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Sindh Cabinet approves wheat procurement target of 900,000 tons

KARACHI (APP): Sindh retary Asif Hyder Shah, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over the first meeting of his new cabinet on Wednesday which decided a wheat procurement target of 900,000 tons for Rs 4,000 per 40

The cabinet expressed its reservations about the appointment of the Chairman of the Indus Rivers System Authority (IRSA).

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers including Sharjeel Memon, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Nasir Shah, Sardar Shah, Saeed Ghani, Jam Khan Shoro, Zia Lanjar, Muhammad Bux Mahar, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Zulfiqar Shah, Advisors- Babal Khan Bahyo, Ehsan Mazari, Najmi Alam, Advisors, new Chief SecAdvocate General, Prosecutor General, and others.

The Cabinet believed that the chairman of IRSA should be selected from among the members of the provinces or the federal government. No one from

outside could be appointed as chairman of IRSA. Minister Food Jam Khan Shoro told the meeting a stock of 400,000 tons of wheat is available with was conducting raids to the department. He sug-

gested that the department has 800,000 bags of tration from March 6, 2024 bardana/sacks, therefore the onwards conducted 1500 wheat target may be fixed raids, registered 1,150 The department after recovered Rs7.14 million

deliberations and discusfine. sions decided to fix a target The chief minister diof 900,000 tons of wheat to be procured for the crop 2023-24 at a support price visits to the markets to control the prices.

The CM directed the food department to procure 100,000 bags/ bardana and mobilise food department teams to start procurement of the wheat at the earliest.

Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput briefed the cabinet on the initiative taken to control prices of edible items, particularly during the holy month of Ramzan, said that the district administration

control prices. The district adminiscases, sealed 14 shops, and

rected his cabinet members to start conducting surprise



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI, PML-N break ice as Gandapur calls on Shahbaz PM assures of resolution of **KP's feasible demands**

CM Gandapur hails positive meeting with PM, Stresses political engagement to solve political issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday assured that all justified demands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province would be met while keeping in view the current financial situation of the country. Welcoming Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, the prime minister said that all the four provinces were the components of the federation bonds and when they moved together, the country achieved progress and development.

The chief minister who called on the prime minister also briefed him on the administrative affairs of the province in detail, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal,

Minister for States and Fron- tive tone and focus on adtier Regions Amir Muqam and other relevant senior ofcial concerns.

ficials. The prime minister stressed to sit together to resolve all issues, adding the public welfare would be the top priority of their collec-

lowing his first meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, highlighting its posi-

dressing public and provin-Addressing a joint

Regions

press conference with federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and federal Minister for States and Frontier (SAFRON) Amir Muqam, Gandapur emphasized the importance of cooperation between the federal and the provincial governments in delivering solutions to a number of pressing issues.

Following is a recap of the significant discussions and outcomes of the meeting. Chief Minister Gandapur underscored the constructive dialogue with PM Shehbaz Sharif, emphasizing their discussions on matters ranging from law and order to public welfare. The CM lauded the PM's commitment in providing full support and fulfilling promises made, signaling a collaborative approach to ensure good-governance.

Sindh Governor upholds Chairman Inter Board's punishment for sexual harassment KARACHI (INP): Gover- tion of the sentence by the

nor Sindh Kamran Tesori has declined an appeal against the punishment of volved in sexual harassment, reaffirming the seri-ousness with which such cases are being handled in the province.

According to a spokesperson, Naseem Memon, the Chairman Inter Board, had sought clemency from the Governor to overturn the sentence imposed on him. However, Governor Sindh has ordered an inquiry into the matter while upholding the original decision, reflecting a

commitment to justice and

Despite the confirma-

accountability.

Governor, Chairman Inter Board Naseem Memon continues to hold his posi-Chairman Inter Board in- tion. This decision follows a previous ruling by the provincial ombudsman, who had sentenced Memon to dismissal and imposed a fine for his involvement in harassing a female teacher. The caretaker chief minister had subsequently dismissed Memon from the Larkana board based on the ombudsman's decision.

The Governor's stance underscores the unwavering resolve of Sindh's authorities to address instances of sexual harassment and ensure accountability for such misconduct

RAWALPINDI: General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander Bahrain National Guard, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Commander Bahrain National Guard, CJCSC discuss matters of security, defence cooperation Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Commander Bahrain National Guard, General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, here at Joint Staff Headquarters on Wednesday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR),



at 800,000

of Rs 4000 per 40 kg.

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori taking oath from Syed Zulfigar Ali Shah as a Provincial Minister. Chief Minister Sindh Syed Muraad Ali Shah is also present.

Pakistan, collectively forms

the living, breathing essence

of our national identity, tran-

scending mere customs and

rituals. "Let us cherish and

nurture the diversity that

defines us as a nation, and

Bilawal greets nation Sved Zulfikar Ali Shah

tive efforts. The federal government believed in working in harmony with all the provincial governments including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and would foster the strong The chief minister also expressed the resolve that the provincial government wanted to move with good intentions and was

committed to play its positive role in the national development. Meanwhile Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on Wednesday expressed satisfaction fol-

on Punjab Culture Day

added

ISLAMABAD (APP): for their hard work, brav-Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended his warmest greetings to the nation, especially to the proud sons and daughters of Punjab, on the auspicious

occasion of Punjab Culture Day, which will be observed on March 14. According to the press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he said that the culture of Punjab is a vibrant symphony of colors, flavors, and melodies that resonate across the 'Land of Five

let us continue to embrace Rivers' "I commend the the cultural tapestry that people of Punjab, rebinds us together as one, nowned throughout history he urged.



KARACHI: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Sheikh talking to media persons, at Sindh High Court in Karachi.

Nasir Shah for expediting work on ongoing energy projects

15.3 million tons of coal was

being extracted annually

from Thar coal blocks I and

II while 3,300 megawatts of

electricity was being pro-

Islamkot to Chore to facili-

projects.

purposes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Energy Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday, directed to expedite all the ongoing projects of the ministry so that their benefits could be transferred to the people at the earliest.

The meeting was in-formed that a 105 km rail-The minister, while presiding over the orientation meeting of the Sindh Energy Department, instructed officers concerned to chalk out on war footing a plan for the provision of 300 units of electricity free of cost to people as per the manifesto of PPP's incumbent provincial government.

The provincial minister also directed that special attention should be paid to quality and merit in all the projects.

Sindh Secretary En-Department, Mussadiq Ahmad Khan, informed the meeting that

ery, and generosity. Today, let us collectively reaffirm our commitment to preserving and promoting the

Tessori administered the oath to Syed Zulfikar Ali rich heritage of Punjab," he Shah as the minister in a simple swearing-in cer-Bilawal Bhutto said emony at the Governor' that the Punjabi culture, House here. alongside the diverse cultures of other regions within

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, provincial ministers, Chief Secretary Sindh, secretaries of various departments and other high officials participated in the ceremony, said statement on Wednesday.

PM summons SIFC Apex

Committee today

ISLAMABAD (INP): A meeting of the apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been called under the chairmanship of rime Minister Sheĥbaz Sharif Thursday.

According to the details, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir will also attend the Apex Committee meeting. circumstances.

Apart from this former Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Cabinet have also been invited

o the meeting. Earthquake jolts KP and Islamabad ISLAMABAD (APP): An

earthquake of 5.3 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted various parts of the country on Wednesday.

