

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXV No. 197, Shaban 25, 1445 AH Thursday March 07, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

# **Conditions of fair** trial not fulfilled in ZA Bhutto's trial: SC

SC opinion on Bhutto's trial sets a new history and tradition: PM; Bilawal terms SC opinion on Presidential reference on ZAB case as historic

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday observed that the conditions of fair trial and due process was not met in trial of PPP's founder Zulifkar Ali Bhutto in murder case of Muhammad Ahmed Khan Kasuri.

Chief Justice of Paki- do not meet the requirestan Qazi Faez Isa pro- ments of the fundamental nounced the majority opinion here.

The CJP said that ticles 4 and 9 of the Constijudges were to decide cases tution. impartially

There should be self- the law do not provide a accountability within the mechanism to set aside the judiciary as the judiciary judgment whereby Bhutto cannot progress without

admitting its past errors. tenced; the said judgment In its five pages writ- attained finality after the ten order, the top court gave dismissal of the review peopinion on questions raised tition by this Court," it in the presidential reference. said It said, "In its advisory

It stated, "The pro-ceedings of the trial of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by the jurisdiction under Article 186 of the Constitution, this Court cannot reappraise Lahore High Court (LHC) and of the appeal by the SC the evidence and undo the decision of the case. However, in our detailed rearight to a fair trial and due sons, we shall identify the process enshrined in Armajor constitutional and legal lapses that had occurred vith respect to fair trial and

"The Constitution and due process.' The court said, "The reference filed by the Presi-

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir NI (M) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

#### Govt. jobs not permanent solution to issue of unemployment: "I am ready to take every kind of political pressure for improving governance", asserts Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Chief Minister Balochistan directs to make service delivery system effective and reduce volume of non-development expenditures; dissatisfied with outcome of spending billions of rupees in health & education sectors

#### **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that mere government jobs are not sustainable solution to the issue of unemployment and, adding announced to create alternative means of livelihood in different private sector.

He asserted that government job is not hereditary distribution, and as such there is a need to correct the concept in this regard

He went on to say that he is ready to take every kind of political pressure for improving governance in

the Chief Minister was directed to prepare annual chairing a review meeting of resources

> necessary to make effective implementation on the accountability of all the concerned and making them answerable, he maintained. He noted with concern

about their respective de-Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to reduce the volume of non-development expendi-

### **PM distributes** huge compensation package among recent rains victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Prime ing the office of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Wednesday distributed a huge compensation financial package among victims of the recent torrential rains and flooding of Khyber Pakthunkhwa.

He on behalf of the Federal Government distributed Rs two million cheque among heirs of each deceased and Rs. 500,000 among each injured of the recent torrential rains and floods in different districts of the province including merged tribal districts.

The prime minister handed over the compensation cheques during a function held here at Governor House. It was the first visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif to Khyber Pakthunkhwa after assum-

akthunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, Members National Assembly, Khwaja Muhammad Asif, Engr Amir Muqam, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Attaullah Tarar, PML-N Leader Ishaq Dar, former Governor KP, Engr Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, senators, members provincial assemblies, Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik

Besides others, Khyber

Minister of Pakistan.

IGP KP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur and relatives of the rains victims were present on the occasion. A total of 40 people

including 27 children died and 62 injured during recent torrential rains and floods in Khyber Pakthukhwa.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Myanmar, Imran Haider, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### Pakistan desires to expand trade, economic cooperation with friendly countries: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Alvi also un-President Dr Arif Alvi on derlined the need of enhancing political, cultural and Wednesday said that Pakistan desired to expand its people to people contacts trade and economic relabetween Pakistan and Portugal, besides strengthening tions with the friendly countries. of exchanges at the politi-The president excal level. Portuguese IT compapressed these views during nies could benefit from the separate meetings with skilled human resources of Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Portugal Dr Pakistan in the respective sector, he opined. Muhammad Khalid Ejaz The president, during and Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Myanmar his meeting with ambassa-Imran Haider, who called on dor designate to Myanmar, him at the Aiwan e Sadr. stressed upon further ce-**PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting** Talking to ambassadormenting of bilateral relaregarding recent torrential rains and heavy snowfall and the ongoing rescue designate to Portugal, the tions between the two counpresident urged him to tries. He stressed that both work for further strength-**UAE leaders** ening of bilateral trade ties countries were required to with his host country, addenhance their cooperation greet Shehbaz ing that Pakistan was enin business sector to proon assuming suring conducive environmote trade. Ancient Buddhism ment for the economic and **PM's charge** trade activities. heritage in Pakistan could ISLAMABAD (Online): The foreign investors further bring the two counshould avail of such busi-The UAE leadership has tries closer in tourism and ness-friendly environment cultural sectors. On the ocin Pakistan, President Seccasion, the president also retariat Press Wing, in a separately expressed his press release, quoted the good wishes for the success president as saying. of both envoys.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing his views during introductory meeting of Provincial Secretaries of departments



indigenization in arms and

armament. The COAS also

visited other manufacturing

facilities within the Heavy

Industrial Complex and ap-

preciated the commitment

of the officers and

workforce in successful

achievement of another

Earlier on arrival, the

technological milestone.

Development departments here on Wednesday. The Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan and Secretary

the province.

partments.

tures besides improving and making the service delivery system effective.

the Finance and Planning &

Planning Lal Jan Jaffar briefed the Chief Minister that billions of rupees are being spent on health and education sectors, how-

ever, it's outcome is not satisfactory. He also said that the absence of medical and teaching staff at their duty places is intolerable at

Continued on page 2

Mir Sarfraz Bugti also development programme remaining in the financial Moreover, it is also

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) as chief guest at the rollout ceremony of HAIDER tank (Pilot Project).

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, key officials of Chinese state company NORINCO, high officials of Government of Pakistan & Pakistan Army, and various military and civilian officials of HIT, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the ceremony, HIT unveiled its new Tank HAIDER, which has been indigenously manufactured in collaboration with NORINCO China and various industries of Pakistan.

COAS was received by HAIDER embodies cutting-edge technology Chairman HIT.



TAXILA: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COÅS), visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) as chief guest at the rollout ceremony of HAIDER tank (Pilot Project).

#### 10 candidates in run for three seats of Senate from Balochistan

proved.

approved.

Shakeel Durrani of Pakistan

Peoples Party were ap-

tion papers of Kohda Babar

and Mobin Khilji were also

Similarly, the nomina-

The papers of Mir

**Independent Report** QUETTA: In all 10 candidates are in competition run for three general seats of Senate from Balochistan as the scrutiny of their nomination papers completed here the other day.

According to the list of Dostain Domki of Pakistan candidates shared by the Muslim League-Nawaz, Provincial Election Abdul Shakoor of JUI Commission's office, nomi-Tariq Mesouri Bugti, Mir nation papers of candidates Khan, Syed Mehmood including Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Agha Shah and Hairbiyar Domki were also approved.

and impressive capability in the domain of tank war-ISLAMABAD (Online) fare having remarkable fire-Army Chief General Syed power, protection and ma-Asim Munir called on Prime noeuvre characteristics. Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Crafted with state-of-

Islamabad on Wednesday the-art advanced technolo-He felicitated Shehbaz gies, HAIDER stands as a Sharif and extended good testament to Pakistani dewishes for him on assumfence industry's relentless ing office of the Prime Minpursuit of excellence in deister. ence innovation.

During the meeting, The COAS was briefed views were also exchanged in detail about the technical on professional matters of capabilities of the HAIDER the Pakistan Army and setank and the progress being curity affairs. made in achieving

situation

#### **PM** completes consultation process with

Nawaz on federal cabinet ISLAMABAD (Online) Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has completed consultations with ML-N supremo Nawaz

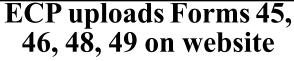
Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan en-Sharif in connection with dorsed a recent statement federal cabinet. issued by the Pakistan The federal cabinet will Army's top brass in connectake oath after presidential tion with a probe into the election. May 9 violent attacks and

There is strong possisaid his party was not bility that head of private against the military. bank would get the post of The Corps Commandfinance minister. ers' Conference (CCC) -

According to sources with Chief of Army Staff PM Shehbaz Sharif will se-(COAS) General Asim lect his economic team on Munir in the chair — had a his own. Some new faces day earlier committed that will also be included in the planners, instigators, abetcabinet. tors, perpetrators, and des-Sources said two min-

ecrators of martyrs' monustries have been offered to ments and attackers of mili-MQM initially. Faisal Sabzwari and Mustafa tary installations on May 9 would certainly be brought Kamal will be included in to justice. The May 9 atthe cabinet. The final decitacks refer to the violent sion will be made by coorprotests that broke out foldination committee today.

MQM has demanded four ministries.



The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finally uploaded Forms 45, 46, 48, and 49 for national and provincial assembly verify their vote count from constituencies on its the polling station. website . The Election Commission is mandated by Sub-section

ballot papers received and 10 of Section 95 of the Elecextracted from the ballot tion Act to upload Form 45 boxes at the polling station. on its website within a 14-It also includes figures for day timeframe. challenged, invalid, and can-In both general elecceled ballot papers, along ions and by-elections, with any legal implications

Form 45 is consistently associated with these numcited and scrutinized. It provides details such

ISLAMABAD (APP): as the total number of votes tails on the preliminary recast, the breakdown of votes obtained by each candidate, and allows candicast and invalidated.

cant importance in compiling election results, as it in-Form 46 contains inforcludes the tally of votes remation about the number of ceived by each candidate in a constituency.

Form 49, published in counts obtained in the con-

Form 47 provides destituency

sults of the constituency, as well as the number of votes Form 48 holds signifidates to independently

P), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Zia (PML-Z) and Balochistan

the Gazette of Pakistan, serves as the official and conclusive result document. It lists the candidates names, their affiliated political parties, and the vote

Awami Party (BAP), comprises 229 members in the lower house.

To gain two-third majority in the 336-seat of national assembly, a government needs the support of 224 lawmakers

JUI announces nationwide movement against electoral rigging after Eid

ISLAMABAD (INP): Qaiser, a PTI leader, em-Jamiat Ulama Islam and Paphasized their commitment kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have to contesting alleged fraudulent mandates, asannounced separate initiatives to combat election rigserting their support for Mahmood Khan Achakzai ging in Pakistan. JUI-F's head Maulana in the presidential election. Fazlur Rehman disclosed This move is seen as a gesplans for a nationwide ture towards Balochistan, movement against electoral aiming to address the

malpractices, scheduled to region's challenges. commence after Eid-ul-Fitr. The movement, starting nent figure within PTI, reiterfrom Sindh, will traverse ated the party's dedication to peaceful political through provinces, culminating in Islamabad, with struggle within constitu-Fazlur Rehman leading the tional bounds. He con-

demned what he referred to as the "5th generation rigging," emphasizing the imperative to safeguard democracy and tentions to form a grand alliance against rigging. Asad parliamentary integrity.

Barrister Gohar, a promi-



addressing a ceremony with lawyers.

Nawaz (PML-N) and its allies have secured a twothird majority in the National Assembly (NA), following the allocation of reserved seats which were claimed by the Sunni charge In parallel, Pakistan Ittehad Council (SIC). Tehreek-e-Insaf declared in-The coalition government led by Prime Minis-

and relief activities for the affectees. Says PTI not anti-military Imran endorses army's top brass' statement

on May 9 probe RAWALPINDI (Agencies): corruption case last year. Incarcerated Pakistan

During an informal interaction with journalists at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, the former prime minister said: "I endorse the declaration of the CCC. Suspects involved in May 9 incidents should be punished severely." Stressing the need for a thorough interrogation into the violent attacks,

Khan said that a commission should be formed on the May 9 incidents. In the past, the PTI founder had been blaming the "agencies" men" for arson and shooting in some areas during the

May 9 violent protests. In a tweet from his official handle in May last year, the ex-PM said his party has "ample amount of evidence" to prove that agencies' men carried out arson lowing the arrest of the in- and shootings during the carcerated PTI founder in a protests to blame it on PTI.

extended warm wishes and congratulations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on assuming charge of the of fice of Prime Minster. Those who extended felicitations include Vice

President and Prime Minister of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**Ruling coalition** secure two-third majority in NA ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-

ter Shehbaz Sharif, which

includes the Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP)

Mutahida Quomi Move-

ment-Pakistan (MQM-

Daily \_ oice of Masse Independent Quetta

Thursday March 07, 2024

# **Miscellaneous**

### Page 0Ž

### Senators urged strengthening of democracy in their farewell speeches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators in the upper house upon but still feel depressed for not contributing enough in the their retirement on March 11, stressed upon strengthening of democracy in the country for a prosperous future of Pakistan on Wednesday.

Deputy Chairman Sentat Mirza Muhammad Afridi accepted the resolution from senator Mohmmad Ishaq Dar Leader of the House and Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Leader of the Opposition, who moved the resolution under Rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, that the requirement of Rule 41 of the said Rules regarding question hour be dispensed with for remaining sittings of the current session.

Senator Professor Dr. Mahar Taj Roghani in her farewell speech appreciated the Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Afridi for smooth conduct of senate sessions.

She suggested that the oath of the senators should not be mandatory for senators because they don't justify it with their acts when coming into power.

She said that, she did her best in her tenure as senator

development of the country.

She also suggested that the bills passed by the Senate should not be sent to the National Assembly for further approval because the Senate has the status of upper house, however the bills passed by the National Assembly must ome to the Senate for approval. Senator Moula Bux Chandio in his farewell speech

said that Pakistan has to be run by politicians therefore politicians must believe in dialogue and talk to each other country's best interest.

He said 18th amendment is an amendment for survival of Pakistan and Pakistan People Party will not tolrate any conspiracy to end this amendment.

He said politicians and political parties must learn om their mistakes and further strengthen democracy by rgetting past mistakes.

He said the democracy will be matured if it is not derailed and would be more strengthen after mistakes. He also thanked his party leadership for nominating

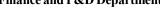
him for senatorship.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over joint review meeting of Finance and P&D Departments

Hafiz

Tahir





PESHAWAWR: Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali

### SHRC, FES organize public hearing on human and labour rights due diligence

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, organized a public hearing on human and labour rights due diligence and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions for socio-economic development of the district on Wednesday, 6th March 2024, at the DC office, District Ghotki.

During the consultation issues of environmental degradation, inadequate minimum wages, and the contamination of drinking water by factories were underscored. To address these concerns effectively, it is crucial to ensure the active involvement of diverse stakeholders, includ- by state actors and multi- comprehensive approach ing community members, national companies. De- to business and human environmental experts, and

industry leaders. The pub-lic hearing, attended by key payer, Ghotki grapples with challenges such as stakeholders including govweak infrastructure, limernment officials, represenited tatives from the labor desources, and inadequate partment, education sector, health and education facililabor unions, corporate so-Mr. Detho expressed cial responsibility (CSR) entities, civil society orgasignificant concerns over nizations and social activthe lack of implementation

ists signifies a collaborative of key provisions in vari-

communication

approach to finding effecous policies and agreetive solutions. ments, he also highlighted Mr. Iqbal Ahmed the absence of female rep-Detho, Chairperson of resentation in labor unions SHRC, presided over the which is a violation of both session along with Mr. international laws and the Agha Sher Zaman, Deputy constitution of Pakistan Commissioner of Ghotki. 1973. Underlining the com-

Mr. Abdullah, Program mitment of SHRC to up-Advisor FES-Pakistan, emhold human rights prinphasized the importance of ciples, Mr. Detho menbusiness and human rights tioned the United Nations for Pakistan. He pointed guiding principles and the GPS+ Scheme, emphasizout rights violations faced by the district, particularly ing the importance of a spite being a major tax- rights.

