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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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Sworn in as 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan

Shahbaz Sharif directs to prepare an action plan to revive national economy

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): vive national economy. President of Pakistan Musoath as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Shehbaz Sharif, country's economic landwho was elected to the scape, promoting investcountry's top office for the ment opportunities and fasecond time.

Held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the swearing-in ceremony was attended by outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and his cabinet members, parliamentarians, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, services chiefs, governors, chief ministers and diplomats.

Later Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan on an emergency basis to re-

the Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

presidential election in Pa-

kistan is scheduled for

March 9 when Asif Ali

Zardari, the co-chairman of

the Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP), and Mahmood Khan

Achakzai, the chairman of

the Pashtunkhwa Milli

Awami Party (PkMAP),

will vie for the prestigious

called for a joint session of

Parliament on March 9. The

National Assembly secre-

tion of the joint session.

National Assembly

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim

Munir shake hand with Chairman Pakistan

People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the

oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian

Muhamaad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in

Presidential polls:

Zardari, Achakzai set

for showdown as ECP

approves nomination papers

He gave these direclim League-Nawaz tions while presiding over Muhammad Shehbaz tharif on Monday took the Sharif on Monday took the gies for country's economic tions while presiding over revival and growth in Islamabad today

He said his government will work for improving the cilitating the business community. He said economic revitalization stands as the foremost priority of his administration, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action to address pressing economic concerns

He stressed the importance of providing necessary infrastructure and support to entrepreneurs and investors to foster a conducive business environ-

The Prime Minister



government's resolve to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and create an enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Prime Minister also directed immediate engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to advance discusions on the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). This initiative under-

PTI vows to play

constructive

opposition role;

pledges positive

contributions

SLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI),

Barrister Gohar Ali

Khan, stated that his party

would play the role of con-

structive opposition in

the National Assembly,

offering responsible criti-

cism and positive contri-

butions to the country's

Assembly on a Point of

Order Barrister Gohar Ali

Khan reiterated PTI's

commitment to support-

ing the nation's defense

efforts. He emphasized

the party's unity with the rest of the country to safe-

guard its interests and

party has eliminated dy-

nastic politics. He men-

tioned that in PTI, even

ordinary MNAs like him-

self can become chair-

man, which is not possible

Achakzai urges

political unity to

in other parties.

Gohar stated that his

Speaking in National

governance.

security.

scores the government's commitment to securing external support for bolstering the country's economic

During the session, Shehbaz Sharif was given a comprehensive briefing from the Finance Secretary on the current state of the national economy. Discussions during the briefing revolved around key economic indicators, chal-

resilience.

lenges, and potential solutions to stimulate economic

On the occasion, the Federal Board of Revenue's clearance of tax refunds totaling 65 billion rupees was also announced, reflecting the government's proactive measures to ease financial burdens on taxpayers and stimulate economic activ-

In line with the government's agenda to streamline operations and enhance efficiency, Shehbaz Sharif ordered the formation of E-committee to rationalize membership on government boards.

Moreover, directives were issued to expedite the transition to smart metering in the power and gas sectors, aimed at reducing line losses and improving service delivery.

The session concluded

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

Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, stated on Monday that the PPP fully supported the offer made by newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for a 'Charter of Na-

tional Assembly, he recalled the Prime Minister's offer during his maiden speech in the House to collaborate on onciliation.

gratulated the newly elected Chief Ministers of all four provinces and emphasized the need for them to play their role in saving Pakistan's "democracy and He said that people did

not vote for anyone to create a ruckus but to save them from this economic Bilawal

stressed the need for disa Charter of National Rec- course among all the law-

He said the Parliament

China appreciates positive statements of Shehbaz

BEIJING (INP): Spokes- ment of China Pakistan Ecoperson of China's foreign office Mao Ning has said that Chaina has sincerely congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on election as PM

During a daily press briefing on Monday, Mao Ning said that China apnomic Corridor (CPEC) and Sino-Pak relationship.

She also said that China hopes under the leadership of new government and PM Shehbaz Sharif and with the joint efforts of all Pakistan will definitely be successful in



Shehbaz Sharif inspecting the Guard of Honor presented by a contingent of Pakistan's Armed

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

In major blow:

ECP rejects SIC's request for reserved seats allocation

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea for allocation of minority and women reserve seats in national and provincial as-

A five-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, firmly stated that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is not entitled to have reserved seats for women and

The Election Commission also stated that Sunni Ittehad Council is not entitled to avail special seat allocations for women and minorities. The ECP reached its decision with a 4-1 ratio, with member Punjab Babar Hasan Bharwana, submitting dis-

plea in ECP claiming the al-violation of the constitulocation of seats based on tion. inclusion of PTI-endorsed

Shehbaz farwell outgoing PM

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

ECP lifts ban on postings, transfers

ISLAMABAD (INP) The Election Commis sion of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday allowed the transfers and postings of officials. According to a notification issued in this connection, the ECP lifted the ban on transfers and postings imposed due to the general elections held on February 8, 2024. The notification stated

that as the general elections have been held so there was no need to continue the ban The elected govern-

ment will now regulate all matters relating to such transfers, the notification added

also invited the prime min

ister to visit Tajikistan,

ISLAMABAD (APP): candidates within their Zafar demanded the resigparty. This plea, conveyed by SIC Chairman Sahibzada nation of Sikandar Sultan Hamid Raza through a PTI

representative, was submitted to the electoral watch-Following the Supreme Court's ruling declaring their intra-party polls "unconstitutional" and stripping them of the electoral symbol of the stripping them bol of the 'bat', PTI candidates participated in the

elections as independents. According to the Constitution, reserved seats are assigned to political parties according to the number of their representatives elected to general seats. Prior to the February 8 elections, the ECP had already received lists of candidates from political parties for

this purpose. Reacting to the ECP's judgment, PTI Senator Ali The SIC submitted a blot on democracy and a served seats is reached.

Raja from the position of chief election commissioner and called for him to be tried under Article 6 of the constitution. He emphasised the significance of reserved seat quotas for political parties, stating that lawmakers in the National Assembly elect the president, prime minister, speaker and

eputy speaker. The senator criticised the ECP for depriving PTI-SIC of its rightful share of reserved seats, calling the decision unconstitutional and undemocratic. He declared that his party would challenge the ECP's decision in court and reiterated his demand for the resignation of the entire ECP staff.

Zafar also called for the postponement of presidential and Senate elections Zafar termed the verdict a until a court decision on re-Subsequently, the Sen-

ate session adjourned until Wednesday morning.



