Indenendent

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RAWALPINDI: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attand funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed (age: 39 years, resident of Karachi) and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shahed (age: 23 years, resident of District Talagang) who embraced martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan District, were offered at Chaklala Garrison.

President warns of befitting response against terrorists

President attends funeral prayers of Lt Col Kashif, Capt Bader; Underscores unity against scourge of terrorism, Says I promise that the blood of our sons will not go in vain

attended Namaz e Janaza of Shaheed Lt. Colonel Syed Kashif Ali and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Bader who had been martyred in Mir Ali, North Waziristan during a terrorist attack on Saturday.

On the occasion, the resident paid tribute to shuhada and reiterated the resolve to respond to terrorist activities with full force, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release, on Sunday.

He said that the people of Pakistan and its armed forces were united and would face terrorism in uni-

He also condemned so-

cial media campaign by some

elements against martyrs

and said there is a need for

unity in the war against ter-

rorism. Answering the question, he said Pakistan is

passing through an eco-

nomic crisis and one politi-

cal party has written a let-

ter to the International Mon-

etary Fund, which is regret-

ISLAMABAD (INP): son. He also expressed the President Asif Ali Zardari, resolve to make the terror-tiple suicide bombing atstan, Asif Ali Zardari, Forists accountable for blood of each martyred jawan, adding their brave brothers, sons and friends had been of five soldiers. APP add: The funeral protecting the borders.

President Zardari promised that the blood of the sons of the soil would not go in vain. In the early hours of

16 March, a group of six terrorists attacked a security forces' post in the gen-North Waziristan District.

According to the details, the troops foiled the initial attempt of the attack, the terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into Rawalpindi. President of terrorism.

tacks, which led to the collapse of a portion of a building, resulting in the Shahadat

prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed, age 39 years and resident of Karachi and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shaheed, age 23 years and resident of District Talagang who embraced eral area of Mir Ali of martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan District, were offered at Chaklala Garrison

stan, Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Army Staff, senior serving military and civil officers, relatives of Shuhada and locals of the area attended the funeral, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Sunday. "Pakistan Army has consistently upheld the ideals of Faith, Unity and Discipline. Guided by these enduring principles, Pakistan Army has always endeavoured to set higher benchmarks of professionalism and loyalty in its unrelenting fight against

Country's future links with well educated youth: PM

country's prominent edu-

tion, adding that it pleased

was now studying in Lawrence College.

structuring of the Federal

Board of Revenue and tax

reforms are major initiatives

the government is undertak-

ing to increase the tax net.

All these measures are be-

ing taken to reduce the bur-

den on poor people and to

bring elites in the tax net,

he maintained. He said that

international economic jour-

nals like Bloomberg had

termed the appointment of

the Finance Minister a good

step, adding that interna-

tional journals had ac-

knowledged that Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

had a potential to overcome

economic challenges

through reforms.

Elements behind campaign

against martyrs to face

stern action: Attaullah Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal state-owned entities. "Re-

cational institute.

Muhammad Shehbaz dent from 2022 flood af-Sharif on Sunday said that the country's future hinged upon well educated and skilled youth of the country and for the provision of quality education, the federal government would facilitate the high achievers with scholarship schemes to get education in the well reputed global educational institutes.

The prime minister ing 2022. expressed these views during a meeting with Ikramullah, a student from Balochistan province, who is now studying in the 9th class at Lawrence College

Minister for Information

and Broadcasting Attaullah

Tarar said on Sunday the

government was fully aware

of the challenges facing the

country and steps were re-

quired to tackle economic

conference here at the

PML-N Secretariat, he said

that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had shared

his agenda aimed at stabi-

lizing the country's

economy. He said the Pre-

mier had taken up all mat-

ters seriously, including re-

privatisation of certain

expenses,

ducing government

Addressing a press

(APP): Under the prime Minister minister's direction, the stuthe prime minister for giving him an opportunity to fected area of Qila Saifullah was provided with a facil-

Congratulating the ity to get education at the prime minister, he said that he prayed for Shehbaz Sharif for his kind gesture.

The prime minister The student also exrecalled that he met the despressed his resolve to perate student in the achieve the goal and serve Khasnoob camp in Qila the country in the future. Saifullah when floods had The prime minister

caused destruction in advised him to serve the Balochistan province durnation and country by working hard and concen-He said that he had trating on his studies. assured the student of the He assured that all his provision of quality educa-

educational expenditures would be borne by the govhim a lot that the student ernment as the students were the future and hope of the country.

PM, Saad discuss political situation, other matters

AHORE (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was called on by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Saad Rafique here on Sun-

The PML-N leader congratulated Shehbaz Sharif for assuming office as prime minister and expressed best wishes for

Premier Shehbaz and Saad Rafique discussed the overall political situation in the country and matters of mutual interest during the meeting.

Nomination papers scrutiny for Senate elections set for Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The scrutiny of nomination papers for the eagerly anticipated Senate elections. encompassing forty-eight vacant seats, is scheduled to take place this Tuesday, March 19.

As per the electoral schedule, the revised list of candidates vying for these seats will be unveiled on March 26. Candidates will have until March 27 to withdraw their nomination papers.

Karachi ranked

unhygienic level..

According to the Air Quality Index, the air pol-lution in Karachi is recorded at 163 particulate meters Karachiites.

Earlier, health experts described Karachi's air quality as "very unhealthy" and advised citizens to restrict their outdoor activities especially during peak pollution hours.

It is to be mentioned here that AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI reading between 201 to 300 is more harmful and AQI reading over 300 mark is extremely hazardous.

Afghanistan's soil being used for terrorism in Pakistan: Asif

Lauds counter-terrorism sacrifices of security forces; Accuses PTI of working against national interests

Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif says entire nation is united against terrorists and security forces are rendering unprecedented sacrifices for peace and stability in the country. Talking to media in Sialkot on Sunday, he said martyrs are our real heroes who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the motherland. The Defence Minister

strongly condemned cowardly attack by terrorists in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan district.



LAHORE: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Sindh govt to begin wheat procurement process from March 20

KARACHI (APP):Sindh Food Minister, Jam Khan Shoro, announced on Sunday that the provincial government was gearing up to kickstart the wheat procurement process across the province from March 20.

A total of 353 wheat procurement centers are slated to be established, ensuring accessibility for farmers across vari-

Speaking on behalf of the government, minister shoro emphasized the comprehensive measures undertaken by the Sindh food department to facilitate the purchase of

wheat.

The government had set the procurement price aiming to provide fair compensation to farmers for their produce.

Aseefa Bhutto submits her nomination papers from NA 207

LARKANA (APP): Daughter of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Sunday submitted her nomination form for NA 207 with her Advocate Hussain Bux Zardari for by-election with the Returning Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner Two Ali Sher Jamali in Deputy Commissioner office Shaheed Benazirabad where Large crowd of party workers waited outside of the Returning

According to the detail, NA 207 seat was vacated by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari. She reached in D.C office and hand over her nomination form to Returning Officer.



SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: First Lady and Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari is submitting her nomination papers to the Returning Officer (RO) for NA-207, in Shaheed Benazirabad.



PM Shehbaz grants extension to Air **Chief Marshal** Zaheer Babar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday granted a one-year extension to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu. The prime minister has sent the advisory of the the Air Chief Marshal's extension to President Asif Ali Zardari and granted him extension after his approval. Zaheer Babar is a four-star air force officer and 16th Chief of Air Staff. He took over command of the air force on March 19, 2021, from his predecessor ACM Mujahid Anwar Khan.

