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Vol. XIV No. 55 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Thursday March 07, 2024, Shaban 25, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Conditions of fair trial not fulfilled in Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's trial: SC

SC opinion on Bhutto's trial sets a new history and tradition: PM; Bilawal terms SC opinion on Presidential reference on ZAB case as historic

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday ob- ments of the fundamental served that the conditions right to a fair trial and due reflect upon the proceedof fair trial and due process was not met in trial of ticles 4 and 9 of the Con- and death sentence of PPP's founder Zulifkar Ali stitution. "The Constitu-Bhutto in murder case of Muhammad Ahmed Khan Kasuri. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the majority

The CJP said that judges were to decide cases impartially.

There should be selfaccountability within the jurisdiction under Article judiciary as the judiciary cannot progress without admitting its past errors.

In its five pages written order, the top court gave opinion on questions raised in the presidential

It stated, "The proceedings of the trial of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by the Lahore High Court (LHC)

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Pa-

kistan to Myanmar, Imran Haider, calls on Presi-

COAS visits HIT Taxila

to attend launching

Haider Tank

Chief of Army Staff in the domain of tank war-

dent Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

RAWALPINDI (APP):

(COAS), General Syed

Asim Munir on Wednesday

visited Heavy Industries

Taxila (HIT) as chief guest

at the rollout ceremony of

HAIDER tank (Pilot

tended by Ambassador of

the Peoples Republic of

China, key officials of Chi-

nese state company NORINCO, high offi-

cials of Government of

Pakistan & Pakistan

Army, and various military

and civilian officials of HIT,

an Inter Services Public

Relations (ISPR) news re-

HIT unveiled its new Tank

HAIDER, which has been

indigenously manufactured

in collaboration with

NORINCO China and vari-

ous industries of Pakistan.

During the ceremony,

The ceremony was at-

tion and the law do not Dictator General Zia Ul provide a mechanism to set

Haq.

The reference was filed whereby Bhutto was convicted and sentenced; the

said judgment attained fi-

the review petition by this

Court," it said.

It said, "In its advisory 186 of the Constitution, this Court cannot reappraise the evidence and undo the decision of the case. However, in our detailed reasons, we shall identify the major constitutional and legal lapses that had occurred with respect to fair trial and due

The court said, "The

and impressive capability

fare having remarkable fire-

power, protection and ma-

the-art advanced technolo-

gies, HAIDER stands as a

testament to Pakistani de-

fence industry's relentless

pursuit of excellence in de-

in detail about the technical

capabilities of the HAIDER

tank and the progress being

made in achieving

indigenization in arms and

workforce in successful

achievement of another

Earlier on arrival, the

technological milestone.

The COAS was briefed

fence innovation.

Crafted with state-of-

noeuvre characteristics.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and of the appeal by the reference filed by the Presi-cordance with the Consti-SC do not meet the requiredent of Pakistan has provided us an opportunity to process enshrined in Ar- ings of the trial, conviction Bhutto, under the regime of

> during the government of the political party founded by Bhutto but the successive nality after the dismissal of governments of other major political parties carried forward this inquiry and did not opt to withdraw the ref-

> > This collective interest reflects the widespread desire of the people of Pakistan to seek the opinion of this Court on whether Bhutto was afforded a fair trial and due process for his trial for the murder of Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Khan Kasuri.

It said, "In the course of performing our core duty to administer justice 'in ac-

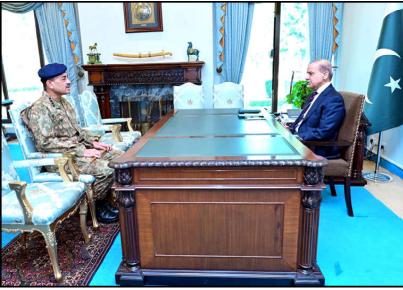
PM, Army

tution and the law', we (judges) are bound to 'do dition. He congratulated right to all manner of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, people, according to law, President-designate Asif without fear or favour, af-Ali Zardari, PPP leaderfection or ill-will. We must, ship and workers for the Supreme Court's observatherefore, be willing to confront our past missteps tion that former Prime and fallibilities with humil-Minister Zulfigar Ali ity, in the spirit of self-ac-Bhutto did not get a fair countability, and as a testament to our commitment "It is not possible to to ensure that justice shall

correct the past mistake but by admitting the seribe served with unwavering integrity and fidelity to the ous mistake, a new history law. We cannot correct ourand a new tradition have selves and progress in the been set," the prime minright direction until we acister remarked in a stateknowledge our past mis-He said that rectifica-Meanwhile Prime

tion of an injustice of a court by the court was a positive development.

"The unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court in the Bhutto reference will help understand the history at the national level through the right perspec-Court's opinion on the tive.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir NI (M) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM distributes huge compensation package among recent rains victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Wednesday distributed a huge compensation finan-cial package among victims of the recent torrential rains and flooding of Khyber Pakthunkhwa.

He on behalf of the Federal Government distributed Rs two million cheque among heirs of each deceased and Rs. 500,000 among each injured of the recent torrential rains and floods in different districts of the province including merged tribal districts.

The prime minister handed over the compensation cheques during a function held here at Governor House. It was the first visit of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Khyber Pakthunkhwa after assuming the office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Besides

Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, Members National Assembly, Muhammad Asif, Engr Amir Muqam, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Attaullah Tarar, PML-N Leader Ishaq Dar, former Governor KP, Engr Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, senators, members provincial assemblies, Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik IGP KP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur and relatives of the rains victims were

A total of 40 people including 27 children died and 62 injured during recent torrential rains and floods in Khyber Pakthukhwa.

present on the occasion.

The prime minister dicerned and relevant depart- would be provided for re-

plete the process of disbursement of compensation payment by

March 11. He directed the NDMA and other relevant departments to use helicopters facility for transportation of officials to ensure speedy compilation of estimates of all the destroyed and partially damaged houses in far flung disof Khyber tricts Pakthunkhwa so that the process of compensation package could be completed within said period.

The prime minister said that delay in this regard would be unacceptable and officials failed to achieve their targets would be held accountable.

Shehbaz Sharif anrected the authorities con-nounced that Rs 700,000 ments to complete esti- pair of each destroyed mates of all destroyed and house and Rs 300,000 for partially damaged houses each partially damaged within five days and com- house.

Pakistan desires to expand

The president ex-

Talking to ambassadordesignate to Portugal, the president urged him to work for further strengthening of bilateral trade ties with his host country, adding that Pakistan was ensuring conducive environment for the economic and trade activities. The foreign investors

derlined the need of enhancing political, cultural and people to people contacts between Pakistan and Portugal, besides strengthening of exchanges at the political level. Portuguese IT compa-

nies could benefit from the skilled human resources of Pakistan in the respective sector, he opined.

his meeting with ambassador designate to Myanmar, stressed upon further cementing of bilateral relations between the two coun-



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding recent torrential rains and heavy snowfall and the ongoing rescue and relief activities for the affectees.

ISLAMABAD (Online): The UAE leadership has extended warm wishes and congratulations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on assuming charge of the office of Prime Minster. Those who extended felicitations include Vice President and Prime Minister of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zaved Al Nahvan.

