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SJC declares Justice Mazhar Naqvi as guilty of misconduct

Supreme Judicial Council opines former judge "should have been removed from the office of Judge'

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday declared Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi as guilty of misconduct and recommended for his removal from the office of judge.

SJC rendered its opinion in respect of the nine complaints against Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi under Article 2009(6) of the constitution, said a press release.

It said that The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) met on 29 February 2024 and 1 March 2024.

Allegations are leveled against judges of the supreme court and high courts and the same are publicized. A number of judges have expressed concern that if they respond to such allegations the same may be construed as misconduct because the September 2009 issued by the SJC, in its Article-V engage in any public constates that a judge should troversy, least of all on a

upon the matter and was ply or clarification is issued by or on behalf of a judge it does not violate Article-V. However, since concerns have been expressed by judges it was ferent complaints, in chroagreed that the following be nological order, and in readded to article-V of the spect of five the opinions Code of Conduct:

tion is publicized against a recommended that there judge he may respond to

amended to read as under: mitted against a judge of

'Functioning as he the high court of does in full view of the Balochistan the SJC issued that is good for him. He days, it said

code of conduct, dated 2 should not seek more. In not seek publicity. political question, not-The SJC deliberated withstanding that it involves a question of law. of the opinion that if a re- However, if an allegation is publicized against a judge he may respond to

The press release said that SJC considered six difexpressed by the members 'However, if an allega- to whom it was referred. was no substance therein, with which the SJC con-Therefore, Article-V of curred. However, in rethe Code of Conduct is spect of complaints sub-

public, a judge gets notice to submit his reply/ thereby all the publicity explanation within fourteen



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the participants of the dinner reception hosted by him

Ruling coalition endorses Zardari's nomination for presidency

Country's economic crisis to end if we all contribute, says PM Shehbaz

Our target is to change condition of the nation and we have to present our proposals to friendly countries to attract investment; PPP would support the prime minister as he would work to steer Pakistan on the path of progress, says Asif Ali Zardari

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Asif Ali Zardari would be elected as President of Pakistan as coalition partners had overwhelming majority in the National Assembly, Senate and provincial assemblies. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honour of leaders of allied parties, he said Asif Zardari would be the candidate of the allied parties in the presidential election on March 9.

The coalition government secured two thirds of the votes in the recent general elections and it would be reflected during the presidential election, he

sus and unity besides formation of Pakistan Peoples Party government in Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League(N) government in Punjab and a coalition gov-

ernment in Balochistan.

"We have to respect mandate of the people," he said adding, "the world is looking towards Pakistan and seeing how the new government will overcome challenges and resolve is-

He thanked his coalition partners, Quaid PML Nawaz Sharif and leaders of allied parties for electing him as the prime minister once again. The Prime Minfederal government was challenges and the facts was higher in other coun-

ISLAMABAD (APP): formed again with consen- about economy were tries. troublesome.

ity circular debt had hiked of hundreds of billions of to Rs five trillion. The debt rupees and the government of PIA had ballooned to Rs 825 billion. The annual theft of electricity amounted to Rs 500 bil-

He said these figures showed the gravity of the economic situation.

He said the government refunded Rs 65 billion to the exporters, adding the tax base should be expanded while burden on those who were already taxed, should be reduced. Pakistan's tax to GDP ra-He said the coalition was facing Himalaya like whereas this percentage investment.'

PM, CJCSC

exchange views

on professional

matters of

armed forces

ISLAMABAD (Online):

He congratulated the

During the meeting,

Prime Minister for assum-

ing his office and expressed

views were exchanged on

professional matters of the

armed forces of Pakistan

and the security situation.

Security forces

best wishes for him.

Thursday.

He said state owned Peoples Party Asif Ali "Our gas and electric- entities were making losses was paying these losses by taking more loans. He informed that Rs 1.7 trillion taxes were stuck in courts

due to legal disputes, vested interests and collu-

"We have to unite to take Pakistan out of the present economic difficulties. If we cannot take Pakistan out of this situation history will not forgive us, he remarked. "Our target is to change condition of the He pointed out that nation and we have to ister said his government tio was just 9.8 percent friendly countries to attract Asif Zardari gave up his

In his ren

chairperson of Pakistan Zardari said his party would support the prime minister as he would work to steer Pakistan on the path of progress.

He was of the view that Pakistan could make economic progress with growth in the agriculture sector. He mentioned that history was amended with the Supreme Court judgment in the reference on judicial murder of Zulfikar Ali

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said last time during his presipresent our proposals to dential tenure, his father powers in favour of the arliament

PN participates in Doha International **Maritime Defence Exhibition-2024**

Pakistan Navy contingent presenting salutation to Commander-in-Chief of

Russian Federation Navy onboard PNS TABUK during Doha International

Independent Report Navy Ship PNS TABUK and Submarine PNS/M KHALID visited Doha, Qatar to participate in Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX-24). Upon arrival, Pakistan Navy Units was received by Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Doha and Senior Officials of Qatari Emiri Naval Force (QENF). The PN mission was led by Cdre Mazhar Bashir, commander subma-

Maritime Defence Exhibition 2024.

During the visit, Misportunity, Mission Com-

New York City Police De-

Wednesday organized the

first-ever 'Pakistan Heri-

tage and Resolution

Month' at its headquar-

ters, with Ambassador

Masood Khan congratulat-

ing over 600 Pakistani-

American police officers

dedicated work in keeping

est and one of the oldest

municipal police depart-ments in the United States,

with approximately 36,000

officers and 19,000 civil-

ian employees. The am-

bassador, who was the

chief guest at the largely at-

holding of 'Pakistan's Heri-

The NYPD is the larg-

partment

the city safe.

New York Police holds

Pakistani heritage month

Masood Khan says it reflects

growing US-Pak ties

NEW YORK (APP): The in connection with the 'Pa-

serving the force for their in New York to commemo-

tended event, said that the and the United States,

(NYPD)

sion Commander called on high level dignitaries includ-wishes from Chief of the ing Commander of Qatari Emiri Naval Forces, Maj Gen Abdullah Hassan Al Sulaiti. Various high level Military and Naval leadership including Commander-In-Chief of Russian Federation Navy, Admiral Nikolav

kistan Day' carried a spe-

cial significance and re-

flected the strength of de-

cades-long Pak-US relations. It is the first time

NYPD is organizing such

a ceremony, sponsored by

the Pakistani-American

Law Enforcement Society

and Pakistan's Consulate

rate Pakistan's heritage and

to pay tribute to Pakistani

officers' contributions.

"The growing visibility

and outstanding perfor-

mance of Pakistani-Ameri-

cans in all walks of life re-

flects the huge potential of

our people. It is also in-

dicative of the deepening

bonds between Pakistan

said Ambassador Masood

Evmenov and Turkish Fleet Commander visited PNS TABUK. During the interactions, matters of mutual interests were discussed and enhancement of bilateral ties in all spheres was re-affirmed. Taking the op-

wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf for the people of Qatar in general and Qatar Emiri Naval Forces (QENF) in particular.