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

IMF recommends Pakistan to jack up GST on medicines, petroleum to 18pc ISLAMABAD (INP): The mended bringing several

International Monetary dozen items under the stan-Fund (IMF) has recommended the government of Pakistan to implement 18 per cent General Sales Tax (GST) on food, medicine, petroleum products, and stationery. According to details, the IMF experts have recommended the newlyelected government of Pakistan to end sales tax relaxation in its report dispatched to Islamabad.

The IMF team visited Pakistan in December 2023, February 2024 with a set

of recommendations ahead of the FY2024-25 budget.

The IMF has recom-

tence awarded to former prime minister Zulfikar Ali The larger bench headed by Chief Justice of

dard rate of 18% GST, including unprocessed food, stationery, medicine, POL products and others. The IMF estimated that rationalizing GST rates

could generate 1.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) revenue, which equates to Rs1,300 billion in national exchequer. Overall, the IMF has

called for the removal of all distortionary tax policy changes related to compliand dispatched its report in ance, including the abolition of minimum taxes and additional taxes, as well as the abolition of the Ninth and Tenth Schedules.

SC reserves verdict in **Z** A Bhutto reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): A nine-member larger bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday reserved its verdict in a long-pending presidential reference, seeking to revisit the 1979 'controversial' death sen-

Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. The bench was also comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi,

Justice Amin Ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel. Muhammad Ali Mazhar. Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The SC bench reserved its verdict after the completion of arguments from both sides. "Not today, but we will announce our verdict soon," the CJP remarked. In the last hearing, CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked that Martial law is not imposed by the army as an institution. Some people act as individuals.

State Representative ing was organized by the Terry Meza has ex-Jammu Kashmir Liberapressed her solidarity tion Front (JKLF) led by Yasin Malik who is curwith the Kashmiri

people and urged for a peaceful resolution of dia. The JKLF's acting the Kashmir dispute in chairman Raja Muzaffar Dallas, Texas.

speaking at a meeting of the plight of the the US-based Kashmiri Kashmiris under Indian

Kashmir NEW YORK (APP): US on Sunday late, the meetrently imprisoned in Inalso addressed the gath-Terry Meza was ering and highlighted

vying for the role of president was held on Monday. The final list of eligible candidates will be released on March 5 (Tuesday). Asif Ali Zardari's nomi-

The scrutiny of nomi-

nation papers for candidates

nation papers have been approved after scrutiny making him eligible to contest for the coveted presi-

dential seat. However. Mahmood Achakzai's nomination papers have not been approved yet, as reservations have been raised against

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has tary has issued a notifica-

overcome national crisis ISLAMABAD (APP) US lawmaker calls for Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood peace, justice in Khan Achakzai Monday urged all political groups to collaborate in addressing the numerous challenges

facing the nation and guiding it through the crisis. Speaking in National Assembly on point of order, he said that Parliament should have more power and be the main center of

authority He also highlighted that the country's constitution brought the people together nationwide and its sanctity

Bilawal Bhutto con-

ISLAMABAD (APP): tional Reconciliation.'

Speaking in the Na-

"We not only endorse t but also urge the Oppo-

sition to participate in this tutions, and if this instituprocess for the broader in- tion was strengthened, it terests of the country," he would ultimately em-

on Sino-Pak ties

of Pakistan.

preciates the positive achieving the new heights statements of PM Shehbaz of development and pros-



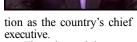
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Forces upon arrival at the Prime Minister House.

Diaspora in Dallas, Texas occupation. must be ensured. World leaders felicitate Shehbaz Sharif on assumption of PM office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Different world leaders felicitated the newly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the country's chief executive and wished him success during the next five years of rule.

Šaudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in separate messages on Monday congratulated Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for taking oath as 24th prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman wished Shehbaz Sharif success, and the people of Pakistan steady progress and prosperity.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye on Monday called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him on his elec-



The prime minister expressed his gratitude to President Erdogan for his near future. gracious gesture of brotherhood and fraternity. He underlined that enduring people-to-people bonds. and strong religious and cultural linkages under-pinned a robust Pakistan-Turkiye relationship. Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed that Pakistan looked forward to welcoming President Erdogan fraternity. for the session of Pak-

Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), being scheduled to be held in Islamabad in

Recalling strong bonds of friendship that exist between the governments and peoples of the two countries, both the leaders expressed their desire and commitment to work closely with each other to take the bilateral relationship to unprecedented heights of cooperation and

humanitarian situation in Gaza and reaffirmed their commitment for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and

views on the worsening

operation. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on Monday congratulated newlyelected Prime Minister ternity. Shehbaz Sharif, They also exchanged emphasising that through

Organisation of Islamic

tries would enhance and expand long-term bilateral partnership. "I wish you, dear friend and brother, good health and

joint efforts, both the coun-

great new successes in the implementation of your plans for the sustainable social and economic development of Pakistan, raising the well-being of the people of the friendly country as well as strengthening its reputation in the international arena," the Tajik president said in a congratulatory message to the prime minister.

He said that Tajikistan and Pakistan were linked by long traditions of friendship, mutual understanding, respect and trust. He said that the multi-

faceted cooperation between the two countries, based on those good traditions, was constantly developing and enriched with new content.

The Tajik president

stressing the sustained interest in continuing the interstate dialogue and cooperation with Pakistan in the effective promotion of bilateral ties. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas has congratulated Prime Minister

office of the prime minis-In his letter, Palestin ian President has expressed his best wishes for the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the na-

Muhammad Shahbaz

Sharif on assumption of

In his message he said that Palestine and Pakistan are bound in a historical and strong bond. He said Pakistan has

always raised its voice for the rights and justice of the Palestinian people. He prayed for the de-

velopment and prosperity of Pakistan.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Prime minister's challenge

The new prime minister has taken the wheel. He must steer Pakistan to calmer waters at the earliest possible. Following a deeply contentious election, the opposition seems to be in no mood to let him get comfortable in his seat. He can expect a tough fight over every piece of legislation his government brings to parliament. In fact, some of the more hawkish lawmakers affiliated with the PTI have made it clear they do not intend to allow him to function at all. Regardless, the prime minister cannot afford to let himself get frazzled. It is his responsibility to bridge the gaping political chasm and restore some sense of unity within the nation as he attempts to tackle its historic social and economic crises. It will, without a doubt, require immense grit and a large heart to take the country forward as one.