UAE leaders greet Shehbaz on assuming PM's charge

Ruling coalition secure two-third majority in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its ruary 8 elections and nine allies have secured a twothird majority in the National Assembly (NA), following the allocation of re-served seats which were claimed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

The coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which includes the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Mutahida Quomi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Muslim norities, cementing its sta-League-Quaid (PML-Q), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Zia (PML-Z) and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), comprises 229 members in the lower

To gain two-third majority in the 336-seat of national assembly, a government needs the support of 224 lawmakers thereby strengthening the ruling coalition's control over governance and its capability to enact legislative

agendas effectively. one
The PML-N commands on 123 seats in to it.

ruary 8 elections and nine independents who later joined the party.
After the allocation

of 23 reserved seats (17 for women, 4 for minorities), the total reached at Following the election

commission of Pakistan (ECP) ruling on remaining reserved seats, the party clinched 15, out of 20 reserved for women and 1 out of 3 reserved for mitus as the largest party in the national assembly.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) holds 73 seats including 54 general seats, 16 women and another three reserved seats for minorities. Followed by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) with 22 seats, including 17 general seats and five reserved seats — four women and one minority.

Furthermore, PML-Q has obtained five seats including three general, one independent and one seat reserved for women was also allocated

PML-N, PPP make seat to seat adjustment on two seats of senate in Islamabad

forged alliance in Senate polls in Islamabad as the two parties have made seat to seat adjustment on two seats of Senate in federal capital. The technocrat seat from Islamabad will go to

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N while general seat PML-N and PPP have will go to PPP. will go to PPP. Ishaq Dar will be PML-

> seat from Islamabad. According to sources seat to seat adjustment will be made in Punjab, KP and Balochistan as well

N candidate on technocrat

COAS was received by HAIDER embodies cutting-edge technology Chairman HIT.

TAXILA: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) as chief guest at the rollout ceremony of HAIDER tank (Pilot Project).

JUI announces nationwide movement against electoral rigging after Eid

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulama Islam and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have announced separate initiatives to combat election rigging in Pakistan.

JUI-F's head Maulana Fazlur Rehman disclosed plans for a nationwide movement against electoral malpractices, scheduled to commence after Eid-ul-Fitr. The movement, starting from Sindh, will traverse through provinces, culminating in Islamabad, with Fazlur Rehman leading the charge. In parallel, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf declared intentions to form a grand alliance against rigging. Asad Qaiser, a PTI leader, emphasized their commitment to contesting alleged fraudulent mandates, asserting their support for Mahmood Khan Achakzai in the presidential election. This move is seen as a gesture towards Balochistan, aiming to address the region's challenges.

Chief discuss overall security situation ISLAMABAD (Online):

Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Wednesday.

He felicitated Shehbaz Sharif and extended good wishes for him on assuming office of the Prime Min-

During the meeting, views were also exchanged on professional matters of the Pakistan Army and security affairs.

PM completes consultation process with Nawaz on

federal cabinet SLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has completed consultations with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in connection with

federal cabinet. The federal cabinet will take oath after presidential election. There is strong possibility that head of private bank would get the post of finance minister.

The COAS also visited According to sources other manufacturing facili-PM Shehbaz Šharif will seties within the Heavy Inlect his economic team on dustrial Complex and aphis own. Some new faces preciated the commitwill also be included in the ment of the officers and cabinet.

Sources said two ministries have been offered to MQM initially. Faisal Sabzwari and Mustafa Kamal will be included in the cabinet. The final decision will be made by coordination committee today. MQM has demanded

four ministries. ECP uploads Forms 45, 46, 48, 49 on website

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finally uploaded Forms 45. 46, 48, and 49 for national and provincial assembly constituencies on its

website The Election Commission is mandated by Sub-section 10 of Section 95 of the Election Act to upload Form 45 on its website within a 14day timeframe.

In both general elecions and by-elections, Form 45 is consistently cited and scrutinized.

It provides details such as the total number of votes cast, the breakdown of votes obtained by each candidate, and allows candidates to independently verify their vote count from the polling station. Form 46 contains infor-

nation about the number of ballot papers received and extracted from the ballot poxes at the polling station. It also includes figures for challenged, invalid, and canceled ballot papers, along with any legal implications associated with these num-

trade, economic cooperation with friendly countries: Alvi ISLAMABAD (APP): should avail of such busi-President Dr Arif Alvi on ness-friendly environment

Wednesday said that Pakistan desired to expand its trade and economic relations with the friendly countries.

takes, the maintained."

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

on Wednesday congratulat-

ing the leadership and

workers of the Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP), said

that by admitting the mis-

take in Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto's trial, the Supreme

pressed these views during separate meetings with Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Portugal Dr Muhammad Khalid Ejaz and Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Myanmar Imran Haider, who called on him at the Aiwan e Sadr.

in Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.
President Alvi also un-

The president, during

Says PTI not anti-military

Imran endorses army's top brass' statement on May 9 probe

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan endorsed a recent statement issued by the Pakistan Army's top brass in connection with a probe into the May 9 violent attacks and said his party was not

against the military. The Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir in the chair — had a day earlier committed that planners, instigators, abettors, perpetrators, and desecrators of martyrs' monuments and attackers of military installations on May violent protests that broke out following the arrest of the incarcerated PTI founder in a corruption case last year. During an informal in-

teraction with journalists at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, the former prime minister said: "I endorse the declaration of the CCC. Suspects involved in May 9 incidents should be punished severely." Stressing the need for a thorough interrogation into the violent attacks, Khan said that a commission should be formed on the May 9 incidents. In the past, the PTI founder had been blaming the "agencies' men" for ar-9 would certainly be son and shooting in some brought to justice. The areas during the May 9 vio-

May 9 attacks refer to the lent protests. 18-member Punjab cabinet sworn in

LAHORE (APP): An 18-member Punjab cabinet was sworn in during a solemn cer emony at the Governor's House, here on Wednesday. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman administered the oath to the newly-appointed provincial ministers after Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhter Zaman read out the order of appointment of ministers. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz attended the ceremony besides Speaker

Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan and former speaker Rana Muhammad Iqbal. Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership including Khawaja Saad Rafique was also present



Names of the newly-appointed provincial ministers, along with their constituencies, from where they were elected to the Punjab Assembly, are as under: Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman (MPA PP-148), Marriyum Aurangzeb (MPA W-300), Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani (MPA PP-293), Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Kirmani (MPA PP-186), Muhamamd Kazim Pirzada (MPA PP-245), Rana Sikander Hayat (MPA PP-183), Khawaja Imran Nazir (MPA PP-150), Khawaja Salman Rafig (MPA PP-153) Zeeshan Rafique (MPA PP-51), Bilal Akbar Khan (MPA PP-58), Sohaib Ahmed Malik (MPA PP-71), Azma Zahid Bokhari (MPA W-301), Bilal Yasin (MPA PP-174), Ramesh Singh Arora (MPA NM-366), Khalil Tahir (MPA NM-367) Faisal Ayub Khokhar (MPA PP-168), Shafey Hussain (MPAPP-31), and Sohail Shaukat Butt (MPAPP-151). The ceremony was also attended by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwer, senior civil servants, parliamentarians, lawyers, journalists, party workers and members of civil society.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Poor performance

The nation is glad to bid adieu to the caretakers. The day could not have come sooner. Interim governments are supposed to have a limited mandate tailored for the limited time they are given in office. They are expected to keep their head down, keep the country running day-to-day, and provide an enabling environment for the smooth transfer of power within the 90-day deadline set in the Constitution.

As a rule, caretaker governments should be entirely unremarkable and completely forgettable; instead, these last interim governments will be remembered for the controversial legacy they leave behind. They not only overstayed their lawful term, they also wore out their welcome due to several key appointees' unwillingness to keep within their lane. And, by the end of it all, the caretakers somehow managed to leave the country in an even worse shape than it had been when they had taken over.