Corruption was rampant in former PTI govt in KP, admits Marwat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and lawmaker Sher Afzal Marwat, who is known for his outspoken demeanour and controversial statements. on Sunday admitted that corruption was rampant in his party's previous gov-ernment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

During a live session on X Spaces, he alleged: "In the previous government of the PTI, people became not bil-lionaires but trillionaires [via corruption]." Responding to a question, the PTI leader said that the narrative of keeping former prime minister Imran Khan af Adiala Jail instead of his residence in Bani Gala was not floated by him.

Consumers to bear the brunt as SSGC seeks further hike in gas price

SSGC seeks Rs274.40 per mmbtu increase in gas tariff; Ogra urged to set average price of one mmbtu at Rs1740.80; Public hearing on plea is scheduled today in Karachi

after the caretakers burdened the masses with gas price hike on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand, the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has requested the fuel regulator—the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra)—to further increase gas prices from July 2024.

The caretaker government had approved a 67% increase in the natural gas tariff with effect from February 1.

KARACHI (INP): A month The tariff was hiked to meet the deadline of the IMF for hiking the gas prices under structural benchmark criteria till February 15, 2024. In its fresh plea filed with the Ogra. the SSGC requested the fuel regulator to increase in the gas price by Rs274.40 per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (mmbtu). Citing an estimated Rs79.63 billion revenue shortfall, the SSGC urged Ogra to set average price of one mmbtu gas at



RAWALPINDI: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir pays condolence to martyrs family after Funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed (age: 39 years, resident of Karachi) and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shahed (age: 23 years, resident of District Talagang) who embraced martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan District, were offered at Chaklala Garrison.

2087 square feet of streets to be paved in UC 10 Korangi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP):Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that 2087 square feet of streets will be paved in UC 10 Korangi at a cost of Rs 80 million and, development work will be done in all seven districts.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the community support program's pavement and renovation works in Korangi Town, said a statement. He said that dental surgery, orthopedic and diabetes treatment will be done in Sarfaraz Rafiqi Hospital during the next one week. Karachi Institute of Heart Disease is starting a nursing school in which 130

Karachi will be able to take a certified course, he said On this occasion,

Member Provincial Assembly Farooq Awan, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, UC10 Chairman Habib, Korangi District President Javed, City Councilor Afsheen Shah and other local leaders were

also present. The Mayor Karachi while addressing the ceremony held after starting the development works said that the federal, provincial and local governments are now on the same page so it should be ex-

male and female students of pected that there will be no hindrance in the development works.

In the next three and a half years, Karachi will see a significant change and will provide maximum facilities to the citizens of Karachi by completing several projects of infrastructure, water,

sewerage, street lights, bridges and flyovers, he said. He said that the 16000 road of Korangi was also built and the flyover at Korangi number 2 ½ was also built by the PPP government. Mayor Karachi said that Mehrun Nisaa Hospital Road UC-10 will also be constructed for which PC-1 has been prepared.



Thai CG attends

Iftar dinner KARACHI (APP): The ways International Public Consul General of the Company Limited has

Royal Thailand in Karachi Narut Soontarodon attended in an Iftar dinner hosted by Thai Airways in honour of top travel agents here at a local hotel Talking to media, Thai

Consul General wished Pakistani Nation and the Muslims around the globe on commencement of their holy month of Ramazan. Narut Soontarodon said Pakistani Nation has a

rich Islamic values and it

was his first experience to celebrate Ramazan in Pakistan and feel happy having Iftar with them. The CG said there were 5% Muslim population living in Thailand and they have all rights to per-

form their religious activi-

ties. Thai Airways Market-

ing manager Rashid Siddiqui said that Thai Air-

Company Limited has started its operations in Pakistan in April 1976 and has operated from Karachi. At present we are op-

erating 5 flights each from Karachi and Lahore and 4 flights from Islamabad, he said and added that Pakistan market is very important for business community, leisure and meetings incentives, seminars and exhibitions and other corporate activities. Thailand is most favourite's destination for Pakistani travellers In 2023, Bangkok was declared top visited destina-tion in the World.

He said from April 2024 Thai Airways will increase one more flight from Lahore and total 6 flights in a week. We have plan to have 7 each flights from Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, he added.

7th most polluted city in world KARACHI (INP): Karachi

becomes the seventh most polluted city in the world on Sunday as eastern winds bring the air quality to an

which is unhealthy for the

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Provincial share

The PPP has aptly advised the central government to worry about improving its tax collection rather than eying the provinces' share of tax revenues.

Reacting to recent reports that the IMF wants Pakistan to restart discussions on the 2009 NFC award to correct the 'imbalance' in the centre-provinces distribution of tax resources, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman rejected suggestions that the global lender was interfering in the constitutional framework of resource allocation. "Why would the IMF want to put itself in the middle of changing the NFC formula of Pakistan?" she asked. Her reading of the situation is accurate. Even if the lender wants the provinces to reduce their expenditure to produce a fiscal surplus and share more financial responsibilities with the federation to narrow the nation's burgeoning consolidated fiscal deficit, it would not want to be seen getting caught up in constitutional issues. She also correctly blamed the consistently lower than 9pc federal tax collection—as a ratio of GDP—for the country's fiscal dilemma and the accumulation of a mountain of debt to the tune of \$271bn. The fact of the matter is that some forces favouring a strong centre and weaker federating units have been actively campaigning against, and are demanding an immediate rollback of the landmark 18th Amendment to the Constitution and the current NFC award, which have accorded the provinces unprecedented administrative, political, and fiscal powers.

The campaign appeared to pick up momentum over the past several years as the country's fiscal predicament worsened. Nevertheless, robust resistance from the smaller provinces and certain political parties, particularly the PPP, and constitutional protection for the existing resource-sharing formula have kept such forces from undoing the changes. The argument that increased provincial autonomy and an enhanced provincial share from the federal tax pool is dangerous for federalism must not be entertained, as the issue touches upon matters related to the future of the country. Any attempt to roll back provincial autonomy and financial powers would lead to greater friction between the centre and provinces, as well as among the federating units, which would harm the state's federal complexion.

Pakistan was envisaged as a federation by its founding fathers, who had promised an autonomous and sovereign status to the constituent units in the Lahore Resolution. However, the dominance of the bureaucracy and successive military rulers favouring a highly centralised state structure prevented the country from becoming a proper federation until the 2008 parliament rectified the situation. It is true that the federal government and provinces still have many unresolved constitutional, administrative and fiscal issues, but the rollback of the existing political and fiscal powers enjoyed by the latter should not be among them. Pakistan's future lies in more democracy and more federalism and not in a centralised state structure.

The plot sickens

Muna Khan

Reality TV shows are my on/ off guilty pleasure. I should be more embarrassed to admit this, but here we are. It began with a curiosity for The there's Kardashians and then it went downhill — shows about rich housewives, home makeovers, hoarders, marrying someone you've never seen. Some are truly terrible, but then you have Traitors (the original British version) which is addictive and very good. As a (ahem) con-

noisseur of such shows, I've realised the boundaries between politics and reality shows have blurred. I'm not saying anything new. Donald Trump has shown how it's no longer ludicrous to think a reality TV star can become president. Kanye West also attempted a run. People want Oprah Winfrey to run. Taylor Swift influences elections. Ukraine and Guatemala have elected comedians as presidents. Politicians in the UK have participated in reality shows, including George Galloway on Big Brother in 2006, when he was an MP, and 'Brexit king' Nigel Farage revolutionary. received a whopping £1.5 million for I'm a Celebrity last year.

