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Shahbaz Sharif gets briefing on recent rains, relief operation from NDMA:

# Rain affectees would not be left alone in time of distress, asserts Prime Minister

PM directs concerned authorities to present comprehensive plan for relief & rehabilitation of rain affected people in province; vows to work with Government of Balochistan together; announces to pay Rs. 2 million each to heirs of those died in rain-related mishaps; Rs. 7,50,000 & Rs. 350,000 to be paid to those whose houses collapsed damaged & partially

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has categorically started that those affected due to the recent devastating rains in Gwadar or other parts of the province would not be left alone in the time of distress at all.

He vowed to work for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people together with the Balochistan government, and the process would remain continued until each and every

affected person is fully rehabilitated.

affected people and briefin Gwadar, on Tuesday.

Gwadar along with Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik and other high ups from Islamabad to personally review the situation after rains and ongoing relief activities

Also present on the oc- rected the concerned au-The Premier was ister Balochistan, Mir speaking after distribution Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, of cheques among the rain Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq ing conducted for him about Achakzai, Members of Nadamages caused due to rains tional Assembly, Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan and Shahbaz Sharif reached Malik Shah Gorgaij, provincial President of PML-N,

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail,

Member Provincial Assem-

bly, Maulana Hidayatur

sion, Prime Minister di-

Rehman besides other concerned high ups. Speaking on the occa-

casion were the Chief Min- thorities to present comprehensive plan for relief and rehabilitation of the rain affected people.

He also directed to present report of detailed review of the damages caused to private property and rehabilitation of the affected communication infrastructure

In addition to this, the Prime Minister directed to prepare system to determine well before the natural calamities through modern technology and satellite

RAWALPINDI (APP): The

Corps Commanders' Con-

ference on Tuesday urged

the proud nation to remain positive and united, and

wholeheartedly participate

in the progress and development of Pakistan.

within the society.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding the damages caused by the recent torrential rains and the relief and rescue operations carried out by the local authorities

COAS presides over 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference

Army top brass dismayed at unsubstantiated

allegations of interference in electoral process

Says allegations aimed at creating political instability; Forum expresses satisfaction over the smooth democratic transition of power in the Centre and Provinces; Reiterates to continue providing full support to govt.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held

Wholehearted cooperation assured by federal Government too:

#### Compensation of losses caused due to rains to be done, assures CM Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minstated that compensation of tention. the losses caused due to the heavy rains in Gwadar would be made. He said that the federal government has also assured wholehearted cooperation in process of rehabilitation.

He said that the step would remain continued till rehabilitation of the routine

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the briefing during visit to Gwadar along with the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's

Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki,

US expresses willingness to

work with new Pak govt.

Terms Maryam's election as first

woman CM Punjab a 'milestone'

In a recent press brief-further said that appoint-

ment of State Spokesper- Sharif as the Chief Minis-

WASHINGTON (INP):

The United States of

America (USA) on Tues-

day expressed willingness

to collaborate with

ing, United States Depart-

son Matthew Miller con-

veyed the US's readiness

to engage with Pakistan's

Matthew Miller high-

new government.

Pakistan's new Govern- Sharif.

call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said

Gwadar and expressing soli-darity with the affected people.

He believed that the

federal and provincial gov-ernments would complete the process of rehabilitation of rain affected people in shortest possible time.

He said that the recent torrential rains caused devastations at large scale.

He said that it was his first priority to provide relief and rehabilitation to the and later speaking to the affected people after asrain affected people on suming the office of Chief

Minister. The Chairman Pakistan ister Balochistan, Mir that the affected people of Peoples Party (PPP) Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has Gwadar are focus of our at- Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also expressed solidarity with He thanked the Prime the affected people of Minister for visiting Gwadar and asked the provincial government and party's senior leadership to take solid steps for them in the difficult time.

> He noted with contentment that the routine life has started restoring as a result of the relief activities carried out by the senior officers of provincial gov ernment.

#### PM Shahbaz Sharif visits Gwadar; reviews post-rain situation; relief **Independent Report**

Sharif visited the rain-hit

He reached the port city

Gwadar airport, the Prime Minister was welcomed by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Member National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgaij, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan besides other high ups

#### lighted the US's willinglitical life and views it as a ness to work closely with positive step for Pakistan's the newly formed Paki- democratic progress. BNP to support Achakzai in QUETTA: **Presidential elections**

stani government, empha-

sizing the importance of ad-

vancing mutual interests

through collaboration with

Prime Minister Shahbaz

ment of Maryam Nawaz

ter of Punjab represents a

significant development in

Pakistani politics. The US

looks forward to the full

inclusion of women in po-

spokesperson

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior Vice called press conference here President of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sajid Tareen Advocate has stated that BNP has decided to support the Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai in the upcoming presiden-

was addressing a hurriedly at the Quetta press club on Tuesday. He also strongly condemned the raid at residence

of the Chairman PkMAP. He criticized the alleged rigging in the recent general elections and charged that the provincial assembly was purchased by making tial election. Sajid Tareen bid on February 8

He was also appreciative of the role played by Pak Army and civil administration for rescuing people and saving their

QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz district of Gwadar on Tues

by a special airplane. He was accompanied by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, leader of PML-N and Member National Assembly, Atta Tarar, Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasar, be-

sides other high ups. Upon his arrival at

#### BA session likely to be conducted on March 8 **Independent Report**

Balochistan Assembly's session is expected to be held at 11:00 AM on March 8. This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Balochistan's Provincial Assembly secretariat on Tuesday. According to the notification, the newly elected members of assembly would take oath in the assembly's session.

#### (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) an Inter

Services Public Relations

The forum noted with (ISPR) news release said. concern the organised mis-The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacinformation and fake news rifices of Shuhada (marbeing spread by certain nefarious elements to sow tyrs), including officers and despondency and divisions men of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies efforts against terrorism

and the citizens who have and militancy. laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the

The conference resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with full might of the state.

The COAS directed commanders to continue consolidating the gains of

The forum expressed

concerns over continued repression of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and condemned the unabated human rights violations by

It reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to support the Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally at all levels.

pressed complete solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated in Gaza. The COAS said,"The Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support ofthe Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the

#### **PPP** delegation assures PM of cooperation for economic stability

Peoples Party led by former President Asif Ali Zardari and party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wherein they assured the government of the party's support for the country's economic stability.

In the meeting held on Monday night, the delegation, also comprising Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah, congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the prime minister and expressed good wishes for him.

AsifAli Zardari assured the prime minister that the

ISLAMABAD (APP): A the government to achieve delegation of Pakistan the economic stability, progress and prosperity of the country.

Prime Shehbaz thanked Allah Almighty as well as the people of Pakistan for giving him another opportunity to serve Pakistan.

