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Sworn in as 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz directs to prepare an action plan to revive national economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday took the oath as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Shehbaz Sharif, who was elected to the country's top office for the second time.

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

chief ministers and diplomats.

PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, other political leaders including Hamza Shehbaz, Aleem Khan, Raja Zafarul Haq, Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and senior officers also attended the ceremony.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan on an emergency basis to revive national economy.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He gave these directions while presiding over a meeting to review strategies for country's economic revival and growth in Islamabad today.

He said his government will work for improving the country's economic landscape, promoting investment opportunities and facilitating the business community.

He said economic revitalization stands as the foremost priority of his administration, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action to address pressing economic concerns.

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

The Prime Minister also underscored the government's resolve to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and create an enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Prime Minister also directed immediate engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to advance discussions on the Extended Fund Facility

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

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

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

The session concluded with a commitment to ongoing dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders across sectors to chart a path towards sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Beside others, dignitaries, including Senator Masood Malik, Members of the National Assembly Ata Tarar, Shiza Fatima,

Rominah Khurshid, Ahad Cheema, Jehanzib Khan, also attended the meeting.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was presented guard of honour on Monday as he arrived at the PM House soon after taking oath of his office at the President House.

The national anthem was played and a smartly turned out contingent of the three services presented him salute.

He inspected the guard of honour.

The prime minister was later introduced to the staff of the Prime Minister House.

Later, during his meeting with outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Shehbaz Sharif lauded the steps taken by the caretaker government for the continuation of the country's development under his leadership.

He also expressed his best wishes for Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in his future life.

Meanwhile, a smartly turned out contingent of the three services presented a farewell guard of honour to the outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saw him off after the guard of honour and farewell meeting with the staff of Prime Minister Office.



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



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir shake hand with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital.

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

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

Speaking in the National Assembly, he recalled the Prime Minister's offer during his maiden speech in the House to collaborate on a Charter of National Reconciliation.

"We not only endorse it but also urge the Opposition to participate in this process for the broader interests of the country," he stated.

Bilawal Bhutto con-

gratulated the newly elected Chief Ministers of all four provinces and emphasized the need for them to play their role in saving Pakistan's 'democracy and economy.'

He said that people did not vote for anyone to create a ruckus but to save them from this economic crisis. Bilawal Bhutto stressed the need for discourse among all the lawmakers.

He said the Parliament was the mother of all institutions, and if this institution was strengthened, it would ultimately empower the masses.

"The people of Pakistan are tired of poverty, unemployment, and inflation," he said, adding "they

World leaders felicitate Shehbaz Sharif on assumption of PM office

ISLAMABAD (APP): World leaders felicitate Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office.

Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman wished Shehbaz Sharif success, and the people of Pakistan steady



erhood and fraternity. He underlined that enduring people-to-people bonds, and strong religious and cultural linkages underpinned progress and prosperity.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on Monday called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him on his election as the country's chief executive.

The prime minister expressed his gratitude to President Erdogan for his gracious gesture of brotherhood and fraternity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed that Pakistan looked forward to welcoming President Erdogan for the session of Pak-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), being scheduled to be held in Islamabad in near future.

Presidential polls: Zardari, Achakzai set for showdown as ECP approves nomination papers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presidential election in Pakistan is scheduled for March 9 when Asif Ali Zardari, the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), will vie for the prestigious office.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has called for a joint session of Parliament on March 9. The National Assembly secretary has issued a notification of the joint session.

The scrutiny of nomination papers for candidates vying for the role of president was held on Monday. The final list of eligible candidates will be released on March 5 (Tuesday).

Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers have been approved after scrutiny, making him eligible to contest for the coveted presidential seat. However, Mahmood Khan Achakzai's nomination papers have not been approved yet, as reservations have been raised against them.



KARACHI: President of Jamia Dar-ul-Uloom Karachi and Wifaq Ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani exchanges views with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman during meeting held Jamia Dar-ul-Uloom in Karachi.

Governor summons Sindh PA session on March 7

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori has summoned Sindh Assembly session on Thursday (March 07).