According to a private vided to the national grid news channel, the National from Thar coal power Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in various of Khyber way track will be laid from parts Pakhtunkhwa, the federal capital, and the adjoining tate the utilization of Than coal for further industrial areas

Earthquake tremors The meeting was in-formed that 1,845 megaoccurred in the Upper and Lower Dir, Mohmand, Buner, Orakzai and Abbottabad areas of KP. watts of electricity are being generated from the wind power project while 36 Earthquake tremors power plants of 150 megaalso occurred in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

watts have been completed According to NSMC With the support of slamabad, the epicenter was the World Bank, 3 solar power projects of 400 in the Hindu Kush region, megawatts are being fastand the depth was 130 km. tracked and electricity gen-As of now, there have been erated by them will be no reports of loss of life or added to the grid system. damage to property

sworn-in as minister KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to bring major reforms in Planning Commission on March 13. The meeting was attended by the Secre tary Planning Ministry and Members Planning Commission.

Peace, security not to be compromised under any circumstances: Law Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh and reputable police offic-Minister for Home, Law, ers will be appointed, and with the cooperation of the public, we will ensure peace and Parliamentary Affairs, Zia ul Hassan Lanjar Wednesday affirmed that and maintain control over peace and security will not the prevailing situation be compromised under any across the province, including Karachi.

'We anticipate a sig-Prior to this, Zia ul nificant change in this re-gard, and I am thankful to Hassan Lanjar, held an introductory meeting with those who have entrusted officers in the Department me with their confidence," of Home government of he said this while talking to Sindh. The Secretary of

media at Sindh Assembly. He said, "My fore-Home Affairs, IG Sindh most priority is to estab-lish peace and maintain law Police, and other officials were present. Additionally, he chaired a meeting and order throughout the province, from Karachi to on law and order, where Kashmore. Those involved detailed briefings were provided by the Secretary in street crimes in Karachi will face strict repercusof the Department of sions, especially those who Home Affairs of Sindh, Secretary Law and IG resort to violence over Sindh Police regarding the

trivial matters.' Lanjar said qualified current situation.



KARACHI: Sindh Rangers officials show recovered missing young siblings Ayan and Anabiya, who missing from North Nazimabad area, to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

during the meeting matters of bilateral professional interest and further strengthening of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Both sides reiterated the resolve to further strengthen security and defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour 'to the visiting dignitary.

PM reaffirms to ensure timely implementation of **CPE**C initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday emphasised that his government would work tirelessly to ensure timely implementation of the initiatives under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He stressed that Pakistan was keen to move to the next phase of CPEC, including operationalisation of the Special Economic Zones (SEŹs) to facilitate Chinese investment in Pakistan.



Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Dr. Ahsan Iqbal, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi and the foreign secretary also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ambassador Jiang Zaidong calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI conspiring against Pakistan by giving a false narrative to the European Union: Tarar

PTI spokespersons receiving instructions from jail to harm **Pakistan: Information Minister**

Ataullah Tarar on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was conspiring against Pakistan by giving a false narrative to the European Union. The spokespersons

of PTI are getting instructions from jail to harm the country, but no one will be allowed to harm the

dressing his maiden press conference after assuming charge as Minister for Information and Broadcasting here. Lashing out at the PT leadership, the minister said its conspiratorial elements were again trying to attack the country's economy as in the past too, PTI did a heinous act by writing a letter to the International Mon-

etary Fund.

Faryal Talpur grieved over demise of party officer bearer Saima Omar

Asifa to 'contest'

by-election

from NA-207

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

late prime minister Benazir

Bhutto's daughter, Asifa

Bhutto, will contest the by-

election from National As-

sembly Constituency NA-

Nawabshah, seat was va-

cated by PPP co-chairman

Asif Ali Zardari, after tak-

ing oath as country's presi-

dent for the second time in

history. The constituency

for Asifa Bhutto was se

lected after consultation

with the family. Asifa

Bhutto Zardari will be the

PPP's candidate for the by-

polls on the NA-207 seat. Earlier it was reported

that Asifa Bhutto Zardari

would likely contest a by

election on NA-196, a seat

vacated by her brother

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

NA-207

207, Nawabshah

The

ESHAWAR (INP): Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing, Faryal Talpur on Wednesday ex-PPP Khyber

In a statement issued res of the party.

pressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of Deputy Secretary Information Pakhtunkhwa Chapter Saima Omar.

here, she said that the sudden death of Saima Omar has grieved all cad-

ISLAMABAD (APP): economy," he said while ad-Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse Independent

Political faults

Constructive politics goes beyond mere agitation and protest. Unfortunately, over the past decade or so, all of Pakistan's major political parties have demonstrated a disappointing lack of vision with which they could inspire the people of this country.

Admittedly, this is not entirely our politicians' fault: incessant interference in the democratic process has upended the rules of politics, making it so that political parties see a greater incentive in winning the favour of those pulling the strings than in putting effort into generating good ideas for public welfare that can be backed by popular support.

Considering how long this disequilibrium has been allowed to persist, it is no surprise that modern politicking in Pakistan has been reduced to 'us vs them' fights based on divisive narratives, referring to rivals with insulting epithets, rabblerousing over moral panic situations, and accusing the competition of corruption.

The PTI is often accused by its critics of triggering this decline, and not without reason. The party was initially nurtured by the establishment as a counterweight to the PML-N and PPP, and it seized power by constantly attacking and delegitimising its peers. It was fed with so much confidence that it came to believe it was above the rules of politics. It sought to tear down the fragile structure of Pakistan's fledgling democracy, perhaps aspiring to build it anew.

However, it came up short in terms of capability. By the time its crutches were taken away the party had grown too accustomed to confrontation. It fought for survival using the same selfrighteous anger it had once been encouraged to use against its rivals — only this time, it was turned on those who had been nurturing it.

In the recent elections, the party managed to achieve the unthinkable. Its credentials and mandate can no longer be denied — it is now an entity that doesn't need any external support. However, the manner in which it has wielded power in the past still gives many cause for concern. Its quick successes seem to have engendered a youthful hubris that sees it get carried away when the situation requires patience. Its supporters don't realise that change is a process, not an event. Their angry campaigns on social media only reinforce their image as a volatile crowd. In this context, the party's recent announcement of a shadow cabinet to oversee the Punjab government is an encouraging sign. It indicates that the party is maturing politically. It must do more. Another good step would be to start talking to other political parties.

The PTI should know that it is welcome as a disruptive force in the political landscape as long as it can make a distinction between disruption and outright destruction. It must learn to wield its influence responsibly.



On the occasion of the World Day Against ebrated globally on March 12th, the Parisbased media watchdog, (OCF). This initiative

locations.

OCF helps the jour-nalists to adapt to the electoral process witmirror sites on RSF's servers are currently enabling access to 100 censored media outlets.