He also expressed gratitude to the coalition parties in the parliament for reposing trust in him, reiterating his resolve to work tirelessly for the country's progress and prosperity.

Senator Ishaq Dar, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and former Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Sved Mohsin Nagyi also at-



Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

#### Facebook, Instagram, Messenger down as Meta faces worldwide outage

**Monitoring Desk** 

QUETTA: Social media sites Facebook, Instagram and Messenger reportedly went down as parent company Meta faced a worldwide outage on Tuesday.

social media outage and monitoring service, Downdetector.pk, reported the Meta-owned social sites' outage across the globe around 8:16pm. Users on Instagram

Real-time internet and

were unable to view the content on the picture-sharing platform as the message 'Something went wrong' appeared every time they tried to access the site.

Meanwhile, login sessions on Facebook and logged out of the apps.

They were "unable to log in" again as a pop-up saying "an unexpected error occurred" appeared while trying to access Facebook.
As per Downdetector,

as many as 353,256 Facebook inaccessibility reports were received by 8:20pm.

M e a n w h i l e, cybersecurity and internet governance monitor, NetBlocks also confirmed social media suspension. "Meta platforms in-

cluding Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and Threads are currently experiencing outages related to login sessions in multiple countries; incident not related to country-level Messenger expired as the internet disruptions or filusers found themselves tering," NetBlocks wrote on X, formerly Twitter

#### tation activities CM pays second Modi, Putin, Amir Qatar official visit to greet Shehbaz on rain-hit Gwadar assuming office of PM **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ISLAMABAD (INP): portant capacity as head Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on swearing in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He extended his felicitations to Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on his X timeline. President of Russia Vladimir Putin on Tuesday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pa-

The Russian president highlighted the friendly nature of Russia-Pakistan relations and every success in his im- Agency.

of government, the Embassy of Russia in Islamabad said on its X timeline.

GWADAR: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presid-

ing over a meeting to review situation arises after recent rains and rehabili-

The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on his election and swearing-in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second time.

The Amir, who sent a cable of congratulations to the prime minister, wished him success and for further development and growth of bilateral relations, according to the wished Shehbaz Sharif state-run Qatar news

#### Shutter down strike observed on call of PkMAP in Quetta **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The shutter down strike was observed against alleged raid at residence of Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai, in different parts of the metropolis on Tuesday. As a result of shutter down, the shops and business

concerns remained closed in main city and various other areas of the metropolis. The call of shutter down strike was given by the



dence of the party's chairman and arrest of a gunman. Following strike, the flow of traffic also remained less in the main areas of Quetta city.

#### Aurangzaib Badini and Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan. **Senate polls** on April 3

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid

second visit to Gwadar city

on Tuesday during one week

and after assuming his of-

fice. The Member National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgaij,

provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-

N) Sheikh Jaffar Khan

Mandokhail and Member

Provincial Assembly, Mir

Shoaib Nausherwani were

also accompanied by the

the Member Provincial As-

sembly from Gwadar,

Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Chief Secretary

Shakeel Qadir Khan, Com

missioner Makran Division

Saeed Ahmed Umrani,

Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Major (Retd)

He was welcomed by

Hidayatuı

Chief Minister.

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Election Commission (EC) has decided to hold Senate elections on April 3

According to EC sources election on 48 seats of Senate will take place on EC has worked out schedule of Senate election.

The polling for Senate election will be held in national and provincial assemblies on April 3. On April 3, twelve senators will be elected each from Sindh and Punjab, while two senators will be

elected from Islamabad. Eleven new senators will become part of upper house Khyber each from Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan

# Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

#### **Reserved seats**

The ECP's decision to deny the Sunni Ittehad Council — the new home of PTI-affiliated lawmakers who won the Feb 8 polls as independent candidates — a share of the special seats reserved for women and minorities has come as a disappointment to those who believed in the fairness of the electoral process.

Even though the much-delayed ECP decision, the latest in a series of moves ostensibly aimed at keeping the PTI out of elections and parliament, was not unexpected, many had hoped that the spirit of democracy would prevail over the technicalities cited by the ECP to justify its action.

According to the ECP, the SIC could not stake a claim to a share in the reserved seats "due to having non-curable legal defects and violation of a mandatory provision of submission of party list for reserved seats which is the requirement of law". It defended its decision by pointing out that the SIC had not contested the elections for any seat in the national or provincial assemblies.

That is not all. The ECP generated more debate by allocating what many see as the SIC's share of reserved seats to other political parties. By saying that "the seats in the National Assembly shall not remain vacant", it has indirectly accepted the argument that the Lower House as well as three provincial assemblies, barring Balochistan, were incomplete when they elected the Speaker, deputy Speaker, the prime minister and the chief ministers

According to media reports, the SIC's combined loss amounts to 77 seats in the national

and provincial assemblies. The ECP might have its own logic but its order does ignore past precedent. For instance, the Balochistan Awami Party, which did not contest the first post-merger polls in former Fata, was allowed a reserved women's seat after independents joined the party. Meanwhile, a 2018 Lahore High Court judgement held that a political party's share of reserved seats was non-transferable. The ruling had come after a Returning Officer did not accept PTI nominees for reserved seats due to a slight delay in the submission of names.

In short, the ECP has exacerbated the crisis it triggered when it denied the PTI its election symbol, again on technical grounds — a decision controversially upheld by the apex court. Like the party symbol issue, the legality of the latest ECP determination will also be decided by the superior judi-

Unless addressed, such debatable actions will continue to impede the growth of democracy in the country. Today, these decisions are affecting the PTI; tomorrow other parties, which, for the moment, can enjoy their share of reserved seats and see their numerical strength enhanced in the assemblies, might find themselves at the receiving end when they fall out with the powers that be.

# **Common ground**

ties in their election manifestos and speeches. However, post-election, many individuals seem to be suffering from selective amnesia, with some backtracking from against other parties, and others conveniently forgetting their resentment against the establishment.

Amid this air of forgetfulness, it is crucial to remind political representatives of the promises they made in their poll campaigns. Holding parties accountable for their performance is crucial to steer Pakistan towards stability and progress, and to ensure newable sources of enthat the trust of the people is upheld, democratic principles respected. nation's long-term inter-

ests safeguarded. and social challenges, collective commitment from all political stakeholders is urgently required for transformative reforms. Since the new ity dispensation, there is a real opportunity for parties to jointly develop a charter of economy, comprising at the minimum what the PML-N and PPP individually promised in their mani-

A comparison of their election manifestos reveals significant areas of common ground, providing a foundation for further discussion between the two parties as well as others represent- the need for inclusivity ing political rivals. For by promoting equal instance, both indicate rights for marginalised the need to create better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, introducing a labour policy to protect the good governance. Merit this time around. Pakirights of informal work- and experience must su- stan cannot take any ers, and to promote decent work. Both also ticularly in the appoint- - Courtesy Dawn

focus on the IT, tourism, net positions. In the run-up to the Feb and smart agriculture ises were made to the current account deficit, public by political par- their aim is to boost exports, curtail imports. and lower tariffs on raw material imports, thereby

manufacturing sector.

