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## Balochistan cabinet to be formed by April 4: No difference within Govt.'s ally parties on formation of **Balochistan cabinet: CM Bugti**

couldn't deliver well.

very much.

issue.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has announced that the Provincial cabinet would be formed by April 2, and adding he made it clear that there is no difference among the ally parties of the government on formation of the cabinet.

The Chief Minister was speaking informally to the media persons at the Chief Minister Secretariat on Tuesday.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti maintained that he would be meeting the ally parties included in the government on March 22.

During the meeting, he would speak about the formation of cabinet, he said adding that the cabinet ruption Department. would comprise 14 minis-

The Chief Minister ters and five advisers. The Chief Minister as- said that the poverty and serted that no special As- unemployment are also sistant and coordinator major issues of the provwould be made part of the ince Provincial cabinet.

He said that we would resolve the issues of prov On the occasion, he regretfully pointed out that ince together. the health department The Chief Minister anthe health department

nounced to send youngsters Similarly, the Project Director could also not be of the province abroad for employments and liveli-hood. appointed for the flood re-He mentioned that

habilitation project for last eight months, he noted. 1,000 youngsters would be Referring the Reko Dik sent abroad during one year project, he said that it period.

would benefit the province Referring the issue of missing persons, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we He said that corruption want to resolve the issue of is the biggest and complex missing persons.

However, there is dif-ference in the data of voice He said that a senior police officer is being for missing persons, famposted on the post of Diily members and that of Sardar Akhtar Mengal. rector General Anti-Cor-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about the relief and rehabilitation activities in the wake of recent torrential rains as well as weather forecast and preparedness.

### **PM directs for a report** over provision of relief to recent rain affected people

video link

houses

ration had been distributed

tended by Minister for besides ensuring transpar-

briefed during his visit to Naval Headquarters.

ency in its distribution.

## **Pakistan greatly** values its ties with **Bahrain: Zardari**

est. He stated that it was

his firm belief that Pakistan

would grow stronger as it

had immense potential to

become a prosperous coun-

Commander of the Na-

tional Guard of Bahrain fe-

licitated the President on

assuming the office for the

second time and expressed

the hope that Pakistan

would move forward under

his leadership. He said that

both countries enjoyed ex-

cellent defence cooperation

and expressed his gratitude

for the supportive role of

the Armed Forces of Paki-

Sheikh Mohammad bin Isa

During the meeting, the

SLAMABAD (INP): in the areas of mutual inter-President Asif Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan attaches great value to its fraternal ties with Bahrain which are based on shared religion, culture and history.

He highlighted the need to translate the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bahrain into a mutually rewarding economic part-nership. The President expressed these views while talking to the Commander of the National Guard of Bahrain, General Sheikh Mohammad bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. The Ambassador of

stan. He also reiterated Bahrain to Pakistan, Mr Bahrain's continued sup-Mohamed Ibrahim port to Pakistan. General Mohamed Abdul Qader, was also present during the meeting. Welcoming the bin Salman Al-Khalifa exvisiting Commander, the President said that Pakistan and Bahrain enjoyed excellent relations, which needed to be further strengthened



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari welcoming the Commander of the Bahrain National Guard, General Sheikh Mohammad bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### Pakistan denounces



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with media men

PM calls for ensuring early implementation of Pak-Kuwait agreements

ISLAMABAD (INP): ISLAMABAD (APP): and efficient mechanism to President Asif Ali Zardari

investment. He also ex-

tended an invitation to

Amir of Kuwait to visit

Pakistan at his earliest con-

venience.

cult times.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cheema, Chairman NDMA Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed Lt Gen. Inam Haider Malik and relevant senior officials. Minister for Planning, Defor submission of a report velopment and Special Iniregarding quick and transtiatives Ahsan Iqbal atparent provision of relief to tended the meeting through the people affected by re-

cent torrential rains across He also directed the National Disaster Manage-ment Authority (NDMA) to accomplish a joint survey report in collaboration with the provinces, besides enhancement of cooperation with the provinces to face the future calamities.

The PM also sought an implementation report over his directive in the previous tenure regarding technical improvement of NDMA, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister was given a detailed brief-ing by the NDMA about Zardari felicitates **Putin on victory** the relief and rehabilitation activities in wake of recent in Presidential torrential rains as well as weather forecast and preparedness.

The m

Economic Affairs and Es-

Prime

the country.

tablishment Ahad Khan

The meeting was apprised of the recent damages, rescue efforts and distribution of assistance amount. The NDMA with assistance of provinces; specially Balochistan would soon complete a collective verification survey over number of complete

and partially damaged Under the PM's directive, a total of 766,000 kg dry ration would be distributed in Gwadar till March 24, out of which about 388,000 kg ration had been distributed so far till March 16. Moreover, 97,000 kg

in Quetta and Dalbadin, it was further informed. The PM directed that the relief process should be completed immediately, dom of expression, but it

#### Terrorists to be given befitted reply: Naqvi LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has

said that terrorists who attack on Pakistan will be given a befitted reply. Talking to the media

after appearing for scrutiny of his nomination papers for Senate elections at the Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Office on Tuesday, he emphasized that there would be no compromise on terrorism and no one would be allowed to infringe upon the country's

sovereignty. He added that no leniency would be shown in this regard. In response to a question, he stated that illegally residing foreign nationals would be repatriated, and the Federal Investigation Agency would be revamped and strengthened.

To another question about the current wave of terrorism in the country, he affirmed that it would be countered and eliminated at any cost. Responding to inquiries about social media, he clarified that there are no restrictions on free-

should not be misused.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for concerted efforts from both sides to ensure the early implementation of seven agreements worth US\$ 10 billion signed between Pakistan and Kuwait in November last year.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Ambaselection. sador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan Nassar desire to work closely with Abdulrahman Jasser them to further strengthen Almutairi who called on the bilateral relationship him here. with a focus on trade and

The prime minister noted with satisfaction that both countries had signed seven agreements for cooperation in diverse areas including food security, technology, hydel power, mining and minerals, water supply and mangrove rehabilitation, a PM Office press release said.

Prime In this context, he emphasized the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) dence and sovereignty durwhich provided a robust ing the 1990-91 crisis.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### US asks Taliban to stop terrorist attacks against Pakistan from Afghan soil

on Saturday.

ensure that terrorist attacks

are not launched from Af-

ghan soil and we urge Paki-

ted to ensuring that Af-

comes a safe haven for ter-

rorists who wish to harm

added

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States has called on the Taliban to ensure that terrorist attacks against Pakistan are not launched

from Afghan soil. Asked to comment on stan to exercise restraint and Pakistan's "intelligenceensure civilians are not based anti-terrorist operations" inside the border regions of Afghanistan, Department Monday. State spokesman Vedant Patel said that the US "deeply" regrets the loss of life and 'injustices" sustained ghanistan never again beduring an attack in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Seven Pakistani the United States and our troops were killed in the terrorist attack at a secu- partners and allies," he rity post in North

attract foreign investment has felicitated Russian into Pakistan. President Vladimir Putin on

He said that Pakistan his victory in Presidential attached great importance elections. to its historic and deeprooted ties with Kuwait.

In a post on his X handle, he expressed the He thanked the Kuwaiti confidence that relations leadership, including Amir between Pakistan and Rusof Kuwait Sheikh Mishal sia will grow further under Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al the dynamic leadership of Vladimir Putin Sabah, for the warm wishes and felicitations on his re-

#### CM announces The PM expressed the to nominate

Dr Rubaba Buledi for prestigious civil award

elections

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has The Kuwaiti ambassaannounced to nominate dor thanked Pakistan for its member Provincial Assemsupport to Kuwait in diffibly, Dr. Rubaba Buledi for the prestigious civil award, He thanked former Sitara-e-Imtiaz for her re-Minister

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif markable contribution in the health sector. for his strong public sup-While chairing a review port to Kuwait's indepen-

meeting of the health development here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister announced nomination of Dr. Rubaba Buledi for the civi award on preparation of the draft of Healthcare Commission and performing extraordinary services during COVID situation and making important legislations in the province.

May 9 case ATC issues arrest

warrants for CM Gandapur, 12

other PTI leaders RAWALPINDI (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Waziristan's Mir Ali area 11 other PTI leaders in cases relating May 9 may-"We urge the Taliban to

hem. According to details, the ATC Judge Malik Ijaz Asif directed to produce the accused before the court on April 2.

harmed in their counter-ter-The accused have been rorism efforts," Patel told named in the light of 164 his daily news briefing on statements of Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, Sadaqat "And we urge both Abbasi, and Umar Tanveer sides to address any differences. We remain commit-

Butt. The ATC has issued the warrants of KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur, Shabbin Awan, Shehbaz Gill, Musrrat Jamshed Cheema. Murad Saeed, Dr Shireen Mazari, and Shibli Faraz.

operational preparedness ISLAMABAD (INP): minister on recent acquisi-Federal Minister for Detions of state-of-the-art platfence Khawaja Muhammad forms and equipment to en-Asif called on Chief of the sure an invincible seaward de-Naval Staff Admiral Naveed fence of the country.

Later on a detailed brief-Ashraf and discussed with ing was presented by Deputy Chief of Naval him matters pertaining to Regional Maritime Security Staff (Operations) on the milieu and operational readiness of Pakistan Navy. prevailing maritime envi-Upon arrival at Naval ronment, challenges being Headquarters Islamabad, faced by Pakistan Navy and the Defence Minister was response by Pakistan Navy received by Chief of the to meet the challenges. At Naval Staff and was prethe end of the briefing recsented guard of honour. The ommendations were given Defence Minister was also to the Defence Minister for introduced to the Principal capability enhancement of Staff Officers at Naval

Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf apprised the economy. Defence Minister on roles, capabilities and future modernization plans of Pakistan Navy. He briefed the

Kh Asif, Naval Chief discuss **Regional Maritime Security,** 

Steel Mills.

the verdict which was earlier reserved after hearing arguments from respondents.

During the course of proceeding, the defence lawyer argued that Islamabad High Court (IHC) had already acquitted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz in same reference.

The running of trial against his clients would be wastage of court time, he said.

## Nomination papers of 28 candidates accepted: Scrutiny of nomination papers of all 38 candidates contesting Senate polls completed

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The scrutiny of nomination papers of the cepted after scrutiny. filed candidates

candidatures for contesting 19 candidates was done on elections of Senate on gensecond and last day of the eral as well as technocrat scrutiny i.e., on Tuesday, and women seats was comthe same was conducted pleted on Tuesday here. for 19 others on first day.

The Returning Officer for the Senate elections in Balochistan, Muhammad Farid Afridi, who also happens to be the Provincial Election Commissioner. carried out the necessary scrutiny of nomination papers of the candidates

Headquarters.

were included: former care-At the outset, papers taker Prime Minister of 28 candidates were ac-Anwaarul Haq Kakar, While the scrutiny of

former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, former Federal Minister and provincial Ameer of JUI, Maulana Abdul Wasey, ANP's Needless to mention Aimal Wali Khan, Kauda here is that in all 38 candi-Babar, Amanullah Kanrani, dates had filed nomination PPP's Sardar Umar Gorgej, papers for 11 seats of Sen-Mir Changez Jamali, Kiran

ate from Balochistan. Baloch, besides Sana Jamali, Bilal Ahmed Khan, The prominent among those who filed their pa-Saeedul Hasan, Rahat pers for the Senate elec-Jamali and others. tions from Balochistan

## fresh round of curbs on Kashmiri political parties

With the fresh notifi-

The affiliates of these

"However, such op-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiri parties; release all Pakistan on Tuesday dethe political prisoners, innounced the Indian au- cluding Yasin Malik; and thorities' decision to deimplement the UN Secuclare the Jammu and Kash- rity Council resolutions on mir Peoples Freedom Jammu and Kashmir," it League and four factions of was reiterated. Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League as "unlawcations, a total of 14 ful associations".

Kashmiri political parties It also denounced the have become outlawed in decision to extend the ban Indian Illegally Occupied on Jammu and Kashmir Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (Mohd (IIOJK). Yasin Malik faction) for five more years, Foreign parties are also facing per-Office Spokesperson said secution. Most notably, a in a press statement. death penalty has been sought for Yasin Malik,

India's ongoing campaign to crush dissent in who was awarded life sentence in 2022. the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) contravened the pressive tactics cannot international human rights suppress the Kashmiri and humanitarian law as people's aspirations for rewell as democratic norms, alization of their inalienthe spokesperson further able right to self-determisaid.

nation. as enshrined in the "The Government of relevant UN Security India is urged to lift the Council Resolutions," it curbs on the banned was stressed.

### **PPP** issues party tickets to five candidates for Senate general seats

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) is-Baloch. The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Mir Changez Jamali, sued the party ticketers to Mir Sadiq Umrani and five candidates contesting other party leaders handed elections on the general over the party tickets to the seats of Senate from candidates. Balochistan on Tuesday. The PPP tickets were

It may be mentioned here that elections are to be held on seven general seats Senate from Balochistan. The polling would be

held on April 2, 2024 at the provincial assembly.



**OUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz** Bugti hands over party ticket to Kiran Baloch for general election of Senate on behalf of PPP.

issued to the PPP's senior leader from the province Sardar Umar Khan Gorgej, provincial President of PPP, Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Mir Tariq Mesori, Ejaz Baloch and Kiran

Property and Al-Azizia

**Court acquits** Hassan, Hussain Nawaz in three references ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC)

#### on Tuesday acquitted Hassan and Hussain Nawaz from three references including Flagship, Avenfield

The court announced

#### PN and promotion of maritime sector (Blue Economy) for revival of the national Khawaja

economy. KnawaJa Muhammad Asifappreciated the importance of Pakistan Navy to safeguard maritime interest of the country.



Independent Quetta

Wednesday March 20, 2024

Miscellaneous

## We are committed to host Champions **Trophy in Pakistan: Mohsin Naqvi**

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Chairman PCB Mr Mohsin Naqvi held a press conference on Monday night, at National Bank Stadium in Karachi. During the press conference, the chairman addressed Pakistan Cricket Board's commitment towards hosting ICC Champions Trophy next year.

"We are committed towards hosting the ICC Champions Trophy at home. I am really hopeful that it will take place in Pakistan. Champions Trophy was on the agenda of the ICC meeting I attended recently, and I reinstated our board's commitment towards hosting the event.

'Our three main venues - Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi – will be upgraded before the Champions Trophy. We will upgrade other venues later as well, once these three are done. Our stadiums will be state-of-the-art once they

have been renovated." as soon as it is locked." "I met with Jay Shah, plans for domestic cricket, Secretary BCCI, and the conversation we had was Chairman PCB said: "Last very fruitful. I will not be year, PCB organised 2700 going into details as it is a domestic games. In the next sensitive matter, but I want four months, we are planto reassure everyone that ning to hold around 9,000 PCB is committed towards domestic matches. holding the Champions That is the target we Trophy in Pakistan, and have given to ourselves. I

to achieve that."

will leave no stone unturned believe that we need to start working with students as it When asked on a deciis better to unearth talent sion been made regarding in early stages. We are the coaching staff, Chaircollaborating with colman PCB replied, "We are leges in Lahore, Karachi currently working on it. We and Islamabad to host are trying to finalise the tournaments in Ramazan. coaching staff at our earli-Director Domestic Cricket est. I will not go into dehas shared a plan with tails, but there is a lot of me, which will soon be backend work being done to finalised once the strucsearch and finalise the staff, ture is done. Our target is as the players are scheduled to hold domestic games, to leave for Kakul soon as unearth and develop talwell. We will try to hire the ent." best we can find. I will not

On planning regarding organising Women's T20 be taking any names, as all league, Chairman PCB rethe discussions are in preliminary stages. We will affirmed they have already announce the coaching staff started work on a Women's

League and will share the When asked on any conclusive plans once everything has been finalised.