Pakistani journalsorship and social me- ciety and urged the dia restrictions have an government to provide opportunity to benefit an assurance that it will

cess to content otherwise censored. Journalists can request their websites be mirrored and utilize the Collateral Freedom app for technical support, ensuring their content remains accessible despite cen-

sorship attempts. By staying informed about RSF's efforts, collabo-Cyber Censorship, cel- rating with international partners, and advocating for press freedom, Pakistani journalists can Reporters Sans Fron- effectively combat tiers (RSF), unveiled the online censorship and launch of Operation ensure their voices are Collateral Freedom heard.

empowers over 100 me- Borders (RSF) has condia outlets in 32 coun- sistently voiced contries to bypass censor- cerns regarding restricship, marking a 20% in- tions, both official and crease from the previ- unofficial, on press and ous year. Operation media freedom in Paki-Collateral Freedom stan. In an open letter to achieves this by creat- Prime Minister Shahbaz ing mirror sites of Sharifon March 4th, RSF blocked websites, en- urgently urged the new suring constant syn- government to take imchronization with the mediate steps to restore originals and placing press freedom, signifithem in various online cantly weakened in recent years. RSF high-

evolution in censorship nessed a notable surge techniques, provides in violations against the media with IT re- media freedom, emphasources through the sizing the critical need Collateral Freedom app for prompt and effective since August 2023, measures to address which allows them to these issues.RSF conmirror sites hosted on demns the arbitrary the online infrastructure shutdowns of the used by RSF. So far 480 Internet and mobile serplatforms for political purposes, deeming such actions unacceptists grappling with cen- able in a democratic sofrom RSF's Operation refrain from resorting to Collateral Freedom. these authoritarian mea-Through this initiative, sures, which undermine RSF creates mirror sites freedom of expression of blocked media out- and access to informalets, providing users ac- tion.

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC underscores Pakistan's standing in media free-180 countries. Shockingly, between 2012 and 2022, 53 journalists lost their lives in Pakistan, with convictions secured for only 4% of these cases.

RSF highlights various forms of media coercion in Pakistan, including military interference, journalist abducthe free flow of informations by intelligence tion agencies, legislative misuse to muzzle jour-

nalists, arbitrary Reporters Without Internet shutdowns, laws. The lackluster investigations into these crimes perpetuate impunity, denying justice to victims. RSF emphasizes the urgent need for strengthened legislation to combat impunity and ensure respect for the rule of law, particularly concerning criminal activities by security services targeting journalists deemed "troublesome," such as abductions, secret detentions, and torture. RSF underscores

Pakistan's status as one of the most perilous environments for journalists, marked by extengently, RSF calls upon revenue as a tool to mavices, as well as the address this critical is- rection of privatelyblocking of social media sue and honor commit- owned media outlets, ments made by political parties during the elec- ity relies heavily on letoral campaign. These gal notices and state include establishing a Safety and Security Commission for journal-Pakistan

Party (PPP). RSF urges the government to comwomen journalists, enjournalists, repeal restrictive legislation on information rights, ensure media independence, cease arbitrary Internet and social media shutdowns, and enable journalists to work safely while upholding

The Operation Collateral Freedom

By Qamar Bashir

RSF emphasizes the urgency for the federal government to enact the 2021 federal law professionals without precise definitions for delay. Despite Prime Minister Sharif's public commitment in Islamabad on December 6, 2022, to establish the planned security commission, it has yet to be implemented, rendering the law ineffective. Additionally, RSF calls for the revision of Article 6 to eliminate Prevention of Electronic ence to "bona fide jour- as "PECA," is currently nalism." These mea- utilized to censor social sures are crucial to safeguarding the rights and safety of journalists in Pakistan.

RSF urges the insive censorship and formation ministry to dress to the newly self-censorship. Ur- cease using advertising sworn-in cabinet, the the new government to nipulate the editorial di- underscored trade and whose financial stabilsector advertising. Ad-ditionally, RSF con-as the primary pathway demns the military's to achieving economic ists, as pledged by the persistent intervention progress, it's impera-Muslim in media affairs to sup-League-Nawaz (PML- press information. Jour- the perception of a foundational pillars of N), and revising the nalists must have the country's brand value governance to pave the Prevention of Electronic freedom to cover all plays a pivotal role in way for sustainable Crimes Act (PECA) topics without fear, in- attracting favorable economic growth and 2016, as promised by cluding those concern- trade and investment.

RSF's assessment the Pakistan People's ing the armed forces, terrorism, and the defense of civil liberties. dom, ranking 150th out of bat harassment against This entails ensuring unbiased reporting and hind many regional force laws protecting protecting journalists counterparts and only from undue influence or marginally above warintimidation.

government to review tends across various several laws that en- international indices croach upon press and and rankings, spanning media freedom, includ- from soft power and ing certain clauses of economic indicators to the Pakistan Electronic rule of law, legislative Media Regulatory Au- freedom, democracy, thority Ordinance 2023 (PEMRA Amendment Act). These amendments purportedly com- stimulate trade and inbat disinformation but vestment, there must and draconian media on the protection of risk enabling media cen- be a concerted effort to journalists and media sorship. RSF insists on uplift Pakistan's brand terms like "authentic information" and "disinformation" to adhering steadfastly to prevent license with- democratic principles, drawal or outlet sus- ensuring the freedom pension. The Official and independence of Secrets Amendment Act vital institutions, and (2023) requires revision to prevent its misuse against journalists. Additionally, Pakistan's the contentious refer- Crimes Act 2016, known improvements in these media criticism and speeches, or even dilimust be revised to safeguard online freedom of short in revitalizing the expression.

In his inaugural adsworn-in cabinet, the Prime Minister rightly investment as critical only be fostered areas for uplifting the beleaguered state of the economy.

tive to recognize that ment to prioritize these

Regrettably, the current brand image of Pakistan languishes at its lowest, trailing betorn nations. This dis-RSF challenges the mal performance ex-

> justice, and freedom of press and media. To effectively image across all these fronts. This entails upholding the rule of law, safeguarding the fundamental rights of speech, assembly, and media.

Without tangible areas, mere lofty promises, impassioned gent hard work will fall country's economic prospects.

Investors and trade partners seek stability, transparency, and reliability, qualities that can through genuine institutional reforms and unwavering commitment However, while to democratic values emphasizing hard work which include freedom of press and media.

Therefore, it's paramount for the governprosperity

Commerce News

PM visits USC outlets to inspect Relief Package implementation

ISLAMABAD (APP): a historic Ramazan Relief etc for the deserving Prime Minister Shehbaz Package worth Rs 12 families. Sharif on Wednesday paid billion under which eatable He informed that Package.

faced any issues while Benazir Income Support of Rs 2000 each.

in availing the facility. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the federal 100 per kg subsidy was being offered on ghee besides a subsidy of 20-30% on other food items government had announced such as rice, pulses, sugar

surprise visits to different items would be provided to under the package, the Utility Stores across the the deserving families at BISP beneficiaries would federal capital to inspect subsidized rates during the get additional stipend the execution of the Prime holy month of Ramazan at worth Rs 10,000 each, Minister's Ramazan Relief the Utility Stores outlets while under Kafalat kage. across the country. programme, thousands of During the visit, he Besides, he said under the families from Azad Jammu interacted with the package, additional stipend and Kashmir, Gilgit beneficiaries of the scheme will also be given to the Baltistan and Balochistan and inquired whether they families registered in will get additional amount

benefiting from the Programme (BISP). The prime minister package. PM Shehbaz Sharif said he had appointed PM Snenoaz Sharn Saro in and are He instructed the said under the federal several teams that would nav surprise visits to authorities concerned to government's Ramazan pay surprise visits to ensure that entitled Relief Package, Rs 77 per various USC outlets to beneficiaries of the Relief kg subsidy was being given check the availability and Package faced no problem on wheat flour while Rs quality of the food items 100 per kg subsidy was adding that strict action

would be taken against those involved in selling low quality items at the stores

LESCO detects 63,066 power pilferers in **181 days**

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a increasing the nation's total of 63,066 connections trade volume, said a press from where the customers release issued here. were pilfering electricity in

against electricity thieves

He emphasized the all. all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, urgency of meeting the

FAISALABAD (APP):

Chinese Consul General

in Lahore Zhao Shiren said on Wednesday that

Chinese debt was only 13

per cent of total foreign

debt of Pakistan and its

basic objective was to

help steer the country out

of the debt trap by

Commerce & Industry

(FCCI), he said China had

never pressured Pakistan

for repayment of its loans

financial assistance.

extending necessary added.