Pakistan and Qatar enjoy close defence bilateral relations nurtured over the years through multitudes of naval collaborations and exercises. Visit of PN units to Doha provided an opportunity for both brotherly countries to further enhance the existing close diplomatic ties and cordial SC moved for

fixing military

courts case for

early hearing

appeals against the deci-

the appeals a 6-member

larger bench suspended de-

cision against military

week of March 18.

During the hearing of

The matter of military

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

President Alvi appoints three judges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday approved the appointment of a judge of Supreme Court as well as the Chief Justice of

Balochistan High Court. ISLAMABAD (Online) Petition has been filed in The president appointed Justice Naeem Supreme Court (SC) for Akhtar Afghan as Supreme fixing military courts case for early hearing.

The petition was filed Court judge who was serving as Chief Justice of

Balochistan High Court. by Latif Khosa counsel for Aizaz Ahsan. A five mem-The president approved the appointment under Article 175 A of the bers larger bench of SC gave decision against military courts. Federation and Constitution. provinces filed intra court

The president also approved the appointment of tution.

senior most judge Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar as Caretaker Chief Justice of Balochistan High

The president made this appointment of the caretaker Balochistan High Court chief justice in accordance with the Article 196 of the Constitution.

President Alvi also appointed senior most judge Justice Malik Shehzad Ahmed Khan as Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, in accordance with the Article 175 (A) of the Consti-

kill 2 terrorists in separate operations **Independent Report** RAWALPINDI: Security

forces killed two terrorists including a ring leader in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on night between March 6 and 7.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said an intelligence based operation (IBO) was conducted in Khyber district.

During the operation, terrorist ring leader Shamrooz alias Sheenay, was killed by the security forces in exchange of fire. In another operation

conducted by the security forces in Dera Ismail Khan district, terrorist Mansoor was also successfully neu-We will welcome mediation from any friendly

PM thanks world leaders for good wishes on assumption of office minister said.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday ex-Chairman Joint Chiefs of pressed gratitude to the world leaders for extending Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza felicitations and prayers for called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad him on the assumption of

> The prime minister took to X to thank the leaders including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Iranian President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi and Kenvan President Will-

iam Ruto. "I wish to thank my brother, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of brotherly Saudi Arabia, for the warm wishes and prayers on my assumption of the office of

He said that the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were deep rooted in historical bonds based on mutual respect, religious and cultural affinity and shared values.

He expressed the confidence that the fraternal bilateral ties would keep flourishing in the times to come.

Looking forward to working closely with my brother for mutual benefit of the peoples of the two brotherly countries," he remarked. He also thanked Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Amir and Qatari Prime Minister for their messages of felici-

"Pakistan cherishes its brotherly ties with Qatar and I look forward to working closely with His Highness to further strengthen our exemplary bonds of Prime Minister," the prime friendship," he remarked.



MUZAFFRABADA: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat chanting slogans during protest at Azadi Chowk in the city, against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting at Jammu and Kashmir's

US wants India, Pak to have 'productive, peaceful relationship'

NATIONS UNITED courts is of important na-(APP): The United States ture. Intra court appeals be would welcome "producfixed for hearing in judicial tive and peaceful relation-On December 13, SC ship" between India and had suspended the decision Pakistan, State Departof stopping trial of civilians ment Spokesperson Matthew Miller said Wednesday, but made it clear that the pace, scope, and char-

> tries to determine. Miller made this statement while responding to a question from a Pakistani journalist on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of congratulations to the newly-elected Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on taking the oath of office for his second term.

> acter of any dialogue was a

matter for the two coun-

"We, of course, welcome the (Indian) prime minister's statement. The United States values its relationship with both India and Pakistan, and we want to see them have a produc-

tive and peaceful relationship," Miller told his daily news briefing.

"We would welcome productive and peaceful talks between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope, and character of any dialogue is a matter for India and Pakistan to determine," he said in response to another question. On Tuesday, Prime

Minister Modi congratulated his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif on taking his oath on Monday. The relations between

the two neighbours deteriorated in 2019 after stand paralyzed. India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories in violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions on the Kashmir dispute.

country for resolution of Kashmir issue: FO ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has said Indian stubbornness is major hurdle on the way to success of SAARC due to which regional connectivity

"We will welcome mediation from any friendly country for resolution of Indo-Pakistan conflict or Kashmir issue, this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during her weekly press briefing here in FO Thursday.

She said the presidents afterwards. of China, Iran Tajak and Turkey have congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on assump-

tion of office of prime minister. Prime ministers of Malaysia, Palestine, Afghanistan, Amir Qatar have also congratulated PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Indian PM Nerindar Modi sent message of congratulations to PM Shehbaz Sharif on social media.

The cabinet has not been tormed so far. The for-eign policy will be evolved life.

As the world celebrates International Women's Day tomorrow, we would like to remember the strong women of Kashmir who have faced the brunt of Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They have endured widespread devastation and confronted obstacles that impede their access to essential needs and their ca-



Heritage and Resolution Month" being organized by New York Police De-

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Justice denied

There have been many crises in Pakistan's torturous history that remain unresolved, lacking closure mainly because the nation — particularly its institutions — failed to acknowledge the 'whole truth' of these events. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's 1977 removal in a military coup, and his subsequent hanging in 1979, are part of this list.

Both were epochal events that changed the trajectory of Pakistan's history; their after-effects still haunt the system. In this regard, the Supreme Court's observations on Wednesday, regarding Bhutto's trial, are an important milestone in the nation's legal and political history.

The apex court was hearing a reference filed by Asif Ali Zardari in 2011, when he was president, seeking the court's opinion on Bhutto's death sentence. The PPP founder had been convicted by a Lahore High Court bench of the 1974 murder of Mohammad Ahmed Khan Kasuri; the SC, in a split 4-3 decision, had upheld the LHC verdict, paving the way for the execution of Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister.

While noting that the law does not provide a mechanism to set aside the original judgement, the Chief Justice of Pakistan Oazi Faez Isa noted in the short order that the LHC trial and the SC appeal in Bhutto's case did "not meet the requirements of the fundamental right to a fair trial and due process". The SC's observations have validated what legal experts have been saying for decades: that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's conviction was a travesty of justice — a 'judicial murder' as his

It can be asked why an over four-decade-old case was dusted up when blatant injustice continues to be meted out today. Perhaps revisiting the Bhutto case is relevant because of these very injustices. It shows that even popularly elected prime ministers can be humiliated, incarcerated and even sent to the gallows when the state desires it, and that the legal system can be manipulated to suit the whims of powerful forces.

Similar criticism of the judiciary has followed Imran Khan's iddat case, as well as Nawaz Sharif's run-ins with accountability courts in years past. That is why, as the chief justice observed in the short order, the judiciary should, "confront our past missteps and fallibilities with humility, in the spirit of self-accountability"

This need for internal introspection is required in all institutions: the judiciary, the establishment, as well as the political class. The SC's observations on the Bhutto trial are a confirmation of the fact that in the past, the pillars of state — guided by the doctrine of necessity — have participated in undermining the constitutional order they had sworn to

Though the grave injustice done to Bhutto cannot be reversed, state institutions can pledge to not repeat the wrongs committed during this sordid chapter of Pakistan's history.