When questioned does he have any plans to work on pitches, Chairman said, "I am trying to get four or five different kinds of pitches made in National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore. One will be made out of Australian soil, one will be made out of English soil and the remaining two or three pitches will replicate other regions. I hope we are successful in this endeavor as such pitches are required by our players. Our stadium pitches are quite dead as well so they need to be worked

for the whole nation.

tion," the prime minister

said in a statement.

upon

well.



performance of Labour and Manpower Department

#### **PM** felicitates Islamabad **United over PSL 9 win** kistan Cricket Board, secu-ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz rity forces, administration, Sharif on Tuesday conall the organisers and the gratulated the Islamabad United team for winning spectators for ensuring the success of the PSL 9. The whole PLS Series the 9th Pakistan Super

League, saying that the cricket was a uniting factor presented the great contests as well as the sportsman spirit, he said and par-In the last ball thriller, ticularly thanked the international players who had Islamabad United departicipated in the tournafeated Multan Sultans by

two wickets in the PSL ment. "The PSL did not only final at National Bank provide recreation to the cricket lovers but also Stadium, Karachi on Monday, becoming the first team to have won the title for the played a key role in exploring the sports talent at the third time as the team already championed the PLS in 2016 and 2018 as grassroots level. It also helped revive the international cricket in Pakistan,"

"Both teams played a fabulous game. This is the victory of whole nation, not Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked. He also reiterated that any single team. The cricket the incumbent government game unites the whole na-

was determined to take allout measures for promotion of cricket and other He also lauded the Pasports in the country.

## Pakistan, China agree to advance collaboration, emphasize CPEC monitization

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

He further emphasized kistan and China have agreed to advance their col-laboration in various sectors the paramount importance of the China-Pakistan Ecoincluding industrial zones, nomic Corridor in country's agriculture, mineral and growth strategy and overmining and renewable enall economic recovery. During the meeting, it

It was discussed in a was said that next phase of meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad CPEC would focus on monetisation of gains made Aurangzeb and Chinese during the first phase. Ambassador to Pakistan In his remarks, Chinese

**Court accepts acquittal** plea of Imran in two cases of Long March vandalism

Naeem Panjutha said

Warrants were issued.

Government job is to pro-

He requested he

vide security.

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has accepted acmon Imran Khan. quittal plea of PTI founder Judicial magistrate Shaista Kundi remarked let Imran Khan in Long March us debate over Imran Khan vandalism cases. acquittal plea first. Who

The petition regarding will be responsible if some production of Imran Khan thing happens with Imran in the court in two Long March vandalism cases and Khan on the way to court. his acquittal plea came up for hearing before Judicial magistrate Shaista Kundi earlier Imran Khan has been appearing in the courts on his own. Operation was Tuesday. conducted in Zaman Park.

Naeem Haider Panjutha, Sardar Masroof and Aamna Ali counsels for Imran Khan appeared in the court.

During hearing of the Weather to be

dry at day time; cloudy in evening: PMD ISLAMABAD (APP): Mainly dry weather is ex-

pected in most parts of the country during day time and partly cloudy during evening/night ac-cording to the Pakistan Meteorological Depart ment (PMD).

However, light rain wind/thunderstorm with light snowfall over hills is likely at isolated places in Gilgit-Baltistan and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during night hours.

According to the synoptic situation, continen-Ambassador Jiang Zaidong tal air was prevailing extended felicitations to over most parts of the Muhammad Aurangzeb country. upon his appointment as

case Naeem Panjutha re- in the presence of Imran quested the court to sum- Khan. However the court re-

Page 02

jected the plea for production of Imran Khan in the court.

Judge Shaista Kundi remarked attendance is must on the occasion of bail. Production is not necessary during the hearing of the matter of acquittal.

Counsel Naeem Panjutha argued on the acquittal plea of Imran Khan that several cases against Imran Khan were registered in one day. Only the same role of Imran khan was



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad.

### Shadab Khan celebrates **PSL** win with family in touching video

KARACHI (INP): and 2018. While Imad Islamabad United captain Wasim received the Plave

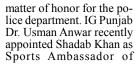


QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti issues PPP party ticket to Sardar Umar Gorgage for general election of Senate.

### IG Punjab greets Shadab, IU for winning the PSL final

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Police brand ambassador Shadab Khan's team has become the champion of PSL season 09. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar congratulated Shadab Khan and Islamabad United Cricket Team for winning the PSL

Final



Punjab Police. Islamabad

United captain Shadab

Khan has also been given

unhygienic meat Independent Report LAHORE: On the directions of PFA Director Gen-

eral Muhammad Asim Javaid, meat safety teams conducted a massive operation to crack down on unhygienic meat shops and fast-food points in the city

PFA shuts food

point for storing

and shut down a shop be-sides imposing Rs345,000 fine on 16 outlets.

PFA's watchdogs in-ected 56 meat shops

IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that Shadab Khan led the Islamabad United cricket team as the exemplary leader, star allrounder crowned PSL season 09 on the head of Islamabad United.

Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police Ambassador Shadab Khan's team winning the PSL final is a in Punjab Police.

## AC seeks report from NAB in Toshakhan vehicles case against Zardari, Nawaz, others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has sought report from NAB on next hearing in Toshakhana vehicles case against president Asif Ăli Zardari, former prime ministers Yousuf Raza Gillani, Nawaz Sharif and others. Nasir Javed Rana heard

the case on Tuesday. During the hearing of

the case NAB sought time for filing report. NAB prosecutor Azhar Maqbool while giving arguments said

KARACHI (PR): Javed

Ahmed, Managing Director

and Chief Executive Of-

ficer, Jubilee Life Insurance

presented the Wicketkeeper

of the Tournament Award to

Azam Khan after the HBL

PSL 2024 final match be-

tween Islamabad United and

ment, Jubilee Life Insurance,

the Official Insurance Part-

Throughout the tourna-

Multan Sultans.

stumps

Nawaz Sharif had given ap plication for including him posing an emergency pro-hibition order (EPO). He in the investigation. He was included in the investigasaid that the authority took tion. Now our investigation action against the food busiofficer is not available. ness operator (FBO) for Report will be given in storing unhygienic meat in

the light of the investigadirty freezers with the intion if the case can be run tention of using it in food or otherwise. Court should preparation. give time till next hearing. He further said that We will file report.

HBL PSL Season 9

Jubilee Life Insurance presents

Wicketkeeper of the Tournament

Award to Azam Khan

PFA imposed hefty fines Judge Nasir Javed Rana on FBOs for failing to while accepting NAB plea adjourned the hearing of present employees' medicals and training cer-Toshakhana vehicles casetificates to the raiding teamstill April 17.on the spot.

province.

Jiang Zaidong in Islamabad fast-food points and meat today. carrier vehicles in Tollinton

Speaking on the occa-Market, Kachupura and G1 sion, the Finance Minister Market Johar Town in a highlighted the roll-over of daylong operation. SAFE deposits and the re-During the operation PFA discarded 120kg of financing of commercial loans, which have signifistinky meat and 30litres of cantly contributed to the economic ties between both

rancid oil, as well as, issued economic stability of coun- countries. warning notices to meat suppliers. Muhammad Asim Javaid said PFA is ensuring the checking of all meat

shops, Shawarma, Burger LAHORE (APP): The Paand Saji points across the kistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday named team of A team of PFA raided a the HBL PSL 9 with food point and stopped its production and sale by im-Shadab Khan as captain of the team.

The HBL PSL 9 team was picked by an independent panel led by Director International PCB Usman Wahla and comprised independent members Urooj Mumtaz, Mark Butcher, Danny Morrison and Tariq Saeed

The panel picked five players from Multan Sultans, three players from Islamabad United, two 12 matches.

#### Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue and expressed confidence towards further strengthening of

**PCB** names team of HBL PSL 9

> players from Peshawar Zalmi and one player from Karachi Kings.

During the selection process, the independent panel considered various aspects of T20 cricket, including consistency, impact on the team, overall performance, and best possible team combination. 25-year-old Shadab, led

United to the third title in HBL PSL, was also named player of the tournament for his all-round performance, which included 305 runs and 14 wickets from

### Australia scraps Afghanistan T20s, citing worsening women's rights PERTH (INP): Australia

on Tuesday scrapped a T20 men's cricket series against Afghanistan later this year, saying the situation for women in the Taliban-ruled country was deteriorating. Cricket Australia said it

had received advice "that conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan are getting worse" and so had postponed the three-match series scheduled in August at a neutral venue.

Cricket has surged in popularity inside Afghanistan in recent years, fuelled by triumphs over bigger nations on the international stage. But under the Taliban's brand of Islamic rule, women are effectively barred from the game. Australia's cricket governing body said its stance continued a "strong commitment to supporting participation by women and girls in cricket around the world".

It is the third time since 2021 that Australia has refused to play Afghanistan outside of international tournaments. Cricket Australia cancelled a one-off Test in 2021, months after the Taliban swept back into power.

"If recent media reports that women's cricket will not be supported in Afghanistan are substantiated, Cricket Australia would have no alternative but to not host Afghanistan," officials said at the time.

In 2023, Australia pulled out of a three-match one-day international series in the UAE, with the Af-ghanistan Cricket Board in Kabul describing the decision as "pathetic"

Afghanistan's best known cricketer, leg-spinner Rashid Khan, threatened to boycott Australia's Big Bash League as a result. Before the return of the Taliban, Afghanistan's cricket board was slowly making progress growing the game among womeneven contracting a small number of semi-profes-sional players in 2020.

Most of those players would eventually flee to Australia. The Taliban took control of the country in August 2021, renaming it the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and installing an interim government they said would rule according to sharia

During the last 24 hours, dry weather prevailed over most parts of final. the country while cold in northern areas.

#### Chinese, Pakistani vocational institutions sign collaboration

media.

agreement

ISLAMABAD (INP); China's Yantai Vocational College (YOC), Chinese logistics firm Sino Mall (Pvt) Ltd., and Government Monotechnique Institute, Mehrabpur, Sindh on Monday signed a framework agreement to co-construct Ban•Mo College in Pakistan. In this connection, the Ban Mo College signing, unveiling and opening ceremony of the first phase training course was held at the YOC which was attended online by officials of Pakistan's Embassy, Beijing and Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA), Gwadai Pro reported on Tuesday.

The agreement aims to deepen international exchanges and cooperation in vocational education, particularly in line with the 'Belt and Road' initiative, according to TANG Int'l Education Group.

As per the agreement, the YOC will provide prejob training for Sino Mall's Chinese employees in overseas logistics management, as well as Chinese + Professional skills training for its local employees in Pakistan

Development of logistics, Chinese teaching resources and vocational education courses, facilitating international academic education and exchange visits for Pakistani students, and responding to Sino Mall's language and skill training needs in other specialties are also part of the agreement. Utilizing YOC's teaching resources and online platforms for education services in Pakistan, developing professional standards and course standards recognized by Pakistani education authorities, conducting community activities, volunteer services, and vocational training for Pakistani residents are also included in the scope of the agreement.

Shadab Khan melted hearts of the Match award, Shadab online with a heartwarming Khan himself secured the prestigious Player of the display of family joy after eries accolade. securing victory in the Pakistan Super League (PSL)

The now-famous video showcases Khan's act of Following Islamabad United's nail-biting win gratitude and love after the medal ceremony. He preagainst Multan Sultans in sents his Player of the Se Karachi, a video capturing ries award to his wife and adorns his medal on his Khan's emotional celebration with his wife and mother, who responds with mother went viral on social a warm embrace. The emotional exchange resonated deeply with fans, propel-The win marked Islamabad United's third ling the video to widespread PSL title, adding to their circulation across social media platforms. previous victories in 2016



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Administrator, Hamza Shafqat inspecting books shelfs during his surprise visit to Metropolitan Corporation Library, in Quetta.



JAFAR KHAN JAMALI ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 0812920243 Email: maintainancexen@gmail.com



ner for the HBL PSL Season 9 awarded the "Safe Hands of the Match" marking Islamabad's his-Awards for the most toric third championship catches taken during the win. This achievement match. During the presencame after a remarkable tation ceremony of the fifive-match winning streak nal, the organization preto conclude PSL 9.

sented the "Wicketkeeper of Having restricted the Tournament" Award for Multan to a modest 159-9, the most exceptional perthe match continued until formance behind the the final ball which Hunain Shah hit across the bound-In Karachi, during PSL ary for a four. Imad 9, Islamabad United trium-Wasim's five wickets, a first in a PSL final, was de-

phantly raised the trophy amidst a whirl of ticker tape cisive for Islamabad with and the brilliance of fireworks. Shadab Khan, lead-Guptill's strike rate for his ing his team, proudly hoisted the PSL trophy,



abled Islamabad United to lift the trophy after a fivematch winning streak in the HBL PSL Season 9. The final showdown

between Islamabad United and Multan Sultans had been a spectacle to behold. Islamabad United emerged victorious, lifting the coveted trophy for the third time in PSL history. Under the leadership of captain Shadab Khan, Islamabad's triumph was a testament to the ball. That and Martin their resilience and skill, culminating in a five-match half-century must be the winning streak that culmitwo performances that en- nated in glory.

# Independent

Wednesday March 20, 2024

## Pirzada directs to maintain highest standards of construction in all projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Housing and Works Main Riaz Hussain Pirzada Tuesday directed the concerned to maintain the highest standards of construction across all projects, and provision of all basic amenities to the residents.

Chairing a meeting of the Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA), he stressed on timely completion of all ongoing projects to provide modern residential facilities to the employees and general public.

During the meeting the minister review the progress of ongoing projects and strategize for future endeavors.

Managing Director PHA provided an update PHA Shahid Hussain ap- on the I-12/1 project, which prised the minister about the management and working of the department.

Shahid Hussain in- units has already been formed the minister that to handed over to beneficiadate, a total of 24 projects comprising 6,362 apartments/houses have been successfully handed over to the allottees.

He informed about the development of the I-16/3 project, which includes 3,200 apartments of D&E type category.

Shahid Hussain informed that approximately 90% of the infrastructure development work for the project has been completed and physical possession has already been handed over to 356 allottees, with 35 families already residing in the buildings.

Additionally, MD comprises approximately 2,400 apartments out of which possession of 500 during the meeting.

ries, with the remaining units set to be offered soon. The minister was also informed about the PHA Residencia, Kuchlak Road

Project, Quetta. During the meeting, Riaz Pirzada directed the MD PHA for the implementation of robust tree plantation programs across all the PHA projects.