Minister and outlined plans for implementing proactive measures. Minister Khan outlined a

steering Pakistan out of

debt trap: consul general

Addressing the question about issuing business community at multiple visas, Zhao said

Faisalabad Chamber of a very limited number of

visas

and a focus on aligning with global standards. He emphasized the crucial role of both local and foreign investors in achieving these goals and

while recently the

Chinese government rolled over the loan of \$2

billion. He said that

Pakistan had got excessive foreign loans

while its GDP was only \$350bn. "China is helping

Pakistan to overcome its

financial constraints," he

multiple visas were being

issued in addition to the

single and double entry

Responding to a

He highlighted the pledged to create a more facilitating environment for levels

The Minister further

Finance Minister says: Documentation of economy, digitization top Govt priorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): efficiency in tax collection. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, focus on enhancing tax Muhammad Aurangzeb collection through said on Wednesday that improved FBR governance, documentation of economy and end to end digitization of tax system were the top priorities of the government.

considering strategies to broaden the tax base by The finance minister Wednesday visited Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) incorporating wholesale/ Headquarters and held retail real estate and introductory meeting with agriculture sectors into the its members to discuss the tax framework, he said. board's performance and future initiatives.

Aurangzeb said that digitization is a means to The minister stressed an end and implementing the urgent need for digital solutions are pivotal digitizing the FBR to to modernizing our tax enhance transparency and administration.

These initiatives would

comprehensive

documentation of the

economy, and full-scale

The government is

digitization.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Food Bilal Yaseen and Provincial Minister for Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussin along with Deputy Commissioner Rafiya Haider inspecting the prices of Edibles Items during their visit to Badami Bagh Vegetable and Fruit market.

Shafay for bringing new investments to Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Hussain called for Minister for Industries & Trade Chaudhry Shafay Hussain on Wednesday underscored the need to bring new investment in Punjab so as to create new employment opportunities and vowed to make the province as a real trade and investment hub. He expressed these

views during his visit to Puniab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) office here. The Board CEO Ialal Hassan briefed the minister about the performance of PBIT and its future line of action.

was traded at Rs2,600 and Rs2,229.08 respectively.

arranging road shows in such countries having notential to invest here in Punjab. He said that the PBIT Board of Directors would be activated soon and such persons would be introduced in the PBIT who can play their vigorous role to bring new investment in the province.

The Provincial Minister directed the authorities concerned to persuade the solar panel companies re line of action. manufacture solar panels Chaudhry Shafay at the local level.

from Pakistan to Russia PESHAWAR (APP): Pak-Russia is very good omen Afghan Joint Chamber of for businessmen of the Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has highly hailed transportation of fruits from Pakistan to Russia through centuries old road Sarhadi,

PAJCCI hails by-road

transportation of fruits

link between Sub-Continent and Central Asian Republics (CARs) via Afghanistan.

The news about sending of citrus in 16 trucks of National Logistic Cell (NLC) from Pakistan to valuable for country.

country and would open new vistas of trade and commerce in the region," observed Zia-ul-Haq Coordinator PAJCCI Khyber Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Pakhtunkhwa. In a press Okara) in 181 day of grand statement issued here on anti-power theft campaign. Wednesday, Zia-ul-Haq The LESCO spokesman Sarhadi said this trade route told media here Wednesday has great potential which if that the company has also tapped would prove very submitted FIR applications

Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting during his visit to FBR Headquarters



importance

communities

foreign

of measurable targets and

tasked the Ministry with setting ambitious yet achievable benchmarks for

Recognizing the critical role of trade

revitalization, Minister

Khan underscored the

strengthening relationships

with both domestic and

by **Rs.1,800**

per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The

per tola price of 24 karat gold

in the local market decreased

by Rs.1,800 and was traded

Rs.228,300

Wednesday as against its

sale at Rs.230,100 on the last

trading day The price of 10

grams 24 karat gold also

decreased by Rs.1,544 to

Rs.197,274 whereas that 10

gram 22 karat gold decreased

Rs180,834, the All Sindh

Sarafa Jewellers Association

reported The price of per

tola and ten gram silver

witnessed no change and

Rs.179,420 from

Rs195,730

ot

on

from

business

growth and progress.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits various special distribution points of Utility Stores Corporation set up- with regard to PM's Ramzan Relief 2024. Jam Kamal leads trade initiative

to address economic challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): In targets set by the Prime emphasized the importance response to directives from Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, chaired meeting at the Ministry of Commerce, marking a proactive approach to addressing current economic challenges.

clear vision for the Ministry's direction over the next five years. This vision prioritizes increased trade volume, enhanced investment opportunities, During the meeting, Minister Khan reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to

Independent

Thursday March 14, 2024

National News

Page 03

Chief Minister KP holds meeting over law, order

directed the meeting.

Khan Wednesday presided over the important meeting related to law and order here with all concerned authorities including Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police.

The chief minister was briefed by the officials of the security forces on the overall law and order children of police martyrs situation in the province with challenges, future action plans, and other quota for the recruitment matters on behalf of the of children of all martyrs concerned authorities were also discussed.

The decision was taken to release a fund of of the Cabinet for this three billion rupees for the purchase of armored vehicles, weapons and

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief other modern equipment here that by setting a one-Minister Khyber for the police. Chief time quota, all the children Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin minister announced to of martyrs waiting for Ghandapur inclusion of the heirs of recruitment under the police martyrs in the martyr quota will be able Ramadan package. He said be to that Rs 10.000 will be given simultaneously. to the heirs of police Children of police martyrs under the Ramadan

martyrs have been waiting package of the provincial for recruitment for many g o v e r n m e n t. C hi e f Minister Ali Amin of martyrs, the meeting Ghandapur has also taken was told. Work should be noted decisions for the done to start the Safe City project in all the divisional headquarters of the province, the Chief and directed the concerned authorities to fix a one-time Minister directed. quota for the recruitment The meeting also

under the Shahada Quota. deliberated on issues A case should be related to the establishment of a security division within the police for the prepared for the approval purpose, the chief minister security of important personalities and installations. It is worth mentioning

7 dead, 1,129 injured in Punjab road accidents **Independent Report** LAHORE: At least seven people were killed and

1,129 injured in 1,096 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 492 people with serious

people.

njuries were shifted to KARACHI: Passengers sit on the roof of a bus on different hospitals, while MA Jinnah Road in Provincial Capital. Pakistan 637 with minor injuries has one of the world's worst records for fatal traffic were treated at the incident accidents, blamed on poor roads, badly maintained site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 605 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 155 pedestrians, and 376

passengers were among victims of the road crashes.