The period between August 2023 and March 2024 will be remembered for the intensified oppression of already marginalised communities, the uprooting and expulsion of Afghan refugees, the repression of a certain political party, the curtailment and evisceration of democratic norms, possibly the most controversial general election held in recent history, and the reversal of hard-fought digital freedoms. As the country slid deeper and deeper into the abyss, the interim government either stood by and did nothing or made excuses for the various forces responsible for trampling upon the Constitution and abusing the law.

Had the caretakers focused on their task and sought to deliver conscientiously, according to the terms under which they were entrusted with the responsibility, the country may by now have been on the path to healing. For this, there is no forgiveness for the caretakers' failures. The country will continue paying the price for their complacency for a very long time.

Things perhaps may have turned out differently had the country been handed over to leaders with fewer personal ambitions. Alas, some of the caretakers seemed to consider their appointment an opportunity to demonstrate their 'utility'. The prime minister repeatedly gaslighted the victims of state excesses and also demonstrated a knack for doublespeak, especially when confronted with the failings of his government. The IT minister would have nary a clue about the internet restrictions that were enforced willy-nilly under his watch.

The journalist appointed information minister had great difficulty getting along with a free press. There was also the interior minister, who controversially resigned just a month and a half before the elections to contest a seat. To be fair, a few of the appointees did quietly manage to accomplish something positive. Unfortunately, their contributions will not amount to much when this period is reviewed in history. Thankfully, we can now move on.

Berlin's blind spot

Mahir Ali

Thursday March 07, 2024

About 10 days ago, a joint Palestinian-Israeli creative endeavour titled No Other Land, chronicling the struggle for survival in Masafer Yatta comprising a bunch of West Bank — won the best documentary award as well as an audience award at the 74th Berlin International Film Festival, or Berlinale.

Two of the co-directors, Yuval Abraham and Basel Adra, made brief speeches. Adra noted there was little cause for celebration while his compatriots in Gaza were being "slaughtered and massacred", and urged Germany to "stop sending weapons to Israel". Abraham pointed out that while the two of them stood as equals on the Berlinale stage, in a couple of days they would be back in a land where his Palestinian colleague faced institutionalised discrimination. He called for an

this inequality' Both speeches were applauded by the audience, which included Germany's culture minister, Claudia Roth. Following a backlash, mainly from fellow politicians, her office 'clarified' that she had meant to applaud only the speech of the Israeli half of the duo, and Roth posted on social media that the "shockingly one-sided speeches' characterised by a deep

end to "this apartheid,

hatred of Israel" On his way home, Abraham received more than 100 death threats, which prompted him to delay his journey to Jerusalem. In a post on X, he decried the Germans' term that "empties the the media whereby even word antisemitism of the mildest criticism of meaning and thus endangers Jews all over the antisemitism. world", while acknowlian colleague in Masafer Jews, although Muslims Courtesy Dawn

danger than I am".

Berlinale controversies, but they mostly revolved around the same theme. US filmmaker Ben Russell, who won an award for a documentary Palestinian hamlets in the on an unrelated topic, wore a keffiyeh as he accepted his award, and used his remarks to slam the genocide and declare that he stood "for a ceasefire in solidarity with all our comrades". Other award recipients sported 'Ceasefire NOW'

essages on their backs.

Why should any of this even be an issue in a purported European liberal democracy? The continent is broadly united in its support for Israel, but there are significant exceptions to an unquestioning embrace of Zionist brutality — notably Ireland, given its own experience of colonial occupation, but also Spain, and to a small extent even Belgium and France. Germany, on the other hand, is the second most prolific supplier of weaponry after the US, and was one of the first states to criminalise almost every form of solidarity with the Palestinian quest for selfdetermination. It goes back to German guilt over World War II in general and the Holocaust in particular. There were limits to West Germany's de-Nazification, but it sought to cover that up by fulsomely backing the Jewish state that emerged in 1948, partly as a direct consequence of the unspeakably horrific Nazi Judeocide. The trend established by Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer has lately evolved into a stance across the political establishment, cul-'appalling misuse" of a tural organisations and

Israel qualifies The targets include edging that his Palestin- prominent anti-Zionist ten or easily forgiven.

Yatta was "in far greater in Germany bear the brunt of accusations -There were other even though some 90 per cent of antisemitic crimes are attributed to the far right. The Alternative for Germany has faced calls for a ban after it was associated with a gathering that drew up a plan for a mass deportation of immigrants, but even Chancellor Olaf Scholz is not entirely averse to a similar idea

There are concerns that Germany, on its present trajectory, could find itself with the same tendencies of nearly a century ago, but it seems that the fatherland's elite is more focused on serving as a protector for the deformed entity spawned its

dehumanisation of Jews the apogee of European antisemitism across the preceding decades that sparked the Zionist impulse in the first place.

Exceptionally percipient Jewish intellectuals in Europe and including America, Hannah Arendt and Einstein, Albert recognised the moral deficiencies of the Israeli state early on. Their warnings went unheeded. That partly explains the rarely wavering Western devotion to its Middle Eastern colonial outpost, which can get away with mass murder while eliciting barely a murmur from its sponsors, benefactors and collaborators. younger Jews in the US and Europe wake up to the horrors being perpetrated in their name, the

That doesn't help the Gazans sentenced to death or starvation by the descendants of the victims of Nazism. Nor will German complicity in yet another genocide be readily forgot-

dominant fascist ele-

ments of Zionism may be

doomed in the longer

term — as Joe Biden will

probably find out in No-

vember.

Gwadar calamity

Dr Noman Ahmed Weather experts have conserves and protects clusion in the managewarned that a new rain system will strike Balochistan in the next few days. This will increase the extent of damage already caused by the recent bout of torrential rains. Thousands of people in Gwadar and the adjacent areas found themselves without shelter as the intense rainfall rendered their modest homes uninhabitable.

Lanes, access roads, ma-

jor arteries and high-

ways were inundated.

People could be seen

draining the water from

their homes and shops.

Many lost their already

meagre resources. Mass

depression prevailed across neighbourhoods. While various government agencies have sprung into action, it will take a long time and much effort before lives can be rebuilt. One can question how Gwadar is living up to claims of being at the heart of a multimodal development corridor that can turn around Balochistan's country's — fortunes. A sleepy town of less than 350,000 people, it is hard to imagine how largescale regional development can take place to make dreams of national prosperity, on the back

of CPEC, a reality. The existing settleto take the impact of torrential downpours that could become frequent as climate patterns change. High-scale precipitation demands a drainage system that ensures the rapid draining of rainwater. Unfortunately, while Gwadar suffers from the shortage of store rainwater for extended periods.

The concerned authe Gwadar Smart City tion to development. done in collaboration

existing settlements, in- ment of local affairs. troduces critical infrastructure to enhance the quality of life, and upscales livelihoods. The usual practice of identifying large swathes of land for real estate and its clandestine distribudesired relief for Gwadar's residents. If the proposed developordinary and lift them out of poverty, then such development may have little value.

about being removed from self-governance. Whether they are development choices or routine administrative matters, the entire hierarchy of the provincial government, federal agencies and military establishment is involved. Decisions about developbetween establishing in fact, the entire enterprises or retaining traditional boat-making and fishing are made without consulting the local people, their elders or representatives, leading to protests and agi-

As new governments begin to take charge at the centre and ments are not prepared in Balochistan, a different approach to win back the people of Gwadar and the extended area can be considered. A broad-based steering committee should be constituted comprising members of the provincial and national assemblies elders and administration potable water, it does not staff to chalk out a relief, have the capacity to rehabilitation and redevelopment strategy. Ex-

Such a plan will only benefit the people if it revive a sense of local in-

Relief and rehabilitation works can best proceed under conditions of peace in the larger coastal area. For this, various stakeholders can come together to restore the trust of the people. A few tion to favoured stake- tough decisions are reholders will not bring the quired. The incoming regi--me must announce an amnesty for those they see as creating trouble ment process does not The top lea-ders of all the factor in the lives of the political for-ces, within and outside the assemblies, may be invited to dialogue sessions by the provincial government.