Since Mr Shehbaz Sharif has chosen to lead, he should demonstrate that his second term will be better than the first. He must appoint a cabinet of capable individuals, chosen not for their proximity to the Sharif clan, but for how well-suited they are to manage the portfolios handed to them. This is not the time to dish out ministries and important offices as payback for political favours. The PDM government offered ample lessons on why this would be a poor mistake to repeat during a crisis

Considering how much has been placed at stake for Mr Sharif to get a second chance to 'deliver', he must deliberate with great care on who will get him the results being expected from his government. He should remember that his government will be walking a tightrope: policy confusion can quickly snowball into a national disaster. The PDM's last finance ministry was a case

His other major responsibility would be to start shaping the contours of Pakistan's immediate political future such that the country can start to move on from the bitter unravelling of its sociopolitical order that marked the interregnum between April 8, 2022, and March 3, 2024. This will require the PML-N and its allied parties to, first and foremost, put an immediate end to any plans to further victimise the PTI and also to start a process to reconcile with its leadership and its supporters even if it means taking the difficult first step. It has been repeatedly commented that it was the hubris of the PDM coalition and its backers that the people of Pakistan voted against in the recent election. It would be a grave miscalculation to continue disregarding this as the new prime minister makes an attempt to lead the nation forward. Mr Sharif will need to show immense courage if he wishes to be remembered well.

Climate stresses

Huma Yusuf

Last week offered a juxtaposition that captures Pakistan's predicament. In Lahore, PTI supporters took to the streets to lawfare against Imran Khan. Meanwhile, in Balochistan, lashing rain led to flooding dire houses, wash away roads, and paralyse trade.

Our political crises and elite bargaining always come at the expense of governance and service delivery. Democracy - in its true sense, not a hybrid facade – is a prerequisite for a functioning government that can provide prosperity and protection. But while we fight for the former, we are losing hope of achieving the

The flooding in Balochistan is the latest reminder that climate change-related disasters remain among the top challenges for our country. And these disasters are not tragic one-off events that can be routes due to flooding. mopped up with a quick dab of emergency relief and rescue. Each disaster has social, political and security implications that extend for years. Today's floods are tomorrow's famine, protest movements, insurgency. Balochistan is a particularly dire example of how climate changerelated stresses will exacerbate fragility and potentially fuel conflict. A 2021 survey by the IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Class found that 25 per cent of Balochistan's rural population was food-insecure, with some districts facing emergency-level food shortages. Given that more that a local temperature than half the province's population relies on agriculture or livestock-relivelihood, this food inse-

Other drivers are food inflation, soaring fuel prices and livestock dis-

The current flooding will exacerbate food inseprotest rigging and the curity. Flooding will destroy agrarian families' food stocks, usually amounting to three to six months' sustenance. enough to uproot Other farm inputs – stored harvests, seeds, fertilisers — are also subject to damage during flooding.

The same survey

farming

found that 64pc of the

province's

households struggled to sell their produce, propelling a vicious circle of food insecurity. This was because of difficult access to markets, either due to poor infrastructure that led to transport delays and crop damage or the high cost of transportation. Last week's rains will worsen this situation: the roads that have dissolved will take months, if not years, to repair, impairing mobility. Local fuel costs will likely soar, following disruption to Pakistan-Iran border Secondary sources of income such as inter-provincial or cross-border

trading will be hard hit. Add other dynamics to this food insecurity, and it becomes apparent that Balochistan's intersecting challenges may soon feel insurmountable. Consider the long-running grievance of the coastal fishing community, which has increasingly protested against illegal trawling resulting in depleted fish reserves. This is another community that for both climate-related and geopolitical reasons finds its livelihood threatened.

Research shows rise of 0.5 degrees Celsius increases the likelihood of conflict by 10 to lated activities for their 20pc as climate change drives resource compecurity can partly be attrib- tition. Balochistan's aluted to drought and cli- ready explosive political Courtesy Dawn

mate change more widely. dynamics — rooted in valid historical grievances over resource extraction and state excesses, particularly disappearances — will further ignite due to climate change-driven resource scarcity. Unless, of course, someone does something about this spiralling conflict.

However, climate disasters can also create opportunities to demonstrate that a state is capable of effective, inclusive service delivery, thereby building trust. District administrations. disaster management authorities, the army and navy quickly commenced relief and rescue operations in Balochistan. The founder of the Haq Do Tehreek, which has campaigned for fisherfolk and broader Baloch rights, in his new position as MPA also did the rounds. Can this respon-

siveness be sustained?

Plans to address climate change and natural disaster-related food insecurity, resource competition and political fragility have to be nuanced, localised and adaptive. Resource-sharing arrangements between stressed communities have to be carefully negotiated to prevent conflict from flaring. Such grassroots interventions are the work of local governments and civil society, not security forces or law-enforcement agencies. And so it comes full circle: the need for meaningful democracy to enable climate responsiveness.

This is where the Lahore protests conwith Balochistan floods. Both the PML-N and PPP made ambitious climate-related promises in their poll manifestos. Now with a governance mandate, however problematically delivered, the parties have a chance to show that they can deliver for the people.

Waves of terrorism

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Historically, terrorism has evolved in its aims, forms, frequency, lethality, targets, and operation methods at various intervals. The changes underscore the shifting dynamics of terrorism, driven by global political shifts and technological advancements. In each era, terrorist strategies have been shaped by time. While terrorism's underlying causes have varied across different periods, the common thread has been a group the prevailing system and resorting to violence to draw attention Mountbatten in 1979, and achieve their goals.

The evolution of terrorism can be categorised into four waves — the 'anarchist' (1880-1920s), 'anti-colonial' (1920-1960), 'new left' (1960s to end-century) and 'religiously inspired' (1979 onwards). A 'wave of terrorism' represents a cycle of increased and decreased activity in a specific time frame, characterised by phases of expansion and contraction. During the anarchist

wave, anarchist and nationalist groups employed similar tactics and even shared training, highlighting the interconnectivity and influence among different terrorist ideologies. Diaspora communities became significant contributors to militant groups. This wave highlighted the counterproductive nature of political assassinations, leading to a notable reduction in such actions during the second wave. Diasporas would go on to demonstrate capabilities previously unseen in the second wave. Irish rebels in the 19th century benefited from financial support, arms, and volunteers provided by the characterised by a mis- state entities. -- Cour-