#### **CM Maryam allocates** portfolios to cabinet members ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- where minority communi-

LAHORE (INP): Puniab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday assigned portfolios to Puniab cabinet members who took

their oath earlier in the day. According to the details, Marriyum Aurangzeb has been named Senior Minister for Planning and Development. She would also serve as Minister of Environment and Forests. Azma Bukhari has been

given the portfolio of Infor-mation while Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman has been given Finance portfolio.

Ashiq Hussain Kirmani is given the Agriculture portfolio, Mohammad Kazem Pirzada is appointed to the Irrigation department, and Rana Iskandar Hayat is

Sher Ali for Mines and Minerals, and Sohail Shaukat Butt for Social Welfare. **CPEC** poised to create more job opportunities

in Pakistan: Chinese CG KARACHI (APP): The commerce, education, cul-Consul General of China in ture, and media as well as Karachi, Yang Yundong, female overseas Chinese in Wednesday, said that China

Pakistan. Pakistan Economic Corri-Referring to job cre-ation through CPEC projects the CG informed dor (CPEC) projects have created a large number of jobs in Pakistan, providing that at the Thar Coal Mine women with platforms to project over a hundred showcase their abilities. women have received truck With advancement in driving training and dozens cooperation between China of the female truck drivers and Pakistan, more emwere busy. They particiployment opportunities pate in the construction of will be created for women the project, contributing to

### Minorities thrive with rights, safety in Pakistan: Ashrafi

ties can thrive without fear

or discrimination. "Our na-

tion stands firm in its com-

mitment to providing equal

opportunities and protec-

tions for all its citizens, re-

gardless of religious or eth-

highlight the active partici-

pation of minority commu-

nities in various sectors of

society, showcasing their

invaluable contributions to

the nation's progress.

'From education to

healthcare, and from busi-

background," he added.

He said recent reports

handed the School Education department. The other ministers are

Chairman Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi on Wednesday said Pakistan, a country where diversity is celebrated, continues to ensure the rights and safety of its minority communities without prejudice.

Talking to media, he said amidst recent developments, the government has reaffirmed the commitment to uphold religious freedom and protect the lives and properties of all citizens.

kistan Ulema Council

Ashrafi emphasized ness to public service, that Pakistan is dedicated to fostering an environment groups are extending their

#### ministry facilitates Pakistani pilgrims for Urs in Kaliyar

Sharif, India ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has extended cooperation to Pakistani pilgrims desiring to participate in the annual Urs of Hazrat Khawaja Alauddin Al Ahmed Sabir (RA) in Kaliyar Sharif, India.

Talking to APP, Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammed Umar Butt urged interested pilgrims to submit their applications through 'Ziyarat Form' by March 20, 2024.

Along with the appli-

services across all spheres of life," he maintained.

Ashrafi said the government has taken proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of minority communities, with stringent laws in place to prevent any form of discrimination or violence against them. "We are vigilant in safeguarding the rights and liberties of every individual within our borers," he affirmed.

He said the commitment to inclusivity and diversity is evident in Pakistan's efforts to promembers of minority mote harmony and understanding among its citizens.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with the Consul General of UAE, Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

#### **PCB** Chairman Naqvi discusses security plan with Kiwi's delegation

ISLAMABAD (INP): A and best security arrangesecurity delegation included ments will be made for the

#### Khawaja Imran Nazir for Primary Health, Khawaja Salman Rafique for Special Healthcare, Ŝoheb Aĥmad Malik for Civil and Works, Zeeshan Rafique for Local Government, and Bilal Akbar Khan for Transportation. Bilal Yasin will be the Minister Food Department, Ramesh Singh Arora

for Minority Affairs, Khalil Tahir Sindhu for Human Rights, Faisal Ayub Khokhr for Sports, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain for Com-

merce and Industry, Sardar **Religious affairs** 



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali administering oath to new provincial cabinet

#### PM distributes huge compensation....

#### Continued from page 1 also laid great emphasis on said that time had come to

The prime minister directed the authorities concerned and relevant departments to complete estimates of all destroyed and partially damaged houses within five days and complete the process of disbursement of compensation payment by

March 11.

He directed the NDMA and other relevant departments to use helicopters facility for transportation of officials to ensure speedy compilation of estimates of all the destroyed and partially damaged houses in far flung disof Khyber tricts Pakthunkhwa so that the process of compensation package could be completed within said period.

The prime minister during recent torrential said that delay in this regard would be unacceptable and officials failed to achieve their targets would be held accountable.

Shehbaz Sharif announced that Rs 700,000 would be provided for repair of each destroyed house and Rs 300,000 for each partially damaged house.

The financial compensation was not an alternative of a human life but a token of economic relief to their families to live with dignity in the society, he added.

He said the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had

observance of patience make inclusive strategy to during difficult situation. counter climate change The prime minister otherwise the upcoming said that he also visited rain generation would not parhit areas of Balochistan the don us. other day and expressed should be complete strucsolidarity with the victims' families. ture mechanism with

He said KP was the NDMA and PDMAs of all most rains and flood af- provinces for speedy hufected province in terms of manitarians assistance to human lives reported last people in cases of natural month followed by calamities like 2022 floods Balochistan and Azad and underlined the need for Kashmir and all necessary effective coordination among PDMAs and resources would be utilized by the federal governin that regard. ment to help the victims families in this hour of difficulty.

The prime minister package were distributed among flood victims of highly appreciated the performance of NDMA, 2022 besides he personally PDMA. Police and Dissupervised relief and rescue operations in all provtrict Administrations of KP in relief and rescue efforts inces including Sindh rains and assured that federal government organiza-

tions including NDMA would provide all possible assistance and support to the affected people of KP till their complete rehabilitation. Shehbaz Sharif said that he came here to ex-

press solidarity and sympathies with the rains vicof Pakthunkhwa and assured every possible assistance and support to them.

tims

He said that Pakistan was among the seven countries vulnerable to climate change and the 2022 year devastated flood was a clear testimony of it.

The prime minister nomic affairs.

coming years, he said while addressing a reception hosted by the Consulate General of China in Karachi in connection with International Women's Day

The event was attended by former federal minister Barrister Shahida Jameel, female entrepreneurs, women from Sindh and Balochistan belonging to various fields such as

local development while changing their own lives, he added. The Chinese CG said

that women were excelling in their respective fields and making positive contributions to the promotion of economic and social development in Pakistan and the enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship between China and Pakistan.

#### Conditions of fair trial not fulfilled...

Continued from page 1 dent of Pakistan has provided us an opportunity to reflect upon the proceedings of the trial. conviction and death sentence of Bhutto, under the regime of Dictator General Zia Ul Haa

The reference was filed during the government of the political party founded by Bhutto but the successive governments of other major political parties carried forward this inquiry and did not opt to withdraw the reference.

This collective interest reflects the widespread desire of the people of Pakistan to seek the opinion of this Court on whether Bhutto was afforded a fair trial and due process for his trial for the murder of Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Khan Kasuri.'

NDMAs of all provinces It said, "In the course of performing our core duty The prime minister to administer justice 'in accordance with the Constisaid that billions of rupees tution and the law', we (judges) are bound to 'do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, af-

Balcohistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakthunkhwa during that period. Shehbaz Sharif also

He said that there

met with the rains affected people and children with affection and inquired about their problems.

The prime minister and others also offered Fateha for departed souls of the victims and special Khyber prayers for speedy recovery of the injured.

Earlier, upon arrival, the prime minister was received by KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali. Later, the Governor called on the prime minister and exchanged views on overall situation including eco-

Sharif, India, he added. According to him, 200 Pakistani pilgrims will be sent to India to participate in the Urs therefore, be willing to conbut by admitting the serifront our past missteps ous mistake, a new history and fallibilities with humiland a new tradition have ity in the spirit of self-acbeen set," the prime minister remarked in a state-

countability, and as a testament to our commitment ment to ensure that justice shall He said that rectificabe served with unwavering tion of an injustice of a integrity and fidelity to the court by the court was a law. We cannot correct ourpositive development. selves and progress in the The unanimous opin

right direction until we acion of the Supreme Court knowledge our past misin the Bhutto reference will takes, the maintained.3 help understand the his-Meanwhile Prime tory at the national level Minister Shehbaz Sharif through the right perspecon Wednesday congratulattive. The process of naing the leadership and tional unity and developworkers of the Pakistan ment can be accelerated Peoples Party (PPP), said only by correcting the past that by admitting the mismistakes and doing away take in Zulfikar Ali with the bitterness," Prime Bhutto's trial, the Supreme Minister Shehbaz re-Court's opinion on the marked. Chairman Pakipresidential reference had stan People's Party set a new history and tra-Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on dition. He congratulated Wednesday termed the Su-Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, preme Court's opinion on the Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto President-designate Asif Ali Zardari, PPP leaderreference as historic and ship and workers for the expressed the hope it would help Pakistan progress on all fronts. Talk-Supreme Court's observation that former Prime Minister Zulfigar Ali ing to media after the an-Bhutto did not get a fair nouncement of the Supreme Court opinion. he "It is not possible to

said history was set to be fection or ill-will. We must, correct the past mistake corrected after 44 years.



trial

QUETTA: Munir Ahmed Badini presiding over 46th meeting of PPHI **Balochistan Board of Directors** 

New Zealand Players Assocations, he said it is mandaciation Chief Executive Oftory to submit a non-reficer Heath Mills and secufundable bank draft of Rs. ritv consultant Reg 1000/- in the name of the Dickason met with Pakistan ministry. The Urs ceremocricket Board (PCB) Chairnies are scheduled to be held man Syed Mohsin Naqvi on from September 14 to Sep-Wednesday. In the meeting, tember 20, 2024, in Kaliyar the arrangements and security plan of the New Zealand cricket team's visit to Pakistan were discussed. Chairman PCB Mohsin Nagyi assured the Kiwi del-

Kiwi team. The delegation said that they visited Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium and security arrangements are excellent. The Kiwi delegation expressed satisfaction over the security plan. The Kiwi delegation

was informed about the security measures taken by the Pakistan Cricket Board. PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Direc-

tor Security Department Coloegation of foolproof security nel Khalid and Director Inarrangements saying New ternational Pakistan Cricket Zealand cricket team play-Board Usman Wahla were also ers are guests of Pakistan present on the occasion.

Expressing their grati-

ing such a successful event,

tapped potential for tour-

The influx of visitors

The resounding suc-

#### Pakistan Army hosts skiing festival in Malam Jabba

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a also served as a platform for bid to promote tourism and fostering camaraderie adventure sports, the Pakiamong participants. stan Army has organized a vibrant skiing festival and tude towards the Pakistan snowboarding competi-Army and the provincial tions in the picturesque regovernment for orchestrat-

gion of Malam Jabba The event, which saw tourists hailed the initiative enthusiastic participation as a testament to Pakistan's from tourists across the peaceful ambiance and uncountry, garnered praise for its impeccable organization and contribution to showcasing Pakistan's serene from various corners of the landscapes, a private news

nation underscored the channel reported. growing interest in explor-Amidst the snowing the natural wonders of capped peaks of Malam akistan. Jabba, tourists indulged in thrilling skiing and cess of the skiing festival in snowboarding activities, Malam Jabba serves as a reveling in the snowy beacon of hope for the burweather and breathtaking geoning tourism industry in Pakistan, promising excit-

scenery The festival not only provided an adrenaline rush for adventure seekers but

#### Continued from page 1

He stressed the need to launch skills development programme in addition to the traditional education in educational institutions.

Moreover, there is also a need to increase professional capacity of the manpower in the government departments, adding he stressed The Chief Minister

strongly believed that the fruits of development and government's initiatives much reach to the general public

He said that the implementation would be ensured on the reports and recommendations of Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) in order to bring improvement in the government affairs

He also said that it is time to deliver the masses by improving the service

ing adventures and unfor-

gettable experiences for

travelers in the future.

He said that the public hardships can be lessened by making the service deery system effective.

He said that the process of accountability and answerability would be made effective by removing the shortcomings in the system.

The Chief Minister said that the increasing pension bill and non development expenditures are major hurdles in implementation on the public projects linked with the basic ameni-

In future, this would emerge as rather more serious issue, for effective financial planning is unavoidable, he observed.

elivery system.

I am ready to take every kind...

# Independent

# Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance cooperation in audit institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- tered Institute of Public Fi- of Azerbaijan with his delkistan and Azerbaijan have nance and Accountancy) reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in audit institution of the two countries, besides sharing audit experiences, cooperation in IT audit and environment audit and training of human resources.

The affirmation was expressed during a visit of the four-member delegation from the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Supreme Audit Institution Azerbaijan) to the office of Auditor General of Pakistan (Supreme Audit Institution Pakistan).

The delegation was headed by Vugar Gulmammadov, Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, according to a press release issued by the office of AGP on Wednesday.

The delegation was given a detailed presentation on the working of SAI Pakistan, performance of auditing, and SAI Pakistan's working with CIPFA (Char-

and implementation of Audit Management Information System (AMIS).

The SAÌ Azerbaijan, on the occasion, informed about the activities of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan and professionalization of Performance Auditing in SAI Azerbaijan.

The Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan had earlier rekistan. quested for the peer review of their accounts for the year 2023, keeping in view the professional standing of department of the AGP. AGP Muhammad

Ajmal Gondal presented peer review report of the external Audit of Financial Statements of SAI Azerbaijan to the Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On the occasion, the guest planted a sapling in the premises of the office. of the Chamber of Accounts

egation called on President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. AGP Muhammad Ajmal Gondal and senior officers of AGP also attended the meeting.

Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan briefed the president about the Memorandum of Understanding of Azerbaijan and SAI Pa-

sharing best auditing practices to enhance transparency and financial accountability. He also appreciated the efforts of AGP with regard to peer review. The Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan, thanked the AGP for extending warm hospitality, information about the SAI

Pakistan and shown keen interest to explore, learn and Earlier, the Chairman benefit from rich experience of SAI Pakistan.

# The Chairman of the

MoU) signed between the Supreme Audit Institution The President emphasized on the increasing cooperation between the SAI Pakistan and Azerbaijan for

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of a meeting here on Wednesday lauded British Council for taking measures for the betterment of environment and climate and hoped to start more society focused ap-

proaches. The meeting was held between the official team of British Council, Reach out to Asia (ROTA), and Higher Education Commission with Executive body members of the cabinet of Green Youth Movement Sym Club of International slamic University (IIU).

The meeting was chaired by Vice President, Research and Enterprise,



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Portugal, D Muhammad Khalid Ejaz, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### **British Council's measures** for betterment of climate, environment lauded

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja cording to HEC guidelines Syed as well Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Irfan Khan, Incharge female campus Dr. Summiyya Chughtai and Focal persons of initiative Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Naseer and Dr. Sarah Amir were also present.

The executive body presented the 2 years progress report through a presentation.