Restoration, 2024

F.S. Aijazuddin

In 1660, Charles II returned to England to reclaim his throne, after years of exile in France. This year 2024 marks

Friday March 08, 2024

the restoration of another monarchy, in Pakistan. Here, history is replayed with a local twist. Our Charles (aka Nawaz Sharif) returned after years of royal exile in the United Kingdom, only to yield the throne to his less popular younger brother Shehbaz. History, though, is replete with warnings. Charles' younger brother, later King James II, ruled only for three years before

being deposed. Pakistan has not one but two monarchies the Sharif and the Bhutto-Zardari dynasties. Once rivals, they have decided to join, not in matrimony like the union of the Spa-nish royal houses of Aragon and Castile in 1469, but in an unequal, uneasy partnership. They have agreed to share the crown of thorns.

Pakistan has never been an easy country to govern, and never more so than today. It is confronted by a phalanx of problems unbridled population growth, insufficient resources, recurring insolvency, and an arthritic administrative structure. It is an indigent geriatric oo poor to live, and too indebted to die.

Soon, if PM Modi has his way (he has already vitiated the UN's role in the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, and threatens to ignore the World Bank mediation clause in the Indus Waters Treaty), we will be also afflicted with agricultural dehydration. The IWT, Punjab's five rivers, and the irrigation system bequeathed to us by the British may soon be a memory. The once fertile Punjab and Sindh, like parts of the US a century ago, could become an arid dust bowl. It is not too

destroys its soil destroys devolved on the sitting

What are the new government's plans for agriculture, for commerce, industry, debt management, in fact for anything other than its own sur-

Before the recent elections which propelled them into power, neither the PML-N nor the PPP presented any plausible manifesto to voters. Today, even as coalition partners, they are in no hurry to cobble together any policy paper. They should remember: short is the period between being sworn in and being sworn at.

The Sharifs would have us believe that our economic revival would be accelerated by increased government borrowing and spending for example, by the construction of yet more motorways.

expansive The Reichsautobahn system worked for Hitler in the 1930s. It stimulated Germany's post World War I recovery. In the 1940s, it enabled the forces of Nazi Germany to reach the borders of Austria, France, Holland and Belgium in record time.

If anyone dared to trespass our eastern borders, it would take them longer to navigate through the congestion around Lahore or Multan than to skid across our uncluttered motorways to Islamabad, Rawalpindi Peshawar. Motorways increase mo-

bility; they also accentuate our vulnerability. What are our new government's priorities? And who is being tasked

to define them? Economists will remember the days when the World Bank encouraged developing cou-ntries like ours to use a Planning Commission as the fulcrum for coordinated action.

In the 46 years from 1953 to 1999, the Indian late to heed president Planning Commission had Franklin D. Roosevelt's 21 deputy chairpersons. warning: "The nation that (The post of chairman IPC tesy Dawn

prime minister.) In the final 15 years of its existence (1999-2014), it had only two: K.C. Pant and M.Š. Ahluwalia. Pant controlled the IPC for five years, Ahluwalia for 10. He oversaw India's 11th and 12th five-year plans, cov-

ering the years 2007–2017. In 2014, however, the newly elected PM Modi decided he would plan India's future himself. He did not need a central Pla-nning Com-mis-sion, especially after so many Ind-ian states mat-ured into economic solvency. He redu-ced the Pla-nning Co--mmission to rubble.

Comparably, the Planning Commis-sion of Pakistan, in its first 46 years (1953-1999), had 16 deputy chairmen. Over the next 23 years (2000 until 2023), it had 11 DCs passing in and out of its revolving doors. Who can be expected to plan for his country when he cannot even plan his own tenure?

The 18th-century French economist Jean-Baptiste Say (founder of the world's first business school) once argued: "It is the aim of good government to stimulate production, of bad government to encourage consump-

Pakistan's Industrial Production Index oscillated between a high of 76.5 per cent in September 2000 and an abysmal low of -45.6pc in April 2020. Our consumer spending per capita has doubled from \$655 in 1986 to \$1,392 in 2022. Like ancient Romans, we are in danger of gagging on our gluttony.

The new government is approaching the IMF for yet another loan. Where will that money go? Will the new government control its weakness for conspicuous consumption? Or will it share Charles II's reputation for frivolous, fiscal laxity? -- Cour-

Minerals economy

Umer Farooq

As the dust settles from the recent elections and the formation of government, it's clear that the previous coalition is taking the reins of power. In their limited previous term, Shehbaz Sharif and his cabinet highlighted Pakistan's mineral resources -(over)estimated at \$6 trillion — as the linchpin of the country's economic revival. The ambition aligns with the global race for green has seen a rise in mining activities globally. However, having mineral resources does not and competitive global mining landscape.

It takes decades to convert mineral deposits into a mine. Patience is key in the economic ecosystem of mining. The identification of critical minerals' stands at the forefront of strategic resource management. All mining-centric economies regularly update their list of critical minerals that reflects the shifting sands of economic, strategic, and technological priorities. Does Pakistan have a list of priority minerals? No, not at this point.

For Pakistan to rise in the mining sector, an essential step involves determining which minerals hold the greatest value and potential. Once that has been done, the new government will need to design a comprehensive policy to cover the entire minerals value chain. This would include i) upstream — the exploraprocessing and refining; and iii) downstream phase, and a staggering manufacturing the products for the end- lion tonnes of gold and user. Overlooking a copper concentrate, single piece of this chain paints a picture of opcould derail the antici- portunity that invites Courtesy Dawn

pated outcomes for the foreign interest. This entire sector. The reliance on

portant for national prosperity; however, mining is an industry where initiatives to attract the interest of global investors are compulsory. The successful tial of Reko Diq project revival of the Reko Diq project shines as the country's beacon of hope in this area. Apart from that, the establishment of a new federal initiative, the Special Investment Facilitation Dig project through inremains a cautionary indicator for foreign investors. It is anticipated that the SIFC will be able to prevent such events and act as a pivfuture mining projects in the country. An enhanced mandate for the SIFC must guide both the federal and

At the heart of every mining endeavour projects fade away in the exploration phase, deposits at over \$100 billion keeping today's prices in view. peak annual output of 80 mil-

provincial regulatory

regimes in terms of fa-

cilitation in this chal-

lenging area.

comes with a projected \$7bn infusion of domestic capital is im- mainly foreign — investment, with over \$250m already poured into exploration and feasibility studies. These numbers don't only speak to the potenand mining, they also whisper of prosperity and invite foreign inter-

est in other minerals. Exaggeration and overestimation of deposits tend to bring dire consequences that can energy transition that Council, to de-risk the result in regional grievproject investment is ances. The recent disimportant: however, the coveries of high-value settlement of the Reko minerals in Pakistan came out of Balochistan suffice; the focus is on ternational arbitration and KP — provinces at navigating a complex and legislative support odds with the federal regime. Such overestimates fuel regional discontent. Presently, minerals account for merely 2.5pc of the country's GDP. Asser-tions of a otal concierge service leap above 5pc associated with mineral exports are misleading.