Celebrities have quit movie careers in Bollywood, for example, to join politics. And, of course, we have Imran Khan. He has turned his celebrity status into political success. His politics relies heavily on charisma, drama and spin components of reality TV. Everyone else is copying his style but are poor imitations. Bad behaviour is rewarded in both fields; there is no accountability either. worse your behaviour, the more you are lauded. And the media you perform on, profits. But reality TV isn't real. The audience sees

formers. Like our politi-

Writing in Political Studies Review in 2019. John Street explained how, over the years, been mediatisation personalisation of politics, resulting in politicians being treated as celebrities and not politicians. Celebrity politicians, as the brilliant media scholar Neil Postman wrote, are held to different standards. Well before the term 'fake news', social media and the internet, celebrity politicians were not held accountable for their falsehoods. US president Ronald Reagen praised apartheid in South Africa for ending segregation,

into their emotions. Politicians have learned that being a celebrity is lucrative and they benefit financially, like Khan's inner circle did. Of course, all political parties benefit by working for corporate, military and business interests, but they've never sold themselves as

when it hadn't. But vot-

ers didn't care for accu-

racy, they saw him as

someone who tapped

While the issues facing Pakistan are serious — we have been at a nazuk mor since before vou and I existed — politics is debased and unserious. It is parties throwing accusations at each other and trying to outwit the other in whataboutery. Policy matters are linked to slogans. Everyone's in on it: subsidised atta has Nawaz's face on the bags, as if we forget who's in power there.

This plays out every night on our airwaves and social media, where everyone's vying for virality. To remain reltics from the celebrity playbook help. Two re- how this will end an edited version, a nar- cent incidents illustrate Courtesy Dawn

rative that suits the per-this example. One informers. Like our politivolves PTI MNA Shandana Gulzar, who implicated Maryam Nawaz in an audio leak wherein she claims the now chief minister told someone to "run over [PTI worker] Zilley Shah" The FIA has summoned her and she will likely be asked to produce evidence. In the same week, Sher Afzal Marwat accused Maryam Nawaz of plotting to kill him and paid Indian business ty-coon Jindal \$100,000 for this hit. This is the level of politics — and it sells. It is, as Street wrote, "the art of performance, the art of being celebrity". I don't believe politicians say outlandish things because they believe them but be--cause they want to emulate their leaders and remain close to him/ her. They are expected to behave this way. And, they are not held accountable for their claims by the media; some journalists ask tough questions, but audiences don't care about veracity. Could action by

The day the UN released its Human Development Index Report showing Pakistan's decline in its position to 164 out of 193 countries, our was media busy analysing the meeting between KP chief minister and the men he spent a long time denigrating. I understand it was an important event, but it is an example of priorities. Of our politicians, policymakers and the media. This is the only reality I have known: No one cares about maternal health, child development, sanitation, access to water, gas, bijli, even X. Our political leaders and their handlers have lost the plot. The media is allowevant, one has to up the ing lies to air as enterante, which is where tac-tainment. And no one wins a prize for guessing

FIA, for example, against

Gulzar serve as a deter-

Focus on actions

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

A 10-point priority agenda evolved during various conversations convened by the Sanober Institute was laid out in my article, 'Setting priorities', last week. However, setting priorities can only be effective if accompanied by an implementable action plan. To that end, there are essentially five sets of actions that the government should consider in order to implement these priori-

First, to achieve sustainable uninterruptable political stability, the prime minister should invite the opposition for a national dialogue involving all political parties in parliament as well as major institutions, including the judiciary, ECP, the military, intelligence agencies, the civil bureaucracy, and those representing trade and industry. The dialogue should

focus on a five-point agenda: (i) strengthening local governments, which are not receiving their due share from the resources devolved to the provinces; (ii) strengthening the ECP, which must ensure intra-party elections and transparently acquired funding for poll campaigns; (iii) reforming NAB, which has been politicised, thus depleting the confidence of bureaucracy and business; (iv) reconsidering the NFC award, which has left the centre too resource-deficient to handle debt payments and defence costs; and (v) a solemn commitment by all stakeholders to ensure, within their respective domains, merit, transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

The outcome of the dialogue should be a national consensus to norms and conduct, ensure the rule of law and meritocracy; and enable the continuity of economic policies - a kind operationalised to handle forms. -- Courtesy Dawn

of charter of democracy, more commercial traffic, good governance, and economy

Second, restoring

economic stability needs multipronged actions. The prime minister has already constituted a committee to suggest ways to reduce wasteful expenditure in the central government. The real test would be to implement the recommendations. A similar effort is required in the provinces. Federal ministries dealing with subjects already devolved to the provinces under the 18th Amendment should be pu--blic awareness immediately dissolved. It is a welcome development that the process of privatisation of loss-making SOEs like PIA and the Steel Mills has gained momentum. And the new finance minister has prioritised negotiations with the IMF for a Pakistan-owned, Pakistan-led programme, debt restructuring, broadening the tax base, exports-led growth,

economy. pressure of price hikes affecting ordinary people, regional trade opportunities, however limited in scope, should be explored, particularly for the provision of vegetables, fruit and other essential commodities. The government should not spend scarce resources on populist measures like dole-outs and charity programmes. Instead, efforts should be focused on creating jobs via an enabling environment for IT and microfinance.

digitising

civil service reforms should be implemented. No new task force or commission is required as considerable work has already been done, including by the Ishrat Husain-led committee, which had made doable strengthen democratic and cost-effective recommendations

Third, the nearly completed port in Gwadar should be immediately

with a mandatory share of jobs for Gwadar and other Balochistan residents. Border markets with Iran should be expanded at the three main crossing points to create jobs for Balochistan's people. The new government has about setting up Special Economic Zones. Likewise, opening SIFC to private sector investments could stimulate act-ion in key sectors of the economy. The SIFC should create more abo-ut its achievements so far to counter the misgivings some people have about it.

Fourth, the office of national security adviser should be energised to effectively coordinate our response to security challenges. For internal security, a task force should be set up under the NSA to propose reforms in the police and criminal justice system. Apropos external secu-For relief from the rity threats, the NSA's office should work with intelligence agencies and other stakeholders to suggest options for decisions by the National Security Committee.

Finally, our foreign

policy should be reviewed comprehensively so that it can address the challenges of evolving global and regional geopolitics, particularly major power competition, relations neighbours, and the geoeconomics pivot. To that end, a high-level task The much-needed force comprising all relevant stakeholders and invitees from academia and think tanks could be constituted within the foreign ministry to propose, within three months, doable and pragmatic foreign policy op-

> The above is not an exhaustive list of actions. If implementation is initiated, a stage could be set to undertake broader re-

Commerce News

Pak-Iran bilateral trade can be increased up to \$5b: Iranian envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr . Reza Amiri Moghadam has said that due to strong economic and trade integration between Pakistan and Iran, bilateral trade can be increased up to \$ 5 billion a year in the coming few years.

There is a strong possibility of doubling the bilateral trade between the two countries through air, rail and maritime integration, which will prove to be a catalyst in regional and global trade as community in Islamabad.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Iran were geo-strategically very

integration of both countries is of great importance in the world of Geo- economy, said a press release issued, he said.

The Iranian envoy between Pakistan and Iran, 12 border trade markets had been opened, in which 6 border markets had been completed and others are both countries.