According to order issued by the Law on Monday, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution department, in exercise of powers conferred on him under the Clause (a) of Article 109 of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, summoned session of provincial Assembly of Sindh.

SIC names Omar Ayub opposition leader, Gohar PAC chairman

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Monday devised its strategy for parliament and decided names for various parliamentary offices. According to media reports, opposition SIC has decided names for the Leader of Opposition, its parliamentary party leader and chairman Public Accounts Committee. "Omar Ayub will be the opposition leader in the National Assembly," sources said.

In major blow ECP rejects SIC's request for reserved seats allocation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea for allocation of minority and women reserve seats in national and provincial assemblies. A five-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, firmly stated that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is not entitled to have reserved seats for women and minorities.

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

The SIC submitted a plea in ECP claiming the allocation of seats based on inclusion of PTI-endorsed candidates within their party.

Omar Ayub is likely to become opposition leader in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) candidate, Omar Ayub Khan is set to become the opposition leader in the lower house of the Parliament, the National Assembly.

Sources have confirmed that the PTI founder has also approved Omar Ayub's appointment as the opposition leader. The nomination papers for the opposition leader position are due today (Monday).

Omar Ayub has been elected unopposed as PTI's secretary-general in the intra-party elections.

In the recent developments, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has secured the position of the 24th prime minister of Pakistan with 201 votes, while Omar Ayub faced defeat by securing 92 votes on Sunday.

No single party secured a majority in the National Assembly, which has a total of 336 seats. To win the coveted office of prime minister, 169 votes were required.

SC reserves verdict in ZA Bhutto reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): A nine-member larger bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday reserved its verdict in a long-pending presidential reference, seeking to revisit the 1979 'controversial' death sentence awarded to former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. The bench was also comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin Ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar,

Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The SC bench reserved its verdict after the completion of arguments from both sides. "Not today, but we will announce our verdict soon," the CJP remarked. In the last hearing, CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked that Martial law is not imposed by the army as an institution. Some people act as individuals. Sometimes there has to be a new beginning, so isn't this an opportunity.

"Isn't it an opportunity for institutions to be indifferent to them by blaming for wrongdoings on the same individuals?"



KARACHI: Members of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

Asif Ali Zardari seeks MQM-P's support for presidential election

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman and nominee for president, Asif Ali Zardari 'sought' Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) support for the presidential election.

According to the ECP schedule, polling for the presidential election will be held on March 9 from 10 am to 4 pm.

The nomination papers' scrutiny is being held on March 4, whereas the final list of candidates for the presidential elections will be displayed on March 5 at 1:00 pm.

Sources privy to the development said, Asif Ali Zardari telephoned MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, a day earlier, to seek his party's vote in the presidential election. Siddiqui said he will respond after consultation with the party, the sources said.

Meanwhile, it is also being said PPP delegation will meet MQM-P soon to seek support.

Separately, Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers for the presidential elections were approved as no objection was raised over his nomination. "We have required numbers to win the election, Asif Zardari will be elected the president again," Farooq H. Naik said.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Prime minister's challenge

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

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

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

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

Climate stresses

Huma Yusuf

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

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

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

mate change more widely. Other drivers are food inflation, soaring fuel prices and livestock diseases.

The current flooding will exacerbate food insecurity. Flooding will destroy agrarian families' food stocks, usually amounting to three to six months' sustenance. Other farm inputs — stored harvests, seeds, fertilisers — are also subject to damage during flooding.

The same survey found that 64pc of the province's farming households struggled to sell their produce, propelling a vicious circle of food insecurity. This was because of difficult access to markets, either due to poor infrastructure that led to transport delays and crop damage or the high cost of transportation. Last week's rains will worsen this situation: the roads that have dissolved will take months, if not years, to repair, impairing mobility. Local fuel costs will likely soar, following disruption to Pakistan-Iran border routes due to flooding. Secondary sources of income such as inter-provincial or cross-border trading will be hard hit.

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

Research shows that a local temperature rise of 0.5 degrees Celsius increases the likelihood of conflict by 10 to 20pc as climate change drives resource competition. Balochistan's already explosive political

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

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

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

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

Waves of terrorism

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

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

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

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

nity.