We are not at the stage where mining will bridge the import-export gap, enhance GDP, help social well-being, or fund government spending in the short term. It's a myth until we reach downstream lies a stark reality: most manufacturing, a decades-long goal. We don't want to be a renever reaching the source-exporting stage of operation, let country forever; inalone fruition. We are stead, we want to destanding at the starting velop the whole value line. Let us value the chain of minerals. Neveconomy of the Reko ertheless, we must Diq project. Figures avoid turning mining may vary, with some hopes into another estimates of the project CPEC — promising but unfulfilled. For mining to significantly benefit Pakistan's economy, The project, with its transparency is crucial, promise of an aggregate unlike CPEC where it is turnover and exports of missing. For the major tion and extraction of above \$2bn per year, part, Pakistan will still minerals; ii) midstream 7,000 jobs during the rely on its agriculture construction and industry sector where the latter could be improved by bringing minerals development into the economic framework.

Commerce News

PM for removing hurdles to expedite privatisation process

Sharif on Thursday privatisation process of those State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), causing constant dent to the national exchequer, to stabilize the national economy and provide maximum relief to the common man.

"Obstacles in the process of privatisation be removed at the earliest so that the country and the

minister also directed to

involved

Minister of billions of rupees and determination of time recommendations to the Shehbaz improve the economic frame. He also directed the condition," he said while Privatization Commission stressed for expediting the chairing a high level meeting and the Ministry to on privatisation. The prime present pending issues related to the privatization take immediate steps for to the cabinet soon after its enhancing the capacity of formation for timely departments linked with decisions as there was no the privatisation process. room for further delay.

Reviewing the Shehbaz Sharif, on the complete list and progress proposal of handing over report of all the institutions the power distribution in the companies to privatisation process, the provinces, directed to adopt prime minister directed to constitute a review submit the detail of actions committee, which would

prime minister. He made it clear that the responsibility of the privatisation process lied totally upon the Privatisation Commission

and the Ministry. He also directed to remove all the bottlenecks in the process.

He also stressed to ensure transparency of the privatisation process at the institutional level and to effective international standards of



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Privatisation of State **Owned Enterprises.**

Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) hosted the visit of the International Commercial Banking Course and the International Central Banking Course, alongside representatives from the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) at Ministry of Economic Affairs, Islamabad.

PTCL Group steps up as Gwadar battles floods, delivering clean drinking water

Independent Report QUETTA: In response to the devastating floods sweeping through Gwadar, largest

the affected communities. delivered directly to those Torrential rains have plunged Gwadar into chaos, displacing families and leaving them desperately Chief Marketing Officer,

every day for a month to of clean drinking water is reeling from the disaster. Commenting on the effort, Syed Atif Raza,



integrated ICT services short of necessities, with PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, provider, PTCL Group clean water being the most oined forces with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) to provide essential relief and deliver up to 30,000 liters and PRCS have stepped up collaboration with Pakistan of clean drinking water to ensure a steady supply

pressing Recognizing the urgency of

concern. the situation, PTCL Group

"Access to clean water is indeed a fundamental human right, crucial for survival. PTCL Group, in Red Crescent

SECP notifies amendments in CRCs Rules 2019

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Thursday notified amendments in the Corporate Restructuring Companies (CRCs) Rules,

The amendments made in light of conducive environment for corporate restructuring enhancing companies, an SECP news stability.

release said on Thursday. C or p or a t e restructuring companies specialize in acquiring nonperforming assets (NPA) from distressed financial institutions, leveraging their expertise to efficiently manage and

recover the same. The CRC sector plays promulgation of the a key role in minimizing Corporate Restructuring stressed assets in the Companies Act 2021, are banking sector through aimed at fostering market-led solutions, easing balance sheet burdens and economic

Telenor Pakistan's first female sales trainee program Parvaaz begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan conducted a two-day orientation bootcamp on for its newly onboarded Parvaaz female sales trainees.

Parvaaz, industry's first-of-its-kind sales trainee program, is dedicated to cultivating diversity and inclusion within sales roles, empowering fresh female graduates to challenge conventional views of sales as a male-dominated field said a news release.

345 headquarters, this bootcamp marks a signiciant milestone in Telenor Pakistan's ongoing commitment to nurturing diversity and inclusion in

the workplace.
With 11 onboarded sales trainees having placements in major cities including Peshawar, Faisalabad, Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, and AJK, the program aims to create representative workforce a news release. while tapping into fresh Held at the Telenor talent pools.

Empowering women-led businesses in Pak: USAID, UNDP, and SRSP launch groundbreaking Initiative in KP

enterprises, the United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Program (SRSP) Thursday unveiled an initiative here the other day aimed at nurturing women-owned businesses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged areas.

This transformative program is set to offer

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

ships namely, Cap Andreas, MSC Spring-III, San Nicolas, Huang Shan-16, Cetus and Lusail, carrying Containers, Coal, Palm oil Wheat, and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, HF Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Grain Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively. Meanwhile another edible oil carrier 'Ardmore Cherokee' also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on Tuesday. A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours.

PESHAWAR (APP): In a interest-free microfinance women-led businesses in significant move to loans coupled with flood-affected districts is strengthen women-led comprehensive business a testament to our management training to collective commitment to 2,000 women advancing economic entrepreneurs, designed to

cultivate a vibrant ecosystem, the initiative is dedicated to enhancing Program (UNDP) and the Sarhad Rural Support acumen, and networking opportunities for women, thereby fueling the resurgence of local economies in the flood-Nowshera and Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

microfinance initiative for equality.'

women advancing economic growth and building a brighter future for Pakistan," said Shante Moore, Consul General at United States Consulate General in Peshawar, in a virtual

'This initiative is not just a reflection of our stricken districts of partnership but also a step forward in our shared journey 'The launch of the empowerment

Underground cabling project accelerates

The work 'Underground Cabling Project' in Sadar area has been accelerated for timely completion in which power cables are being shifted to the underground wiring system. The project is aimed at getting rid of jumbling electric wires as well as to enhance beauty of the cantonment areas.

Service Road (North),

RAWALPINDI (APP): Hyder Road, Bank Road, on Canning Road and partial areas of Kashmir Road.

In an interaction with APP here on Thursday, spokesman Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB). Rasheed Saqib said that progress of the project was regularly being monitored the concerned departments for its timely completion.

He informed that in Inaugurated in He informed that in January 2024, phase I of Rs.850.0 million worth the project includes mega project, IESCO was shifting electric wires to the installing underground system in areas including Mall Road cables, whereas RCB was executing civil work.

Baligh-ur-Rehman says:

Pakistani women are talented, working shoulder to shoulder with men in every field of life

Independent Report Muhammad Balighur Rahman has said in his message on the occasion of International Women's Day that he pays tribute to the women who are contributing to the that the opportunities for the mainstream development of country in every field.

He said that Pakistani women are talented who are working shoulder to shoulder with men in every field of life. He said that our religion Islam gave rights to women in the age Jahiliyyah

as soon as they were born. He added that example of before us

woman. He emphasized education of a woman is equavalent to the education of a family.