He said that Gwadar

located at the junction of trade ties, so both Middle East, South Asia countries should declare and Central Asia. both ports as coastal sister Therefore, the land and sea ports so that mutual economic development can be achieved jointly. Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam said that both countries were members of major forums like Shanghai Cooperation said that in order to further Organization (SCO), ECO improve transit trade and D-8 in which it was very easy to work on

common economic goals. He said that both China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and BRI well, he said while in progress, which would mega projects were addressing the business usher in a new era of extremely important for economic integration in Pakistan and Iran, which can stabilize the economic relations between the two

Technical

varsities VCs

countries.

and Chabahar were very



PESHAWAR: Assistant commissioner inspecting the selling of food items and checking the price control list in the Holy Month of Ramadan during crackdown drive against profiteers, at different areas of Peshawar.

Dubai's Al-Matiyah forum empowers global SMEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Al-Matiyah Investment and Business Forum in Dubai, supported by influential patrons, brought together investors and entrepreneurs from nearly 50 countries to strengthen national SMEs through diverse cultural

exchange and collaboration.
The forum's primary objective was to build bridges economic connecting the Middle East with the world, presenting Dubai as a hub entrepreneurial

strategic importance but also showcased the UAE as a hub for culture and commerce, poised to foster the development of the next generation of Emirati business leaders.

Under the auspices of

notable personalities like Sheikh Faisal bin Obaid bin Suhail Al Maktoum, Ali bin Abdullah Al Mualla, Ammar bin Salem Al Qasimi, Sheikh Humaid bin Khalid Al Qasimi, His Excellency Awad Excellency Awad Mohammed bin Sheikh Mejren, and His Excellency Dr. Juma Madani, the This event not only event signalled a new era phasized Dubai's in global economic

cooperation. Dr. Juma Madani, Al-Matiyah leading Investment, expressed the forum's essence: "It transcends a mere conference; it's a gathering of sheikhs, ambassadors, and business leaders worldwide, converging to

cultivate a dynamic

environment of enterprise

and innovation. In a significant

development, Al-Matiyah Investment forged a strategic partnership with Petrus Bio Energy Do, a pioneering Brazilian company in sustainable agriculture and energy.

Guangxi's foreign trade hits record high in Jan-Feb

(Xinhua/ APP):South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region touched a new high in foreign trade in the first two months of 2024, local authorities said

Sunday. **Guangxi's total imports** and exports in January and February hit 109.1 billion yuan (about 15.4 billion U.S. dollars), up 18.9 percent year on year. Exports rose 37.2 percent year on year to 60.59 billion yuan, and imports increased 1.9 percent to 48.51 billion.

inflation: Mughal gas tariff was justified, but getting approval from the

Reducing interest rates

to devalue rupee, raise

Economy Watch (PEW), Murtaza Mughal has said that demand of the business community to reduce the interest rate was unjustified, as it will weaken the rupee and trigger inflation.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said an interest rate cut would allow the government to unnecessary expenditures that are not

required at this point. Murtaza Mughal said that electricity and gas prices have troubled the entire country. People are going bankrupt while factories are closing down.

Many factories were capacity; the provinces.

IMF will be impossible, he added.

The business leader said that increasing the tax net, bringing the non-taxpaying sectors into the tax net, and amending the NFC award have become necessary to save the country.

Restructuring of local and foreign debt has also become necessary. Still, caution is needed in this regard so that it does not hurt the market, he cautioned. Mughal said the federal government is considering handing over the electricity running at half their distribution companies to



MULTAN: A farmer is busy spraying pesticide on the crop at his farm field.

'Modern designs, trends crucial for furniture industry'

LAHORE (APP): Modern modern designing and new designing and new trends in the furniture industry are essential for gaining a competitive edge, driving sales and profitability, enhancing brand image, embracing sustainability, leveraging technology, and expanding into international markets. Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq stated this while talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs and furniture manufacturers led by Ms Nida Ejaz here on Sunday. He added that

trends play a crucial role in the furniture industry. By embracing these

trends, he said, the furniture manufacturers can thrive in a dynamic and evolving industry. "Modern furniture designs often incorporate technological advancements provide enhanced functionality convenience. Integration of features like smart furniture, wireless charging, and IT connectivity can make furniture more appealing to tech-savvy buyers," he observed

gas cylinder from vendor at Fort road. Govt should work on fast track plan to address expansive energy issue: Anjum Nisar

HYDERABAD: A person selecting and purchasing

ISLAMABAD (INP): cost of doing business, Chairman Businessmen which the government Panel (BMP) of the needed to bring down to Federation of Pakistan bring the local as well as Chambers of Commerce the export industry at and Industry (FPCCI), par Mian Anjum Nisar has competitors. asked the government to work on a fast track plan urged for increasing ease to address expansive of doing business, energy issue and priority lowering should be given to the value-added industry in refunds to solve liquidity

issued here on Sunday, core issue is the high country

with global

Mian Anjum Nisar cost crunch, relaxing import In a statement policy for industrial raw issued here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan's material, and equalizing the energy tariff across the

meet Punjab industries minister LAHORE

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain has said that government would transform technical universities into real centers of promotion of technical education.

He was talking to Vice Chancellors (VCs) of Technical universities, who called on him here at TEVTA Secretariat (Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority). The minister discussed with VCs the matters relating to teaching process. development issues and future plans of the universities. The VCs informed about the problems

technical universities. While assuring them of resolving the problems of technical universities, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said, "I will visit the universities soon to review the teaching process and problems." He said the usefulness and importance of technical education cannot be denied in the present era.

Various markets, industrial bodies support **PIAF in LCCI elections**

elections of Lahore Chambers of Commerce

Industry (LCCI), various traders and industrial associations, especially the paper market and Shah Alam Market, Young Traders Association, Beden Road and other markets, delegation visited the PIAF

office on Sunday. The delegation from

LAHORE (INP): To express solidarity with the PIAF in the upcoming that it is a seed Butt while the delegation from Young Traders Association of Shah Alam Market was led by Shehzad Aslam and the delegation from Baden Road was led by Tahir Hafeez. On this occasion, the PIAF Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigol, Pattern-in-chief PIAF and Vice President of SAARC Chamber Mian Anjum Nisar.

Comprehensive plan formed for restoration of KP's law & order situation: CM

Pakhtunkhwa Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday said that a comprehensive plan has been prepared for restoration of law and order in the province as it was top priority of his

first ever visit to Dera Ismail Khan after being elected as Chief Minister. the

said implementation over that plan would be started soon as better law and order situation was imperative for progress of any area. He said the steps

would also be taken for the safety of police and other

Chief restored 'health-card' needy people.

facility.

"We have to improve the treatment facilities at and hoped that soon the need to visit private

Commenting on the current wave of inflation, he said the provincial government will give Rs 10,000 each to 850,000 deserving families of the countries province under Ramazan package. It will be handed mentioned.

Moreover, he said the sent facility of 'Shelter homes'

Azam Khan Swati, Qazi

Advocate, Waqar Ahmed

Dr.

Khalid Masood, Fazal

Hanan, Dilawar Khan,

Qaiser Khan, Noorul Haque

Qadri and Syed Irshad

Hussain are candidates for the

Technocrat seat. Irfan Saleem,

Mehmood, Dilawar Khan,

Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Azhar

Qazi Mashwani, Niaz

Ahmed, Waqas Orkazai.

Azam Khan Swati, Murad

Hamad Cheema,

Muhammad

Mahmood

Muhammad

Qazi,

PESHAWAR: PESCO workers are busy repairing

Competition in KP

tough for Senate poll

competition in Khyber Commission disclosed that

for two reserved seats Fazal Hanan, Asif Iqbal,

The official of the Saeed,

the transformer in the Tehsil area.