The kidnapping and murder of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades in 1979 marked a significant moment in the third wave, underlining the continued importance of kidnapping as a tactic. Between 1968 and 1982, the world witnessed 49 international kidnapping incidents involving 951 hostages, forcing companies to insure their executives against kidnappings. This wave also saw renewed efforts in political assassinations. The IRA and its offshoots were responsible for killing two British ambassadors in 1976 and 1979, Lord Mountbatten in 1979, and of unsuccessful attempts on the lives of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Additionally, the Black September group assassinated Jordan's prime minister in 1971. It was during this wave that the term 'international terrorism' became widespread, as militant groups engaged in coordinated attacks, kidnappings, and hijackings. In Latin America and the Middle East, the US emerged as a primary target, with a third of all international terrorist acts aimed at American interests.

Despite the eventual defeat of revolutionary terrorists by the end of the third wave, international counterterrorism cooperation faced challenges, evidenced by instances like France's refusal to extradite suspects from the PLO, Red Brigade, and ETA to West Germany, Italy, and Spain, respectively. However, efforts to enhance global collaboration against terrorism led to the signing of international, including UN, conventions from 1970 to 1999, aimed at prohibiting hijacking and hostage-taking. The fourth wave has been characterised by a misinterpretation of religion

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

In 1901, president Roosevelt rallied for a crusade to eliminate terrorism globally, and a century later, in September 2001, president George W. Bush proclaimed a "war that would continue until every terrorist group with global reach had been identified, halted, and defeated". This repetition of resolve over a century later underscores the necessity for major powers to understand why history has repeated itself and why they failed to create history. The critical question now is whether the current wave, driven primarily by religious motivation, will persist or conclude by 2025. The global nature of terrorism calls for enhanced international collaboration, including the establishment of MOUs, mutual legal assistance, and extradition treaties, as crucial measures for combating terrorism and minimising the influence of violent non-state entities. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

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

LAHORE (APP): Former caretaker federal minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz said on Monday that Pakistan would be the largest economy of Muslim Ummah during the next ten years.

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

Gohar Ejaz said that China, America and the

Gulf region are major markets for Pakistani products, asserting that a policy has also been formulated that after three years, no raw materials would go out of Pakistan.

He said that Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) had increased from USD two billion to USD 7.2 billion during July 2022 to June 2023. "The imports we had banned through LCs (Letters of Credit), had been reaching Pakistan through ATT, and the high US dollar rate against rupee was mainly due to ATT. Out of USD 7.2 billion ATT, we had banned USD 3 billion products/imports. As soon, we clarified the ATT policy, the US dollar rate went down significantly i.e from Rs 340 to Rs 280," he claimed.

He mentioned that usually, the interest rate

has to be kept higher than the inflation rate, and at that time, the inflation rate was 28 percent but the last caretaker government had contained the interest rate at 22 percent which was then also objected by the IMF. He said that 50 percent of employment opportunities in the country were created by the private sector.

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

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

RCCI links MoU with WELDO

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO) here on Monday.

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

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

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



KARACHI: Women are busy buying handmade items on a stall at a local hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

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

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani experts have lauded the significance of the "Two Sessions" in fostering global economic stability in the context of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. They believe that the foreign policies and incentives for foreigners in China during these sessions are pivotal in enhancing economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development in the region.

Muhammad Asghar, a Pakistani journalist in China told China Economic Net that the strategic discussions held during the Two Sessions serve as a platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China, paving the way for mutually beneficial partnerships that contribute to global economic stability.

"I feel honored to attend the CPPCC Spokesperson briefing held ahead of Two Sessions in 2024. I'm attending different meetings and briefings during the six-day Two Sessions. I will focus on jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative President Xi Jinping

launched a decade ago to build a community with a shared future. I witnessed the previous five to six Two Sessions during my assignments which I have good experience of it", he stated. He further said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a flagship project of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative. Several projects have been completed in Pakistan under CPEC. "I am also looking forward to attending Foreign Minister Wang Yi media interaction and also opening and closing ceremonies.