He emphasized the importance of planting trees not only for environmental conservation but also for improving air quality, enhancing aesthetics, and promoting a healthier lifestyle for residents. Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash and other senior ISLAMABAD (APP):

officers of the ministry and PHA were also present

Abrar vows to

continue efforts

for education

sector's



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar convened and chaired a meeting of Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue at Law Ministry.

## **Ramzan Vigilance: IFA's actions dispose** 25kg meat, 700 ltrs beverages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Dr Tahira Saddique on Tuesday said that in the ongoing battle for food safety in the federal capital, the IFA conducted 334 inspections across various areas of the city and imposed a fine of Rs 490,000 to violators during the first week of Ramazan

Talking to APP, she the sale of Chinese salt, highlighted the significant emphasizing its commitstrides made by the author- ment to upholding stringent ity and said that 127 in-

improvement ISLAMABAD (APP) no effort in discarding unsafe food items. A stagger-ing 25 kg of meat, 700.346 Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools liters of beverages, 39.406 and Colleges Association, kg/L of expired food, 128 Dr Malik Abrar Hussain on liters of rancid oil, 1047.17 Tuesday showed the unwakg/L of dairy products, 9.759 kg/L of other food vering commitment to conitems, and 261 sachets of gutka were among the items disposed of due to safety concerns.

in selling adulterated or un-

hygienic food items. Safety

priority of the IFA and no

standard education will be Notably, the authority imposed a complete ban on provided to the students through private education sector to make their future bright to contribute the services for the promotion and standards of food safety



ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Gondal, presenting the Audit Report of the Federal Government for the Audit Year 2023-24 to President Asif Åli Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## KOICA, CCP renews collaboration to enhance **'Competition Law Enforcement'**

lateral cooperation and capacity building. KOICA has commit-The Korea International

Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Competed to facilitating an MoU tition Commission of Pakibetween the Korea Fair stan (CCP) have agreed to Trade (KFTC) and CCP for inforresume their collaboration efforts. KOICA has exmation sharing, joint repressed its commitment to search, and advocacy proproviding full support to grams, particularly focusing CCP in capacity building, on Korean companies openhancing enforcement caerating in Pakistan's private sector. This collaboration is pabilities, and conducting joint research initiatives, expected to enhance CCP's bid-rigging system and its said a press release issued here on Tuesday. ability to address competi-

Je Ho Yeon, the Coun-try Director of KOICA Pation issues in the digital economy One of the key points of discussion was KOICA's interest in reinstating a felkistan Office, met with Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Chairman of CCP, to discuss bi-

lowship program for CCP officers in Korea.

In the past, KOICA's fellowship program enabled 30 CCP officers to partici-Commission pate in a three-year training program in Korea.

The program covered various aspects of competition law and included training sessions conducted by competition experts and nior **KFTC** officials.

The renewed cooperation is expected to further deepen the officers' expertise and broaden their perspective, enabling them to effectively address emerg ing challenges in competition law and policy.

**Bilawal greets** 

all communities

celebrating

Nowruz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has

extended warm greetings

and heartfelt congratula-

tions to all communities

celebrating the joyous oc-

casion of Nowruz Nowruz

the harbinger of the Persian

New Year, is embraced by

diverse cultures and commu-

nities worldwide, including

a significant populace in Pa-

kistan. In a press release from the Media Cell Bilawal

House, the PPP chairman

expressed that Nowruz em-

bodies themes of renewal.

At least two

killed, one

injured in

road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP)

lives due to a car collision.

while one sustained injuries

in a road accident near

Taranda Muhammad Panah

interchange at Liaqat Pur on

Police of the con-

cerned jurisdiction was in-

formed which reached on

the spot and looked out the

rescue activities.

## **Islamabad Police unveils** patriotic anthem "Jannat Se Bulawa" ahead of Pak Day

#### Independent Report SLAMABAD: As the nation prepares to celebrate Pakistan Day on March 23, the Islamabad Police has

stirred the patriotic fervor with the unveiling of a captivating anthem titled "Jannat Se Bulawa" (Called from Heaven).

echoing sacrifice and love

for the homeland, resonate

deeply with the sacrifices

tinue the efforts for im-This anthem, serving provement and promotion as a poignant tribute to the unwavering dedication of of private education sector. In a statement issued Islamabad Police personnel here, he said the quality and in safeguarding the nation. Its beautiful lyrics,

made by the brave sons of Pakistan, according to po-

lice spokesman. More than just a song, "Jannat Se Bulawa" stands as a powerful testament to the resilience and commitment of the Islamabad Police in ensuring the safety and security of Pakistan.

In commemorating March 23, the anthem embodies the essence of unity and strength, rallying all citizens to stand together in the face of challenges and uphold the values of peace, progress, and prosperity



Page

03

MNA and Rana Mashhood

Ahmed Khan, a member of

said that there was immense

talent in the country in

sports which required to be

groomed. He also under-

on promotion of sports in

the rural areas. Arshad

Nadeem apprised the prime

minister of his sports ca-

his career during 2012 and

participated in the Youth

festival afterwards, he par-

ticipated in different world

events in various categories

He said that he started

reer and achievements.

lined the need of focusing

The prime minister

Punjab Assembly.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Romeena Khurshid Alam Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday praised Pakistan's ace javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem for achieving a historic feat of winning a silver medal in the World Athletics Cham-

pionship 2023. During a meeting with Arshad Nadeem, the world famed javelin throwing athlete, the prime minister praised his efforts to clinch the silver medal despite scant resources. His achievement made the nation proud, he added. The prime minister announced an award worth Rs2.5 million for Arshad Nadeem.

and represented Pakistan. The meeting was at-tended by Minister for In-He termed his meeting with the prime minister as very constructive and highformation and Broadcasting lighted various measures to Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for IT and Telecom promote sports in the coun-Shaza Fatima Khawaja, try



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Athlete Arshad Nadeem calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## **Preparations gear up** for Pakistan Day **March 23 celebrations** ISLAMABAD (APP):

Preparations are getting momentum for country's forthcoming Pakistan Day parade, scheduled to take place on March 23. With citizens from every corner of the nation actively participating, the event promises to be a vibrant celebration of Pakistan's rich heri-

tage and spirit. Enthusiastic efforts are underway to ensure that the parade showcases Pakistan's diverse culture in captivating ways, welcoming guests from far and wide to partake in the festivities. Representatives from different regions have shared their sentiments re-

Similarly, Farhan Akhtar from Balochistan, emphasized the rich cultural heritage of Balochistan, describing it as a vibrant bouquet to be displayed during the parade.

Rashid Balti, speaking on behalf of Gilgit-Baltistan, extended warm wishes in their native language, expressing the region's contribution to the celebrations with its towering mountains and serene lakes

Nayab Khan, repre-ing Khyber senting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighted the fearless and hospitable nature of its people, affirming their participation in garding their participation the festivities alongside other provinces Ramzan Jutt, repre-

spections visits were also conducted in three Ramazan Bazaars, set up by the district administration and issued 201 verbal directives and served 94 improvement notices to ensure compliance among shopkeepers.

Similarly, two FIRs were also registered against the massive violations during the said period, she of citizens was the topmost added.

negligence would be toler-During this period of heightened surveillance, she ated in this regard, she revealed that the IFA spared warned



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people breaking fast (Iftar) during the holy month of Ramazan u Mubarak.

## Cars, spectators gather along expressway to observe **PAF** aerial acrobats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dozens of cars and spectators have gathered along the Expressway to observe the aerial acrobats of the fighter aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) busy in rehearsals for the National Day parade on March 23rd.

The Shakarparian Parade Ground has become the center of attraction of every commuter entering the federal capital for their daily chores and employment purposes that pause and rest at the road sides to observe the thundering fighter jets hovering over scenic Parade Ground surrounded by thick green cover.

Absa Alam, a female entrepreneur told APP that she was heading towards her office when she heard the roaring sounds of the JF-17 Thunder. "I can assume that its the pride of the nation JF-17 thunder because it had the loudest engine sound that deafened everyone's ears. But, I must say that there is an unexplainable motivation and pleasure to witnesses the armed forces troops and PAF fighter jets doing

and hygiene. Dr. Tahira Saddique sustainable economic devel opment of the country. reiterated the IFA's dedica-Abrar urged the acadetion to fostering a healthy

micians those are willing to environment for the citi provide services for the prizens of the federal capital. vate education sector across the country to get in touch She emphasized that so that the educational fustrict action would be continued against those food outlets who were involved secured.

> **ICT Police** suspends 462 social media

## Spokesman

SLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has suspended 462 accounts involved in spreading religious and ethnic hatred on various social media platforms in the countr

unit of capital police initiated the operation after identifying a total of 1522 accounts engaged in promoting negative activities, police spokesperson told a private news channel.

alarming trend, he said the Islamabad Police promptly forwarded a letter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), urging the closure of the identified ac-

aerial acrobats," she said. counts Alam said it took Out of the 462 susgreat deal of motivation to pended accounts, 65 were join this sacred duty of defound to be spreading refending your motherland in ligious hatred, while 47 khaki as it was a noble yet were propagating anti-nathrilling and daring task. " tional sentiments, he captured many spectacular added.

views of the F-16, J-17 and the team Sherdil of PAF counts were discovered to that left the sky painted be disseminating terrorist with different colours durcontent, posing a significant ing the acrobats," she added. national security

Nasir Ali, a tourist said he was going to Blue Area for his office work but the roars of fighter jets glued him to the roadside to stay and witness the aerial acrobats. "I really found it motivating and energizing as I got goosebumps on my skin. My daughter admires Shaheed PAF fighter pilot Marium Mukhtiar and wants to become a fighter pilot too. I captured a few visuals to show that she would really love to watch on my mobile phone," he added

Tayyab and Muttavab, twin brothers said that they had bunked their college to see the aerial acrobats

ture of the country make accounts:

## Independent Report

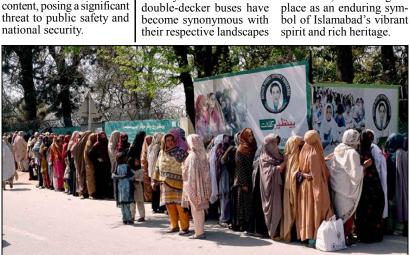
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has unveiled MarGo, the official mascot of Islamabad, in a The anti-extremism move aimed at enhancing the city's identity and promoting its cultural signifi-The name MarGo is derived from "Mar" repre-

senting Margalla and "Go" signifying prosperity or Upon discovering the flourishing. Resembling a cheetah, MarGo symbolizes vitality

and embodies the swift progress and dynamism of Islamabad. Adorned with stylish

sunglasses and a muffler, MarGo exudes sophistication and modernity, reflecting the cosmopolitan nature the capital. This decision aligns

with a global trend observed in major cities worldwide, Additionally, 350 acwhere iconic mascots such as New York's Statue of Liberty or London's red



ISLAMABAD: A large number of women standing in a queue to draw money from Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) beneficiaries outside Benazir One Window Center at G-7.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui chairing a meeting.

## **CDA Introduces Islamabad** Mascot MarGo CDA

and cultures.

CDA officials have outlined plans to strategically place MarGo at key landmarks and significant locations across the city, making it a recognizable symbol of Islamabad's identity.

From bustling market-Tuesday. places to serene parks and According to rescue officials, the body and ingovernment buildings, MarGo will welcome visijured persons were retors and residents alike. moved to nearby hospital, a private news channel re-

Beyond its symbolic value, MarGo is expected to play a crucial role in promoting tourism and fosterng civic pride. By uniting Islamabad's diverse populace under a common symbol, MarGo aims to become

The accident was said to be caused by carelessa beloved icon, representness and over-speeding of ing the collective aspirations and achievements of both of the drivers, as per the capital. With its distinctive the initial enquiry.

Further investigation charm and universal appeal, was underway. MarGo is poised to capture

ported.

the hearts of all who en-Film legend counter it, cementing its Muhammad Ali remembered on his 18th death

anniversary ISLAMABAD (ÅPP) today 19th April 1931 at Rampur

from various parts of the to Karachi after the particountry at large to enjoy tion in 1947, a private news channel reported. He joined Radio Pakistan Hyderabad station as a broadcaster in 1956. Later, he moved to Radio Pakistan Karachi where its then Director General

Izhar Naqvi, repre-

senting Kashmir, spoke of senting Punjab, under-the beauty of their land, scored the historical signifipromising to bring forth their culture to enrich the resolution for Pakistan's Pakistan Day celebration. creation was passed.

## **Chairman HEC meets Minister of State for IT**

ISLAMABAD (APP): try and academia, said Chairman Higher Education Shaza Fatima during the Commission (HEC) Dr. meeting Mukhtar Ahmed has met Such steps are neceswith Minister of State for sary to provide required IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja talent to IT companies around the world, including

here on Tuesday. In the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed the issues in detail on IT graduates training program, start-ups, to make the youth talented and skilled, said a press release. Two persons lost their

Green Punjab program.

Murree is a center of

We will not waste time The demand and supin talks, every obstacle in gap in the IT field the way of the country's should be minimised by development will be rebridging gap between indus- moved, Shaza Fatima said.

added

ter

Pakistan, the minister

that Pakistan is rich in tal-

ented youth, brand it bet-

She went in saying



Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Islamabad

## **TDCP** launches plantation drive at **Murree tourist spots** ISLAMABAD (APP):

Deputy Commis-sioner Murree, Agha Zaheer Tourism Development Corporation Punjab (TDCP) on Tuesday launched a plantation cam-Abbas Shirazi inaugurated the plantation campaign, adding that all the plants have been donated by a paign at the tourist spots of Murree with the support charitable organization.

of the Forest Department The Deputy Commisand the district administrasioner said that on the spetion under the Clean and cial instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, a tree planting drive tourism due to its natural has been kicked off to beauty as tourists coming implement the Clean and Green Punjab program aims to promote a healthy environment.

Regional Manager Chairlift Patriota Moazzam Nazir said the sole objective of the tree planting campaign is to promote environmentfriendly culture.

observed

The 18th death anniversary of legendary Pakistani actor Muhammad Ali was Mohammad Ali was born on

in India. Muhammad Ali's

family migrated from India

their trip. The plantation drive would not only further enhance its beauty, but also encourage the tourists throng to Murree to observe the nature, said a press Zulfigar Ali Bukhari became release issued here. his mentor for his acting

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## **OPINION**

## Daily Independent



Wednesday March 20, 2024

Afghan turbulence

Relations between the newly formed government and Afghanistan's de facto Taliban rulers have begun on an inauspicious note. After seven security personnel were martyred tion state. in a terrorist attack in North Waziristan on Saturday, Pakistan hit targets in Paktika and Khost provinces early on Monday targeting "terrorists belonging to [the] Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group", according to an FO statement released vesterday.

Afghan officials, on the other hand, claimed "civilian homes" had been struck. Moreover, rule. there were reports of crossborder exchanges of fire in Kurram district on Monday. Militants had also staged attacks in Mohmand, Nowshera and Bannu over the weekend.