> Bangash gave a detailed presentation about the activities, thematic approaches, contributions, achievements, success stories and way forward.

activities and in the present year it was focusing on Agriculture and forestry, and liquid and solid waste. She also briefed about the food waste audit, training, workshops, interna-

the club was continuing its

tional collaborations and waste audit at the campus. Speaking on the occasion, Abdulla Faraj Al-Abdulla, Executive Direc-

Gym Captain Kainat tor, Reach Out To Asia appreciated the efforts of the club as well as elaborated that the ROTA and British Council were jointly providing support and encour agement to the projects that

She apprised that ac-

are of inclusive value. IHC issues notice to EC on **IHC** issued notice to NAB petition against not uploading in PTI founder's

> ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday is-sued a notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in an appeal of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder for bail in the 190-

mllion-pound scam case. The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Amer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the bail plea.

It may be mentioned that the trial court has rejected the post-arrest bail of PTI founder.

The case was adourned till the next week

### Govt resolved to promote local languages, cultures of all regions: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): guage and the Saraiki writ-Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extending greetings on the Saraiki Culture and Saraiki Ajrak Day being observed on Wednesday, reiterated that the incumbent government would play its role in promoting the local languages, litera-

The prime minister, in

Calling the Saraiki dia-

He said the Saraiki lan-

colors of the Saraiki region

were beautiful while being

rich in different cultures and

lect "very sweet" he said it

was not only spoken in South Punjab rather in

Balochistan and India as

traditions

well

**APITAL**NEWS

ers had immense contributions to literature, poetry, and music.

Page

03

The prime minister said that Saraiki culture was rooted in the thousands of years old Indus Valley Civilisation.

He said that the saints like Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria, Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam, Khawaja Ghulam Fareed. his message, said that all the Salman Taunsavi, Sakhi Sarwar Shah and Shams Tabraiz also enriched the Saraiki language through their words.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the promotion of South Punjab's culture, literature, and art had always been among the government's priorities.





ISLAMABAD: CDA workers lift ups vendor's setup during an anti-encroachment campaign at F-7 Markaz.

#### **Annual report:** IFA conducted 15,964 raids; served notices to 5541 food outlets SLAMABAD (APP):

Furthermore, the authority prioritized the The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) has made sigtraining of its staff, connificant strides in ensuring ducting three comprehenthe safety and quality of sive sessions to enhance food for the citizens of the their capabilities in enforccapital in the last year. ing food safety regulations According to annual effectively. This investment rformance report issued in staff development reby IFA, with nearly 16,000 flects the IFA's commitraids, over 5,500 notices ment to fostering a compeissued, and numerous

tent workforce dedicated to awareness seminars conupholding food safety standucted, the IFA has been dards relentless in its pursuit of In its relentless pursuit promoting healthy food of ensuring compliance, the practices and cracking IFA imposed fines on 28 down on substandard food shops found guilty of selling substandard food items Recognizing the imand maintaining poor hygiene arrangements. These



ISLAMABAD: Portuguese Ambassador in Islamabad, Frederico Silva visiting an exhibition by women artists from all over Pakistan to Commemorate Women's Day 2024 at PNCA, in Federal Capital.

## **Dr Nadeem says:** Human development-based approach needed to fully exploit **Pak-China cooperation potential** ISLAMABAD (APP): countability, and self-suffi-Former Caretaker Minister ciency to achieve its devel-ciency to achieve its devel-cess" in which strategies

for Health Dr Nadeem Jan opment goals.

driven by innovative an However, he said, Pakistan needs to take ground realities into consideration while setting short and long-term goals. He said dependence on donors ing sectors. shouldn't be an option, and self-reliance and competition should be a way forward. He said Pakistan has the potential to take pharmaceutical exports to \$2 billion and China could be an attractive destination for Officer this. Political Counsellor, Embassy of People Republic of China, Wang Shengjie, said that work on many projects under China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is continuing in Pakistan. He said development goals can be achieved

forms 45, 47 on website Zainab Mazari appeared in the court on behalf of ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought reply MWM. from Élection Commission She took the plea the

(EC) on a petition filed forms of election results are against not uploading forms required to be uploaded on 45 and 46 by EC on website website within 14 days as within 14 days after elecper election act. tion. The petition filed by She said not only Majlis-e-Wahdat UL Muslimeen (MWM) forms but all the relevant documents have to be upagainst not uploading the loaded on website. General forms 45 and 47 on website election was held on Febwithin 14 days after elecruary 8 but the respective tion came up for hearing before single bench of IHC

documents have not been uploaded so far on website. led by Chief Justice (CJ) The EC a day before IHC Amir Farooq here uploaded forms 45 to some extent and later it removed

bail plea

has emphasised the need for adopting an approach based on human development to fully exploit the development potential of Pak-China cooperation in diverse fields. The caretaker federal minister was addressing a round-table discussion titled "China's Economic Development: Opportunities for Pakistan' organised by CGTN-Urdu.

Dr Nadeem Jan said the heart-to-heart connection between the peoples of Pakistan and China indicates a win-win scenario which is a positive indicator for swift development of Pakistan.

He said Pakistan can take a leaf out of China's book to adopt policies



ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority administration is digging a drain gutter to open blocked sewage lines G-7 in the Federal Capital.

### 23 outlaws held; narcotics, arms seized

his possession.

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) apprehended 23 outlaws including four professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession.

A public relations officer on Wednesday said that, responding the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city

Following these direcpossession tions, the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Hasnain and recovered stolen valuables from his possession. The Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely pistols from their posses-Khair Muhammad and resion.

ronment. covered 2,267 gram heroin from his possession. The

Ramna police team arrested cational institutions. The an accused Irfan and recovposter competition inered 550 gram heroin from volved students from various educational institu-Likewise, the Golra tions, and more than 100 police team arrested two ac-

posters were displayed. cused Faisal Shahzad and The students who Muhammad Zubair and reparticipated in the poster covered one 30 bore pistol competition expressed that and 420 gram hashish from such opportunities help their possession. The them to showcase their art Sumbal police team arrested to the public and boost their an accused namely Aftab motivation. Fateha Tariq, and recovered 580 gram Hajra Noor, Ajala Zahra, hashish from his posses-Miss Preet and Sidra Nooi sion. The Tarnol police secured the first five positeam arrested two accused tions in the competition renamely Shah Zaib Ilyas and spectively. Vice Chancellor Khursheed and recovered of AIOU, Dr. Nasir ,360 gram hashish and Mahmood, was the chief 3,500 gram heroin from their guest at the prize and certificate distribution ceremony. Dr. Nasir, along with the

Similarly, the Sangjani police team arrested two ac-Dean of the Faculty of Socused namely Muhammad cial Sciences, Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan and Zain Ul Abideen Sahir, Director of the Office and recovered two 30 bore of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC).

proach take precedence. Wang particularly emphasised the potential of growth in Pakistan's information technology and min-

Director China Media Group Ms Du Jianing, Director China Study Centre, National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Ms. Xiang Yang, Former Chief Executive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment Dr Hassan Dawood Butt, Executive Director Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) Khalid Taimur Akram, CEO of Asian Institute of Eco-Civilisation, Research and Development

Shakeel Ahmed Ramay. **Sustainability** Expo held

## PTI to stop blame game, at AIOU

PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Wednesday ad-ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of the ongoing Golden vised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Jubilee celebrations of Insaf to stop blame game Allama Iqbal Open Univerof rigging and only focus on sity (AIOU), the Office of Research Innovation and public related issues as there is dire need for mutual Commercialization of unity for political and ecoorganized а nomic stability in the coun-Sustainability Expo and Poster competition. Talking to a Private news channel, he said that The event featured stalls from various univer-

College G10/4.

the country can move forsities and organizations ward with unity, discipline showcasing their work toand faith and the blame wards a sustainable envigame trend started by Chair-

The Expo was atended by a large number of students, families, and children from different edu-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 21st International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO 2024).

According to an offi-cial of PSF, the IJSO is going to be held from December 02-11, this year in Bucharest, Romania.

IJSO is a science competition for students under 16 years of age on December 31st of the competition vear, USO was established to promote interest in science related matters among school students exposing them to problem-solving, critical thinking and experimentation.

focus on public issues man PTI is breaking all three ultimately weakening ISLAMABAD (APP): the country

ISLAMABAD: Students enjoy horse ride during Annual Funfair at Model

PML-N leadership remains steadfast in their commitment to guide Pakistan through its current economic and political challenges, with a focus on unity, effective governance, and public welfare, he added

He stressed that for the importance of avoiding baseless allegations and confusion during this critical phase for the country.

### **PSF** invites applications from students to participate in IJSO 2024

Irfan Siddiqui urges

Over the years, IJSO aims to positively impact science and mathematics education at the school level

IJSO is usually organized the programs in the first week of December every year, in any one of the

member countries. About the eligibility, the official informed that interested students (boys and girls) under 16 years of age on December 31, 2024 may send their applications

on prescribed proforma available through the weblink https://psf.gov.pk/ Ijso2024.aspx. The applicant must be a regular science student and passed minimum SSC-I (Class-IX).

ortance of awareness and education, the IFA organized 12 seminars aimed at enlightening citizens about the significance of consuming healthy food. These seminars served as a platcommunity and disseminate crucial information regarding food safety prac-

establishments.

fines, totaling over Rs 613,000, serve as a deterrent to businesses engaging in malpractices. Moreover, the author-

ity resolved 286 citizen form to engage with the complaints, addressing concerns and grievances promptly to uphold public trust and confidence in its operations.

seats, including 17 general

seats - four women and

Furthermore,

PML-Q has obtained five

the

one minority.

### **Ruling coalition secure** two-third majority in national assembly: Zahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): lower house, in which 75 The Pakistan Muslim won in the February 8 elec-The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) tions and nine indepenand its allies have secured a dents who later joined the party. After the allocation of 23 reserved seats (17 for two-third majority in the national assembly (NA), women, 4 for minorities), the total reached at 107. following the allocation of reserved seats which were claimed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). Following the election

commission of Pakistan The coalition govern-(ECP) ruling on remaining ment led by Prime Minisreserved seats, the party ter Shehbaz Sharif, which clinched 15, out of 20 reincludes the Pakistan served for women and 1 out Peoples Party (PPP), Mutahida Quomi Moveof 3 reserved for minorities, cementing its status as the largest party in the national ment-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Muslim Leagueassembly. Quaid (PML-Q), Istehkam-The Pakistan Peoples e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Pa-Party (PPP) holds 73 seats kistan Muslim League-Zia including 54 general seats, (PML-Z) and Balochistan 16 women and another Àwami Party (BAP), comthree reserved seats for miprises 229 members in the norities. Followed by the

Muttahida Qaumi Move-ment (MQM) with 22 lower house To gain two-third majority in the 336-seat of national assembly, a governseats and five reserved ment needs the support of 224 lawmakers, thereby strengthening the ruling coalition's control over govseats including three genernance and its capability to enact legislative agendas eral, one independent and

effectively. The PML-N com-



ISLAMABAD (APP) Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), has launched a fully automated public service system to facilitate the students.

According to the details given by the federal board this initiative offers important services to the students. The students can benefit from the facilities including Online issuance of Migration/NOC certificate, result verification, and duplicate result card

one seat reserved for women was also allocated mands on 123 seats in the to it.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Institute of Research and Reform (IRR) and Malik Foundation Ali Rehman Malik giving away trophy to winner Islamabad Women Cricket team after T20 Cricket Match of Unity Cup Championship played between Peshawar and Islamabad women team organized by IRR in collaboration with Malik Foundation at National **Cricket Ground.** 

Comedian Amanullah remembered on death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The fourth death anniver

Amanullah Khan was ob-

over 45 years, he performed

in more than 2,000 plays,

other than films and televi-

garded as one of the best

comedians in the subconti-

nent. He made a record of

doing 860 shows in his ca-

reer and was also honoured

with the Pride of Perfor-

mance Award in 2018 for

FBISE

launches

sion shows

his work.

served on Wednesday.

sary of popular comedian

In a career spanning

Amanullah was re-

Page 04

**OPINION** 

# Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Thursday March 07, 2024

**Poor performance** 

The nation is glad to bid adieu to the caretakers. The day could not have come sooner. Interim governments are supposed to stint have a limited mandate tailored for the limited time they are given in office. They are expected to keep their head down, keep the country running dayto-day, and provide an enabling environment for the smooth transfer of power within the 90day deadline set in the Constitution.

As a rule, caretaker governments should be entirely unremarkable and completely forgettable; instead, these last interim governments will be remembered for the controversial legacy they leave behind They not only overstayed their lawful term, they also wore out their welcome due to several key appointees' unwillingness to keep within their lane. And, by the end of it all, the caretakers somehow managed to leave the country in an even worse shape than it had been when litical elite follows favours a they had taken over.

The period between August 2023 and March 2024 will be remembered for the intensified oppression of already marginalised communities, the uprooting and expulsion of Afghan refugees, the repression of a certain political party, the curtailment and evisceration of thentic database of Punjab's democratic norms, possibly the most controversial general election held in recent history, and the reversal of hard-fought digital freedoms. As the country slid deeper and deeper into the abyss, the interim government either stood by and did nothing or made excuses for the various forces responsible for trampling upon the Constitution and abusing the law. Had the caretakers focused on their task and sought to deliver conscientiously, according to the terms under which they were entrusted with the responsibility, the country may by now have been on the path to healing. For this, there is no forgiveness for the caretakers' failures. The country will continue paying the price for their complacency for a very long audience award at the 74<sup>th</sup> time. Things perhaps may have turned out differently had the country been handed over to leaders with fewer personal ambitions. Alas, some of the caretakers seemed to consider their appointment an opportunity to demonstrate their 'utility'. The prime minister repeatedly gaslighted the victims of state excesses and also demonstrated a knack for doublespeak, especially when colleague faced institutionalised discrimiconfronted with the failings of his government. The IT minister would have nary a clue about the internet restrictions that were enforced willy-nilly under his watch. The journalist appointed information minister had great difficulty getting along with a free press. There was also the interior minister, who controversially resigned just a month and a half before the elections to contest a seat. To be fair, a few of the appointees did quietly manage to accomplish something positive. Unfortunately, their "appalling misuse" of a contributions will not amount term that "empties the to much when this period is reviewed in history. Thankfully, we can now move on.

**Zahid Hussain** 

the prevailing atmosphere, The newly elected prime as the opposition has been pushed against the wall. minister has set an ambitious target for his minorwith scores of political prisity government propped up by half a dozen disparoners, including women, still languishing in prison without trial. The latest ate groups. He vows to steer the country back to decision of the Election Commission depriving the PTI-supported Sunni the shore but with the hazard lights on. It is the second launching of Shehbaz Ittehad Council of its share Sharif just a few months of reserved seats in the Naafter the end of his first tional Assembly has further vitiated the atmosphere.