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial

submitted

Pakhtunkhwa is also tough

in the Senate elections with

a total of 42 candidates

nomination papers for

eleven seats of the Senate,

an official of the Provincial

Election Commission said

here Sunday. He said that

there will be a contest

between 10 candidates for

two posts of Technocrat,

25 candidates for 7 general

seats submitted their

nomination papers, and 7

candidates have submitted

their nomination papers



Monday March 18, 2024

government would also take steps for providing public hospitals," he said business opportunities to people rather only giving people would not have them charity or stipend.

He said the women hospitals as provision of would be provided He stated this while all facilities would be employment at their homes talking to media during his ensured at public hospitals. and youth would be provided with skill

trainings.

He informed that the consultation underway with other provision of employment to people by giving them over to them at their skills training. After the doorstep respectfully, he training, the skilled people of the province would be abroad employment.

De-siltation of 171 canals of DG Khan zone to start today

DG KHAN (APP): The de-siltation of 171 small and big canals of Dera Ghazi Khan zone will start

on Monday, March 18. The task has been given to remove silt from 1625 kilometers long canals by April 20.

Superintending Engineer Irrigation Department Khan Shaukat Hayat said that provincial, divisional, and districtlevel committees have been formed to monitor the proper de-siltation of

He said that the monitoring land information management system has also been made functional by the provincial government.

There will be no wastage of water by the desilting and the canal water will reach the tail-end farmers in abundance.

He said that if anyone has any objection or suggestion related to the de-siltation, it could be submitted in writing to his office and the Canal



Member of the Punjab Assembly Khizer Mazari call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Food minister's inspections lead to disposal of 2,500kg of spoiled meat

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin led a comprehensive inspection drive with Punjab Food Authority (PFA) teams in markets in the provincial capital here on Sunday.

The vigorous scrutiny resulted in the disposal of a staggering 2,500 kilograms of spoiled, substandard, and expired meat, bringing a sense of relief to Lahore's residents.

Under the vigilant eye of the provincial minister, the PFA teams descended Moghulpura Market. meticulously inspecting meat shops in the vicinity. In addition to swiftly disposing of unfit meat, strict warnings were

issued to violators of food safety regulations. Talking to media,

Food Minister Bilal Yasin revealed that immediate action was taken to seize substandard and expired meat from the shelves of meat shops. He lamented the discovery of foulsmelling meat in unhygienic freezers, underscoring the urgency of situation.

During inspections, Bilal Yasin noted deficiencies in cleanliness and the presence of pests, urging for swift rectification.

different hospitals, while

589 victims with minor

injuries were treated at the

incident site by rescue

medical teams thus

reducing the burden of

The food minister directed the PFA teams to ensure the comprehensive traceability of meat supplied across Punjab,

14 dead, 1122 injured in 1063 road accidents in Punjab

Independent Report AHORE: At least

fourteen persons were killed and 1122 injured in 1063 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.
Out of these, 533

hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 626

people with serious drivers, 44 underage injuries were shifted to drivers, 133 pedestrians.

PESHAWAR (APP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali Sunday attended the funeral prayers of late senior journalist Nisar Ahmad Shakir at Asia Gate Peshawar.

Governor

attends

funeral prayer

of Nisar Shakir

He condoled the death of Asif Nisar's father and prayed for patience for the family. The governor said that the services of late Nisar Ahmad Shakir will be remembered.

FIA arrests two outlaws for work visa fraud

MULTAN (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) claimed to have arrested two alleged outlaws in a fraud case related to work visas.

According to official sources, the arrested outlaws are identified as Tariq Hussain and Anwar ul Hassan residents of Burewala.

The alleged outlaws took money from a citizen on the promise of sending him to Bahrain on a work visa. However, the outlaws neither returned the money nor sent him a work visa The aggrieved citizen approached the FIA Multan.

Punjab police sign MoU with private hospital

Independent Report AHORE: On the direction of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, measures are being taken to provide best medical facilities to Punjab Constabulary personnel, in continuation of which an MoU has been signed between the Punjab Police and a private hospital group (Farooq Group).

Commander Battalion-V, PC, Abbas Lines, SSP Mian Afnan Ameen visited Farooq Group of Hospitals. Commander Battalion-V, PC, Abbas Lines, SSP Mian Afnan Ameen and CEO Dr Sabir Ayaz Malik signed the MOÚ

Under the MOU, Farooq Hospital PC Lahore will organize

medical camps along with medical experts on awareness and treatment of medical problems in PC offices. Commander Battalion-V, PC, Abbas Lines SSP Mian Afnan Ameen said that Punjab Constabulary officials will be provided special discount on laboratory tests and bed expenses at Farooq Hospital. A 100% free treatment facility wil be available at Akhtar Saeed Teaching Hospital for the families of police martyrs. Free treatmen facilities will be provided to PC Lahore personnel as per hospital policy. This MoU will be applicable to DHA, Iqbal Town, Westwood Colony and Rawalpindi branches of Farooq Hospital.



get flour bag on subsidies rate.

All tourist sites to open for world soon to enhance country's GDP, says Zahid

No more 'normal-sized

babies' in Gaza, says UN

PESHAWAR (APP): Zahid Chanzeb, Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture, Museums and Archeology, Sunday revealed that the tourism industry generates 30 billion dollars in revenue to the national economy, which is 6% of the country's GDP.

"Nature generously blessed our province with the world's best hill stations and tourist destinations and only focusing on this sector can revolutionize the headquarters in Peshawar economy of the province cantt wherein he went

quality of life of the poor over here and the present PTI-led KP govt is quite serious to exploit all such vital sectors on crash grounds", he added.

Trillion of rupees in income can be obtained from the tourism sector to spend on ameliorating a lot of the poor and contributing in restoration of the economy and infrastructure of the province, he maintained. He expressed this during his visit to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and that can ameliorate the around various sections.

International News

Russia election to tighten Putin's grip, opponents stage noon protest

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin is poised to tighten his grip on power on Sunday in a Russian election that is certain to deliver him a landslide victory, though some opponents staged a symbolic noon protest at polling sta-

tions against his rule. Putin, who rose to power in 1999, is poised to win a new six-year term that, if he completes it, would enable him to overtake Josef Stalin and become Russia's longest-serving leader for more than 200

The election comes just over two years since Putin triggered the deadliest European conflict since World War Two by ordering the invasion of Úkraine. He casts it as a "special

War has hung over the three day election: Ukraine has repeatedly attacked oil refineries in Russia, shelled Russian regions and sought to pierce Russian borders with proxy forces - a move Putin said would not be left unpunished.

While Putin's re-election is not in doubt given his control over Russia and the absence of any real challengers, the former KGB spy wants to show that he has the overwhelming support of Russians. Voting ends at 1800 GMT on Sun-

The Kremlin has sought a high turnout, and as polls opened for a third day in western Russia, officials said the turnout in the first two days had already reached 63% nationwide.

lished shortly after voting

Navalny, who died in an Arctic prison last month, had called on Russians to come out at a "Noon against Putin" protest to show their dissent against a leader they

Navalny's widow, Yulia, said in a message to a rally in Budapest on March 15.

Russia is not Putin.'

ends at 1800 GMT. Supporters of Alexei

cast as a corrupt autocrat. "Alexei was fighting for very simple things: for freedom of speech, for fair elections, for democracy and our right to live without corruption and war,

"Putin is not Russia. There was no independent tally of how many

of Russia's 114 million voters turned out at noon to show opposition to Putin.