Governor Punjab said



LAHORE: World Peace Jirga Program Chairman, Rayatullah Khan (Khan Baba) along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

Jirga held to resolve Gomal Zam dam area's demarcation issue

(APP): A jirga was convened here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Zafarul Islam Khattak to resolve Gomalzam dam area's democraction issue between Wazir and Mehsud tribes.

The meeting was attended by the deputy commissioners of South Waziristan Lower, Upper districts and elders of Mehsud, Wazir and Buki tribes.

After a threadbare belong to the Darray discussion, both the tribes Mehsud tribe, thus it could agreed to delineate the not take responsibility for dam's boundaries in the further demarcation.

accordance with historical maps from the British era. However, the Wazir committee emphasized extending the boundary beyond the British-era demarcation.

The Gomal council of Mehsud and Burki asserted that the Gomal area constitutes shared land, emphasizing the importance safeguarding interests. They said that ownership of the land beyond the boundary of Gomal Zam Dam did not

daughters were buried alive that as chancellor he has formed the Consortium on Women Empowerment in Hazrat Khadija (RA) is Universities with the aim of helping the government

He added that she was to formulate policies to a successful business educate and empower women and bring them into education and growth development. He said that should be provided to the empowered women are a women in the society. He source of positive change added that the education of and play an important role a man is the education of in the development of an individual while the society. He said that the purpose of celebrating this day is to salute all those courageous women who are contributing positively.

CJ Sindh Visited **Session Court** Shikarpur

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: Chief Justice of Sindh Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi visited the District and Session Court Shikarpur on Thursday here and inaugurated the Library and Dispensary in it's premises.

On the occasion, the District and Session Judge Manomal Khagaija and other Judges welcomed the Chief Justice of Sindh Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi for visiting District Session
Court Shikarpur.
The CJ Sindh
planted the tree in the

Session Court Shikarpur accompanied with District and Session Judge Shikarpur

WASA chalks out desilting plan for all sub-divisions

FAISALABAD (APP) Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) has chalked out a month-long desilting plan for all sub-divisions to clean main drainage as well as sewerage lines in the city under 'Saaf Suthra Punjab' program. Managing Director Amir Aziz said here on Thursday.



protest at Azadi Chowk in the city, against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting at Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar.

SIC challenges in LHC EC move for not giving them reserved seats

LAHORE (Online): Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) has challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC) the Election Commission (EC) move for not giving them reserved Chairman

Sahibzada Hamid Raza has challenged the EC step for not giving them reserved seats in Punjab in LHC. Raza has filed petition through advocate Ishtiaq A

Sahibzada Hamid Khan.EC and all others been made petition. The petitioner constitution.

said in his plea that EC is neither a tribunal nor court. The reserved seats should be given to SIC in proportion to seats in the assembly. It was also said in the context of the petition that it makes no difference if SIC has contested election or otherwise. EC act is tantamount to make amendment in the constitution. EC decision

tantamount transgressing its powers. The court should declare section 104 rule 94 of respondents in the election act as against the

Conference on violent extremism concludes

three-day Countering Violent post integration, ensuring main-Extremism Conference, organised under the auspices of the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, concluded its second-day sessions.

On the commencement of the second day of the threeday workshop, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Dr Qibla Ayaz, enlightened participants on the inclinations towards religious seminaries in

He emphasised the importance of discipline in both

PESHAWAR (APP): The He advocated for initiatives streaming of the tribal areas, and the establishment of health, education, and swift justice services, as well as the enforcement of law for the sustainable peace in the region. According to him, extream ideologies arise from deprivation and

Project Director of Pir Roshan Institute North Waziristan, Dr Jamil Ahmed Chitrali stressed the need for fostering patience, tolerance, and reasoned religious and modern sciences. dialogue within society.

CJ, PHC visits blood donation camp

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan visited blood donation camp here on Thursday organized by Hamza Foundation.

The chief justice also met the lawyers who donated blood. "I myself will donate blood and will come again after a while," the CJ said. A camp has been set up in the High Court for blood donation for thalassemia-affected children wherein a large number of lawyers visited.

Kidnapped man killed by the kidnappers By Adeel Ahmed

SHIKARPUR: The one of kidnapped Car Electrician Muhammad Rafiu Samejo was murdered by the kidnappers due to non payment of Ransom money to them on last night. According to reports reached here that the kidnappers had send the video of kidnapped Rafiu Samejo on Wednesday night in which his feet toes were tightened and seemed dead and later such video shared on social media (Facebook) as to spread the fear of Kidnappers with the message that they are most powerful to Police and law enforcement Agencies and can do anything at anytime without any hurdles and fear.

Governor greets UET students for academic success

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali Thursday congratulated the students, parents, faculty members who achieved academic success in his address to the Annual Convocation-2024 of the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar here.

Engineering education should be compatible with domestic and international industry and engineering and technology has made society faster, more integrated and made human life easier, Haji Ghulam Ali

He said young people keep their access to modern

(APP): and to deal with the Khyber challenges of the present Haji era, there is a need for era, there is a need for practical research in engineering, technology and other modern sciences. Modern research in all

fields can lead to progress, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali said, adding, all educated youth, including engineering the department, are the bright future of the nation. Haji Ghulam Ali said that our

youth are not less capable

in any field than the youth

of other countries. At the end, the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali also held a meeting with the students



LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan talking with the media persons during inauguration ceremony of Kitab Mela at Punjab University, in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistan Army arranges educational trip for N Waziristan students

PESHAWAR (APP): As Peshawar Museum and part of the 'Ilm Toloo Bala Dapara' (Education for All) initiative, the Pakistan Army organized a four-day educational trip for the students from schools in North Waziristan, focusing on Tehsil Ghulam Khan and Miranshah. As per the district administration on Thursday, the students embarked on a journey to historical discover landmarks in Peshawar and the students visited the University, Army. Islamic

Bala Hisar Fort. Meanwhile, in Abbottabad, they toured the Pakistan Military Academy Kakul Frontier Force Regimental Center and Shimla Hill. A Peshawar's Museum and Bala Hisar Fort, the students received insightful briefings on the historical significance of these sites, enriching their understanding of the region's heritage. Grateful for the opportunity, the Abbottabad. In Peshawar, students expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan

International News

Modi visits Indian-occupied Kashmir for first time since special status revoked

Monitoring Desk SRINAGAR: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he was working to "win hearts in [occupied] Kashmir", on his first visit to the disputed region's main city since its semi-autonomy was cancelled in 2019.

Modi's government stripped the Muslim-majority territory of its special constitutional status nearly five years ago, splitting the former state into two territories directly ruled from New Delhi.

The move, widely welcomed across India, angered many in the densely militarised territory.

"I am working hard to win your hearts, and my attempt to keep winning your hearts will continue, the Hindu nationalist leader said at a public rally in

"[Occupied] Jammu inaugurated a slew of develand Kashmir is not just a region, it is the crown of the country," Modi said at the rally in a stadium attended by thousands.

Modi took pride in India. having cancelled the region's constitutional special status and inherited protections of land and jobs for its permanent residents.

region's potential. "Today, from [occupied] Kashmir I extend my

greeting for the coming Ramazan to the entire country," Modi said, ahead of the holy month, expected to begin in the coming days. Thousands of armed

police and paramilitary forces were deployed, and checkpoints set up across Modi also remotely



Hezbollah supporters attend funeral of those killed in Israeli bombardment.