The challenges before the tenuous coalition are, ister has vet to announce however, much more daunthis cabinet, there is a lot of ing this time. His first term speculation on its compodidn't have much to show sition. There are still some for it, and it remains to be unresolved issues with coaseen how his new governlition partners over the minment will sail through the istries, and it will be hard choppy waters. for Sharif to oblige all six It is not an auspicious allied parties. Meanwhile, start for the new dispensathe expected return of old tion, with controversy over faces doesn't give much the legitimacy of the Feb 8 hope to the government to deliver in these challenging general elections still raging. The pandemonium wittimes. It's obvious that the nessed on the floor of the main decision lies with Lower House following the

election of the prime minister is indicative of the worsening political polarisation in the country, erences making it harder to achieve auestion, however, is who the much-needed political tability.

will run the country's Shehbaz Sharif's call economy. Although the have been costing the exche-

for political reconciliation possibility of Ishaq Dar returning as economic czar is has received no traction in being ruled out, he is still not completely out of the race. His return to the post would certainly be bad news for the country's economic future. However, there are some other names being considered for the job. The real issue, though. is whether the government would be willing and have the capacity to take tough

decisions, beyond doing a patch-up job, and initiate While the prime minsome fundamental structural reforms. A major challenge for the new administration would be to undertake the long-pending privatisation of the stateowned enterprises that have been a major drain on the economy. While the PPP has strong reservations, there seems to be no clarity on the matter among the other allied parties. Privatisation has be-

come a political issue and it may not be easy for a weak Nawaz Sharif, the elder minority government, brother who would conwhich is completely depentinue to call the shots. He dent on the allied parties for its survival, to take a deciseems to have his own prefsion on selling state-con-The most important trolled ventures, including

the national carrier PIA and Pakistan Steel Mills, which

The second coming

quer billions of rupees just to exist. However, in the economic sphere, the most important question is how to deal with the exploding debt situation In his inaugural speech, the prime minister lamented that the entire federal government expenditure is met through borrowing. He said little is left in the federal government's kitty after the transfer of funds to the provinces. That is certainly

these before any agreement. major cause of the country's financial woes. He has hinted at re-

viewing the National Finance Commission Award in order to deal with the burgeoning debt burden. But for any review of the NFC award, there is a need for consensus among all the provinces. That seems improbable in the present situation, with the provinces being ruled by different political parties, especially with KP under the PTI's control. Any change in the existing arrangement would need political reconciliation, which doesn't seem to be happening in the current atmosphere of confrontation Another challenge for

the Sharif government would be to negotiate with be fixed without political

the IMF for a \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility, which is critical to stabilising the economy. Pakistan averted a default last summer because of a short-term IMF bailout, but the programme expires soon. Talks with the global lender for a new package are expected to begin in a few weeks. The Fund has already put forward its conditionalities and the government has to comply with

Some of them are really unpopular measures that may have severe political repercussions for an already unstable government. The previous Shehbaz Sharif government with Dar as finance minister had a huge problem dealing with the IMF. The country was saved from default virtually at the last minute because of the IMF bailout package. Interestingly, Shehbaz Sharif has now indicated that he would personally monitor the talks with the Fund. But it would be the commitment to undertaking hard decision-making that will matter, and not his direct interaction with Fund officials. And any possibility of Dar's return would be disastrous. The economy cannot

stability in the country. Widespread allegations of manipulation of the election results in favour of the parties now in power make it impossible for any reconciliation effort to succeed. Without removing this distortion there can be no political stability in the country.

It is not just the economy. There are also some pressing issues related to internal security that need broader national consensus among all stakeholders and require taking the opposition on board. The escalat ing militant violence in KP presents the biggest threat to national security. Political instability has given huge impetus to the militants to step up their terrorist at-tacks. They have particularly been targeting security personnel and installations Any confrontation between the centre and the KP government led by the PTI would be disastrous for the country's internal security. With both government and opposition on the warpath. there seems to be no hope of things settling down. A government with a questionable mandate cannot bring the stability that is needed to steer the country to safer shores. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Governance for the people

#### **Abdul Sattar** Successive governments in

Pakistan have rarely paid attention to human development indicators. The development model that the potiny section of the super-

However, it is encouraging to see the resolve of Chief Minister of Punjab Marvam Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah to serve the people and improve these indicators.

Maryam Nawaz has approved a five-year health plan in Punjab and ordered authorities to set up an aupopulation. She has also tasked the relevant department to ensure that staterun hospitals are equipped

with adequate facilities. CM Murad Ali Shah seems determined to provide pure drinking water to the residents of Sindh, which has one of the highest numbers of hepatitis B and C patients. Several the extremely poor living in waterborne diseases are also the slums of Karachi, common in the second most populous province of Pakistan

country. It is unfortunate that, previously, not enough attention was paid to preventive care; instead, governments indulged in a shopping spree, purchasing capital-intensive machinery for health units, which might be instrumental in dealing with some diseases but did nothing to prevent them.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of the population in 24 major cities in Pakistan does not have access to pure drinking water. If it is provided, it could greatly reduce the burden on hospitals and health units. Islamabad is a good example. Since many people in the city have access to pure drinking water, the country's capital witnesses fewer water-borne diseases. However, water is not

the only issue. It seems Pakistanis have to pay for everything. A significant number of people in urban areas send their children to private schools, spending a portion of their earnings on it. Even

also pose a health threat to not only have to pay a Therefore, it is important violators. Like some districts ious actions. The bravery of people living across the monthly fee but are also bound to buy more than 16 text books and notebooks per child. These Englishmedium schools in workingclass neighbourhoods also organize different activities for which they charge par-

Many parents find it hard to pay monthly fees, and such activities put an additional burden on them. Despite spending their precious resources on education, they still have to send their children to tuition centres where they again pay a hefty amount to ensure their children's success in examinations

Successive governments have failed to provide quality education at staterun schools. Governments in Punjab and Sindh launched projects through different education foundations to improve the standard of such schools but ended up benefiting certain non-governmental organizaimproving the standard.

tional while many others

across the country lack

proper boundary walls, fur-

niture and toilet facilities.

that besides these two chief ministers, other provincial chief executives also prepare a proper timeframe to improve the conditions of government schools.

Police performance in several federating units is also disappointing. In many areas of Sindh, the government does not seem to have any writ. These areas have been occupied by bandits and robbers who have turned these zones into nogo areas, not only for common people but also for law-enforcement agencies. Karachi seems to have

become the national hub of crimes where mobile snatching, mugging, robberies and theft seem to have been normalized. One would hardly find any citizen of the metropolis who has not been robbed at least once in his/ her lifetime. Cops in the city are unable to catch criminals who are caught on CCTV cameras-in many instances, their faces are quite visible. tions that were more inter- Despite spending billions of ested in making money than rupees on the Safe City project, the police miserably Thousands of schools failed in taking advantage of in Sindh are lying nonfuncthis technology.

of Sindh, a few areas of Punjab are also infested with organized bands of criminals who have defeated law-enforcement agencies in several operations that were meant to eliminate them. The two chief ministers might have to work together as these anti-social elements are concentrated in the border areas of Sindh and

Punjab Elimination of crimes in these areas might enable citizens to travel without any fear of being abducted besides promoting business activities which could create employment opportuni-

Activities of extremist religious outfits across the country are also a matter of great concern especially in Puniab where extremist elements target minorities and their fellow Muslims almost every month. These extremists also level false charges of blasphemy against members of minorities and their judiciary to punish them. fellow Muslims.

The most recent incident in Lahore indicates that vest their energies in improvthese elements enjoy a ing health, education, sanistrange sense of impunity, tation, and law and order but but the quick action of the also ensure that the battle police also creates hopes against religious intolerance parts of South Punjab have that they could be held re- is waged with full strength. a significant presence of law sponsible for their obnox--- Courtesv TheNews

ASP Sheharbano Naqvi has been appreciated by the military, the Punjab government and politicians, which indicates that all have the resolve to deal with these elements who bring nothing but shame to the country. So, the state does have

the power to rein in such outfits if it wants. The National Action Plan (NAP) has also mentioned ways to deal with such groups. So, the Punjab government will have to pay special attention to this menace of religious extremism and could deal with it by implementing the plan in letter and spirit.

The government needs to make it clear that in case of any violation of any law, no religious group is authorized to surround the house of the accused. If somebody has violated a law or has been accused of violating a law, it is the police that needs to arrest and probe and the

It is hoped that all chief ministers will not only in-

Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad are compelled to admit their children in Water-borne diseases schools built on 120- or 200not only affect Sindh but square yard spaces. They

### **Berlin's blind spot**

#### **Mahir Ali**

About 10 days ago, a joint Palestinian-Israeli creative endeavour titled No Other Land, chronicling the struggle for survival in Masafer Yatta — comprising a bunch of Palestinian hamlets in the West Bank - won the best documentary award as well as an Berlin International Film Festival, or Berlinale.

Two of the co-directors, Yuval Abraham and 'Ceasefire NOW' messages Basel Adra, made brief speeches. Adra noted there was little cause for celebration while his compatriots in Gaza were being "slaughtered and massacred", and urged Germany to "stop sending weapons to Israel". Abraham pointed out that while the two of them stood as equals on the Berlinale stage, in a couple of days they would be back in a land where his Palestinian nation. He called for an end to "this apartheid, this inequality

Both speeches were applauded by the audience, which included Germany's culture minister, Claudia Roth. Following a backlash, mainly from fellow politicians, her office 'clarified' that she had meant to applaud only the speech of the Israeli half of the duo, and Roth posted on social media that the "shockingly onesided speeches? were "characterised by a deep hatred of Israel" On his way home,

Abraham received more than 100 death threats, which prompted him to delay his journey to Jerusalem. In a post on X, he decried the Germans' word antisemitism of meaning and thus endangers mildest criticism of Israel Jews all over the world", while acknowledging that his Palestinian colleague in

Masafer Yatta was "in far Jews, although Muslims greater danger than I am". in Germany bear the brunt There were other of accusations — even though some 90 per cent Berlinale controversies. but they mostly revolved of antisemitic crimes are attributed to the far right. around the same theme. US The Alternative for Gerfilmmaker Ben Russell, who won an award for a many has faced calls for a documentary on an unreban after it was associated lated topic, wore a keffiyeh with a gathering that drew up a plan for a mass deas he accepted his award, and used his remarks to portation of immigrants, slam the genocide and debut even Chancellor Olaf clare that he stood "for a Scholz is not entirely averse to a similar idea. ceasefire in solidarity with all our comrades". Other that Germany, on its award recipients sported

on their backs. Why should any of tendencies of nearly a centhis even be an issue in a tury ago, but it seems that purported European liberal democracy? The continent is broadly united in its support for Israel, but there are significant exceptions to an unquestioning embrace of Zionist brutality — notably Ireland, given its own experience of colonial occupation, but also Spain, and to a small place. extent even Belgium and France. Germany, on the other hand, is the second most prolific supplier of weaponry after the US, and was one of the first states to criminalise almost every form of solidarity with the Palestinian quest for self-determination. It goes back to German guilt over World War II in general and the Holocaust in particular. There were limits to West Germany's de-Nazification, but it sought to cover that up by fulsomely backing the Jewish state that emerged in 1948, partly as a direct consequence of the unspeakably horrific Nazi Judeocide. The trend established by West Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer has lately evolved into a stance across the political establishment. cultural organisations and the media whereby even the

other genocide be readily qualifies as antisemitism. The targets include forgotten or easily forprominent anti-Zionist given. -- Courtesy Dawn

The situation is not rosy in Punjab either where

**Gwadar calamity** 

#### Dr Noman Ahmed

Weather experts have system will There are concerns present trajectory, could find itself with the same

the fatherland's elite is more focused on serving as a protector for the deformed entity spawned by its dehumanisation of vailed Jews — the apogee of European antisemitism neighbourhoods. across the preceding de-

cades that sparked the Zionist impulse in the first Exceptionally percipient Jewish intellectuals in Europe and America, including Hannah Arendt and Albert Einstein, recognised the moral deficiencies of the Israeli state can early on. Their warnings went unheeded. That partly explains the rarely wavering Western devotion to its Middle Eastern colonial outpost, which can get away with mass murder while eliciting barely a murmur from its sponsors, benefactors and collaborators. As younger

Jews in the US and Europe wake up to the horrors being perpetrated in their name, the dominant fascist elements of Zionism may be doomed in the longer term — as Joe Biden will probably find out in November. That doesn't help the Gazans sentenced to death or starvation by the descendants of the victims

of Nazism. Nor will German complicity in yet antended periods.

The concerned au- disaster preparedness. Exthorities are busy with the ecuting the plans must be

Gwadar Smart City Plan done in collaboration with meant to give direction to community elders to revive a sense of local inclusion in the management of local affairs

Relief and rehabilitation works can best proceed under conditions of peace in the larger coastal area. For this, various stakeholders can come together to restore the trust of the people. A few tough decisions are required. The incoming regi--me must announce an amnesty for those they see as creating trouble. The top lea-ders of all the political for-ces, within and outside the assemblies, may be invited to dialogue sessions by the provincial government.

The objectives of the The people of dialogue must be on strik-Gwadar also complain ing a working relationship about being removed from between the government, self-governance. Whether political parties and tribal elders; developing a roadmap to stop acts of violence through confidence-building measures; and the preparation of an agenda of negotiation with the centre. This is vital because there are many matters over which no provinallocation and the choice cial government possesses jurisdiction and authority. The attempt may prove futile if the establishment does not show an open approach.

The process of release of political detainees and locating missing indi-As new governments viduals can be initiated by the establishment to convince the other side of its sincerity. Besides, dissenting voices in Gwadar and the extended coastal region must not be shrugged off. The best way forward is to provide political space so that a feeling of participation evolves. No political group can be a security threat if its concerns are genuinely accommodated in the normal political process. Fear and danger only raise their head when such groups are denied a space where they can prove their political worth. -- Courtesy Dawn

warned that a new rain strike Balochistan in the next few days. This will increase the extent of damage already caused by the recent bout of torrential rains. Thousands of people in Gwadar and the adjacent areas found themselves without shelter as

the intense rainfall rendered their modest homes uninhabitable. Lanes, access roads, major arteries and highways were inundated. People could be seen draining the water from their homes and shops. Many lost their already meagre resources. Mass depression preacross

While various government agencies have they are development sprung into action, it will choices or routine admintake a long time and much istrative matters, the eneffort before lives can be tire hierarchy of the prorebuilt. One can question vincial government, fedhow Gwadar is living up eral agencies and military to claims of being at the establishment is involved. heart of a multi-modal de-Decisions about developvelopment corridor that ment locations and land turn around Balochistan's — in fact, between establishing enthe entire country's terprises or retaining trafortunes. A sleepy town ditional boat-making and of less than 350,000fishing are made without consulting the local people, it is hard to imagpeople, their elders or ine how large-scale regional development can representatives, leading to take place to make dreams protests and agitation. of national prosperity, on the back of CPEC, a realbegin to take charge at the centre and in Balochistan,

The existing settlea different approach to ments are not prepared to win back the people of take the impact of torren-Gwadar and the extended tial downpours that could area can be considered. A become frequent as clibroad-based steering commate patterns change. mittee should be consti-High-scale precipitation tuted comprising members demands a drainage sysof the provincial and natem that ensures the rapid tional assemblies from the draining of rainwater. Unarea, community elders and fortunately, while Gwadar administration staff to suffers from the shortage chalk out a relief, rehabiliof potable water, it does tation and redevelopment not have the capacity to strategy. Existing plans and store rainwater for exprojects can be revised to accommodate the aspect of

development. Such a plan will only benefit the people if it conserves and

protects existing settlements, introduces critical infrastructure to enhance the quality of life, and upscales livelihoods. The usual practice of identifying large swathes of land for real estate and its clandestine distribution to favoured stakeholders will not bring the desired relief for Gwadar's residents. If the proposed development process does not factor in the lives of the ordinary and lift them out of poverty, then such development may have little

value.