Police arrest

two female

Ternab

Punjab health minister vows comprehensive health sector improvement

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister Rafique affirmed Minister for Specialised the Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing the health sector.

vehicles and reckless driving.

In a series of meetings held at his office on Wednesday, he emphasised the inclusion of all stakeholders in the process to ensure effective reforms.Under the directive aiming to address public of Punjab Chief Minister concerns and enhance Maryam Nawaz Sharif, service delivery.

the government's dedication to providing drug smugglers PESHAWAR (APP): Mardan City Police, led by better health facilities to the public. Improving the conditions of government SHO Mukadam Khan on hospitals across Punjab Wednesday conducted a stands as a top priority on successful operation against the agenda.

drug dealers, resulting in the He pledged to present arrest of two female drug a comprehensive report to smugglers. The arrested individuals, identified as the chief minister after conducting thorough visits Shumaila and Gulfam, to government hospitals, residents of Charsadda, were apprehended while attempting to smuggle drugs to Punjab.



LAHROE: A delegation from different walk of life meeting with Provincial Minister Specialized Health Care and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafeeq.

Local govt minister pledges to make 'Clean Punjab' campaign mass movement

Independent Report of better civic facilities, an LAHORE: Minister for effective sanitation model Local Government and was being developed in Community Development villages.

While presiding over (LG&CD) Punjab Zeeshan Rafique has pledged to meeting on 'Suthra ensured cleaning of drains every week at village level Punjab' campaign at the Civil Secretariat, he said and to increase the number cleanliness campaign was going on vigorously across of cleaning staff, saying the province. "On the directions of Chief that 'Clean Punjab' [Suthra Punjab] campaign will be turned into a mass Minister Maryam Nawaz movement with the help of Sharif, provision of necessary machinery was

He said for provision being ensured," he added.

China to launch merit, need-based scholarships for UAF students: CG

FAISALABAD (APP): time-tested relations which Chinese Consul General had strong bases on Zhao Shiren has said that brotherhood. The both countries are collaborating his country's relations with the University of with each other in energy, Agriculture Faisalabad infrastructure, agriculture, (UAF) would be taken to education and other sectors the new heights and in this to achieve common goals. context, they intended to He praised the UAF

launch a merit and needleadership and faculty for based scholarship project the university for students of the development addressing agricultural challenges. China Pakistan university. He expressed these views during a meeting with UAF Vice Economic Corridor (CPEC) Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqrar has however opened new Ahmad Khan whereas avenues for development, deans, directors and he added. Dr Iqrar Ahmad Chinese universities alumni Khan said that 70 teachers were also present. Zhao from the UAF had received Shiren said that Pakistan higher education from and China were enjoying universities in China.

International News

Rs 630,000 fine on six FBOs LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA), under the supervision of its Director the

PFA imposes

General Muhammad Asim Javaid, visited 18 food points including five superstores, seven poultry shops and six chicken carrier vehicles in Samanabad and Tollinton Market.

The DG said that the food authority imposed Rs 630,000 collective fine on six food business operators (FBOs) for violating the Punjab Pure Food Regulations besides discarding 1,200kg adulterated butter, 200kg substandard desi ghee and 90kg diseased and dead chicken.

Canadian HC visits Meesaq Centre

in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP):A delegation led by the Canadian High Commissioner visited the Meesaq Centre in Cantt Thana here on Wednesday and received a briefing on and the facilities and initiatives

at the centre. The delegation included the Director Sadiq. The Senior officers, including SSP Operations release said.

General of the National Police Bureau, Dr. Ehsan

and SP CIA, welcomed the delegation, a news

Minister Health for eradication of polio

Independent Report PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting, chaired by Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah, took place on Tuesday to discuss polio, ongoing challenges, and future strategies.

The meeting included the Special Secretary of Health for Polio Eradication, Abdul Basit, as well as the Provincial EOC Deputy Coordinator, Team Lead from the World Health Organization, and other officials.

During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the current situation of polio in the province, imminent challenges, and proposed plans for the future. Special Secretary for Polio Eradication, Abdul Basit, presented an overview of the polio

situation, addressing concerns and outlining potential strategies. The situation of polio

cases in southern regions was particularly highlighted, with a special exchange of views on the challenges faced in those areas. Minister Shah delved into the reasons behind the persistence of polio campaigns in regions such as Bannu, Lakki Marwat, and Upper and Lower Waziristan.

The meeting also addressed the security challenges faced during polio campaigns in the southern regions. Minister Shah was informed about the security concerns and issues leading to the cancellation of polio campaigns in various southern districts



LAHORE: Teachers and students of Islamia University Bahawalpur are protesting against the alleged sexual harassment in front of Press Club in the Provincial Capital.

LHC gives opportunity to govt for filing reply to SIC's plea

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday adjourned hearing of a petition against non-allocation of reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) till March

The court gave an opportunity to provincial and federal governments for filing written replies to the petition by the next date of hearing.

The single bench comprising Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal heard the petition filed by SIC Chairman

Sahibzada Hamid Raza.

During proceedings, a provincial law officer sought time for filing written reply to the petition while responding to a court query. He submitted that some members had taken oath on reserved seats. The reply will be filed to the extent of other members who had not sworn in yet, he added. At this stage, the

petitioner's counsel requested the court to issue a stay order, adding that it was an important matter.

However, the court declined the request.

Putin warns the West: **Russia is ready for** nuclear war The war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin warned the West on Wednesday Russia was technically ready for nuclear war and that if the U.S. sent troops to Ukraine, it would be considered a significant escalation of the conflict.

Putin, speaking just days before a March 15-17 election which is certain to give him another six years in power, said the nuclear war scenario was not "rushing" up and he saw no need for the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

"From a military-technical point of view, we are, of course, ready," Putin, 71, told Rossiya-1 television and news agency RIA in response to a question whether the country was really ready for a nuclear war

Putin said the U.S. understood that if it dehas triggered the deepest ployed American troops on crisis in Russia's relations Russian territory - or to Ukraine - Russia would treat the move as an inter- and Putin has warned sevvention

"(In the U.S.) there are enough specialists in the field of Russian-American relations and in the field of strategic restraint," said Putin, the ultimate decision maker in the world's biggest nuclear power.

"Therefore, I don't think that here everything is rushing to it (nuclear confrontation), but we are ready for this.'

Putin's nuclear warning came alongside another offer for talks on Ukraine as part of a new post-Cold War demarcation of European security. The U.S. says Putin is not ready for serious talks over Ukraine.

with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis eral times the West risks provoking a nuclear war if sends troops to fight in Jkraine. Putin sent tens of

thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, triggering full-scale war after eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces on one side and pro-Russian Ukrainians and Russian proxies

on the other. In a U.S. election year, the West is grappling with how to support Kyiv against Russia, which now controls almost one-fifth of Ukrainian territory and is rearming much faster than the West and Ukraine.

Indian troops begin Maldives pullout after Wednesday. quit order

Monitoring Desk IALE: India has begun its strategic rival India for withdrawing military perinfluence. sonnel operating surveillance aircraft in the Maldives said it had signed Maldives after the new pro-China president ordered them to leave, defence authorities said on Tuesday.