The kidnapping and murder of former Italian

Moro by the Red Brigades in 1979 marked a significant moment in the third wave, underlining the continued importance of kidnapping as a tactic. Between 1968 and 1982, the world witnessed 49 international kidnapping incidents involving 951 hostages, religious doctrines. Adforcing companies to inthe technology of the sure their executives against kidnappings. This wave also saw renewed efforts in political assassinations. The IRA and its offshoots were of individuals rejecting responsible for killing two British ambassadors in 1976 and 1979, Lord and of unsuccessful attempts on the lives of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Additionally, the Black September assassinated Jordan's prime minister in 1971. It was during this wave that the term 'international terrorism' became widespread, as militant groups engaged in claimed a "war that coordinated attacks, kidnappings, hijackings. In Latin

terrorist acts aimed at American interests. Despite the eventual defeat of revolutionary terrorists by the end of the third wave, international counterterrorism cooperation faced challenges, evidenced by instances like France's refusal to extradite suspects from the PLO, Red Brigade, and ETA to West Germany, Italy, and Spain, respectively. However, efforts to enhance global colinternational, including UN, conventions from prohibiting hijacking and terrorism hostage-taking. Irish-American commu- interpretation of religion tesy Dawn

America and the Middle

third of all international

as a dominant factor, with militant groups leveraging the internet for reprime minister Aldo cruitment, radicalisation, and fundraising. They have also mastered the use of social media platforms to disseminate sophisticated propaganda. This wave stands apart from its predecessors, driven not by political ambitions but by a distorted interpretation of vocates of religiously motivated terrorism contend that the eradication of perceived evil justifies the use of militancy. Events such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iranian Revolution pla-yed a role in propelling religious fundamentalism into prominence, whereas groups like the Tamil Tigers attempted to maintain a secular image.

In 1901, president Roosevelt rallied for a crusade to eliminate terrorism globally, and a century later, in September 2001, president George W. Bush prowould continue until every terrorist group with global reach had been identified, halted, East, the US emerged as and defeated". This a primary target, with a repetition of resolve over a century later underscores the necessity for major powers to understand why history has repeated itself and why they failed to create history. The critical question now is whether the current wave, driven primarily by religious motivation, will persist or conclude by 2025. The global nature of terrorism calls for enhanced international collaboration, including the eslaboration against terror- tablishment of MOUs, ism led to the signing of mutual legal assistance, and extradition treaties, as crucial mea-1970 to 1999, aimed at sures for combating The minimising the influfourth wave has been ence of violent non-

Commerce News

Pakistan to become largest Muslim economy in 10 years: Dr Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE (APP): Former Gulf region are major has to be kept higher than caretaker federal minister markets for Pakistani the inflation rate, and at Dr. Gohar Ejaz said on Monday that Pakistan would be the largest economy of Muslim Ummah during the next ten

Addressing business community here at Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Office, he said that Pakistan has opened the doors of trade to China, UAE and other countries. "We are aiming to increase the country's exports up to USD 100 billion and we have brought the dollar rate from Rs 340 to Rs 280. We have worked hard and opened the doors of trade to China, UAE and other countries," he mentioned.

Gohar Ejaz said that China, America and the

years, no raw materials would go out of Pakistan. He said that Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) had increased from USD two billion to USD 7.2 billion during July 2022 to June 2023. "The imports we had banned through LCs (Letters of Credit), had been reaching Pakistan through ATT, and the high US dollar rate against rupee was mainly due to ATT. Out of USD 7.2 billion ATT, we had banned USD 3 billion products/imports. As soon, we clarified the ATT policy, the US dollar rate went down significantly i.e from Rs 340 to Rs 280,"

he claimed. He mentioned that usually, the interest rate

the inflation rate, and at products, asserting that a that time, the inflation rate policy has also been was 28 percent but the last formulated that after three caretaker government had contained the interest rate at 22 percent which was then also objected by the IMF. He said that 50 percent of employment opportunities in the country were created by the private sector.

FPCCI's job is to formulate policies and it should have economists to help guide the government. he suggested and added that the FPCCI should form a panel of five big economists who make a ten-year industry vision for the government.

The FPCCI Regional Chairman Zaki Ejaz, former caretaker provincial minister SM Tanveer, FPCCI Vice President Zain Iftikhar.



hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistani experts praise 'Two Sessions' for propelling global economic stability

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani Net that the strategic experts have lauded the discussions held during the significance of the "Two Sessions" in fostering global economic stability in the context of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. They believe

that the foreign policies and incentives for foreigners in China during these sessions are pivotal in enhancing economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development in the region.

Muhammad Asghar, a Pakistani journalist in China told China Economic President Xi Jinping closing ceremonies.

for the rights of the agrar-

ians, has congratulated all

the new federal and provin-

cial governments, express-

ing the hope that they

would give due importance

to the agriculture sector

which was confronting

here the other, presided by

Mahmood Nawaz Shah,

also drew the government's

attention towards the prob-

lems which required their

immediate attention and ac-

tion, according to a press

A meeting of the SAB

myriads of problems.

Two Sessions serve as a platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China, paving the way for mutually beneficial partnerships that contribute to global economic stability.

"I feel honored to attend the CPPCC Spokesperson briefing held ahead of Two Seasons in 2024. I'm attending different meetings and briefings during the sixday Two Sessions. I will focus on jointly building

build a community with a shared future. I'm lucky that I witnessed the previous five to six Two Sessions during my assignments which I have good experience of it", he stated. He further said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a flagship project of jointly

building the Belt and Road Initiative. Several projects have been completed in Pakistan under CPEC. "I am also looking forward to attending Foreign Minister Wang Yi media interaction the Belt and Road Initiative and also opening and

Progress not possible without justice in society: Dr Asif Jah

DG KHAN (APP): institution was established Federal Tax Ombudsman in 2000 with the Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah fundamental objective of Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah said on Monday that progress is not possible without justice in the adding that our department society because delaying is resolving complaints of justice is tantamount to denying justice.

He expressed these views while addressing a gathering organized by the Dera Ghazi Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Gymkhana Club

He said that the Ombudsman is striving hard to address complaints of consumers as the basic purpose of our institution is to respect taxpayers and remote areas of the solve their issues country. immediately.

Ombudsman said that our Ghazi Khan in this regard.

promptly addressing taxpayers' complaints, thousands of taxpayers every year. He further said that last year, more than 9,000 applicants were resolved within 45 days. while complaints from

He said that our institution has initiated an awareness campaign under the Outreach Programme in

more than 12,000 applicants this year would

also be addressed without

nediately. The campaign, he The Federal Tax said had started from Dera



honey from boxes placed roadside fields in the Farmers urge government to stem inflation

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). **PARC** organises workshop on promoting climate smart agriculture

KARACHI: Pakistani stockbroker monitors the

share prices during a trading session at the

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday organized a workshop on agriculture research is promoting climate-smart crucial in addressing the agricultural research in

together participants from food production and various national and

international research organizations, said a press release issued here. Addressing the workshop. Chairman PARC, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, reiterated that climate smart challenges posed by rapidly changing climatic conditions The event brought and to ensure sustainable agricultural resilience

RCCI inks MoU with **WELDO** RAWALPINDI (APP)

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked Understanding (MoU) with Memorandum

Empowerment Literacy Development Organization (WELDO)here on

President Mr. Saqib Rafiq, on behalf of RCCI and Manager Finance Mr. Jmer Waqas from WELDO inked and exchanged the MOU documents.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq assured all kinds of support, close cooperation assistance through the chamber platform.