The people of The objectives of Gwadar also complain the dialogue must be on striking a working rela-tionship between the government, political parties and tribal elders; developing a roadmap to stop acts of violence through confidencebuilding measures; and the preparation of an agenda of negotiation with the centre. This is viment locations and land tal because there are allocation and the choice many matters over which no provincial government possesses jurisdiction and authority. The attempt may prove futile if the establishment does not show an open approach.

The process of release of political detainees and locating missing individuals can be initiated by the establishment to convince the other side of its sincerity. Besides, dissenting voices in Gwadar and the extended coastal region must not be shrugged off. The best way forward is to provide political space so that a feeling of participation evolves. No from the area, community political group can be a security threat if its concerns are genuinely accommodated in the normal political process. isting plans and projects Fear and danger only can be revised to accom- raise their head when thorities are busy with modate the aspect of di- such groups are denied a saster preparedness. Ex- space where they can Plan meant to give dirececuting the plans must be prove their political worth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Governor SBP inaugurates SAARCFINANCE Seminar

Transformative Potential of Big Data in Economic Policy **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Mr. Jameel Ahmad delivered the inaugural speech at the SAARCFINANCE Seminar on the 'Potential Role of Big Data in Economic Policy. The event, held in Islamabad, brought together distinguished delegates, subject matter experts, and esteemed speakers from the SAARC region to discuss the impact and implications of Big Data in shaping

economic policies. Governor emphasized that the unprecedented volume of data generated by digital devices underscore the

potential of effective data utilization in contributing to sustained economic growth. societal welfare, poverty reduction, and improved living standards across the diverse SAARC region. During his speech, Mr. Ahmad shed light on the growing role of Big Data in central banking, financial inclusion, and how the SBP is incorporating Big Data analysis in policymaking. He also shared specific examples of how the central bank uses Big Data analytics for economic analysis. leveraging satellite imagery data, and harnessing the power of machine learning algorithms for fraud detection and prevention.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people purchasing onion at Vegetable and Fruits Market.

SSCI to take up issue professional tax on jewelry sector

Acting president of the various taxes or bring Sarhad Chamber of them down to a single Commerce and Industry, Sanaullah Khan said SCCI will take up the issue of imposition of professional tax and Point of Sale in the jewelry sector along with other tax-related issues with FBR and relevant authorities.

The acting chief said SCCI is the only business community forum that has always played a pivotal role in taking up community issues with authorities and resolving them amicably.

Businessmen want to pay taxes but it is essential to make a sizable Kohat, Hangu and others.

PESHAWAR (APP): reduction in the ratio of digit, Sanaullah Khan said while chairing a meeting of SCCI's Jewelry Standing Committee held here at Chamber House on

Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Jewelry Khyber Association Pakhtunkhwa Patron in Chief, Azizullah Khan Saraf, and provincial Amin Hussain Babar, the business community attached to the jewelry sector, and office bearers of the association from Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan, Takht Bhai, Swat,

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI and H.E. Albert Khorey, Russian Ambassador to

Pakistan, Mr. Kairm Aziz Malik Chairman and Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCC addressing Pak-Russia Business Council of FPCCI Business Community.

Country expecting 29.77m metric tons of wheat in normal conditions

country during the current season is likely to reach over 29.77 million tons, which would further help growth and economic development.

The local output of wheat, which is a vital source of staple food was against the domestic requirements of 32.94 million metric tons, said

Rupee sheds 04 paisa against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP): The

Rupee on Wednesday weakened by 04 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.35 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.31. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.2 and Rs 282.1,

respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 32 paisa to close at Rs 303.40 against the last day's closing of Rs

Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

The local wheat cement the efforts of the government to achieve estimated at 32.94 million sustainable agriculture metric tons during the year 2024- 25, whereas the estimated carry-forward stock of 3.2 million metric tons will supplement the production of a new crop fixed at 32.11 million and be able to fulfil the metric tons during the crop season (2024-25) as season, he told APP on Wednesday. The wheat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imtiaz Ahmad Gopang ample water supply as that the above-normal rains The wheat output in the Food Security reported by IRSA along spell, hailstorms and with record planting areas indicated the potential for another strong harvest during the crop season 2024-25, he added.

However, the actual production outcomes will depend on factors such as growing conditions and accessibility of essential inputs, particularly fertilizers. Additionally, weather patterns in March and April crucial for the grains' development and maturation

spell, hailstorms and storms could impact the crop position.He said that according to the Provincial Crop Reporting Services, wheat production for the Punjab Province was forecast at 22.67 million metric tons, and Sindh at 4.16 million metric tons respectively. Meanwhile, the output for the including provinces Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. and Balochistan was

expected to reach at 1.48 million metric tons and cultivation relies heavily significantly impact the on irrigation water, so the final output, he said adding respectively.

SECP files criminal cases against individuals involved in stock market manipulation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has filed four criminal complaints against individuals involved in manipulating stock prices, including sponsors and brokerage

house management. The Court has admitted four all complaints filed by SECP against the accused individuals, said a press release issued here on individuals placed high-Wednesday.

The accused gained significant profits by manipulating the share prices of three listed companies in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The SECP reached these conclusions after completing thorough investigations under the Securities Act of 2015.

The investigations established that these to place large orders.

priced orders and traded with one another to artificially raise the share prices of specific stocks. They also placed fake

buy orders and then cancelled a large number of transactions. these resulting in fictitious quotations to deceive potential investors. The accused also fraudulently misused clients' accounts

Promotion of electric bikes vital to abolish pollution, save expenses: Khawaja

MULTAN (APP): saving costs and reducing President Anjuman Tajraan pollution. Encouraging the Pakistan Khawaja Suleman Siddique said introduction of electric bikes in local markets was of vital importance to abolish pollution and reduce expenses on travelling. electric bikes among He said this while traders, businessmen and

addressing a ceremony in the local market on Wednesday. Amid soaring prices and increasing prices of petrol rates, it has become difficult for motorcycles.

bikes offer a standard and affordable travel solution, relieving citizens from expensive petrol prices common men to afford and also mitigating The environmental pollution. emergence of electric bikes On this occasion, a good in the market is seen as a number of local traders positive step towards both were also present.

public to opt for electric

bikes over petrol-driven

motorcycles, he stated that

the need for the

government to launch

similar projects to promote

other citizens. He added that electric

KPRA conducts training workshop for officials of AG of Pakistan on FABS

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority conducted a one-day training workshop on Automated Deduction of KP Sales Tax on Services

Independent Report

Additionally, a thorough question-and-answer session was conducted during the presentation, where trainers and officials of KPRA addressed the queries of the participants



Accounting and Budgeting System (FABS) for the officials of Accountant General of Pakistan on Wednesday at Serena Hotel Peshawar.

The workshop was arranged with the financial assistance of the World Bank-funded KPRMP project.

Trainers from FABS provided a detailed presentation on the workings of FABS in relation to the automatic deduction of KP Sales Tax system.