The Board's members from different districts expressed their deep concern on increasing prices of inputs and irregularity in selling of fertilizers.

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

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

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

Progress not possible without justice in society: Dr Asif Jah

DG KHAN (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah said on Monday that progress is not possible without justice in the society because delaying justice is tantamount to denying justice.

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

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

The Federal Tax Ombudsman said that our

institution was established in 2000 with the fundamental objective of promptly addressing taxpayers' complaints, adding that our department is resolving complaints of thousands of taxpayers every year. He further said that last year, more than 9,000 applicants were resolved within 45 days, while complaints from more than 12,000 applicants this year would also be addressed without delay.

He said that our institution has initiated an awareness campaign under the Outreach Programme in remote areas of the country.

The campaign, he said had started from Dera Ghazi Khan in this regard.



LAHORE: Farmers are busy in preparing to collect honey from boxes placed roadside fields in the Provincial Capital.

Farmers urge government to stem inflation in input cost, regulate seed quality

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB), a group lobbying for the rights of the agrarians, has congratulated all the new federal and provincial governments, expressing the hope that they would give due importance to the agriculture sector which was confronting myriads of problems.

A meeting of the SAB here the other, presided by Mahmood Nawaz Shah, also drew the government's attention towards the problems which required their immediate attention and action, according to a press

statement. The Board's members from different districts expressed their deep concern on increasing prices of inputs and irregularity in selling of fertilizers.

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

The growers complained that the prices of DAP, potash, pesticides, other nutrients and fuel were also rising day by day without any check and balance.

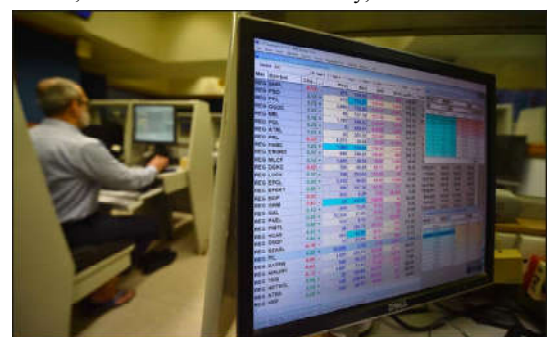
The SAB maintained that the ceaseless artificial inflation in the prices of the agricultural inputs was not only harming the farmers, but the people who use or consume the agricultural

produce were also being to pay exorbitant prices.

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

The agriculturists at the meeting also highlighted the issues pertaining to quality and availability of the seeds of various crops.

They said non-availability of quality seed continued to be one of the major stumbling blocks to enhancing the yields.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbroker monitors the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

PARC organises workshop on promoting climate smart agriculture

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

The event brought together participants from various national and

international research organizations, said a press release issued here. Addressing the workshop, Chairman PARC, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, reiterated that climate smart agriculture research is crucial in addressing the challenges posed by rapidly changing climatic conditions and to ensure sustainable food production and agricultural resilience.

Peace, security top priority: Amin Gandapur

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, stated on Monday that peace and security will be the top priority of his government, with no compromise to be made.

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

He highlighted that

development and prosperity are not possible without peace and security in the region. He also mentioned that the reduction in poverty, provision of employment opportunities to people, and uplift of weaker sections are the second important priorities of the provincial government. Furthermore, he stated that construction and development of infrastructure will be the third important priority.

The Chief Minister clarified that when he talked about reforms in the police, it should not be

perceived as a threat. He emphasized, "We do not believe in retaliatory actions, but reform is our duty."

He expressed the desire for a system where no one can commit violence or injustice against anyone else, aiming for a better and fair system for the coming generations. Earlier, he offered condolences to the family of martyred SP Ijaz Khan in Sherpaa village, Charsadda and met with the children of the martyred. He praised the bravery and sacrifices of the police in the line of duty.



RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with Chaudhary Muhammad Akram keenly viewing Science & Arts Exhibition of Punjab College of Commerce.

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

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

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

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

"Our commitment is to provide relief to the people with the help of the

political leaders," the Commissioner said.