In terms of infrastructure development, their strong stance the parties recognise the need for investment in transportation, with particular focus on rural development, to address regional inequalities. They understand the need to leverage CPEC's full potential for regional development. Energy sector reforms have also been promised, aimed at enhancing efficiency, promoting conservation, and increasing reliance on alternative and re-

To address fiscal challenges and ensure and the sustainable domestic resource mobilisation, they have promised the Given our economic implementation of SOE and tax reforms. Civil service reforms that emphasise meritocracy, accountability, and cadevelopment pacity have also been outlined. government is a minor- Most importantly, both the PPP and PML-N have stressed the need to fully devolve powers to the provincial and local levels, thereby empowering local govern-

> universal healthcare and education, and to enhance the social security net through the expansion of the BISP and Ehsaas programmes. They have highlighted women. Fulfilling this promise is essential to persede family ties, par- more disappointments.

Arooj Waheed Dar mention enhancing the ment of prominent cabi-

It is important to polls, extensive prom- sectors. To manage the note that these promises are not new: these political parties have been making the same promises in every election cycle, as evident from a review of their fostering growth in the manifestos. However, their actions or apathy have frequently negated these promises.

For instance, these

flag-bearers of dynastic politics persist in appointing individuals to top party and government positions based on lineage and family links, contradicting stated commitment to ineconomic and security clusion and equal issues plus social, poop--portunities. Even women who are brought to the forefront to make a case for gender equality often appear to have defied merit and experience to assume their positions. Such actions not only undermine inclusivity, but also governance as a whole.

Despite repeated commitments to enact tax and SOE reforms, neither party has taken significant steps towards implementation. Even basic measures, such as integration of e-governance and the full adoption of the Single Treasury Account to improve accountability, have yet to materialise.

Most importantly, not only do the promises establish Moreover, both sustainability in Pakistan have pledged to provide remain unfulfilled, but the crisis was exacerbated through the implementation of unsustainable populist measures, such as a fixed exchange rate, inadequate tariffs, delays in going to the IMF, and so on. Having formed a coalition government against a wider public segments, in particular mandate, there is no excuse for the PML-N and PPP to not deliver on show strong resolve for their common promises

# Destined to fail?

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Destiny in social science refers to likely cause and effect links versus a pre-ordained view of fatalism. One such political link is that the quality of outcomes of a regime depends on the doesn't result in durable realms quality of its strategies, which depends on its team quality. I used this link to predict early in wouldn't do well given its team. As the PML-N arguably pursues narrow interests over merit in filling key posts, I fear the same now, more so as we are close to doom. We face urgent

litical and external ones. opted for a drab but able manager — one who is ing a strong federal leader. The last time he cut a sorry figure in managing the economy, foreign policy and security, and was a mere appendage caught between the powerful establishment and his elder brother Nawaz Besides a strong indus-Sharif. The same seems likely now.

posts are the next key ones — that of the finance minister but also those of industry, investment, commerce, IT and planning. Our socioeconomic musts are fourfold: stability (most equity sustainability. The finance minister ensures economic stability. But recent finance ministers such as Ishaq Dar and Shaukat Tarin favoured the elites and under-

mined macro-stability.

We need a finance min-

ister with a solid educa-

macro-economic stabil-

economy

The

well as ensure durable some understanding rules out Dar and also people like Hafeez Shaikh, who loyally that neglect growth.

growth. Growth and pro-cial, foreign, political ductivity require experts and security. As presiin the other ministries dent, Asif Zardari with mentioned, who can crethe PTI's term that it atively identify new in- cial set-up and reconcilivestment, industrial and ation politics, can help export avenues via a end the Baloch standstrong industrial policy, off. But for all this, the as done by the Asian Ti-gers. The PML-N must maintain total control on field strong, dynamic security policy. A set-up people with vast experience. But the trends tablishment aid will look bad. Cutting fiscal deficits would require from it. On the TTP and the party to tax and/or other extremists, the The key post to tackle remove subsidies from PML-N has a mixed them is the prime its core elite base. Cut-record. It wanted curbs minister's. In Shehbaz ting external deficits and on jihadis but pursued Sharif, the PML-N has enhancing productivity would require creativity that the old guard lacks. good at running local Thus, all key economic projects rather than bearings appear tough to Thus, all key economic achieve.

Ensuring equity and sustainability requires experts in minisalleviation, health, edulabour and agriculture. trial policy, we need strong agricultural, informal sector and labour policies as most of the poor work in these areas. The PPP has more PML-N, specialises in physical projects. But even the PPP focuses on bandand causes. It must review its cabinet decision and also appoint competent posts to influence

policy indirectly. The main security threats relate to the TTP, Balochistan, India and societal extremism. A role for the establishtion and experience in ment in security policy under civilian sway can ity who can curb fiscal give benefits. Unlike the and external deficits as economy, they have

growth in tax and export revenues and jobs. This informally, can provide informally, can provide the impetus for peace with India given his past forays with the BJP. implement IMF policies Peace with India is the single change that can But stability alone have ripple effects in all economic, sohis Baloch roots, provinthat won power with esstrugg--le to wrest space peace with TTP

initially and its key leaders have close extremist ties.

We badly need a new and creative foreign policy that balances our ties with China and Western tries for social areas like states. Our Constitution climate change, poverty and institutions lie in tatters given the politication, population, cal tussles of recent years. But a regime with dubious legitimacy is illplaced to fix them.