Climate protesters under fire in Europe, says UN

GENEVA: Environ-mental activists are increasingly facing hostility across Europe, a UN expert said. warning that the very right to protest was "at risk" in countries usually consid-

special rapporteur on environmental defenders, said that he was deeply troubled by the hardening tone against climate activists in countries including France, Austria, Germany and Brit-

ters have been throwing about terms like "eco ter-rorists" and "Green Talibans" to describe nonviolent activists, he claimed, also blaming some media reporting for contributing to an increasingly hostile public attitude. "It creates a sort of chilling effect," warned Forst, an independent expert appointed under the UN's Aarhus Convention — a legally-binding text that provides for justice in environmental matters.



stroyed in an Israeli strike the night before in the Rimal neighbourhood. The head of Israeli intelligence is expected to lead ceasefire talks in Qatar in response to a new proposal from Hamas.

Mossad chief may lead **Doha talks on Gaza**

Monitoring Desk DOHA: The head of Israeli

intelligence is expected to lead ceasefire talks with mediators which resume in Qatar today (Sunday) in direct response to a new proposal from Hamas, a source close to the talks said on Saturday. The talks between Mossad head David Barnea, Qatar's prime minister and Egyptian officials will focus on remaining gaps between Israel and Hamas including over prisoner releases and humanitar-

ian aid, the source said. Israel had said on Friday it would be sending a delegation to Doha, but did not spell out when it would part. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to convene the security cabinet before the talks. Israeli officials were not immediately available to comment on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. Barnea was involved

previous significant pushes for a deal. A shortlived truce in November was agreed and came into effect after his participation in talks in Doha. His last meeting with Qatar's prime minister in January led to a proposal for a temporary ceasefire that Hamas ulti-

Trump predicts the end of US democracy if he loses 2024 election

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said on Saturday if

does not November's presidential election it will mean the likely end of American democracy. The Republican presidential candidate, speaking to supporters in Ohio, made the claim after repeating his baseless assertion that his 2020 election defeat to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of election fraud. During an outdoor

speech that was whipped by strong winds and punctuated by some profane language, Trump predicted that if he does not win the Nov. 5 general election, American democracy will come to an end. "If we don't win this election, I don't think you're going to have another election in this country," Trump said. Trump, who is under criminal indictment in Georgia for trying to overturn the result of the 2020 election

Sixteen Nigerian soldiers killed in community clashes in Delta state **Monitoring Desk**

ABUJA: Sixteen Nigerian Army soldiers were surrounded by youths and killed earlier this week after they attempted to quell community clashes in the oil-producing southern Delta state, an army spokesperson said on Saturday.

The troops from 181

Amphibious Battalion had responded to the conflict in the Okuoma community when they were killed on Thursday, Brigadier General Tukur Gusau said in a statement.

Bolsonaro says he does not fear being put on trial **Monitoring Desk**

RIO DE JĂNEIRO: Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro said he does not fear being put on trial one day after a police investigation revealed the farright politician tried to coop the country's military chiefs in a coup plan to overturn his 2022 election defeat. Bolsonaro did not refer directly to the allegations made by two armed forces commanders that he had summoned them to discuss a possible coup d'etat to prevent leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from returning to power.

and women forced to undergo C-sections without official said.

adequate anesthesia, a UN "I'm personally leaving Gaza this week terrified for the one million women and girls of Gaza... and most especially for the 180 women who are giving birth every single day," Dominic Allen, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) represen-

Monitoring Desk

humanitarian situation in Gaza is a "nightmare" for

mothers and babies, with

doctors reporting small and

sickly newborns, stillbirths

conference from Jerusalem. 'Doctors are reporting that they no longer see normal-sized babies, "Allen said after visiting hospitals still providing maternity services in the north of Gaza, where need is espe-

tative for the state of Pal-

estine, said in a video news

twice what they were before the crisis with Israel began - with mothers stressed, fearful, underfed and exhausted — and caregivers often lacking necessary supplies.
"We have had reports of insufficient anesthetic being available" for Caesar-ean sections, "which again is unthinkable." "Those mothers should be wrapping their arms around their

though, tragically, is more

stillborn births... and more

neonatal deaths, caused in

part by malnutrition, dehydration and complications.

The numbers of compli-

cated deliveries are roughly

wrapped in a body bag. Israel has defended its policies as it pursues its stated goal of destroying Hamas, saying the UN should send more aid to the

children," he said. "Those

children should not be

EU to bolster Egypt ties with billions in funding

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: European leaders

are expected to announce a multi-billion euro funding package and an upgraded relationship with Egypt in Cairo on Sunday, part of a push to stem migrant flows across the Mediterranean that has been criticised by rights groups.

The agreement is de-

signed to enhance cooperation in areas including renewable energy, trade, and security while delivering grants, loans and other funding over the next three years to support faltering Egypt's economy

European governments have long been worried about the risk of instability in Egypt, a country of 106 million people that has been struggling to raise foreign currency and where economic adversity has pushed increasing numbers to migrate in recent years.

Inflation has been running close to record highs and many Egyp-

tians say they struggle to get by. Over the past month, however, the financial pressure on the government has eased as Egypt has struck a record deal for Emirati investment, expanded its loan programme with the IMF, and sharply devalued its currency.

Diplomats Egypt's strategic importance has been underscored by the conflict in neighbouring Sudan, which has created the world's biggest displacement crisis, and the war in Gaza, which borders Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Egypt has been the

main conduit for international humanitarian aid sent to Gaza, and along with Qatar and the United States has been trying to mediate a truce between Israel and Hamas. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will lead a delegation on Sunday that also includes the Italian and Greek prime ministers and the

Cypriot president.

President Nicolas Maduro will run for a second re-election to secure another sixyear term in voting planned for July 28, the ruling So-

Monitoring Desk

CARACAS: Venezuela's

cialist party said. Maduro, a 61-yearold former union leader, was proclaimed as the Socialist party's candidate by Vice President Diosdado Cabello, and took the stage at a large sports arena to 54.5%.

address supporters. "There's just one outcome, the people's victory on July 28," Maduro said,

Voters cast their ballots at a polling station on the final

Venezuela's Maduro

announces candidacy

for July re-election

day of the presidential election in Moscow, Russia.

wearing a bright red zippered jacket. They haven't been able to stop us, nor will

they be able to." Recent polls show 13.9% of Venezuelans plan to vote for Maduro, far behind opposition candidate

Maria Corina Machado's

Monitoring Desk

ered beacons of democracy. Michel Forst, the UN

Government minis-

Ayaz, Dr. Amiri discuss bolstering parliamentary, economic relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): both nations, especially tional Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Ambassador of Iran, Dr. Amiri Moghaddam Sunday discussed bolstering parliamentary and economic relations between Iran and

During the meeting, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's deeprooted fraternal bond with Iran, steeped in shared history, culture, and religion, said a news release.

He emphasized the need to strengthen these ties further by expanding cooperation across all mutual areas of interest, particularly in energy and trade, to uplift the economies of

local Mall in Karachi.

address the electricity de-

mands of Gwadar, the Cen-

tral Development Working

Party (CDWP) approved a crucial "revised" energy

on enhancing the transmis-

sion line infrastructure for

the coastal city, marking a significant step forward in

meeting Gwadar's energy

needs. The CDWP meeting,

led by Deputy Chairman of

the Planning Commission,

Mohammad Jehanzeb

Khan, sanctioned the en-

ergy project for Gwadar

along with another initiative

Pakhtunkhwa province fol-

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

revealed details on the taxes

and levies collected on

petrol and diesel. Sources

report that the government

collects Rs 82 per liter as

tax on both petrol and die-

sel, with an additional Rs

60 per liter levy. This trans-

lates to a total collection of

Rs 475 billion from con-

sumers in the first six

months, with a target of Rs

920 to 970 billion projected

reports, in a separate an-

nouncement, the govern-

ment has decided to main-

tain petrol prices and reduce

the price of high-speed die-

According to media

for the entire year.