Director General KPRA Miss Fouzia Iqbal in her address thanked officials of the Accountant General of Pakistan, KPRMP, and FABS for making the workshop possible.

She shed light on the integration of KP Sales Tax on Services in the FABS system, emphasizing that it marks a significant milestone for KPRA and a memorable day.

"It is another step towards the automation on Services through the of KP Sales Tax on Services.

CM Punjab says:

Ramzan package to benefit people at their doorsteps

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Mawaz Sharif has announced the commencement of the Commencement largest-ever Ramazan Nigahban Package in Punjab, fulfilling her promises made in her maiden assembly speech.

Addressing a press conference at CM's Office here on Wednesday, she said the Ramazan package, aid the Ramazan package, ai prepared in just nine days, would reach people's doorsteps and benefit them without any botheration. She said that package was aimed at providing swift relief to deserving individuals during the holy month under PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz

over 30 million people in Punjab. Beneficiaries' data being merged for saving time, Maryam said and added that the upcoming Punjab Socio-Economic Registry Project would gather comprehensive data interventions



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) National Assembly Member from NA-1 Chitral, Abdul Latif along with others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding rigging and illegal allocation of certain seats by the Election Commission, held at Peshawar press club.

Jazz holds tree plantation drive as part of carbon sink project

Pakistan's leading digital operator organized a tree also attended by plantation drive in the Additional D.G. PDA Hayatabad area of Manzoor Yousaf, Peshawar as part of its Director PDA Sajid nationwide carbon sink project which aims to promote environmental conservation and combat climate change.

Captain (Retd.) Khalid Mehmood and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development emissions, including their Authority (PDA) were remarkable carbon sink the chief guests on the project.

The ceremony was Khan, Jazz employees

and school children.

Speaking on the occasion, DG PDA, lauded Jazz's carbon sink project, saying, "I commend Jazz's dedication mitigating

said the initiative involves distributing 65,000 bags with QR codes, benefiting views. Random checks on hamper content and digitalised

Maryam Nawaz said that a digitalised record of distribution of 6.5 million hampers, with a helpline (080002345), established for public feedback and complaints, would ensure for future government timely and fair distribution among genuinely deserving

CM felicitates Saraiki community on Culture Day

LAHORE (APP):Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharifhas said that the Pakistan is a fragrant bouquet of cultural diversity and Saraiki culture is a beautiful flower of this bouquet.

In her message on Saraiki Culture Day, the chief minister extended congratulations to the Saraiki community, saying that sweetness of Saraiki language is Pakistan's valuable asset. "Saraiki Ajarak is my favorite, it is a metaphor of love" she said.

Ibad asks PTI to withdraw protest call

PESHAWAR (APP) Leader of opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Ibadullah Khan on Wednesday termed the nationwide protest call by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for coming Sunday a "drama" and asked for it's

immediate withdrawal. He said instead of providing relief to the people, PTI always indulged in negative



Package in a press conference at Chief Minister House.

Federal Ombudsman' regional office holds open court at Tank

(APP): Dera's Regional Office of the Federal Ombudsman on Thursday held an open court to address citizens' complaints at Tank district.

Regional Head retired Chief Secretary Sang Marjan Khan Mehsud along with Senior Investigation Officer Imran Khan, and Data Control Officer Imran Mehmood addressed the forum.

citizens attended the open court with complaints against organizations including Tribal Electricity Supply Company(TESCO), Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority(PTA), National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) and

ressed the forum. Telecommunication A large number of Company Limited(PTCL).

P a k i s t a n

PSL matches LHC admits for hearing petition filed against usurping of basic human rights

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench has admitted for hearing the petition filed against usurping basic human rights in the name of security during PSL matches in Rawalpindi cricket stadium.

The petition was heard by Justice Jawad Hassan LHC of Rawalpindi bench Wednesday.

The court after preliminary hearing of the respondents.

petition issued notice to the respondents and sought parawise replies. The court issued these orders on the petition

of senior lawyer Sajjad

Akbar Abbasi. The petitioner has made interior secretary, chief secretary Punjab. Deputy commissioner Rawalpindi, City police officer Rawalpindi, chief traffic officer Rawalpindi and Chairman Pakistan Cricket

E-Domicile service starts at Bajaur

PESHAWAR (APP): District administration Bajaur on Wednesday launched E-Domicile Certificate provision facility to address problems of students.

The first E-Domicile was issued by District Administration Bajaur in a ceremony that was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bajaur, Anwar-ul-Haq, Deputy Commissioner General, Ali Raza and concerned officials. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner said that E Domicile has been started at Tehsil level to facilitate students specially those who lives in remote areas and facing difficulties to get domicile adding that it would also save precious time of applicants.

Friends of Police delegation visits PSCA

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of students from Friends of Police, comprising 150 participants from various universities, paid a study visit to the PSCA here on Wednesday

Commander DSP gave a detailed briefing on the functioning of the Authority. The delegation was shown the workings of different departments

Women empowerment key to ensure progressive, inclusive society: First Lady

First Lady Begum Samina emphasizing importance of women's Association role in the country's society could not be without empowering women in every sector of life.

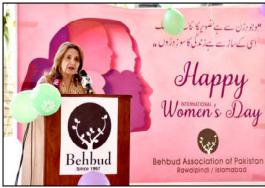
Addressing an event organized in connection with International Women Day by the Behbud Association of Pakistan, Samina Alvi said it was the responsibility of everybody to ensure a conducive environment for girls and women to provide proper education and training, enabling them to live a life with dignity and respect.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Appreciating the role of the Alvi, On Wednesday while women, she said that since the its inception, the Behbud empowered around one development, said that a million women by progressive and inclusive providing skills and training in various fields. She said women comprised half of the total population of the country, and their participation was very

> the country.
>
> The first lady pointed out that the women's literacy rate in the county was much lower as compared to the men. She said Pakistan also needed to improve its current rating of 142 out of 147 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index.

important to ensuring the

economic development of



RAWALPINDI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing an event in connection with International Women's Day, at Behbud Association of Pakistan.

Helping deserving people brings peace of mind: Dr Amil

MARDAN (APP): :The Saath Sabka Development founder of the Non-Governmental Organization Saath Sabka Development Organization Mardan Dr Amil Mohmand Wednesday said that social service is the way to the survival of humanity. To serve human service without discrimination, service is greatness, it is our duty to provide the necessities of life to the poor, helpless, and destitute.

distribution of the Ramadan

Organization has provided financial assistance to thousands of beneficiaries, medical treatment, and hundreds of people to their homes since its inception.

It has provided employment and God willing, this process will continue, a plan has been made to distribute the Ramadan ration package in a fair manner, for which He expressed these committees have been formed thoughts while discussing the to compile a list of poor and deserving people and ration package. He said that provide them with ration.

International News

China drops 'peaceful reunification' reference to Taiwan amid tensions

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China will boost its defence spending by 7.2 per cent this year, fuelling a military budget that has more than doubled under President Xi Jinping's 11 years in office as Beijing hardens its stance on Taiwan, according to official reports on Tuesday.

The increase mirrors the rate presented in last year's budget and again comes in well above the government's economic growth forecast for this year. China also officially adopted tougher language against Taiwan as it released the budget figures, dropping the mention of "peaceful reunification" in a govPeople's Congress (NPC), on Tuesday.

Tensions have risen sharply in recent years over Taiwan, the democratically ruled island that China claims as its own, and elsewhere across East Asia as regional military deployments rise.