What is important at this juncture is that matters do not escalate with Kabul. While terrorist attacks targeting civilians as well as security personnel are a red line and cannot go unanswered, and the frontiers must be defended, unilateral action should not become the norm. This will only cause further deterioration of ties with the Afghan Taliban, and Pakistan may lose whatever leverage it has with Kabul, adding to our security concerns. Soon after the new government took over, there was a routine exchange of pleasantries between the foreign minister and his Afghan counterpart, as both vowed to expand cooperation in various sectors, including security. The North Waziristan attack and its fallout, however, have come as

# Is India's judiciary up for the fight?

ened to derail the political Jawed Naqvi project altogether. The close call was tamed, how-Observers around the ever, and not for the first world were not necessarily time, the initiative to save being malicious — with the exception of Winston the day belonged to the masses. Indira Gandhi's Churchill — in thinking rout was a high point of their that India might not last as prowess, and her chastised a democracy for too long after 1947. The Cassandras return a symbol of their grounded politics. were wrong, and the new The journey over the nation's refurbished state

next four decades saw the institutions, led by a robust steady clip beginning to parliament and an enviable miss the beat, for example, judiciary, fortified the trust in the loss of the moral comthe masses reposed in the pass in Punjab, followed by complex multicultural nathe horrific pogrom of Sikhs in the heart of Delhi. Swiftly putting the The ground looked fertile rauma of partition behind, for a rightward push, has-India's Nehruvian promise tened by the loss, no doubt, – a gold standard for acof India's economic and cording impoverished political anchor in the masses dignity and equal SSR. The BJP's migrarights - melded a Babeltion from its sullen posturlike cluster of linguistic and ing that feigned to court religious groups into a cosy democracy - which vannation, the opposite of the ished with the fight against same differences propelling Mrs Gandhi — to become post-Westphalian Europe the spitting image of a fragmented religio-fascist party gained speed under Prime Minisneighbourhoods. The Indian experiment defied the Narendra Modi.

Diehard optimists The ideal of a would start returning to the multicultural democracy old worrying question. Are contended with headwinds democracy's days numbut withstood the occasionbered in India? In a manner ally bumpy ride, which at of speaking, the institution one point, in 1975, threat-

definition. The avatollahs in Iran would offer one definition and Vladimir Putin another. Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu both claim to fight for democracy, as do Narendra Modi and Rishi Sunak. In the rubble of torpedoed state institutions that

once anchored democracy, the one institution that appeared to be best equipped to vacate right-wing assault was India's judiciary. Since independence, the courts have protected but also undermined the people's will as arbiters of India's destiny. One judge would evict Mrs Gandhi from office. Another restored her powers as a conflicted prime minister. One believed the temple-mosque dispute in Ayodhya was non-justiciable in India's secular courts. Another set ended the dispute by apportioning a parcel of the disputed land to a popular deity. At today's critical juncture.

when the country's vital democratic institutions are being rapidly corroded, the onus of becoming the shield to protect the constitution should ideally lie with the judges. They are the ones who can, is too malleable to take a on their day, stop the dan-

gerous mischief afoot in its tracks. Everything that the opposition rally demanded in Mumbai on Sunday can be addressed by the higher judiciary. The hounding of opposition leaders can be stopped at least during the elections. There's widespread mistrust of the electronic voting machines. There's unabated misuse of religion in canvassing votes, which is unconstitutional. Use of money and muscle power, everything can be corrected by the judiciary. But look again.

The inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya saw 13 former supreme court judges in attendance. They included former chief justices of India V.N. Khare, J.S. Khehar, N.V. Ramana and U.U. Lalit. Among the other judges present were Justices Ashok Bhushan, Goel, Adarsh Ramasubrahmaniam, Anil Dave, Vineet Saran, Krishna Murari, Gvan Sudha Mishra, Arun Mishra and Mukundakam Sharma. Ironically, the construction of the temple was cleared by the supreme court in November 2019. The court had termed the razing of the Babri Masjid an "egregious violation of the rule of law".

In a more recent sign of the judiciary losing the plot, a high court judge in West Bengal took premature retirement to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. Would he get a ticket to the Lok Sabha elections in the state? Lawyers say justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay gave dubious verdicts favouring the BJP and targeting the state's ruling Trinamool Congress. On one occasion, the supreme court reportedly reined in his enthusiasm for unleashing federal police on the state government. Again, a few short

years back, a high court judge in Maharashtra set free right-wing zealots on bail in an alleged lynching of a Muslim man returning from namaz in Pune. There can't be much quibbling with a judge's decisions no matter how unconvincing they may be. That's how it works. However, the judge in this case was quoted as losing it: "The fault of the deceased was only that he belonged to another religion. I consider this factor in favour of the applicants/ accused. How was the logic

different from the Ayodhya judgement? The

justices found the demolition of the mosque a criminal act and went on to award the disputed land to those that had defied their writ. In the bargain, those who undermined the court's writ went unpunished as if to underscore the lore that nobody destroyed the mosque in Ayodhya. But that's the BJP's way of dealing with the apex court. See the grudging way it responded to the court's orders for the main commercial bank, which works under the government, to furnish details of the money paid through electoral bonds including the parties that got them

On another occasion, the chief justice decreed that he (and future chief justices) be part of the selection committee to appoint election commission ers. Mr Modi responded by changing the law. The prime minister and a cabinet minister who he would name would choose future officials, leaving the opposition and the justices looking stumped. Their lordships may not have much time should they desire to prove Churchill wrong. Courtesy Dawn

## **Disruption or destruction?**

#### **Mosharraf Zaidi**

nto

People tend to cling to ideas formed previously; they tend to work better within already established networks; and they tend to be more comfortable with asociations that are familiar.

Even the most intelligent and capable people. Even people who can think outside the box. Even people capable of creativity. Indeed, even people that have a lot of knowledge and expertise. No one is immune from these tendencies to stick to what one already

The common theme among societies and countries that are broadly seen to be successful is disruption, but this disruption cannot be wild and out of control. Instead, meaningful disruption tends to be within a canopy of a stable architecture - something akin to some broad rules of the game.

Change takes place when long-standing ideas al and how things should be are challenged by new ideas, but those new ideas are afforded space through a delicate balance between radical new approaches and robust ad-

cal and you end up creating instability, which undermines the entire ecosystem that you are interested in improving through new

ideas. Too strict about stability and you end up throttling any new ideas. Just like ideas, networks and associations also work the same way. There needs to be enough churn in how people and communities relate to each other to create the tensions and alliances that help advance new ways of doing things, but there cannot be so much churn and so much flux that the whole system is thrown into uncertainty and instability

There is a lot of genuine sadness, disenchantment, and anger about the trajectory of Pakistan today. At the heart of the matter is a growing belief that the people running Pakistan what I refer to as the 'elite' of the country – are incapable of governing over the changes that Pakistan desperately needs. It needs dis-

herence to stability. Too radithroughout its history. The internal economic

> situation is dire – as two years of relentless inflation and uncertainty have battered household incomes and complicated the already delicate economic balancing act that millions of Pakistani families must deal with. The vast and overwhelming vouthfulness of the country has a low base of human capital, limited economic and social mobility for young women, no financial support from the state, and no market-based solutions to meet the economic and material aspirations that Generation Z everywhere has. To top off this toxic cocktail of difficulties, there is a widespread belief that freedom of association and freedom of expression are under threat – and that this threat is skewed and targets some, but not all, Pakistanis.

These are the circumstances that created the election results of February 8. As if to literally confirm the worst suspicions of Paki-

ing motif of Pakistan ment is now saddled with an impossible set of tasks and despite the otherworldly work ethic of the prime minister and much-maligned 'one page' that the government enjoys with Rawalpindi – it is incredibly difficult to see how this dispensation can generate the disruption Pakistan needs

One of the abiding challenges the government faces is the same challenge every government in Pakistan has faced since at least 1988. There isn't enough money. This problem needs a disruptive solution – but remember: people tend to cling to ideas formed previously, they tend to work better within already established networks and they tend to be more comfortable with associations that are familiar. This means that conversations about 'disruption' suffer from something called path dependency. This is why, even some of the smartest Pakithings. This is a tough ask. stanis alive tend to keep get-So the natural question is: if ting stuck in old conversa-

enjoyed success when they were younger. General Asim Munir won the Sword of Honour at Mangla at the age of eighteen. Nawaz Sharif first became finance minister of the Punjab at the age of thirty-two. Imran Khan was capped at the age of nineteen, was a fast-bowling wonder and global sen-

sation by the time he turned twenty-two. We can't identify every single Pakistan Administrative Service officer who serves at BPS-22 today, or every military officer above the rank of a one-star, or every judge in the Supreme Court, but we know that each one has been a top performer for most if not their entire careers. When we demand disruption from our elites, we should understand just what we are asking for. We are asking for people who have enjoyed incredible individual success for most of their lives to fundamentally challenge how they do

elite behaviour in other places with that in Pakistan. My two favourite examples are India and Saudi Arabia

Similar parallels exist, with very different storylines, in countries large and small. In Qatar, in Turkey, in Indonesia and other ASEAN countries that of ten offer a more viable critical path for how Pakistan will need to change for the better than perhaps oil-rich Gulf States do. Regardless, everywhere there has been change, there has been disruption – and this disrup tion has taken place within a broad context of stability This is why Afghanistan and Iran (and many African states) don't make the cut. They suffer disruption minus stability. That leads to destruction

When judging debates that seem to be about reform, we must insist on this one, single litmus test. What existing interests will our proposed change disrupt and will this disruption be toxic and destructive or can its effects be harnessed and

a painful reality check, and are the government's first test on the Afghan front of its management of relations with Kabul.

Both sides must verify where the attacks targeting Pakistan originated from. While Afghan Taliban officials insist their territory is not being used by terrorists, there is a lot of evidence suggesting otherwise. Pakistan has raised the issue of militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan at the UN whose officials have similarly highlighted the presence bon dioxide by commitof numerous militant groups in ting to safeguarding forests Afghanistan. Instead of feigning ignorance, the Afghan seen as a potent tool for Taliban should take action to stop anti-Pakistan fighters from launching attacks inside this country, especially if they are serious in their quest to be accepted as Afghanistan's legitimate government. While clear opment threats to national security immediately must be neutralised, Pakistan has to use carrots and sticks with the Taliban to permanently solve the militancy problem. The FO has hinted at a similar line of action and of working "towards finding joint solutions in countering terrorism". Communication channels should remain open, and Pakistan should ask Afghanistan to take action against verified terrorist sanctuaries ing on an extensive land across the border. Moreover, China, which offers a financial conservation. lifeline to the Kabul regime, can also be asked to take punitive measures if the Taliban refuse to crack down on militants on their soil. The terrorist threat from Afghanistan-based groups can destabilise the entire region, which is why all regional states should work on a common counterterrorism agenda with Kabul, along with using bilateral channels.

ruption, but it doesn't need destruction. Sadly, it seems it cannot get one without getting the other. This was crystallized on May 9 last year, but it has been the under-girding and overwhelm-

stanis, the uber-elite of the country then decided to muddy the waters further more locked you become by altering some of the results of the elections on the night after the election. The resulting minority govern-

## **Blood carbon**

The situation faced

#### **Masood Lohar**

Amid the pressing need to confront climate change, the emergence of carbon markets has gained prominence. In these markets. industries acquire the privilege of emitting caror implementing other offsets. Although widely conservation, apprehengered profound ethical desions persist regarding its bates regarding the potenpotential adverse effects tial adverse impact of caron local communities, parbon sequestration efforts ticularly in developing naon marginalised communitions where mangroves ties, with some activists face clearance for profitdrawing parallels with a able endeavours such as modern form of colonial fish and shrimp aquaculexploitation. ture or real estate devel-

The term 'blood carbon' describes the dark Forest, have endured vioside of these carbon trading schemes. The aggressive land acquisition strat-Despite legal triumphs, egies employed by certain including a 2017 ruling by entities have raised concerns about the unjust eviction of indigenous affirming their land rights, communities from their ancestral lands. The Ogiek has drawn criticism for people's plight in Kenya persistently flouting these serves as a stark reminder judgements of the human cost associated with these carbon by the Ogiek is not iso-

credit initiatives. lated; it mirrors the For example, in the struggles of numerous pursuit of carbon credits, first nation communities a UAE-based firm has globally. These communibeen criticised for embarkties find themselves fighting not only for their lands acquisition initiative for but also against the exmangrove plantation and ploitative mechanisms of This carbon credit trading. The programme spans multerm 'blood carbon' aptly tiple African nations, incaptures the injustice and cluding Kenya, Zimbahuman rights violations bwe, Liberia, Zambia, and associated with these Tanzania, and has drawn schemes the attention of environmentalists and human rights activists, raising concerns about potential displacement of indig-

enous people. The characterisation of current events as a contemporary form of colonialism has stimulated tions about transparency ethical deliberations on the and inclusiveness, espeprioritisation of carbon se- cially considering that a questration initiatives significant portion of the

over the well-being of vulpopulation in the mannerable communities. A groves of the Indus deltaic districts lives below the striking illustration of this concern unfolds with the poverty line. The fate of ongoing predicament of these communities remains the Ogiek people in uncertain, echoing the Kenya's Mau Forest. concerns raised by the Kenyan President William Ogiek people in Kenya. Ruto, justifying their co-Similarly, questions arise erced displacement, preas to whether there was a sents it as a climate-driven proper tendering process, measure to safeguard the encouraging competition forests from what he and giving enough leverage deems "illegal settlers". to local stakeholders. This justification has trig-Recent research un-

derscores the critical role that mangroves play in sequestering carbon dioxide. Daniel Donato from the US Department of Ag---riculture's Forest Service reveals that mangroves sto-re aro-und three to four times more carbon per hect-are than The Ogiek, acknowledged as the traditional rainforests in temperate or custodians of the Mau tropical zones. However, the ra--pid loss of these lent evictions and land seiecosystems, estimated at zures spanning decades. a third to half globally in the last 50 years, releases substantial quantities of the African Court on Hugreenhouse gases, equivaman and Peoples Rights lent to up to 10 per cent of the global toll from dethe Kenyan government forestation.

In light of these challenges, there is a call for a paradigm shift in carbon credit systems. Rather than trading carbon as a financial commodity on global markets, the focus should be on rewarding indigenous communities and land managers for their ecosystem services. The story of 'blood

carbon' highlights the need for a more equitable and just approach to climate change mitigation. Instead of evicting traditional landowners like

the Ogiek, the world In Pakistan, for the should recognise and comfirst time Sindh Forest pensate them for the in-Department has entered valuable services they into a carbon credit agreeprovide in combating climent, selling 3.1 million mate change. credits valued at \$40m to It's time to move

the Delta Blue Carbon away from the exploitcompany. The 60:40 partative carbon credit system nership prompts quesand embrace a model that prioritises environmental justice and community well-being. -- Courtesy Dawn

into doing things how you have done them before - and this is especially true for The emerging contours of

the conflicting pulls of the elite interests of multiple power centres, none of them aligned with the public interest. Given these deep cracks, can the byzantine set-up last and deliver?

structure's strength reflects that of its base. This set-up's weak base is rigged polls. Over it, a huge ivory tower has been built by the actual powers to house willing elites to project a strength they lack. Each faction has conflicting interests that increase the set-up's instability. The interests of the establishment — the proverbial elephant in the room — include pulling us back from doom's edge, where its past actions got us, while retaining its political and economic sway, with other elites footing the costs of reform.