He said that the prime focus and mission of WELDO was to provide impartial returns and reintegration services to returnees coming back to Pakistan through health, social, economic, and psychosocial support measures

in input cost, regulate seed quality statement. The Board's hanced overnight and the HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB), a group lobbying members from different districts expressed their deep concern on increasing prices of inputs and irregularity in selling of fertilizers.

They pointed out that the price of urea, which was the highest used fertilizer in Pakistan, was rising every other month, having witnessed a hike from Rs2,900 a bag to Rs4,649 in the last 12 months. The farmers claimed that urea was not available even at the inflated price of Rs4,649 a bag in most of the areas.

The SAB complained that the prices were en-

companies and their dealers make billions of rupees in additional income by selling the old stock at the new rates. They told that during the outgoing winter sowing season the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of a bag of urea was Rs3,650 but the dealers used to extort between Rs4,500 to Rs5,400 for a bag from the growers.

"According to the SAB's estimates, the fertilizer companies and their dealers minted between Rs 60 to Rs70 billion over and above the MRP in the last 6 months alone," the state-

The Board urged the government to strictly regulate the prices of urea and to bring an order to the urea business. The growers com-

plained that the prices of DAP, potash, pesticides, other nutrients and fuel were also rising day by day without any check and

The SAB maintained that the ceaseless artificial inflation in the prices of the agricultural inputs was not only harming the farmers, but the people who use or consume the agricultural

produce were also being to pay exorbitant prices.

The board said by regulating the input prices the government could not only prevent the agricultural economy but the public at large which was reeling from historically high inflation.

The agriculturists at the meeting also highlighted the issues pertaining to quality and availability of the

seeds of various crops. They said non-availability of quality seed continued to be one of the major stumbling blocks to en-

hancing the yields.

Peace, security top priority: Amin Gandapur

Gandapur, stated on in the region. He also actions, but reform is our Monday that peace and security will be the top priority of his government, with no compromise to be

Speaking to the media Charsadda, he emphasized that the police force would be provided with necessary financial resources on a priority basis. He assured that the police would be ensured provision of vehicles and equipment.

He highlighted that

Management Company.

Independent Report

LAHORE: The Emergency

Services Department

(ESD) responded to 1274

Road Traffic Crashes

(RTCs) in all 37 districts

of Punjab during the last

people died, whereas 1274

were injured. Out of these,

610 people with serious

injuries were shifted to

different hospitals, while

injuries were treated at the

incident site by Rescue

Medical Teams thus

reducing the burden of

24 hours.

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R)

Rizwan Qadeer leading awareness walk about

06 dead, 1378 injured

in 1274 road traffic

crashes in Punjab

In these RTCs, 06 drivers, 160 pedestrians,

768 victims with minor reported in Lahore which

The majority (73%) and at third Gujranwala

involved Motorbikes, with 88 RTCs and 87

effective victims.

enforcement of traffic laws

and lane discipline are

essential to reduce the

increasing number of road

analysis showed those 667

drivers, 58 underage

and 557 passengers were

among the victims of road

that 252 RTCs were

affected 280 persons

placing the Provincial

Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad

115 in with 142 victims

The statistics show

Furthermore, the

traffic crashes.

traffic crashes

mentioned that the reduction in poverty, provision of employment opportunities to people, and uplift of weaker sections are the second important priorities of the provincial government. Furthermore, he stated that construction development

clarified that when he bravery and sacrifices talked about reforms in the of the police in the line police, it should not be of duty

third important priority.

Minister of Khyber prosperity are not possible emphasized, "We do not Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandanur and perceived as a threat. He emphasized, "We do not without peace and security believe in the control of the contr

duty.

Tuesday March 05, 2024

He expressed the desire for a system where no one can commit violence or injustice against anyone else, aiming for a better and fair system for the coming generations. Earlier, he offered condolences to the family of martyred SP Ijaz Khan in Sherpao village infrastructure will be the Charsadda and met with the children of the The Chief Minister martyred. He praised the

Six power pilferers booked in Sargodha

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

Three killed, two injured on road

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



Chaudhary Muhammad Akram keenly viewing Science & Arts Exhibition of Punjab College of Commerce.

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

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

Among Rs. 159 billion, Rs. 40 billion

rupees are reserved for ongoing developmental schemes under Annual Development Program. While Rs. 118 billion are earmarked for running

The motion was put to vote and was passed with majority Meanwhile, leader of

expenditure.

opposition, Dr. Ibadullah rejected the move over arguments that cabinet is not formed and such passage is illegal.

ANF recovers 128 kg drugs in five operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-

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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division. Engineer Aamir Khattak on Monday said and that all-out efforts would be made to provide relief their constructive role to to the people and all the welfare projects of the city would be completed within stipulated time frame.

The Commissioner along with Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khurram Geelani chaired an introductory meeting with the newly elected 23 Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of Punjab elected from

Rawalpindi Division. He said all the welfare projects of the city would be completed in time along with elected members of provincial assembly.

"Our commitment is

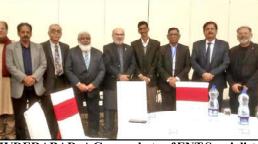
political leaders," the Commissioner said.

The administration the representatives would play solve the problems of the people, he added.

Engr. Aamir Khattak said that the primary responsibility of the administration is to serve the people.

The suggestions of the newly elected members of the provincial assembly would also be utilized for the completion of all the projects including Rawalpindi Ring Road and Dadocha projects, Commissioner informed.

He said that practical stens would be taken in the light of the orders of to provide relief to the Punjab Chief Minister people with the help of the Maryam Nawaz.



HYDERABAD: A Group photo of ENT Specialists with Pakistan society of otorhinolaryngologist Sindh (PSORL)Prof, Atif Hafiz.

Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

KARACHI (APP): A twomember delegation of the Germany-based Deutsche Welle (ĎW) international broadcaster visited the University of Karachi on Mon-

The DW Director of Programs for Asia, Debarati Guha, and the Head of the Urdu Department Adnan Ishaq visited the KU Radio station and the TV newsroom established in the KU Department of Mass Communication along with the KU Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the chairperson MCD Dr Asmat Ara and other faculty members

They appreciated the television and radio labs and production work of the stu- would like to give them a want to promote a culture earlier we were ahead in ra-

dents. Dr Asmat Ara briefed the DW delegation about the daily radio bulletin on-aired by the KU MCD Radio 90.6 and students working on different projects in the TV news

Earlier, speaking to the students and faculty members of various departments of the varsity, at the Jinnah Auditorium of the Dr A.O. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Debarati Guha informed that DW, stationed in Bonn, Germany, aims to engage with young journalism students and provide them with valuable insights into DW's work in Asia.

She said that they

perspective on journalistic ethics and standards, and would like to discuss constructive journalism and opportunities at Deutsche Welle. According to her, DW gets around 1.5 billion people views from different parts of the world in a month and she shared that DW focuses on promoting democratic values and traditions, free trade, justice, and cultural values.

She mentioned that they strive to be unbiased in broadcasts and provide unbiased analysis and mentioned that DW is providing programs in different 11 languages in Asia. "We trv to prioritize youth in our broadcasts and content, we

of dialogue in society and our target group is mostly Debarati Guha said

that DW is not present in Iran and China due to media censorship issues, whereas in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India they face the same issues as the native media outlets, on the other hand, they have not faced any problem during covering topics in Jakarta, Indonesia. She claimed that DW iournalists meet international standards everywhere in the world.

She observed that the work of the media is not to solve problems but to point them out. She added that

dio but now radio is slowly disappearing. We produce programs in 32 languages worldwide and operate with over 4,000 employees around the globe with people of 150 nationalities and have offices in 18 countries around the world.

On this occasion, the VC Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that the local media also needs to ensure training and implementation of ethics We have tried our best to keep the communication department updated with the help of technology and advanced curriculum. He informed the audience that KII MCD has also introduced a course related to social media marketing.

International News

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

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

Monitoring Desk MONTREAL: A soiree concerns, the event was to be attended by the cancelled, prime ministers of Ghass-abeh, a spokes-Canada and Italy on Saturday in Toronto was cancelled over "security concerns", the Canadian leader's office said, as pro-Palestinian protesters picketed the venue. Hundreds of pro-

Palestinian demonstrators had gathered in front ers' summit in Italy in of the Art Gallery of June. Ontario, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was due to host his Italian counterpart Giorgia what Meloni described as Meloni, according to Čanadian media reports.

person for the Cana-dian prime minister's office, said without giving furwhose country holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, is visiting Canada ahead of a lead

Earlier in the day, the two leaders held talks where they discussed

S. Korean doctors rally as healthcare standoff escalates

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: Thousands of South Korean doctors protested on Sunday in Seoul in an escalating standoff with the government over medical training reforms, which has seen junior doc-

ing hospitals into chaos.

tors quit en masse, plung-Around 10,000 junior doctors quit and stopped working nearly two weeks ago to protest hikes to

medical school admissions

from next year meant to combat shortages and an ageing society.

The striking professionals have defied a Feb 29 government deadline for them to return to work or face legal action, including possible arrests or suspensions of their medical licenses. The protestors wore black masks and waved signs saying: "We oppose the medical school admissions increase'

Bangladesh **Nobel winner** fears for future as woes mount

DHAKA (AFP/APP) Bangladesh Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus says it is a "million-dollar question" why the prime minister hates him, but says many believe she sees him as a political threat.

Yunus, 83, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty with his pioneering microfinance bank but has earned the enmity of long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Australia commences building of air traffic control system for uncrewed flights

CANBERRA (Xinhua/ APP): The Australian government has commenced the building of an air traffic control system for drones ahead of an expected surge in uncrewed flights. Government

agency Airservices Australia on Monday announced that it has appointed Australasian branch of international air traffic control company Frequentis to develop a world-leading Flight Information Management System (FIMS) to safely integrate millions of drone flights into the country's airspace.

Haley beats Trump in first Republican primary in Washington DC

WASHINGTON (Online): Nikki Haley has become the first woman to win a Republican primary following rictory in Washington, DC.

The former ambassador to the United Nations was declared the winner late on Sunday. The victory offers a small boost to her campaign, but former United States President Donald Trump retains a huge lead in the race to become the Republican candidate in November's presidential election.

Trump's only remaining challenger for the nomination won 62.9 percent of the vote in the capital. The controversial former presi-

result handed Haley all 19 delegates at stake.

"It's not surprising that Republicans closest to Washington dysfunction are rejecting Donald Trump and all his chaos," Haley campaign spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said in a statement. However, the GOP

appears ready to look past that chaos, which includes numerous legal cases, including efforts to brand Trump ineligible to run in November. Haley faces near-im-

possible odds in her quest to win the Republican nomination to take on likely Democratic nominee President Joe dent took 33.2 percent. The Biden in November.

Iran conservatives secure bulk of seats in elections

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iranian conservatives secured the bulk of seats in elections for a key clerical body and the national legislature, local media reported on Sunday, estimating a record low turnout. Authorities were still counting ballots two days after Friday's vote for members of parliament and for the Assembly of Ex-

perts, which selects the Is-

lamic republic's supreme

leader. The election, in

barred many hopefuls from running, took place with Iran suffering a severe economic crisis deepened by

international sanctions. The official IRNA news agency put the turnout at around "41 per cent" among 61 million eligible voters. No official figure had yet been announced. The reformist daily Shargh predicted the next parliament would be "in the hands of radical conservatives" who "took advantage of the opportunity created by which a vetting process the low participation".

Indian police hunt more suspects in gang rape of Spanish tourist

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

couple were camping.

A total of seven men are accused of carrying out the brutal assault.

'We have formed a team to hunt the remaining suspects," senior local police officer Pitamber Singh Kherwar told AFP.

On Sunday, three accused were seen being escorted into court with sacks on their heads by police officers holding ropes tied around their waists

by significant margins and is expected to increase his lead in this week's Super Tuesday races, which will see 15 states vote.

Despite the small and symbolic victory in DC, the primaries later this week are thought likely to test the former South Carolina governor's determination to fight on.

Trump's campaign

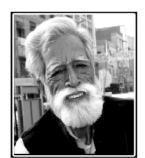
eight nominating contests after Sunday's vote was declared, sarcastically congratulating her on being named "Queen of the Swamp by the lobbyists and DC insiders that want to protect the failed status quo". "Tonight's results in Washington DC reaffirm the object of President Trump's campaign – he will drain the swamp and put America

added. The US Supreme Court is expected on Monday to rule on an earlier decision by the Colorado Supreme Court that disqualified Trump from running for president.