Angry Polish farmers protest EU rules

Monitoring Desk smoke bombs and lighting fires, thousands of angry farmers demonstrated in Warsaw on Wednesday against EU regulation and cheap Ukraine imports, with police reporting that two officers had been injured and a dozen protesters detained. Some demonstrators tried to force their way past security railings onto parliament grounds, ac-

cording to police. Farmers

also organised tractor block-

Behavior threatening the safety of our officers, including throwing cobblestone at them, cannot be ignored," police said on X, formerly Twitter. "A couple of police officers were injured. At the moment, a dozen people have been detained," they added.

Polish farmers have been blocking border crossings with Ukraine since last month to protest at what they say is unfair competition from goods entering ades on roads across the from Ukraine.

The visit comes He said the former ahead of India's national rules and "dynastic politics" had limited the first since the region lost first since the region lost its autonomy. The last local elections in Indian-occupied Kashmir were held in 2014

opment projects and gov-

ernment schemes for boost-

ing agro-economy and tour-

ism in Indian-occupied

Kashmir and other parts of

new infrastructure around the revered Muslim shrine

of Hazratbal in the city.

The projects included

Modi's government claims New Delhi's direct rule of Indian-occupied Kashmir brought about a new era of "peace and development", but critics and many residents say it heralded a drastic curtailment

of civil liberties and press freedom.

Hezbollah holds funeral for Israeli strike victims

Monitoring Desk HOULA: Hezbollah on Wednesday held a funeral in southern Lebanon for two of its fighters and a woman, all members of the same family, who were killed in an Israeli strike the day before.

A photographer saw hundreds of people turning up for the funeral in Houla, near the border with Israel that has seen deadly exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israeli forces since the start of the Gaza crisis. Tuesday's strike killed a man and his son who were initially identified as civilian victims but later claimed by Hezbollah as fighters "martyred in battle". During the funeral, the coffins of Hassan Hussein, his wife Ruwaida Mustafa who was also killed in the same strike, and their 25-year-old son, Ali Hussein, were draped with the Hezbollah flag, the photographer said.



guard looks on at the Bakshi Stadium in Śrinagar.

Cairo truce talks at an impasse as Ramazan looms

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Talks on a ceasefire and prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas were at an impasse on Wednesday, as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepened and the Israelis pushed ahead with plans to build 3,500 settler homes in the occupied West Bank.

Negotiators from Hamas, Qatar and Egypt but not Israel — are trying to secure a 40-day ceasefire in time for Ramazan, which begins next week. Urging the Palestinians

to accept the terms on the table, President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that Israel was cooperating and "a rafor the release of Israeli Although Hamas is

taking part, officials said a ceasefire must be in place before Israeli prisoners are freed, Israeli forces must leave Gaza and all Gazans must be able to return home they have fled. A source had earlier said Israel was staying away from the Cairo talks because Hamas refused to provide a list of prisoners who are still alive. Health officials in Gaza said the number of people confirmed killed in Israel's offensive had now passed 30,700. It reported 86 deaths in the past 24 hours and witnesses said the Istional offer" had been made for a ceasefire in exchange raeli bombardments contin-ued in parts of Khan Yunis.

Turkish Red Crescent sends its biggest Gaza aid shipment yet

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkey's Kizilay (Red Crescent) is sending its biggest aid shipment yet to Gaza via Egypt, with a ship carrying some 3,000 tons of food, medicine and equipment leaving for the Egyptian port of Al-Arish on Thursday.

Turkey, which has harshly criticised Israel

for its military offensive in Gaza and backed measures to have it tried for genocide at the World Court, has re-peatedly called for a ceasefire and warned of consequences if calm cannot be achieved by the Muslim holy month

of Ramadan, starting on

Japan court rejects bid to halt active Shikoku nuclear reactor, NHK reports **Monitoring Desk**

TOKYO: A Japanese court rejected a complaint demanding the shutdown of Shikoku Electric Power's Ikata No.3 reactor, in the first formal ruling on the legal battle for the nuclear plant in western Japan, public broadcaster NHK reported on Thursday. The Oita District

Court's ruling against the local residents worried about natural disaster risks allows the 30-year-old, 890-megawatt active reactor to continue operating. Shikoku Electric had faced two court injunctions to stop the reactor in 2017 and 2020.

India gets its first underwater metro

NEW DELHI (INP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata, nearly four decades after metro services began in the country. The metro tunnel has been built under Kolkata's Hooghly River that will connect Howrah Maidan to Esplanade. Kolkata was also the first city in India to have an operational metro system, in 1984.

After long tussle, Sweden to become **NATO** member STOCKOLM (INP): Af- golden-yellow flag is ex-

ter two centuries of nonalignment and two years of torturous diplomacy, Sweden on Thursday becomes the 32nd member of NATO, a major step for a country once careful not to anger

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson was visiting Washington where deploy in the country. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will ceremonially receive the ratification documents after the hard-fought battle to secure the green lights needed from all NATO members.

Kristersson is likely later in the day to attend the annual State of the Union address by President Joe Biden, who has been struggling to persuade the rival Republican Party to approve new aid to

pected to be hoisted on Monday at the Brussels headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

Russia has vowed "countermeasures" over Sweden's entry into NATO, especially if the alliance's troops and assets

Sweden and Finland, while both militarily intertwined with the United States and members of the European Union, have historically steered clear of officially joining NATO, formed in the Cold War to unite against the Soviet

Turning page on nonalignment-

Sweden has not been involved in a war, including World War II, since the Naaine. poleonic conflicts of the early 19th century.

China accuses US of using Philippines as 'pawn'

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China on Wednesday accused the United States of using the Philippines as a "pawn" in the South China Sea, as hostilities between the two Asian nations escalate over their territorial dispute in the region.

Manila summoned a Chinese representative on Tuesday after it said China Coast Guard vessels caused two collisions with Philippine boats and water cannoned one of them during a resupply mission.

China said it "took control measures" against Philippine ships' "illegal intrusion" into waters it claims, as well as accusing a Philippine ship of "intentionally" ramming a Chinese one.

"China urges the United States not to use the Philippines as a pawn to stir up trouble in the South China Sea," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters

when asked about the United States' condemnation of China's actions as "provocative". "The Philippines should not let itself be at the mercy of the United States," she added.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from a host of Southeast Asian nations and an international arbitration ruling that has declared its stance baseless. "China's resolve to defend its legitimate rights and interests is unwavering, and the Philippines' rights-infringing and provocative attempts will not succeed," Mao said. Asean, Australia reaction Southeast Asian and Australian leaders on Wednesday warned against actions that "endanger peace" in the South China Sea, following fresh confrontations between Beijing and the Philippines in contested waters

PM announces Rs 7.5bln Ramazan relief package for poor people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday announced a historic subsidy based Ramazan relief package 2024 of Rs 7.5 billion for the poor and middle classes.