Li Mingjiang, a de-Singapore, said that despite struggling

economy, Taiwan is a ma-

ernment report delivered by that in the coming decade it Premier Li Qiang at the wants to grow its military opening of the National to the point where it is prepared to win a war if it has no choice but to fight one,' Li said. Since Xi became president and commanderin-chief more than a decade ago, the defence budget has ballooned to 1.67 trillion yuan (\$230 billion) this year from 720 billion yuan in

The percentage rise in fence scholar at the military spending has con-Rajaratnam School of Inter-sistently outpaced the annational Studies (RSIS) in nual domestic economic growth target during his time in office. This year the growth target for 2024 is jor consideration in about 5pc, similar to last Beijing's defence spending. year's goal, according to the government report.

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US

RAFAH: Palestinian children receive cooked food rations as part of a volunteer youth initiative in the

Hungary president signs Sweden's NATO membership ratification

Monitoring Desk BUDAPEST: Hungary's President Tamas Sulyok has signed the bill that approved Sweden's accession to the NATO military alliance, the president's office said on Tuesday. Lawmakers approved Sweden's NATO accession on Feb. 26, clearing the last hurdle before the historic step by the Nordic country, whose neutrality lasted through two world wars and the Cold War.

Stockholm abandoned its non-alignment policy for greater safety within the North Atlantic Treaty Or- concluded swiftly.

ganization after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 The Hungarian vote ended months of delays to complete the security policy shift and followed a visit by Swedish Prime Minister Ult Kristersson during which the two countries signed an arms deal. Kristersson nor Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom were immediately available

for comment. The remaining formalities, such as depositing accession documentation in Washington, are likely to be

US imposes sanctions on members of spyware group

authorities announced sanctions on Tuesday on parties associated with Intellexa Consortium, citing their role in making and distributing commercial spyware used to target US officials, journalists and

Commercial surveillance tools "increasingly present a security risk to the United States and our citizens," said Trea-sury Under Secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence Brian Nelson.

In particular, the Intellexa Consortium was founded in 2019 and served as a "marketing label" for companies offering commercial spyware and surveillance tools.

The tools, the Treasury Department said, are packaged as a suite under the brand-name "Predator" spyware, able to infiltrate devices without user interac-



ing the opening session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People.

Russia, China plan nuclear power plant on moon

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia and China are considering putting a nuclear power plant on the moon from 2033-35, Yuri Borisov, the head of Russia's space agency Roscosmos said on Tuesday, something he said could one day allow lunar settle-

ments to be built. Borisov, a former deputy defence minister, said that Russia and China had been jointly working on a lunar programme and that Moscow was able to contribute with its expertise on "nuclear space energy"

'Today we are seriously considering a project somewhere at the turn of 2033-2035 - to deliver the lunar surface together with our Chinese colleagues," Borisov said. Solar panels would not be able to provide

enough electricity to power future lunar settlements, he said, while nuclear power could. "This is a very serious challenge...it should be done in automatic mode,

without the presence of

humans," he said of the

possible plan. Borisov spoke also of Russian plans to build a nuclear-powered cargo spaceship. He said all the technical questions concerning the project had been solved apart from finding a solution on how to cool the

and install a power unit on nuclear reactor. Israel 'to allow' worshippers access to Al **Monitoring Desk** Aqsa as in 'previous years'

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel will allow as many worshippers to access Al Agsa mosque in Jerusalem during the first week of Ramazan as in previous years, the prime minister's office said on

Ramazan, worshippers will

be allowed to enter the Temple Mount, in similar numbers to those in previous years," the statement said, using the Jewish term for the site.

"Every week there will be a situation assessment in terms of security and safety "In the first week of and a decision will be made accordingly," it added.

Blast rocks security base

in Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk FAIZABAD: A blast shook a Taliban military base near the airport in Faizabad, the capital of Afghanistan's northeastern Badakhshan province, but without causing casualties, officials said

on Tuesday.

The Taliban official confirmed on condition of anonymity that an explosion had occurred at the base but would not provide further details. A roadside IED exploded near the base but no one was killed or wounded, Badakhshan police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar told AFP.

He said the authorities suspected the IED was not new but rather left over from before the Taliban takeover in 2021.

Bezos dethrones Musk to become richest man

WASHINGTON: Ama-zon founder Jeff Bezos has taken back his spot as the world's richest man, dethroning Elon Musk on the Bloomberg Billion-aires Index.

Bezos' net worth stands at \$200 billion, according to the tracker, surpassing the Tesla chief's \$198bn. Musk, who also heads X (formerly Twitter) and SpaceX, has seen his riches fall by more than \$30b as Tesla's share price has dropped 25 per cent.

in doldrums **Monitoring Desk** despite the absence of an

Gaza ceasefire talks

CAIRO: Hamas negotiators staved in Cairo for a third day of ceasefire talks on Tuesday in an attempt to halt the fighting in the Gaza Strip in time for the fasting month of Ramazan, free Israeli hos-

tages and stave off famine. A 40-day ceasefire in the conflict would allow some hostages captured by Pales-ti-nian fighters in the October attack, while aid to Gaza would be increased and families able to return to abandoned homes.

"The delegation will remain in Cairo on Tuesday for more talks, they are expected to wrap up this round later today," a Hamas official told Reuters.

Three security sources from host and mediator Egypt said the warring sides were sticking to demands that had held up an agreement. The Egyptians have re----mained in contact with the Israelis Israeli delegation. Earlier, senior Hamas

official Bassem Naim said the group had presented a draft ceasefire agreement, and was now waiting for a response from Israel. "(Prime Minister Benjamin) Netan-yahu doesn't want to reach an agreement and the ball now is in the Ameri-cans' court" to press him, Naim said. Israel has declined to comment publicly on the talks but a senior Israeli official said: "Israel is making every effort to reach an agreement.

from Hamas.' A source had told Reuters earlier that Israel was staying away because Hamas had refused to furnish a list of all hostages who are still alive. Naim said this was impossible without a ceasefire as hostages were scattered across the war zone and held by

We are awaiting a response

Gaza children may not survive famine, warns WHO chief

Children in the besieged Palestinian enclave of Gaza may not be able to survive a famine there, the head of the World Health Organiza-tion (WHO) said on Wednesday.
"Children who

survived bombardment starvation. but may not survive a famine,' Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X.?

He called for al-

lowing more humanitarian aid into the Gaza cine, while 60% of the Strip as well as a ceasefire there.

Israel has waged a deadly military offensive on the Gaza Strip since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by the Palestinian group Hamas, which Tel Aviv says killed nearly 1,200

people. More than 30,700 Palestinians have since been killed and 72.156 others injured in Gaza.

LONDON (Online): amid mass destruction and shortages of necessities.

Israel has also imposed a crippling blockade on the Gaza Strip, leaving its population, particularly residents of northern Gaza, on the verge of

The Israeli war has pushed 85% of Gaza's population into internal displacement amid acute shortages of food, clean water, and medienclave's infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. An interim ruling in January ordered Tel Aviv to stop genocidal acts and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians

Govt resolved to promote

Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance cooperation in audit institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- tered Institute of Public Fi- of Azerbaijan with his delkistan and Azerbaijan have nance and Accountancy) reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in audit institution of the two countries, besides sharing audit experiences, cooperation in IT audit and environment audit and

training of human resources. The affirmation was expressed during a visit of the four-member delegation from the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Supreme Audit Institution Azerbaijan) to the office of Auditor General of Pakistan (Supreme Audit Institution Pakistan).