An official of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) said 25 Indian troops deployed in the southernmost atoll of Addu had left the archipelago ahead of March 10, the official start of the withdrawal agreed by both sides.

the Indian troop withdrawal is underway," the MNDF said in a statement. President Mohamed Muizzu came to power in September on a pledge to kick out Indian security personnel deployed in the Maldives to patrol its vast maritime border. The two sides had agreed to complete a withdrawal of 89 Indian troops and their support staff in the Maldives by May 10.



Vladimir Putin speaks during an interview in Moscow.

China says military delegation visited Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal

Monitoring Desk placed archipelago to leave. BEIJING: A Chinese mili-Beijing confirmed on Wednesday that a delegatary delegation recently visited the Maldives, Sri Lanka tion had visited the counand Nepal to discuss fur-

week,

Last

try and met with pro-China President Mohamed ther cooperation in defence Muizzu during a trip that also took them to Sri Lanka issues, Beijing said on Beijing is seeking to and Nepal from March 4 to build closer ties in South 13 Asia in a push to counter

In all three countries, "they exchanged views on military relations and regional security issues of common concern", the Chinese military said in a statement on its official WeChat account

Missile hits apartment buildings in **Ukraine's** Kryvyi Rih, 3 dead, 38 hurt Monitoring Desk rescue operations had been

ernor of Dnipropetrovsk

region, put the provisional

injury toll at 28 adults and

10 children and later said

slammed into two apartment buildings in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih on Tuesday, killing three people and injuring at least 38, with rescue teams sifting through rubble late into the night in a search for survivors. Ten children were among the injured. Serhiy Lysak, gov-

completed "Two buildings were hit, one five storeys, one nine storeys," Lysak wrote on Telegram. "The number of injured is constantly rising as is the num-

ber of children injured.' Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the Kryvyi Rih's military administration, said at least three hits from the missiles were recorded in the city. He said at least five of the adults and one child being treated in hospital were in critical condition.

Israeli forces kill rockets on Tuesday mornteenager, two the occupied Golan Heights, the group said in a statement. to the Israeli attacks on our

during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Hungary summons US envoy over **Biden comments** Monitoring Desk BUDAPEST: The Hun-ga-rian government on Tuesday rejected US President Joe Biden's accusation that Prime Minister Viktor Orban was "looking for dictatorship", summoning the US ambassador over the claim. Relations between the two Nato allied countries have been frosty over the past years, as the United States has frequently criticised Hungary

for its close relations with Russia, for holding up Sweden's Nato bid and over democratic backsliding.

Hezbollah attacks two Israeli bases with 100 rockets Monitoring Desk of Baalbek and the k of Baalbek and the killing

of a citizen", it added. On Monday, Israeli air BEIRUT: Lebanon's Iranbacked Hezbollah said on strikes near Lebanon's city of Baalbek killed one per-Tuesday it launched over 100 rockets at Israel's two military bases in retaliation son. The Israeli military confirmed its jets had hit for a strike on the country's east that killed one person two sites belonging to

Hezbollah's forces in retalithe day before. Hamas ally Hezbollah ation for strikes on the ocand Israel have exchanged cupied Golan Heights over several days. near-daily cross-border fire since the Gaza war erupted Hezbollah said its chief Seyed Hassan Nasrallah in October, but several Israeli strikes have recently met Khalil al-Hayya, a lead-ing member of Hamas's hit Hezbollah positions further north, raising fears of a full-blown conflict.

This was in response

political bureau. discussed Hezbollah launched They ceasefire talks for the Gaza war, as well as attacks by more than 100 Katyusha Hamas's regional allies to ing at two military bases in support its war efforts, the Hezbollah said in a statement

Earlier on Tuesday,

Hezbollah chief Nasrallah is due to give a televised speech on Wednesday.

US announces emergency Ukraine aid, as Poles warn of Russia threat

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden announced an emergency \$300 million military aid shipment for Ukraine on Tuesday, as Poland's leaders visited the White House to warn of the growing threat from Rus-

The White House sidestepped Republicans in Congress, who have for months blocked a much larger package for Kyiv's desperate fight, by using money that the Pentagon had saved on recent purchases. But it warned that the new stopgap package would only last weeks, far too little to stem recent military advances by Russian President Vladimir out of ammunition in the Putin's troops as they take advantage of US paralysis. came as Biden was preparing to host Poland's President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Donald

warnings that Russia's aggression will not stop at Ukraine. "This ammuni-tion will keep Ukraine's guns firing for a period, but only a short period, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters as he announced the aid package. Sullivan added that

the aid may only last a couple of weeks, leaving Ukraine outgunned in the face of a Russian war machine that is churning out arms and throwing troops at stalemated towns to force a breakthrough. "It is nowhere near enough to meet Ukraine's battlefield needs and it will not prevent Ukraine from running weeks to come." The shipntage of US paralysis. ment would include long-The announcement range US-made HIMARS rocket systems, anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons, artillery shells and small arms ammunition. Tusk, who came bearing the Pentagon said.

Greta Thunberg is removed by police officers as she demonstrates outside the Swedish parliament building together with a group of climate activists in Stockholm, Sweden.

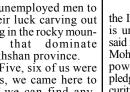
Unemployed Afghans risk death and debt in hunt for gold

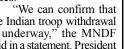
Monitoring Desk YAFTAL SUFLA: Tearing off a piece of mouldy flatbread, Homayon gulped tea in a brief reprieve from the din of the machines he and a dozen other men were using to dig for gold on a mountainside in northeastern Afghanistan.

The 30-year-old found little work as a mechanic in nearby Faizabad set up city, so he banded with

other unemployed men to try their luck carving out a living in the rocky mountains that dominate Badakhshan province.

"Five, six of us were jobless, we came here to see if we can find anything," Homayon said, as the handful of men finished their break and returned to work at the small-scale mine they had





KYIV: A Russian missile

a "military assistance" deal with China after ordering Indian troops deployed in The delegation of of the small but strategically-

other Palestinians in West Bank raid after deadly night people, villages and cities, Monitoring Desk most recently near the city JENIN: Israeli forces killed

two Palestinians during a raid in the occupied West Bank early on Wednesday, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported, bringing to five the number of Palestinians killed in different incidents within several hours. Yousef Nimer, a witness, said Israeli forces began firing at people he was sitting with outside a hospital in the city of Jenin as they were finishing Suhur, the final meal before sunrise

Pakistan, China to march toward shared development, prosperity: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said Pakistan and China will march toward shared development and prosperity with joint investments in diverse projects.

In an interview with Xinhua news agency, PM Sharif said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned more than 70 years and has been nurtured by both countries' leadership to promote friendly relations.

He added that the two countries have developed as all-weather, "Iron Brothers" and have unique associations of friendship that have stood the test of time. This friendship now must achieve higher heights," he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping had congratulated Sharif on his election as prime minister of Pakistan on March 3. In his re-sponse, Sharif deeply appreciated Xi's warm message of facilitation and continued support for Pakistan. "I deeply value his growth has still gone sentiments not only for the people of Pakistan, for our countries, which is a re-

ISLAMABAD (APP): friendship, but our mutual markable achievement," he cooperation," he said. "For added.