The administration and the elected representatives would play their constructive role to solve the problems of the people, he added.

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

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

He said that practical steps would be taken in the light of the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.



MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Rizwan Qadeer leading awareness walk about 'Clean Punjab Campaign' organized by the Waste Management Company.

06 dead, 1378 injured in 1274 road traffic crashes in Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1274 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1274 were injured. Out of these, 610 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 768 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 667 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 160 pedestrians, and 557 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics show that 252 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 280 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 115 in with 142 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 87 victims.

Six power pilferers booked in Sargodha

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

Three killed, two injured on road

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

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

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

Among Rs. 159 billion, Rs. 40 billion

ANF recovers 128 kg drugs in five operations

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

Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

KARACHI (APP): A two-member delegation of the Germany-based Deutsche Welle (DW) international broadcaster visited the University of Karachi on Monday.

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

They appreciated the television and radio labs and production work of the stu-



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

Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

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

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

She said that they would like to give them a

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

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

of dialogue in society and our target group is mostly youth."

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

She observed that the work of the media is not to solve problems but to point them out. She added that earlier we were ahead in ra-

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

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

International News



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

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

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

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators had gathered in front of the Art Gallery of Ontario, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was due to host his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, according to Canadian media reports.

"Due to security concerns, the event was cancelled," Jenna Ghass-abeh, a spokesperson for the Canadian prime minister's office, said without giving further details. Meloni, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, is visiting Canada ahead of a leaders' summit in Italy in June.

Earlier in the day, the two leaders held talks where they discussed what Meloni described as a "very difficult Middle East crisis".

Bangladesh Nobel winner fears for future as woes mount

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

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

Australia commences building of air traffic control system for uncrewed flights

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

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

Haley beats Trump in first Republican primary in Washington DC

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

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

Trump's only remaining challenger for the nomination won 62.9 percent of the vote in the capital. The controversial former president took 33.2 percent. The

result handed Haley all 19 delegates at stake.

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

However, the GOP appears ready to look past that chaos, which includes numerous legal cases, including efforts to brand Trump ineligible to run in November.

Haley faces near-impossible odds in her quest to win the Republican nomination to take on likely Democratic nominee President Joe Biden in November.

Trump won the first eight nominating contests by significant margins and is expected to increase his lead in this week's Super Tuesday races, which will see 15 states vote.

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

Trump's campaign

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

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

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

Iran conservatives secure bulk of seats in elections

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iranian conservatives secured the bulk of seats in elections for a key clerical body and the national legislature, local media reported on Sunday, estimating a record low turnout. Authorities were still counting ballots two days after Friday's vote for members of parliament and for the Assembly of Experts, which selects the Islamic republic's supreme leader. The election, in which a vetting process

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

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

Indian police hunt more suspects in gang rape of Spanish tourist

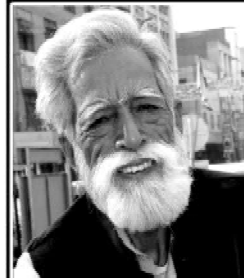
Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Three Indian men have appeared in court after the gang rape of a Spanish tourist on a motorbike trip with her husband, with police hunting four other suspects, reports have said. The attack took place on Friday night in eastern India in Jharkhand state's Dumka district, where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

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

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

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

CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Sardar Abid Aleem

Publisher and Chief Editor of

Daily Millat, Faisalabad

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

APNS
All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Senate unanimously passed resolution in favour of innocent Palestinians

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

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

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

"This House strongly recommends and urges the International Community to take action such that the siege of Gaza be lifted immediately and Muslim countries be allowed all ac-

cess and cover for delivery of aid" it added.

Dr Afnan Ullah Khan criticized the weak stance of the international community for not practically helping the innocent Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Senator Pulwasha Muhammad Zai Khan highlighted that Israeli forces not only killing innocent Palestinian people but also making fun of the martyrs by capturing their pictures.

Senator Faisal Javed informed the upper house that around 01 million are affected in Gaza due to the infectious disease.

They are not being provided the medicine and other necessary things.