He was chairing a high level meeting on Prime Minister's Ramazan Relief Package and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

Senator Ishaq Dar, Ahad Cheema, Shiza Fatima Khawaja, Romina Khursheed Alam and high ranking officials attended the

meeting.
The PM was given a detailed briefing on the Ramazan relief package.

During Ramazan ul Mubarak, under the package more than 39.6 million families will be provided edible goods on lower rates.

Under the Benazir Income Support Porgramme, 88 percent of the eligible families will be given 19 edible items including flour, rice, pulses, ghee, cooking oil,

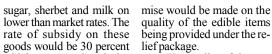
lower than market rates. The rate of subsidy on these goods would be 30 percent which was more than the inflation rate

Subsidy of Rs 77 per kilo would be given on the 20 kilogramme flour bag and Rs 70 subsidy on every kilogramme of ghee.

The Prime Minister's Ramazan relief package would be distributed among the needy families through 4775 utility stores across the country and the supply would continue till the end of Ramazan. Those who would face any difficulty in registration for the Ramazan relief programme, would be facilitated and registered at the spot and their complaints

would be resolved. The prime minister said it was priority of the government to distribute edible items to the poor and low income class on lower than market rates.

He said no compro-



The prime minister said it would be ensured that the people should not face any difficulty while availing

the counters for distribution of Ramazan package especially cheap flour besides mobile units.

would be taken against those who were resorting to artifi-cial price hikes and hoarding during the holy month of Ramazan. The PM instructed that the deserving people should be properly guided through an awareness campaign across the country about the relief package so that they could avail the facility and should not face any difficulty in getting the edible items

Sindh govt

has recruited

army of law

officers: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Supreme Court (SC) has re-

served judgment on the mat-

ter of appointment of 7 of-

ficers of grade-17 in forest

Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez

Isa rejected the reply of

chief secretary Sindh declar-

ing it highly disappointing.
The CJP remarked

Sindh government has em-

ployed army of law offic-

ers. Pension is paid to judges

and government employees

out of pockets of oppressed

people. The CJP gave these

remarks while presiding

over a 3-member bench of

SC during the hearing of

case pertaining to ap-

pointment of 7 officers of

grade 17 in Sindh forest de-

Jail authorities

fix meeting of

Fawad Ch with

his family

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Jail authorities have fixed

Thursday for meeting of his

family members with Fawad Chaudhry. The date has been

fixed in connection with case regarding meeting of family members of Fawad

up the petition. Justice

Saman Rafat Imtiaz of IHC

heard the petition filed by

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Assistant Commissioners

City, Farhan Ahmad led

by teams of district ad-

ministration on Thursday

executed a targeted opera-

tion against professional

beggars on the directives

of the Deputy Commis-

sioner and arrested 11 beg-

gars from different areas

missioner City took swift

action, nabbing 11 profes-

sional beggars from vari-

ous areas. These individu-

als were promptly handed

over to the police, while

minor children found beg-

ging were safely relocated

to the Edhi Center, said the

ICT spokesman, Dr

Abdullah Tabassum. Ac-

cording to the details, un-

der the supervision of As-

sistant Commissioners, the

operation against beggars

persists daily.

The Assistant Com-

of the city.

The court wrapped

Chaudhry with him.

family.

partment Thursday.

The Chief Justice of

department Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, and Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Representative presenting a shield to chief guest Dr. Sabina Durrani, Director General, National Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Network.

PIMA partners with Cheezious to aid Gaza medical relief efforts

cal Association (PIMA) has teamed up with Cheezious, food a chain in Pakistan, to provide essential medical assistance to the

has vowed to contribute Rs lamic teachings. This MoU 50 for every meal sold to is a step forward in this diassist Pakistan Islamic rection. Serving humanity Medical Association (PIMA) in their efforts to provide medical relief to Gaza, including supplying medical supplies and treating the injured, said a press

release issued here. The memorandum of understanding, (MoU) titled "Every Order Counts," was signed by PIMA General Secretary, Dr. Iftikhar Burney, and the Executive Director of Cheezious, Umer Faroog, on Thursday.

The ceremony was attended by President PIMA Islamabad, Dr. Saeedullah Shah; former president, Brig. Dr. Asif Nawaz; Head

Corporate Affairs, Azam

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Iftikhar Burney said that collaboration in acts of goodness and char-The fast-food chain ity is an integral part of Isis our fundamental responsibility as doctors, and at this moment, the greatest opportunity for humanitarian service lies in assisting

the people of Gaza. He emphasized the urgent need to end the blockade in Rafah/ Gaza and establish safe humanitarian corridors for the seamless supply of medical aid, food, and the safe evacuation of the wounded We welcome the private sector's collaboration in providing much-needed medical assistance to Gaza, acknowledging the crucial role it plays in addressing humanitarian



ISLAMABAD: Labourers working on expansion of Chak Shahzad Road in the Federal Capital.

BJP Indian govt pushing false narrative on normalcy in IIOJK to mislead world

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Hindutva Bharatiya Janata Party Indian (BJP) government is continuously peddling propaganda to push the false narrative of so-called normalcy returning to Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir

Media Service, political analysts talking to media men in Srinagar said that continued cordon and search operations, house raids, frisking on roads, detentions, slapping of draconian laws, snatching of properties and suspending or terminating government employees debunk India's claim of normalcy. Indian troops have converted IIOJK into an open prison

and cantonment zone. The BJP Indian government and its regime in IIOJK, they maintained, snatched every right, including the right to live and voice of Kashmiris, and intended to paint the picture that all is well in the territory but the fact is that all is against normal in the ter-

They urged the world to press India to allow United Nations observers and global rights bodies to visit IIOJK and assess the ground situation and Kashmiris be allowed to decide their future themselves. Peace and stability will remain a distant dream in South Asia without a resolution of the Kashmir dispute, the analysts

They demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners, including Hurriyat leaders, youth and activists, languishing in different jails of India and illegally occupied Jammu and

The political analysts said the people of Kashmir have not forgotten the promise of a plebiscite. "Each time Kashmiris have renewed their demands. These acts of repression have now turned into a systematic 'reign of terror' in the Vale of Kashmir. All the features of severe political repression are evident," they added.

The quality of the eatables would be strictly monitored, he added.

the Ramazan package. He directed to increase

He said strict action



(APP): :A top Pakistani diplomat has called on the

UN Security Council to join

Pakistan in demanding that

the Taliban authorities ter-

minate their relationship

with the Tehreek-e-Taliban

stan, the Pakistani envoy said, "The Afghan Interim Government's failure to control the TTP and other terrorist groups erodes its claim of full control of its territory that it asserts in order to secure international recognition." He also urged the United Nations to undertake an investigation to find out how the TTP has acquired advanced military equipment and weaponry and to identify the sources of the TTP's financing, which is helping sustain its 50,000 fighters and their dependents and its terrorist operations.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a

meeting regarding PM's Ramzan Relief Package and Benazir Income

Pakistan urges UNSC to

ask Taliban to cut ties with

TTP, eliminate terrorism

on the situation in Afghani-

exchange of fire by Pakistani security forces was always in response to cross-border attacks by the TTP and its affiliates against Pakistan's border posts and installations.