Then there is the PML-N, the 'lion' and main ruler, which is actually a facade for the new hybrid dispensation and its weakest cog, given its dubious mandate, infighting and 20th-century mindset. Its aims are to protect its empire and that of allied Punjab elites. But it sees the wrath of the masses and wants to drop them enough crumbs to win next time.

By foxily avoiding the cabinet, the PPP wants to hunt with the hounds and run with the hares. It will hug the setup when it does well, but oppose it when it doesn't. Its aims are to protect its own empire and allied Sindh and Balochistan elites and seeing Bilawal Bhutto-

the new saviour we want to Zardari, the crown prince, economy. Economic enthroned soon. progress needs macroeco-The fox alone can

nomic stability, productopple the lion at the centivity/ growth, equity and

this is so hard to do, how are other countries doing it? managed for the better? It The answer isn't straightforward, and there is no single formula, but one way to understand the the world over, the only unique stasis that Pakistan way societies and countries people and groups that have finds itself in is to juxtapose win. -- Courtesy TheNews

isn't as sexy as foaming at the mouth with rage or 'picking a side' – but it is, tre but only if the estab- sustainability. The last lishment agrees. The two will barely hit the

smaller parties need agenda. But can he even deliver stability and growth? Ensuring stabil-There are groups outside the Leaning ity requires solid macro-Tower of Pisa pushing to economic credentials and join the party inside or public and IMF experience (like Shamshad topple it. The PTI, the Akhtar's), which he lacks. main one, represents populist middle-class He may outshine Dar, but experimenting with inexfantasies and assorted elite interests. The corperience with a very shaky economy is risky. We only chase mac-

join the real powers while evicting the lion, or topple the tower if reroeconomic stability once we are in the midst of a buffed. There are religious full-blown crisis via IMF's austerity menu. lobbies (the Jamaat-i-But durable stability Islami, the JUI and TLP) comes by creatively with nuisance street power. The banned TTP ex--panding exports, inand Baloch militants aim dustry and in--v-estments. This re-to topple it outright.

quires able pers-ons in commerce, industry, investment, IT, etc, with dynamic glo--bal experience that the incumbents badly lack. Aurangzeb has good credentials in these business areas. Can he alone transform our nondynamic economy?

One can answer this hard query about the future via a simpler one cal projects than leading about the past. Like Pakistan, its banks non-dynamically make money by investing in safe public debt. Did he put his bank on a new, dynamic investment path? No. Can is a newbie, said to have he do that then for a much bigger, complex and politicised economy?

With productivity and growth ruled out by poor cabinet appointments, we will again chase stability via IMF's menu. This will harm elite interests and more so the masses. Each faction will try to avoid the cost of inevitable reform as per its power and guile, possibly leading to conflict. So, this tower may implode in a few years. The PML-N can avoid all that by having able hands in a dozen key economic and social ministries to ensure productivity and equity before it's too late. Courtesy Dawn

# Kafkaesque set-up

nered tigers want to re-

Many global actors and

events can harm it too, for

example, India, Afghani-

stan, Middle East wars

feat all these threats only

if it performs very well.

Unfortunately, internal

conflicts and poor capaci-

ties can stymie this task.

is better at supervising lo-

federal policy work. He

may not have control

over the three key posts:

finance, interior and for-

eign. The interior ironman

been picked by the estab-

lishment — apparently, to clamp down on the

PTI, militants and

progressives. Dar lacks

the experience or finesse

for his job and will toe

Nawaz Sharif's line, not

the prime minister's, but

will be checkmated by

picks like Jilani. The fi-

nance guru has no loyalty to PML-N and his selec-

tion, too, is supposed to

have been influenced by

Muhammad Aurangzeb is

transform our

manv.

non-political elements.

For

The set-up can de-

The prime minister

and Sino-US tiffs.

crumbs too.

## Dr Niaz Murtaza

The older you are, the

our new set-up depict a murky labyrinth hiding

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Wednesday March 20, 2024

## **CM chairs 3rd cabinet** meeting, approves various projects

**Independent Report** that there LAHORE: Punjab Chief City too. Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired third meeting of the provincial cabinet at CM's office, here on Tuesday.

The cabinet ratified the approval of annual budget and supplementary budget grant for the year 2023-24. The approval to hand over Lahore Knowledge Park to Punjab Central Business District Development Authority was also given by the cabinet. The land will be transferred to CBD to build Pakistan's largest IT city.

The CM said that the Pakistan's first IT city is being built in Lahore, adding that tech giants like Google and Microsoft have already shown their interests in the IT City. The CM directed to complete both towers of IT City in one year.

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted that the world's major educational institutions will be invited Knowledge City, saying that there will be a Film Approval was also made too. for provincial The cabinet also representation of Punjab in

and electric bikes by the Bank of Punjab. The CM said electric Grade 19 Vacancy in

bikes are essential to reduce environmental Interests Secretariat pollution but are currently Islamabad was also not that much viable due to risk of battery theft and Ambulance Project was low mileage. Therefore, It also discussed in the has been decided to give meeting. petrol bikes along with electric bikes. To reduce burden on students, the down payment will be

will also be less than Rs 5,000, she mentioned. The distribution of bikes will start in May this year, she said and added that a separate scheme will be introduced to give bikes to students who have heart attack patients, achieved significant adding that sitting in

The cabinet also gave in-principle approval for but it is needed, because the extension of posting on to build campuses in the deputation of CEO Punjab hundred calls for air Company. ambulance in emergencies. Transport

approved project for the supply of 20,000 petrol Interest Secretariat. The approval for the transfer of Government of Punjab's Council of Common granted. Punjab Air

The CM said all facilities are available for the rich and the influential people, but nothing to save reduced to Rs 25,000 and life of a poor man. She the monthly installment added, "We want to provide every facility of timely treatment to our people." She lamented that it is unfortunate that Sargodha does not have adequate facilities for the treatment and transfer of

success in examinations. offices, it seems that air ambulance is not needed, Rescue 1122 received 11



LAHORE: Iranian Consul General H.E. Mehran Mowahed Far called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

## WHO refurbishes 63 health facilities damaged by devastating climate induced disasters in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): World Health Organization (WHO), in its strive for Babar ensuring health service, has refurbished around 63 health facilities in Khyber country. Pakhtunkhwa that had The become almost non-

functional after being badly impacted by climate induced disasters Charsadda, D.I.Khan, especially the devastating floods of 2022. The initiative of refurbishment of health

facilities was taken in response to the disastrous floods in Pakistan during year 2022 and other climate change related incidents including erratic rains, hailstorms, windstorms etc, said Dr. Babar Alam, WHO head in Khyber Hospital etc.

facilities are renovated in Dera Ismail Khan Talking to APP after (D.I.Khan) district of KP inauguration of a flood witnessing maximum affected Basic Health Unit damage due to 2022 inauguration of a flood

**PDMADG** reviews procurement plan 2024-25

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Ìrfan Ali Kathia, during a meeting here on Tuesday. reviewed the Procurement Plan 2024-25.

Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting saw participation from officers representing the Pakistan Army, Rescue teams, and various other departments.

meeting was the assessment of required operations

Attendees extensively discussed the specifics and cost aspects of the procurement. During the proceedings, both Rescue and Pakistan Army officers put forth their requisitions for the supply of requisite

rescue equipment. Irfan Ali Kathia rmed the swift affirmed provision of all necessary equipment to rescue organizations, emphasizing the the importance of timely

## ational ews

Page 05

## AJK PM pays tribute to col Kashif and Captain **Ahmed Badar shaheed**

M U Z A F F A R A B A D to the bereaved to bear this (APP): Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Tuesday visited the residence of Shaheed Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali to offer his heartfelt

was accompanied by

Extending

premier prayed to Allah the

Almighty to grant the

martyred highest place in

Minister visited the

residence of Captain

Ahmed Badar Shaheed in

Talagang to offer his

condolences to the

bereaved family. He prayed to Allah

the almighty to elevate the

ranks of the martyred

Captain and grant patience

Meanwhile, the Prime

bereaved family.

Ibrahim.

Janatulfirdous.

irreparable loss with fortitude.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that the entire nation was proud of its condolences to the Pakistan Army, which has rendered unprecedented Prime Minister Haq sacrifices while fighting against terrorism and senior Minister Col. (Retd) terrorists.

Waqar Noor, Government Ministers Mian Abdul Waheed, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq and Chaudhry Akbar He said that the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army have fought bravely to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in all his its forms from Pakistan. heartfelt sympathies to bereaved family the AJK

"The entire nation pays homage to its martyrs and their families whose loved ones laid down their lives for safety and security of the beloved country", the PM said.

It maybe recalled here Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar Shahed embraced martyrdom while defending their motherland against the scourge of terrorism at Mir Ali in North Waziristan District.



LAHORE: Visitors look at paintings in an exhibition at Al Hamra Art Council in the Provincial Capital.

## No negligence to be tolerated in Ramadan Dastar Khawan: Advisor

Independent Report should be improved. PESHAWAR: Advisor to and Ushar, Social Welfare

"Wherever there is a Chief Minister Khyber need for the Zamong Kor Pakhtunkhwa for Zakat project, mark it so that steps can be taken in this and Women Development regard. "Mashal Yousefzai Mashal Azam Yousafzai on added.

Tuesday urged the During the meeting concerned officers to she further said that to inform her about statistics prevent drugs, conduct a According to reports Two elderly persons from identified as Abdul Sattar Sethar Sui Gas Employee

#### chairing a meeting GB Assembly Committee on Telecommunication issue in Gilgit-Baltistan at Assembly Secretariat. **Minister directs HERA CM** approves Rs 100mln to take steps for quality compensation package for

Independent Report chairing meeting of HERA PESHAWAR: Khyber at Civil Secretariat here. niste

education in **KP** 

SW roof collapse victims Saiid Inam. Secreta

Key focus of the

(BHU) at Kotkay village in floods. Similarly, 11 Charsadda district, Dr. health providing buildings Babar said the were revamped in Swat rehabilitation process is in district. For improvement of progress in the whole routine immunization, refurbished WHO has supported the refurbishment of seven

health facilities in KP are in districts including Chitral, Kohistan Upper, Nowshera, Swat, Tank, Hangu, Dir Lower, Haripure, Manshera and Abbotabd.

The rehabilitated Labor Rooms were health facilities included refurbished and made Basic Health Units operational for provision (BHUs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Labor Rooms, Tehsil Headquarter Around 15 health

five in Swat, four in Tank, one in Hangu, one in

response, particularly in equipment for potential vulnerable districts. Kathia

Charsadda, two in Kohistan Upper, one in Lower Dir and one in Haripure. Four more kidnapped in a day from Shikarpur

Divisional Expanded

Programme for Immunisation (EPI) halls in

Mardan, Hangu, D.I.Khan,

Bannu, Swat, Manshera

of necessary health

facilities to expecting mothers and new born at

their door steps in districts

including five in D.I.Khan,

Similarly twenty

and Abbotabad.

By Adeel Ahmed SHIKARPUR: The heinous offence of kidnapping for ransom

could not be stopped in

District Shikarpur due to

growing lawlessness and

poor performance by

District Shikarpur Police

and Law enforcement

Agencies which caused

four more labourers were

kidnapped from Shikarpur

District in two separate

kidnapping incidents.

Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, Meena Khan Afridi on Tuesday issued directives to the concerned officers of KP Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA) to take steps for promotion of quality education in the province.

He also issued and procedure of registration of private authority must take action universities and colleges against those private educational institutions which do not fulfill the criteria of standard institution.

"Provision of quality education in the entire districts of the province so province is the top most far, including nine priority of the universities, one university government," he said while sub campuses. priority

HERA, Chairman Sharif Minister Hussain and other officers attended the meeting.

GILGIT: Member Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amjad Hussain advocate

A detailed briefing 100 million compensation was given to the provincial package for the victim minister about the work family of roof collapse and performance of the incident in Ragzai area of authority. south Waziristan in which The minister was six members of a family

briefed about the process had lost lives. On the directives of the CM, the provincial disaster management with the authority. authority has released the In the briefing, it was cheque informed that 344 private

to Deputy Commissioner South universities and colleges Waziristan for payment to have been registered with the affected family the authority in different

The CM expressed his heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family and said that the provincial government was equally grieved over the tragedy.

#### **ANF** recovers 52 kg drugs in five operations RAWALPINDI (APP):

In another operation

Murad, Pervaiz Elahi Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 52 kg of drugs and

obtained arrest warrants of PTI leader Murad Saeed and former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in 9 May violence related cases registered against them under terrorism and others clauses in different police

May 9 violence cases

**RWP** police obtain

arrest warrants of

stations Civil Lines and Cantt Khurram Zeeshan in five circles of Pothohar division have filed their report.

According to this report, former federal minister Murad Saeed is registered in Cantt police nominated in the case registered against him 23 registered in police against number 836/23 in

RAWALPINDI (Online): police station cantt under Rawalpindi Police have terrorism and other clauses terrorism and other clauses and case No 708/23 arrested four suspects, registered against him in said an ANF Headquarters RA Bazar police station spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that under these clauses. Arrest warrants have been in an operation, 440 grams obtained in this regard. of Ice was recovered from No case is registered

a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport. against Senator Faisal Javed Khan, Azam Swati, Azhar Mashwani and at Islamabad Airport, 54 heroin-filled capsules and police stations of Cantt 4 suspicious materials were circle.Chaudhry Pervaiz recovered from a Karachi-Elahi is also nominated in

bound passenger. In the the case No 836/23 third operation, 70 heroinfilled capsules were station and case No 708/ recovered from a passenger going to Abu-Dhabi.

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief particularly in flood-prone scenarios. Detailed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Ámin deliberations unfolded Gandapur has approved Rs regarding the machinery and apparatus essential for effective rescue operations during such exigencies.

Sethar Sui Gas Employee emphasized the necessity to avoid unnecessary (Watchman) and his relative purchases, urging for Gulsher Sethar of village meticulous scrutiny to Boriri were kidnapped from Sui Gas point in the ensure the procurement of high-quality goods at competitive rates.

officer and official will not be posted in one place for more than three years.

KARACHI:Smoke and flames rise from a Bogie Restaurant as Pakistani fire fighters struggle to control a fire which broke out at Cantt Station in Karachi.

## Siege, arson cases: **Court extends interim** bail of Asad, Zain others till April 20

LAHORE (Online): Anti The exemption pleas Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended interim bail of Asad Umar, Zain Qureshi, Hafiz Farhat Abbas and others in different cases of siege and arson.