#### Daily soice of Masse Independent

### **CM Punjab says:** Ramzan package to benefit people at their doorsteps

for future government

Ramazan relief package

interventions

added

Detailing

Chief Minister Maryam Sharif has Nawaz announced the commencement of the Database and Registration largest-ever Ramazan Authority (NADRA) was Nigahban Package in being merged for saving Punjab, fulfilling her added that the uncoming added that the upcoming Punjab Socio-Economic promises made in her maiden assembly speech.

Registry Project would Addressing a press conference at CM's Office gather comprehensive data here on Wednesday, she said the Ramazan package, prepared in just nine days, would reach people's doorsteps and benefit them without any botheration. She said that package was aimed at providing swift relief to deserving individuals during the holy month under PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz hamper content and Sharif's guidance. "My mission is to provide relief to people at their PITB-developed doorsteps," she added. applications would

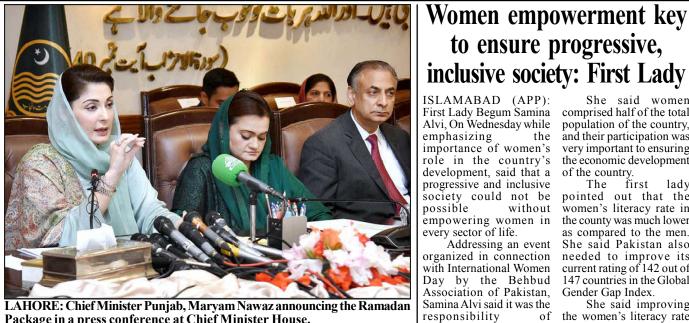
The chief minister enhance transparency, she said the initiative involves distributing 65,000 bags with QR codes, benefiting that a digitalised record of efficient over 30 million people in distribution of 6.5 million planning.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Punjab. Beneficiaries' data hampers, with a helpline Chief Minister Maryam from the Benazir Income (080002345), established Support Programme for public feedback and (BISP) and National complaints, would ensure complaints, would ensure Database and Registration timely and fair distribution Authority (NADRA) was among genuinely deserving being merged for saving people. The Ramazan bazaars

in every district would offer essential items at discounted prices, and a dedicated price control system was being developed to combat being the hoarding and price-hike, she asserted.

items including flour, ghee, The chief minister sugar, rice, and gram flour, expressed zero tolerance for cartelisation and pricethe CM directed the district administrations and hike, conducting 46,000 the Punjab Food Authority to ensure quality of food Rs 4.2 million, registering items. Random checks on 133 FIRs, and arresting 236 individuals. Maryam digitalised delivery appreciated mechanisms with the collaborative the collaborative efforts of the Punjab government departments, district

administrations, and the Punjab Information Marvam Nawaz said Technology Board for programme



Package in a press conference at Chief Minister House.

### Sindh CM, Saudi envoy discuss implementation of 'Route to Makkah' project

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed immigration and customs Murad Ali Shah and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr Nawaf Saeed A. Al Maliky in their meeting at CM House discussed the Route to Makkah Project and agreed to fulfil all the requirements at the earliest to implement the project.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Federal Secretary Atta ur Rehman, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of Umerah Haji Mohammad M. Albejawi of Saudi Arabia and others. Route to

clearance process from Saudi Arabia to airports of Pakistan aimed at relieving Hujjaj from the ordeal of immigration and customs clearance upon landing at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The chief minister said that the project was

very important and he was keen to see it implemented for the Hujjaj of Sindh at Jinnah Terminal. Ambassador Mr Nawaf Saeed Al Malky congratulated Syed Murad Ali Shah on taking over as Sindh Chief Minister for the third time. The Makkah project is a Ambassador of Saudi

Route to Makkah initiative was implemented in 2019 at Islamabad International Airport. In 2019 22,000 Hujjaj travelled through this project. In Hajj 2022 and 2023 Route to Makkah implemented through 15,629 & 26,546 Hujjaj

travelled through it. extend the project.

#### **E-Domicile** service starts at Bajaur PESHAWAR (APP): District administration Bajaur on Wednesday launched E-Domicile

Certificate provision facility to address problems of students. The first E-Domicile was issued by District Administration Bajaur in a

Commissioner said that E-

Domicile has been started

at Tehsil level to facilitate

students specially those

who lives in remote areas

and facing difficulties to get

domicile adding that it

would also save precious

**Friends of Police** 

delegation

visits PSCA

time of applicants.

ceremony that was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bajaur, Anwar-ul-Haq, Deputy Commissioner General. Ali Raza and concerned officials.Speaking on the occasion, Deputy life to the poor, helpless, poor and deserving people

mechanism for shifting the Arabia told the CM that the pilot project of 'The Association empowered around one million women by providing skills and training in various fields. Project was again Islamabad Airport and

ational

ews

After successful completion, the Prime Minister's Office directed for up-scaling of the said initiative to other four airports - Karachi, Lahore Quetta and Peshawar. Efforts were made to

#### to ensure progressive, inclusive society: First Lady SLAMABAD (APP): She said women comprised half of the total First Lady Begum Samina comprised half of the total Alvi, On Wednesday while population of the country, emphasizing

everybody to ensure a

conducive environment for

girls and women to provide

training, enabling them to

respect. Appreciating the

the and their participation was importance of women's very important to ensuring role in the country's the economic development development, said that a of the country. ladv

Page

05

The first pointed out that the without women's literacy rate in the county was much lower as compared to the men. Addressing an event She said Pakistan also needed to improve its current rating of 142 out of 147 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index.

She said improving of the women's literacy rate would automatically improve the overall literacy rate of the country proper education and as educated women will never let their children become illiterate.

live a life with dignity and As regards her role of the association in campaign on creating empowering women, she awareness about breast said that since its cancer, Samina Alvi said inception, the Behbud self-examination was very cancer, Samina Alvi said has critical to ensuring early diagnosis of the disease adding that early diagnosis of breast cancer was curable.



RAWALPINDI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing an event in connection with International Women's Day, at Behbud Association of Pakistan.

### **Jazz holds tree** plantation drive as part of carbon sink project

PESHAWAR (APP): Jazz, mitigating Pakistan's leading digital operator organized a tree plantation drive in the . Hayatabad area of Peshawar as part of its nationwide carbon sink project which aims to promote environmental conservation and combat climate change. Captain

emissions, including their remarkable carbon sink project. Let's follow their lead, plant trees, and nurture a greener world for generations to come. Every seed planted today is a promise for a brighter tomorrow.

Jazz's Head of HSE (Retd.) & Security, Salman Ishtiaq Khalid Mehmood and Tariq highlighted the significance of the project

LAHORE: Vice-Chancellors, leaders of different religions expressing solidarity by putting their hands in their hands, on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Vice-Chancellors' Conference on Equality, Comprehensive

ارکر 💬 🛞 🛞 BARGAD

**3rd Vice Chancellors' Conference** 

"Equitable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Future"

and Sustainable Development organized by the Punjab Higher Education Commission at a local hotel in the Provincial Capital.

### **Federal Ombudsman'** regional office holds open court at Tank

DERA ISMAIL KHAN Telecommunication (APP): Dera's Regional Office of the Federal Ombudsman on Thursday held an open court to to concerned organizations citizens' address complaints a t Tank district.

Company Limited(PTCL). The regional head promptly issued directives bouquet of cultural to concerned organizations diversity and Saraiki and provided instant relief culture is a beautiful flower to citizens on the spot.

#### CM felicitates Saraiki community

f this bouquet

Mardan Mohmand Wednesday said on Culture Day that social service is the way to the survival of LAHORE (APP):Punjab humanity. Chief Minister Maryam To serve human Nawaz Sharif has said that service the Pakistan is a fragrant

MARDAN (APP): :The has provided financial founder of the Nonassistance to thousands of G o v e r n m e n t a l Organization Saath Sabka Development Organization beneficiaries, medical treatment, and hundreds of people to their homes since Dr Amil its inception.

#### It has provided employment and God willing, this process will continue, a plan has been made to distribute the without Ramadan ration package in discrimination, service is a fair manner, for which greatness, it is our duty to committees have been provide the necessities of formed to compile a list of

people brings peace of mind: Dr Amil

**Helping deserving** 

Regional Head retired Chief Secretary Sang Marjan Khan Mehsud along with Senior administration's Investigation Officer Imran Khan, and Data Control Officer Imran Mehmood addressed the forum.

A large number of citizens attended the open court with complaints against federal organizations including Tribal Electricity Supply Company(TÉSCO), Benazir Income Support Programme(BISP), this regard. akistan Telecommunication

Authority(PTA), National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) and a k i s t a n their complaints.

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC)

Rawalpindi bench has admitted for hearing the

petition filed against

usurping basic human

rights in the name of

security during PSL

matches in Rawalpindi

heard by Justice Jawad

preliminary hearing of the

petition issued notice to

of

The petition was

The court after

LHC

bench

cricket stadium

Rawalpindi

Wednesday.

Hassan

**PSL matches** 

LHC admits for hearing

petition filed against usurping

of basic human rights

Later addressing a press conference, they Saraiki Culture Day, the underscored the chief minister extended congratulations to the commitment to promptly Saraiki community, saying resolve public grievances, that sweetness of Saraiki particularly in far-flung language is Pakistan's valuable asset. "Saraiki areas through open forums Ajarak is my favorite, it is like the one convened in Tank. Moreover, officials a metaphor of love" she highlighted ongoing inspections of relevant said. Sharif said that Saraiki land offices and emphasized the

importance of the IRD gave birth to eminent program and creating personalities of Pakistan. awareness among people in adding that Punjab is a guardian of Pakistan's He said the primary culture and ancient objective of the forum was traditions. Love, unity and to provide direct access for sincerity are reflected in citizens to government Saraiki culture and civilization, she added. officials for resolution of

**Ibad asks PTI** to withdraw protest call

Maryam Nawaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Leader of opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Ibadullah Khan on Wednesday termed the nationwide protest call by

of senior lawyer Sajjad Akbar Abbasi The petitioner has made interior secretary, chief secretary Punjab. Deputy commissioner Rawalpindi, City police officer Rawalpindi, chief traffic officer Rawalpind and Chairman Pakistan

Cricket Board respondents. The petitioner took the plea that basic human

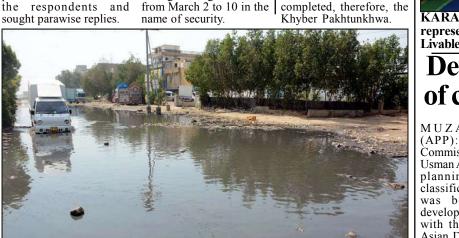
rights are being ignored during holding of matches

The court issued these orders on the petition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for coming Sunday a "drama" and asked for it's immediate withdrawal. He said instead of

providing relief to the people, PTI always people, PTI always indulged in negative politics. He said that the

province could not afford further provocation, sit-ins and processions. The leader of

opposition in KP Assembly said the process KP of election had been Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



KARACHI: Inundated road by overflowing sewerage water, creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities, located on Korangi S.M Munir road in Karachi.

and destitute. In her message on

alleged

and provide them with He expressed these ration. Dr Amil Mohmand said that doing welfare thoughts while discussing the distribution of the work increases dignity and Ramadan ration package.

self-esteem. Helping a He said that Saath Sabka deserving person brings Development Organization peace of mind, he added.

#### **Illegal appointments in PA case Court fixes March 11** for indictment of **Pervaiz others**

and others for hearing LAHORE (Online): Anti Corruption Court (ACC) Wednesday. Lahore has fixed March 11

for indictment of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi the and other accused in illegal appointments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case.

Judge Arshid Hussain Bhutta of ACC took up the case against Pervaiz Élahi hearing

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of students from Friends of Police,

کا کھ جوڑ اور من مانیاں ب\_ يجيز يكن ناؤن ميوسيل كاريو. چیئر مین ناؤن میونیل کار پوریش صدروارا لین کو صدر واراليتن كوكر

KARACHI: Chairmen Town Municipal Corporation and Local body representatives are holding protest demonstration against Competitive and Livable City of Karachi administration, held outside CLICK Office in Karachi.

### **Development**, welfare of city being made: DC

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mian Usman Ali said that master planning, zoning and classification of the city was being made for development and welfare with the cooperation of

by keeping in view the 25year needs Presiding over a meeting of "Punjab Intermediate Cities Empowerment Investment Program" on Wednesday, the deputy commissioner

M U Z A F F A R G A R H said that long term policies were being adopted for sustainable development in the city.

planning, zoning and classification of the city was being made for development under the Asian Development Bank vision to divide in industrial, commercial and

domestic zones in future. Mian Usman Ali termed the "Punjab Intermediate Empowerment Program" a milestone for city's development and progress.

He said that master

Cities

**Relief to people** first priority: Commissioner FAISALABAD (APP): Commissioner Silwat Saeed has said that provision of relief to the people from inflated prices of the edible items is a first priority of the Punjab government.Chairing a meeting held to review measures taken for Nigheban Ramadan Package', monitoring of prices of edible items and improvement in

Wednesday. The visiting journalists acknowledged the PIC's excellent services and international recognition of its cardiac directed for launching besides care crackdown against hoarders and profiteers. achievements.

hours.

were shifted to different

hospitals, while 773 others

with minor injuries were

treated at the incident site

by the rescue medical

Director General (DG) Peshawar Development and said "In 2022, Jazz occasion. The ceremony was also attended by Additional D.G. PDÁ Manzoor Yousaf, Director PDA Sajid Khan, Jazz employees and school children. Speaking on the occasion, DG PDA, lauded Jazz's carbon sink project, saying, "I commend Jazz's dedication towards

Authority (PDA) were the had pledged to become a chief guests on the net zero carbon emitting company by 2050 and since then Jazz is actively taking mitigation and adaptation actions to offset its carbon footprint. Last year, we initiated the tree plantation drive from Islamabad and now we are heading towards a regional drive to secure a sustainable future.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) National Assembly Member from NA-1 Chitral, Abdul Latif along with others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding rigging and illegal allocation of certain seats by the Election Commission, held at Peshawar press club.

### 7 dead, 1,365 injured in Punjab road accidents

The data analysis showed those 743 drivers, **Independent Report** LAHORE: At least seven 53 underage drivers, 187 pedestrians, and 442 people were killed and 1,365 others injured in passengers were among the 1,312 road accidents in victims of road accidents. Punjab during the last 24 The statistics show that 266 accidents were As many as 592 seriously injured people

reported in Lahore, which affected 296 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 87 accidents and 90 victims.

teams. **Delegation of Peshawar Press Club visits PIC** 

other

The delegation was comprised of President Arshad Aziz Malik, President Tayyab Usman, General Secretary Irfan Musazai, Finance Secretary Rizwan Sheikh, and members of the governing body.

