellers would not be allowed.

Abdul Jalil Agha were in future. In the end, gifts present. and souvenirs were distrib-The visitors were briefed about the modern uted among the participants. **Delegation of Beef, Mutton Association**

calls on Hamza Shafqat QUETTA (APP)-A delega-tion of Beef and Mutton Association led by President of Beef Haji Sarmad Siddique and Naseebullah met Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqat on Friday. The delegation of Beef and Mutton Association said that a committee was formed to analyze the livestock market in the Price Control Committee meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

In which representatives of Labor Department, Industry Department, DC Office and Beef and Mutton Association went to the cattle market and bought animals and determined the price after slaughtering them. The delegation said that the demand of Beef and Mutton Association is that the price list should be issued in the light of the report of the analysis committee.

They said that raids on butchers' shops, fines and arrests have been started as soon as Ramadan begins, this was causing concern among members of the Beef and Mutton As-

sociation. They said that the series of raids on butchers' shops should be stopped and a new price list should be issued to them. Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqat listened carefully to the problems of the representatives of Beef and Mutton Association and assured them to solve their problems, saying that our effort would be to provide maximum relief to the people and save the butchers from loss. The Beef and Mutton Association announced the postponement of its protest after the commissioner assured to resolve the is-



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Administrator Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat presides over a meeting, at Metropolitan Corporation Office in Quetta.

Ramadan is month of personal accountability & reform: Samina

Independent Report QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Friday said that the month of Ramadan was the month of personal accountability. This month teaches us to control our desires and self through which the believers have the ability to lead a life with patience and discipline, she said.

She expressed these views in her statement here saying that this time in Ramadan, must remember the Palestinian brothers and sisters in your prayers and make special prayers for them that Allah protects the Palestinian citizens from the persecution of Israel and grants us Muslims the ability to help the Palestinian people. She said that it was a matter of concern for the Muslim Ummah that the Israelis have failed to stop the ongoing brutality of the Palestinians. Senator Samina also said that we should look around and if someone was in need, help him immediately, this way

our society would develop, it would not only bless your halal sustenance but also the prayers of the She further said that

all over the world, the prices of essential items are reduced as soon as Ramadan comes, but in Pakistan, it has often been seen that the prices of essential items skyrocket with the arrival of this blessed month. She urged the district administration and concerned authorities to crack down on hoarders and sellers of expensive items and take necessary steps to provide cheap items to the people. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that Ramadan Mubarak was a holy and auspicious month. Allah Almighty blesses the sustenance of those who take legitimate profit during the month of fasting. Give full relief to the people in order to get the satisfaction of. Believe me, Allah will greatly bless and increase your sustenance with

this action, she noted.



QUETTA: A view of accumulated sewerage water on imdad chowk crating problems for locals.

Submission of papers for Senate election begins

KARACHI (APP): The process of submission of nomination papers for Senate elections has started from today (March 15) which will continue till

March 16. According to the schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan for the Senate elections. the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh/Returning Officer for Senate Elections Sharifullah is receiving nomination papers

from candidates. The list of candidates will be published on March 7, after which the scrutiny of papers will be done on

Pak Army organizes cultural symposium in Bajaur

BAJAUR (Online): Paki stan Army organized a cultural symposium for the protection of regional language, traditions and culture n Bajaur district.

Renowned poets from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the symposium. The local singers presented Pashto language and its historical significance in their own style through folk music. More than 75 paintings by various artists vere also exhibited in the symposium, while stalls of books, handicrafts and local products were also set up.

Sardar Sarbuland welcomes resolution passed in NA regarding Shaheed ZAB People's Party (PPP) Balochistan Spokesperson

Sardar Sarbuland Jogezai welcomed the resolution passed in the National Assembly (NA) regarding Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto. He said that the Senate, Balochistan and Sindh Assembly have already passed the resolutions, Barrister Gohar's stance regarding the resolution was condemnable, which PPP Balochistan

was condemned. In a statement issued here on Friday, Sardar Sarbaland Jogezai said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan has said in its opinion on the presidential reference regarding the execution of Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto that the punishment given to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was wrong. He said that the SenBalochistan Assembly and Sindh Assembly officially approved the resolutions declaring Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto as martyr and national hero. After which the National Assembly has also passed this resolution with a huge majority, in which it is demanded that the unfair decision be changed, he

He said that Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto should be officially declared a martyr and given the highest civilian award Nishan Pakistan. He said that Barrister Gohar's statement on the approval of the resolution is condemnable and shameful. Sardar Sarbuland Jogezai has congratulated the members of the National Assembly of PPP and allied parties on the approval of the resolution by the National Assembly.

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