'We would expect the UN to call on the Afghan Interim Government to prevent such cross-border attacks and infiltration b the TTP and other terrorists into Pakistani territory. Highlighting that terrorist organizations in Afghanistan pose a security threat to each one of the country's immediate neighbours.

Regarding the reported border incidents, the

Mandviwalla urges political parties to uphold dignity of Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Saleem Mandviwalla on Thursday Saleem urged the all political par-ties to uphold the dignity of the Senate of Pakistan by following the democratic

In his farewell speech in the Senate Session, he said that unfortunately during the last few years, some undemocratic measures have harmed the honor of

the upper house.

He said that the people of Pakistan sent them to the Parliament for the prosperity and development of the country but unfortunately, many things occurred against the public and the country's interest. He thanked all outgo-

ing colleague senators for playing their role during the last five years and hoped they would come again to serve their country.

Tarar in his speech said that the mandate of the senate should be respected by formulating new laws, and amendments in favor of the people and country. He said that listening

Senator Azam Nazir

to the points of view of each other in the Senate is the essence of democracy. He said that the sen-

ate atmosphere remained cool and calm during their tenure, adding "We had a good time in the Upper House as each member played his/her role efficiently"

President grants special remission to children,

women prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday announced special exemption in the punishments of woman and child prisoners on humanitarian grounds.

would be applicable to women and children sentenced for two years or less, and the ones with less than two years of sentence left to complete, a President Office news

release said. The reduction in sentence would not apply to the prisoners involved in murder, espionage, and anti-State



sultation session on Pakistan School Safety Framework held at local hotel

PIO Dr. Tariq says: Digitalization offers opportunities in abundance for women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan on Thursday highlighted the evolving landscape of opportunities for women, driven by digitalization.

Hiba Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday. The court was informed through state In a seminar titled counsel jail authorities have "Women Empowerment: Challenges & Opportunifixed Thursday for meeting ties in a Changing World," organized in connection of Fawad Chaudhy with his with International Women's 11 apprehended Day, he emphasized the transformative impact of Crackdown digitalization, stating that it against alms has led to a significant increase in opportunities for women, particularly in ecoseekers in ICT

nomic spheres. He noted a positive trend towards women's increased participation in various aspects of life, including politics and the economy, which is gradually crossing traditional bar-

Acknowledging the prevailing social challenges faced by women, Dr. Tariq underscored the importance of addressing issues relating to gender equality and ensuring the provision of basic human rights to all individuals, regardless of

Highlighting the global nature of the women empowerment movement, he mentioned the momentum gained by feminist movements in countries such as the United States and European nations. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts at both national and international levels to empower women and promote gender equality.

Dr. Tariq urged

nities in social, political, and economic domains to showcase their capabilities and contribute effectively to society. He encouraged women to embrace the digital world to enhance their livelihoods and achieve economic empowerment.

Meanwhile, Farzana Bari, a renowned Gender Expert and Human Rights Activist, addressed the seminar shedding light on various critical issues faced by women in contemporary society. Highlighting the pervasive challenges confronting women, including domestic violence, early marriage, and nutritional deficiencies, she emphasized the systematic discrimination against women, characterizing their treatment as that of second-class citizens must come to an end



ISLAMABAD: Journalists gather outside National press club during annual election of NPC, in the Federal Capital.

Minimum Nisab set at Rs 135,179 for Zakat deduction

ISLAMABAD (APP): In continuation of its efforts to facilitate Zakat collection and distribution in accordance with Islamic principles, the government has announced the Nisab-i-Zakat for the Zakat Year 1444-45 A.H.

The Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PASS) notified the new Nisab at Rs. 135,179.

According to the no-tification, the Zakat would be deduced from Saving Bank Accounts, Profit and Loss Sharing Accounts, and other similar accounts.

According to the Zakat and Ušhr Ordinance, 1980, no deduction of Zakat at source shall be made if the balance in the specified accounts is less than Rs 135,179 on the first

day of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, 1445 A.H. The 'Deduction Date' for Zakat, likely to fall on 12th or 13th March 2024, subject to the sighting of the

On this day, Zakat will be deducted from accounts holding a credit balance equal to or exceeding Rs 135,179.



Khalil Ahmed Dogar addressing during a seminar at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

IHC seeks report about presence of Bushra Bibi in sub jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while hearing the petition filed by Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder in connection with her shifting from Bani Gala Sub jail to Adiala jail has sought report about presence of Bushra Bibi in sub

The court ordered senior officer of Islamabad administration to visit sub jail Bani Gala remarking superintendent jail should pass port of order with registrar house

The petition filed by Bushra Bibi seeking her shifting from Bani Gala to Adiala jail came up for hearing in IHC Thursday.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb took up the case for hearing Thurs-

The notification regarding approval of chief commissioner on shiftng Bushra Bibi to Banigala was presented in the court.

The court inquired order on the petition related to meeting of Bushra Bibi with PTI founder. Superin-tendent Jail should file re-tendent Jail should file re-willingness of owner of the

Fauzia pays tribute to "unwavering commitment" of Pakistani women

ISLAMABAD (APP): all policy matters like hu-Protection against Harassment at Workplace Fauzia Waqar Thursday paid tribute to "unwavering commitment" of Pakistani women and expressed her firm believe that their success is integral to the progress of our nation.

On the eve of International Women' day which is to be observed (Friday) tomorrow she while speaking to a private news channel said that we are proud of our talented and passionate Pakistani women and we will continue to provide a safest environment to women in society.

She said the government was ensuring equal participation of women in

social protection, education, health and social security. She also reaffirmed the national and international commitments for the protection of women's rights and ending violence against them. 'We are immensely

proud of our Pakistani women, who have consistently demonstrated their dedication, leadership and commitment to shaping a brighter future for our society, she added. "We stand united in

our efforts to empowering women and promote collaboration, as we believe that their success is integral to the progress of our nation," she added.



ISLAMABAD: Women's rights activist, Farzana Bari delivering keynote speech in a seminar titled "Women Empowerment: Challenges & Opportunities in a Changing World", in commemoration of International Women's Day organized by the Alliance For Good Governance Foundation at a local hotel.

Excise staff sets up mobile van at Trail 3 for vehicle services

The Islamabad Capital Territory's (ICT) Excise Department is offering convenient access to essential administrative tasks for vehicle owners through its mobile van which is stationed at Trail 3 on Thursday. The excise staff will be on-site, offering a hassle-free experience for vehicle owners seeking registration, transfers, and token tax processing, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said.

He said this unprecedented initiative not only caters to vehicular paperwork but also introduces the ICT Doorstep Service. The citizens are encouraged to avail the opportunity to obtain the Domicile Certificate, Birth Certificate, Power of At-

torney, International Driving Permit, Fuel Permit (Domestic/Commercial), or Motor Vehicle Registration, all at one convenient location, he added. He further emphasized that the Facilitation Center's Doorstep ICT Vehicle will be present, providing a seamless and efficient solution for various administrative needs. Whether a vehicle

owner looking to sort out your paperwork or in need of essential documents, this event promises efficiency with a touch of convenience to the masses, he added.

By bringing these services directly to the community at Trail 3 parking, residents can save time and effort in completing necessary bureaucratic procedures