Medical Director and Chief Executive of PIC-MTI, Professor Dr. Shahkar Ahmed Shah warmly welcomed the visiting delegation and facilitated a detailed tour of various hospital facilities.

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly elected cabinet of the Peshawar Press Club (PPC) appreciated the state-of-the-art health facilities and medical services to cardiac patients of the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) during a visit to the institution on governance, here on Wednesday, she strictly

The court ordered all within Safe City.

comprising 150 participants from various The court summoned universities, paid a study visit to the PSCA here on Pervaiz Elahi and others for indictment on March 11. Wednesday. The court directed Commander DSP prosecution to gave a detailed briefing on distribute copies of challan among all the accused the functioning of the persons. Authority. The delegation was shown the workings of different departments accused to appear on next

#### Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Thursday March 07, 2024

#### OMMERCENEWS Page 06

### **Governor SBP inaugurates SAARCFINANCE** Seminar

#### Transformative Potential of Big Data in Economic Policy

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Mr. Jameel Ahmad brought together analytics for economic analysis, leveraging subject matter experts, and satellite imagery data, and esteemed speakers from the harnessing the power of SAARC region to discuss machine the impact and implications of Big Data in

data generated by digital devices underscore the potential of effective data laws and underscored the utilization in contributing importance of addressing to sustained economic the current growth, societal welfare, associated poverty reduction, and improved living standards across the diverse SAARC te c h n o l o g i c a l infrastructure and skilled human resources.

region. During his speech, Mr. Ahmad shed light on the growing role of Big Data in central banking, delivered the inaugural speech at the S A A R C F I N A N C E Seminar on the 'Potential Role of Big Data in Economic Policy.' The event, held in Islamabad, brought together satellite imagery data, and learning algorithms for fraud detection and prevention.

shaping economic policies. Governor SBP emphasized that the unprecedented volume of the state of confidentiality. He called for strong data protection costs with

Commenting on the partnership, Syed Fakhar Ahmed, Chief Corporate &

at Jazz, said, "At Jazz, we

quality digital education and online safety are

fundamental rights for

need to create the Digital

Also sharing his

Pakistan that we envision.'

collaboration, Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech

Valley Pakistan, said,

"We're delighted to

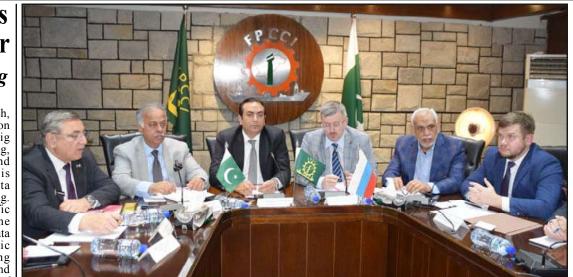
collaborate with Pakistan's

### Jazz, Tech Valley join forces to empower young minds with 'Digital Safar' Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): aged 8-14 years from Jazz, Pakistan's leading diverse backgrounds, said digital operator, has partnered with Tech Valley, a Google for a news release. Education partner, to Regulatory Affairs Officer introduce the 'Digital Safar' program to schools across Pakistan to equip more than 300,000 students with foundational believe that access to coding skills and essential internet safety practices, preparing them for the their background or circumstances. This collaboration with Tech opportunities and challenges of the digital landscape.

Valley exemplifies our the commitment Leveraging empowering Pakistan's strengths of two of Google's flagship programs youth with the digital knowledge and skills they

'Google CS First' and 'Be Internet Awesome' the 'Digital Safar' program provides an extensive curriculum encompassing coding, computational thinking, digital citizenship, and equally importantly, online safety. Utilizing interactive online modules and hands-on digital frontrunner Jazz in activities, the program introducing the 'Digital ensures accessibility and Safar' program to schools across Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI and H.E. Albert Khorev, Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Kairm Aziz Malik Chairman and Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCC addressing Pak-Russia Business Council of FPCCI Business Community.

### **Country expecting 29.77m metric** tons of wheat in normal conditions

inputs,

maturation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Security and Research. The local wheat

The wheat output in the country during the current season is likely to reach consumption was estimated at 32.94 million over 29.77 million tons, metric tons during the year 2024-25, whereas the which would further help cement the efforts of the estimated carry-forward government to achieve stock of 3.2 million metric sustainable agriculture tons will supplement the

growth and economic production of a new crop and be able to fulfil the development. The local output of wheat, which is a vital requirements during the season, he told APP on source of staple food was fixed at 32.11 million Wednesday. The wheat cultivation relies heavily metric tons during the crop on irrigation water, so the season (2024-25) as ample water supply as against the domestic reported by IRSA along requirements of 32.94 with record planting areas million metric tons, said indicated the potential for Imtiaz Ahmad Gopang another strong harvest during the crop season 2024-25, he added. Security Food Commissioner in the

Ministry of National Food However, the actual



NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Tariq Oamar Baloch inaugurates Business Expo at University College.

SSCI to take up

them amicably.

production outcomes will the output for the depend on factors such as provinces including growing conditions and accessibility of essential Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

and Balochistan was expected to reach at 1.48 particularly fertilizers. Additionally, million metric tons and weather patterns in March 1.46 million metric tons and April crucial for the respectively. Imtiaz grains' development and Ahmad said that owing to the incentives introduced will by the government, wheat significantly impact the final output, he said adding sowing in the country that the above-normal rains during the current season (Rabi 2023-24) increased by spell, hailstorms and storms could impact the 5 per cent as compared to crop position.He said that the crop sowing of the according to the Provincial corresponding period of Crop Reporting Services, the last year. wheat production for the

During the period Punjab Province was under review, wheat forecast at 22.67 million sowing had been completed metric tons, and Sindh at over 23.69 million acres as against the set targets of 4.16 million metric tons respectively. Meanwhile, 22.22 million acres.

#### **Rupee sheds** 04 paisa

against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Rupee on Wednesday weakened by 04 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.35 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.2 and Rs 282.1, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 32 paisa to close at Rs 303.40 against during the presentation, the last day's closing of Rs where trainers and officials Tax Enforcement Mr. Fazal 303.08, according to the

### **Promotion of electric bikes** vital to abolish pollution, save expenses: Khawaja

MULTAN (APP): saving costs and reducing President Anjuman Tajraan Pakistan Khawaja Suleman Siddique said introduction of electric bikes in local importance to abolish

motorcycles.

bikes over petrol-driven motorcycles, he stated that markets was of vital the need for the government to launch pollution and reduce similar projects to promote expenses on travelling. He said this while traders, businessmen and addressing a ceremony in other citizens. electric bikes among

the local market on He added that electric Wednesday. Amid soaring bikes offer a standard and prices and increasing prices affordable travel solution, of petrol rates, it has relieving citizens from become difficult for expensive petrol prices common men to afford and also mitigating The environmental pollution. emergence of electric bikes On this occasion, a good in the market is seen as a number of local traders positive step towards both were also present.

### **KPRA** conducts training workshop for officials of **AG of Pakistan on FABS**

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority conducted a one-day training workshop on Automated Deduction of KP Sales Tax on Services through the Financial

KPRMP, and FABS for making the workshop possible.

She shed light on the integration of KP Sales Tax on Services in the FABS system, emphasizing that it marks a significant



officials of Accountant General of Pakistan on Wednesday at Serena Hotel on Peshawar. The workshop was arranged with the financial assistance of the World Bank-funded KPRMP project. Trainers from FABS provided a detailed presentation on the workings of FABS in relation to the automatic deduction of KP Sales Tax on Services through the FABS system. Additionally, a thorough question-and-answer session was conducted related to the system.

System (FABS) for the

memorable day. "It is another step towards the automation of KP Sales Tax This Services. advancement will eliminate errors, as the tax will be automatically deducted and submitted to KPRA. We anticipate an increase in revenue from the AG office," she stated. She also expressed appreciation for the keen interest shown by the Accountant General of Pakistan in the integration process and assured that her team would be available to assist officials from the AG office with any issues

Advisor KPRA on of KPRA addressed the Amin Shah in his welcome

### **SECP** files criminal cases against individuals involved in stock market manipulation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has filed four criminal complaints individuals against against individuals involved in manipulating stock prices, including sponsors and brokerage

admitted all complaints filed by SECP against the accused

house management. The Court has four

Securities Act of 2015. individuals, said a press

at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

Commissioner Rawalpindi

Division, Engineer Aamir

Wednesday gave three-day

deadline to improve performance to the price

magistrates of Rawalpindi

Chairing a meeting, the Commissioner said

that strict action would be

taken against the magistrates if they could

not improve their

performance in three days.

here on

Khattak

division.

three-day deadline to

improve performance

release issued here on individuals placed high-Wednesday. priced orders and traded

The accused gained with one another to significant profits by artificially raise the share manipulating the share prices of specific stocks. prices of three listed They also placed fake companies in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The SECP reached these these conclusions after resulting in fictitious completing thorough investigations under the

They also placed fake buy orders and then cancelled a large number of transactions, quotations to deceive authorities. potential investors. The accused also fraudulently

The investigations misused clients' accounts established that these to place large orders. **'FCCI to** 

help local associations for registration of DGTO'

Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will help local FAISALABAD: Visitors keenly visiting the flowers exhibition on the occasion of Jashn-e-Baharan

> policy makers. This was said by Senior Vice President Dr Sajjad Arshad while addressing a delegation of the Faisalabad Dyes and

would be confiscated. The Commissioner that the whose the members

notices the Price Magistrates could not be improved within three days, action would be taken against

D e p u t y Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Price Magistrates of all the five districts of the division participated in the meeting. On the special instructions of the Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Commissioners

Nawaz, the supply of essential commodities in register all stocks within 24 hours and after the given open markets at official rates would be ensured, he period, the unregistered said adding the wholesalers stocks would and retailers must declare confiscated.

RAWALPINDI (APP): all their stocks within 24 hours otherwise the goods

directed the administration officers magistrates inspections were less than 100 during March, should be issued show cause

If the performance of them, he warned.

Crackdown against the hoarders and profiteers on the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab had been launched. Deputy and Assistant Commissioners had given a deadline to the dealers and retailers to

FAISALABAD (APP) The Faisalabad Chamber of

trade and industrial associations to get registration from the directorate general of trade organisations (DGTO) and **Price Magistrates given** convey their issues to the

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh President Chemical Merchants Association (FDCMA). He assured of arranging seminars for the FDCMĂ

bilateral trade. Both sides members by inviting reaffirmed professors from the commitment to fostering universities. He said that a stronger cooperation to travel help desk established increase the bilateral trade in the FCCI would also help volume. This commitment

Khorev,

FPCCI and H.E. Albert

Ambassador to Pakistan

have agreed to increase

Russian

their

issue professional tax on jewelry sector Khan said while chairing a PESHAWAR (APP): Acting president of the Sarhad Chamber of meeting of SCCI's Jewelry

Standing Committee held here at Chamber House on Commerce and Industry, Sanaullah Khan said SCČÍ Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Jewelry Association Khyber will take up the issue of imposition of professional tax and Point of Sale in the Pakhtunkhwa Patron in jewelry sector along with Chief, Azizullah Khan other tax-related issues with FBR and relevant Saraf, and provincial Amin Hussain Babar, the community business

The acting chief said SCCI is the only business attached to the jewelry community forum that has sector, and office bearers of always played a pivotal the association from role in taking up Nowshera, Mardan, Takht Bhai, Swat community issues with authorities and resolving Kohat, Hangu and others. Sanaullah Khan said the business community

Businessmen want to pay taxes but it is essential attached to the jewelry to make a sizable reduction sector has faced enormous in the ratio of various taxes or bring them down to a single digit, Sanaullah country

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen gained 01 paisa to close at Rs186, whereas an increase of 93 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate.

#### **PSX** loses 69 points

ISLAMABAD (APP) The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday lost 69.42 points, a negative change of 0.11 percent, closing at 65,656.62 points against 65,726.04 points the previous trading day.

A total of 419,737,124 shares valuing Rs18.296 billion were traded during the day as compared to 396,598,408 shares valuing Rs16.591 billion the last day.

Some 354 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 163 of them recorded gains and 172 sustained losses, difficulties owing to the prevailing situation in the 172 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 19 remained unchanged.

### Wakhan corridor **FPCCI** President invites Russia to take advantage of CPEC by developing a road network

reflects the shared interest in fortifying the enduring friendship and economic partnership between the two countries.

Swabi,

H.E. Albert Khorev Russian Ambassador to Pakistan and Mr. Pavel B. Burlakov, Acting Trade Representative, yesterday visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry Capital Office in Islamabad discussed.

and met Mr Atif Ikram by 28.76 percent, going up Sheikh President of FPCCI, Mr. Kairm Aziz Malik Chairman and Malik during the first seven Sohail Hussain Chairman

months of the current Coordination FPCCI & fiscal year. other members. During the meeting, the matters of enhancing cooperation in diverse fields, including tourism, trade, investment, technology, and exchange of business delegations were

queries of the participants note at the worksho Director General KPRA Miss Fouzia Iqbal in her address thanked officials of the Accountant hopes for smooth General of Pakistan, coordination in the future.

24), the Pakistan Bureau of

Statistics (PBS) reported.

witnessed a decline of 2.42

percent when compared to the exports of \$4,558.41

million during the same

from \$4,790.38 million last

year to \$6,168.13 million

services,

period last year.

The export of

The services' imports into the country increased

however,

thanked the officials of AG office for attending the training and showed his



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people purchasing onion at Vegetable and Fruits Market.

### Services' exports earn \$4.44 bln in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): during the period under Pakistan earned \$4,447.97 review, going up from \$231.97 million last year to million by exporting \$1,720.16 million this year. various services during the first seven months of the Meanwhile, on a yearcurrent fiscal year (2023over-year (YoY) basis, the

services' exports from the country decreased by 1.47 percent, going from \$688.10 million in January 2023 to \$677.96 million in January 2024.

The imports went up by 53.09 percent, growing from \$649.96 million to \$995.04 million, according to PBS data. On a monthto-month (MoM) basis, service exports decreased by 7.25 percent in January 2024 when compared to exports of \$730.99 million in December 2023.

Based on the figures, The imports on a the services' trade deficit MoM basis in widened by 641.56 percent 15.84 percent. MoM basis increased by

### **DC** for relief to citizens during Ramazan through reduced prices

DERA ISMAIL KHAN meeting had been convened (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mansoor Arshad has directed the relevant masses' welfare policies on officials to ensure edible items at affordable levels in order to extend relief to citizens during the holy month of Ramazan.

He expressed these citizens' complaints views while chairing a regarding prices and meeting of the district's availability of essential price review committee met here at his office to determine prices of relevant officials from the essential items for food department and other

in light of directives of the provincial government to trickle down blessings of grassroots level.

The meeting discussed establishing complaint desks at the tehsil level to address commodities.

He also directed the relevant officials from the Ramazan. He said that the relevant departments.



LAHORE: President Lahore Chamber of Commerce Kashif Anwar presenting souvenir to 1st Secretary be Consul of the Embassy of Italy Augusto Palmieri during his visit to LCCI.

Daily Noice of Masse,

**International News** 

Page 07

# China drops 'peaceful reunification' reference to **Taiwan amid tensions**

ments rise.