Khyber

lowing detailed discussions. of the power sector.

and levy per liter on

petrol, diesel

This project focuses

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief.

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons

during Al-Khidmat Orphan Care Program held at

CDWP approves

Rs. 4.54bn Energy

Sector Project for Gwadar

sector project, titled "Con-

struction of 220kV Trans-

mission Line (28km) along

with 2nd Circuit Stringing

of 132kV Transmission

Line from Jiwani to

Gwadar (94km) Revised,

is valued at Rs. 4540.010

million, Gwadar Pro re-

Rs. 4.54001 billion, aims to

be financed through the

Public Sector Development

is to provide an uninter-

rupted power supply to

consumers across all cat-

egories and enhance the

overall commercial viability

March. The Ministry of

Finance issued a notifica-

tion confirming that the

price of petrol will stay at

Rs 279.75 per liter, while

high-speed diesel will see a

reduction of Rs 1.77, bring-

ing the new price to Rs

285.56 per liter. These

prices will be effective from

March 16th, 12:00 PM,

until March 31st, 12:00

after the Oil and Gas Regu-

latory Authority (Ogra) re-

viewed data on petroleum

product pricing. While

Ogra's review suggested a

potential Rs 1 increase for

1 decrease for diesel.

HYDERABAD: Relatives of Zeeshan Jatoi are hold-

ing protest demonstration against his killing and

demanding justice for him, at Hyderabad press club.

Sukkur IBA

achieves significant

accomplishments: VC

SUKKUR (APP): Vice university's dedication to aca-

demic quality but also signals

its ability to compete with

larger universities in metro-

university's unwavering

dedication to maintaining

high standards in higher edu-

cation. He proudly an-

nounced that Sukkur IBA

University has secured the

highest 'W' category rating

for quality from the Higher

Education Commission

Islamabad, reflecting the

institution's ongoing com-

mitment to academic excel-

lence. Additionally, the uni-

versity has successfully

obtained formal NOC from

HEC Islamabad for its

Shaikh highlighted the

politan cities, VC added.

Chancellor (VC), Sukkur

IBA University, Dr Asif

Ahmed Shaikh stated that

his University has achieved

the significant accomplish-

ments achieved during first

ence at his office here on

Sunday, he outlined a series

of notable achievements

most remarkable milestones

highlighted was the recent

attainment of the AACSB

Accreditation, positioning

Sukkur IBA University as

the only Pakistani public

university to earn this pres-

tigious accreditation.

across various domains.

During Press Confer-

He said that one of the

year after his appointment.

petrol, it also indicated a Rs

This decision comes

This initiative, worth

Its primary objective

those living on both sides of the common border.

The Speaker highlighted the strategic geographical positioning of both countries, presenting significant opportunities for regional and global connectivity and trade promotion. While acknowledging the positive trajectory in bilateral trade, he noted that there is untapped potential that both nations should

He stressed the importance of cordially addressing pending issues related to banking, trade, transportation, and energy. Additionally, he expressed optimism about resolving

scored the pivotal role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations. He expressed intent to actively engage all larly to support governmental efforts in achieving the common goal of expanded economic coopera-

Moghaddam congratulated Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election and extended warm Ramazan greetings.

He praised the Speaker's vision for collective growth and assured full commitment and cooperation from Iran across

Awais Leghari assigned portfolio of Power

ISLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assigned the portfolio of Power to Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari in place of the portfolio of Railways

According to the notification of the Cabinet Division, the PM relieved Federal Minister for Petroeum Musadiq Masood Malik of the additional portfolio of Power.

Assistant Commissioner visits market as common man

HYDERABAD (APP): In order to control over pricing and profiteering district management of Hyderabad has devised a new strategy.

Assistant Commis sioner City Ahmed Murtaza visited Lajpat road market pretending himself as a common mar and purchased household

He used a motorbike instead of an official vehicle and inquired about the prices of vegetables, meat. and fruits.

Road mishap in Karachi leaves one dead, two Iniured

Govt collects Rs 142 tax ISLAMABAD (APP): Atleast one individual was killed and two others sustained injuries after hit by a speedy car while attempting to cross the road on Defence Morr Akhtar Colony, Karachi on Sunday.

According to police, the victim, identified as Iqra, tragically lost her life in the collision, while her sisters, Noreen and Ambreen, sustained severe injuries, said a private news

Emergency services rushed to the scene to provide immediate medical assistance to the injured persons. They were subsequently transported to a nearby hospital for further treatment.

Residents protest over dumping of pepper in a residential area

By Aijaz Mughal JMERKÖT: In the Citizen Colony kunri residential area located on the Main Mirpurkhas highway near Kunri twin city Bustan, after an influential businessman placed three huge piles of chillies in an empty plot, a large number of men. women and children living in the area protested and

protested. They came out of their homes Protesters blocked the main bustan highway by erecting barricades, due to which the flow of traffic coming and going from Kunri to Mirpur Khas and other areas was suspended, the police and the protesters came face to face after blocking the road and the tension reached a peak. Told that the influential trader told them Three huge heaps of chillies have been placed illegally near the houses, due to which a severe epidemic of chillies has spread in the area. Instead of taking action against traf-

Dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

Mainly, dry weather

Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com

KARACHI: Edhi Marine Services team is busy in



ISLAMABAD: Mr Ikramullah, hailing from Qila Saifullah Balochistan, who is currently 9th class student at Lawrence College, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Mr Ikramullah's house and school were damaged in 2022 floods. On instructions of the Prime Minister, he was facilitated to continue education.

AJK President urges unified action against India's Kashmir agenda

dent Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry emphasized the need for unified efforts to counter India's disruptive agenda in the region.

Speaking at an Iftar dinner on Sunday, he highlighted the launch of a public awareness campaign from Mirpur aimed at exposing the human rights violations by Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir and advocating for Kashmiri self-determination on the

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Presi-political tool, alleging it to political tool, alleging it to be a ploy to secure electoral He called for collective

action to address the worsening situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and underscored the responsibility of all Kashmiris in advancing the freedom

Regarding local issues, Chaudhry pledged to address concerns in Mirpur, including the Rathoa Haryam Bridge issue, and announced efforts to im-Chaudhry criticized Indian Prime Minister the area.

FIA arrests seven human traffickers,

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday claimed to have arrested a total of seven individuals, including four wanted culprits, allegedly involved in human trafficking and operating illegal money exchange business. As per FIA spokesperson, revealed that the individuals were arrested from different cities across the coun-

hawala hundi operators

try including Multan, DG Khan, and Bahawalpur. The FIA spokesperson reported that the apprehended individuals were found to be in possession of a substantial amount of been blacklisted to be posted

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 1 million in cash, while a significant sum of foreign currency, amounting to 4562 Saudi Riyals, was also seized from the suspects.

The FIA has vowed to continue its efforts to root out such unlawful practices and bring the perpetrators to justice. Earlier in the day, responding to the report of the Libva and Greece boat accident, the FIA blacklisted 87 officers across the country from being posted in the immigration department. According to directives issued by the FIA, officials, and officers from constable to assistant director level have

Nation stands united with Pak Army in war against terror: Mohsin

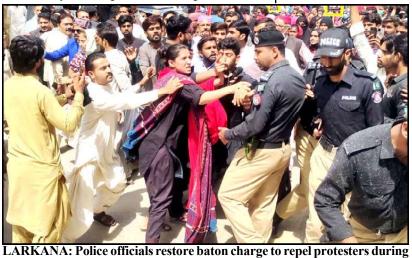
ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi said entire nation was strongly condemning terror attack on Mir Ali check post. He assured the nation that terrorists will be given befitting response for this cowardly

In a press statement, Interior Minister said all the martyred Jawans including Lt col Syed Kashif Ali were heroes of the nation. Entire nation paid tributes and salutes to the heroes who laid their lives for the security of the country. Mohsin Naqvi said entire nation was united and stood with Pak Army in war.