Pakistan should replime, it's a very good start. Highlighting Chinese modcate this model in the counernization, a key term detry to alleviate poverty, provide jobs to the youth. fining China's journey to rejuvenation, Sharif, who has and encourage small and served three terms as chief medium entrepreneurs to kickstart businesses in vilminister of Punjab province, stressed that Pakistan lages, towns and cities in should emulate the model. sectors of agriculture, industry, information technology and on other platforms, the "It is a great success model and success story,'

the prime minister said, prime minister said. Citing Pakistan as one adding that generations of visionary Chinese leaders of the first batch of counhave led their people to cretries joining the Group of Friends of the Global Deate unprecedented development miracles, lifting hunvelopment Initiative dreds of millions of people (GDI), PM Sharif said that Pakistan fully and firmly out of poverty and providing vast rural populations supports China-proposed GDI and Global Security with access to education, health, medical facilities, Initiative and believes the initiatives will further cre-The Chinese modernate strong connections be-

ization model created tween global communities. growth centers and sectors He commended the that produce competing China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a products by procuring modern knowledge in scivery visionary initiative, ence and technology, he which spans continents and said. "Despite challenges in alleviates poverty and hunrecent years, China's ger in the countries, promotes investments, and steadily compared to other boosts education and health.

NA passes resolution demanding ZAB be declared national democratic hero

termination with which President Asif Ali Zardari filed a presidential reference to reopen the case 12 years ago, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who single-mindedly pursued it. The resolution lauded

the Supreme Court of Pakistan for finally acknowledging and accepting the glaring injustice meted out to Shaheed Zulfiqar Bhutto 44 years ago in its judg-

ment. In light of the historic judgment of the court, the resolution demanded that the unjust verdict given in the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto case must be overturned It also called for conferring the highest civil

ficed their lives to establish award, Nishan-e-Pakistan, It appreciated the de- upon Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Imran Khan foresees SL-like situation in Pakistan following 'rigged polls'

ister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The National Assembly on

Wednesday passed a reso-

lution urging the Federal

Government to officially

declare former Prime Min-

ister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as

a Shaheed and national

The resolution, moved by Shazia Marri,

recognized that the trial and

subsequent conviction of

former Prime Minister

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto were a gross mis-

the struggles of Begum

Nusrat Bhutto, Shaheed

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto,

and the Pakistan People's

Party workers who sacri-

'stealing the mandate"

The resolution saluted

carriage of justice.

this truth.

democratic hero.

RAWALPINDI (INP): is based on lies [...] like the election was a lie [...] the Slamming the 2024 nationsecurity threat was also a wide general election once again, incarcerated Pakistan lie," the cricketer-turned-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) politico said, adding that founding chairman Ìmran the PTI was deliberately kept away from the 2024 Khan has predicted Sri Lanka-like situation in the polls country as the nation's Khan, the deposed

hopes were shattered by premier who was removed from power via a parliamen-"My all predictions tary vote in April 2022, said that the voters took revenge have proven true," the on the polling day but the former prime minister said "change via vote was not during an informal interaction with journalists in accepted".

Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, in He added that the former ruling party would which he reiterated that he continue its peaceful prowas not engaging into talks with the current rulers to reach a "deal". tests against the rigging be-sides approaching the Su-preme Court (SC).

ISLAMABAD: Commander of Bahrain National Guard calls on Prime Min-**PM** hopeful of

annually

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that once the Pakistan-GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) Free Trade Agreement come into effect, the existing bilateral trade volume of USD 1 billion per annum had the potential to enhance manifold.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain General Sheikh Mohammad Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa who called on him to convey the greetings of King of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

By-elections for 23 constituencies on April 21

ISLAMABAD (APP): By-elections for 23 constituencies, comprising six national and 17 provincial assembly constituencies would be held on April 21 said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The by-elections for

many of these National and Provincial constituencies were postponed from February 8 due to various reasons, including the death of contesting candidates and candidates running for multiple seats. Additionally, for their safe return. some constituencies were vacated by winners of dual seats. According to the **AIT launches digital** schedule released by the Election Commission of

KARACHI: A large number of women in queue to get fruits and vegetables for just Rs.10 per Kg in Ramazan-ur-Mubarak organized by Hammad Foundation Pakistan camp at Hasan Square area.

Rangers thwart kidnapping for ransom attempt KARACHI (APP): In a manded a hefty sum of 1

swift response to an abducmillion rupees in exchange for the children's tion attempt, Pakistan Rangers Sindh successfully release prevented the kidnapping vestigative techniques, Paof two underage siblings, Ayyan and Anabia, in kistan Rangers Sindh, in collaboration with police, Karachi's North swiftly located the children.

Nazimabad area. According to spokes-man for Sindh Rangers, the Fearing capture, the abductors abandoned the children said children went missing in Karachi's Hyderi area on March 12th. The children's mother received a distressing call from overseas demanding a ransom

before fleeing the scene. Responding promptly, Pakistan Rangers Sindh secured the chil dren and safely reunited The abductors de- them with their parents.

Utilizing advanced in-

Independent Report will not be tolerated under ISLAMABAD: Federal any circumstances. Cor-Minister of Interior and Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday vowed to crackdown on

agency's efficiency. He was addressing

IT&Telecom.

ruption is the evil of our society, there will be zero tolerance on it. He said that FIA is a corruption and improve the very important institution

standards.

tocol of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah a day ago on the airport of national security and safety, it has to be upgraded | road near Larkana city.

The minister directed.

and brought to international

pending promotion cases should be disposed of

within thirty days, to en-



and employment.

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing a briefing on the working and projects of Ministry of

Pak-Gulf trade to surpass \$1 bn





New govt to start work

Thursday March 14, 2024

Soon after the formation of the elected government, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly the five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Innovation, Green Energy and Inclusive Regional Develop-

ment, has been expedited. The newly-appointed Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, chaired an important meeting on Wednesday to initiate work on the five new corridors in the second phase of CPEC, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

prehensive briefing was the speedy implementation given to the minister on the of the projects.





recommendations of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), and working groups held last year.

Additionally, the

MoUs signed during the third Belt and Road Sum-

dated on key projects such as ML-1, Karakoram Highway (Phase 2) D.I Khan Zhob, Karachi Circular Rail-

the meeting. The Minister was upway (KCR), and others. While reviewing the

The meeting was at-

ISLAMABAD (APP): progress of CPEC projects,

mit were also reviewed in

officer after reaching Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Headquarters where he was welcomed by Director General (DG) FIA.

He said corruption courage officers.

KATI membership renewal deadline

Visits FIA HQs

Interior Minister orders

FIA to take measures to

curb corruption, smuggling

March 31: Qandhari KARACHI (APP): Presi- by the specified date will dent of the Korangi Association of Trade and Indus-(KATI), Johar Qandhari, has issued a re-

minder to all members, emphasizing the importance of renewing their KATI membership before the approaching deadline of March 31, 2024. According to the Trade Organization Act 2013, failure to renew

result in the suspension of membership, said a statement on Wednesday. Qandhari encouraged

members to promptly deposit the membership fee at the KATI Secretariat. Members encountering any issues during the renewal process were advised to contact the General Sec-



HYDERABAD: People purchase flour bags on subsidize rates from vehicle of Prime Minister program at Latifabad.