China's

**Monitoring Desk** BEIJING: China will boost its defence spending by 7.2 per cent this year, fuelling a military budget that has more than doubled under President Xi Jinping's 11 years in office as Beijing hardens its stance on Taiwan, according to official reports on Tuesday.

The increase mirrors the rate presented in last year's budget and again comes in well above the government's economic growth forecast for this year. China also officially adopted tougher language against Taiwan as it released the budget figures, dropping the mention of "peace-ful reunification" in a government report delivered by Premier Li Qiang at the opening of the National People's Congress (NPC), on Tuesday.

Tensions have risen yuan (\$230 billion) this year from 720 billion yuan in sharply in recent years over Taiwan, the democratically 2013. ruled island that China The percentage rise in claims as its own, and elsemilitary spending has conwhere across East Asia as sistently outpaced the an-

regional military deploynual domestic economic growth target during his Li Mingjiang, a de-fence scholar at the Rajaratnam School of Intertime in office. This year the growth target for 2024 is about 5pc, similar to last year's goal, according to the national Studies (RSIS) in

Singapore, said that despite government report. struggling The defence budget is economy, Taiwan is a maclosely watched by China's jor consideration in neighbours and the United Beijing's defence spending. "China is showing States, who are wary of Beijing's strategic intenthat in the coming decade it tions and the development wants to grow its military

of its armed forces. to the point where it is pre-Based on data from the London-based Internapared to win a war if it has no choice but to fight one," tional Institute for Strate-Li said. Since Xi became gic Studies (IISS), this president and commanderyear's budget marks the in-chief more than a decade 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Chinese defence spending ago, the defence budget has ballooned to 1.67 trillion increases



RAFAH: Palestinian children receive cooked food rations as part of a volunteer vouth initiative in the southern Gaza Strip.

#### Nikki Haley suspends White House bid, clearing path for a Trump-Biden rematch not endorse him.

global

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Nikki Haley ended her long-shot challenge to Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump on Wednesday, ensuring the former president will be the party's candidate in a rematch with Democratic important to continue US President Joe Biden in

November's election. Haley, the former Haley said the United

WASHINGTON: US au-"It is now up to

thorities announced sanc-Donald Trump to earn the tions on Tuesday on parvotes of those in our party ties associated with and beyond it," she said Intellexa Consortium, citing 'And I hope he does that.' their role in making and dis-Drawing on her fortributing commercial eign policy experience at spyware used to target US the UN, Haley said it was officials, journalists and others. leadership. Commercial surveil-Throughout her campaign,

lance tools "increasingly resent a security r



BEIJING: Workers replenish Chinese President Xi Jinping's teacups during the opening session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People.

### Russia, China plan nuclear power plant on moon

**Monitoring Desk** the lunar surface together IOSCOW: Russia and with our Chinese col-China are considering putleagues," Borisov said. Solar panels would

ting a nuclear power plant on the moon from 2033-35, not be able to provide Yuri Borisov, the head of enough electricity to power Russia's space agency future lunar settlements, he Roscosmos said on Tuessaid, while nuclear power day, something he said could could. "This is a very serione day allow lunar settle-

ous challenge...it should be Borisov, a former done in automatic mode, deputy defence minister, without the presence of humans." he said of the said that Russia and China had been jointly working on possible plan. Borisov spoke also of a lunar programme and that Russian plans to build a Moscow was able to connuclear-powered cargo

tribute with its expertise on spaceship. He said all the nuclear space energy" technical questions con-Today we are sericerning the project had been ously considering a project somewhere at the turn solved apart from finding a of 2033-2035 - to deliver solution on how to cool the and install a power unit on nuclear reactor.

### Israel 'to allow' worshippers access to Al Aqsa as in 'previous years'

for the site.

'Every week there will be a situation assessment in terms of security and safety and a decision will be made accordingly," it added. Every year, tens of thousands of worshippers perform Ramazan prayers at the Al Aqsa mosque.

Ramazan comes this year as Israel wages a relentless military campaign in the Gaza Strip in the ous years," the statement said, using the Jewish term Israel on October 7. wake of the Hamas raid in

Gaza ceasefire talks in doldrums

**Monitoring Desk** CAIRO: Hamas negotiators stayed in Cairo for a third day of ceasefire talks on Tuesday in an attempt to halt the fighting in the Gaza Strip in time for the fasting month of Ramazan, free Israeli hostages and stave off famine.

A 40-day ceasefire in the conflict would allow some hostages captured by Pales-ti-nian fighters in the October attack, while aid to Gaza would be increased and families able to return to abandoned homes. 'The delegation will

remain in Cairo on Tuesday for more talks, they are expected to wrap up this round later today," a Hamas official told Reuters.

Three security sources from host and mediator Egypt said the warring sides were sticking to demands that had held up an agreement. The Egyptians have re----mained in the war zone and held by contact with the Israelis separate groups.

#### despite the absence of an Israeli delegation.

Earlier, senior Hamas official Bassem Naim said the group had presented a draft ceasefire agreement, and was now waiting for a response from Israel. "(Prime Minister Benjamin) Netan-yahu doesn't want to reach an agreement and the ball now is in the Ameri-cans' court' to press him, Naim said. Israel has declined to comment publicly on the talks but a senior Israeli official said: 'Israel is making every effort to reach an agreement. We are awaiting a response

from Hamas.' A source had told Reuters earlier that Israel was staying away because Hamas had refused to furnish a list of all hostages who are still alive. Naim said this was impossible without a ceasefire as hostages were scattered across

### Gaza children may not survive famine, warns WHO chief

LONDON (Online): mass destruction and Children in the besieged shortages of necessi-Palestinian enclave of ties Gaza may not be able to Israel has also im-

posed a crippling block-ade on the Gaza Strip, the head of the World Health Organization leaving its population, particularly residents of northern Gaza, on the verge of starvation.

The Israeli war has may not survive a fampushed 85% of Gaza's ine," Tedros Adhanom population into internal Ghebreyesus wrote on displacement amid acute shortages of food, clean water, and medicine, while 60% of the He called for allowing more humanitarian enclave's infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, according to the

Israel stands ac-

Israel has waged a deadly military offensive on the Gaza Strip since cused of genocide at the an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by International Court of the Palestinian group Hamas, which Tel Aviv Justice. An interim ruling in January ordered Te Aviv to stop genocidal says killed nearly 1,200 acts and take measures to

survive a famine there,

(WHO) said on Wednes-

vived bombardment but

"Children who sur-

More than 30,700 guarantee that humani-Palestinians have since tarian assistance is probeen killed and 72,156 vided to civilians in others injured amid Gaza.

**Monitoring Desk** 

Trump aimed to deliver a

blow to his lone challenger

for the Repub-lican US

presidential nomination,

Nikki Haley, as 15 states

hold Republican contests on

the biggest voting day of

who has dominated the Re-

publican campaign from the

The former president,

While Trump cannot

the primary season.

**Trump eyes 'Super Tuesday' sweep as** Halev vows to fight on

#### **US** imposes sanctions on members of spyware group Monitoring Desk

**Monitoring Desk** JERUSALEM: Israel will allow as many worshippers to access Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem during the first week of Ramazan as in previous years, the prime minister's office said on Tuesday.

ments to be built.

"In the first week of Ramazan, worshippers will be allowed to enter the Temple Mount in similar numbers to those in previ-

**Blast rocks** security base in Afghanistan Monitoring Desk FAIZABAD: A blast shook

a Taliban military base near the airport in Faizabad, the capital of Afghanistan's northeastern Badakhshan province, but without causing casualties, officials said

on Tuesday. The Taliban official confirmed on condition of anonymity that an explosion had occurred at the base but would not provide further details. A roadside IED exploded near the base but no one was killed or wounded, Badakhshan police spokesman Ehsanullah

Kamgar told AFP. He said the authorities suspected the IED was not new but rather left over from before the Taliban takeover in 2021.

### **Bezos dethrones**

#### Musk to become richest man

WASHINĞTON Ama-zon founder Jeff Bezos has taken back his spot as the world's richest man, dethroning Elon Musk on the Bloomberg Billion-aires Index.

Bezos' net worth stands at \$200 billion, according to the tracker, surpassing the Tesla chief's \$198bn.

Musk, who also heads X (formerly Twitter) and SpaceX, has seen his riches fall by more than \$30b as Tesla's share price has dropped 25 per cent in re-

aid into the Gaza Strip **Monitoring Desk** as well as a cease-fire there.

day.

people.

cent months.

South Carolina governor and Trump's ambassador defend itself against Rusto the United Nations when he was president, made the announcement in a speech in Charleston a day after Super Tuesday, when Trump beat her soundly in 14 of 15 Republican nominating contests.

The time has now come to suspend my campaign," Haley said. "I have no regrets.'

Šhe said it was likely Trump would be the Republican nominee but did late on Tuesday

NEW YORK (Online):

Donald Trump met with

Tesla CEO Elon Musk on

Sunday as the former US

president seeks a major

cash infusion for his reelec-

tion campaign, the New

York Times has reported,

by the outlet on Tuesday,

Musk attended the gather-

ing along with a number of

wealthy Republican do-

are working to find major

contributors to shore up his

finances for the election

campaign against incum-

bent US leader Joe Biden,

claimed that Trump hopes

to have a one-on-one meet-

newspaper

according to the NYT.

The

According to a report

Trump and his team

citing sources.

nors.

**Trump reportedly** 

fundraising push

States must help Ukraine to the United States and our citizens." said Treasian aggression, a position surv Under Secretary for at odds with Trump. "If terrorism and financial we retreat further, there intelligence will be more war, not less, Nelson she said

There was no indication Trump would moderate his message

"He'll continue to focus on the issues that matter: immigration, economy, foreign policy," Karoline Leavitt, press secretary for the Trump campaign, said

The tools, the Treasury Department said, are packaged as a suite under the brand-name "Predator" spyware, able to infiltrate devices without user interaction. meets with Musk amid

veillance tools.

#### **Philippines** chides China for 'stirring up

trouble'

social media platform X (formerly Twitter), has long cast himself as politi-**Monitoring Desk** cally independent, and has donated to campaigns for MANILA: A dramatic stand-off with Beijing in the candidates from both the Democrats and the Repub-South China Sea this week was the most serious incident yet for the Philippines. The tech mogul has its top security officials said admitted he voted for Biden on Wednesday, vowing not in 2020, although he has to back down in asserting since criticized the presithe country's sovereign dent and clashed with his administration, the NYT rights. The Philippines has been incensed by what it calls repeated aggressive The South Africanconduct by China's born billionaire has not said coastguard, accusing its if he is willing to spend any of his billions to back ships of using water cannons Trump, although Musk's and blocking and harassing a Philippine resupply missocial media posts suggest

sion on Tuesday for troops he is opposed to Biden stationed at the disputed winning a second term in Second Thomas Shoal

The Philippines' With a net worth val-South China Sea task force said a top admiral was on board a vessel that was water cannoned by China's coastguard, shattering its windshield and wounding four navy personnel.



THE HAGUE: Protesters take part in a demonstration in support of Palestinians outside the Netherlands House of Representatives. Question time in the house was briefly interrupted three times by them.

### **Hungary president** signs Sweden's NATO membership ratification

Monitoring Desk BUDAPEST: Hungary's President Tamas Sulyok has signed the bill that approved Sweden's accession to the NATO military alliance, the president's office said on arms Tuesday. Lawmakers approved Sweden's NATO accession on Feb. 26, clearing the last hurdle before the historic step by the Nordic country, whose neutrality lasted through two world wars and the Cold War.

concluded swiftly. Stockholm abandoned its non-alignment policy for greater safety within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization after Russia's inlegislation to vasion of Ukraine in 2022. The Hungarian vote ended mulgation last week.

### **Polish farmers clash** with police outside parliament in Warsaw

**Monitoring Desk** 

WARSAW: Protesting farmers clashed with police officers by some of the people protesting ... it building in Warsaw on Wednesday, with police using pepper spray and accusing some participants of violence against security

Thousands of farmers had gathered in the Polish capital, burning tyres and throwing firecrackers as they demanded a halt to cheap imports and environmental regulations they say harm their livelihoods.

months of delays to complete the security policy shift and followed a visit by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson during which the two countries signed an deal. Neither Kristersson nor Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom were immediately available for comment.

The remaining formalities, such as depositing accession documentation in Washington, are likely to be

Parliament's speaker signed off on the ratification and forwarded the the president's office for pro-

"Due to physical ag-

gression against police

was necessary to use di-

rect coercive measures,"

"Behaviour

response.

were detained

#### **Russian** jailed for seven years for articles about Ukraine war

**Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: A reporter for an independent Russian news outlet was sentenced to seven years in prison on Wednesday for articles he wrote about alleged Russian

Warsaw police wrote in a post on X. war crimes in Ukraine, his publication said. that threatens the safety of our

Roman Ivanov, who officers, including throwing works for the online cobblestones at them, can-RusNews, was convicted of publishing "fake news" about the Russian not be taken lightly and requires a firm and decisive army under wartime cen-They added that sevsorship laws passed eral officers were wounded shortly after the fulland around a dozen people scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago.

(0000 GMT) in Vermont FORT WORTH: Donald and Virginia, with voting wrapping up in Alaska at midnight EST (0500 Wednesday GMT). Super Tuesday knockout

A third consecutive nomination for Trump would set up a rematch with Democratic Pre-sident Joe Biden in November's election. Biden is expected to win Tuesday's Democratic contests easily, though activists op--posed to Biden's Israel policy are calling on Muslim Ameri-cans and progressives to vote "uncommitted" in Minnesota in protest. Haley, a former UN ambassador under Trump, has faced mounting questions about how long she will continue her long-shot campaign, particularly after losing her home state of South Carolina 10 days

Her campaign did not schedule any public events on Super Tuesday or beyond. "As much as everybody wan-ts to go and push me out, I'm not ready to get out yet," she told Fox News in an interview.

**Muslims hardest hit: Report** NEW DELHI (INP): Shed- comprehensive report, an ding light on forced evicunprecedented 1,07,449 tions being done under the homes were demolished in watch of Modi government, 2023, leading to the forced a comprehensive report has eviction of at least 5,15,752 said that 2023 witnessed an people, marking the highest alarming spike in such evicrecorded annual figure in the tions across India, displaclast seven years. This surge ing over half a million indiin evictions, the highest since viduals and mostly impact-HLRN began its documentation in 2017, spans across 23 states and four Union ing marginalized communities particularly Muslims. The landmark report Territories in India. Major titled "Forced Evictions in cities and smaller urban cen-India: 2022 & 2023" was ters alike have witnessed released by New Delhilarge-scale demolitions based Housing and Land Delhi witnessed the most Rights Network (HLRN). incidents of evictions, with approximately 2.8 lakh people evicted in 2023. This report, the sixth in a series of annual publications by HLRN on evic-Court orders played a sigtions, highlights a significant nificant role, resulting in the surge in the number of home eviction of over 2.9 lakh demolitions in India bepersons in both years. The tween 2022 and 2023, parreport highlights the acute ticularly impacting the vulnerability poor and marginalised

marginalized groups, with Muslims, in particular, beriod, more than 1.5 lakh ing the most affected in alhouses were demolished by most half of the documented state authorities, resulting eviction instances. Rehabiliin the forceful eviction of tation was lacking in most over 7.4 lakh people from cases, and state authorities often failed to comply with According to HLRN's due process requirements.

ued by Forbes at \$200 biling with Musk, although it is not clear whether the billion, Musk could "decide to lionaire CEO of Tesla and throw his weight behind Space X is planning to do-Mr. Trump" and almost "single-handedly erase nate to the Republican what is expected to be Mr. frontrunner's campaign. Musk, who also owns Biden and his allies' huge

November.

licans over the years.

stated.