Referring to the Janu-6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol, the Colorado court invoked a Civil War constitutional provision preventing those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

CONDOLENCE —

the statement



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad

demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Sardar Abid Aleem

Publisher and Chief Editor of

Daily Millat, Faisalabad

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



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Senate unanimously passed resolution in favour of innocent Palestinians

Senator

gathered to take aid. This

issue is relevant to human-

for the sake of humanity,

said that one child is being

killed every 15 minutes in

Palestine and around

10,000 children have been

said that we hold the first

rally in Karachi in solidar-

ity with the innocent

people of Palestine. We

should boycott Israeli prod-

be taken at the government

Senator Khalida Ateeb

he added.

killed so far.

Senators of all political parties on Monday during the Senate Session unanimously passed the resolution that was moved against the Israeli force's massacre of the innocent people of Palestine.

Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan presented the resolution which stated that the Israeli army carried out a brutal massacre on 29th February 2024, on innocent and unarmed Palestinians who were gathered to receive aid (food supplies, medicine, etc.) as a result hundreds of Palestinians were murdered in cold

The resolution further stated that the people of Palestine are already being starved due to the blockade from the International Community by the Israeli

recommends and urges the International Community to take action such that the siege of Gaza be lifted immediately and Muslim countries be allowed all access and cover for delivery of aid" it added.

Dr Afnan Ullah Khan criticized the weak stance of the international community for not practically helping the innocent Palestinians. Meanwhile, Senator Pulwasha Muhammad Zai Khan highlighted that Israeli forces not only killing innocent Palestinian people but also making fun of the martyrs by capturing their pictures.

Senator Faisal Javed informed the upper house that around 01 million are ucts and this step should affected in Ghaza due to the infectious disease.

They are not being Senator Taj Haider

Bhutto decided to use our other necessary things. Kamran resources for the betterment Murtaza said that today, of Muslim countries and he united the Muslim countries again hundreds of innocent but unfortunately, he was people of Palestine have

been martyred who were hanged. He urged the government and masses to stay ity and it should be ended within your resources to get rid of foreign loans, adding that only this way we can Senator Aon Abbas get honor in the world.

Senator Mohsin Aziz said that we should probe the issues within the Muslim Ummah as without resolving these issues, we cannot make progress and stand at the international level with honor.

Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand said that Palestinian-injured Children were being operated on without anesthesia which is so painful that a

Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz Sharif paid a visit

School Wadhat Colony

here on Monday. She

quietly sat with the

students in the class, which

surprised and pleased the

students upon seeing the

CM among them. An Urdu

revision test was being

conducted in the eighth

class; the CM asked the

students about the titles of

their essays. She sat with

a student Noor Fatima at

her desk and conversed

with her. Maryam

Nawaz praised the

student for giving the

spokesman said on Monday.

spices, milk and beverages.

correct answer.

Secondary

CM Maryam surprises

students with unannounced

visit to Govt Pilot School

classrooms clean upon

seeing an empty wrapper

and asked the teacher to

continue with the test and

teaching work. She

inquired from the students

about their issues and

necessities; to which the

improvement in the library, lab and

arrangements for events in

examination centers for the

tenth-grade board exams

and quietly inspected the

examination process. She

stopped officials from

USC to launch Rs 7.5 b PM's Ramazan

Relief Package today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Store Corporation (USC) is all set to launch Rs 7.5

billion Prime Minister's Ramazan Relief Package 2024 on Tuesday (March 5).

The prime minister had announced a special subsidy of Rs 7.5 billion to provide

edible items to the people subsidized prices during the holy month of Ramazan, a USC

including flour, ghee, edible oil, sugar, pulse gram, white gram, besan, dates, rice, tea

Under the package, he said, the USC would give subsidy on 19 basic food items.

disturbing the students.

The CM encouraged where glasses of the also present.

The CM visited the

demanded

students

the school.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab the students to keep their



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

classroom doors were

broken and the walls were

damp. She went to the

library, biology lab and

school stadium and

directed to improve it.

Maryam Nawaz took

photos with the position

holders of board games and

gave them autographs.
The CM also took a

group photo at the request

of the school staff; noted

her impressions in the

visitor's book and appreciated the interaction

Former senator Pervez Rasheed, assembly

Secretary Education

call for consensus to

ensure uniform policy

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Special Secretary Ministry

of Federal Education and

Professional Training Mr

Mohyuddin Wani has said

that a consensus should be

reached with all the stake-

holders to ensure that a uni-

form policy on education

can be made which ad-

dresses the need of the hour. He was chairing a high

level meeting of National

Advisory Committee to formulate National Educa-

tion Policy took place on

holders including the health

ministry should also be

added in this forum. He said

that the policy has to be all

encompassing and should

address all facets of skill

education, vocational and

professional training.

He said that all stake-

with the students.

The CM visited other member Sania Ashiq, chief

sections of the eighth class secretary and others were

She also visited the

sports room.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visiting a Primary School

Launch of Dr. Maleeha Lodhi's book "Pakistan: Search for Stability" at ISSI



Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies ISSI Ambassador Sohail Islamabad (ISSI), orgatiltled "Pakistan: Search for Stability", edited by Dr. Maleeha Lodhi. Two other contributors to the book—Mr. Zahid Hussain, a prominent journalist; and Dr. Dushka Saiyid, a former professor of History at QAU—were also present. The event was attended by eminent members of foreign and civil services, academia, civil society, media, and the

Islamabad. During her initial remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of CSP, underscored the importance of Dr. Lodhi's book, which delves into the complexities of Pakistan's policy formulation in its pursuit of stability. Dr. Nigar stated that this book has the po-

diplomatic corps in

people's understanding of the crucial subject-matter that it addresses. In his welcoming address, DG Maleeha Lod experience and valuable contributions to Pakistan throughout her long public career, including as an accomplished political scientist, journalist, and diplo-

He also commended the other 18 eminent contributors to the book. analysing Pakistan's history, politics, economy, society and foreign relations from their respective academic, professional and practitioners' viewpoint and proposing a practical way forward.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that Dr. Lodhi's latest book builds upon her previous work and explores Pakistan's pursuit of stability amidst its current challenges, outlining the requisite solutions as

tential to greatly enhance well as strategies. Dr. Sharif recognizes efforts

of Motorway Police's in

ensuring road safety



Independent Report ISLAMBAAD: In a meaningful and appreciative meeting at Central Police Office National Highways and Motorway Police between Inspector General Salman Chaudhry and Dr. Sharif Saadullah Khan.

