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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir senior serving military and civil officers, relatives of Shuhada and locals of the area attending funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shaheed who embraced martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan District,

President warns of befitting response against terrorists

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

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

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

He said that the people of Pakistan and its armed forces were united and would face terrorism in unison. He also expressed the resolve to make the terrorists accountable for blood of each martyred jawan, adding their brave brothers, sons and friends had been protecting

the borders. President Zardari promised that the blood of the sons

of the soil would not go in vain.
In the early hours of 16 March, a group of six terrorsts attacked a security forces' post in the general area of Mir Ali of North Waziristan District.

According to the details, the troops foiled the initial attempt of the attack, the terrorists rammed an explo-

sive-laden vehicle into the post, followed by multiple suicide bombing attacks, which led to the collapse of a portion of a building, resulting in the Shahadat of five soldiers. APP add: The funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel

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

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

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

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

SIALKOT (INP): Defence ardly attack by terrorists in regrettable. Khawaja Muhammad Asif says entire nation is united against terrorists and security forces are rendering unprecedented sacrifices for peace and stability in the coun-

Talking to media in Sialkot on Sunday, he said who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the motherland.

The Defence Minister strongly condemned cow- Monetary Fund, which is

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

appreciated the Provincial

Disaster Management Au-

thority (PDMA). Frontier

Corps (FC), district admin-

istration and Levies force

for extinguishing the fire erupted in the forests at

mountains located in

issued here on Sunday, the

In an official statement

Barkhan district.

CM appreciates PDMA, FC, Forests,

District administration and levies for

overcoming Barkhan mountains fire

Mir Ali area of North Waziristan district.

cial media campaign by some elements against martyrs and said there is a need for unity in the war against

Answering the question, he said Pakistan is martyrs are our real heroes passing through an economic crisis and one political party has written a letter to the International

Chief Minister said that all

the concerned overcome the

fire through joint efforts,

He said that we appre-

which is appreciable.

The Minister said that the government is deter-He also condemned so- mined to steer the country out of economic crisis and put it on the path of progress and development.

To a question, he regretted that Afghanistan's soil is being used for terrorism

He said that some facilitators have been traced, and Pakistan has raised the

Continued on page 2 Lawrence College Murree.

Barkhan wildfire extinguished

QUETTA (APP): Local administration, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and local residents extinguished the wildfire that engulfed the Koh-e-Jandaran in Barkhan district of Balochistan the other day.

ciate all employees and Hundreds of trees and jawans who took part in the recious shrubs have burnt process of extinguishing fire n forest fire at Koh-ein Barkhan mountains. Jandaran on the confluence However, he directed the of Kohlu and Barkhan in concerned authorities to Balochistan. A huge forest standby the concerned opfire that erupted in the erational teams in the district mountainous region on Satheadquarter in view of the urday spread over large area winds and dry wild grass. and engulfed the entire areas putting hazards to the hundreds of trees and precious and rare shrubs.

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

SLAMABAD (INP): rime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday granted a one-year extension to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu.

The prime minister has sent the advisory of the the Air Chief Marshal's extension to President Asif Ali Zardari and granted him extension after his approval.



Zaheer Babar is a fourstar air force officer and 16th Chief of Air Staff. He took over command of the air force on March 19, 2021, from his predecessor ACM Mujahid Anwar Khan.

It may be noted that Air Chief Zaheer Babr held a meeting with newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif few days ago and discussed matters of national

Country's future links with well educated youth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Sunday said that the country's future hinged upon well educated and skilled youth of the country and for the provision of quality education, the federal government would facilitate the high achievers with scholarship schemes to get education in the well reputed global educational

institutes The prime minister exessed these views during meeting with Ikramullah, a student from Balochistan province, who is now studying in the 9th class at

minister's direction, the stu-dent from 2022 flood af-fected area of Qila Saifullah was provided with a facility to get education at the country's prominent educational institute.

The prime minister recalled that he met the desperate student in the Khasnoob camp in Qila Saifullah when floods had caused destruction in Balochistan province dur-

He said that he had assured the student of the provision of quality education, adding that it pleased him a lot that the student was now studying Lawrence College

Continued on page 2



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference at 180 h Model Town.

Elements behind campaign against martyrs to face stern action: Attaullah Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday the government was fully aware of the challenges facing the country and steps were required to tackle economic

problems. Addressing a press conference here at the PML-N Secretariat, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had shared his agenda aimed at stabilizing the

country's economy.

He said the Premier had taken up all matters seriously, including reducing government

expenses, privatisation of certain state-owned entities. "Restructuring of the Federal Board of Revenue and tax reforms are major initiatives the government is undertaking to increase the tax net. All these measures are being taken to reduce the burden on poor

people and to bring elites in the tax net," he maintained. He said that international economic jour-nals like Bloomberg had termed the appointment of the Finance Minister a good step, adding that international journals had acknowledged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a potential to overcome economic challenges through reforms. He said: "Political sta-

bility leads to economic stability and sincere efforts are being made in this regard." He strongly con-

demned the terrorist attack in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan, in which seven soldiers, including two officers, were martyred.

He said that Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar was also martyred, who was the only brother of five sisters. He said how pain-Continued on page 2



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

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

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

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

Awais Leghari assigned portfolio of Power ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assigned the portfolio of Power to Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari in place of the port folio of Railways.

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

Governor calls for preparing comprehensive strategy to prevent mishaps & disasters

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to prepare comprehensive strategy for prevention of the mishaps and disasters well in time in the present developed era of science and technology

The Governor said that forests and wildlife are our national assets, therefore, it is necessary to create sense of their protection besides their importance.

In this regard, the employees of all concerned departments and volunteers deserve appreciation for overcoming the fire broke out in the forests located in mountains of Barkhan dis-

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar said that the long term planning is direly needed to extinguish the fire

as well as to cope with the natural disasters including earthquakes, floods or epi

The Governor said that one can not neglect the incident of fire eruption in the forests merely by terming the same as natural calamity or mere fire eruption.

Rather, advance information of such mishaps and disasters can be given in the developed era of science and technology, and then it is possible to prevent the otĥerwise likely financial and human losses, he

Moreover, the sustainable arrangements can also be made for protection from incidents like fire in forests and etc, he said.

In addition to this, assistance of the media can also be sought for running awareness campaign among



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif is addressing to the media at his residence.

Preliminary list of candidates issued by ECP: 38 candidates in competition

run for 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 38 candidates are in competition run for 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan province as the preliminary list of candidate was issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) here on Sunday.

According to the preliminary list, in all 17 candidates filed nomination papers for 7 general seats of Senate from the province while 13 candidates filed nominations for two seats allocated for Technocrats from the province.

Similarly, eight nomination papers were filed by

the women for two seats of women in Senate from the province.

The process of scrutiny of the papers of candidates would start on Monday (today), and would remain continued till March

It may be mentioned here that in all 11 seats of Senate including seven general and two each of technocrats and women had fallen vacant on March 12 after retirement of the sena-

The polling on these 11 seats is scheduled to be held on April 2, 2024 in the provincial assembly here.



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

Pakhtunkhwa (KP). During a live session on X Spaces, he alleged: "In

KARACHI: A month after

the caretakers burdened the

masses with gas price hike

on the International Mon-

etary Fund's (IMF) de-

mand, the Sui Southern Gas

Company (SSGC) has re-

the Oil and Gas Regulatory

Authority (Ogra) — to fur-

ther increase gas prices from

July 2024. The caretaker

quested the fuel regulator —

the PTI, people became not billionaires but trillionaires [via corruption].

Responding to a question, the PTI leader said that the narrative of keeping former prime minister Imran Khan at Adiala Jail instead of his residence in Bani Gala was not floated by him. "Former KP chief minister Mahmood Khan earns Rs2.5 million daily from one of his mines now,

the previous government of he added. importance. Consumers to bear the brunt as SSGC seeks further hike in gas price 67% increase in the natural (mmbtu). Citing an esti-

gas tariff with effect from

February 1. The tariff was

hiked to meet the deadline

of the IMF for hiking the

gas prices under structural

benchmark criteria till Feb-In its fresh plea filed with the Ogra, the SSGC requested the fuel regulator to increase in the gas price by Rs274.40 per Metric Milgovernment had approved a lion British Thermal Unit

mated Rs79.63 billion revenue shortfall, the SSGC urged Ogra to set average price of one mmbtu gas at

A public hearing on the petition is scheduled on March 18 in Karachi, during which the regulatory authority will determine the gas prices. The Ogra will also hear the petition in Quetta on March 20.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) jet demonstrating different skills during rehearsal ahead of the Pakistan Day parade on 23rd March in the Federal Capital.

AJK PM praises overseas Kashmiris' advocacy efforts

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Ch. Anwar ul Haq praised the valuable contribution of overseas Kashmiris in advocating the Kashmir issue globally, emphasizing their role in promoting peace and development

Speaking to a delegation led by AJK Minister for Communications Chaudhry Azhar Sadia from Dadaval at Jammu Kashmir House in the fed-

Shehbaz Sharif.

LAHORE: Member National Assembly Muhammad

Junaid Anwar calls on Prime Minister Muhammad

CIVIL PETITIONS NO. 3429 to 3439 Mst. Naik Murgh and others (in all cases)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN.

Muhammad Ismail and others (In CPLA No. 3431, 3433, 3437 & 3438/2020)
Gohar Khan since deceased thr. his L.Rs and others (In CPLA No. 3432/2020)
Abdul Haq since deceased thr. his L.Rs and others (In CPLA No. 3434/2020)
Shah Jahan and anothers (In CPLA No. 3438/2020)

(in CPLA No. 3436/2020) (in CPLA No. 3439/2020)

Ghulam Oadir since deceased thr. his L.Rs and others

Ghulam Mustafa son of Falz Muhammad (Respo (In CPLA No. 3429/2020).

lah son of Gul Muhar

CPLA No. 3429/2020)

CPLA No. 3429/2020)

No. 3430/2020)

3434/2020).

CPLA No. 3434/2020)

CPLA No. 3434/2020).

llah son of Faiz Muhammad (Respondent No.1(c) (i

No. 3429/2020).
Rehmatullah son of Gul Muhammad (Respondent No.2(a) (Ir CPLA No. 3429/2020).
Muhammad Noor son of Gul Muhammad (Respondent No.2(b)

Muhammad Shoalb son of Gui Herricon (In CPLA No. 3429/2020).
Hafeezullah son of Gui Muhammad (Respondent No.2(f) CPLA No. 3429/2020).

Met Lal Bibi widow of Gui Muhammad (Respondent No.1

Mst. Razia daughter of Dur Muhammad (Respondent No.5 in CPLA No. 3430/2020)

Hajl Abdul Wahab son of Haji Abdul Rahim (Respondent No.6 in

CPLA No. 3430/2020).
Haji Naseeb Khan son of Haji Abdul Rahim (Respondent No.7 in CPLA No. 3430/2020 and Respondent No.4 in CPLA No. 3431/2020 & 3433/2020).

Dawood Khan son of Haji Abdul Rahim (Respondent No.8 in CPLA No. 3430/2020 and Respondent No.5 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, 3433/2020, 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

Hadayat Ullah son of Haji Abdul Rahim (Respondent No. CPLA No. 3430/2020 and Respondent No.6 in CPLA

3431/2020, 3433/2020, 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).
Haji Muhammad Qasim son of Abdul Nabl (Respondent No.10 in CPLA No. 3430/2020).
and Respondent No.7 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, 3433/2020 & 3437/2020).

Muhammad Ismail son of Abdul Wahab (Respondent No.1 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, 3433/2020, 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

Abdul Nabl son of Abdul Wahab (Respondent No.2 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, 3433/2020, 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

Bilal son of Abdul Wahab (Respondent No.3 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, 3433/2020, 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

Haji Ali Muhammad son of Khan Muhammad (Respondent No.8 In CPLA No. 3431/2020 and Respondent No.6 in CPLA No.

Agha Muhammad son of Gohar Khan (Respondent No.1(b) i CPLA No. 3432/2020). Sher Khan (Respondent No.10)

Mst. Bibi Zulaikha widow of Abdul Haq (Respondent No.1(a) i

Shehzad son of Abdul Haq (Respondent No.1(b) in CPLA No

Khair Bakhsh son of Muhammad Hussain (Respondent No.2 in

Muhammad Khair son of Khair Bakhsh (Respondent No.4

Sher Khan (Respondent No.2 in CPLA No. 3432/2020). Abdul Pukar (Respondent No.3 in CPLA No. 3432/2020)

mad son of Gohar Khan (Respondent No.1(a) in

eral metropolis on Sunday, Prime Minister Haq's ef-Prime Minister Haq highearly peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.

The delegation, which included Counselor Sandoval Council United Kingdom Khayyam Naseem Kayani and former President Bar Association Dadyal Nadeem Kayani Advocate, congratulated Mr. Kayani on his election the ongoing freedom as a councilor and ex- struggle in occupied Kashpressed appreciation for mir.

forts in highlighting the lighted the significance of Kashmir issue both domestically and internationally

> PM Haq reiterated his government's commitment to promoting the Kashmir cause and ensuring good governance in the liberated territory, pledging to utilize all available resources for

China's UN envoy pays farewell call on **MunirAkram**

NEW YORK (APP): Ambassador Zhang Jun, the permanent representative of China and a top Chinese diplomat, paid a farewell call on Ambassador Munir Akram at the Pakistan Mission in New York.

Ambassador Zhang has been a key player at the UN for the past five years, especially in the deliberations at the Security Council.

A press release of the Pakistani Mission said both ambassadors discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, and expressed their satisfaction on the current level of engagement at the UN.

They vowed to keep playing their role in further strengthening the bilateral cooperation.

Ambassador Akram appreciated Ambassador Zhang for his leadership and splendid services in strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and

He said he worked very closely with his Chinese counterpart on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues during his term in of-

Ambassador Akram expressed his best wishes and prayers for the future of the outgoing Chinese Ambassa-

On his part, the Chinese envoy thanked Ambassador Akram and the Pakistan Mission

APHC condemns banon Hurrivat parties in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP). The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called upon the United Nations to impress upon India to grant Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination recognized in the relevant resolutions of the World Body.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesperson Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar condemning the ban on Hurrivat parties in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. termed it political terrorism by the BJP-led Indian government against freedom-loving organizations.

Country's future links with....

Continued from page 1

The student thanked the prime minister for giving him an opportunity to meet him.

Congratulating the prime minister, he said that he prayed for Shehbaz Sharif for his kind gesture.

The student also expressed his resolve to achieve the goal and serve the country in the future. The prime minister ad-

vised him to serve the nation and country by working hard and concentrating on his studies. He assured that all his

educational expenditures would be borne by the government as the students were the future and hope of the country.

The prime minister said that when he had visited the flood affected area, the student was in a protest mood but now he was showing a discernible change. He mentioned that in Punjab province, they had sent the high achievers to get education at the best European and Scandinavian countries who later returned completely transformed and full of confi-

dence. The prime minister also welcomed the principal and housemaster of Lawrence College and gave away gifts to the student including a pen and tablet, expressing the hope that it would help him in pursuance of his studies. Ikaramullah also presented a set of books to the prime minister. The prime minister personally saw off the student from the Prime Minister's House

Earthquake jolts Swat, surrounding area

Monday March 18, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale jolted Swat and its adjoining areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sun-

According to a private news channel, the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in various parts of the province, and also the federal capital, and adjoining areas.

According to NSMC Islamabad, the epicenter was in the Afghanistan Tajikistan, and the depth was 186 km.

No casualty and damages were reported.



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir carry the body of a martyred soldier after offering funeral prayers at Rawalpindi's Chaklala Garrison

Islamabad United, Multan Sultans set to battle for PSL 9 title

(APP): KARACHI Karachi's National Bank Stadium is set to host the HBL PSL 9 final on March 18th, wherein table-toppers Multan Sultans will meet Islamabad United to battle it out for the grand Orion Trophy.

The first ball is expected to be bowled at 9pm, while the toss will take place at 8:30pm.

Sultans, who qualified for the final after beating Peshawar Zalmi in the Qualifier, will be playing their fourth consecutive final. They were crowned champions in the 2021 edition and finished as runners-up in the subsequent two editions wherein Lahore Qalandars clinched two back-to-back

After finishing third on the table, United beat Ouetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi in the two eliminators to earn the coveted berth in the final. This will be two-time champions United's first final since 2018 – when they last won the HBL

In the lead-up to the playoffs, Multan Sultans

secured 14 points after winning seven out of their ten games. United finished with five wins, whereas their home game against Lahore Qalandars was washed out. As a result, United had 11 points, equaling with the fourth-placed Quetta

Gladiators Multan's Mohammad Rizwan and Usman Khan are the second and third highest run-getters of the tournament thus far, only behind Peshawar Zalmi's Babar Azam who ended HBL PSL 9 with 569 runs in 11 innings, including five half-centuries and one

Rizwan has accumulated 382 runs in as many innings, with four halfcenturies. Usman, having appeared in only six games, has made 373 runs on the back of two centuries and a half-century.

Colin Munro, with 309 runs from nine games with three fifties, is the highest run-getter for Islamabad United. Islamabad's skipper Shadab Khan has also starred with the bat and ball alike this season; in 11

games, he has produced PSL tournament, has 18 301 runs, including three wickets in 11 games, the most by any pacer in the half-centuries, and taken 11 wickets.

Leader of the Sultans

Naseem Shah, who spin attack, Usama Mir, made his move

tournament thus far.



is the current leading wicket-taker of the tournament, holding the Inverex Fazal Mahmood Cap. He has 23 scalps in games, including one six-wicket haul. His current tally of 23 is the best by any spinner in one edition of HBL PSL and is only two wickets behind Hasan Ali's record of 25 wickets, the most by any bowler in one edition,

pacer Mohammad Ali, the squad and all the play-

Islamabad United ahead of HBL PSL 9, has the most wickets for his team thus far. Assuming his role the leader of Islamabad's bowling attack, the right-arm seamer has grabbed 15 wickets in 10 games.

Shadab Khan: "I'm proud of my team for standing tall in crucial situations and getting through to the final of HBL PSL which has not been bested after a long hiatus of five years. This is what we in-Sultans' right-arm tended while assembling playing his maiden HBL ers have responded very

well throughout the group stage as well as the playoffs. Islamabad winning the trophy for the third

time will be a great achievement and I'm looking forward to whatever challenge Multan Sultans will pose in the final. Hopefully, our batters and bowlers will step up in a spirited manner as they have done throughout the season and will make us champions.

Mohammad Rizwan: "I am very proud of the way my team has played in this tournament. Our boys have displayed the true warrior spirit throughout the tournament. Whenever we found ourselves behind the opposition, our players stepped up through their bold and fearless approach.

"We have a solid team that has all the bases covered. Our locals, foreigners and emerging players have shone and produced some extraordinary performances. What further helps us is the fact that our team has gelled really well in the last four weeks.

"For tomorrow, we need to stick to our process. I am sure if our execution is perfect, the people of Multan and south Punjab will get a favourable



LARKANA: Police officials restore baton charge to repel protesters during the protest demonstration of Members of Justice for Hidayatullah Lohar Committee for demanding justice for him, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Afghanistan's soil being used...

Continued from page 1

issue with Afghanistan government He said those people who do not have valid docu-

ments would not be allowed to live in Pakistan. APP adds: Federal

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has condemned the terrorist incident in Mir Ali and paid tribute to the martyrs.

Addressing a press conference at his residence at Sialkot Cantonment, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that unity is necessary to fight the war against terrorism and those who sacrifice against terrorism are our benefactors. "Our security forces have made countless sacrifices against terrorism and the defense of this country has been kept

scarifying their lives in the ongoing war against terrorism. Our soldiers, including a Lt-Col and a captain, were martyred in yesterday's terrorist attack in Mir Ali," he added. He said that it is our

Pakistan Army that ensures were being operated from our safety while being outside the country but present at the borders in all some followers of the accircumstances and we the people are sleeping peacefully while these people ensure the fulfillment of their duties in cold and heat.

The Federal Minister said that once again terrorism had been rising for a few months and the war can be fought only by a united gov-

sion, there is division then martyrs, who embraced this war would spread in martyrdom while defendevery street and neighbor-

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that martyrs are our benefactors. "Pakistan Army, our police, our paramilitary, our people, women, men and children have sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism. If the country is stable today, it is because of martyrs. These martyrs have kept the defence of this country strong by giving their blood for the country," he added.

He condemned the nefarious campaign against martyrs on social media. 'Our martyrs are our pride, but there is no doubt that those who gave wrong remarks against them are in touch with terrorists. We are determined that

we will definitely succeed in uprooting terrorism, but for that we all have to be united," he added. The Defence Minister

said that the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) had successfully broken the nexus of terrorists, militants and insurgents in the country and it would eliminate the terrorists again and would not hesitate from any sacrifice for it.

He said that our Pakistan Army is one of the great forces of the world which is determined to raise its flags of success on any

Khawaja Muhammad

ernment and if on this occa- Asif added that Pak Army ing the motherland against the scourge of terrorism in Mir Ali, North Waziristan, were ridiculed by a political party on social media. "The martyrdom was likened to Returning Officers. When people expressed their anger on this Tweet, it was deleted," he added.

Targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ibnsaf (PTI), he said that separation of power and loss of power, the love of power had become so intense that you make fun of those who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan. "I think there can be no greater enmity with Pakistan than this," he main-

Muhammad Asif said that including martyrs over differences in the election is a very shameful act and the party which is doing this has actually lost its identity and today it is a nameless party, who is running this party and who is sitting outside the country and making abuses?

The Federal Minister said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has lost its identity and no one knows who is running the

He said that these people write letters to the IMF and US Congress members that Pakistan should not be given loans. He said that writing a letter to the IMF is equivalent to anti-nationalism.



Shah Jahan son of Muhammad Jan (Respondent No.5 in CPL) No. 3434/2020). Shah Jahan son of Muhammad Khan (Respondent No.1 in CPLA

30.

Ghous Bukhsh son of Ghulam Qadir (Respondent No.1(a) Ir

CPLA No. 3434/2020).

Muhammad son of Ghulam Qadir (Respondent No.1(b) in CPLA No. 3434/2020).
Shahid Ahmed son of Ghulam Qadir (Respondent No.1(c) if CPLA No. 3434/2020).

Feroze Khan son of Ghulam Qadir (Respondent No.1(d) in CPLA No. 3434/2020).
Mian Khan son of Haji Naseeb Khan (Respo CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/7020).

Muhammad Gul son of Haji Naseeb Khan (Respondent No.4(b) in CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020). Khudai Dost son of Haji Naseeb Khan (Respondent No.4(c) ir CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020). Feroze Khan son of Haji Naseeb Khan (Respondent No.4(d) in CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

Ghulam Rasool son of Muhammad Khan (Respondent No.8 in CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020). 3437/2020 & 3438/2020). Naukar son of Muhammad Hassan (Respondent No.10 in CPL) No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020).

3439/2020) all residents of Killi Almas Near Chiltan Housing Scheme, Airport, Quetta. 48. The Settlement Officer/Collector, Quetta (Respondent No.3 in CPLA No. 3429/2020, Respondent No11 in CPLA No. 3430/2020, Respondent No. 9 in CPLA No. 3431/2020, Respondent No.4 in CPLA No. 3432/2020, Respondent No.8 in CPLA No. 3433/2020, Respondent No.7 In CPLA No.3434/2020, Respondent No.2 in

Abdullah Jan son of Allah Rakha (Respondent No.1 in CPLA No.

CPLA No. 3435/2020, 3436/2020 & 3439/2020, Responden No.11 in CPLA No. 3437/2020 & 3438/2020) TAKE NOTICE that Court Notice regarding hearing of titled case could not be served upon you through ordinary mode of service

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that now the above noted cases stand fixed for hearing before the Court on 28.03.2024 at 9.30 a.m. or soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court at Islamabad.

because you are not available/residing at given addresses.

You are, therefore, required to appear before the Court or 28.03.2024 either in person or through Advocate-on-Record duly appointed by you in accordance with the Supreme Court Rules, 1980, failing which this petition will be heard ex-parte as against you

Islamabad, the 29th February, 2024

(NOOR MUSTAFA SHAH) ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (CIVIL-II) FOR REGISTRAR



CJCSC, Services Chiefs pay tribute to MM Alam **Independent Report**

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs pay tribute to the 1965 war hero Air Commodore Mohammad Mahmood Alam (Late) on his 11th death anniversary. Air Commodore Alam achieved the remarkable feat of downing 5 Indian Air force jets in less than a minute during the 1965 war - A record that remains unbeaten till date. The legendary PAF pilot shot down five Indian fighter jets piloting his F-86 Sabre jet plane, becoming an "Ace in a Day" on 7th September 1965. In total he had 09 kills and 02 enemy aircraft damages to his credit during a period of 11 days. The war hero was honored with the prestigious 'Sitara-e-Jurat' with BAR for his outstanding performance in

the 1965 war. The war hero breathed his last on 18th March 2013, in Karachi after a prolonged illness.

Elements behind campaign....

Continued from page 1 that it was a high time to

ful and tragic it was for his family. "Law enforcement agencies, the people of Pakistan, politicians and almost every segment of society have rendered a lot of sacrifices in the war against terrorism," he added. Attaullah Tarar paid tribute to all martyrs of Mir Ali including Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar and strongly condemned the malicious campaign launched by social media accounts associated with the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "The PTI is involved in disrespecting martyrs," he said, citing some examples such as May 9, when state institutions came under attack, martyrs' memorials were vandalised, and the Lasbela helicopter crash was ridiculed. The Federal Minister for Information said that the smear campaign against martyrs was not acceptable and it had not only hurt the sentiments of families of martyrs but also the entire na-

He said those who were behind the vile campaign were being identified and stern action would be taken against them. He said that accounts involved in the malicious campaign had been reported to relevant platforms but unfortunately the accounts were still operational.He said, "One can resort to political criticism but for God sake, stop promoting an anti-Pakistani agenda. He said, "Martyrs are

the pride of the country

and a guarantee of its sur-

vival." Attaullah Tarar said

get united in the larger interest of the country and certain red lines should not be crossed at all. The minister alleged that some political elements wanted to harm the national economy for their vested interests through negative tactics like writing a letter to the International Monetary Fund. He said it was a mis-

sion of the government to ensure development in the country besides making the lives of people prosperous. He said that the Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf should have openly condemned those who had demonstrated outside the IMF building and made online petitions to revoke Pakistan's GSP plus status. "There is a need to promote national harmony. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif talked about a charter of reconciliation just to put the country on track to real development," he He said that anything

against the country's integrity was not acceptable, adding that all political parties should condemn such actions and make collective efforts to strengthen the To a question, he said that many accounts involved in the vile campaign

counts were also in Paki-He said that many accounts were also being operated from Pakistan, adding that a legal action would be taken against the elements involved in the vile campaign so that such ele-

ments meet their logical end.

strong by the blood of our martyrs. The Pakistan Army is



ISLAMABAD: Founder & Chairman of Noon Foundation Khalil Ahmed Noon with large number of people participating in a Walk to "Raise Awareness about Kidney Diseases Their Precautions & Treatment in Pakistan" at Mehran Gate F-9 Park.

PUC vows global action against Islamophobia, calls for steps to address anti-Muslim sentiments ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- Islamophobia, labeling it as incitement of non-Muslims

kistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the Council is set to escalate its efforts on a global scale to foster interfaith dialogue and harmony.

Addressing international media in connection with the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia' the other day, he emphasized that Islamophobia poses a grave threat to Muslims worldwide.

Ashrafi urged world powers to accelerate initiaeradicate

a toxic barrier hindering interfaith harmony.

He called upon the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other international bodies to champion initiatives aimed at eradicating all forms of discrimination while nurturing a culture of love, tolerance, and coexistence. He stressed that Islam embodies peace, love, and tolerance, emphasizing the teachings of Allah Almighty and the Prophet Muhammad Prophet (peace be upon him).

Ashrafi lamented the

in the Federal Capital.

FBR official

responsible

for Justice Isa

case appointed

Chairman FBR, Malik

The three officers

pointed involved officer to

the coveted post of Commissioner IR LTO.

Zulifqar Ahmad, Sajida

Kausar and Khurshid Alam,

were removed from their

positions and placed in the

admin pool of the FBR af-

against Islam, attributing it to misinformation and hatred propagated against Islamic teachings. Recognizing Islamophobia as a crime, Ashrafi highlighted the designation of March 15 as the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia' by the United Nations, a milestone achieved through collaborative efforts involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other entities. Ashrafi emphasized the urgency of addressing global anti-Muslim sentiment, branding discrimina-

tion as a significant threat to world peace. He underscored the need to clarify the distinction between Jihad and terrorism through dialogue, particularly in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, which fueled wide spread misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in the Western world. The PUC, Ashrafi said, pledged to intensify its global endeavors for interfaith dialogue and harmony, culminating in an upcoming international conference. themed 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' in Islamabad after the holy month of Ramazan.

Revolutionizing University Land Use: PIDE's bold vision for commercial partnerships to enhance revenue for commercial endeavours ing societal support. through Public-Private

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), a Premier National Think Tank, has made public its investigative report titled "GORs Everywhere: University Land for Public Housing. "Authored by Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), M.Jehangir Khan, and Iram Nadeem, this study embarks on a critical analysis of the conventional utilization of university lands, predominantly allocated for housing within educational insti-

tutions' premises. It advances a transfor- and mative outlook proposing prompted by the scarcity the allocation of these tracts of tax dollars and diminish-

The Noon Foundation suc-

cessfully hosted an aware-

ness walk on Sunday

evening near Mehran Gate.

F-9 Park with aimed to en-

hance understanding of kid-

nev diseases, their preven-

tion and treatment options.

raising awareness about

kidney diseases and advo-

cating for lifestyle changes

to avert severe kidney-re-

A renowned nephrolo-

Partnerships (PPP), aiming at amplifying universities' revenue streams whilst augmenting local economies and societal well-being, said a press release issued here on Sunday. According to the press release, the report states that Universities globally have evolved from their traditional roles to become contemporary, busi-

and financial independence. This shift comes as higher education faces the dual challenges of growth sustainability,

Zubair Hassan underscored

the alarming prevalence of

Diabetes Mellitus in Paki-

stan which is nearly 30 per-

cent. This rate suggested

that one in every three Pa-

He highlighted that

He said, "In the span

kistanis is diabetic, the high-

est incidence worldwide.

necessitating dialysis.

of just over a year, we have

performed 7,600 high-qual-

ness-oriented centres of

education and research, en-

joying greater autonomy

In response, institutions are increasingly adopting entrepreneurial approaches, including selfpromotion, forging partnerships, and embracing technological innovations, to thrive in the knowledge economy and align themselves as competitive entities in both domestic and international arenas.

In Pakistan, universities confront similar financial challenges and debates over resource allocation, particularly concerning the construction of housing colonies on campus lands. Such practices are criticized for squandering valuable assets that could be more strategically utilized.

Iranian evnoy

sympathizes

with families

who lost their

loved ones in

terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Ambassador of Iran to

Pakistan, Reza Amiri

Moghadam, extended his

condolences to the people

of Pakistan and the fami-

lies who lost their loved

ones in the terrorist attack

on the security forces post in North Waziristan

pressed his deep sorrow and said, "I am deeply de-

jected to see seven young

Pakistani brothers in the

security forces of Pakistan

embraced Shahadat in a ter-

rorist attack while protect-

ing their motherland in the

We always believe that

My condolences to the

people and government of

Pakistan and the families

who lost loved ones'

Pakistani martyrs are also

Iran's martyrs.

The Ambassador said,

He further added,

Holy month of Ramadan."

In a message, he ex-

District's Mir Ali area.

Police determined to address public' issues on priority: **DPO Industrial Area Zone**

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the DPO Industrial Area zone held an open kutchery at Masjid Siddique Akbar, sector I-16 Noon police station area. The open kutchery was attended by citizens and senior police officials, a public relations officer said

He said that, 'Open Kutchery' are being held across the city to ensure the early redressal of public complaints following the orders of ICCPO.

DPO Industrial Area issued orders on the spot to address the issues of the participants and assured them that their suggestions will be taken into account.

Addressing the gathering, the DPO Industrial Area said the police were determined to resolve the issues faced by the residents. He said the open kutchery was helpful in maintaining direct relationships with the public.

He said that, better strategy on part of the police led to reduction in crime in the city.
The Islamabad Capi-

tal Police were taking steps to control crime further. He



Commissioner ISLAMABAD (Online): Instead of initiating criminal proceedings against Sajida Kausar and other accomplices involved in misusing their position to frame an asset declaration case against Justice Qazi Faez Isa Zubair Tiwana has ap-

proceedings, the partici- asked the gathering to copants shared their griev- operate with the police in

ances and also gave suggestions to resolve them. The city.

Shariah Board Pak sets minimum Sadaqah Fitr, Fidya at Rs 300 for Ramazan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Shariah Board Pakistan, Sheikh Al-Hadith Professor Dr. Mufti Muhammad Zafar Iqbal Jalali has announced that the minimum Sadaqah Fitr and Fidya for fasting this year was set at Rs 300 per person, roughly equivalent to two kilograms of wheat flour. He, in a statement, emphasized the importance of philanthropists and affluent individuals contributing Sadaqah Fitr and Fidya in accordance with

their financial capacity,

with values set at Rs 600 for oats, Rs 2,400 for dates,

Similarly, he outlined the Fidya rates for fasting the entire month of Ramazan, which are Rs 9,000 for wheat flour, Rs 18,000 for oats, Rs

72,000 for dates, and Rs 132,000 for raisins. Dr. Jalali clarified that Fidya for fasting was intended for individuals who were chronically ill or unable to fast with no pros-

pect of recovery. Travelers and those temporarily unable to fast were obligated to make up for missed fasts, as Fidya could not be a substitute for abstaining from fasting, he maintained

ter the case against Justice Qazi Faez Isa. **Gul condoles** martyrdom of Army soldiers in N. Waziristan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawaan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Gul on Sunday expressed his deep sorrow over the martyrdom of the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan.

The TJP Chairman prayed for the exaltation of the ranks of the martyrs in the hereafter and blessings of peace and patience onto the bereaved families, said a press release.

Abdullah Gul said it was not easy to offer the funeral of martyrs while expressing his deep grief and pain over the martyrdom of the brave sons of the soil.

He said that the government and opposition leaders should abstain from politics on such occasion as it was not the time for scoring points but rather for creating motivation and encouragement among all the ranks and files of the nation. He regretted that it was big tragedy but no news channels turned their screen margins and logos dark to express solidarity or held any talk show.

Women's voices should not be silenced

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Women in media have to struggle with more issues than others. They have to tackle pressures from family and in the workplace, but they have

to break through societal

boundaries to make their

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Islamabad breaking their fast at Faisal Mosque

working in Afghanistan are facing an additional layer of pressure in the form of guidelines ordered by the Taliban. Media reports Taliban have warned of a ban on 'female media appearance without dress

code compliance' The Afghanistan Jourit said the Taliban have between the unions and followed it may lead to a women in media and begin the media.

The Afghan women's and media organisations.
y needs to be told, The WMFP feels story needs to be told, which is why the women in the media need to keep working despite the severe pressure. Local media reports that "The Afghani-

Organization disclosed that out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, there are no female journalists in 19. The organization has estimated the current number of female media employees or journalists active in the media sector.

Women in media Forum, Pakistan (WMFP) stands in solidarity with its colleagues in Afghanistan. WMFP is a network of women in media across Pakistan. It was developed two years ago under the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) gender work in Pakistan. This network helps to amplify the nalists Centre (AFJC) is- voices and issues of women sued a statement in which in media and acts as a bridge warned if the rules are not press clubs to highlight ban on women working in a conversation with and within unions, press clubs,

more restrictions on women in the Afghan media could affect the work being done and may lead to the silencing of women's voices from stan Journalist Support inside the country.

Security personnel briefed for effective duty

Islamabad Capital City Po-cials, those performing se-

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of the special direction directions of the special direction directions of the special direction dire lice Officer (ICCPO) Dr. curity and squad duties at



Akbar Nasir Khan, a special briefing was held for the officers and officials deployed on important security duties regarding the better performance of their duties, a public relations officer said.

He said that, in this about being alert.

Supreme Court, to maintain the law and order situation and prevent any untoward incident. Officers were briefed regarding high-alert duty in view of the current situation, the officers and officials on squad duty were informed

lated complications, said a ity dialysis procedures at no cast, including the propress release. Administrator of a division of necessary medialysis center supported by cines and laboratory tests.'

gist, Dr Zahid Nabi engaged with participants in an interaction talk, focusing on approximately 12.5 percent of the population is at the end stage of kidney disease,

Noon foundation

hosts awareness walk

about kidney diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Noon Foundation, Dr



ISLAMABAD: Alarge number of Suzuki cabs waiting for passengers at khana pull.

India's extremist policies have shattered socio-political fabric of Kashmir: Altaf

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kashmiri representative Altaf Hussain Wani has said that the extremist policies of India's apartheid regime have shattered the sociopolitical fabric of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Altaf Hussain Wani stated this while taking part in a general debate held under agenda item 3 on the sidelines of 55th session of UNHRC in Geneva, today.

Speaking on behalf of the World Muslim Congress, he drew the attention of the Council towards the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in Indian held Jammu and

He told the world audience that abuse of basic human rights, arbitrary detentions and curbs on freedoms of expression and movement had become a new-normal in Kashmir.

He termed the recent visit of India's Prime Minister to the valley of Kashmir as an attempt to show a fake-normalcy. He said that besides forcing public servants to participate in Modi's political rally, people were gathered from different locations and herded to the main venue to ensure a crowd

for the prime minister. Altaf Wani said that Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir took place at the time when his right wing extremist party had not only failed in restoring political process.

ITP issues traffic plan for Pakistan Day Parade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued a traffic plan for the parade and full rehearsal day on March 23.

According to the spokesperson of the Traffic Police, heavy traffic entry will be closed from 12 midnight to 2:00 p.m. on March 17, 19, 21, and 23. Traffic coming from Lahore can use GT Road from Rawalpindi Saddar Road to Peshawar GT Road and Motorway

Similarly, traffic coming from Koral Chowk and Rawalpindi will enter Islamabad via Khanna Pul Lehtrar Road, and Park Road. Light traffic can also divert from Kashmir Chowk to Bahara Kahu and Murree. Similarly, during the parade, Faizabad will be

closed for all kinds of traf-

and Rs 4,400 for raisins. Faisal Masjid seeks applications for Aitekaf in last Ashra of Ramazan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Faisal Masjid is set to host 300 individuals for Aitekaf, a revered Islamic tradition of seclusion and devotion, in a bid to deepen their spiritual connection during the

holy month of Ramazan. The administration of Faisal Masjid has opened its doors to those seeking this profound spiritual experience in the last Ashra (10 days) of the holy month. It has announced that applications for Aitekaf will be accepted until the 10th of Ramazan, allowing eager devotees to secure their spots in advance.

Applicants are advised that the process operates on a first-come, firstserved basis, emphasizing the importance of prompt submission. Prospective participants are required to obtain an application form from the Faisal Masjid Islamic Centre office

ISLAMABAD (APP) The country's only natural history museum – Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) with its collection of around 1.6 million specimens is finally on way to expansion after experiencing a painful sluggish response of authorities during respective regimes.

Since, its establishment in 1976, this project generally remained a picture of neglect with its incomplete structure, when year 2023 proved as fortuitous for PMNH with the government allocating funds for construction of its remaining blocks.

The delayed construction of six blocks of this important outfit was a big hurdle in enhancing display of huge collection of unique specimens and expanding its galleries to attract maxiprevious coalition government led by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif finally allocated funds for this project and ensured that same are also released on

"The construction work of the museum has been started after receiving initial funds out of total Rs. 500 million allocated for this year. This money would be spent on construction of these blocks, Khalid Mehmood, who is heading this project in PMNH.

He informed that the contractors have been hired by the Public Works Department during October last year and work has been

'Construction of six blocks would be completed during three years time and it would help address the

issue of space shortage for displaying more specimen,"

Although the science and technology sector in Pakistan witnessed a boom during last few years with its departments diligently focusing on research and innovation, but the Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) could not get due share of funds to complete construction of its lingering six blocks.

The museum comprising only two blocks and delay in their completion since its establishment in 1976 had compelled the PMNH administration to display maximum specimens of natural resources in small rooms and corri-

Besides providing research facilities to faculties and students, PMNH regularly organizes trainings, workshops, seminars, symposia and other educational interactive activities related to natural history, environment and biodiversity of Pakistan.

PMNH has also formed many national and international liaisons with the other research institutes in the country and abroad.

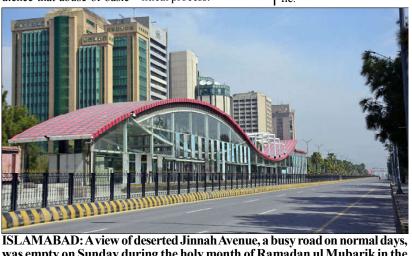
The museum executed a number of research projects of national importance including 'cooperative development of an innovative auto-ID platform for beetles from China and Pakistan' with the cost of Rs. five million," informed DG PMNH, Dr. Saima

'Hazards of wildlife aircrafts strike and their prevention' and 'Biosystematics of Insect Fauna of Khunjerab National Park, Gilgit Baltistan' are our two important projects being

executed at the cost of Rs. 4.3 million and Rs. 4.5 million respectively,' she informed

The Director General also mentioned to projects like development of outdoor volcano display, integration of QR code technology to enable visitors to scan code of the exhibit through their android phone and get all linked information, development of teachers training and STEM Resource Lab and a training program for school kids to teach them about conservation of nature.

'Despite financial constraints, PMNH generated Rs.6398.755 million revenue during year 2021-22 through visitors of its galleries," she said. "In all ,587 visitors including 102,085 students and 658 foreigners visited the facility during this period."



was empty on Sunday during the holy month of Ramadan ul Mubarik in the Federal Capital.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Monday March 18, 2024

Provincial share

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

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

The campaign appeared to pick up momentum over the past several years as the marks the beginning of country's fiscal predicament worsened. Nevertheless, robust resistance from the smaller provinces and certain political parties, particularly the PPP. and constitutional protection for the existing resource-sharing formula have kept such forces from undoing the here we are. It began with changes. The argument that increased provincial autonomy and an enhanced provincial about rich housewives, home makeovers, hoarders, marrying someone is dangerous for federalism you've never seen. Some must not be entertained, as the issue touches upon matters related to the future of the country. Any attempt to roll back provincial autonomy and financial powers would lead to greater friction between the shows have blurred. I'm not saying anything new. centre and provinces, as well Donald Trump has shown as among the federating units, which would harm the state's federal complexion.

and fiscal powers.

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

Maintaining security

Muhammad **Amir Rana**

The new government has been sworn in and, as expected, has made the revival of the economy its top

Everything is set for the continuity of policies formulated during the PDM coalition government's rule, even with the change of a few faces brought in to negotiate with international lenders. No change in foreign and internal security policies is expected either, as both had been synchronised with the objective of reviving the

Handling security-related policy affairs in Pakistan is considered a slippery slope, and civilian governments usually avoid intervening, leaving matters in the hands of the establishment. Security is a minefield for civilians, and both the PPP and PML-N have had a bitter experience handling affairs in this area

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari are both more pragmatic individuals and will try their utmost not to intervene in security affairs, which could disturb civil-military relations. There are very few chances that any standing committee of the Lower and Upper Houses will disturb the continuity security policies.

It is true that parliamentary oversight over security affairs is essential to deal with existing challenges and to ensure transparency and accountability in the actions of institutions. However, the existing approach has been evolved keeping the economy in mind, and the establishment will not tolerate any deviation in the execution of the policy formulated. The existing security framework has been built

the 'doctrine of strength', and there is little likelihood of a change in direction. This means that the authorities here will continue to put pressure on the Afghan Taliban to crack down on the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and other militant groups operating from Afghan soil. On its part, Kabul is likely to resist this pressure, and insist on a dialogue between Pakistan and the TTP. While the Taliban may have the two, prospects for peace remain dim. Pakistan demands a complete surrender and the renunciation of violence, which is not acceptable to the TTP and the Afghan Taliban.

It is likely that Pakistan will maintain some distance from the Taliban regime. This is partly due to pressure from its allies and lenders, who disapprove of close ties, such as those Pakistan had with the Taliban in the 1990s. However, China's approach towards the Taliban is different. China is willing to give the Taliban regime a chance to prove itself. While China may not openly criticise Pakistan's Afghan policy (the TTP, the Islamic State-Khorasan and the Taliban's support for Baloch insurgents all threaten Chinese interests in Pakistan), Beijing will likely caution Pakistan against distancing itself too much from the Taliban, as re-engagement could become difficult at a

Pakistan would like to continue to maintain its existing relationship with India, avoiding any escalation. Pakistan prioritises peace-

later stage

communication between However, the Iranians will respond decisively to any perceived violation of their sovereignty, as demonstrated by the swift retaliation to the Jan 16 incident, when Iran conducted missile strikes in Pakistani territory, claiming to target a militant outfit.

Pakistan seeks investment from the Gulf countries and China and will fully address the security concerns of these partners. Pakistan has already established a comprehensive mechanism to address China's specific security interests. The security needs of the Gulf countries would be different, and these countries would need a robust private and public security sector to meet the concerns of Gulf investors. This focus goes beyond traditional military defence and emphasises the role of law-enforcement agencies such as police and the counterterrorism departments. The federal and provincial governments may play a nominal role in evolving mechanisms, except by providing support through regulations and legislation if required. The most pressing challenge will likely been facilitating backdoor ful relations with Iran. come from Balochistan,

ing both military and political engagement for the state. In his maiden speech after taking oath, Balochistan Chief Minister after Sarfraz Bugti indicated that his government would also attempt a negotiation strategy with the insurgents. This statement directly contradicts his previous philosophy of brutally crushing the insurgency. Despite concerns within the party, Bugti joined the PPP before the election and was elected chief minister. He is considered to be the establishment's man, and his willingness to reconcile with the insurgents will be a significant test for him. Bugti has also stated that he will develop another programme, similar to the Balochistan package initiated by the PPP government in 2009 and continued under the PML-N and PTI governments. This programme was essentially an amnesty scheme for insurgents who were willing to lay down their arms.

where the insurgency is

changing tactics, complicat-

corruption.
The establishment's

However, it failed due to

poor planning and massive

field does not absolve the federal government of its own responsibilities. Its top priority will be addressing political agitation with a zero-tolerance approach This would mean preventing religious-political parties and the PTI from launching protest movements in the streets of the federal and provincial capitals. No one will stop the National Counter Terrorism Authority from drafting a few more versions of the National Internal Security Policy and other policies to counter violent extremism, which the federal cabinet will happily approve. After all, such policy drafts help boost the government's image in the donor and lender community. However, like previous policies, these drafts will remain on the shelf. Few are likely to highlight the missing persons issue, shrinking civil liberties and the decline of democratic values Those who try to exploi such issues, which could harm the image of the country, would be punished severely by those in power who see this as harmful to the country's image. Not even an Asad Toor would be able to survive. -- Cour-

Counting our deficits

Ghazi Salahuddin

With this week's advent of Ramazan, our lives have changed in some tangible ways. Our daily routines have acquired a new rhythm. At least in these initial days of the month of fasting, the tempo has considerably slackened. And, though it seems ironic, the cost as well as the consumption of an entire range of food items has risen.

In this environment of religiosity, there is a ense of a new beginning in some other respects too. We have new governments at the federal and provincial levels, finding their feet in a difficult situation. One surprise in this arena was the meeting beween Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and hyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, a PTI firebrand, on Wednesday.

Then, this is the We will have the summer equinox, when night and day are of equal length, this coming Wednesday. It spring. For us in Pakistan,

the long hot summer is descending on the plains. As it is, we have no way of celebrating spring and have no time to mourn the death of that life-affirming festival of Basant that once would brighten the lives of ordinary people in Lahore and other cities in Punjab

Incidentally Ramazan, as it is observed in many Muslim, mainly Arab countries, is a festive month. It enhances our sense of community and Sehri time can be livened up with a sense of adventure and drama. Iftar parties and late-night shopping pick up by the middle of the month.

Ah, but there is a seamy side to this month prayers and piety. Because of the high prices of necessary food items, against the backdrop of long-standing inflation, the plight of the poor comes into a sharper focus. Yes, Ramazan is also sistently the international the month when giving agencies have urged Pakiobligation for the believers. There is, thus, a lot IMF to deal with. This of charity being doled out. could be another new be-Extensive arrangements

ments have been allocated for the provision of relief packages for the poor and this operation is apparently being conducted this year in a more organized manner. But the publicity given to these projects, meant to score political points, is rather excessive. The authorities should respect the dignity of those who are receiv-

ing this aid. Anyhow, what we are witnessing is a society where the high visibility of the poor and the disadvantaged loudly proclaims its stark disparities. I recall some statements made by the World Bank about increasing poverty in Pakistan. There are relevant statistical assessments. But what we encounter in our daily lives is enough to certify the truth of our existence.

We know how conity. Now, we have the ginning that is being made are made to provide Iftar this month. We have a new government and a

Besides, large invest- new man to steer our fi- being is a glint of hope that the intended macroeconomic reforms will ultimately bear fruit

An IMF staff mission is in Pakistan and is holding discussions with the Pakistan authorities on the second and final review of the \$3 billion short-term bailout package. I have no expertise to expand on this dialogue on the reform agenda for economic growth and stability. What I suspect is that the remedies for our failures should not be beyond the imagination of our experts and planners.

I am reminded of what IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva had told our former caretaker prime minister when he visited the US for the General of Pakistan'

Just imagine the incongruity of this encounter. Here was the head of a government – a 'caretaker' he may well have been –

requested nancial affairs and there ("please"!) to protect the poor people of his own country. Yet, this must be a very hard, almost impossible, task for our rulers because the poor in Pakistan are not protected.

Fortunately, our present prime minister has confessed that the rich here have enjoyed subsidies at the cost of the poor – and he aspires to change this equation. But can he, within the scope of his tenure? Hopefully, he also understands that the poverty of our people is not to be measured only in material terms. The challenge is to replace the reality of the elite capture with the induction of social justice and the empowerment of all our

marginalized citizens There is this concept of human development Assembly session of the United Nations: "What vised its own index to rank we are asking in our individual countries in this programme is that please context. This is my final collect more taxes from reference to what has hapzakat and donations to the needy becomes an and achieve fiscal stabilthe wealthy and please pened this week. On the needy becomes an and achieve fiscal stabilprotect the poor people Wednesday, the United Nations released the latest report on the Human Development Index (HDI). So, where does Pakistan belong in this re-

Well, this fifth larg est country in the world population-wise, and a certified nuclear power, is ranked 164 out of 193 countries. This means that it has fallen three spots from the previous report There is no point in listing the ranks of other developing countries. In keeping with our place in nearly all social development indicators, we are at the bottom of South Asia,

barring Afghanistan Naturally, Pakistan is placed in the 'low' human development category. This index (HDI) seeks to quantify a country's level of prosperity based on both economic and noneconomic factors. The report notes that while the world has returned to prepandemic levels of development, there is a widening gap between the rich and the poor countries. It has stated that "rich countries experienced unprecedented development, vet half of the world's poorest nations continue to

languish' There is, thus, a lot for us to think about and Ramazan gives us ample time to reflect on these matters. TheNews

The plot sickens

to the general public.

Muna Khan

Reality TV shows are my on/ off guilty pleasure. I should be more embarrassed to admit this, but John Street explained how, a curiosity for The Kardashians and then it went downhill — shows are truly terrible, but then you have Traitors (the original British version) which is addictive and very good.

As a (ahem) connoisseur of such shows, I've realised the boundaries between politics and reality how it's no longer ludicrous to think a reality TV star can become president. Kanye West also attempted a run. People want Oprah Winfrey to run. Taylor Swift influences elections. Ukraine in reality shows, including George Galloway on Big Brother in 2006, when he was an MP, and 'Brexit king' Nigel Farage received a whopping £1.5 million for I'm a Celebrity last

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

that suits the performers. Like our politicians. Writing in Political

Studies Review in 2019.

over the years, there's been a mediatisation and personalisation of politics, resulting in politicians being treated as celebrities and not politicians. Celebrity politicians, as the brilliant media scholar Neil Postman wrote, are held to different standards. Well before the term 'fake news', social media and the internet, celebrity politicians were not held accountable for their falsehoods. US president Ronald Reagen praised apartheid in South Africa for ending segregation, when it hadn't. But voters didn't care for accuracy, they saw him as someone who tapped into

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

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

ower there. This plays out every night on our airwaves and social media, where everyone's vying for virality. To remain relevant, one has to up the ante, which is where tactics from the celebrity playbook help. Two recent incidents illustrate this ex-

The audience sees an ed- ample. One involves PTI ited version, a narrative MNA Shandana Gulzar, who implicated Maryam Nawaz in an audio leak wherein she claims the now chief minister told someone to "run over [PTI worker] Zilley Shah". The FIA has summoned her and she will likely be asked to produce evidence. In the same week, Sher Afzal Marwat accused Maryam Nawaz of plotting to kill him and paid Indian business tycoon Jindal \$100,000 for this hit.

This is the level of politics — and it sells. It is, as Street wrote, "the art of performance, the art of being celebrity'

I don't believe politicians say outlandish things because they believe them but be--cause they want to emulate their leaders and remain close to him/ her. They are expected to behave this way. And, they are not held accountable for their claims by the media; some journalists ask tough questions, but audiences don't care about veracity. Could action by FIA, for example, against Gulzar serve as a deterrent?

The day the UN released its Human Development Index Report showing Pakistan's decline in its position to 164 out of 193 countries, our media was busy analysing the meeting between KP chief minister and the men he spent a long time denigrating. I understand it was an important event, but it is an example of priorities. Of politicians, policymakers and the me-This is the only re-

ality I have known: No one cares about maternal health, child development, sanitation, access to water, gas, bijli, even X. Our political leaders and their handlers have lost the plot. The media is allowing lies to air as entertainment. And no one wins a prize for guessing how this will end. Courtesy Dawn

Aizaz Ahmad

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

Chaudhry

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

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

ity, and the rule of law. The outcome of the dialogue should be a national consensus to strengthen democratic norms and conduct, ensure the rule of law and meritocracy; and enable

the continuity of economic policies — a kind of charter of democracy, good governance, and economy.

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

economy.

For relief from the pressure of price hikes affecting ordinary people, regional trade opportunities, however limited in scope, should be explored, particularly for the provision of vegetables, fruit and other essential commodities. The government should not spend scarce resources on populist measures like dole-outs and charity programmes. Instead, efforts should be focused on creating jobs via an enabling environment for IT and microfinance. The much-needed civil service reforms should be implemented. No new task force or commission is required as considerable work has already been done, including by the Ishrat Husain-led committee, which had made doable and cost-effective recom-

mendations. Third, the nearly completed port in Gwadar should be immediately

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

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

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

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

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

(APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday said Khyber Chief that a comprehensive plan has been prepared for restoration of law and order in the province as it was top priority of his government.

He stated this while talking to media during his first ever visit to Dera Ismail Khan after being elected as Chief Minister. He said the implementation over that

He said the steps would also be taken for the safety of police and other

plan would be started soon as better law and order situation was imperative for progress of any area.

The chief minister has been reopened by said the government has restored 'health-card' needy people.

needy people.

people rather only giving

He said the women would be provided

provided with skill

trainings.

He informed that the

underway with other

countries regarding provision of employment

of the province would be sent abroad for

consultation

them charity or stipend.

facility.
"We have to improve the treatment facilities at public hospitals," he said and hoped that soon the people would not have need to visit private hospitals as provision of all facilities would be employment at their homes ensured at public hospitals. and youth would be

Commenting on the current wave of inflation, he said the provincial government will give Rs 10,000 each to 850,000 deserving families of the province under Ramazan package. It will be handed over to them at their doorstep respectfully, he training, the skilled people mentioned.

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



LAHORE: Member National Assembly Sardar Shamsher Mazari and Member of the Punjab Assembly Khizer Mazari call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Maryam announces 3-month remission in jail terms of prisoners, release 155 prisoners

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday announced three-month remission in punishment of prisoners and release of 155 prisoners across the province. Addressing the ftar dinner ceremony organised in the Kot Lakhpat Jail here, the CM stated that 155 prisoners are being released after

collaboration philanthropists. A video call facility will be provided in all the jails of Punjab very soon, she announced. The CM stated that

she herself remembered the

time spent during her

paying a diyat amount of

rupees 150 million with the

same Jail but was denied permission for meeting him. I used to meet my father once a week only. Once I received a hand written letter of my father which stated that he after being arrested is being taken to the NAB. Someone in the jail told me that your father is feeling. that your father is feeling unwell and is being taken to the hospital. It was a time of great difficulty. The CM stated that

she used to query as what wrongful act she has committed for which she is period of imprisonment kept in the jail and then

while coming to the Central
Jail today. " I was
imprisoned in the Death
Cell Chakhi and faced a
difficult time. My father
was also imprisoned in the
cond I leit but was depicted. cancer patient mother in the Adiala Jail. I used to talk with my children for 20 minutes only. I was greatly worried about my 5 years old daughter as she also underwent a difficult time. Someone in the court told my father about the state of illness of my mother and despite his repeated saying, no one allowed his conversation with his wife. I spent the difficult jail time with patience and perseverance A person gets 24 hours to think and ponder in the jail" she recalled.

De-siltation of 171 canals of DG Khan zone

to start today DG KHAN (APP): The de-siltation of 171 small and big canals of Dera Ghazi Khan zone will start on Monday, March 18.

The task has been given to remove silt from 1625 kilometers long canals

by April 20. Superintending Engineer Irrigation Department Khan Shaukat Hayat said that provincial, divisional, and districtlevel committees have been formed to monitor the canals. He said that the monitoring land information management system has also been made functional by the provincial

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

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

with private hospital Ameen said that Punjab **Independent Report** Constabulary officials will AHORE: On the direction be provided special tests and bed expenses at Farooq Hospital. A 100%

Punjab police sign MoU

of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, measures are being taken to provide best medical facilities to Punjab Constabulary personnel, in continuation of which an MoU has been signed between the Punjab Police and a private hospital group (Farooq Group). C o m m a n d e r Battalion-V, PC, Abbas Lines, SSP Mian Afinan

Ameen visited Farooq Group of Hospitals. Commander Battalion-V, PC, Abbas Lines, SSP Mian Afnan Ameen and CEO Dr Sabir Ayaz Malik signed the MOU. Under the MOU,
Farooq Hospital PC
Lahore will organize

medical camps along with medical experts on awareness and treatment of medical problems in PC Commander Battalion-V, PC, Abbas step in the lanes SSP Mian Afnan of the force.

discount on laboratory free treatment facility will be available at Akhtar Saeed Teaching Hospital for the families of police martyrs. Free treatment facilities will be provided to PC Lahore personnel as per hospital policy. This MoU will be applicable to DHA, Iqbal Town, Westwood Colony and Rawalpindi branches of Farooq Hospital. Under Sahet Saholat program Treatment facility will be provided at Westwood Colony Hemodialysis facility will be available in all branches under the health facility

programme. The IG Punjab appreciated the MOU with Farooq Group and said it will prove an important step in the health welfare



NAWAB SHAH: Daughter of Former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari submitted her nomination form to R.O for for By-election.

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

Independent Report Minister Bilal Yasin led a comprehensive inspection drive with Punjab Food Authority (PFA) teams in markets in the provincial

capital here on Sunday. The vigorous scrutiny resulted in the disposal of a staggering 2,500 kilograms of spoiled, substandard, and expired meat, bringing a sense of

relief to Lahore's residents. Under the vigilant eye of the provincial minister, proper de-siltation of the PFA teams descended upon Moghulpura Market, meticulously inspecting meat shops in the vicinity. In addition to swiftly disposing of unfit meat, strict warnings were issued to violators of food safety regulations.

Talking to media, Food Minister Bilal Yasin revealed that immediate action was taken to seize substandard and expired meat from the shelves of meat shops. He lamented the discovery of foulmeat in smelling

freezers,

unhygienic

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

The food minister directed the PFA teams to ensure the comprehensive traceability of meat supplied across Punjab, including Lahore. He reiterated his commitment to providing safe and hygienic food to the people, particularly during Ramazan. In line with

directives from the Punjab Chief Minister, a concerted crackdown counterfeit mafia is underway, with PFA inspection teams fully mobilized throughout the province. Encouraging citizen participation, Bilal Yasin called upon the people to collaborate with the Punjab Food Authority in eradicating adulteration and counterfeiting in food. In case of any grievances, he urged citizens to promptly reach out to the authorities at 1223.



subsidies rate.

Cash, gold worth million looted in Hassanabdal

ATTOCK (APP): Armed bandits looted two gold traders at gunpoint depriving them from gold and cash in Hassanabdal on Sunday and fled away successfully.

As per Muhammad Akbar reported to Hassanabdal Police that he, along with Muhammad Waseem, had collected gold from various jewelers in Attock city.

They had reached Hassanabdal Chowk to hire vehicle bound for Abbottabad when five armed bandits, wielding weapons and sticks, arrived in a passenger van. The bandits forcibly bundled them into the

vehicle at gunpoint. Subsequently, the armed bandits assaulted them inside the vehicle, snatching cash amounting to Rs. 0.6 million.

Competition in KP tough for Senate poll

competition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also tough in the Senate elections with a total of 42 candidates having submitted nomination papers for eleven seats of the Senate, an official of the Provincial Election Commission said

here Sunday. He said that there will be a contest between 10 candidates for two posts of Technocrat, 25 candidates for 7 general seats submitted their nomination papers, and 7 candidates have submitted their nomination papers for two reserved seats for women.

The official of the Provincial Election Commission disclosed that Azam Khan Swati, Qazi Muhammad Advocate, Waqar Ahmed Qazi, Dr. Hamad Mahmood Cheema, Khalid

PESHAWAR (APP): The Masood, Fazal Hanan, Dilawar Khan, Qaiser Khan, Noorul Haque Qadri and Syed Irshad Hussain are candidates for the Technocrat seat.

Irfan Muhammad Mehmood, Dilawar Khan, Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Azhar Qazi Mashwani, Niaz Ahmed, Waqas Orkazai, Fazal Hanan, Asif Iqbal, Azam Khan Swati, Murad

Faizur Rehman, Khurram Zeeshan, Attaul Haq, Masoodur Rehman, Shafqat Ayaz, Asif Rafiq, Mahmood Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, Muhammad Naseem, Sajjad Hussain, Taj Muhammad Afridi, Ahmed Mustafa, and Fida Muhammad are also candidates for the 7 general seats, said the official of the Provincial Election Commission.

employment.

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the GBDWP meeting at CM Secretariat.

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

Zahid Chanzeb, Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture, Museums and Archeology, Sunday revealed that the tourism industry generates 30 billion dollars in revenue to the national economy,

country's GDP. province with the world's cantt wherein he went best hill stations and around various sections tourist destinations and only focusing on this sector can revolutionize the economy of the province that can ameliorate the quality of life of the poor over here and the present PTI-led KP govt is quite serious to exploit all such vital sectors on crash grounds", he added.

PESHAWAR (APP): Ramazan, the 9th holy

month of Islamic calendar

teaches Muslims to

practice self-discipline,

sacrifice and empathy by

helping the underprivileged

besides encouraging actions

of generosity and compulsory charity for

s o c i o e c o n o m i c empowerment of poor

blessings, Ramazan is the

holy month in which

Muslims from across the

world show exceptional

endurance, patience and

empathy besides seeking

forgiveness and mercy

keeping them modest and

From dawn to dusk,

disciplined in life.

income can be obtained from the tourism sector to spend on ameliorating a lot poor and contributing in restoration of the economy and infrastructure of the province, he maintained.

He expressed this during his visit to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and got acquainted of its working. An introductory meeting was also held on this occasion.

Zahid Chanzeb while chairing the meeting said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has made it clear in his first policy statement that all due rights and financial

abstain Muslims from all

kinds of sinful actions,

negative behaviors, and

smoking. It teaches

immense virtues and

tolerance besides helping

the needy, vulnerable and

oppressed segments of

persevere in the face of any

difficulty or hardship for

Allah only. It requires us

according to Allah's divine

will, and He is the One to

take us out from all difficult

challenging situations,

said Muhammad Tayyab

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Qureshi, Chief Khatteeb of

circumstances

Famous for countless to tolerate any trial



PESHAWAR: PESCO workers are busy repairing the transformer in the Tehsil area.

Governor attends funeral prayer of Nisar Shakir

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

He condoled the death of Asif Nisar's father and prayed for patience for the Culture and Tourism family. The governor said that the services of late generously blessed our headquarters in Peshawar Nisar Ahmad Shakir will be

FIA arrests two outlaws for work visa fraud

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

According to official sources, the arrested outlaws are identified as Tariq Hussain and Anwar ul Hassan residents of Burewala. The alleged outlaws took money from a citizen on the promise of sending him to Bahrain on a work visa. However, the outlaws neither returned the money nor sent him a work visa. The aggrieved citizen approached the FIA

He

patient ones).

situations

society."In Islam, patience believe! seek help in

means to endure or patience and As-Salat (the

realizing that whatever we of Allah Almighty, we have

are going through is an obligation to be grateful

and

said

Almighty has repeated the

word, 'Sabr' (patience)

almost 75 times in the

Holy Quran which

indicates its significance

for humanity. The Holy Qur'an says, "O you who

prayer). "Truly! Allah is with As-Saabireen (the

when we earn Allah's

bounties. Similarly, we

should deal with all

calamities and difficult

forbearance, self-control

and humbleness," he and tolerates their added. "The Holy Prophet mistakes with sympathy

Allah

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

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

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

in which 130 male and

certified course, he said On this occasion Member Provincial Assembly Farooq Awan, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, UC10 Chairman Affairs Habib, Korangi District President Javed, City Councilor Afsheen Shah

and other local leaders were also present. The Mayor Karachi statement. He said that while addressing the dental surgery, orthopedic ceremony held after starting the development works said that the federal, provincial and local governments are now on the same page so it should be expected that there will be no hindrance in the

female students of Karachi 14 dead, 1122 injured in 1063 road accidents in Punjab

Independent Report AHORE: At least

AHORE: fourteen persons were

different hospitals, while 589 victims with minor

injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue

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

injuries were shifted to

rewards of enduring

in the hereafter.

medical teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 626 people with serious drivers, 44 underage drivers, 133 pedestrians. Ramazan: The month of patience, compassion for all

also laid great emphasis on greater rewards than the mercy, kindness and other believers, who do not sympathies with the needy do so. In another Hadith on and poor people besides the reward of fasting, the persons with different Holy Prophet (PBUH) abilities during Ramazan said, "Whosoever fasts and declared that the during Ramazan with faith

and seeking his reward from Allah will have his patience in hard times are manifold in this world and past sins forgiven.' The first Ashra of Ramazan is seeking mercy KP Chief Khateeb said, "Never a believer is of Allah, the middle one for forgiveness and the last one "As devoted servants stricken with a discomfort, illness, grief or mental to get liberation from the worry but Allah Almighty hellfire. "In Ramazan, there was a night of Laylaltul Qadar (the Night will expiate his sins on the account of immense of Power) and according to patience and compassion during Ramazan.' Holy Prophet He said a believer, (PBUH), every Muslim who socializes with people who prays on Laylatul

Qadar with faith and

sincerity, all his/her past

Muhammad (PBUH) had Ramazan's 30-day fasts while talking to APP. and gentleness would have sins would be forgiven.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali being aware about online diagnoses and treatment of diseases after inauguration of Shifa Digital Clinic

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

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

possibility of doubling the completed and others are bilateral trade between the in progress, which would two countries through air, rail and maritime integration, which will prove to be a catalyst in regional and global trade as well, he said while addressing the business community in Islamabad.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Iran were geo-strategically very important countries located at the junction of Middle East, South Asia

countries is of great and D-8 in which it was importance in the world of very easy to work on Geo- economy, said a press common economic goals. release issued, he said.

The Iranian envoy improve transit trade mega projects were between Pakistan and Iran, extremely important for 12 border trade markets Pakistan and Iran, which There is a strong 6 border markets had been relations between the two usher in a new era of

> and Chabahar were very both ports as coastal sister ports so that mutual economic development can be achieved jointly. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam said that both countries were which increases the

He said that both China Pakistan Economic said that in order to further Corridor (CPEC) and BRI had been opened, in which can stabilize the economic

The Iranian envoy said that the two mega economic integration in projects were not only in both countries. the interest of both He said that Gwadar countries and bilateral cooperation is of utmost important in maritime importance, which can trade ties, so both bring prosperity to the countries should declare region.

He said that in the same way North, South and Corridor and East, West were also very important in regional and global trade, and Central Asia. members of major forums
Therefore, the land and sea like Shanghai Cooperation of both Organization (SCO), ECO both countries.

Technical

varsities VCs

meet Punjab

industries

minister

Provincial Minister for

Industries and Commerce,

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain

has said that government

would transform technical

He was talking to Vice

Secretariat

Training

Chancellors (VCs) of

Technical universities,

who called on him here at

(Technical Education and

discussed with VCs the

matters relating to teaching

process, development

issues and future plans of the universities. The VCs

informed about the

problems of technical universities. While assuring

them of resolving the

problems of technical universities, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said, "I

will visit the universities

soon to review the teaching

and importance of technical

education cannot be denied

China's installed

capacity of power

batteries grows

in Jan-Feb

APP): China's installed

capacity of power batteries

went up in the first two

months of the year,

according to data from the

China Automotive Battery

installed capacity of the

batteries stood at 50.3

gigawatt-hours (GWh), up

February alone, the output

fell 18.1 percent year on year to 18 GWh.

The exports of the

2 percent year on year. In

During the period, the

Innovation Alliance.

(Xinhua/

in the present era.

BEIJING

He said the usefulness

process and problems.'

Vocational

Authority).

LAHORE



MULTAN: Laborers are busy unloading sacks of potatoes from delivery trucks at the Vegetable market.

Dollars' demand in market must remain balanced: Shahid

ISLAMABAD (INP): increase, which causes the Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the demand for dollars in increase the trade and the market should remain current account deficit, universities into real

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said The seven-month technical education. He was talking t here on Sunday, he said that a balanced exchange rate increases confidence in the market, which is very

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that maintaining the dollar's value was necessary to maintain the current balance between imports and exports.

A change in the value of the dollar affects the They have to use the most import and export sector, which disturbs the business environment, he

The business leader noted that the exporters get also expensive. The worried when the dollar becomes expensive. When the dollar becomes cheap, for the export sector,

deficits to rise. Both these situations affect the business environment.

He said that the dollar's depreciation will which has been controlled centers of promotion of

current account deficit has been reduced to one billion dollars, and the federal government has to pay 24 billion dollars in debt servicing in the current fiscal year, so no risk can

Shahid Rasheed said that exporters were currently facing problems. expensive electricity in the region. Gas has become more costly by 300%, the interest rate for them was up to 25%, and fuel was government had proposed to make electricity cheaper the imports start to which the IMF rejected.

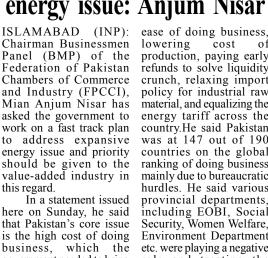
Govt should work on fast track plan to address expansive energy issue: Anjum Nisar

Chairman Businessmen lowering Panel (BMP) of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), policy for industrial raw Mian Anjum Nisar has asked the government to energy tariff across the work on a fast track plan to address expansive was at 147 out of 190 energy issue and priority should be given to the value-added industry in this regard.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan's core issue is the high cost of doing business, which the down to bring the local as well as the export industry Nisar urged for increasing

cost production, paying early Federation of Pakistan refunds to solve liquidity crunch, relaxing import material, and equalizing the country.He said Pakistan countries on the global ranking of doing business mainly due to bureaucratic hurdles. He said various provincial departments, including EOBI, Social Security, Women Welfare, Environment Department etc. were playing a negative government needed to bring role and treating the manufacturers

exporters like criminals. at par with global The BMP Chairman competitors. Mian Anjum called for giving a boost to



power batteries came in at 16.3 GWh during the January-February period.



QUETTA: Labourers are making bundles of mint and spinach for selling at Mizan Chowk.



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

Dubai's Al-Matiyah forum empowers global SMEs

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

The forum's primary objective was to build economic bridges connecting the Middle East with the world, presenting Dubai as a hub for entrepreneurial activity. This event not only emphasized Dubai's strategic importance but also showcased the UAE as a hub for culture and commerce, poised to foster the development of the next generation of Emirati business leaders.

Under the auspices of notable personalities like Petrus Bio Energy Do, a Sheikh Faisal bin Obaid bin pioneering Brazilian

Abdullah Al Mualla, Ammar bin Salem Al Qasimi, Sheikh Humaid bin Khalid Al Qasimi, His Excellency Awad Mohammed bin Sheikh Mejren, and His Excellency Dr. Juma Madani, the event signalled a new era

in groun.
cooperation.
Dr. Juma Madani,
laading Al-Matiyah forum's essence: "It transcends a mere conference; it's a gathering of sheikhs, ambassadors, and business leaders worldwide, converging to cultivate a dynamic environment of enterprise and innovation.

development, Al-Matiyah Investment forged a strategic partnership with

Suhail Al Maktoum, Ali bin company in sustainable agriculture and energy. This alliance underscores the forum's dedication to global expansion and en vir on mental stewardship.

> investment climate once again positions it as a diverse hub, attracting a wide array of business talent. With its economic strength, Dubai remains at the forefront of the global entrepreneurial scene. The successful debut of the Al-Matiyah Forum sets the stage for SMEs to thrive on a global scale.

The guest list boasted prominent figures from around the world, representing countries such as the United States, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Russia China, India, Egypt Morocco, Ethiopia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan.

NTDC acquires land Sec Agri for for installing 600 MW solar project in KotAddu

MUZAFFARGARH Transmission and help reduce dependence Dispatch Company (NTDC) acquired 2553 acres of land for establishing 600 Mega Watt solar power project two more similar in the Kot Addu district.
According to NTDC

Chowk Sarwar Shaheed of

NTDC spokesperson stated that the project will projects.

projects will generate 2400

women counters at Fair Price **Shops** MULTAN Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftekhar Ali Sahu

increasing

directed the officers concerned to increase women counters at Agriculture Fair Price Shop to facilitate maximum n the Kot Addu district.

According to NTDC

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MW will be installed in Layyah and 600 MW in layyah and 600 MW in layyah and 600 MW in layyah and these three Agriculture said that fair women entrepreneurs and the view that keeping up will be installed in Tehsil Jhang and these three Agriculture said that fair price shops have been set up across the province.



QUETTA: People are buying children's clothes from roadside venders at

Various markets, industrial bodies support PIAF in LCCI elections

LAHORE (INP): To Saeed Butt while the

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

The delegation from Paper Market Ganpat Road was led by APMA former chairman Khamis

express solidarity with the PIAF in the upcoming elections of Lahore Chambers of Commerce by Shehzad Aslam and the by Shehzad Aslam and the delegation from Baden Road was led by Tahir Hafeez.

On this occasion, the PIAF Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigol, Pattern-inchief PIAF and Vice President of SAARC Chamber Mian Anjum Nisar, Senior Vice Chairman PIAF Nasrullah Mughal, Former Chairman PIĂF Muhammad Ali

foreign trade hits record high in Jan-Feb NANNING (Xinhua/ APP):South Guangxi

Guangxi's

Autonomous touched a new high in foreign trade in the first two months of 2024, local authorities said Sunday. Guangxi's total

imports and exports in January and February hit 109.1 billion yuan (about 15.4 billion U.S. dollars), up 18.9 percent year on Exports rose 37.2

percent year on year to 60.59 billion yuan, and imports increased 1.9 Mian, Mian Abuzar Shad. | percent to 48.51 billion.

Reducing interest rates to devalue rupee, raise inflation: Mughal

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

allow the government to unnecessary expenditures that are not required at this point. Murtaza Mughal said that electricity and gas prices have troubled the

on Sunday, he said an

interest rate cut would

entire country. People are going bankrupt while factories are closing down. Many factories were running at half their production capacity;

therefore, the demand to reduce the electricity and gas tariff was justified, but getting approval from the IMF will be impossible, he

The business leader

ISLAMABAD (INP): net, bringing the non-taxpaying sectors into the tax net, and amending the NFC award have become necessary to save the

country. Restructuring of local and foreign debt has also become necessary. Still, caution is needed in this regard so that it does not hurt the market, he cautioned.

Murtaza Mughal said the federal government is considering handing over the electricity distribution companies to the provinces. How will the provinces run these companies when the federal government cannot

run them? It would be better to sell these companies because the private sector would run them efficiently. He noted that bill-paying consumers have to bear the burden of loss-making discos, which is tantamount to encouraging corruption and power

said that increasing the tax



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

'Modern designs, trends crucial for furniture industry'

LAHORE (APP): Modern can thrive in a dynamic and designing and new trends in the furniture industry are essential for gaining a competitive edge, driving sales and profitability, enhancing brand image, embracing sustainability, leveraging technology, and expanding international markets.

Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive furniture manufacturers led by Ms Nida Ejaz here on Sunday

designing and new trends play a crucial role in the furniture industry.

furniture manufacturers manufacturing processes.

evolving industry.

"Modern furniture designs often incorporate technological advancements to provide enhanced functionality and convenience. Integration of features like smart furniture, charging, and IT connectivity can make furniture more appealing to Officer Mian Kashif tech-savvy buyers," he

The PFC chief was of with new design trends allows manufacturers to leverage technological He added that modern innovations and offer products that align with the digital age. He said latest iture industry. design trends often By embracing these emphasize sustainable and trends, he said, the eco-friendly materials and

Big industry grows by 1.48% in January

Industrial (LSMI) sector witnessed an increase of 1.48 per cent during the month of January 2024 compared to the same month of last year, the

On a month-on- 1.90%), garments (0.86%), month basis, the paper & board (-0.10%), production in January also showed 0.03 percent growth over the output of December 2023.

Overall the LSMI showed a decline of 0.52

ISLAMABAD (APP): per cent during July-The output of the Large Scale Manufacturing compared with the same period of last year, according to PBS data.

The contributors towards the overall growth of -0.52% included, food (0.38%), Pakistan Bureau of beverages (0.12%), Statistics (PBS) reported. tobacco (-0.82%), textile (products chemicals petroleum (0.44%), chemicals (0.46%), pharmaceuticals (1.32%), iron & steel products (-0.05%),electrical equipment.



gas cylinder from vendor at Fort road.

Modernizing hosiery industry to boost exports individually these are small

Pakistan's industrial sector witnessed an overall decline in recent years, reorganizing modernizing this sector

would be an uphill task for the new government. With two seasoned politicians in the driving

seats as President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the business community hopes revolutionary steps to make local industry compatible to international standards for capturing more markets.

Due to volatile situation in the country during past half decade and rising input expenditures,

FAISALABAD (APP): As many small industrialists old motors, their energy were reluctant to invest more in textile sector especially the hosiery industry.

The businessmen are continuing with old and obsolete machinery although it cost them much than the latest technology making their products incompatible to goods being sold in international

"Most of our machinery is old and tromped, causing heavy energy wastage besides other inefficiencies in our overall production process," remarked Mian Abdur Rasheed, a veteran industrialist. "As they use

cost jumps up due to wastage of energy. Even then they prefer to pay high cost in energy bills." When asked about

reasons behind this tendency, he said as these industrialists witnessed uncertain situation in recent years and were reluctant to invest more to replace their old motors.

"Therefore, expect from the new government to direct its departments to focus on these issues and provide owners free consultation to improve their efficiency and controlling energy wastage," he stated.

share in local economy employing thousands of workers," he added. Therefore, they should be facilitated and guided to benefit from modern technologies to enhance their profitability." As the hosiery sector

units, yet collectively they

are contributing a sizable

can be segregated into local and export units, Jinnah Colony Faisalabad, Islam Nagar, Gulistan Colony, Haji Abad, Guru Nanak Pura have emerged as a hub of small hosiery units for local consumption while the major export units are housed in Millat Town, Álthough Jaranwala-Khurrianwala

Added City, Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate and Small Industrial Estate near Nalka Kohala.

When different local hosiery owners, their problems felt like identical as also faced by overall industrial sector like high cost of doing business, non-availability of cheaper raw material like fine counts of yarn consumed by hosiery

"We think the uncertainty prevailed in the country in recent past and high energy tariff were the major causes to hamper the growth of hosiery industry to a desired level

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

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

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

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

military operation". has repeatedly attacked oil refineries in Russia, shelled Russian regions and sought to pierce Russian borders with proxy forces - a move Putin said would not be left unpunished

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

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

An exit poll will be pub-War has hung over the three day election: Ukraine ends at 1800 GMT.

Supporters of Alexei Navalny, who died in an Arctic prison last month, had called on Russians to come out at a "Noon against Putin" protest to show their dissent against a leader they cast as a corrupt autocrat.

"Alexei was fighting for very simple things: for freedom of speech, for fair elections, for democracy and our right to live without corruption and war, Navalny's widow, Yulia, said in a message to a rally in Budapest on March 15. "Putin is not Russia

Russia is not Putin.' There was no independent tally of how many of Russia's 114 million votfirst two days had already ers turned out at noon to show opposition to Putin.



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

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

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

Israel had said on Friday it would be sending a delegation to Doha, but did not spell out when it would mately rejected.

do so or who would take part. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to convene the security cabinet before the talks. Israeli officials were not immediately available to comment on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

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

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

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said on Saturday if

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

speech that was whipped

Liberal Party fundraising rally.

Monitoring Desk

is building a network of hun-

dreds of spy satellites un-der a classified contract with

a US intelligence agency, five

sources familiar with the

programme said, demon-

strating deepening ties be-

tween billionaire entrepre-

neur Elon Musk's space

company and national secu-

rity agencies. The network

is being built by SpaceX's

Starshield business unit un-

der a \$1.8 billion contract

signed in 2021 with the Na-

tional Reconnaissance Of-

fice (NRO), an intelligence

agency that manages spy

satellites, the sources said.

ASHINGTON: SpaceX

US agency engages

SpaceX to build spy

satellites

tuated by some profane language, Trump predicted that if he does not win the Nov. 5 general election, American democracy will come to an end. "If we don't win this election, I don't think you're going to have another election in this coun-Trump said. Trump, who is under criminal indictment in Georgia for trying to overturn the result of the 2020 election there, this week won enough delegates to mathematically clinch the

Republican nomination.

TORONTO (Canada): People being handed out food to break their fast as

supporters of a ceasefire in Gaza gather to protest outside the venue of a

of SpaceX's involvement in

US intelligence and military

projects and illustrate a

deeper Pentagon investment

into vast, low-Earth orbit-

ing satellite systems aimed

at supporting ground forces.

If successful, the sources

said the programme would

significantly advance the ability of the US government

and military to quickly spot

potential targets almost any-

growing trust by the intelli-

gence establishment of a com-

pany whose owner has clashed

with the Biden administration

The contract signals

where on the globe.

by strong winds and punc-

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

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

urday.
The troops from 181
Amphibious Battalion had responded to the conflict in the Okuoma community when they were killed on Thursday, Brigadier General Tukur Gusau said in a statement.

Bolsonaro says he does not fear being put on trial

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro said he does not fear being put on trial, one day after a police investigation revealed the farright politician tried to coop the country's military chiefs in a coup plan to overturn his 2022 election

Bolsonaro did not refer directly to the allegations made by two armed forces commanders that he had summoned them to discuss a possible coup d'etat to prevent leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from returning to power.

babies' in Gaza, says UN **Monitoring Desk** "What they do see UNITED NATIONS: The humanitarian situation in

No more 'normal-sized

mothers and babies, with doctors reporting small and sickly newborns, stillbirths and women forced to undergo C-sections without adequate anesthesia, a UN official said.

"I'm personally leavfor the one million women and girls of Gaza... and most especially for the 180 women who are giving birth every single day," Dominic Allen, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) representative for the state of Palestine, said in a video news conference from Jerusalem.

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

though, tragically, is more stillborn births... and more Gaza is a "nightmare" for neonatal deaths, caused in part by malnutrition, dehydration and complications The numbers of complicated deliveries are roughly twice what they were before the crisis with Israel began — with mothers stressed, fearful, underfed ing Gaza this week terrified and exhausted — and caregivers often lacking necessary supplies.
"We have had reports

of insufficient anesthetic being available" for Caesarean sections, "which again is unthinkable." "Those mothers should be wrapping their arms around their children," he said. "Those children should not be

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

EU to bolster Egypt ties with billions in funding

Monitoring Desk

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

rights groups.

The agreement is designed to enhance cooperation in areas including renewable energy, trade, and security while delivering grants, Íoans and other funding over the next three years to support Egypt's faltering economy.

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

Inflation has been running close to record highs and many Egyptians say they struggle to get by. Over the Cypriot president.

the past month, however, the financial pressure on the government has eased as Egypt has struck a record deal for Emirati investment, expanded its loan programme with the IMF, and sharply devalued its

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

Egypt has been the main conduit for international humanitarian aid sent to Gaza, and along with Qatar and the United States has been trying to mediate a truce between Israel and European Commis-

sion President Ursula von der Leyen will lead a delegation on Sunday that also includes the Italian and Greek prime ministers and

Venezuela's Maduro announces candidacy for July re-election

Monitoring Desk

CARACAS: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro will run for a second re-election to secure another sixyear term in voting planned for July 28, the ruling Socialist party said.

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

"There's just one outcome, the people's victory on July 28," Maduro said, wearing a bright red zip-pered jacket. "They haven't been able to stop us, nor will they be able to.

Recent polls show 13.9% of Venezuelans plan to vote for Maduro, far behind opposition candidate Maria Corina Machado's

But though Machado won an opposition primary in October, it was unclear whether she will appear on the ballot after the

a ban barring her from holding public office.

Candidates have until March 25 to register and it remained unclear whether the opposition will name a replacement for Machado, who is under increasing pressure to pick a substi-

The US partially rolled back sanctions on Venezuela's government in late 2023 because of an elections deal with the opposition, but the nascent rapprochement came to an end with arrests of opposition figures and the court decision about Machado. The US has pledged a reinstatement of oil sanctions from mid-April.

Ruling party sources have told Reuters the reversal in policy by Maduro may be due to waning popularity with his base.

Venezuela has suffered hyperinflation and an unprecedented economic collapse since Maduro took power in 2013, after the death of his mentor, Presicountry's top court upheld dent Hugo Chavez.

Iceland volcano erupts again, spewing fountains of lava

Monitoring Desk COPENHAGEN: A vol-

cano in Iceland erupted on Saturday for the fourth time since December, the country's meteorological office said, spewing smoke and bright orange lava into the air in sharp contrast against the dark night sky.

In a video shot from a Coast Guard helicopter and shown on public broad-caster RUV, fountains of molten rock soared from a long fissure in the ground, and lava spread rapidly to each side.

The eruption began at 2023 GMT and the fissure was estimated to be about 2.9 kilometres long, roughly the same size as the last eruption in February, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said in a state-

Authorities had warned for weeks that an eruption was imminent on the Reykjanes peninsula just south of Iceland's capital Revkjavik.

The site of the eruption was between Hagafell and Stora-Skogfell, the same area as the previous outbreak on Feb. 8, the Met Office said.

"This was definitely expected," said Rikke Pedersen, head of the Nordic Volcanological Centre.

"Of course the exact time of the eruption is impossible to predict. The first cues of this moving towards the surface actually only happened about 15 minutes in advance," she

Reykjavik's Keflavik Airport's website showed it remained open both for departures and arrivals.

Lava appeared to be flowing rapidly south towards the nearby Grindavik fishing town, where a few of the nearly 4,000 residents had returned following earlier outbreaks, the Met Office

The town was again being evacuated, public broadcaster RUV reported. An outbreak in January burned to the ground several of its homes.

Voters cast their ballots at a polling station on the final day of the presidential **Biden roasts Trump at** Climate protesters Washington press dinner

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden joked about Donald Trump and his own age at an annual media dinner on Saturday — before unloading deadly serious criticisms of his rival in November's election.

'One candidate's too old and mentally unfit to be president," the 81-year-old of St. Patrick's Day "took Democrat quipped at the Gridiron Club in Washington. "The other guy's me Democrat Biden was

Monitoring Desk

making his first speech as president at the annual white-tie gala for the US media and political elite, an event that Republican former president Trump

addressed in 2018. Biden is trailing in a number of polls and faces voters concerns about his age, which he has tried to address by highlighting 77year-old Trump's recent verbal slip-ups. In his re-

at Republicans in Congress who have launched an impeachment inquiry into his son's business dealings, saying they would "rather fail at impeachment than succeed at anything else."

He added that Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, sitting at the head table with Biden on the eve one look at Congress and he asked for another Guinness.

Varadkar and Biden both pushed during a meeting at the White House on Friday for Republicans in Congress to stop blocking military aid for Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion.

But Biden then returned to Trump, saying that the Democrats' election campaign would show how they rebuilt the US economy after the Covid-19 pandemic "without encouraging the American marks, Biden took a swipe people to inject bleach".

Modi says he's confident of win in India elections

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India will elect a new parliament in seven phases between April 19 and early June, the country's election authority said on Saturday, in what amounts to the world's largest election with nearly one billion eligible to vote.

The election pits two-term strongman Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his regional allies against a bickering alliance ernance and public serof two dozen opposition parties, with surveys suggesting a comfortable win for Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP).

A victory would make Modi, 73, only the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's independence hero and its first prime minister, to win

a third straight term. 'We address you at a precious moment, when we as a nation are set to reiterate our pledge to elec-

dians will together express their will once again," Rajiv Kumar, the head of the independent Election Commission of India, told re-

The last of the seven phases of voting will be held on June 1 and votes counted on June 4, he said.

Modi said the "biggest festival of democracy had started and his party would campaign on its track record of "good gov-

"I have full confidence that we will get the full affection and blessings' of more than 960 million voters for the third consecutive time, he said in a series of posts on X.

Modi and his party have been in campaign mode for months. The prime minister has been flying around the country almost daily, inaugurating new projects, taking part in religious events and addressing public and private

under fire in Europe, says UN **Monitoring Desk**

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

ered beacons of democracy. Michel Forst, the UN special rapporteur on environmental defenders, said that he was deeply troubled by the hardening tone against climate activists in countries including France, Austria Germany and Britain

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

Man suspected of killing 3 people in Philadelphia area arrested in New Jersey, police say

Monitoring Desk TRENTON: A man suspected of fatally shooting three family members in their Philadelphia-area homes Saturday was arrested in New Jersey after evading law enforcement for hours as police mobilized across two states. shutting down a parade and an amusement park and or-

dering some residents to stay in their homes. Steve Wilson, police director for the city of Trenton, New Jersey, said the man was arrested near a house where officers had believed he was barricaded

inside. He apparently left the home before the police cordon was erected, Wilson said.

Wilson added that he did not believe the suspect was armed at the time.



economy quarter of 2023 from the island nation's unprecedented financial crisis as tourism arrivals rose, the government said on Saturday. Agriculture, industries and services boosted the expansion to 4.5 per cent in the December quarter compared to a 12.4pc contraction a year earlier, the census and statistics de-

partment said. It added however that the economy shrank by

2.4pc overall during 2023 compared to a contraction of 7.8pc in 2022, when the country defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt.

'Sri Lanka's economy experienced some kind of duality in 2023," the department said in a statement, noting that the first half of the year recorded negative growth while the economy bounced back in the second. 'The long-awaited

boom in tourism came towards the end of the year," the department said, adding that worker remittances too had improved.

and sparked controversy over tal Port-au-Prince. the use of Starlink satellite con-Two injured in **BBQ** eatery blast in eastern China **Monitoring Desk**

UNICEF says

essential aid

container looted

at Haiti port

Monitoring Desk

PORT-AU-PRINCE: The

UN children's agency said

on Saturday one of its aid

containers at Haiti's main

port, stocked with "es-

sential items for maternal.

neonatal and child sur-

vival," was looted, as

gangs increasingly control

resolve a long-running

political and humanitar-

ian crisis that the

UNICEF, has warned is

causing record hunger and

life-threatening malnutri-

tion in parts of the capi-

Haiti is struggling to

agency,

the capital.

children's

SHANGHAI: people were injured on Saturday after a powerful blast at a barbecue shop in the eastern Chinese city of Huaian, local authorities said, the latest incident to spur calls for better restaurant safety checks across the country.

Videos online posted by state media showed that the blast that occurred at 4:20 p.m. local time (0820 GMT) ripped off the facade of the eatery's building, sending big black plumes of smoke into the air and spraying glass shards across the street.



BERLIN: Police remove an activist during a "disobedient assembly" called by an environmental group.

CDWP approves Rs. 4.54bn **Energy Sector Project for Gwadar District**

ISLAMABAD (INP): To address the electricity demands of Gwadar, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved a crucial "revised" energy

This project focuses on enhancing the transmission line infrastructure for the coastal city, marking a significant step forward in meeting Gwadar's energy

The CDWP meeting, led by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, sanctioned the energy project for Gwadar along with another initiative Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province fol-

lowing detailed discussions. The approved energy sector project, titled "Construction of 220kV Trans-

mission Line (28km) along with 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV Transmission Line from Jiwani to Gwadar (94km) Revised, is valued at Rs. 4540.010 million, Gwadar Pro re-

This initiative, worth Rs. 4.54001 billion, aims to be financed through the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

Its primary objective is to provide an uninterrupted power supply to consumers across all categories and enhance the overall commercial viability of the power sector.

The project entails the construction of grid stations and includes the establishment of a 132kV (AIS) grid station in Jiwani, featuring a 132 KV Line Bay facing the Jiwani – reported.

Gwadar Circuit. It also involves setting up a 132kV (AIS) grid station in old Gwadar, including a 132 KV Line Bay facing the Gwadar (old) -

Jiwani Circuit.

Furthermore. project encompasses the construction of a 220/ 132kV Transmission Line from Gabd to Jiwani (Zero Point) and the second Circuit Stringing of the exist-ing 132 kV SDT Jiwani-Gwadar (old) 99 KM Transmission

(QESCO portion). This project is set to significantly improve the power infrastructure in Gwadar, representing a crucial development in addressing the energy needs



QUETTA: Sardar Rab Nawaz Kurd, Agha Ali, Ali Raza Ahmedzai and other meeting with MPA Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri.

AJK President urges unified action against India's Kashmir agenda

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

Speaking at an Iftar dinner on Sunday, he highlighted the launch of a public awareness campaign from Mirpur aimed at exposing the human rights violations by Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir and advocating for Kashmiri self-determination on the global stage. Chaudhry criticized Indian Prime and the broader Kashmiri Minister Modi's use of Kashmir as a political tool, tonomy. alleging it to be a ploy to

secure electoral gains. action to address the wors-

MIRPUR (APP): Azad underscored the responsi-Jammu Kashmir President bility of all Kashmiris in advancing the freedom

Regarding local issues Chaudhry pledged to address concerns in Mirpur, including the Rathoa Haryam Bridge issue, and announced efforts to improve road infrastructure in the area. In addressing unemployment, he promised opportunities based on merit for educated youth.

Chaudhry's remarks highlighted a commitment to both local development struggle for rights and au-

He urged overseas Kashmiris to advocate for He called for collective the cause internationally, emphasizing the resilience ening situation in Indian Il- of Kashmiris against Indian legally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ing violence in the region.

Aleem Khan vows to swiftly resolving public interest matters

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan, has pledged to address longstanding public interest issues in NA-117 with top priority. During an iftar gathering with former chairman, vice chairman, and councilors in his constituency NA-117, he, also the President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), em-

coordinated development efforts. Joined by MPs of PP-145 and 146, Samiullah Khan and Ghazali Salim, the event saw discussions on strategic plans for constituency development.

The IPP president outlined plans to establish a central office in NA-117 facilitating collaborative efcomprehensive constitu-

Resolution of masses' problems govt's top priority: Tarar LAHORE (INP): Federal

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said that resolution of the problems of masses was topmost priority of the present

elected government.

Addressing a ceremony here he said, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had always served the people of Pakistan with utmost dedication and under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan will make strides towards progress and pros-

Govt collects Rs 142 tax & levy per liter on petrol, diesel

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani government has revealed details on the taxes and levies collected on petrol and diesel. Sources report that the government collects Rs 82 per liter as tax on both petrol and diesel, with an additional Rs 60 per liter levy. This translates to a total collection of Rs 475 billion from consumers in the first six months, with a target of Rs 920 to 970 billion projected for the entire year. According to media reports, in a separate announcement, the government has decided to maintain petrol prices.

phasized the importance of ency development. Feasibility study for construction of Gwadar Expressway Phase II underway

practical step towards the the Pakistan Engineering expansion of Gwadar Ex- Council (PEC), with relpressway Phase II of Gwadar Port, the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Ministry of Maritime Affairs has floated a tender to hire the services of consultancy firms (National & International) for survey and feasibility study for the execution of

The Gwadar Expressway Phase II, with a length of 10.5 kilometers, aims to connect the Gwadar Port with New Gwadar International Airport.

Any company regis-

evant experience, and providing an affidavit confirming non-involvement in any arbitration or litigation with any government agency or department can apply for the project.

The consulting firms shall be engaged via quality per Public Procurement single stage two envelope bidding procedures as per PPRA rule 36(b) will be adopted.

Companies can submit all required documents 2022

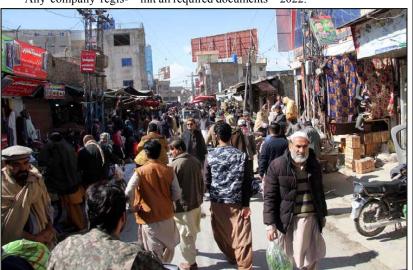
GWADAR (INP): As a tered as a consultant with by April 17, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Gwadar Eastbay Expressway is the main artery of Gwadar Port through which the entire traffic of the port will flow. The objective of

Eastbay Expressway is to provide primary connectivity of the Port & its Free Zone with the network of and cost-based selection as National Highways for smooth logistic transporta-Regulatory Rules while tion of import, export, and transit goods.

The 19-kilometer

Gwadar Expressway hase I was completed and inaugurated on June 3,



QUETTA: People are busy in buying food items before Iftar times as demands of food items increased in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-



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

Ayaz, Dr. Amiri discuss bolstering parliamentary, economic relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Ambassa-dor of Iran, Dr. Amiri Moghaddam Sunday dis-cussed bolstering parliamentary and economic re-lations between Iran and Pakistan

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

He emphasized the need to strengthen these ties further by expanding cooperation across all mutual areas of interest, particularly in energy and trade, to uplift the economies of both nations, especially those living on both sides of the common border. Roof collapse leaves 6

astating incident struck the

Ragzai area of Barmal

Tehsil in South Waziristan

on Monday when the roof

of a house tragically col-

lapsed, claiming the lives of

six people and injuring four

were three men, two chil-

dren, and a woman, accord-

ing to rescue officials who

swiftly responded to the

Among the deceased

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

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

Ayaz Sadiq underscored the pivotal role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations. He expressed in-

scene and worked tirelessly

to extricate the victims. The

deceased were transported

to the DHQ Wana

morgue, while the injured

received immediate medi-

cal attention at the DHK

collapse remains under in-

vestigation as authorities

work to ensure the safety

of the community in the

aftermath of the devastat-

The cause of the roof

dead and 4 injured

in South Waziristan

PESHAWAR (INP): A dev- ers swiftly arrived at the

tent to actively engage all relevant stakeholders regularly to support governmental efforts in achieving the common goal of expanded economic coopera-

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

Speaker's vision for collective growth and assured full commitment and cooperation from Iran across all ar-

The Ambassador also informed the speaker about the upcoming visit of the Iranian President to Pakistan, highlighting its significance in advancing bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various sec

Amnesty Int'l urges govt to restore X in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Amnesty, along with thirty-one civil society organizations, has signed a joint statement urging Pakistani authorities to restore access to X platform. The statement stated that such actions not only violate fundamental rights such as freedom of expression.



Jinnah road need the attention of concern authorities.

Muhammad Ali Achakzai condemns suicide attack at security forces in NW

Independent Report QUETTA: The social and political leader of Chaman, Muhammad Ali Achakzai has strongly condemned the cowardly suicide attack at the check post of security forces in North Waziristan.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Sunday, Muhammad Ali Achakzai said that the security forces humiliated the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan by attacking the forces.

He said that the morale of security forces and nation would not be down through such cowardly

He said that every Pakistani is grieved over the martyrdom of Army Officers and jawans and share grief with their families.

He also paid rich tributes to the brave officers and jawans who embraced martyrdom in the incident of He also stressed the

need to take strict measures against terrorism in the country.

He said that the people of Balochistan are standing by their security

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

Asad Qaiser, the former National Assembly speaker and prominent PTI leader, on Sunday hit back at federal ministers Khawaja Asif and Attaullah Tarar, who charged his party with running a smear campaign against the martyrs of Pakistan military and

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

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Khawaja Asif and [Information Minister] Ataullah Tarar's misleading propaganda about the martyrs is regrettable," he remarked.

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

of each and every soldier protecting the country, averred the PTI leader. PTI leader Barrister

Saif also came down hard on the PML-N, accusing them of exploiting the martyrs for political gains.

Amnesty International has demanded the immediate restoration of the social media platform 'X' from the government of Pakistan.



AHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Dr Asif Kirmani has said that he hasn't replied for Senate

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that it was not true that PML-N has not awarded Senate ticket to him. Dr Asif Kirmani said

'I am in Muslim League-N and still consider Nawaz Sharif as my leader. He further stated that he hasn't applied for Sen-

ate ticket, neither interested

nor contacted anyone in

this connection. The political leader said that he was affiliated with PML-N by birth and don't need certificate of loyalty from anyone.

Katcha dacoits shoot two captives dead; throw their bodies into river

KASHMORE (INP): The dacoits of katcha area who had kidnapped two persons after luring them to Rojhan a few days ago, have thrown their bodies into the River Indus after murdering them brutally on Sunday.

The dacoits shot Ahsan and Shehzad, both masons by profession, dead when they saw them fleeing.

President rejects workplace harassment case against FCE Prof.

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

This decision comes in the wake of a contentious case involving allegations of harassment against Dr. Samia Dogar, a former director at the Federal College of Education (FCE). Earlier on December 8,

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

This decision followed against Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary under the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010. Key concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): were raised by the Ombuds-The President of Pakistan man regarding the initial inquiry committee's proceedings, highlighting serious violations of Dr. Samia Dogar's due process rights.

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

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

Meanwhile, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, contested the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment and filed a representation an appeal filed by Dr. Samia with the president of Paki-

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



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir pays condolence to martyrs family after Funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed at Chaklala Garrison.

Solar lamps distributed among more than 100 houses in Railway Colony

Independent Report

IARNAI: The former caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai distributed solar camps among more than 100 houses in a backward area of Railway Colony Harnai on Sunday.

The Wing Commander Frontier Corps, Colonel Javed was also ac-

sion, the former caretaker Provincial Minister said that at the moment, there is electricity crisis all over the

where there is no electricity at all, he pointed out.

He said that electricity is supplied in the area merely for two to three hours in this particular area of Harnai.

While on the other hand, people were also upset about the excessive bills of electricity, he added. The former Minister

mentioned that around 15,000 solar lights have been distributed in backward areas of different dis-Speaking on the occa- tricts of the province. In addition to this, ra

tion is also being arranged for 800-1000 families by the Health Balochistan. The distribution of ra-

There are several areas tion would be started among the deserving families soon, he announced

Promoting sports in **Balochistan among top** priorities, says secretary

tary Sports and Youth Balochistan Dr. Javed Anwar Shahwani on Sunday said that it is the responsibility of the government to provide sports opportunities to the athletes.

The Department of best opportunities to the

In a statement issued

QUETTA (APP): Secretop priorities for which practical steps are being

He said that like every year, this year also 23 March will be celebrated in a grand manner and sports competitions will be organized in all the districts of Sports and Youth Affairs of Balochistan for which in-Balochistan has created the structions have been given best strategy to ensure the to all district sports offic-

Dr. Javed Anwar Shahwani further said that here, the secretary said that best facilities will be propromotion of sports in vided to the athletes in the



Kakar planting trees during the tree plantation campaign on the bypass. FIA arrests seven

human traffickers, hawala hundi operators ISLAMABAD (INP): The of a substantial amount of

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday claimed to have arrested a total of seven individuals, including four wanted culprits, allegedly involved in human trafficking and operating illegal money exchange business

As per FIA spokesperson, revealed that the individuals were arrested from different cities across the country including Multan, DĞ Khan, and Bahawalpur.

The FIA spokesperson reported that the ap-

local currency, exceeding Rs 1 million in cash, while a significant sum of foreign currency, amounting to 4562 Saudi Riyals, was also seized from the sus-The FIA has vowed to

continue its efforts to root out such unlawful practices and bring the perpetrators

Earlier in the day, responding to the report of the Libya and Greece boat accident, the FIA blacklisted 87 officers across the country from being posted prehended individuals were in the immigration depart-