Senator Kamran Murtaza said that today, again hundreds of innocent people of Palestine have been martyred who were gathered to take aid. This issue is relevant to humanity and it should be ended for the sake of humanity, he added.

Senator Aon Abbas said that one child is being

killed every 15 minutes in Palestine and around 10,000 children have been killed so far.

Senator Khalida Ateeb said that he hold the first rally in Karachi in solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine. We should boycott Israeli products and this step should be taken at the government level.

Senator Taj Haider said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto decided to use our resources for the betterment of Muslim countries and he united the Muslim countries but unfortunately, he was hanged.

He urged the government and masses to stay within your resources to get rid of foreign loans, adding that only this way we can get honor in the world.

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



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Co-Chairman PPP Asif Ali Zardari, leader of PMLN Mian Muhaamad Nawaz Sharif attending oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital.

IMF recommends Pak to jack up GST on medicines, petroleum to 18pc

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

The IMF team visited Pakistan in December 2023, and dispatched its report in February 2024 with a set of recommendations ahead of the FY2024-25 budget.

The IMF has recom-

mended bringing several dozen items under the standard rate of 18% GST, including unprocessed food, stationery, medicine, POL products and others.

The IMF estimated that rationalizing GST rates could generate 1.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) revenue, which equates to Rs1,300 billion in national exchequer.

Overall, the IMF has called for the removal of all distortionary tax policy changes related to compliance, including the abolition of minimum taxes and additional taxes, as well as the abolition of the Ninth and Tenth Schedules.

People's Party to nominate Yousaf Raza Gilani for Senate top slot

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to nominate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani as its candidate for Senate chairman's office, sources said on Monday.

The sources the PPP leadership has informed Gilani about the party's decision. "Yousaf Raza Gilani will cast vote in the upcoming presidential election as MNA," sources added.

Later, he will relinquish the NA seat and Qasim Gilani will contest election on the seat, party sources said.

Gilani will contest the Senate election on the People's Party ticket and will be the party's candidate for chairman of the upper house.

Achakzai urges political unity to overcome national crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pashunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai Monday urged all political groups to collaborate in addressing the numerous challenges facing the nation and guiding it through the crisis.

Speaking in National Assembly on point of order, he said that Parliament should have more power and be the main center of authority.

He also highlighted that the country's constitution brought the people together nationwide and its sanctity must be ensured.

USC to launch Rs 7.5 b PM's Ramadan Relief Package today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Store Corporation (USC) is all set to launch Rs 7.5 billion Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package 2024 on Tuesday (March 5).

The prime minister had announced a special subsidy of Rs 7.5 billion to provide edible items to the people subsidized prices during the holy month of Ramadan, a USC spokesman said on Monday.

Under the package, he said, the USC would give subsidy on 19 basic food items, including flour, ghee, edible oil, sugar, pulse gram, white gram, besan, dates, rice, tea, spices, milk and beverages. The spokesman said the USC would ensure abundant availability of all food items at its outlets to meet the needs of the public during the holy month.

Only the poor families

comprising around 200 million people registered with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) under the PMT-60 category instead of PMT-40 would be able to benefit from the targeted subsidy, he added.

The BISP beneficiaries would get a 10 kilogram flour bag for Rs 648, ghee Rs 365 per kg and sugar for Rs109 per kg, while the subsidy of Rs 25 per litre would be given on edible oil, the spokesman said.

Similarly, he said, the subsidy of Rs 25 per kg on pulse gram and white gram, Rs 50 per kg on gram flour (besan) and dates, Rs 25 per kg on Basmati rice, Silah rice and broken rice, Rs 100 on tea (800 grams), and Rs 30 per liter on packed milk.

Spices and beverages would also be available at cheaper prices, he added.



GARHI KHUDA BUX: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti along with others are offering and showering rose petals on the graves for the peace of departed soul of Martyred Mohitarma Benazir Bhutto and Martyred Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto held at Bhutto Mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bux.

Hope PM Shehbaz to prove good for masses, economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has expressed hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will prove excellent for masses and economy of the country.