Dr. Sharif is serving in USA and Canada as bone marrow transplant specialist and hematologist for the past 25 years. Dr. Sharifis among the world's famous and most competent doctors.

Dr. Sharif's recognition of the Motorway Police's efforts in ensuring road safety on Pakistan's highways and motorways, as well as his gesture of gifting six thousand multi-purpose gloves, demonstrates the importance of collaboration and acknowledgment of those working diligently

to improve public safety. The acknowledgment from a renowned doctor like Dr. Sharif Saadullah Khan

adds weight to the commendable work being done by the Motorway Police. It's heartening to hear that their efforts are being recognized not only domestically but also internationally, indicating the impact they are making in ensuring safer journeys for commuters. Inspector General Salman Chaudhry's emphasis on the Motorway Police's commitment to prioritizing commuter safety and their success in reducing accident rates reflects a dedication to their mission. Their focus on providing moral support and assistance to travelers during difficult journeys further highlights their commitment to serving the pub-

lic beyond just law enforce-

ment duties. Overall, this

meeting underscores the

importance of collaboration

and recognition in foster-

ing a culture of safety and

UN Chief congratulates Shehbaz on becoming PM

number of issues.

tional Assembly elected Shehbaz Sharif as the Leader of the House by 201 votes, defeating Omar Ayub of the Sunni Ittehad Council.

Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the post of Prime Minster of Pakistan and we look forward to continuing cooperation with the country on a wide array of issues," Stephane Dujarric, the UN Chief's spokesperson, said in an email to APP

Ramazan to commence on March 12;

weather expert ISLAMABAD (APP): A weather expert Jawad Memon on Monday said Ramazan in Pakistan was expected to commence on March 12. Memon, speaking to a private news channel, disclosed that the moon for Ramazan is slated to appear on March 10, but visibility will only be feasible on March 11. "The first Taraweeh will be observed on the night of March 11,' he asserted, indicating the beginning of the spiritual gatherings preceding the first day of fasting.

LHC moved to remove Sanjrani as Senate chairman

AHORE (INP): Lahore High Court (LHĆ) on Monday moved to remove the Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani from his post.

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

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif after he was sworn-in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, saying he was looking forward to working with him on a

On Sunday, the Na-

"We congratulate

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik inaugurate Spring Thaw 2024" National SimEx Conference at NDMA Headquarters. **Chairman Senate** congratulates newly elected body of APNS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Monday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS).

The chairman expressed his best wishes to the newly elected APNS President Naaz Afrin Sehgul Lakhani, Secretary General Sarmad Ali, Senior Vice President Imtan Shahid, Vice President Muhammad Aslam Qazi, Joint Secretary Syed Muhammad Munir Jilani and Finance Secretary Shahab Zubiri among other newly elected officials.

the newly elected officials of APNS, hoped that the newly body would play an active role in promoting the welfare of journalists and high values in jour-

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani further said that APNS had played an important role in maintaining journalistic values, promoting freedom of expression and freedom of media in Pakistan. He said that the lead-

ership of APNS would play its key role to uphold the values of a free and responsible journalism.

12 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 12 outlaws including four professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a public relations officer said

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

He said that it should include a comprehensive strategy and an actionable plan to progressively diminish and ultimately eliminate the number of out of school children (OOSC)

Monday.

within next five years. Si multaneously, implement a program for mainstreaming. TVET education with flexibility for students to

transition into alternate technical streams.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad presides over the inaugural meeting session during the five-day study visit of the Ugandan delegation led by Aggrey David Kibenge, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda held at BISP Headquarters.

Asad Qaiser demands judicial commission investigate cipher case

cial inquiry into the cipher

the former NA speaker stated, "Our position on the cipher case is clear: we demand a judicial commission is formed and the truth will come out." The cipher case revolves around a diplomatic cable that the Federal Investigation Agency alleges was never returned by the PTI founder and the former for-founder. The PTI has long eign minister, Shah maintained that the docu-

ISLAMABAD (INP) - ment contained a threat PTI leader Asad Qaiser on from the US to oust the Monday demanded a judi- PTI founder as the prime minister of Pakistan.

Asad Qaiser recalled Speaking on the floor that an extremely hostile atof the National Assembly, titude had been adopted towards Pakistan's ambassador in Washington. Pointing to the law-

makers sitting on the treasury benches, Qaiser asserted that all of them had called the cipher "false", but later on, the same diplomatic cable was used as a tool to punish the PTI eign minister, Shah Mehmood Oureshi



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

WAPDA Chairman visits Diamer-Basha Dam, Dasu **Hydropower Projects**

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) 2028. WAPDA had suc-cessfully diverted mighty River Indus at Dasu Hydro-Chairman Engineer Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sajjad Ghani visited the Diamer-Basha Dam and Hydropower Dasu projects' teams to accelerate the construction work so that both projects could be completed in accordance

with their timelines The WAPDA spokesman told media here Monday that electricity generation from Dasu Hydropower Project is scheduled in 2026 whereas Diamerscheduled for completion in present on the occasion.

River Indus at Dasu Hydropower Project in February 2023 and at Diamer Basha Dam in December 2023.

In the first leg, he said, Projects, directed the the WAPDA Chairman reached Diamer-Basha Dam and reviewed construction work on the left and right abutments of the dam, diversion canal, guide wall, upstream and downstream coffer (temporary) dams and permanent bridge. CEO Diamer Basha Dam Company, GM/PD Diamer-Basha Dam Project, the consultants Basha Dam Project is and the contractors were

ICP ensuring foolproof security arrangements in **High Security Zone**

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

and fancy number plates from 7,866 vehicles, im-pounded 422 vehicles without documents and



the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is using all available resources to ensure the peace and tranquility within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Capital Police ensured data registration, identification documents and effective search of citizens entering the high security zone on a regular basis. Moreover, action against 1491 vehicles and 432 motorcyclists over traffic rules violations on various checkpoints of high security zone was also taken.

During the last week, the Islamabad Capital Police removed tinted glasses

took action against 4,114 vehicles that violated traffic rules. Strict directions have been issued to police officers and officials performing their duties in high security zone checkpoints to exercise their duty with full responsibility.

The protection of important public and private property and embassies located in the high security zone is of paramount importance. The police officials

were further directed to ensure the data entry of all citizens entering the high security zone, the identification documents should be thoroughly scrutinized, all suspicious vehicles should be searched and a positive attitude should be taken towards the public