There are then huge gaps in the competence required to tackle our challenges. Where the coalition will expertise here than the have authority, it may lack capacity and vice versa. The good news from social science is that effects and outurgent), productivity, aids rather than root comes can change if one changes the causes. Simply put, if the PML-N wants good people to constitutional outcomes after five years, it can make them more likely by ensuring greater competence to-

> Otherwise, with each passing day, the path will increase the prospects of doom and another establishmentimposed set-up will fail. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

#### Renewable Energy Policy 2006 Why to curtail wind power projects despite tariff of PKR 14.7/kWh: Atif

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound concerns that the renewable energy policy 2006 is not being implemented in letter & spirit as costlier and obsolete power projects are still being given preference – while it makes no economic sense to purchase power for the national grid from costlier plants in these times of stagflation, mounting circular debt and burgeoning balance of (BoP) payments &depleting foreign exchange reserves (FER) even further through

importing furnace oil. FPCCI Chief noted that this phenomenon is

foreign direct investment (FDI) in energy sector: but, also inflicting financial losses on the existing wind power plants (WPP) in a number of ways: (i) return of investment (ROI) is compromised curtailment and lack of off take by the national grid is causing operational losses

(iii) future investments,

JVs and expansion plans

are in jeopardy. Mr. Âtif Íkram Sheikh stressed that special investment facilitation council (SIFC) has made energy as their one of the five focus areas; and, lack of enabling, facilitative and protective environment is detrimental to the cause of SIFC - for which all stakeholders of the state

#### have unanimity including not only discouraging for private-sector. World Bank's Global **Director wonders if** master plan of water

use exists in Sindh

HYDERABAD (APP): The World Bank's Global Director, Water Global Practice, Saroj Kumar Jha has said the bank through its investment always tries to bring manifestable change in the lives of the targeted communities besides improving agriculture and irrigation systems.

Speaking at a meeting at the Secretariat of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) here on Tuesday Jha questioned if a master plan over the water use existed in Sindh?

"Because without a master plan it will be difficult to make decisions for the water use," he underlined.

The Director observed that even the process of preparing the master plan would reveal the areas where work was needed on priority basis in order to enhance water utility for agriculture.

"We ought to complete the work of assessing the impact of the bank's projects on the lives of the people," he underscored.



QUETTA: Residents of Sariab protesting against shortage of gas by blocking the Sariab Road

# LAHORE: Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Ejaz presenting shield to Consul General of Turkey

during his visit to FPCCI office.

# Pak-Saudi collaboration in IT, Telecom to further strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the realm of Information Technology and Telecom, the collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and strong presence of Pakistan at LEAP 2024, would further strengthen bilateral ties between the two

premier technology event brings together some of the brightest minds globally, offering a dynamic platform for tech innovators, industry leaders, and experts to collaborate, explore innovations, establish partnerships, and engage Tuesday.
In the previous year,
LEAP generated over \$9 billion in business,

attracting over 172,000 individuals, including global tech leaders, IT professionals, speakers, tech gurus, and investors, establishing itself as the fastest-growing technology event worldwide. Pakistan contingent is one of the largest at this

year's LEAP with 162 sqm pavilion 74 companies and over 800 delegates demonstrating a robust Pakistani business presence with promising prospects in the KSA market. These companies with influential mentors are showcasing solutions in and investors, said a news AI, IoT, blockchain, cyber release received here on security, cloud solutions,

health tech, fintech, web government institutions mobile development, open source, e-commerce, data services and more

PSEB and P@SHA in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh and other stakeholders arranged "Saudi-Pak Tech Forum" on March 3, 2024 to set the tone for LEAP.

Secretary General O Ms. Deemah Alyahya was the chief guest at the event.

considerable number of prominent Saudi Government and private institutions attended the forum which provided a remarkable platform for Pakistani companies to network with Saudi counterparts, IT industry,

and IT associations ahead of LEAP to create an additional pool of prospects & valuable business leads.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO PSEB Ms. Aisha Moriani reiterated the need for both the nations to collaborate and build upon the success of Pakistani companies at LEAP 2023. Pakistan views this as a timely opportunity to showcase its IT/ITeS companies on the international trade platform and expand business in the Middle East market, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which is undergoing transformation with its Vision 2030.

exceeding 13 billion.

# US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' to improve climate, smart agriculture: CG Kristin

Kristin Hawkins on Tuesday said US-Pakistan Green Alliance was an effort to improve climate, smart approaches agriculture, food security and sustainable energy. She expressed these

remarks while inaugurating the Multan Electric Power (Mepco) Company's Customers Facilitation Centre.

The Facilitation
Centre has been established as part of the U.S. government's ongoing assistance in Pakistan's energy sector. Since 2014. the United State has supported Mepco in deploying more than 40,000 smart meters, helping to improve power

MULTAN (APP): US efficiency for residents in Consul General to Lahore Multan." "USAID's partnership with Mepco has delivered great results. We have introduced new technologies to improve customer service and to increase revenues." said Consul General Hawkins

> For the past 20 years. Pakistan has consistently been ranked among to 10 most vulnerable countries on the Climate Risk Index. Hawkins underscored the need for urgent action to adapt to climate change and highlighted U.S. efforts to support Pakistan through the 'Green Alliance' to address the challenges related to climate change, food security and energy.



Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Multan press club.

## **HESCO** to facilitate issuance of new connections to commercial, Industrial zones

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer HESCO Bashir Ahmed Gujjar said that President Farooq Shaikhani has presented an excellent constructive agenda in a meeting held on Tuesday.

and industrialists during his visit at Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) he conveyed that, following the recommendation of President Farooq Shaikhani, HESCO will facilitate the issuance of new connections to commercial and industrial zones in Hyderabad. Furthermore, he assured that HESCO possesses an ample supply

of transformers

In response, he directed all the Superintending Engineers to install 100 additional transformers in all commercial and industrial zones, as proposed by the Chamber.

Additionally, he em-Addressing the traders phasized the need to replace outdated transformers and to equip them with switches that trip automatically when overloaded, ensuring the prevention of transformer bursts.

In response to President Farooq Shaikhani's recommendations, he announced the convening of a meeting to discuss the equitable distribution of load across feeders.

Additionally, urgent

measures will be taken to

highlighted the achievement of rendering 1327 feeders in industrial city of Faisalabad Division (FESCO) free from load-shedding. This was accom-

promptly address the distri-

bution of load on the crucial

4 to 5 feeders. HESCO Chief

plished by segregating commercial transformers from domestic transformers. In alignment with this success, he issued directives for the implementation of a similar approach within **HESCO** operations. He announced the ap-

proval of 131 new vehicles, including trolleys and cranes, in the upcoming Board Meeting.

Bashir Ahmad Gujjar expressed concern over the insufficient technical staff This allocation aims to at HESCO, emphasizing enhance operational effithat beyond the shortage,

there exists a deficiency in Recognizing that these cusciency by providing each executive engineer with the the enthusiasm and comnecessary resources for mitment of the technical tasks such as relocating workforce transformers and tree-cut-Furthermore, he acting. HESCO Chief anknowledged the commendnounced the formulation of able efforts of the HCSTSI

a policy, in line with Presiin overcoming legal obdent Farooq Shaikhani stacles related to the express agenda, for the outsourcing feeder. Grateful for their enof 11 KV feeders. deavors, he anticipated that This policy will incorthe Sindh Small Industries porate recommendations Corporation will soon benfrom the HCSTSI. Despite efit from a dedicated express substantial rate increases feeder, thanks to such colfor equipment and translaborative initiatives. HESCO Chief afformers, the HESCO cur-

rently maintains a stock firmed his unwavering commitment to enhancing HESCO cooperation and addressing the concerns of both commercial and domestic customers until the final day of his service.

tomers constitute the primary source of HESCO revenue, he remains dedicated to fostering positive

President Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, lauded HESCO Chief as an exceptionally professional and dedicated officer and said that under his leadership, HESCO will achieve a loadshedding free status, akin to organization like FESCO, by attaining 100 percent

President Shaikhani emphasized the importance of consulting the Chamber on feeders slated for construction and maintenance, ensuring minimal disruption to business activities

# Matter of reconciliation with establishment will be decided by PTI founder: Amin Gandapur

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur and Aleema Khan sister of former chairman PTI met PTI founder in central Jail Adiala Tuesday

They exchanged views on political situation of KP in the meeting held in conference room of jail over one and half hour.