SFA, retailers to take action against milk adulteration unanimously

KARACHI (APP):Sindh also being set up for milk Food Authority (SFA) testing whereas, a lab has and All Milk Retailers Association (AMRA) on Wednesday unanimously decided to take action against milk adulteration.

Director General SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain chaired the meeting held at SFA Office here on Wednesday.

Office bearers of Milk Retailers including Sohail Naqvi, Amjad Bhatti, Abdul Waheed Gaddi and others also attended the meeting.

On this occasion the office bearers of All Malik Retailers assured full cooperation with the

Addressing the meeting, the DG SFA said that we are ensuring the supply of adulteration-free sell adulterated food food items. Five labs are items, he concluded.

been established at the SFA office.

He further said that Milk testing kits are also being provided at big milk shops so that the quality of milk can be checked on the spot. DG

DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain said that citizens can contact the said labs to get the milk quality checked.

The quality of milk can also be checked with the milk testing kits available at the milk shops, added.

He thanked all the stakeholders for joining hands together to get rid of adulterated milk. Indisof inflation. criminate action will be taken against those who

Private hospital in Karachi for further treatment, but he could not survived. His body was brought to Pir Chindam village of Shikarpur District Taluk Garhi Yasin where his funeral prayers was per-formed. DIG Larkana Region Nasir Aftab, SSP Shikarpur and Additional Larkana SPP Dr Muhammad Imran Khan, Police officers, political and social activists, heirs, relatives and others partici-

Injured ASI of

Larkana died

in Karachi

hospital

LARKANA (APP): Police ASI Bashir Ahmad Abro

died in a private hospital of

Karachi Wednesday. He

was injured as a result of

the collision of the police

mobile included in the pro-

He was then shifted to

Karachi man sent to prison for marrying 15-year-old girl

pated in large numbers

KARACHI (INP): A sessions court in Karachi sentenced a man to prison after declaring that he illegally married a 15-year-old girl.

The case was filed by the girl's father, alleging that the girl was married illegally.

The culprit, named Muhammad Aslam, has been sentenced to two years in prison

However, the man cleric who officiated the nikkah and the people who signed as witnesses are absconding from the law. The legal age of mar-

riage in Pakistan is 16, except in Sindh where it is 18.

Red Crescent distributes **2,000** ration

bags among needy students

LARKANA (APP):Red Crescent Pakistan with the support of the Government of China on Wednesday distributed 2,000 ration bags in to the needy students in18 public schools of Larkana District.

On this occasion, Director of Primary Schools Education Region Larkana

Gulsheer Soomro said,"We are very grateful to the Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Sardar Shahid Hussain Leghari and the Government of China for distributing ration bags in schools during this period

He said that this is the first phase of distribution of ration by Pakistan Red Crescent in public schools.

KARACHI: People sit and wait for iftar to breaking their fast during holy month of Ramadan.

4 more dead bodies of fishermen found, 2 other still missing

KARACHI (INP): Pakitheir boat capsized in Hijamaro Creek, area situ-ated between Thatta and Badin few days back Rescue operation was

started with the help of Pakistan Navy's fast boats and PMSA aircraft, helicopters. Dead bodies of four fishermen were found ies of missing sailors on while search operation for yesterday. A total of 12 fish-10 other fishermen still ermen went missing when missing continued,

Rangers bust Iranian oil smuggling ring, seize thousands liters of oil KARACHI (APP): Paki-

stan Rangers Sindh, along with police and customs intelligence, conducted a joint operation based on intelligence information. During the operation

in areas connected to Gadap, Super Highway, they apprehended 14 suspects involved in Iranian oil

smuggling activities



KARACHI: Rangers officials are conduct raid in 3 different areas of Gadap and recovered illegal Iranian Oil, Cars and Mobile Phones in Karachi.

Pakistan, by-elections will be held in six National Assembly constituencies, 12 in Punjab.

Fines of 1.9 million imposed on 207 illegal profiteers KARACHI (APP): The Divisional Administration has expedited a crackdown against profiteers and hoarders in Karachi and 207 shopkeepers and vendors were fined over 1.9 million rupees for overpricing.

According to a press release issued from the Commissioner's office, all Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners (ACs) paid surprise visits to markets and bazaars to ensure the implementation of governmentfixed prices of the essential commodities.

The Revenue Officers of the 7 districts imposed fines of over Rs 1.9 million against 207 profiteers for charging higher rates of the essential items on the second day of the fasting. Commissioner

Muhammad Saleem Rajput has instructed all DCs to ensure the implementation of prices during Ramazan and provide relief to the common men.

Strict action should be taken against hoarders and profiteers and heavy fines be imposed so that people could be provided relief, the commissioner ordered.

Limbs ties body

of man found from house

KARACHI (INP): Limbs

tied body of an elderly rickshaw driver was found from a house in Farid Colony of Orangi Town, Karachi on Wednesday.

According to details body of 60-year-old Zarshad stated to be rickshaw driver by profession with limbs tied was recovered from a house that was locked from outside.

The deceased was re siding all alone in the house while his sons were settled in another area.

The owners of the house were also found missing locking their house. The body was shifted

to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

version of Tehzeeb magazine

Institute of Technology (AIT) has organized the launching ceremony to introduce the digital version of monthly Tehzeeb. The event was at-

tended by the Chairman Governing Body, AIT Jawaid Anwar, Convenor AIT, Engr. Muhammad Arshad Khan, Principal AIT, Shahid Jameel, Convenor IT Committee, Farrukh Nizami, Cdre. ® Salim Siddiqui, Shajar Ali Hashmi, Mukhtar Naqvi, Hanif Khan, Prof. Dr. Waleej Haider, Dr. Ammad ul Haq and others. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was the Chairman Governing Body AIT,

Jawaid Anwar.

KARACHI (APP): Aligarh Body, AIT, Jawaid Anwar said that the newspaper and magazine industry is currently experiencing significant transformations due to digital technologies. Magazines have changed their approaches offering their content on online platforms and mobile applica-

tions He appreciated the efforts of the IT team and the concerned who have been involved in producing the digital version of Tehzeeb magazine. It is indeed a great work to preserve the magazine in document form. After digitalization, Tehzeeb can be accessed instantly from any location, any time, through countless digital channels. Once published, Chairman Governing it will be available globally.



ASTORE: Heavy machinery being used to remove snow and boulders from the blocked road of Astore Valley by the staffer of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management authority and Works Department after heavy sonw fall and rain in area caused land sliding in diffident area.

Dr Naeem stresses to make lady health workers independent

SUKKUR (APP): A dissemination event was organized by IRD in a local hotel. Project Director EPI Sindh Ďr Muhammad Naeem Rajput was the chief guest while Project Director RMNCH Sindh Lady Health Workers Dr Farhana Memon and Director Health Services.

District Health Officers of various partner organization districts and

According to a release

frontline health workers including lady health workers, vaccinators participated along with Dr

Saqib Shaikh.

issued here on Wednesday, Deputy Director Maternal and Child Health, Ms Maryam Mehmood said that IRD has taken research-based initiatives. While appreciating

the services and leadership of IRD Global Director Dr Subhash Chandra, she said that our aim is to ensure that no child is left behind in terms of immunization.

Maryam Mehmood said that IRD always aims to make all initiatives cost-effective and equipped with modern technology

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