The delegation was headed by Vugar Gulmammadov, Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, according to a press release issued by the office of AGP on Wednes-

The delegation was given a detailed presentation on the working of SAI Pakistan, performance of auditing, and SAI Pakistan's working with CIPFA (Char-

and implementation of Audit Management Information System (AMIS).

The SAI Azerbaijan, on the occasion, informed about the activities of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan and professionalization of Performance Auditing in SAI

Azerbaijan.
The Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan had earlier requested for the peer review of their accounts for the year 2023, keeping in view the professional standing of department of the AGP.

AGP Muhammad Ajmal Gondal presented external Audit of Financial Statements of SAI Azerbaijan to the Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

guest planted a sapling in the premises of the office. Earlier, the Chairman benefit from rich experience

egation called on President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Muhammad Ajmal Gondal. and senior officers of AGP

also attended the meeting. The Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan briefed the president about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Supreme Audit Institution of Azerbaijan and SAI Pa-

The President empha-

GENEVA (APP): Pakistan,

speaking for Islamic coun-

tries, has underscored the

need for investigating Israeli

war crimes against the Pal-

estinian people in Gaza and

the West Bank to pave the

violations of international

human rights law and inter-

national humanitarian law

including war crimes com-

mitted against the Palestin-

ian people are investigated

and accountability fol-

lows," Ambassador Bilal

Ahmad, permanent repre-

sentative of Pakistan to the

UN offices in Geneva, told

the Human Rights Council

during its general debate on

(IHC) has sought reply

from Election Commission

(EC) on a petition filed

against not uploading forms 45 and 46 by EC on website

within 14 days after elec-

tion. The petition filed by

Majlis-e-Wahdat UL Muslimeen (MWM)

against not uploading the

forms 45 and 47 on website

within 14 days after elec-

tion came up for hearing

before single bench of IHC

led by Chief Justice (CJ)

IHC Amir Farooq here

Wednesday.

Lawyer

"It is high time that

way for accountability.

sized on the increasing cooperation between the SAI Pakistan and Azerbaijan for sharing best auditing practices to enhance transparency and financial accountpeer review report of the ability. He also appreciated the efforts of AGP with regard to peer review. The Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan thanked the AGP for extending warm hospitality, On the occasion, the information about the SAI Pakistan and shown keen interest to explore, learn and



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

Dr Nadeem says: **Human development-based** approach needed to fully exploit Pak-China cooperation potential

for Health Dr Nadeem Jan has emphasised the need for adopting an approach based on human development to fully exploit the development potential of long-term goals. He said de-Pak-China cooperation in diverse fields. The caretaker federal minister was addressing a round-table discussion titled "China's Economic Development: Opportunities for Pakistan" organised by CGTN-Urdu.

Dr Nadeem Jan said the heart-to-heart connection between the peoples of Pakistan and China indicates a win-win scenario which is a positive indicator for swift development

He said Pakistan can take a leaf out of China's book to adopt policies based on consistency, ac-

ISLAMABAD: Portuguese Ambassador in

Islamabad, Frederico Silva visiting an exhibition

by women artists from all over Pakistan to Com-

memorate Women's Day 2024 at PNCA, in Fed-

23 outlaws held;

narcotics, arms seized

from his possession. The

Ramna police team arrested

an accused Irfan and recov-

ered 550 gram heroin from

police team arrested two ac-

cused Faisal Shahzad and

Muhammad Zubair and re-

covered one 30 bore pistol

and 420 gram hashish from

their possession. The

Sumbal police team arrested

an accused namely Aftab

and recovered 580 gram

hashish from his posses-

sion. The Tarnol police

team arrested two accused

namely Shah Zaib Ilyas and

Khursheed and recovered

3,500 gram heroin from their

police team arrested two ac-

cused namely Muhammad

Khan and Zain Ul Abideen

and recovered two 30 bore

pistols from their posses-

360 gram hashish and

Similarly, the Sangjani

Likewise, the Golra

his possession.

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police (ICP) appre-

hended 23 outlaws includ-

ing four professional beg-

gars from different areas of

the city during the last 24

hours and recovered drugs

and weapons from their

ficer on Wednesday said

that, responding the special

directions of Islamabad

Capital City Police Officer

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

Khan, the Islamabad Capi-

tal Police has intensified crackdown against the

criminal elements in order

to eliminate the crime from

tions, the Secretariat police

team arrested an accused

namely Hasnain and recov-

ered stolen valuables from

his possession. The

Shalimar police team ar-

rested an accused namely

Khair Muhammad and re-

Following these direc-

A public relations of-

possession.

ISLAMABAD (APP): countability, and self-suffi- Quality Productive Proopment goals. However, he said, Paproach take precedence.

kistan needs to take ground realities into consideration while setting short and pendence on donors shouldn't be an option, and self-reliance and competition should be a way forward. He said Pakistan has the potential to take pharmaceutical exports to \$2 billion and China could be an attractive destination for this. Political Counsellor, Embassy of People Republic of China, Wang Shengjie, said that work on many projects under China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is continuing in Pakistan. He said development goals can be achieved swiftly by adopting the phenomenon of "New

stitute of Eco-Civilisation, Research and Development Shakeel Ahmed Ramay. Saraiki culture testament to diversity defining

driven by innovative ap-

emphasised the potential of

growth in Pakistan's infor-

mation technology and min-

Group Ms Du Jianing, Di-

rector China Study Centre,

National University of Sci-

ence and Technology

(NUST) Ms. Xiang Yang,

Former Chief Executive

Pakhtunkhwa Board of In-

vestment Dr Hassan

Dawood Butt, Executive

Director Pakistan Research

Centre for a Community

with Shared Future

(PRCCSF) Khalid Taimur

Akram, CEO of Asian In-

Khyber

ing sectors.

Officer

Wang particularly

Director China Media

Pak: Bilawal MULTAN (APP): The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday extended his heartiest greetings to the people of Saraiki on Saraiki Culture Day and to the entire nation at large. The PPP chairman, in his message, said that Waseb is the cradle of a rich heritage, vibrant language, and resilient people. "Saraiki people, with their warmth, hospitality, and deep-rooted cultural values, exemplify the essence of unity in diversity," he added.

LHC orders to remove name of Sheikh from **ECL**

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHĆ) Rawalpindi bench has ordered to remove name of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid from Exit Control List (ECL).

A division bench of LHC Rawalpindi bench comprising Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan and justice Mirza Waqas Rauf has announced the judgment.

The court has directed the petitioner be not restrained from going abroad. Sheikh Rashid along with his lawyers Sardar

Abdul Razzaq and Sardar

Shehbaz Khan were present

Subsequently, the newly-elected KP CM Gandapur also sent a summary to the governor to recommend appointments of his advisers, which was also approved by the gov-

advice, five advisers have been appointed, including Syed Fakhar Jehan, Muzamil Aslam, Muhammad Ali Saif, Mashal Azam, and Zahid Chanzeb.

Yesterday, Gandapur received a nod of approval from incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan after a meeting with him in Adiala

Jail, Rawalpindi. After finalising the cabinet members, the chief minister did not disclose their names, as he was under pressure by certain factions within the party to accommodate their nomi-

Irfan Siddiqui urges PTI to stop blame game,

ISLAMABAD (APP): ward with unity, discipline PML-N Senator Irfan siddiqui Wednesday adgame trend started by Chairvised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to stop blame game of rigging and only focus on public related issues as there is dire need for mutual unity for political and economic stability in the coun-

Talking to a Private news channel, he said that the country can move for-

man PTI is breaking all three ultimately weakening the country. PML-N leadership remains steadfast in their commitment to guide Pakistan through its current economic and political challenges, with a focus on unity, effective governance, and public welfare, he

local languages, cultures of all regions: PM ISLAMABAD (APP): guage and the Saraiki writ-Sharif extending greetings on the Saraiki Culture and and music. Saraiki Ajrak Day being

observed on Wednesday, reiterated that the incumbent government would play its role in promoting the local languages, literature, and cultures of all the regions in the country.