People vote on 'Super Tuesday,' at the Central Library in Huntington Beach, California.

accession nears **Monitoring Desk** COPENHAGEN: Swedish Minister Ulf Prime Kristersson and Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom will travel to Washington on

Wednesday, the government immediately Stockholm avoided military alliances and adopted a neutral stance in times of war. A

#### spokesperson Kristersson declined to give any further details beyond the brief government statement

said, where they are expected to complete the process of joining NATO. Sweden will become NATO's 32<sup>nd</sup> member when it deposits the formal documentation, marking an end to 200 years during which

start despite his litany of criminal charges, has swept all but one of the contests so far, winnowing a sprawling Repu-blican field of candidates down to two. win enough delegates on Tuesday to formally clinch

#### Swedish PM the nomination, another travels to US dominant performance would further pressure his as NATO remaining rival. Tuesday's contests will award more than one-third of Republi-

can delegates — and more than 70pc of the number

for

needed to secure the nomination The first polls were due to close at 7pm EST **Forced evictions displace** over 5 lakh in India in 2023,

populations. Over this pe-

their homes.

#### Daily **Independent**, Quetta

#### Thursday March 07, 2024

# **OIC urges probe of war crimes** against Palestinians; voices concern over India's rights abuses in Kashmir

GENEVA (APP): Pakistan, Tuesday. speaking for Islamic coun- At t tries, has underscored the need for investigating Israeli war crimes against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank to pave the way for accountability.

"It is high time that violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law including war crimes committed against the Palestinian people are investigated and accountability follows," Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN offices in Geneva, told the Human Rights Council during its general debate on

At the same time, the Pakistani envoy, who was human rights violations. speaking on behalf of the OIC countries, voiced impunity and draconian laws in the occupied terri-"deep anguish" over the tory. " In the statement, deteriorating human rights Ambassador strongly condemned all situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

crimes committed by the "We urge India to Israeli Occupation Forces in comply with the applicable Occupied Palestinian Terri-UN Security Council resotory (OPT), and called for lutions and implement recimplementing provisional ommendations addressed to measures issued by the Init in the two Kashmir reternational Court of Justice ports by OHCHR, the UN (ICJ) and reminded all human rights office, which states of their responsibilineed to be updated," the ties in this regard.

OIC statement said. "The Council must longstanding call for uppay attention to consistent holding respect for human observations made by rights and international hu-

SPMHs (Special Procedure manitarian law in the OPT, Mandate Holders) on the including in East Jerusalem," he said.

"We also call for reversal of all measures aimed at institutionalizing illegal oc-Ahmad cupation, apartheid and colonial settlement enterprise in OPT." The OIC also called on the Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe, dignified, and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. The OIC, he said, reiterated its full solidarity 'We reiterate our with Bangladesh and supports calls for assistance to the country in efforts to

achieve a durable solution.



TAXILA: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) as chief guest at the rollout ceremony of HAIDER tank (Pilot Project).

dav



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with the families of the deceased and injured in the wake of recent torrential rains and heavy snowfall.

### Army, other depts. continue rescue, relief operation in flood-hit areas of Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan Army in coordination with other concerned departments continues rescue and relief operations in floodhit areas of Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan affected of rain.

The aid provided by the Army to the public includes 3281 aid packages of 50 tons of ration and medi-

So far, 25 tons of ra-

#### ary measures Secretary Health visits Turbat **Teaching Hospital, Makran**

tions

children were treated.

He formally inaugu-

Abdullah Khan in-

rated the CT scan, MRI

scan oxygen plant, solar

system and burn unit in the

Teaching Hospital.

### Shehbaz emphasizes robust planning to tackle natural calamities

during 2022 and recently

the torrential rains in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led

to death of about forty

people. The Prime Minis-

ter appreciated the role of

Provincial Disaster Manage-

ment Authority, the chief

secretary, district adminis-

trations and all those who

contributed in the effort to

rescue and rehabilitate the

He said the compen-

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif has emphasized robust planning and institutional structure to tackle natural calamities.

He was talking to the affectees of rains and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during his visit to Peshawar

today. The Prime Minister rain affected people. said Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable sation amount has already to climate change been distributed among the

#### He said Pakistan has injured and heirs of the defaced disastrous floods ceased **Development of province,** welfare of common men priority: Sarfraz Bugti

once again expressed the resolve to take all political parties including the coaliprovince.

working to bring improvement in governance, and adding he hoped that there would be marked improvement in governance in time

to come. He said that the people of province also witness improvement in the Mir Sarfraz Bugti governance



Addressing the secre-

that we have to work for

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed all administrative secretaries of provincial government departments to prepare comprehensive plan for improvement in

and its common men. governanc The Chief Minister also directed to prepare pledged that we would take timeframe for implementameasures for prevention of tion on the targets given to corruption from the lower to higher level. He directed the secrethem (secretaries) within month

He was chairing a

hensive recommendations ministrative secretaries of for increasing the resources provincial government deof province In addition to this, vipartments here on Wednes-

able strategy should be prepared remaining in the taries, Chief Minister said province's own resources, e directed further.

He asserted that we betterment of the province would give protection to the He on the occasion due tenure of appointment on any of the position. Moreover, the process of answerability would be made effective by making the anti-corruption depart taries to prepare compre- ment effective, he vowed

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman administering oath to 18-member new Provincial Cabinet. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is also present.

### 18-member Punjab cabinet sworn in

name of Sheikh from ECL

LHC orders

to remove

RAWALPINDI (Online) Lahore High Court (LHĆ) Rawalpindi bench has or-

LAHORE (APP): An 18- stituencies. from where member Puniab cabinet was they were elected to the sworn in during a solemn Punjab Assembly, are as ceremony at the Governor's under: Mian Muitaba House, here on Wednesday. Shuja-ur-Rehman (MPA Punjab Governor PP-148), Marriyum Muhammad Balighur Aurangzeb (MPA W-300), Marrivum

visits at SFIC for investments in various sectors ISLAMABAD (APP): A tion has been distributed t high level delegation of Al more than 1470 families. Ajlan Holding Group of The Army established Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Saudi delegation** 

17 flood relief medical visited Special Investment camps and 15 mobile medi-Facilitation Council (SIFC) cal camps in different areas here today. to facilitate the people.

The group was headed by His Excellency More than 4783 patients including men, women and Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Alajlan, Deputy Chairman Awareness brochures along with members reprewere also distributed among senting various sectors. local people for precautionoperating under the ambit of Al Ajlan Holding Group,

said a press release. The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given overing potential and in-

# Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that development province and wellbeing of the common men is included in the pri-

Wednesday

orities The Chief Minister was speaking to the Member Provincial Assembly, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi who called on him here on

tion partners along in the He said that he is

#### Medical College

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan visited the Turbat Teaching Hospital, Makran Medical College and District Health Office, Turbat on Wednesday.

spected the pediatrics, Gynae departments, dialy-The Secretary Health sis unit, casualty departwas briefed by the Medical ment. The Secretary Health Superintendent of Teaching appreciated performance of Hospital, Principal Makran the staff of all institutions Medical College and Disand said that better facilitrict Health Officer Turbat, ties are being provided to Dr. Ababgar Baloch about their respective institu- the people.

**OUETTA: Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, ex-**Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Mir Abdul Wahab Bizenjo meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

**Commissioner inaugurates Business Expo at University** College of DMJ

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Naseerabad Division Tariq Qamar Baloch inaugurated the Business Expo Male and Female at University College of Dera Murad Jamali (DMJ) on Wednesday. In the opening cer-emony, Divisional Monitoring Colleges Syed Hussain Ali Shah, University Director Dr. Wajid Farhad Baloch, other students including faculty, administration and large number of people were present.

Ĉommissioner Naseerabad Division Tariq Qamar Baloch inspected all the business expo stalls installed individually and learned about the items placed in the stalls from the students

While appreciating the performance of all the installations and students in the business expo, Tariq Qamar Baloch said that this process was a welcome initiative, saying that young generation would learn all the principles of business along with their education.

These children are the guarantors of our future and t has become imperative to

take immediate steps for semblies their optimal development, **IGP** exhorts officers to spend more time it will be our effort to build and support them better so that they do not have to in field ensuring steps for public safety face any challenges in the future, he said.

The Commissioner said that our children have all kinds of skills but it was General of Police important that they could Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq only be nurtured, adding Sheikh has exhorted the ofthat the dire need of a unificers to spend their more versity was felt in time in field and ensure Naseerabad division but timely measures for the now after the establishpublic safety and service. ment of the university, this demand of the people here

image of police is condihas also been fûlfilled. tional with better perfor-He said that entrepremance. The IGP was adneurship was essential to truly stabilize the economy, we all have to play our part to make it better and a new revolution could be created

through marketing. Doing business online has become very easy, instead of wasting your time on mobile, students should use it in the right direction, there is an urgent need for us to take steps keeping in view the current pace so

that the journey of development can be completed as soon as possible, he said. officers

vestment opportunities in different sectors.

The delegation showed great interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan under the umbrella of SIFC. The visit underscores longstanding brotherly relations between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which are transforming into multi-domain coop-

eration through participa-

tion of public as well as

Presidential

candidates

urged to appoint

only MPs as

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Inspector

He said that positive

private sector.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of Saudi Arabia's Al-Ajlan Holding Group visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

### **ECP** seeks additional **PML-N lists for NA** women's seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) sought polling agents ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has in-structed the candidates parmore lists of women from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to allocate nine additional National Assembly reserve ticipating in presidential seats after their initial list election to appoint only was exhausted. The PML-N's prior-ity list for the National As-

pinning badges on the

shoulders of the officers

who were promoted on the

post of DSP and Inspectors

here at the central police

mental promotion and in-

crease in rank actually

means increase in the re-

He said that depart-

The IGP stressed that

office on Wednesday.

sponsibilities.

parliamentarians as their polling agents. An ECP spokesman said in a statesembly (NA) in Punjab has ment that Presidential canbeen depleted, prompting didates must appoint only the ECP to ask for nominaparliamentarians as polling tion papers from nine more agents. Furthermore, for the 2024 Presidential Election, women affiliated with the PML-N. These nomination candidates are required to papers will be accepted ensure that their polling based on the new prioritylist provided by the PML-N, following the schedule.10, followed by the comple-tion of the scrutiny of nomi-nation papers by March 12. agents are members of the national or provincial as-

The Election Com-mission of Pakistan (ECP) has released a schedule for granting extra seats to women, specifically to parliamentary parties such as PML-N, after refusing to allocate certain seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). According to schedule, the issuance of the public notice is set for Thursday, with PML-N's nominated candidates to submit their nomination papers to the Joint Election Commissioner of Punjab by March 9. The pre-

liminary list of candidates is slated for release on March

lered to remove name of former interior minister oath to the newly-ap-Sheikh Rashid from Exit Control List (ECL).

A division bench of LHC Rawalpindi bench comprising Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan and justice Mirza Waqas Rauf has announced the judgment.

The court has directed the petitioner be not restrained from going abroad.

Sheikh Rashid along with his lawyers Sardar Abdul Razzaq and Sardar Shehbaz Khan were present in the court.

#### Saraiki culture testament to diversity defining Pak: Bilawal

MULTAN (APP): The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday extended his heartiest greetings to the people of Saraiki on Saraiki Culture Day and to the entire nation at large. The PPP chairman, in his message, said that Waseb is the cradle of a rich heritage, vibrant language, and resilient people. 'Saraiki people, with their warmth, hospitality, and deep-rooted cultural values, exemplify the essence of unity in diversity," he added.

It may be mentioned

here that those promoted are included Ghulam

Sarwar, Dad Shah, Rashid

The IGP, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Additional

IGP Jawad Ahmed Dogar

and DIG Headquarters

Qamarul Hasan pinned the

badges on shoulders of the

Khan and other officers.

Rehman administered the Sardar Sher Alı Gorchan (MPA PP-293), Syed pointed provincial minis-Muhammad Ashiq Hussain ters after Puniab Chief Sec-Kirmani (MPA PP-186), retary Zahid Akhter Zaman Muhamamd Kazim Pirzada read out the order of ap-(MPA PP-245), Rana Sikander Hayat (MPA PPpointment of ministers. Puniab Chief Minister

183), Khawaja Imran Nazir (MPA PP-150), Khawaja Salman Rafiq (MPA PP-153), Zeeshan Rafique (MPA Marvam Nawaz attended the ceremony besides Speaker Punjab Assembly PP-51), Bilal Akbar Khan Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan and former speaker (MPAPP-58), Sohaib Ahmed Rana Muhammad Igbal. Malik (MPA PP-71), Azma Senior Pakistan Muslim Zahid Bokhari (MPAW-301). League-Nawaz (PML-N) Bilal Yasin (MPA PP-174), leadership including Khawaja Saad Rafique was Ramesh Singh Arora (MPA also present.

NM-366), Khalil Tahir (MPA NM-367) Faisal Ayub Khokhar (MPA PP-168), Names of the newlyappointed provincial min-Shafey Hussain (MPAPP-31), and Sohail Shaukat Butt. isters, along with their con-



Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi presenting a shield to Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazar Muhammad Baloch. Director Ombudsman Saeed Ahmed Shahwani is also present

### **15-member KP cabinet** takes oath of office

**Independent Report** ESHAWAR: Fifteen Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ministers who have been inducted into the provincial cabinet took oath in a prestigious ceremony held at the Governor's House on Wednesday. The induction of the ministers into the

provincial cabinet was notified by the KP government's administration department following a summary of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, approved by KP Governor

Haji Ghulam Ali. The members include Arshad Ayub Khan, Shakeel Ahmad, Fazal Hakim Khan, Muhammad Adnan Qadri, Aqib Ullah Khan, Muhammad Sajjad, Meena Khan, and Fazal Shakoor.

Nazir Ahmad Abbasi, Pakhtoon Yar Khan, Aftab Alam Khan Afridi, Khaleeq Ur Rehman, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Faisal Khan Tarakai, and Muhammad Zahir Shah are also part of the nees.

cabinet Subsequently, the newly-elected KP CM Gandapur also sent a summary to the governor to recommend appointments of his advisers, which was also approved by the governor

Following the CM's advice, five advisers have been appointed, including Syed Fakhar Jehan, Muzamil Aslam, Muhammad Ali Saif, Mashal Azam, and Zahid Chanzeb.

Yesterday, Gandapur received a nod of approval from incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan after a meeting with him in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi

After finalising the cabinet members, the chief minister did not disclose their names, as he was under pressure by certain factions within the party to accommodate their nomi-

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dressing the ceremony of it is responsibility of the crime

resources.

officers to get better per-

formance from the subor-

dinate staff. Therefore, the

field officers should make

the public service delivery

process for the citizens

easier using the available

need to provide maximum

facilities to the citizens

He also stressed the

along with controlling police officers.