Talking to business community on Monday, he said that newly-elected prime minister will continue the process of reforms, which will stabilize the economy, increase the value of the rupee, and make the business atmosphere favorable.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Shahbaz Sharif has proved his best Chief Minister of Punjab and the current IMF program was result of his efforts as the Prime Minister.

He said that new prime minister understands the economic issues and their importance and he enjoys the support of Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari and has good relations with friendly countries.

The business leader said that many PML-N leaders were experts in economic affairs, and with their advice, the country can be removed from the current whirlpool of problems.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inspecting the Guard of Honor presented by a contingent of Pakistan's Armed Forces upon arrival at the Prime Minister House.

Dues of KMC employees to be paid soon after formation of the govt: Deputy Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad has said that after the formation of the Sindh government, steps will be taken to pay the dues of KMC employees and increase the OZT funds.

He said this on Monday while speaking as chief guest at the opening ceremony of the five-day certificate course on local government system held at the Department of City Institute of Image Management at the KMC head office.

Sources of revenue and recovery in KMC will be improved; we respect the mandate of all parties in the City Council and invite them to join us for the betterment and development of the city, he said.

Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the city council for Pakistan People's Party Dil Muhammad, former City Councilor Shamim Mumtaz Wasi, former Director Council, KMC Muhammad Zakir and other officers were also present on this occasion.

DC Sanghar directs action against profiteers during Ramadan

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Muhammad Saleem Jatoo on Monday presided over a meeting to control the prices of food and essential items during the blessed month of Ramadan and to curb unnecessary load shedding of gas and electricity.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that no one will be allowed to make illegitimate profit during Ramadan, and steps will be taken to control unnecessary load shedding of gas and electricity so that people can easily perform worship during this sacred month. The Deputy Commissioner directed SSGC and HESCO officials to refrain from load shedding during Sehri and iftar timings.

APNS expresses profound grief over sad demise of Sardar Abid

KARACHI (PR): Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, President and Mr. Sarmad Ali, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have expressed profound grief on behalf of APNS office Bearers and members of Executive Committee over the sad demise of Sardar Abid Aleem, Publisher and Chief editor Daily Millat, Faisalabad. The APNS offered condolence to the bereaved family and prayed that Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give them courage and patience to bear the great loss.

Robbers' gang busted, arms, bike recovered

KARACHI (INP): Two-member robbers gang busted, recovered arms and snatched bike recovered during operation conducted by Pakistan Rangers Sindh and police on Monday.

A spokesman of Sindh Rangers said that a joint operation was launched against criminals in Sarjani Town area of Karachi.

During operation, two members of a robber gang including gang leader Gulzar Ali and Mushtaq Ahmed wanted by police in various cases of robberies and other crimes were arrested.

Wedding Firing claimed one precious life

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: The Wedding Happiness turned into mourning when a Youngster came in the grip of firing in the limit of New Faujdari Police Station here on Saturday night.

According to reports, during the air firing in marriage ceremony at Sanjrani Muhalla here, one Youngster identified as Waseem-u-deen Sanjrani of 22 was suddenly hit by wedding firing accidentally and died on the spot.

The dead body of deceased youngster brought to RBUT Civil Hospital Shikarpur for Medico Legal formalities and later handed over to his heirs.

Commemorative Stamps launching ceremony held on Pakistan- Belarus diplomatic ties anniversary

KARACHI (APP): A ceremony was held at Belarusian Post headquarters in Minsk for the launching of the Commemorative Stamps on the eve of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Belarus.

The ceremony was attended by Pakistan Ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan and Belarusian dignitaries including Eugeny Shestakov, Deputy Foreign Minister and Ryabowa Anna, Deputy Minister of Informatization.

According to a statement received here from the Pakistan Embassy in Minsk, Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan expressed gratitude for the fruitful

partnership that has evolved over the past three decades.

He emphasized the establishment of embassies in each other's capitals in 2014 and 2015 as a significant milestone, underscoring the commitment to engagement and collaboration. Deputy Foreign Minister Shestakov highlighted the history and ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus. The event highlighted the enduring friendship and ongoing cooperation between the two nations.