The prime minister, in his message, said that all the colors of the Saraiki region were beautiful while being rich in different cultures and Calling the Saraiki dia-

"very sweet" he said it was not only spoken in South Punjab rather in Balochistan and India as

He said the Saraiki lan-

ers had immense contributions to literature, poetry,

The prime minister said that Saraiki culture was rooted in the thousands of years old Indus Valley ivilisation.

He said that the saints like Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria, Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Khawaja Ghulam Fareed. Salman Taunsavi, Sakhi Sarwar Shah and Shams Tabraiz also enriched the Saraiki language through their words.

Prime Shehbaz said that the promotion of South Punjab's culture, literature, and art had always been among the government's priorities.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of Saudi Arabia's Al-Ajlan Holding Group visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Saudi delegation visits at SFIC for investments in various sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high level delegation of Al Ajlan Holding Group of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) here today.

The group was headed by His Excellency Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Alajlan, Deputy Chairman, along with members representing various sectors, operating under the ambit of Al Ajlan Holding Group,

said a press release. The delegation was tion of public warmly received by offiprivate sector.

cials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in different sectors. The delegation showed great interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan under the umbrella of SIFC. The visit underscores longstanding brotherly relations between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which are transforming into multi-domain cooperation through participation of public as well as

ECP seeks additional PML-N lists for NA women's seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) sought more lists of women from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to allocate nine additional National Assembly reserve seats after their initial list

was exhausted. The PML-N's priority list for the National Assembly (NA) in Punjab has been depleted, prompting the ECP to ask for nomination papers from nine more women affiliated with the PML-N. These nomination papers will be accepted based on the new priority list provided by the PML-N, following the schedule. nation papers by March 12.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has released a schedule for granting extra seats to women, specifically to parliamentary parties such as PML-N, after refusing to allocate certain seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). According to schedule, the issuance of the public notice is set for Thursday, with PML-N's nominated candidates to submit their nomination papers to the Joint Election Commissioner of Puniab by March 9. The preliminary list of candidates is slated for release on March 10, followed by the comple-

tion of the scrutiny of nomi-

PSF invites applications from students to participate in IJSO 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 21st International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO 2024).

According to an official of PSF, the IJSO is going to be held from December 02-11, this year in Bucharest, Romania.

IJSO is a science competition for students under 16 years of age on December 31st of the competition year. IJSO was established to promote interest in science related matters among school students exposing them to problem-solving, critical thinking and experimentation.

Over the years, IJSO aims to positively impact science and mathematics education at the school

IJSO is usually organized the programs in the first week of December every year, in any one of the member countries.

About the eligibility, the official informed that interested students (boys and girls) under 16 years of age on December 31, 2024 may send their applications on prescribed proforma available through the weblink https://psf.gov.pk/ Ijso2024.aspx.

The applicant must be a regular science student and passed minimum SSC-I (Class-IX).



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Institute of Research and Reform (IRR) and Malik Foundation Ali Rehman Malik giving away trophy to winner Islamabad Women Cricket team after T20 Cricket Match of Unity Cup Championship played between Peshawar and Islamabad women team organized by IRR in collaboration with Malik Foundation at National Cricket Ground.

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali administer ing oath to new provincial cabinet 15-member KP cabinet

takes oath of office **Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Fifteen Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ministers who have been inducted into the provincial cabinet took oath in a prestigious ceremony held at the Governor's House on Wednesday. The induction

of the ministers into the provincial cabinet was notified by the KP government's administration department following a summary of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, approved by KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

The members include Arshad Ayub Khan, Shakeel Ahmad, Fazal Hakim Khan, Muhammad Adnan Qadri, Aqib Ullah Khan, Muhammad Sajjad, Meena

Khan, and Fazal Shakoor. Nazir Ahmad Abbasi, Pakhtoon Yar Khan, Aftab Alam Khan Afridi, Khaleeq Ur Rehman, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Faisal Khan Tarakai, and Muhammad Zahir

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Portugal, Di

OIC urges probe of war crimes

against Palestinians; voices concern

over India's rights abuses in Kashmir

Pakistani envoy, who was

speaking on behalf of the

OIC countries, voiced "deep anguish" over the

deteriorating human rights

situation in Indian occupied

comply with the applicable

UN Security Council reso-

lutions and implement rec-

ommendations addressed to

it in the two Kashmir re-

ports by OHCHR, the UN

human rights office, which

need to be updated," the

pay attention to consistent

observations made by

SPMHs (Special Procedure

Mandate Holders) on the

She took the plea the

She said not only

forms of election results are

required to be uploaded on

website within 14 days as

forms but all the relevant

documents have to be up-

loaded on website. General

election was held on Feb-

ruary 8 but the respective

documents have not been

uploaded so far on website.

uploaded forms 45 to some

extent and later it removed

The EC a day before

per election act.

"The Council must

OIC statement said.

IHC issues notice to **EC** on

petition against not uploading

forms 45, 47 on website

ISLAMABAD (Online): Zainab Mazari appeared in Islamabad High Court the court on behalf of

"We urge India to

At the same time, the human rights violations

impunity and draconian

laws in the occupied terri-

tory. " In the statement,

strongly condemned all

crimes committed by the

Israeli Occupation Forces in

Occupied Palestinian Terri-

tory (OPT), and called for

implementing provisional

measures issued by the In-

ternational Court of Justice

(ICJ) and reminded all

'We reiterate our

states of their responsibili ties in this regard.

longstanding call for up-

holding respect for human rights and international hu-

manitarian law in the OPT

including in East Jerusa

IHC issued notice to NAB

in PTI founder's

bail plea ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court

(IHC) on Wednesday issued a notice to the Na-

tional Accountability Bu-

reau (NAB) in an appeal of

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

founder for bail in the 190

mllion-pound scam case.

prising Chief Justice Amer

Farooq and Justice Tariq

Mehmood Jahangiri heard

that the trial court has re-

jected the post-arrest bail

The case was adjourned till the next week.

PPP invites

applications

from candidates

for Senate poll

ISLAMABAD (Online):

PPP has invited application

from party candidates in con-

nection with Senate election

PPP Secretary general

Nayyar Bokhari, it has been

said the candidates should

send applications for Senate

seats in federation and

The applications should be sent on the address

of Zardari house Islamabad

and Bilawal house Karachi

The application will be sent

in the name of president PPP

Parliamentarians. Bank draft

valuing Rs one lac in the name

of Pakistan Peoples Party

Parliamentarians be attached

FBISE

launches

automated

public service

system for

students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Inter-

mediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), has

launched a fully auto-

mated public service system to facilitate the stu-

tails given by the federal

According to the de-

with the application.

Islamabad till March 10.

In a statement issued by

the bail plea.

of PTI founder.

The IHC bench com-

It may be mentioned

Ambassador

Muhammad Khalid Ejaz, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Following the CM's

Shah are also part of the focus on public issues

board, this initiative offers important services to the students. The students can benefit from the facilities including Online issuance of Mi gration/NOC certificate, result verifica

dents

sult card.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com