Duty judge of ATC took up the different cases of attack on Jinnah House and siege and arson cases for hearing Tuesday.

from attendance in respect Islami-JI Sindh Deputy of Asad Umar and Hafiz General Secretary Moulvi Abdul Hafeez Bijarani died Farhat Abbas were presented in the court. in horrible road accident The other accused occurred at Khanpur appeared in the court. Kandhkot Indus Highway The court extended Road on Monday night. interim bail of 79 accused

According to reports including Asad Umar, Zain that terrible road accident Qureshi, Farhat Abbas and occurred between two others till April 20. Motor Cars near PARCO on Khanpur - Kandhkot

Indus Highway Road. As a result of heavy collision between two cars from opposite sides, Moulvi Abdul Hafeez Bijarani died on the spot. While four others identified as Dur Muhammad Bijarani, Ranjeet Kumar, Brij Lal and One lady Nimrata Kumari received serious injured.

**JI Sindh** 

**Dy General** 

Secretary

killed in road

accident

**Our Correspondent** 

SHIKARPUR: The Jamait

proper manner.

instructions

Department.

While

completing PC-I and other

The injured and deceased were sent to last date of filing appeals against the decisions of the **RBUT** Civil Hospital ROs about rejecting and Shikarpur for Medical legal accepting the nomination formalities and from where papers would be March 25. the injured were referred to The appeals would be Sukkur hospital due to decided by the appellate their precious condition tribunal by March 28 and after giving them medical first aid at Civil Hospital Shikarpur.

this evil from the society. Dastar Khawan. She said this while

Advisor to Chief presiding over the introductory meeting of Minister Mashal Azam Yousafzai was informed the officers and district about the ongoing projects directors of the Social of the department and the Welfare and Women development Department. problems and challenges faced by the department in different districts. She said that every

Speaking during the meeting, Advisor to Chief Minister Mashal Azam She directed District Yousafzai said that measures should be taken directors to take proactive measures to include poor for the transport of widows in the Ramadan children in the Special relief package so that no Education Institute and poor widow is deprived of vehicles should be arranged this package and the on rent facilities in Darulaman necessary. wherever

## **Minister for completing** ongoing development projects in education dept

Masood Ahmed and other **Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Provincial officials of the Education Minister for Education Department participated in the meeting. Faisal Khan Tarakai on Tuesday said that all During the briefing, ongoing projects of the education department should be completed in the education minister was told that the education

department is working on time so that problems of male and female students 107 projects including 58 of the planned districts, 19 of the merged districts and could be resolved in a 30 of the AIP, and timely completion of these projects would be ensured issuing to the planning authorities for at all cost.

He was told that requirement of the these projects include IT projects, he said the labs, ECE rooms, projects which are in the examination halls, science pipeline could also be labs, construction and upgradation of schools, approved by the relevant forums after completion of solarization, establishment the ongoing projects. He expressed these views of cadet colleges, setting up community schools and while presiding over the development budget multi-purpose other projects for public welfare. The minister said that

meeting of the Education education was the first Secretary Education priority of his government.



ASTORE: Heavy machineries being used to remove snow from the blocked road of Mir Malik area Astore Valley by the staffer of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority as the last heavy snow fall and rain hit the area and caused land sliding.



RAWALPINDI: Volunteers distribute food among the people in fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan at Satellite Town.

**Bye-election in two NA**, two PK constituencies on April 21: ECP

PESHAWAR (APP): The submitted nomination Election Commission of papers, had been issued Pakistan (ECP) on while the scrutiny of the Tuesday said that the byepapers would be done till poll in two National March 21, adding that the Assembly and two provincial assembly's constituencies would be held on April 21. According to the spokesman of ECP, the bye-poll would be held in NA-08 Bajaur, PK-22 Bajaur-IV, NA-44 DI Khan-1 and PK-91, Kohat.

on the same date, the He said that a list of revised list of candidates the candidates, who would be issued.

# jurisdiction of Rustam Police Station.

### Daily Aoice of Masse, **Independent** Wednesday March 20, 2024

## **Awais directs PPMC to prepare proposals** for technological interventions in power sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, directed the Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC) on Tuesday to prepare proposals for technological interventions in the power sector

"This step aims to improve the efficiency of the power sector by the utilizing modern technology and to provide maximum benefit to consumers," the minister said while chairing a meeting, according to a news release.

During the meeting, the Power Planning and Monitoring Company gave comprehensive briefing regarding the performance of DISCOs.

The minister issued a other sources. The minister directive for an immediate warned that no lapse would assessment of the senior be tolerated at any cost. executive management of DISCOs. Awais Ahmed Khan

The minister has Leghari, who has been tasked PPMC with assigned the portfolio of comprehensively the Ministry of Power by evaluating Disco's Board of the Prime Minister, is the Directors. architect of transformative The move signals a

sectoral reforms in potential shake-up in Pakistan. During his term leadership, demonstrating Minister as government's Telecommunication and proactive approach to Information Technology, driving positive change the telecom sector saw deregulation, privatization within the sector.

While chairing the of PTCL, and a ting on the competitive environment meeting on the competitive environment development projects of that immensely benefited NTDC, the minister expressed dissatisfaction the consumers. Sardar Leghari served

Meanwhile, Sardar

for

reforms

rationalization.

with NTDC's performance as the Minister for Power and instructed the timely Division for more than a completion of transmission year, from 2016 to 2018, lines, which would affect and had the credit for the evacuation of cheap introducing and allowing energy from hydel and net metering in Pakistan.



Federal Minister of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with the President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in Islamabad.

## Sri Lankan envoy for increasing bilateral trade up to \$800mln with Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne has said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka Group, FPCCI Secretary intend to double the General, Zafar Bakhtauri bilateral trade between the and Executive Member of two countries to \$800 ICCI, Amir Hamza were million, for which the also included in the

(ICCI) here on Tuesday. Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and United Business

#### **NPO to organize** webinar on **'Industrial** Automation'

today ISLAMABAD (APP) The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Industrial Automation on March 20 (Wednesday) tomorrow.

involves the integration of tronic, mechanical and



Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, chairing a meeting with Power Planning and Monitoring Company in Islamabad.

## **Commerce Minister** briefs on tariff reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): by ensuring the availability Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal of raw material at competitive prices. Khan chaired a meeting on

He was also briefed on working of the TPB. The Tuesday at the Ministry of Commerce during which he meeting highlighted the strategic importance of the TPB in shaping Pakistan's tariff policy. Discussions was briefed on tarrif and

The meeting was also attended by the Secretary, Mr. Khurram Agha and key officials from the centered on the role of Tariffs in Industrial, especially export growth. He was informed that there was no Customs

Ministry. The Minister was briefed on the tariff reforms and tariff rationalisation undertaken by the Ministry since the formation of the Tariff Policy Board (TPB) and explored the role of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of IT and

He was also briefed on the progress on various tariff rationalisation measures which were in

pipeline. The Minister stressed on strategic use of tariffs to promote industrialization in conjunction with other policies, like targeting tariffs towards protecting export oriented industries for a limited period, duty on about one third of allowing them to gain a foothold without permanent dependence on

protection. He directed the Ministry to work on a plan for tariff rationalisation along these lines.

#### S. Korea's corporate bond sale rises in February

SEOUL (Xinhua/APP) South Korea's corporate bond sale rose in single digits last month due to solid funding demand from financial companies, financial watchdog data showed Tuesday.

The issuance of corporate bonds amounted to 26.24 trillion won (19.7 billion U.S. dollars) in February, up 4.5 percent compared to the previous month, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS).

academia in the IT field as community which is a It was attributable to such initiatives are matter of concern. robust financing demand from financial firms that offset weaker demand from

industrial companies.

## **Minister reviews** development projects

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Agriculture Minister, Muhammad Sajjad on Tuesday visited the Directorate General Agricultural Engineering Office to oversee ongoing projects

During his inspection, the minister emphasized the timely completion of all projects. He personally

examined the agricultural machinery workshop and urged for its effective utilization to enhance agricultural productivity. The minister underscored

the importance of maximizing benefits for farmers and boosting agricultural output to address food scarcity.

projects were discussed, including the installation of solar pumping systems, establishment of tube wells, and the promotion of mechanized agriculture. These initiatives, part

Page

06

of different development programs, aim to increase agricultural productivity and meet the rising demand for food

The Minister was accompanied by officials, including Director-General of Agricultural Engineering Nasim Javaid, DG Agriculture Extension Jan Muhammad, and DG Soil Conservation Muhammad Yaseen Wazir.

The visit provided an opportunity to assess progress and ensure the effective implementation Various ongoing of development initiatives.



Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with President and Group CEO PTCL Hatem Bamatraf in Islamabad.

## **PML-N** to provide relief to farmers: **Musadik Malik**

ISLAMABAD (APP): planned to control gas theft Federal Minister for cases

Petroleum and Energy, Musadik Malik on Tuesday said that Pakistan He said that Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Muslim League Nawaz Southern Gas Company (PML-N) led government Limited (SSGC) were would deliver all benefits working to install smart meters in all parts of the directly to the farmers to promote agriculture sector. country

Talking to a private The smart meter, he said would directly benefit news channel, he said the government had extended the consumers. subsidies to fertilizer firms

It is expected that the issue of additional losses in the electricity and gas sector would be addressed within a year

he said. The PML-N has a firm policy and determination to uplift the In reply to a question, country for benefitting the

he said the government has poor masses, he added.

Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and President and Group CEO of PTCL, Hatem Bamatraf, discussed the rollout of 5G technology, right-of-way issues, and the crucial aspect of fiberization within telecommunications sector.

The minister, during a meeting, emphasized the significant role of the telecommunications sector in the national economy. Shaza Fatima stated necessary to provide a

Industrial automation that efforts are underway skilled workforce to IT to expedite matters such as companies worldwide."

the raw materials required by the industry. He was also informed import of the machinery and capital goods was also

further strengthen bilateral

relations between Pakistan

and the UAE. Shaza Fatima Khawaja also met

with the Chairman of the Higher Education

Commission, Dr Mukhtar

Ahmed, and discussed in

detail the issues of IT

graduate training programs,

startups, and empowering youth with skills.

should be minimal gap

between industry and

The minister emphasized

She added, "There

#### facilitated via the Tariff tariffs in boosting exports Policy. Shaza Fatima, PTCL President discuss roll

Higher

out of 5G technology

the

otential in various sectors delegation. in both countries should be exploited.

bilateral trade potential between the two countries million last year, which is \$1 billion, which is achievable, but it will take the bilateral trade to the 2018. The Sri Lankan target of 800 million dollars, the Ambassador Pakistan and Sri Lanka said.

The Sri Lankan Agreement in 2005, which Ambassador in Pakistan was Pakistan's first FTA said here while talking to the delegation led by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, said a both countries, but in the press release issued by present era, both countries Islamabad Chamber of can reap a lot of benefits Commerce and Industry from this agreement.

Human traffickers transport

a good future in Europe: PEW

The Sri Lankan Envoy said that the autonomous production At present, the bilateral trade between the environment, which is of two countries was \$400 great benefit to any industry, regardless of the was less than the trade of sector in which it operates, \$510 billion in the year said an NPO document shared here on Tuesday. Ambassador said that signed a Free Trade

workshop increasing efficiency, productivity, accuracy, and quality in production while with any country. He said that in the

reducing intervention in repetitive beginning, this free trade and routine tasks, and agreement had good effects costing. on the bilateral trade of

#### **Bank of Japan** scraps negative

interest rate TOKYO (AFP/APP) youth to Russia on promise of Japan's central bank on Tuesday on Tuesday its negative interest rate as it finally began unwinding one of the world's most aggressive monetary easing

After announcing its

#### political affiliations.

LAHORE (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Brigadier (retd) Aslam Khan has said that unemployed youth from poor nations are joining the the event of the death of a Russia-Ukraine war in large numbers.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that the human smugglers were promising youth good jobs in Europe and then delivering them to the armies of both warring nations. Brig (retd) Aslam Khan said that this tendency can't be stopped as the unemployed youth of poor nations will continue to become part of this war for money, irrespective of their are sent to the front line.

programmes. He said youth should be prevented from becoming the fuel for the first increase in 17 years, the Bank of Japan said it war. The family members was changing its shortare not even informed in term policy rate from -0.1 percent to between zero person in a foreign land. and 0.1 percent. The business leader

Officials "assessed the virtuous cycle between said that human traffickers transport youth to Russia wages and prices, and on the promise of a good judged it came in sight that future in Europe. The the price stability target of youths are told they are two percent would be being sent to Europe via achieved in a sustainable Russia, where they will get and stable manner towards a huge salary.

the end of the projection period of the January 2024 On reaching Russia, they are handed over to the Outlook Report", it said. army after snatching their The bank also said it passports. They are sent would call an end to other to barracks and given brief unorthodox policies including its yield curve training, after which they control programme.

5G right-of-way and other software systems to create issues related to the that Pakistan's youth are a a more intelligent and telecom sector.

Chief Minister. PDMA

various

The PTCL President expressed a desire to the international market.

The country's central bank had left its benchmark valuable asset and should be effectively branded in interest rate unchanged at 3.50 percent since January.



LARKANA: Additional Director Pakistan Red Crescent Society Ms. Asima Naseem distributing buffaloes to flood-affected families of deserving households with the collaboration of the IFRC during a ceremony at Municipal Stadium, organized by Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

## **SMBR** reviews proposed housing schemes in 20 districts

LAHORE (APP): Senior Technology Board) Technology attended the meeting. SMBR Member Board of Revenue

(SMBR) Nabil Javed here instructed the officials Tuesday chaired a meeting concerned to conduct an to review progress on the priority projects of Punjab immediate survey of 51 proposed sites for new

potential of trade, adding

that both the countries

should make good use of

the CPEC for attaining

better connectivity to

deeply explore each other

also an honorary Consul of

Kyrgyzstan, said that the

delegation would meet

Kyrgyz private sector and

hold a series of mutually

beneficial talks in various

Meher Kashif, who is

housing scheme, and complete this task in 15 Director General Irfan Ali Kathia, Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) DG days in 20 priority districts and submit the report. He Saira Umar and officials of that the sites should be reviewed as per the instructions of the Chief departments including Housing, Local Governments, Sports and Minister. "Do not stay PITB (Punjab Information away from urban areas.

markets.

sectors

textiles

**Trade delegation** 

off to Kyrgyzstan

the

Talking to media prior

He stressed the need

activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI (APP): Fiveships namely, MSC Precision-V, Xpress Precision-V, Xpress Salween, Kotka, Crater and

Shipping

Umm Bab, carrying Container, Wheat and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Grain Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Nimble Nicky and MSC Shy scheduled to load/offload Iron Ore and Container also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port

Qasim during last 24 hours. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Kotka, Xpress Salween and Hafnia Shanghai left the Port on today morning, while three more ships, MSC Precision-V, Elephanta and Melody are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 191,327 tonnes. comprising 117,963 tonnes imports cargo and 73,364 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,520 Containers (2,194 TEUs Imports and 3,326 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours

including Eight ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, a griculture. out of them three ships, MSC Shy. pharmaceuticals, and

## Govt. earmarks 2 billion for Pakistan **Startup Funds**

in order to boost

agricultural production but

the fertilizer companies

could not forward the

benefits to the farmer

the Pakistan Startup Fund,

Ministry of IT said that

financial support to

startups, with each

receiving 30% backing,

while venture capitalists

This initiative, he

the country.

capital.

growth.