NAB's deputy director arrested on corruption charges

KARACHI (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Sunday arrested its Deputy Director for allegedly facilitating the accused persons nominated in embezzlement cases in exchange for

According to the details, the NAB Karachi and Islamabad chapters in a joint action arrested its Deputy Director Imran Shaikh on the charges of taking bribes from the accused arrested on charges of corruption and em-



the protest demonstration of Members of Justice for Hidayatullah Lohar Committee for demanding justice for him, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

SSUET organizes counselling session

University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) here on Sunday organized a counselling session that was attended by religious scholar Mufti Tariq Masood, the Vice Chancel-lor Prof. Dr. Vali Uddin, Registrar Cdre. ® Syed Sarfraz Ali, Deans, HODs including a large number of

faculty members and stu-

Addressing the session, eminent religious scholar Mufti Tariq Masood said that the digital camera was a copy of the human eye. In favor of Darwin's theory, would you believe that the digital camera came into existence automatically as a result of millions and billions of years of evolution? When the human intellect finds it difficult to digest this logic, is it possible eye has ap-peared spontaneously through the process of evolution? The fact is that neither we emerge auto-

KARACHI (APP): Sir Syed ourselves, but Allah has created all of us, so God knows well what are we

here for. He said the science describes the functions and working of each and every organ of the human body, but fails to explain why man was created. The scientists are unable to resolve this enigma. Allah and the holy prophets told us what are our tasks to be accomplished in this phase of life. We need to pursue Allah's

will and serve humanity. Mufti Tariq Masood said that science started to grow after the advent of Islam because Islam is the only religion that motivates and encourages you to think and discover. Even non-Muslims admit that if there were no Muslim scientists and Islam had not come to the world, it would have taken us at least another five hundred years to reach the present level of development in the field of science and matically, nor do we make technology.



Man 'mistakenly' shoots six-year-old daughter

DADU (INP): A man in Sindh's Dadu 'accidentally' shot his young daughter to death on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the Dadu's village Soomar. The deceased girl has been identified as Fatima Chandio, who was only six-years-old.

According to police the father was cleaning his pistol when it accidentally went off and killed the child

Woman killed in road accident

KARACHI (INP): At least one woman killed and two others sustained injuries after being hit by a car in Karachi. As per details, the incident occurred on Defence Morr Akhtar Colony Road in Karachi where a speeding car hit the three sisters. The accident resulted in the death of a woman identified as Iqra, whereas her two sisters Noreen and Ambreen were

The police officials said that the incident occurred when the three sisters were hit by a speeding car while crossing a road Earlier, one woman died and four others were injured after a passenger bus overturned at Native Jetty Bridge, Karachi. According to the rescue officials, the driver was over speeding the passenger bus which got out of control and overturned at Karachi's Native

President rejects workplace harassment case against FCE Professor

The President of Pakistan has rejected the appeal filed by Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MOFE&PT), challenging the order issued by the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harass-

This decision comes in the wake of a contentious case involving allegations of harassment against Dr. Samia Dogar, a former director at the Federal College of Education (FCE).

Earlier on December 8, 2023, the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment issued a final order directing the Ministry of Education and Professional Training to reinstate Dr. Samia Dogar to her previous position as a Professor (BS-20).

This decision followed an appeal filed by Dr. Samia against Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary under the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010. Key concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): were raised by the Ombudsman regarding the initial inings, highlighting serious violations of Dr. Samia Dogar's due process rights.

These included the absence of cross-examination of witnesses and the failure to examine crucial evidence such as a video recording of a Zoom call.Consequently, the Ombudsman set aside the initial inquiry committee's report and directed the Ministry of Education to reinstate Dr. Samia and conduct a fresh inquiry into the harassment complaint.

The Education Ministry was given a strict deadline to provide its findings ithin 30 days.

Meanwhile, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, contested the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment and filed a representation with the president of Paki-

However, after due consideration, the President upheld the decision, refusing Waseem Ajmal's appeal



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir pays condolence to martyrs family after Funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed (age: 39 years, resident of Karachi) and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shahed (age: 23 years, resident of District Talagang) who embraced martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan District, were offered at Chaklala Garrison.

PTI fires back at PML-N: **Qaiser accuses ministers** of exploiting 'martyrs' for political gains

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): soldier protecting the coun-Asad Qaiser, the former try," averred the PTI leader. Asad Qaiser, the former National Assembly speaker and prominent PTI leader, on Sunday hit back at federal ministers Khawaja Asif and Attaullah Tarar, who charged his party with runвшеаг сатра against the martyrs of Pakistan military and law en-

forcement agencies.
"The PTI has always recognised and honoured the sacrifices made by soldiers defending the country's borders," Qaiser asserted while speaking to a group of reporters.

'[Defence Minister] Khawaja Asif and [Information Minister] Ataullah Tarar's misleading propaganda about the martyrs is regrettable," he remarked.

In a post on social media platform X, Qaiser emphasised that "those using the soldiers' martyrdom for their political gains are not the well-wishers of the nation." "The nation is proud of each and every martyrs

PTI leader Barrister Saif also came down hard on the PML-N, accusing them of exploiting the martyrs for political gains. He affirmed PTI's patriotic stance and maligning the martyrs of the security forces. Earlier on Sunday, Khawaja Asif took a swipe at the PTI, alleging that some individuals within the party mocked the martyrs by comparing them to returning officers.

He suggested that 'those who give statements against the martyrs must be linked with terrorists", adding that no political party should engage in such behavior, despite their differences with the establishment. On Saturday evening, Information Minister Ata Tarar warned of action against the PTI's social media team, accusing them of orchestrating an insulting campaign against the



eral, Agha Fakhur Hussain addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

Establishing peace in **Ghotki district** first priority: SSP

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Establishing peace and order in Ghotki district is the first priority, robbers and criminals will be dealt with strictly, no one will be allowed to take the law into their hands, these things are new in Ghotki district.

The appointed SSP Ghotki Ruhal Khan Khoso presided over a meeting with DSPs, SHOs and Head of Branches regarding peace and order in Ghotki and gave them necessary instructions. He said that the SHO should take full control of the social crime in the area as well as conduct strict checks on the exits and entrances of the district and keep a close watch on the suspects, increase the eagle patrol in the cities. The SSP said that all DSP and SHO should sit in their office for

ten to the problems of the people on daily basis and give them justice because it is our first responsibility. Be good to humanity and listen to the problems of the people and take action. The SSP told all the officers that protecting the life and property and honor of the people is the top priority of the police, no injustice should be done to any person. Never register false and false FIRs.

Crime should be conolled in the district. Criminals and their facilitators should be brought to book in all circumstances, treat the policemen well because they are like our children and give them all the necessary help. It was further said that the Ghotki police have made great sacrifices to maintain law and order, the sacrifices of the Ghotki police martyrs will never go in vain.

is likely to prevail in the This accomplishment main campus and Khairpur rescue operation after the report of a man jumping Jetty Bridge claiming the not only underscores the campus. province. into the sea from the Native Jetty Bridge, in Karachi. Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah