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UNSC demands immediate ceasefire in Gaza for first time

US abstains, remaining 14 council members vote yes, resolution demands immediate release of all hostages, expansion of humanitarian aid.

UNITED NATIONS, United States (AFP/ APP):After more than five moval of the word "permamonths of war, the UN Security Council for the first time vote, which failed to gain a Monday demanded an imme-diate ceasefire after the United States, Israel's ally which vetoed previous drafts, abstained. Drawing unusual applause in the often staid Security Council, all 14 other members voted in favor of the resolution which "demands an immediate ceasefire" for the ongoing Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The resolution calls for the truce to lead to a "lasting, sustainable ceasefire" and demands that fighter groups should free people seized on

October 7. Russia at the last minute objected to the re- ally was seen Friday, when the United States put forward a resolution to recognent" ceasefire and called a nize "the imperative" of an "immediate and sustained passage. The successful resolution was drafted in part by Algeria, the Arab bloc's current member on the Security Arab states criticized it for Council, with a diverse array of countries including demanding Israel halt its Slovenia and Switzerland. The United States has United States had repeat-

southern city of Rafah.

ceasefire." But that text was blocked by Russia and China, which along with campaign in Gaza. The vetoed previous bids for a edly blocked ceasefire resoceasefire but has shown lutions as it attempts to growing frustration with walk a line between sup-Israel, including its stated porting Israel with military plans to expand its military aid and voicing frustration operation to the packed with leader Benjamin

A change in tone to-wards its Middle Eastern mounting.

Netanyahu as the civilian



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding implementation of Track and Trace System.

Privatization of loss making entities priority of govt **PM urges electronic media to** support govt's efforts for country's development

Seeks to counter 'fake news menace' via mainstream *media*; Says *mdia*'s role is crucial in the development; Terms mainstream media fourth pillar of state; Efforts afoot to privatise loss-making enterprises

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Prime try

Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the electronic media to support government's efforts for the checking this menace. development and prosperity of Pakistan.

He was talking to a lelegation of Pakistan Broadcasters Association, comprising Shakeel Masood, Mir Ibrahim, Mian Amir Mahmood and Sultan Lakhani, in Islamabad on Monday.

The Prime Minister said protection of media persons is the responsibility of the state. He expressed hope that the media, through objective reporting, would continue playing its role for

ing democracy in the coun- of loss-making state-owned The Prime Minister said fake news is a big challenge and the role of main-

entities, institutional reforms, domestic and foreign investment and austerity were priorities of the govstream media is pivotal in

ernment. The prime minister was talking to a delegation He said media is the fourth pillar of the state and of Pakistan Broadcasters electronic media's role is Association including Shakeel Masood, Mir cardinal in the development Ibrahim, Mian Amir Mehmood and Sultan and progress of the society as well as mental and ideological training of the Lakhani

SC seeks details

pertaining trials

of accused involved

in May 9 riots

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan on Monday sought

details from federal govern-

ment pertaining to the tri-

als of accused of May 9.

riots, in review petitions

against termination of civil-

attorney general to provide

details on next hearing that

how many accused out of

103 are innocent and would

headed by Justice Amin ud

be acquitted.

The court asked the

six-member bench

ians' trial in army courts.

people. Shehbaz Sharif further The PM said he formed the government at a said he has assumed power time when the country was faced with immense diffiat a time when the country is facing immense difficulculties. ties. He said bringing the The biggest challenge

economy back on track is was to put the economy back on track, he said and the biggest challenge. APP adds: Prime informed the delegation Minister Shehbaz Sharif about the economic priori-

strengthening and stabiliz- Monday said privatization ties of the government.

Wafaqi Mohtasib disposes of 193,028 complaints in 2023 ISLAMABAD (APP): which was an increase of Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan has processed a record that 22,321 complaints

2023, which is 18% higher to the year 2022. than the previous year.

Out of these, 193,028 complaints were disposed of which is 22% higher than the year 2022. This was reported by

Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi who called on President Asif Ali Zardari and presented the annual report of the Federal Ombudsman, at Aiwane-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

performance and initiatives taken by the federal ombudsman. He said that the ombudsman was providing speedy and free-of-cost justice to the complainants against the maladministration of various government departments.

He informed that 49,190 complaints were re- all international airports of ceived online in 2023,



ISLAMABAD: The Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan, Mr Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, presenting the Annual Report-2023 to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

47% from last year adding 194,099 complaints against were received through the the maladministration of government departments in crease of 21% as compared

He said the ombudsman was using the latest technology to help in the speedy redressal of cases and to enhance its outreach to the people in remote areas of the country.

The mohtasib highlighted that the opening of new regional offices, holding of Khuli Katcheries, launching of the Informal Resolution of Disputes mechanism, and visits of mohtasib's inspection teams The mohtasib briefed the president about the complaints, besides leading had helped in addressing to an increase in the registration of complaints. He further said that the office of Overseas Pakistanis in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat had processed a record 202,367 complaints received through Pakistan Missions abroad, and one window facilitation desks at the country

Minister for



FM reiterates Inflation, improvement of Pakistan's

trade major challenges: Jam

KARACHI (APP): Federal lenge of rampant inflation. Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday said that the control over increasing inflation and improvement of trade in the country were big challenges for the incumbent government.

He said that the federal government was seriously contemplating the current situation and would address it in the leadership Minister Prime of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

While talking to media during his visit to pay hom-age to father of the nation Ouaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah at the mausoleum, he said that the federal and provincial governments would have to jointly address the chal- world.

under that the government could not provide subsidy. The Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan said that the governments would have to make efforts for balancing supply

He said that the Inter-

national Monetary Fund

(IMF) had set conditions

and demand chain to provide relief to the people. He said improvement of trade is a big challenge for us.' He further said that the Special Invest-

ment Facilitation Centre (SIFC) had been established to facilitate the investors and improve the investment process in the country. Kamal said that Paki-

vestment, and export of stan had to engage with the manpower were discussed.

Ghulam Nabi Memon assumes charge as IGP Sindh

lowing a notification from the federal government, Ghulam Nabi Memon, a Grade 21 officer of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), has officially assumed the charge of Provincial Police Officer/ Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Sindh on Monday. This marks the beginning of his second tenure as Sindh

Police chief. Arriving at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi, Memon received a warm welcome from the police brass band. He then paid former IGP Sindh.

KARACHI (APP): Fol- tribute to fallen officers honoring their sacrifice, and offered prayers for the departed souls of the Sindh Police martyrs.

Senior officers present at the CPO were greeted by the newly appointed IGP Sindh, demonstrating a smooth transition of command. During the Change of Command ceremony, Ghulam Nabi Memon formally took charge as IGP Sindh, while Riffat Mukhtar Raja completed the paperwork to relin-

support for Palestinian cause

ISLAMABAD (APP) Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and called for an urgent and uncondi-

tional ceasefire in Gaza. He was talking to Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad A. A. Rabei paid a courtesy call on in Islamabad today.

The ambassador also conveyed his warm wishes to the Foreign Minister on the assumption of office. Japanese Ambassador Mitsuhiro Wada also paid

a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister today. Bilateral relations and collaboration in trade, in-

Four terrorists killed, ex-govt official martyred in D.I Khan

operation DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Four terrorists were killed and a former government official martyred in

operation of the security forces against extremists. According to details, the armed forces, CTD and police conducted joint operation against militants in Kot Kundian area of Kulachi located at Dera-Tank border. During intense exchange of fire, four terrorists were killed while arms, explosives and other material were also recovquish his duties as the ered from their possession.

improvement of education sector in Sindh with an aim of creating job opportunities for the youth. The minster while talking to media persons during visit of Pakistan Council for Scientific and

Industrial Research (PCSIR) Laboratory Complex Karachi said that a large chunk of country's population was consisted of youth and ministry of Sci-

Attaullah Tarar says: Power struggle causes disarray in PTI's ranks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that there was a sheer power struggle within the ranks of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that may lead to its disintegration or creation of a forward block.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that top PTI leaders like Gohar Kĥan and Sher Afzal Khan were taking contradictory stances on different issues.

He regretted the "childish attitude" put up by the PTI which was a national party.

Tarar advised the PTI American diplomat Donald leaders to shun its internal Lu had called the PTI politics and play its due role founder as a "certified liar".

States

improving education in Sindh KARACHI (APP): Federal ence and Technology was ence and Technology was Minister for Science and Technology Khalid ready to take measures in Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Monday coordination with the provincial government for said that federal government training the youth in skills required in the global marwill play proactive role for ket. All the organizations

Khalid Maqbool vows to

play proactive role for

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui attending the briefing during visit PCSIR Laboratories Complex.

working under the ambit of MoST as well as higher education institutions will start technical courses for secondary and higher secondary students having proficiency in subjects of English and Mathematics, he said and added that after

Din Khan and comprising the skill building the trained Justice Muhammad Ali students will be able to ac-Mazhar, Justice Hassan quire jobs around the world. Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Irfan Saadat Khan, heard the review appeal

During the course of proceeding, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that the trials of 103 accused in line of May 9 riots have been completed in the army courts. However, the final judgments were not announced due to the directions of the top court He said that some ac-

cused would be acquitted and, however, detention would be considered as sen-He said once they tence for some others. Juswere accusing the US of tice Amin ud Din Khan retoppling the PTI governmarked that the decisions ment, now they had hired should be announced that lobbying firms in the United who were being acquitted.

The court, on the oc-The minister said that casion, rejected the request of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to withdraw the review petition.

Maritime Affairs visits PNSC headquarters

generations.

development.

He also pointed out

In discussions with

the significant progress in

the Asian region while

noting the country's lag in

the media, the minister

outlined plans to finalize the PNSC board and ap-

point a CEO from the pri-

vate sector, aiming to en-

hance the corporation's

While expressing sat-isfaction with PNSC's

current performance, the

minister stressed the po-

tential for further im-

the

Regarding

efficiency further.

provements

KARACHI (APP): Federal rection, emphasizing the importance of building a fairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, conducted an official visit to the main office of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) on Monday. The minister received a warm welcome from PNSC officials upon his arrival.

During the visit, Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh was briefed by PNSC's Director Project and Planning, Khurram Mirza, alongside other key officials including Director Finance, Syed Jarrar Ahmed Kazmi, Director Ship Management, S.M. Babar, and Director Commercial, Captain Mustafa Qazilbash.

Addressing the gath-ering, the Minister undergovernment's economic endeavors, Sheikh assured scored the necessity for collaborative efforts to that efforts were underway promising visible results steer the nation's economy in a positive dialbeit requiring some time



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh is presented with memento during his visit Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

Consul General of China calls on Sindh **Chief Secretary**

KARACHI (APP): The Chinese companies and Consul General (CG) of China Yang Yundong called on the Sindh Chief Secretary (CS) Syed Asif Hyder Shah at the Sindh Secretariat here on Monday.

They discussed issues of mutual interest including the promotion of bilateral relations. On the occasion, the Sindh Chief Secretary assured the Chinese Consul General of the Sindh government's support and said that the provincial government and the people of ernment for its support and Sindh valued their brotherly relations with China.

He further said that

there were very good in-

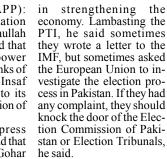
vestment opportunities for

businessmen in energy and waste-water treatment plants as well as agriculture sectors in the Sindh province. Syed Asif Hyder Shah said that he appreciated the cooperation of the Chinese government during the flood and COP conference.

They agreed to work in the agriculture and technology sectors in Sindh. Later on, the Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong thanked the provincial govcooperation. The Chief Secretary Sindh presented a traditional Sindhi cap and Ajrak to the Chinese Consul General.



KARACHI: Inspector General Police (IGP) Sindh, Dr. Riffat Mukhtar Raja presides over a high-level meeting regarding the control of law and order situation during the Holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak held at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.



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become

concern

prosperity.

OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Smog country

As if all of Pakistan's other troubles were not enough. the country has now been named the second most polluted in the world — trailing only behind Bangladesh — in the 2023 World Air Quality Report published by IQAir. We are smack-dab in the middle of a huge environmental crisis. Pakistan has average PM2.5 concentrations at 73.7 micrograms per cubic metre $(\mu g/m^3)$ — a staggering 14 times higher than the World Health Organisation's guideline of no more than 5 μ g/m³.

It is critical to comprehend the gravity of these statistics. PM2.5, or particulate matter 2.5, refers to tiny particles or droplets in the air that are two and a half microns or less in width. These particles are so small that they can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, causing severe health issues, including respiratory infections, heart disease, and strokes.

Moreover, it makes other non-communicable diseases such as mental health issues, diabetes and infertility more likely, besides affecting the cognitive development of children. The fact that all Pakistani cities included in the study had PM2.5 concentrations at least six times above the WHO's recommended levels is a glaring indictment of the country's air quality and demands immediate intervention at the highest levels.

The causes of such severe air pollution are manifold, with agriculture practices, industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, and geographical and climate conditions playing significant roles. Specifically, winter temperature inversions in Punjab, combined with emissions from crop burning and industry, as well as activity from brick kilns, have created a smoggy, health-damaging environment.

Despite measures such as banning crop burning and initiating public transportation projects, the air quality continues to deteriorate, signalling that current efforts are not enough. And time - quite literally — is running out. Based on data from the Pakistan Air Quality Initiative, hazardous air quality is shaving off an estimated 4.4 years from the life expectancy of Pakistan's inhabitants. The new government needs to rise to the occasion and take bold steps. It must urgently overhaul environmental regulations, aggressively invest in renewables, and champion public transportation. It is not just regulations that are needed: enforcement is paramount. There is an urgent need to enhance the capacity for monitoring and managing air quality. Public awareness campaigns are crucial to educate citizens about the sources of pollution and the steps they can take to reduce their personal contributions to air quality degradation. Vehicles must undergo mandated smoke checks, as is done in developed countries. More-over, collaboration with neighbouring countries is essential, given the transboundary nature of air pollution. We face a stark choice: enact decisive, immediate measures or suffer irreversible damage to our health and environment. Pakistanis' life expectancy isn't stellar as it is; it needn't be cut any shorter.

Turbulent Sahel

Mohammad Ali wa al-Muslimeen) are ac-Babakhel tive there.

The complex chal-The Sahel, a vast stretch of land below the Sahara security situation in- conditions. and extending from Burkina Faso to Eritrea, has global food shortages, ethnic the epicentre of terrorism. The tensions, rapid population growth, environmen-Global Terrorism Index reports that in 2022, this retal degradation, etc. The region harbours 58pc of gion witnessed more terthe global population rorism-related fatalities facing food insecurity, than both South Asia and with its countries lanthe Middle East and North guishing at the bottom of Africa combined, underscoring a grim escalation the Human Development Index. These facin violence. A staggering 65 per cent of terrorist atto a fertile ground for tertacks targeted 10 countries within the Sahel, marking rorism and conflict.

it as a focal point of global The operational strategies of militants in Amid this backdrop the Sahel mirror those of escalating violence, the seen in other conflict humanitarian situation in zones, with groups exthe Sahel is becoming inploiting weak governance and rural vulnercreasingly dire. Over 33 million people in the region abilities to enforce control. The shifting dynamare in desperate need of ics of terrorism from life-saving assistance, north-eastern Nigeria to grappling with the repercussions of intensified the Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger tri-border area, conflict and insecurity. The educational infrastructure alongside the spread to has also taken a massive coastal West Africa, illustrate the evolving and hit, with the UN reporting more than 10,000 schools expansive nature of the shuttered, affecting milthreat. The departure of French forces from Mali lions of children and undermining future proshas led to a surge in violence, highlighting the pects for stability and Sahel's geopolitical sig-The year 2022 spotnificance and the interlighted the Sahel in the glonational ramifications of

bal terrorism landscape, local conflicts. with four out of the 10 Militant groups in countries most affected the Sahel are broadly by terrorism found in this categorised into local region. Terrorism fatali- and transnational facties in the Sahel actions, with the latter incounted for 43pc of the cluding affiliates of Al global total, a stark rise Qaeda and IS. These from just 1pc in 2007. groups have exploited the region's political in-Burkina Faso registered stability to recruit memthe largest increase in terrorism-related deaths bers and expand their induring the year, rising fluence. The formation from 759 to 1,135. The of JNIM, an umbrella organisation for Salaficountry, along with Mali, jihadist groups, marks a in particular, has become a hotbed of terrorism, acstrategic attempt to concounting for 73pc of tersolidate various factions under a unified rorism-related deaths in the Sahel in 2022, and command, aiming to 52pc of all such deaths challenge states and international in sub-Saharan Africa. Most attacks in the Sahel interests.

are attributed to unknown groups, though scape both IS and JNIM been

(Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam destabilised by a spate of military coups, attributed to widespread dissatisfaction with goverlenges exacerbating the nance and economic These clude political instability, coups, while promising reform, often exacerbate the underlying issues that fuel extremism and conflict. Environmental challenges and rapid population growth compound the Sahel's security dilemmas. The Ecological Threat Report by the Institute for Eco-nomics and Peace tors together contribute highlights severe water and food risks, stressing urgent comprehensive strategies to

displacement

sis in the Sahel demands a multidimensional strategy that extends beyond military solutions. Efforts to deradicalise and prevent the recruitment of the region's youth are essential, considering the Sahel's demographic profile with 64pc of the population under 25. Building an inclusive social contract between governments and their citizens is crucial to addressing

grievances and restoring trust, which are fundamental to achieving lasting peace. The Sahel's trajec-

tory is a critical concern for both regional and global security. For any long-term plan, preventing violent extremism is the best antidote to defeat terrorism. The world must prioritise a coordinated, comprehensive response that tackles the root causes of instaregional bility, from governance failures to socioeconomic disparities, to reverse the tide of violence

scape in the Sahel has and terror in the region. further -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

The TikTok problem

What could the rea-

No, decided the rul-

Zarrar Khuhro

Typically, you can't get the red and blue tribes that make up the legislative branch of the American Empire to agree on anything at all, and so it came as a surprise to some when the now infamous TikTok ban bill passed through the House of Representatives with all the ease of a super-heated knife through a soft slab of butter. With 352 votes in favour and 65 against, the bill enjoyed the kind of bipartisan consensus that less important issues (like providing affordable healthcare, or pardoning student debt, or funding Ukraine's unending war) rarely get.

The bill requires TikTok's owners Bytedance to sell the social media platform by September or face being when they not only conbanned in the US. The reatinued, but increased in son being given by the frequency and volume. bill's supporters is that the Chinese government is son be?' Zionist-allied able to access the data of political and media estabthe roughly 170 million lishments in the West TikTok users in the US and asked themselves. Could is able to 'tweak' the algoit be that young people rithm in its favour, thus didn't like seeing Palessubtly controlling the kind tinians starve, bombed of content American and slaughtered before TikTok users get to see. that they were repulsed This is a direct threat to national security, claimed by images of Israeli sol-Nancy Pelosi and others, diers triumphantly lootand thus could not be ing and blowing up tolerated. homes and posing with

In one sense you the lingerie of killed and could look at this as a displaced Palestinian continuation of the agwomen? Could it be that gressive US stance these same people now against China, which inactually wanted to learn cludes posturing in the the truth about this long-South China Sea in line standing occupation? with the Asian Pivot, the building of anti-China aling classes, the problem liances with the aim of was social media and 'containment' and the at-TikTok in particular tempted hobbling of Chiwhere, as with every nese technology, as we other social media platsaw with the measures form, pro-Palestinian taken against Huawei. voices, videos and But what explains

hashtags far outnumthe urgency and the rebered pro-Israeli ones. markable agreement across a deep political Greenblatt, director of the divide to vote for this pro-Zionist Anti-Defamameasure, and that too by many representatives much in a leaked audio who have themselves call when he warned that built a massive following they (pro-Israel groups)

on TikTok? Take a deeper "had a serious TikTok problem". Then, when the bill was drafted it look and it turns out that it's not so much about the national security of quickly received the America, as it is about the national security of Israel.

backing of the powerful pro-Israel lobby groups, After the Oct 7 atthe Jewish Federations of North America. tacks, as Israel jumped on the chance to fulfil its And, of course,

genocidal agenda by when we look at Mike massacring the popula-Gallagher, the Congressman who wrote the bill, tion of Gaza, a change was noticed among popuwe find that the all-powlations in the West. erful American Israel Young people took to the Public Affairs Committee streets and protested was his top funder in the with increasing determilast election cycle. nation and volume AIPAC, con-c-erned against what they clearly about the drubbing that Israel's reputation is desaw as barbarism perpetrated by a Western-supservedly receiving, is breaking out the chequebook in the ported Zionist regime steeped in the traditions com-ing election sea-son of colonialism and apartand has put toge-ther a heid. Western elites and war chest of \$100m to their affiliated media outdefeat candidates they lets at first dismissed the protests, then demonised deem insufficiently worthem and seemed aghast shipful of Israel.

But a pushback is starting; a group of prominent Jewish-Americans, including educators, actors, writers and professors signed an open letter condemning AIPAC, and Pam Keith, a former US Congresswoman from an overwhelmingly Jewish district, used some very their eyes? Could it be colourful language while calling out AIPAC on X. Mainstream media in the US is also plucking up courage, with MSNBC doing a whole six-minute segment on how AIPAC influences US politics.

However, the hold of the Israeli lobby on American politics remains unshakeable for now; the House of Representatives recently passed a measure in a 286 to 134 vote banning aid to UNRWA and also providing an additional \$14 billion to Israel. AIPAC, for its part, touted the success of its backed candidates in the Democratic prima-Jonathan ries, leading one to wonder whether America is the only tion League, admitted as country where a foreign power can openly boast of buying politicians. --

Courtesy Dawn

The political land-

add-ress these thr-eats. With some countries in the Sahel projected to experience dramatic population increases, the pressures on already scarce resources will intensify, and may fuel further conflict and Addressing the cri-

PM 'Ramadan Relief Package' to provide relief to the people: Jam Kamal

KARACHI (Online): the items were available at about law and order Federal Minister for the Utility Store in Commerce Jam Kamal reasonable prices. Khan has said that the Prime Minister Muhammed Shehbaz to beat the inflation, he said Sharif has increased the amount of Ramadan Relief Package from Rs7.5 billions to Rs12.5 billions to provide relief to the commen-men.He stated this while talking to media persons on the occasion of his visit to a Utility Stores here on Monday.

The Minister said that the federal government was taking initiatives for the provision of relief to the public.

He said that around all

sitaution, he said that there was a need to review the The Utility Stores issue of unemployment were not meant for solution

and address the law and order situation. adding that these were He further said that merely a step for relief. the federal and provincial Kamal said that there governments were on the

Replying to another

Shipping

activity at

Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five

ships namely, MSC Bremen, MSC Lome-V,

Bekforest, Paloma and

Mackenzie, carrying Container, Canola Seed, Gas oil and Coal, berthed

at Container Terminal,

Grain Terminal, Oil

more ships, MSC Spring-III, Taxidiara and

Shiva scheduled to load/

offload Container,

Cement and LPG also

arrived at outer-

anchorage of the Port

Meanwhile three

was a need to balance the same page regarding the Price Control Mechanism. law and order situation and He said that the onus was other challenges. on the government to put the house in order.He said question, he said when we borrow from IMF then we that the government had to had to return it in a good boost the industry and manage the matter of energy manner. Earlier, the crisis in the country. Minister Jam Kamal

visited the Utility Store He further said that there were six to seven and took details of the projects in the pipeline. relief being provided to the Replying to a question people.



Data availability vital for better service delivery: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): database is essential for Minister of State for enhancing service delivery, emphasizing the importance of a credible Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, on Monday said that availability of data in the database for capacity building within government organizations. Shaza Fatima urged

digital era is crucial. During a meeting with Teradata to collaborate the Country Director of with the Ministry of IT and Teradata Global Consulting Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, Haroon objectives. Kanth, Shaza Fatima highlighted the significant

role of data in decision-

understands

The

understands

infrastructure

PM

trend, gains **373 points** ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the items,

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 373.82 points, a positive change of 0.57 percent, closing at 65,525.65 points against 65,151.83 points the

previous trading day. A total of 261,194,334 shares valuing Rs.8.945 billion were traded during the day as compared to 208,408,686 shares valuing Rs. 7.149 billion the last day.

Rupee gains one paisa burden of tough against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP): decisions on elite hailed Pakistani Rupee on the

Monday gained 01 paisa against the US dollar in the importance of the National interbank trading and Investment Facilitation closed at Rs278.12 against the previous day's closing Council (SIFC) which was poised to promote investment in the country. of Rs278.13.

However, according to the Forex Association of also Pakistan (FAP), the buying the importance of cordial and selling rates of the relations between the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and center and provinces and Rs281, respectively. with neighboring countries

and he was aware of the The price of the Euro decreased by 19 paisa to close at Rs300.84 against impact of inflation and people's worries, he added. the last-day closing of The business leader said that PM Shahbaz Rs301.03, according to the Sharif also knows that State Bank of Pakistan running the country was (SBP). The Japanese Yen impossible without painful remained unchanged and reforms and improving closed at Rs1.83, whereas a decrease of 06 paisa.

Ministerial **Committee reviews Ramadan package**

monitoring process were reviewed.

The committee expressed concern over the increase in the prices of chicken during the last three days and directed the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to reduce the prices of chicken meat. Ch. Shafay said that the supply of poultry in the market should be closely monitored during the last 10 days of

Ramadan. He said that on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, largest Ramadan package in the history of Punjab is being successfully delivered at the doorsteps of people.



of

and

prices

2024. The scheme, initially

Peshawar, holds potential for future expansion.

LAHORE: Chairman of All Punjab LPG Distributor Association Mian Muhammad Ajmal, Ghulam Mustafa, Tehsil Khan and others addressing a press conference.

FBR to Launch Tajir Dost Scheme for Small Traders, Shopkeepers

ISLAMABAD (APP): on July 1, 2024, with the The Federal Board of first payment due on July Revenue (FBR) has announced the initiation of 15, 2024.

Subsequent payments tax collection under the will be due on the 15th of each following month, newly proposed Tajir Dost facilitating convenient payments through a Scheme for small traders and shopkeepers, slated to commence on July 15, dedicated computerized system using a Payment Slip launched in six major cities ID (PSID) generated by the Tajir Dost module or the including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, and FBR's online portal a private news channel reported. Traders and shopkeepers participating in Under the Tajir Dost the scheme will be required Scheme, monthly advance to make monthly advance tax payments will kick off tax payments.

Terminal and Bulk **ISLAMABAD:** Tailors busy stitching clothes for Terminal respectively on upcoming Eid ul Fitr festival at Aabpara. Sunday.

Azam assesses prices, facilities at utility store

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, conducted a thorough inspection of a utility store in the provincial capital on Monday, focusing on product quality, facilities, and sales mechanisms.

During his visit, Minister Tarar diligently observed the sales activity, assessed the availability of facilities, and scrutinized the stock of discounted products.

Engaging with store elaborated on staff, Minister Tarar inclusivity of the package, inquired about any existing challenges and checked the rate list to ensure transparency.

Speaking to the the general public.

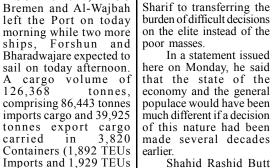
media, he emphasized the government's commitment to prioritizing economic improvement, citing Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's leadership as pivotal to the nation's economic

Qasim on today. Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Lome-V, MSC Bremen and Al-Wajbah progress. Minister Tarar underscored the government's dedication to providing essential facilities, highlighting the

announcement of the largest Ramadan package in the country's history. He the emphasizing special discounted rates for both Benazir Income Support

Bharadwajare expected to sail on today afternoon. A cargo volume of 126,368 tonnes comprising 86,443 tonnes imports cargo and 39,925 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,820 ìn

Program beneficiaries and export).



ISLAMABAD (INP):

Former President of the

Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

(ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed

Butt has lauded the decision

of Prime Minister Shehbaz

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the prime minister

Telecom to achieve these In response, Haroon Kanth assured that Teradata is prepared to making processes. work closely with the government of Pakistan. **PM's decision to put**

relevant departments were also present, while **PSX continues** divisional commissioners attended the meeting with bullish through video link. In the meeting, implementation of Ramadan Relief Package, availability of essential

ndependent

Tuesday March 26, 2024

Minister visits PSRA; directs for provision of quality education

Provincial Minister registration, regulation region-wise competitive and Elementary Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai visited the Private Schools Regulatory Authority (PSRA) on Monday and directed for provision of quality

gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister about the performance of the institution and the goals achieved.

briefed that the work issued instructions to and supervision of private schools.

Fees are determined by classifying the schools on the basis of various facilities in the schools.

education. Managing Director Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat and her team Managing Director Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat and her team Managing Director Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat and her team Managing Director Subols are registered Sabahat and her team Sabahatan team Sabahat and her team S than 3,100,000 male and female students were getting education. Provincial

Education Minister The minister was Faisal Khan Tarakai

registration campaigns for the registration of more schools and the

unregistered schools have unnecessarily increased the fees. If there is a lack of facilities in the schools

against them. He said that private schools are also our institutions and we are providing all kinds of support to them.

Body of missing youth found in sewerage drain FAISALABAD (APP) The body of a youth was

found in a sewerage drain. three days after he went missing, in the area of Bachiana police station. Police said on Monday that 28-year-old Waqas-

segments of society.

Provincial

Pakhtunkhwa

(PDMA)

LAHORE: Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. **Advisor Tourism says:**

seriously considered Independent Report PESHAWAR: Zahid Chanzeb, Adviser to the district president of APCA from Mansehra at his office, Civil Secretariat here Chief Minister Khyber on Monday. The delegation Pakhtunkhwa for Tourism, congratulated provincial adviser on taking Culture and Archives has over the portfolio of tourism and culture as well said that the KP as apprised him of certain

issues faced by the clerk of the Peshawar High community of Mansehra. Court gave a brief verdict Zahid Chanzeb on March 14 while the listened to their grievances judgment was written by very patiently and assured Justice SM Atiq Shah. them that they would be resolved at an appropriate LHC summons

the

relevant authorities on the spot to resolve some of the issues

PDMA releases Rs.348m for TDPs of North Waziristan

International News

PESHAWAR (APP): The receive it through SIM Disaster messaging within a day or Management Authority two.

In a statement issued Khyber by the office of The Director General PDMA on Monday released an amount of Rs 348 million Qaiser Khan, it has been as monthly financial said that the said financial assistance is being given to more than 17 thousand assistance (sustenance allowance) to the affected families of Operation families of North Waziristan who are duly Zarb Azab in North Waziristan who have not certified by NADRA and yet returned to their registered as temporarily displaced (TDPs). homes.Each and every verified family will persons

Minister inaugurates SSC at UET

PESHAWAR Minister for Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Meena Khan inaugurated the Student Service Center (SSC) at University of Engineering Technology (UET) here Monday. It is a newly established one-stop solution center, equipped with modern technology to facilitate the students in their academic matters such as transcripts, course registration and degree clearance etc.

the students to the remote The Minister Higher Education was received by Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar

areas of KP was a sacred

mission of UET Peshawar which was appreciable. He congratulated Prof Dr. Qaisar Ali and his team for

who apprised him of his opening up a center.

SIALKOT: Member Punjab Assembly Faisal Ikram **Chaudhary and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad** Zulqarnain inaugurates the tree planting campaign in educational institutions of Sialkot District by planting saplings in Centers of Excellence Lady Andersen Girls Higher Secondary.

Appellate Tribunal approves nomination papers of Azam Swati

PESHAWAR (APP): The three persons raised judge of Appellate objections on the Tribunal, Peshawar, in a nomination papers of Swati election candidate for the general seat of Senate on his appeal

and reserved the judgment and he did not provide this in the general election NA-Azam Swati had filed 15

He argued that after the general election, Azam Swati filed petitions in the High Court and was provided with the details of the cases and the same was provided in the Senate

The counsel of Azam, informed the Tribunal that election papers.

including the two who were not candidates in the He said one objection was that Azam Swati had now provided the details of the cases filed against him

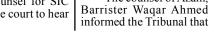
while hearing the petition filed by Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) against not giving reserved seats to short judgment on Monday approved the nomination papers of PTI backed them has summoned Attorney General (AG)

and Additional Attorney General (AAG). The hearing of the case has been adjourned.

(Online):

on technocrat seat. The state counsel while giving arguments an appeal against the rejection of his nomination during the hearing of the papers for the general seat. case said a petition like The hearing was conducted by Appellate this has been filed in Peshawar High Court Tribunal judge Justice (PHC) too. Judgment on Shakeel Ahmed

it is reserved The counsel for SIC requested the court to hear the AG too





He told that the SSC

Meena Khan said that

were

will be equipped with

modern technology to

reduce the wait time and well trained staff. The

Deans, senior faculty and

promoting engineering

education and facilitating

present on the occasion.

administration

Page

03



PHC issues detailed

judgment

on allocation

reserved seats

PESHAWAR (APP): The

Peshawar High Court on

Monday issued a 30-page

detailed judgment in the

case filed by the Sunni

Ittehad Council (SIC)

regarding allotment of

reserved seats and rejected

AG, AAG on

SIC petition

Lahore High Court (LHC)

LAHORE

A five-member bench

the petition of SIC.

National News



4.8 mln ration bags distributed, 6132 profiteers arrested LAHORE (APP): On the deputy commissioners

video link.

participated through

instructions of the Chief Minister Punjab, provincial the government successfully continuing the Nighaban Ramzan package for providing relief to deserving families during the holy month of fasting and so far 4.8 million ration bags have been delivered to the needy people at their doorsteps.

- Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman chaired an important meeting held at the Civil Secretariat to review the Ramzan package and price control measures.
- The secretaries departments of industries, agriculture, additional IG Special Branch, Chairman PITB and officers concerned attended the meeting, while the additional chief secretary, all divisional

crackdown

administrative commissioners and

and the price magistrates checked nine hundred thousand places and imposed fines of Rs. 75 million over violations. The Chief Secretary said that the delivery of ration bags doorsteps under the Ramzan package was a big challenge, adding that the role of administrative officers in the successful implementation of the program commendable. He also praised the Punjab Înformation

Officials briefed the meeting that 6,132 person were arrested and 2109 cases ul-Haq, resident of Chak No.564-GB had were registered in the over gone missing three profiteers in Ramzan, days ago. **ANF arrests 13** drug smugglers in 13 operations RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force at (ANF) in its ongoing

operation against drug trafficking managed to recover over 44 kg drugs in 13 operations and arrested 13 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He said that was 1.8 kg Ice and 1 kg heroin were recovered from a passenger going to Dubai at Islamabad Airport.In another operation Technology Board for at Islamabad Airport, 1.8 kg ensuring transparency in the Ramzan package heroin was recovered from a digital passenger going to Qatar. In third operation, 1 kg heroin The meeting decided that was recovered from a parcel sent to UK at a courier office of in Rawalpindi.

appreciation.

government is seriously considering providing relief to the govt employees in the new budget and improving their working conditions side by side with its efforts for the welfare of other He was talking to the delegation of the clerks' level while contacting the community that called on him under the headship of Mubashir Aftab Dalazak,

Russia casts doubt on **Islamic State responsibility** for concert attack

through

monitoring.

certificates

Monitoring Desk sibility for the attack, a try spokeswoman Maria claim that the US has pub-MOSCOW: Russia on Monday challenged asser-tions by the United States that the Islamic State (IS) militant group orchestrated a gun attack on a concert hall outside Moscow that killed 137 people and injured 182 more, accusing Washington of covering for Ukraine. In the deadliest attack inside Russia for two decades, four men burst into the Crocus City Hall on Friday night, spraying the crowd with bullets during a concert by Soviet-era rock group Picnic. Four men. at least one a Tajik, were remanded in custody on terrorism charges. They appeared separately, led into a cage at Moscow's Basmanny district court by Federal Security Service officers.

licly said it believes, and the militant group has since released what it says is footage from the attack. US officials said they had warned Russia about an imminent attack earlier this month. President Vladimir

man" of IS to cover its "wards" Putin has not publicly in Kyiv and reminded readers mentioned the militant that Washington had supgroup in connection with ported the mujahideen fightthe attackers, who he said ers who fought Soviet forces had been trying to escape in the 1980s. Two US offito Ukraine. Putin said some people on "the Ukrainian side" had been prepared to spirit the gunmen across the border. Ukraine has denied any role in the attack and President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has accused Putin of seeking to divert tion was ongoing and blame for the attack by would not comment on US

IS has claimed respon-

cials said on Friday that the US had intelligence confirming IS's claim of responsibility. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later told reporters that Russia could not comment on the IS claim while the investiga-

mentioning Ukraine. intelligence, saying it was Russia's Foreign Minissensitive information.

Serbians angry at Trump family deal for site of Nato bombing

Zakharova called into ques-

tion US assertions that IS,

which once sought control over

swathes of Iraq and Syria, was

behind the attack. In an article

for the Komsomolskava

Pravda newspaper, she said the

US was evoking the "bogey-

Monitoring Desk BELGRADE: A bombedout building in Belgrade, which has stood as a national symbol of the 1999 Nato strikes on Serbia, might soon become a luxury hotel financed by Donald Trump's son-in-law much to the anger of locals.

Jared Kushner, who also served as an adviser to his father-in-law during his US presidency, confirmed in mid-March his plans to invest in luxury real estate in Serbia, including the old site of the Yugoslav army headquarters. Serbian opposition member of parliament Aleksandar Jovanovic Cuta and an investigation

by the New York Times revealed that the Serbian government was going to transfer the building and the declaration that the land in surrounding land to a comthe northern Jordan Valley pany owned by Kushner. was now "state land" was

Leaked plans indithe single largest such seicated the building will be replaced by three large glass Macron also repeated his opposition to any Istowers a few metres from the Serbian defence and forraeli military operation to fight Hamas in Rafah eign ministries.

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israel's military carried out new airstrikes in Gaza and laid siege to two hospitals on Monday, dea visit to Jordan. spite what the UN chief

undisclosed location in North Korea.

Israel pounds Rafah

in southern Gaza

called a growing internafor about half of Gaza's 2.3 million population aftional consensus to tell Israel a ceasefire is needed. ter many people arrived in UN Secretary-General search of shelter after be-Antonio Guterres also ising displaced by fighting sued a new call to Israel to elsewhere, came under heavy fire in the latest Israeli attacks, witnesses

> Palestinian medics said 30 people had been killed in the previous 24 hours in Rafah

Turkey heads to local elections as Erdogan seeks to avenge 2019 defeat 2019 elections also saw the

Monitoring Desk opposition win back the ISTANBUL: Turks will vote next Sunday in local capital Ankara and keep power in the crucial Aegean polls as President Recep port city of Izmir, shatter-Tayyip Erdogan, buoyed ing Erdogan's image of poby a strong showing in last litical invincibility. Erdogan year's general elections, sets his sights on winning back has entrusted his former Istanbul. The secular oppoenvironment minister Murat Kurum to run for sition Republican People's mayor of Istanbul in the Party (CHP) seized back March 31 election. He is control of the cityseeking to avenge the worst Turkey's economic powerhouse—in 2019 for the first political defeat of his twodecade rule, when CHP arch time since before Erdogan rival Ekrem Imamoglu took ruled it as mayor in the 1990s. Those watershed the town hall.

despite ceasefire calls ATHLONE: Simon Harris is set to become Ireland's "It is absolutely esnext prime minister after the sential to have a massive governing Fine Gael party supply of humanitarian aid appointed him as its leader now," Guterres said during on Sunday, following an uncontested election. Rafah, the last refuge

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) inspecting the First Tank Armored

Infantry Regiment, which is under the direct control of the Seoul Ryu Kyong

Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army (KPA) at an

The 37-year-old said it was the "absolute honour of my life" to be appointed party leader, and his rise to the country's top job is expected to be confirmed when the Irish parliament returns from recess early

next month. He will take over from Leo Varadkar, who announced his resigna tion on Wednesday.

> Myanmar's next election may not be nationwide, junta chief says

Simon Harris

set to become

Ireland PM

Monitoring Desk

Monitoring Desk MYANMAR: Myanmar plans to have an election if there is peace and stability, but may not be able to hold the vote nationwide, its ruling military general said, according to Monday's state media. In a transcript of an interview with Russia's Tass news agency carried by Myanmar's state media, Min Aung Hlaing said the military, which took power in a 2021 coup, still planned to hold an election to return to democratic rule

North Korea says Japan PM requested summit with Kim Jong Un citizens in the 1970s and

Monitoring Desk 1980s, which remains an SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's powemotive issue in Japan. erful sister said on Monday his intention to personally that Japanese Prime Minmeet the President of the ister Fumio Kishida has requested a summit with her State Affairs of the Demobrother, adding a meeting

policy shift by Tokyo.

weapons programmes, but

Kishida has recently ex-

pressed a desire to im-

"without any conditions",

RAFAH: Palestinians

who fled an ongoing Israeli

raid of Gaza's main hos-

pital described mass ar-

past bodies in interviews

United Nations said Israel

to the enclave's devastated

militants and detained

about 480 suspects in the

raid on Shifa Ĥospital that

began Monday, calling it a

blow to Hamas and other

armed groups it says had

regrouped there as the war

nears the six-month mark.

lights the resilience of Pal-

estinian armed groups in a

heavily destroyed part of

Gaza where Israeli troops

have been forced to return

after a similar raid in the

war's earliest weeks.

Kareem Ayman Hathat,

who lived in a five-story

The fighting high-

Israel's military says

north

not opposed to.

cratic People's Republic of Korea as soon as possible,' was unlikely without a Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by the official Relations between the two countries are his-Korean Central News Agency. torically strained, includ-Kim Yo Jong — who ing by a long-running kidnapping dispute and North Korea's banned

'Kishida ... conveyed

is one of the regime's key spokespeople — had hinted last month at a possible future invitation for the Japanese leader to visit North Korea.

prove ties, which Pyongyang has hinted it is But she said the "his-tory of the DPRK-Japan Last year, Kishida said relations gives a lesson that it is impossible to improve he was willing to meet Kim the bilateral relations full of saying Tokyo was willing distrust and misunderto resolve all issues, includstanding," without a subing the abduction by North stantive policy change on Tokyo's part. Korean agents of Japanese

Palestinians describe bodies and ambulances crushed in Israel's ongoing raid at Gaza's main hospital Monitoring Desk

building about 100 meters from the hospital, said he huddled in the kitchen for days while explosions sometimes caused the building to shake.

rests and forced marches Early Saturday, Ison Sunday, while the raeli troops stormed the building and forced dozens is now blocking its main of residents to leave. He agency helping Palestinsaid men were forced to ians from sending food aid strip to their underwear and four were detained. The rest were blindfolded and ordered to follow a it has killed more than 170 tank south as blasts thundered around them.

'From time to time, the tank would fire a shell," he told The Associated Press. "It was to terrorize us." Israeli jets on Sunday launched several strikes near Shifa Hospital, which largely stopped functioning following the November raid. After claiming that Hamas maintained an elaborate command center there, Israeli forces months ago exposed a single tunnel leading to a few underground rooms.

Forced Rafah population transfer would be a 'war crime', Macron warns Israel

Presidential candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who is

backed by Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane

Sonko, walks with one of his wives after casting his vote

at the polling station at Ndiaganiao in Mbour, Senegal.

Monitoring Desk PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that any forced transfer of people from the southern Gaza city of Rafah would constitute "a war crime".

In a telephone call between the two leaders, Macron also "strongly condemned" Israel's announcement Friday of the seizure

of 800 hectares of land in the occupied West Bank for new settlements, said his office Activists say Israel's

zure in decades.

allow aid in to northern Gaza to combat starvation after more than five months of war and not to carry out a threatened assault on the

southern Gazan city of Rafah

Daily **Independent**, Karachi

Tuesday March 26, 2024



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari distributing commendation shields among military and civil officers who successfully organized Pakistan Day Parade, in a shield distribution ceremony held at, Aiwan-i-Sadr.

PM directs swift action against tax defaulters, evaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Monday directed initiation of action against tax defaulters and evaders on emergency basis.

The prime minister directed for constitution of a committee to identify the hurdles and responsibilities in the track and trace system. The committee would identify the hurdles and people involved in tax theft within seven days.

The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding implementation of Track and Trace System in Islamabad, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The committee would be tasked to submit future proposals over enforcement of automatic tax system in factories and industries. The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzaib Khan, Chairman FBR Malik Amiad Zubair Tiwana and

other senior officials. dard products. The prime minister questioned as to why the system was still inactive? He observe that this system should have been made functional in tobacco,

sugar, cement and fertilizer industries in the last two years, adding had been inflicting damages

that the system should be to the national kitty, he placed in other important added. sectors of the economy.

also asked for seeking help He said that all the legal impediments in the enof the international instituforcement of track and trace tions in the track and trace system should be removed. system. The meeting was The prime minister apprised in detail about the directed that the system hurdles in the automated should be enforced at all the enactment of the track and production lines of cement trace system in the cement,

factories, besides he sumsugar, fertilizer and tobacco moned a comprehensive sectors. The meeting was plan over digital strategy told that in 14 tobacco facand automated track and tories, the system was fully functional whereas 12 oth-He further directed ers had been sealed for noncompliance.

their destruction.

that all those factories that The system was fully resisted the implementation functional in fertilizer indusof track and trace system should be immediately try while it was facing He opined that besides revenues, the said system could also be utilized

problems in sugar and cement factories due to some technical issues which were being addressed. **PPP** government ensures protection of temples: Mayor

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Monday congratulated the Hindu com-munity on the occasion of the Holi festival.

In a message on the partments and organizaoccasion, the Mayor Sukkur said that the tions within 15 days. fes-tival of Holi was the presiding over a meeting day of victory of truth and held here to review the truth for Hindus and the matters pertaining to issuuse of colours in it was a ance of Kisan Card. Sec-

symbol of the arrival of spring, saying that the Hindu commu-nity settled in Sukkur and all other areas of Province for centuries has become a part of

ur traditions and culture

Sindh have full religious

Mayor urges

The minorities in

Ishaq Dar, Britain's FS discuss ways to further enhance bilateral relations

for counterfeit and substan-ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister Minister Foreign asked for end to fake and Mohammad Ishaq Dar on unregistered cigarettes and Monday received a telephone call from Britain's The country was fac-Secretary of State for For-

ing economic issues and eign, Commonwealth, and mafia with their connivance Development Affairs Lord David Cameron, and expressed resolve to enhance bilateral relations in diverse The prime minister

"Today, I received a telephone call from Lord David Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of Great Britain", Ishaq Dar wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

During the conversation, they discussed bilateral relations and regional issues. They also resolved to continue working closely to further enhance strong bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, education, climate change & people-to-people contacts.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson, the Foreign Minister, reiterating the importance of Pakistan-UK relationship said that Pakistan and the UK had longstanding, historic relations with multifaceted cooperation. The Foreign Minister emphasized the early conclusion of the En-

hanced Strategic Partnership (ESP) agreement to take relations to the next level The foreign minister stressed on the need to en-

hance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, people to people contacts and climate. He stressed on the need for early resumption of PIA flights between Pakistan and the UK which would further bolster linkages, particularly in view of the large Pakistani diaspora in the UK.

CS Sindh for collecting data to issue Kisan Card

KARACHI (APP): The other officers attended the meeting.

Syed Asif Haider Shah informed the meet-ing that Sindh Cabinet in Monday, instructed provincial agriculture secretary to obtain data reits recent meeting taken a quired for issuance of decision to issue Kisan Kisan Card with the help Card to farmers and growof available database of ers owning 12.5 acres of different government deland

He said that the farmers will be assisted through The CS Sindh was the Kisan Card during wheat procurement process or in case of any natural calamity or disaster.

The meeting reviewed the database of retary Agriculture Rafiq Ahmed Buriro, Senior Member Board of Revvarious departments including Revenue Departenue Baqaullah Uner, CEO ment, Social Protection, Sindh People's Housing Foundation Khalid Sindh People's Housing for Flood affected and

Agriculture Department

Maryam vows to end economic woes jointly

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Federal Finance Min-Muhammad ister Aurangzeb discussed the country's economic challenges and vowed to pull Pakistan out of economic

crisis through joint efforts. M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb congratulated the Chief Minister on assuming charge of her office, and termed her election as and understanding," he excountry's first female Chief Minister as a great milestone in the democratic history of Pakistan, according diplomacy: building bridges to a handout issued here Monday.

The Federal Finance fostering bilateral and joint Minister hailed Maryam Nawaz Sharif's initiatives partnerships through the Parliamentary Friendship for social welfare of the Groups among parliaments people.

of the world would On this occasion, the strengthen the parliament-Chief Minister thanked Muhammad Aurangzeb for to-parliament contacts, said a press release issued the good words.

Fostering parliamentary diplomacy; essential for world peace: Ayaz Sadiq

Speaker National Assem-

for global growth and de-

pressed while addressing

the 148th IPU Assembly in

Geneva on "Parliamentary

for peace and understand-

The Speaker said that

"Pakistan is a peace-

velopment.

ISLAMABAD (APP): here Monday.

While appreciating the bly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has IPU's efforts for peace and said that upholding values understanding across the of democracy, peace and globe, he has said the world the rule of law ere essential is witnessing death and destruction in Gaza at an unimaginable scale as over 30,000 civilians have been ful country that believes in killed, most of whom are dialogue for cooperation women and children.

He expressed his resolve that Pakistan would continue to raise grave concerns at the situation in Gaza where heart-rending images of death and destruction from Gaza are emerging.

Ayaz Sadiq also said that Israel's actions violated all international humanitarian and human rights law deliberately attacking civilian targets and as such, constituted war crimes and crimes against humanity.

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan receives warm reception at TDAP, engages in discussions on promotional activities and exhibition schedules.

Transgender's delegation meets **Mayor LMC**

office on Monday.

LAKKANA (APP): Th

delegation of transgender

led by Samran and Priya

Court allows PTI leaders Murad Saeed, Azam Swati

The tribunal pro-

The tribunal compris-

He also acknowledged



trace system.

sealed.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-Designate of Pakistan to Cote d'Ivoire, Mr Mahmood Akhtar Mahmood, called on President Asif Ali Zardari. at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

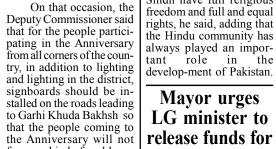
D.C chaired the meeting regarding



45^m anniversary of ZAB

LARKANA (APP): Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Larkana Sharjeel Noor Chana, a meeting of officials of all departments was held in Darbar Hallon Monday, in Deputy Commissioner office Larkana in which the arrangements were reviewed to celebrate the 45th death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who made the country a constitutional and nuclear power on April 4, upcoming month was taken.

Deputy Commissioner instructed the police officials to install walkthrough gates and make fool-proof security arrangements so that no untoward incident occurs and also to make the traffic system more efficient and effective.



release funds for face any kind of problem. water supply, There should be no inconvenience and the officials drainage schemes should carry out the assigned HYDERABAD (APP): responsibilities cheerfully so The Mayor of Hyderabad that the people participating Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Shoro has in the funeral do not face any

inconvenience. On this occa requested the Sindh Local sion, he instructed the officials Government Minister of the health department to set Saeed Ghani to release up medical camps on the roads funds for the water supply leading to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto on the occasion of Anniversary.

and drainage in Hyderabad. The Mayor met the minister at the latter's office in Karachi on Monday and drew his attention towards the water supply and drainage problems in the city.

According to the nayor, the minister told him that Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed the provincial government to address water supply and drainage issues on priority.

National Polio campaign starts in five districts

tricts to administer Oral Polio

Mian Zahid Hussain of Larkana region said that Pakistan might see a cut in the airlines' flights LARKANA (APP): A from other countries comseven-day National Polio ing to Pakistan. Campaign started across

The lives of the Larkana division including people have become tor-Kamber-Shahdadkot, mented due to the bandits Shikarpur, Jacobabad, and and the aviation industry Kandhkot-Kashmore on was also suffering, he Monday which will conadded tinue till March 31, 2024. The business leader The teams have planned to

ties of the kacha robbers has

intensified the worries of

community on Monday, he said that the dacoits were

damaging the economy, the

reputation of the country,

and the aviation industry.

Talking to business

business community.

said that dacoits of kacha visit remote and far-flung have become very active areas as well as rain/floodon social media, in which affected areas of the five dis-

Mehmood Sheikh and

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with the President Pakistani Overseas Community, Malawi Country in East Africa Chaudhry Karamat.

Surge in activities of kacha robbers intensify worries of businessmen: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chair- they can be seen armed man of National Business with rockets, missiles, and Group Pakistan, President anti-aircraft weapons. The Pakistan Businessmen and presence of anti-aircraft ar-Intellectuals Forum, and All maments with them has Karachi Industrial Alliance, caused a wave of concern all over the world, he mainand former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain tained. has said that surge in activi-The foreign airlines

stan may decrease.

whose flights come to Pakistan are worried that the bandits may target their planes and cause heavy damage

The business leader said that the state of the country's aviation industry is not good. Many countries used to give warnings to travelers about PIA, but now the passengers have also been deprived of the facility of insurance. In case of an incident,

the travelers will not get the Iftar dinner. any compensation. At this time, a large number of

flights are being canceled. If the situation remains the suspect in same, the number of foreign airlines flying to Paki-

> HYDERABAD (APP): The police arrested a suspected outlaw in injured condition in an encounter in the Badin Chali area here on Monday.

> lice spokesman, Tando Yousuf police were engaged in an exchange of fire during patrolling in the Badin Chali area. He said that one of the suspects got hit by a police-fired bullet and was arrested in injured condition but his associates managed

met with Mayor Larkana Peshawar High Court's M u n i c i p a l Corporation(LMC) Anwar (PHC) appellate tribunal on Monday allowed Pakistan Ali Nawaz Luhar, at his Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Murad Saeed, Khurram The delegation ap-Zeeshan, and Azam Swati prised for Jobs quota and to contest the Senate elec-

financial assistance through tions. Benazir Income Support After rejection of their Program(BISP). During nomination papers by the meeting, Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Luhar Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the PTI reminded the delegation leaders had approached the that the municipal corpo-Appellate Tribunal. ration will take necessary The nomination pasteps to solve the legitimate pers of Azam Swati, Murad problems of transgender Saeed, and Khurram and send a letter to the rel-Zeeshan were rejected by evant authorities to allocate returning officer for various

the quota in Jobs of reasons. Khawaja Sarah (Transgender's). nounced a verdict that was

Roman Catholic conclusion of the arguments **Council arranges** from both sides. Iftar dinner for ing Justice Shakeel Ahmed dignitaries of

all religions

KARACHI (APP): The Commission, for Inter Religious Harmony of the Roman Catholic Church has arranged special 'Iftar Dinner' for people belonging to all religions here the other day at the Auditorium of Saint Patrick College.

The Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Naveed Anthony, Catholic Bishop Diocese of Karachi K Tony Martis, Father Shakeel Kashif Anthony, Musafi Pakistani Mukhtar Bhai Ji Goswami Vijay Maharaj of Hindu Maharaj Council, Senator Anwer Lal Din, Shahid Anwer of Church Council of Pakistan and other dignitaries attended

Police arrest

high-level meeting convened by Provincial Minister for Food and Irrigation Jam injured condition Khan Shoro on Monday. has taken decisive action in a bid to curb rampant price

hikes during the holy month of Ramadan. According to APP correspondent, the provin-According to the pocial minister praised the district administration's ef-

forts to fix food prices, noting that complaints of shortages have been addressed the need to address the shortage of fertilizers, emphasizing that a compreto escape.

to contest Senate elections PESHAWAR

(INP): Khurram Zeeshan to contest the Senate elections on general seats while Azam Swati has been cleared to run for technocrat seat.

Earlier on March 22, the Appellate Tribunal of Lahore High Court (LHC) accepted the appeal of PTI worker Sanam Javed and allowed her to contest the Senate elections.

Sanam Javed moved to the Appellate Tribunal after her nomination papers were rejected by the Election Commission of Pakistan

The tribunal accepted Sanam Javed's appeal against the rejection of nomination papers.

LHC Justice Shahid reserved earlier after the Bilal Hasan of the tribunal pronounced a reserved verdict that was reserved on Thursday after the completion of arguments from both allowed Murad Saeed and sides.



KARACHI: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Chairperson, Asad Iqbal Butt along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

Meeting reviews price hikes of essential commodities

MIRPURKHAS (APP): A adopted to improve the situation.

We are committed to providing relief to the people during this blessed month, he declared and said the Sindh government has established monitoring committees at both provincial and divisional levels to keep a close watch on prices. In a separate meeting with revenue and irrigation officials, Shoro announced plans for a major drainage scheme to mitigate the impact of rainwater from Hakro drain. A massive gate will be installed to prevent flooding, ensuring the safety of communities hensive strategy has been during the monsoon season.

sons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi. Pakistan, Iran trade expansion discussed KARACHI (APP): Kafeel such agreements would facilitate easier access to mar-

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

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media per-

Hussain Group CEO, and renowned architect Kafeel Hussain recently held a meeting with Iran's Counsel General in Karachi Nourian Hussain Nourian, to discuss mutual interests.

During the meeting, Kafeel Hussain highlighted the strong commercial and business relations between Pakistan and Iran. He mentioned that Pakistan has experienced a 13.5% annual increase in imports from Iran over the past 24 years and efforts are being made to further enhance this growth.

Kafeel Hussain em- Hassan Nourian echoed phasized the importance of formalizing free trade agreements to boost bilateral trade between the two countries. He emphasized that nomic conditions.

kets for products and services from both nations, thereby promoting economic stability. In 2022, Pakistan's imports from Iran reached \$1.448 billion, while exports to Iran amounted to \$842.8 million He also emphasized

Vaccine (OPV) to the Iran's potential role in help-1,178,990 children up to the ing Pakistan overcome chalage of five years. The District lenges such as gas shortages Health Departments of and other crises, which Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, would contribute to the Shikarpur, Jacobabad and economic stability of both Kandhkot-Kashmore districts nations have deputed more than 3,400

Counsel General mobile and fixed teams which will visit every house similar sentiments, stating in the five districts of the that both countries are tak-Larkana division and admining comprehensive meaistered Oral Polio Vaccine sures to improve their eco-(OPV) to the children up to five years age.



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