Matter of formation of provincial cabinet also was discussed

 $\begin{array}{ccc} CM\ KP\ informed\ PTI & that\ no\ one\ could\ steal\\ founder\ about\ future & mandate\ in\ future. \end{array}$ strategy in the province.

Security was put on Gandapur and Aleema Khan

Talking to media men after meeting, CM KP said former chairman PTI is He went on of law. We will continue our for the sake of Pakistan.

Justice of Pakistan to high alert on the occasion of arrival of Ali Ameen May 9 incident. Our women workers are in jail. He held those who benefitted from May 9 be

He went on to say we saying there should be rule have left two governments work as per ideology. We Imran Khan is fighting war will form such a system for our children, akistan is

ours. Federal government has stolen our mandate. I He appealed Chief will sit with opposition in province. We will not strike reconciliation with thieves of votes. We have to maintain law and order situation in the province. We have to give jobs. We will extend financial assistance to over one lac families. We will stage peaceful protest in Peshawar. We have not been

given reserved seats.



PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel.

### 13 dead and 1462 injured in 1387 road traffic crashes in Punjab

**Independent Report** LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1387 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1462 were injured. Out of these, 637 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

involved Motorbikes, Gujranwala with 88 RTCs effective and 97 victims.

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the

increasing number of road

traffic crashes.

Furthermore, analysis showed those 779 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 186 pedestrians, and 510 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 334 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 101 in with 113 The majority (73%) victims and at third

#### DC for ensuring maximum relief to public in Ramazan

MARDAN Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Mardan Fayyaz Khan Sherpao has directed the administrative officers to ensure maximum relief to the public in the purchase of food items in the Ramazan markets during the holy month. He was presiding over

an important meeting held here on Tuesday regarding Ramazan Package 2024. He said that according to the instructions of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ramazan bazaars will be set up for the citizens, in which the citizens will get food items like pulses, flour, ghee and other items at cheaper prices.

#### and we should inculcate habit of book reading in them: Baligh the book reading is on appreciate the literary decline in the society but contribution of Jameel **Independent Report** still there are people who

Young generation is our future

AHORE: Governor unjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that Art, humanities and Literature has profound impact on the society. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel in Lahore today.

Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that our young generation is our future and we should inculcate the habit of book reading in them. He said that generally programme is also held to

Package took place in

Bahawalpur under the

supervision of Deputy

Commissioner

Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar

Commissioners distributed

food hampers to deserving

individuals in the district

The purpose of the

soft launching for the Package.

Jappa.

initiative,

with their teams.

Under this

Assistant

love to read books.

He further said that one should strive for continues improvement in life. He added that book reading broadens the vision of a person and develops positive character traits in him. He said that many people are doing good work in the society, they should be encouraged so that the process of improvement in life continues

He said that today's

To ensure the success of

the soft launching, a formal

app is being used to

securely store all data

related to the Ramazan

district, food hampers are

distributed to deserving

individuals under the

In the Bahawalpur

respectfully

#### Jalbi. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi was a well-known intellectual. linguist, researcher, critic. columnist educationist. Governor

Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi rendered great services in the field of literature as a researcher, critic, writer and translator. He appreciated the efforts of senior journalist Wasif Nagi and other organizers in organizing the seminar for the promotion of knowledge and literature.

#### Salim Saifullah congratulates PM Shehbaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician, former federal minister Salim Saifullah Khan has congratulated the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming his office and expressed the hope that under his leadership the country will overcome all challenges.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif political and economic stability.

#### **Governor KP chairs** senate meeting of UoM, directs to reduce fees (APP): senate subcommittee to

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali on Tuesday chaired a senate meeting of University of Malakand (UoM) that discussed approval and legal status of varsity statutes.

The meeting was Rasheed Ahmad and officials concerned of higher education, law, establishment

meeting discussed legal aspects of the statutes and concurred

remove legal lacunas in one month period

The participants also discussed extension of contact employees that are working in the university. The meeting was told contract employees have completed three-year attended by Vice period but the new Chancellor UoM, Dr appointments were appointments were stopped by election commission due to current general elections.

Meeting approved six months extension of contract period and directed to ensure policy of merit while making new to send them to varsity's appointments.

# LHC declares non maintainable petition seeking removal Sanjarani

LAHORE Lahore High Court (LHĆ) declared non maintainable the petition seeking removal of Sadiq Sanjarani from the position of chairman Senate while maintaining registrar office objection on the powers of jurisdiction of court regarding petition.

The petition filed by came up for hearing before Sadiq Sanjarani cannot Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan retain two seats at a time.

(Online): of LHC Tuesday.
Court (LHC) Sadiq Sanjarani Election Commission (EC) and others were made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Sadiq Sanjarani contested election on seat of provincial assembly Balochistan and he won the election. EC issued citizen Mashkoor Hussain notification of his success.

# International News

Nigehban Ramazan

Package launched

in Bahawalpur

Soft launching of the Package is to digitally Nigehban Ramazan organize data effectively.

Package.

being

Nigehban

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Nigehban

#### **World Health Organization:** Child malnutrition 'particularly extreme' in north Gaza

Nations organisations said on Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available.Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that onein-six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern

"This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peeperkorn added, referring to when the data was re-

UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah

Elder said this trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life saving difference." At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday.

Calls for Israel to do more to address the humanitarian crisis have deaths of Palestinians lining up for aid in Gaza last

Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre. Israel,

which says many people were trampled or run over, has pledged to investigate.

Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious diseases, with showed that "when that nine-in-10 children under the age of five - around 220,000 - falling sick over the last weeks, according to

"That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of: infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredulously still discussion of an offensive into Rafah, which is a city of children," Elder grown louder since the told reporters in Geneva referring to Israel's stated aim of rooting out Hamas battalions it says are hiding

"Rafah has about three quarters of a million children living there," Elder

US wants 'as



Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel and French President Emmanuel Macron walk past an honour guard at Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic.

#### **Ships entering Yemeni** waters must obtain permit: Houthi minister

CAIRO (INP) Ships will have to obtain a permit from Yemen's Houthi-controlled Maritime Affairs Authority before entering Yemeni waters, Houthi Telecommunications Minister Misfer Al-Numair said.

Houthis have repeatedly launched drones and missiles against international commercial shipping in the Gulf of Aden since mid-November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's offensive in Gaza.

The near-daily attacks have forced firms into long and costly diversions around southern Africa, and stoked fears that the Israel-Hamas war could destabilise the wider Middle East. The United States and Britain have bombed Houthi targets in

"(We) are ready to assist requests for permits and identify ships with the Yemeni Navy, and we confirm this is out of concern for their safety," Al Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by Houthi movement, reported Al-Numair as saying. The territorial waters affected by the Yemeni order extend halfway out into the 20-km (12-mile) wide

#### Ladakhi people express outrage as talks with India end without

Ladakhis

# US envoy says war at Lebanese-

Israeli border would not be containable **Monitoring Desk** BEIRUT: US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein said

on Monday (Mar 4) that a truce in Gaza would not necessarily bring an automatic end to hostilities across Lebanon's southern border and he warned about the risks of an escalation of the conflict. Hochstein i visiting Beirut as part of diplomatic efforts to end four months of exchange of fire between Hezbollah and Israel taking place in parallel to the Gaza war. It has marked the worst conflict across Lebanon's southern border since the 2006 war.

# progress

NEW DELHI (INP): The much-anticipated meeting between Ladakh's Apex Body (LAB), the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and the Indian Home Ministry ended without any tangible progress, sparking widespread anger among the people of Ladakh. New Delhi's refusal to address the fundamental demands of

#### civilian clothes to remain on his island: Maldives President reaffirms MALE (INP): Maldives are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.mv reported. "That

No Indian troops, not even in

Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10. Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after ostensibly an Indian civilian team, but in reality military officials, reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the Mat 10 deadline agreed by the two country's for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel.

Addressing a community in Baa atoll Eydhafushi during his tour across the atoll, President Muizzu stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops move its personnel from the from the country, people strategically located archiwho spread false rumours, pelago in the Indian Ocean.

these people [Indian military] are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies," the portal quoted Muizzu as saying.
"There will be no In-

dian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said. Within hours of taking oath, last year, Mizzu in his inaugural address to the parliament demanded India to re-

# Spanish blogger's gang rape in India sparks global outrage

India is deemed highly unsafe for foreign female tourists. A Spanish blogger woman fell victim to a gang rape, exposing India's secular state to scrutiny.

On March 1st, a Spanish girl was traveling on a motorcycle with her partner in the city of Jharkhand, India when she was targeted for gang

The Spanish couple had set up a tent in Dhanbad, a state in India, for an overnight stay when a group of seven individuals assaulted them, reports Al Jazeera. The 28-year-old Spanish travel blogger mentioned in her group targeted them for violence, looted their belongings, and raped her, as reported by Hindustan

In another post, a companion of the affected blogger stated that she was repeatedly assaulted

NEW DELHI (Online): with blows to the head and face with a helmet

> After the gang rape, the girl was left in critical condition, Al Jazeera reports. Following the attack, a petrol pump attendant rescued both and took them to a local hos-There has been a

strong international backlash over the rape of the Spanish blogger woman. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in India, approximately 90 cases of sexual assault are reported daily on average, according to the National

Crime Records Bureau. In 2022, one case of rape against a woman was reported every 18 min-Instagram post that the utes. Last year, 31,516 incidents of sexual assault were recorded.

The states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases, according to the National Crime Records

Military delegation arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

### China boosts defence spending as regional disputes heat up

**Monitoring Desk** 

BEIJING: China announced on Tuesday that it would boost its defence spending in 2024, as hostility over Taiwan and in the South China Sea

The 7.2 per cent increase, identical to last year's figure, was announced at the start of the annual meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).

(\$231.4 billion) on defence in 2024, according to the budget report that lays out the government's financial plans for the year

China world's second-largest defence budget behind the United Štates, even though the People's Liberation Army (PLA) surpasses the US military by number of personnel

many channels as possible' for Gaza aid, State Dept says **Monitoring Desk** 

United States is working to

get aid into Gaza through as many channels as possible to remedy the humanitarian disaster amid Israel's war with Hamas militants, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday (March 4), describing the situation as 'simply intolerable."

Washington was optimistic that a new maritime route to deliver aid to Gaza could supplement current efforts to get aid into the enclave, Miller said, adding that that route was "still in the development phase."

In addition to trucks carrying aid through two border crossings in the south of Gaza, the US military, along with allied nations, has in recent days dropped aid packages into Gaza from aircraft, amid warnings much of the population is on the verge

#### Bab al-Mandab Strait 43 countries call for international probe into Navalny's death

**Monitoring Desk** GENEVA: More than 40

countries on Monday demanded an independent international investigation into the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny — and said President Vladimir Putin bore ultimate responsibility. European Union mem-

bers, the United States, Brit-

ain, Ukraine, Australia,

Canada, New Zealand and

Norway were among countries to voice outrage over Navalny's death at the UN Human Rights Council. Navalny, 47, who died in an Arctic prison colony, was laid to rest in Moscow on Friday, surrounded by crowds of defiant mourners who chanted his name. "We are outraged by the death of the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, for which the ultimate responsibility lies.

#### ADB, UNICEF join hands to strengthen climate resilient services in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to collaborate on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and solid waste management interventions under an ADB-funded project in the cities of Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur in Punjab province of Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye and UNICEF's Representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadil here, said a

"ADB and UNICEF are joining forces and renewing our shared commitment to strengthen policy, legislative framework, and institutional capacity in municipal service delivery, this time to improve the quality, coverage, and reliability of urban services able, inclusive.

under the Developing Resilient Environments and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS) Project," said Yong Ye.

"The collaboration will enable us to support the government's efforts to address water supply and solid waste management challenges in these two important and rapidly growing cities", he added. Under the new part-

nership, ADB and UNICEF will collaborate to support inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban infrastructure and services in Bahawalpur through public awareness and communication campaigns that will improve behaviours and practices related to water, sanitation, and solid

waste management. The understanding reached between ADB and UNICEF Pakistan offices will help promote sustain-



GWADAR: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti receiving Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival.

#### SC issues written order regarding Musharraf case

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Seth, 26 Nazar Akbar 27 Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a written order regarding termination of the Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict quashing the trial of former president Pervaiz Musharraf in the high trea-

The SC, in the 16-page verdict authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, said, "The impugned judgment dated 13 January 2020 passed by the Lahore High Court, Lahore in Writ Petition No. 71713 of 2019 is not sustainable and is accordingly set aside by converting these petitions into appeals and allowing them. Detailed reasons shall be given later." It said, "The impugned judgment passed by the Lahore High Court in sheer violation of the judgments and orders of this Court is, therefore, not only without jurisdiction but also unconstitutional.

"Particularly, we have on 17.12.2019, namely,

and Shahid Karim, 28 were appointed with the approval of the Federal Gov-

"The judges are not sovereigns with unfettered discretion but are guardians of the law, tasked with ensuring that justice is done according to established legal norms and principles. Their decisions must be guided by the law, precedents, and the facts before them, not by personal desires or objectives. A judge, in the pursuit of justice, cannot embark on a selfimposed crusade of right

"He is not to innovate knight errant, roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty or of goodness. He is to draw his inspiration from consecrated principles. He is not to yield to spasmodic sentiment, to vague and unregulated benoted that the Judges of the nevolence. He is to exercise Special Court, who an- a discretion informed by nounced the final judgment tradition, methodized by analogy, disciplined by the



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Muhammad Fareed Afridi examining the documents of PPP candidate of Senate seat former Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo. MPAs Haji Ali Madad Jattak and Asghar Rind are also present.

#### Secretary Health says All resources being used to prevent outbreak of epidemics Gwadar

GWADAR (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan on Tuesday said that measures had been taken to prevent outbreak of any epidemic and improve the situation in the rain-affected areas of

All resources were being used for the purpose as medical teams consisting of doctors and staff with essential medicines and ambulances were present in the field, he added

The Secretary Health, who is in Gwadar to monitor the ongoing operation of medical teams, expressed satisfaction over hospital facilities and other services

He visited District Headquarters Hospital, GDA Hospital, Pak-China Hospital and District Health Office in Gwadar, and Basic Health Unit

Shado Band. Abdullah said there would be no compromise on the provision of medical facilities, including medicines, in the hospitals of Gwadar as majority of the people in the area depended

The Secretary Health Balochistan Health Department were continuously engaged in providing medical facilities in the rain-affected areas. He added that addi-

tional doctors, medical staff and essential medicines had been made available to cope with any untoward situa-

Director General Health Balochistan Dr. Farooq Hot, Manager TB Control Programme Balochistan Dr. Asit Shahwani, Provincial Coordinator Malaria Control Programme Dr Amir Raisani, Deputy Secretary Health Ŷasir Dashti, DHO Gwadar Dr. Rahim Buledi, MS Hospital Gwadar Dr Hafeez, DHO Lasbela Hameed, DSMP PPHI and other officials were

present on the occasion. Secretary Health also chaired a meeting regarding the provision of health facilities at GDA Hospital Gwadar. He also took round of various departments of



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing views during introductory meeting with the officers of Chief Minister Secretariat

#### **Chief Minister Balochistan pledges:** Effective system of governance to be established by ensuring transparency & accountability

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has made a pledge that we want to establish effective sys-

tem of governance by en-

suring transparency and accountability at every He asserted that there would be no compromise on corruption, rather there

would be zero tolerance on

He said that the corruption and irregularities would not be acceptable and those found involved in the same would be taken

The Chief Minister was expressing views at the introductory meeting with the officers of Chief Minister secretariat on Tuesday.

He said that the sustainable solution to public

#### **COPHC** donates relief supplies to Gwadar's flood victims

**Independent Report** QUETTA: China Overseas ort Holding Company (Pakistan) continued to supply relief goods the coastal district of Gwadar area of Balochistan hit by the recent heavy rains and floods in .

According to the spokesman, so far, more than 30,000 mineral water bottles and 30,000 packets of canned food items have at pleasure. He is not a been distributed among the affectees. During the flood, the

China-Pakistan Faqeer Colony Middle School in Gwadar, built and managed with China's aid and took in hundreds of people affected by the disaster to take shelter.

Local people appreciated the efforts of China Overseas Port Holding Company (Pakistan) for helping the rains and flood

#### **National** economic, reconciliation plan need of hour: Ahsan

SLAMABAD (APP): Paistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that a national economic and reconciliation plan was need of the hour.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the opposition should play its constitutional role so that the country can be taken forward together.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chose a path of anarchy and chaos in the country, which was directly sabotaged the process of country's economic recovery.

#### 3 die, 2 injured car plunges into canal

MANANWALA (Online): 3 people were killed and 2 were critically injured after a speedy car plunged into canal on Sheikhupura-Hafizabad motorway. Those died include two real brothers. The condition of the injured are stated to be critical. Those killed and injured were riding in the car.

He declared that neither he would do any work against the rules and regulations, nor he would let anyone do it

He said that the Chief Minister secretariat is the biggest administrative office, and it is duty of all officers to protect it's dig-

The Chief Minister

said that we want to establish effective system of service delivery through per-forming official duties at He said that the active, capable and professional

officers are our asset, who would be encouraged at everv level.

However, the officers

issues is possible through establishing good gover-course by themselves. course by themselves. He said that we have to work for the province

and it's people without He exhorted the officers to be ready for the pub-

lic service doing away with the leniency He said that we would welcome those who want

to walk with us speedily. Earlier, the Principal Secretary briefed in detail about the administrative offices and responsibilities of different sec-

He expressed the resolve that all officers of Chief Minister Secretariat would utilize their best capabilities for achieving the targets set as per the vision of Chief



**OUETTA: Pakistan Ex Services Man Society** President Lt G(R) Abdul Qayyum addressing a

#### Pak proposes int'l conference to uphold Palestinians' rights, end Gaza war

UNITED NATIONS (APP): :Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Islamic countries, has called for convening an International Peace Conference on Palestine, aimed at implementing UN resolutions on the restoration of Palestinians' inalienable rights to selfdetermination within a twostate solution.

'The international community should uphold its responsibility in halting the Israeli aggression on Gaza immediately," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly session which followed the U.S. veto on the Feb 20 Security Council resolution calling for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip.

While deeply regretting the veto, the Pakistani

the global community's inability to end Israeli aggression against Gaza in which 29,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed.

Ambassador Akram addressed the 193-member Assembly in his capacity as acting chairmen of OIC group at the United Na-

'Since the lunch of the aggression on Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine nearly over the past five months, the entire world has continued to follow, with growing despair, and anger, the monumental and unending sufferings imposed on the Palestinian people in Gaza," Ambassador Akram said. "This situation has resulted in the colossal loss of lives and wanton destruction of homes, schools, hospitals and reli-

#### envoy voiced dismay over gious sites in Gaza. PM, CM issued directives to ensure rehabilitation of flood victims: Malik Shah

QUETTA (APP)-Member of National Assembly (MNA) Haji Malik Shah Gurgage on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti issued directives to ensure all possible help and rehabilitation of the flood victims. He expressed these roundings areas.

Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti have issued instructions to ensure all possible help and rehabilitation of the flood victims.

He said that preventing natural calamities was not a matter of human alone, however, we were always present to serve our people. He said that the announcements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan would be implemented within four days saying that Pakistan People's Party was committed to country

#### PN continues humanitarian assistance in flood hit areas

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan Navy in assistance with civil government continues providing ration, medicines and warm clothes to flood stricken people in different areas of Gwadar dis

of Gwadar

Pakistan Navy was utilizing helicopters to ensure continuous supply of relief goods to Jiwani Pishukan and Ganz, Kappar.

Pakistan Navy troops were reaching out to stranded people in other far-flung flood affected areas as well to distribute relief goods.

Pakistan Navy special response forces were providing their support to local flood-affected communities to drain rain water from their homes and streets with all available re-

### Saudi govt invites 30 Pakistanis as state guests for Umrah

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday organized a special event to honor pilgrims from Paki-stan who are embarking on the sacred journey of Umrah in a gesture of goodwill and hospitality.

This annual tradition, extended by the Saudi government, aims to facilitate the pilgrimage for individuals from across the globe, fostering unity and spiritual connectivity in the holy city of Makkah. This year, 30 individu-

als from Pakistan have been graciously invited by the Saudi government to undertake the pilgrimage as state guests. The selected pilgrims will have the privilege of a 10-day stay in Saudi Arabia, where they will partake in the sacred rituals of Umrah. During the event, Saudi

Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki personally handed over essential travel documents to the pilgrims, ensuring a smooth and

ISLAMABAD (APP): hassle-free journey. Addi-The Royal Embassy of tionally, as a token of goodwill, Ambassador Al-Malki presented each pilgrim with a gift hamper containing Ahram, traditional attire worn during the pilgrimage, symbolizing the warmth and generosity of the Saudi

leadership.
Expressing their heartfelt gratitude, the fortunate pilgrims conveyed their appreciation to the Saudi government and Ambassador Al-Malki for the invitation and hospitality extended to them. They fervently prayed for the continued peace, prosperity, and harmony between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, emphasizing the signifi-cance of such initiatives in strengthening bilateral relations and fostering mutual respect and understanding.

As the pilgrims pre-pare to embark on this spiritual journey, they carry with them the aspirations and prayers of their fellow countrymen, cherishing the opportunity to connect.



**GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz** Sharif being briefed regarding the damages caused by the recent torrential rains and the relief and rescue operations carried out by the local authorities in Gwadar.

#### Wukala, Shakeel & Democratic Panels merged: New panel of lawyers formed namely Independent Panel to protect rights of fraternity

**Independent Report** QUETTA: A new panel of lawyers has been formed with the name of Independent Lawyers' Panel in

Ouetta on Tuesday. While announcing formation of Independent Lawyers' Panel at a press conference at District Court on Tuesday morning, the senior lawyers Attaullah angove Oari Rehmatullah Advocate and others said that the Independent Lawyers' Panel has been formed to care interests of the lawyers besides resolving their problems.

Attaullah Langove said that we have laid foun-

finance minister

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Consultation is underway

for formation of federál

is included in the race for

the slot of finance minister.

Musaddaq Malik and Muhammad Aurangzeb,

chief executive of a private

bank are also included in

the race. The final decision

will be made by taking stake

holders into confidence.

The coalition partners will

also be given representation

Nawaz Sharif is in favor of

making Ishaq Dar finance

be included in the federal

will be allocated to Abdul

Aleem Khan, leader

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

(IPP). Tariq Bashir Cheema and Salik Hussain

from PML-Q will also be part of cabinet.

MOM has not shown

cabinet in the first phase.

According to sources

Allied parties will also

Important ministry

in the federal cabinet.

minister.

Sources

Ishaq Dar once again

yers for protection and defence of lawyers remaining above the prejudices. He announced that

lawyers including Wukala

Panel, Shakeel Panel and Democratic Panel have also dent Lawyers' Panel.

diciary and bar.

dation of new panel of lawthree other panels of the

been merged in the Indepenbetter interests of the lawyers and resolve their is-

are not going to tolerate interference of anyone in jusion, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate said that bar exists for dignity and honour of the lawyers besides their He regretfully pointed

out that FIRs were lodged

against some 20 layers last

year, but senior lawyers kept mum on the issue. He said that the new He also said that we panel has been formed for starting new journey for respect and dignity of the lawyers after deliberations

and consultations. He announced that Inwould be expanded to all

dependent Lawyers' Panel would not be restricted only to Quetta, rather it Speaking on the occa- over the province.

#### Around 2k children to be Dar, Aurangzeb included in the enrolled at govt-run schools race for slot of

the fundamental right of every child and under article 25-Å, providing free and compulsory education to children aged 5-16 is the responsibility of the government. A target has been set for the academic year 2024 to enroll around 1700 children in public sector schools across the district,'

By Rafiullah Mandokhail Manager Education Sup-SHERANI: 'Education is port Programme (ESP) Raziq Jan Kakar, District Chairman Adv Dawood Khan Sherani and representatives of teachers' union. A banner displayed behind the officers reads: 'Let's Enroll Every Child In School', urging the parents to enroll their loved ones at government-run schools.

The deputy commissioner further said that



Azeem Jan Dumar while addressing a press conference to formally inaugurate the students' enrollment campaign in all public sector schools. He was accom-Nasar, District Program ersatthedistrict level, he said.

preparations are completed and the distribution of free textbooks is underway at all the clusters. Moreover, walks and seminars will be organized and mass announcepanied by the District Edu- ments will also be made in cation Officer Taza Khan mosques through loudspeak-

## **BBISE** cancels 10 students of papers on involvement of copying in Quetta

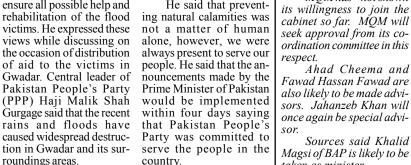
QUETTA (APP): Control- Board has made a strict ler Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Abida Kakar cancelled papers of ten students from annual metric examination after founding them in cheating during her visiting of examination center of Sarvab Degree College on Tuesday.

She also suspended the relevant staff at the moment saying that no one would be allowed to copy in the exam saying that therefore Balochistan

policy to prevent copying on which immediate action was taken. She stressed that the

student to stay away from cheating and the duty officers have been instructed to strictly follow the policy of BBISE in this regard

She said that she would continue visiting of established examination centers in order to control duplicating system for bright future of students.





QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Press Club led by its President Abdul Khaliq Rind meeting with