Pakistan's

ISLAMABAD (APP): incentive for the local The government has handset manufacturing earmarked Rs 2 billion for industry.

This incentive, he was aiming to bolster venture of the view, is designed to capital investment within enhance the industry's global competitiveness in An official from the terms of pricing.

The government plans to introduce a this fund will extend strategy for manufacturing components within Pakistan, thus making locally produced phones will contribute the more affordable compared remaining 70% of the to imported ones through a tariff-differential policy.

Highlighting the hoped is anticipated to potential of Pakistan's significantly contribute to cellular market, the official said that the country ranks economic as the seventh-largest To boost mobile market for cellular users phone production globally, boasting 191 domestically, he said the million cellular cellular government has unveiled a connections. "However, 3% Research and we import model by Development (R&D) mobile phones. we import most of our



OUETTA: Kissan Ittehad Central Chairman, Khalid Hussain addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## **SACM on IC&TE** briefed on performance, goals of KP-EZDMC

PESHAWAR (APP): First introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and

Management Company (KP-EZDMC) with the Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education (IC&TE), Abdul Karim Tordhir was held here in the headquarters of the company at Hayatabad on

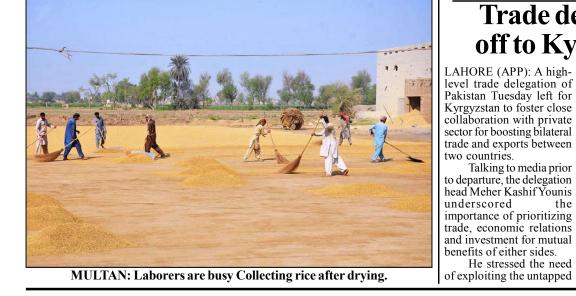
Tuesday.

During the meeting the Special Assistant was

given a detailed briefing regarding the measures taken for industrialization, company's performance and its future goals.

Besides, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, Javed Iqbal Khattak, managers of the relevant sections and other officials attended the meeting. The Special Assistant was informed that currently 10 Economic Zones and 2 Special Economic Zones have been established in the province, while the establishment of

4 new Economic Zones.



Daily A oice of Massey

**International News** 

Page 07

'The US delegation

was there to raise a number

troubled (about) the path

# Gaza faces famine, unprecedented crisis, warns UN

Monday.

and other aid

A Palestinian woman and children rush to safety after Israeli air strikes in

CBS Face the Nation on

Sunday, Senator Van Hollen

UNRWA being a proxy for Hamas are false. "Oh,

there's no doubt that the

claim is a flat-out lie," he

The US lawmaker ar-

gues that the Israeli prime

"Netanyahu has wanted to get rid of UNRWA since at

least 2017. That's been his

goal, not just in Gaza, but

also in the other places (as

Explaining why he

well)," he said.

he Netanyahu's claims about

believes

Netanyahu's claims

about UNRWA 'flat-out

lies', says US senator

said

declared.

The Maryland Demo- minister is using the allega-

is among a group of tion to dismantle UNRWA.

**Monitoring Desk** ROME: Half of Gazans are experiencing "catastrophic" hunger, with famine projected to hit the north of the territory by May without urgent intervention, a United Nations-backed food security assessment warned on Monday.

"People in Gaza are starving to death right now. The speed at which this man-made hunger and malnutrition crisis has ripped through Gaza is terrifying,' the head of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) Cindy McCain said.

"To have 50 per cent of an entire population in catastrophic, near-famine levels, is unprecedented," Beth Bechdol, the deputy director general of the UN's Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO), said. Monday accused Israel of This amounts to continuing to "systematiaround 1.1 million people cally and deliberately block 'struggling with cata- and undermine" the delivtion", according to the WFP.

wFP. It added: "This is the highest number of people ever recorded as facing cata-strophic hunger" under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) partnerschin which pub partnership, which pub-lished its latest report on

in the northern governorates and projected to occur The situation is par-ticularly dire in the north of the besieged Palestinian anytime between mid-March and May 2024," the IPC report said of Gaza. territory, where there are about 300,000 people, the All evidence points towards a major accelera-

difficulty distributing food

Aid charity Oxfam on fensible," it said.



"Famine is imminent response to a new proposal from Hamas

#### UN says — and where aid tion of deaths and malnuagencies have reported huge trition. Waiting for a retrospective famine classification before acting is inde-



he end of the Cold War. taken note of the "special Arriving in Brussels election operation"

## **Blinken to push for** Gaza ceasefire on Middle East trip

West decries Putin's

**Monitoring Desk** MANILA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit the Middle East this week, aiming to reach a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, and secure the release of hostages held by the Palestinian militant group. During a visit to the

Monitoring Desk BAGHDAD: The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Philippines, Blinken said his trip to meet senior lead-Grossi met Iraq's prime minister in Baghdad on ers in Saudia Arabia and Egypt would aim to "dis-Monday as part of a visit cuss the right architecture to help the country develop for lasting regional peace". peaceful nuclear Providing more hu-

programme. "We have discussed several projects in Iraq, including building a nuclear reactor for peaceful pur-

poses," Iraqi Education

IAEA to help

Iraq develop

peaceful

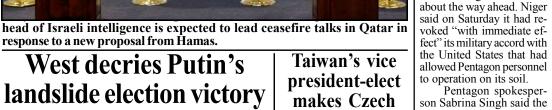
nuclear plan

manitarian aid into Gaza as well as discussing post-war planning for the enclave are among the topics he will discuss with Saudi and Egyptian officials.

of the Gaza population is in need of humanitarian assistance," Blinken said, adding that it was "absolutely incumbent" upon Israel to

those in desperate need. Extreme shortages of food in parts of the Gaza Strip have already exceeded famine levels.

2022



visit after US trip Monitoring Desk

missed the election result as TAIPEI: Taiwan's vice a sham ahead of agreeing president-elect and sanctions on individuals former de facto ambassalinked to the mistreatment dor to Washington, Hsiao and death of Kremlin critic Bi-khim, is on a visit to Alexei Navalny. "Russia's the Czech Republic folelection was an election lowing a low-key trip to the United States, the forwithout choice," German Minister Annalena Baerbock said at eign ministry said on Tuesday.

Hsiao, who takes office with president-elect Lai Ching-te in May, is detested by China which calls her a "diehard Taiwan independence separatist" and has placed

#### Afghan refugee convicted in New Mexico Muslim killings case

Monitoring Desk NEW MEXICO: A New Mexico jury found an Afghan asylum seeker guilty of murdering a Pakistani immigrant in one of three ambush-style shootings of Muslim men that terrified the Islamic community in the state's largest city during the summer of

Muhammad Syed, 53, faces life imprisonment for the first-degree murder of 41-year-old Aftab Hussein above the target, it said. who was found dead in southeast Albuquerque on July 26, 2022.

## US warned Niger about ties to Russia, Iran before junta revoked accord, Pentagon says

with Niger's ruling military council known as the CNSP. Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US offi-cials traveled to Niger last week to express concerns about the country's potential development of ties to Russia and Iran before the of concerns. ... We were ruling junta on Saturday revoked an accord governing the roughly 1,000 US military personnel there, the Pentagon said on Monday. The Pentagon added it was seeking clarification

Pentagon spokesper-

US government had "direct

and frank" conversations in

Niger ahead of the junta's

that Niger is on. And so these were direct and frank conversations, to have those in person, to talk about our concerns and to also hear theirs,' Singh said."US officials expressed concern over Niger's potential relationships with

Russia and Iran.' Since its July 2023 coup, the military junta that seized power in Niamey has kicked out French and European forces, and quit the Economic Community of West African States regional bloc. Like juntas in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso, it has also announcement, and was strengthened military ties continuing to communicate with Russia.

North Korea's Kim oversees firing drills with 'super-large' rocket launchers, state media says

> The unit displayed "high mobility and accurate and strong striking power" in carrying out a sudden combat mission, eliciting the young leader's praise, it said. "They fully demonstrated their excellent crack-shot artillery marksmanship and prompt and thorough combat readiness," KCNA said. for

modernising and scaling up artillery forces, highlighting the 600 mm rocket launchers' "strategic duties as the core central striking means" in war preparations.

"The destructive offensive means possessed by our army should more thoroughly fulfil their missions to block and suppress the possibility of war with the constant perfect preparedness to collapse the capital of the enemy and the structure of its military forces," Kim told the troops, according

to KCNA.

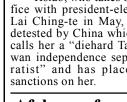
**Gunmen in Nigeria** kidnap about 100 in weekend attacks **Monitoring Desk** Residents said armed men dressed in army uniform arrived in the village undetected because they had parked their motorbikes away from the village. Aruwa Ya'u, another said on Monday. resident, said he was captured but released by the Kidnappings by gunmen because he criminal gangs demanding struggled to walk due to ransoms have become an poor health. He was receivalmost daily occurrence in Nigeria, especially in the ing treatment at a local govnorth, with authorities ernment clinic, he said. Gunmen are known to force-march their victims deep into the bush, holding Hassan confirmed the incithem for up to months while awaiting ransom paylage on Sunday night but ments The abductions come after an armed gang seized 286 students and staff from a school in early March in Kuriga in Kaduna state and village head, said 87 people gunmen seized 61 people on March 12 in Buda comwere taken. munity "We have so far re-In Dogon Noma, another community in Kajuru local government area, gunmen abducted 16 people from their homes in an attack on Saturday night, residents said.

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has overseen firing drills by artillery units in the western region involving "newlyequipped super-large" multiple rocket launchers, state media KCNA said on Tuesday. The drills came a day after South Korea and Japan reported North Korea's launch of several Kim called

short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, its first such missile test in about two months. Kim guided the drills on Monday that were aimed at testing the "real war capabilities" of 600 millimetre multiple rocket launchers and improving the operators' combat mo-

rale and readiness posture, KCNA said. The drills also included simulating an air explosion of a shell of the super-large multiple rocket launcher at a preset altitude

'One hundred percent prioritise assistance for



senators who demanded last week that US President Joe Biden comply with the Foreign Assistance Act and cut off military aid to Israel

**Monitoring Desk** 

WASHINGTON: US Sena-

tor Chris Van Hollen has re-

futed Israel's allegation that

the UN Palestinian refugee

agency UNRWA is a proxy

for Hamas, arguing that the

accusations by Israeli Prime

Netanyahu are "flat-out

Benjamin

Gaza City.

Minister

They argued that Secopposes the ban on UNRWA, Van Hollen argues tion 6201 of the Foreign Assistance Act requires the that UNRWA provides the Biden administration to primary distribution sysstop the sale and transfer tem for food and aid in of weapons to Israel if Netanyahu's government Gaza. "If you cut off fundcontinues to block humaniing for UNRWA and Gaza entirely, it means more tarian assistance to Gaza.

In an interview with people will starve.

## Gaza's catastrophic food shortage; two out of every 10,000 people dying daily, says monitor

**Monitoring Desk** CAIRO: Extreme food shortages in parts of the Gaza Strip have already exceeded famine levels, and mass death is now imminent without an immediate ceasefire and surge of food to areas cut off by fighting, the global hunger monitor said on Monday.

The Integrated Food-Security Phase Classification (IPC), whose assessments are relied on by UN agencies, said 70% of people in parts of northern Gaza were suffering the most severe level of food shortage, more than triple the 20% threshold to be considered famine.

The IPC said it did not have enough data on death rates, but estimated residents would be dying at famine scale imminently, defined as two people out of every 10,000 dying daily from starvation or from malnutrition and disease.

Gaza's health ministry has said 27 children and three adults have died so far from malnutrition.

The actions needed to prevent famine require an immediate political decision for a ceasefire together

with a significant and immediate increase in humanitarian and commercial access to the entire population of Gaza," it said. In all, 1.1 million Gazans, around half the

population, were experiencing "catastrophic" shortages of food, with around 300,000 in the areas now facing the prospect of famine-scale death rates.

The prospect of a manmade famine in Gaza has brought the strongest criticism of Israel from Western allies since it launched its war against Hamas following their deadly attack on Israeli ter-

was British spy, **Italian court told Monitoring Desk** ROME: Egyptian police detained an Italian student

Arab Gulf countries.

Egyptians

in Cairo because they thought he was a British spy, taking him to a security facility where he was tortured and murdered, an Italian prosecutor told a Rome court on Monday. Italy has charged four

Egyptian security agents with kidnapping and killing Giulio Regeni, a postgraduate student at Britain's Cambridge University, in Cairo in 2016.

The four men are being tried in absentia and have never responded publicly to the accusations. The

Egyptian authorities have repeatedly denied any state involvement in Regeni's disappearance and death.

The overall picture that has emerged is that of a web that slowly, between September 2015



BAGHDAD: IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi looks on as Iraq's Health Minister Saleh Al Hasnawi speaks with a physician during a tour of Al Amal thought Regeni National Hospital for Oncology.

## **New Zealand Prime Minister Luxon** intends to visit China

**Monitoring Desk** WELLINGTON: New Zealand's prime minister Christopher Luxon intends

to travel to China in the coming months following meetings with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in leadership invited to New New Zealand this week. Zealand but "nothing had Luxon on Monday, been confirmed yet." If conalong with Foreign Minisfirmed, this would be ter Winston Peters and Luxon's first visit since he Trade Minister Todd was elected as Prime Min-McClay met with Wang, ister last October, however who was the first high rank-Chris Hipkins travelled to ing Chinese official to visit China as Prime Minister in New Zealand since 2017. mid-2023. New Zealand Peters said in a briefhas maintained a cordial re-

ing to media on Tuesday lationship with China even as relations between China that meetings with Wang had been "very convivial, and other western par very friendly" and that have faced challenges. and other western partners

Monitoring Desk McClay would visit China ONDON: Kate, Britain's next month and Luxon is Princess of Wales, has been "going not long after that." shown looking fit and A spokesperson for healthy in the first video the Prime Minster said taken of her since she un-Luxon had been invited to derwent surgery two visit China, and the Chinese

months ago in footage published by the Sun newspaper on its website on Monday. Kate, 42, spent two weeks in hospital in January after having what her office said was successful planned surgery for a noncancerous but unspecified condition. Other than a couple of blurry pictures, she has not been seen in public since appearing with the other members of the royal family on Christmas Day.

#### **Iceland volcano** still pouring out fountains of lava **Monitoring Desk**

UK royal Kate

shown in first

video since

surgery, Sun says

COPENHAGEN: A volcano in Iceland that erupted on Saturday for the fourth time since December was still spewing smoke and bright orange lava into the air on Monday although infrastructure and a nearby fishing town were safe for now, authorities said. Magma had been accumulating underground on the Reykjanes peninsula near Iceland's capital Reykjavik since the last eruption in February, prompting authorities to warn of an imminent eruption. The warning time late on Saturday was only 15 minutes before fountains of molten rock began

the sea to the shore," he said, adding mountains of plastic waste have for years made their way to the sea through rivers, but the tides soaring from a 3 km-long. bring them back ashore.