The two countries are committed to further strengthening their bonds through upcoming events including high-level visits and cultural exchanges.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik inaugurate "Spring Thaw 2024" National SimEx Conference at NDMA Headquarters.

Protest held in front of SSP Ghotki office for recovery of kidnapped hostages

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Protest demonstration, dhama in front of the office of SSP Ghotki by political and social organizations, journalists, and hostages' families and citizens for the recovery of the kidnapped hostages from Ghotki district, for the recovery of hostages. Sloganeering, the police administration has completely failed to recover the hostages.

At present, many people have been held hostage by the robbers, but the police are not taking any steps to recover the hostages. The families of the abductees protested in front of SSP Ghotki's office and raised slogans for the recovery of the abductees. Rajesh Kumar, Darshan Lal, Javed Langah

and others said that Ritik Kumar and other hostages were abducted from Ghotki district. But the district administration has not taken any steps to recover the hostages due to which the families of the hostages are very worried, they added that the hostages have been missing for a month but the police administration has not taken any steps to recover the hostages. Due to which there is mourning in the homes of the abductees.

He said that some of the people who have been abducted in Ghotki district have been recovered by paying lakhs and crores of rupees as compensation, but the administration is still asleep, he said IG Sindh, DI G Sukkur has demanded to recover the hostages.

He said that some of the people who have been abducted in Ghotki district have been recovered by paying lakhs and crores of rupees as compensation, but the administration is still asleep, he said IG Sindh, DI G Sukkur has demanded to recover the hostages.

Karachi police officer 'involved' in extortion, selling drugs arrested

KARACHI (INP): A Karachi police officer was arrested for his alleged involvement in extortion and selling drugs.

As per details, police conducted an intelligence-based operation on Karachi Super Highway and recovered drugs from the accused identified as ASI Imran who was on duty at Gulshan-e-Maymar. The police officials said that a suspect who was arrested from Site Superhighway on January 12.

Two killed, five injured in road accident

HYDERABAD (INP): Two children, including a tiktoker, were killed and 5 others were injured when a passenger bus collided with a rickshaw on Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan road near Zeal Pak market on Sunday.

The SHO SITE police station Akhtar Panhwar informed that six children were traveling in the rickshaw while one of the deceased, 14-year-old tiktoker Ali Haider alias Shahmeer Sheedi was hanging out from the bus.

He added that following the collision Sheedi fell from the bus and was critically injured.

1st national immigration, welfare policy in its final stages: Dr. Arshad Mahmood

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Dr. Arshad Mahmood on Monday said that they were about to finalize their first National Immigration and Welfare Policy.

He said that the policy had many promising offers for the youth and about their proper selection, training and welfare benefits.

While addressing the Inauguration ceremony of 2nd Korean Computer Based Testing (CBT) Laboratory here, the Secretary Dr. Arshad Mahmood said

that approximately 10 million people were living abroad and they send \$31 billion remittances.

He said that the Ministry was trying to restructure itself.

Vice President of Human Resource Development (HRD) Service of Korea Kim Sung Jae and Consul General of Republic of Korea to Karachi Yi Sungho were also present on the occasion.

Mahmood said that Korea pick up right kind of people and the emerging youth and train them.



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

SFA team's big action in korangi a warehouse of expired juice and mineral water caught

Independent Report KARACHI: March 04: Sindh Food Authority team have conducted a big operation under the supervision of Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain in the Korangi area.

During the operation, a warehouse of expired juice and mineral water was caught. A large number of expired juice packets and mineral water bottles were recovered from the warehouse. The Sindh Food Authority team disposed of all expired juice packets and mineral water bottles on the spot. It is to mention here that in the said warehouse new papers were pasted on expired juice and

mineral water bottles. On the occasion of the operation, the local police was also accompanied by the team of Sindh Food Authority. Talking on this occasion, Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain said that indiscriminate action is being taken against the sellers of adulterated food items. Trying to ensure supply of adulterated free food items during Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. He warned the sellers of adulterated food items to keep themselves away from their activities otherwise strict action would be taken against them under Sindh Food Authority Act.