Every year, the rain

KADUNA: Gunmen in Nigeria kidnapped around 100 people, including women and children, in two weekend attacks in Kaduna state, residents and police

seemingly powerless to stop them. Kaduna police spokesperson Mansur dent in Kajuru Station vilcould not give a figure on those missing. He said security agents had been deployed to rescue the villagers. Tanko Wada Sarkin, a

corded the return of five people back home who fled through the bush. This attack makes it five times that these bandits are attacking this community," he told Reuters by phone.

## **UNRWA chief Lazzarini** says Israel blocked him from entering Gaza

**Monitoring Desk** CAIRO: The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said on Monday Israel had blocked him from entering the war-torn and besieged Gaza Strip where the UN has warned of im-

pending famine. UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said he had "intended to go into Rafah today, but was informed my entry had been declined," speaking in a Cairo joint press conference with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.

Lazzarini later wrote X, formerly Twitter, on that he had been denied entry by "Israeli authorities", a claim Israel did not immediately comment on.

The UN agency. which coordinates nearly all aid to Gaza, has been in crisis since Israel accused about a dozen of its 13.000 Gaza employees of being involved in the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

This led multiple donor nations including the United States to suspend

funding although some of them have since resumed or increased it including Spain, Canada and Australia.

Israeli authorities did not respond to an AFP request for comment, but government spokesman Avi Hyman earlier Monday reiterated what he called Israel's position, that "UNRWA is a front for Hamas

Shoukry expressed Cairo's "complete support" for the agency and criticised "unilateral actions to restrict UNRWA funding due to baseless accusations"

The Hamas attack of October 7 resulted in about 1,160 deaths, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Israel's retaliatory campaign in Hamascontrolled Gaza has killed at least 31,726 people, mostly women and children, according to the territory's health ministry.

Among the dead are 168 UNRWA employees, according to the agency's latest figures.



an environmental group.

trash brought in by tides Monitoring Desk Solikah said ELUK: Solikah, an Indo-Indonesia is expecting nesian housewife living in a milder dry season this the fishing village of Teluk,

Indonesia fishing village

grapples with piles of

year, its meteorological was in tears as she pointed agency said, starting later than usual in May and June to piles of trash strewn on for Java. Fikri Jufri, who a beach close to her home leads a community focus on Teluk, in the Indonecleaning beaches in Teluk, said the rain had led to the

sian province of Banten on the western edge of Java pile-up of trash. island, has one of the country's dirtiest beaches and wind carries trash from as villagers said that heavy rain has led to stronger tides, bringing more trash to

of 40 years

'You can't predict the weather," 58-year-old

## Daily **Independent**, Quetta

## Wednesday March 20, 2024

## CM expresses anger over making advance payment of Rs. 1 billion for development projects of health sector in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed anguish over making advance payment of Rs. 1 billion for develop-ment projects of health sector in the province.

He directed the concerned authorities to lodge FIR against those responsible for advance payment after fixation of the responsibility

He also directed to the Anti-Corruption department to arrest all the responsible after conducting investigations into the mat-

The Chief Minister to ensure appointment of was chairing a review meeting of the Health department here on Tuesday.

The Member provincial assembly, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Secretary Health, Abdullah

Khan and other concerned

high ups

surgeons in all district headquarter hospitals within 10 In addition to this, the Chief Minister also directed

to ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines in the hospital and adding he asserted he would personally review the situation. He regretfully pointed out that there are certain complaints about purchase

of medicines in the health sector, which needs to be addressed. The Chief Minister

Addressing the meetissued standing directives

ing, Chief Minister directed to the Chief Secretary to start implementation on the initiatives proposed for well being of the people right from today.

Referring the advance payment of Rs. 1 billion for development projects in health sector, the Chief Minister expressed dismay over the advance payment saying that the payment was made, but work was not done

He on the occasion observed that the buildings of basic health units are used for personal sittings and gatherings in interior parts of the province.



Health Department.

### Pakistan, US discuss bilateral cooperation statement issued by fi-

nance ministry.

He congratulated gov-

ernment on positive step

taken so far that resulted in

visibly positive signs in the

economy and hoped that it

will help further stabilize

the economy. The minister

warmly welcomed the am-

bassador and underscored

SLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United States to Pakistan, Donald Blome, paid a courtesy visit to Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb here Tuesday to discuss important matters related to bilateral cooperation and mutual interests between Pakistan and the United States.

the significance of Paki-The ambassador exstan-US bilateral relations, highlighting their importended felicitations to Muhammad Aurangzeb tance at political, economic, upon his appointment as and security levels. He Minister for Finance and

### **Speakers call for addressing** women's plight in occupied territories like Palestine, Kashmir UNITED Panelists, representing

NATIONS UN-based diplomatic (APP): Prominent speakers corps, academia, women at a panel discussion, hosted by Pakistan's Mis-sion to the UN, Monday rights organizations and civil society underlined the called for greater global efchallenges and hardships facing the women, girls and forts, including uniform children under occupation. Pakistan's UN Amimplementation of the UN resolutions, treaties and bassador Munir Akram conventions, to end the situations of foreign occuopened the discussion in pation and conflicts facing which taking part were Alwomen around the world. gerian Ambassador Amar Bendjama, OIC Ambassa-dor to the UN Hameed especially in Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. The discussion, a side

Ajibaiye Opeloyeru, Dr. event, was part of the on-going 68th Session of the Dalal Kanaan, Professor at Fordham University, New Commission on the Status York, and Dr. Ameena Zia, of Women (CSW68). It took place at UN Headquarters Professor at CUNY Lehman College & Founder in New York. of Blue Ridge Impact Con-

#### Magnitude 5.4 earthquake shakes parts of **Balochistan**

QUETTA (INP): An earthquake of magnitude 5.4 jolted Southern and Northern parts of Balochistan on Tuesday early morning. The magnitude of the

quake was 5.4 on Richter Scale, the seismic center reported. The tremors were felt in Quetta, Noshki Chagai, Chaman, Qila Saifullah, Pashin, Mastung and other parts. The epicentre of the earthquake was some 150 kilometers away from Quetta and its dept was 35 kilometers in South and West, according to the seismic centre.

However, no loss of life and damage to property was reported from any part

**CPPA files** 

hike in power

tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Central Power Purchasing

Agency (CPPA) has filed

application in NEPRA

seeking hike IN power tar-

sulting. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Human Rights and Women Emunder foreign occupation.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait, Nassar Abdul Rehman Almutari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## AJK PM claims eradication of corruption and mafia focuses on development

powerment, sent a special video message on the occasion. The panelists demanded that all future UN reports and resolutions of the Security Council on the women, peace and security agenda should include provi sions and information relating to the situation of women and girls under foreign occupation. They proposed the creation of a UN monitoring mechanism to register al crimes and violations committed against women and girls

QUETTA: IG Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inaugurating new Trauma Centre Marwat claims submit evidence

IGP inaugurates newly established Trauma **Center in Police Line** 

ority to serve them.

seats, two for women seats

and two for technocrats

seat for non-Muslims will

Polling for

and Sindh provinces.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police, Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inaugurated the newly established building of Trauma Center in Police Line Quetta on Tuesday.

building at Police Line.

The new building of Trauma Center consists of 10 beds equipped with necessary facilities to provide emergency healthcare to the patients.

Additional Inspector General of Police, Jawad Ahmed Dogar, DIG Headquarter, Qamarul Hasan, DIG Quetta, Abdul Hayee Baloch, DIG Telecommunication, Ali Sher Jhakrani, AIG Police Welfare, Fahad Khosa, besides other police high ups

Speaking on the occa-sion, Inspector General of Center of Police Line. newly established Trauma

Police said that provision of speedy and quality medial facility to the patients and injured persons is important need of the hour. Similarly, it is basic right of every human being

to get health facilities, the IGP maintained. Mr. Sheikh also said that it is just worship to him serve the people and in the

police service, it is first pri-He said that our real leader had hired 'contract killers' to assassinate him. According to Marwat, the job is to give preference to the public interest. He assured to provide and aralleged contract to assassinate him was not just a verrange necessary resources for the Trauma center estabbal threat but involved tangible financial transactions. lished in Quetta Police Line. Earlier, Director Manage-The PTI leader suggested ment Center, Dr. Paras that the chief minister's inbriefed the IGP about the volvement came to light through intercepted telephone conversations,

authorities. Speaking at a programme 'Off The Record', Sher Afzal arwat ( rified that th Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) had not sumincluding seven for general moned him regarding his press conference against Punjab Chief Minister, but including Ulema, from each for a tweet against her. province. Additionally, one Parvez Elahi be elected from both Punjab suffers minor the injuries,

# against Maryam Nawaz to FIA

PESHAWAR (INP): Paki-stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat on Monday claimed that he had submitted evidence against Maryam Nawaz to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) as he accused the latter of orchestrating an assassination plot against

QUETTA: The Chief Min-Marwat had asserted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid surprise visit to Quetta city on Tuesday. The Chief Minister reviewed the cleanliness

uation of the city. The Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat briefed the Chief Minister about the cleanliness situation. Speaking on the occa-sion, Chief Minister said

which he intended to share that Quetta is our face and with relevant investigation people from all over the province come here.

shared that the new govern-Revenue and conveyed ment was fully prepared to confidence towards further tackle the economic chalstrengthening of economic lenges and is determined to ties between the two coun-tries, according to press stability in the country. CM pays surprise visit to

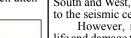
## Quetta city, Sheikh **Zayed Hospital** Independent Report

the Commissioner Quetta had been given the task to resolve problems of Quetta city. The Commissioner

has also been given the task to dispose of the garbage of Quetta in next couple of months.

The Chief Minister pointed out that 150,000 tons of waste is present in Quetta and adjoining areas. Meanwhile, he also visited the Sheikh Khalifa

bin Zayed Hospital the same night. He reviewed the facilities available for the patients besides meeting the patients and their atten-He said that first of all. dants.



MIRPUR (APP): Prime the governance structure. Minister Chaudhry Anwar He mentioned initiatives to ul Haq of Azad Jammu enhance education and Kashmir asserted his healthcare, alongside an ausgovernment's success in terity drive reducing expenditures. eliminating corruption and mafia influence from the Under Haq's leadership, illegal use of governstate.

## **48** Senate seats

Scrutiny concludes for

nomination papers of

ISLAMABAD (APP): semblies will elect senators Scrutiny of nomination papers for 48 Senate seats, including 12 each from Punjab and Sindh, 11 from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and two from the federal capital, was completed on Tuesday.

In the federal capital, Senate's vacant seats from National Assembly memthe federal capital will take bers will elect representaon April 2, 2024. tives for one general seat and one seat for technocrats, including Ulema, in the Senate.

Meanwhile, members rejection of nomination paof the four provincial aspers is March 21, 2024



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer of BRSP Tahir Rasheed meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

#### New political party set to further hearings until April 4 and emerge by June: Abbasi summoned all accused for indictment on the next hearing date.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has made a significant announcement regarding the formation of a new political party, set to emerge by May-June of this year.

Addressing the media outside the accountability court, Abbasi stated that consultations are underway, and preparations are in motion for the establishment of this party.

Prominent figures such as Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Miftah Ismail, and several others are anticipated to join the ranks of this forthcoming political entity. Abbasi emphasized the need for a fresh approach in the political landscape, advocating for change and a departure from the status quo.

In addition to outlining plans for the new party, Abbasi addressed the ongoing legal challenges he faces, labeling the cases against him as baseless. Expressing dissatisfaction with the accountability process, he urged for an end to what he country forward.

perceived as the undue influence of the National Ac-countability Bureau (NAB) in hindering governance. Moreover, Abbasi

highlighted concerns over the recent electoral process. citing discrepancies and alleged rigging tactics. He called upon the Supreme Court to intervene, suggesting a scrutiny of electoral practices, particularly focusing on the authenticity of Form 45 and 47 documents. Abbasi proposed that presiding officers take oaths on the Quran to

verify the integrity of these forms, underscoring the need for transparency in the electoral process Asserting the importance of national unity, Abbasi underscored the necessity for dialogue and cooperation among key stake-

holders, including political, judicial, and military leadership. He urged for consensus-building efforts to address the challenges facing the nation, emphasizing the imperative of inclusivity and collaboration in steering the

court informed

place at Parliament House LAHORE (APP): An anticorruption court was in-The returning officer's formed on Tuesday that deadline to file appeals former Punjab chief minisagainst the acceptance of ter Chaudhry Parvez Elahi fell in the bathroom of the jail on March 17 and sustained minor injuries.

This statement was made in a report from the superintendent of Adiala Jail, which was filed before Anti-Corruption Court Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta, who was presiding over the Punjab Assembly illegal appointments case. Deputy Superintendent Jail Tahir submitted Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's medical report to the court. Following the report's submission, the court noted that the indictment could not be made due to an incomplete number of accused. The court adjourned



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by H.E. Mr. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America & discussed matters of mutual interest, economic & financial relations between the two countries.

## Siraj dissatisfied with prevailing law & order situation

KASHMORE (INP): masses. Despite assuming Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) power through a contested Sirajul Haq expressing dis-satisfaction over the premandate, he urged the government to prioritize peacevailing law and order situabuilding efforts and ecotion especially in Sindh has nomic development. said that the populace feels Sirajul Haq highlight-

unprotected as lawlessness ing inflation, unemployand reign of dacoits prement, and lawlessness as vails. Speaking to media the primary challenges conpersons after leading the fufronting the populace, critineral prayer of JI local cized the government's releader Maulana Abdul liance solely on IMF inter-Hafeez Bajarani on Tuesvention to address ecoday, he emphasized the nenomic woes, stressing the cessity for the government need for alternative soluto ensure security for the tions.

## **Fissures intensify in PTI ranks,** forward blocks can emerge soon

ISLAMABAD (Online): Taimore Saleem Jhagra con-Fissures have emerged ducted lobbying for making openly in the ranks of PTI Amin Gandapur as chief over the issue of parliamenminister KP but he was igtary posts. Party divided nored in the cabinet. Due into three factions on the to it he is estranged and he matter of pursuing aggreshas formed his separate sive or compromising attigroup. He started seeking support of disgruntled tude. Party is likely to be divided into different for-MPAs and is holding secret ward blocks. Reliable sources said PTI is facing meetings with them.

both external and internal resented over not giving ofchallenges at present. The fice of speaker to his cold war intensified among brother in KP and he is ac-

PTI leaders. Sources said tive in provincial level polielection QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Pakistan Flour Mills Association Advocate Nasir Agha meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Oadir Khan.

tics and is holding meetings with different party leaders. The workers and ideological leaders are annoyed over names of the candidates for Senate election. They have expressed reservation over name of Zulfi Bokhari, Hamid Khan, Sanam Javed and other candidates saying



on March 30th. A petition filed by PTI leader Aamir Mughal, represented by lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat, requests the court's authorization for the gathering. The petition names the Interior Secretary Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and Inspector General Islamabad as re-

spondents. PTI seeks court orders allowing the rally to proceed at 10 pm on March 30th, with Parade Ground F9 Park or D Chowk as their preferred venues.

In an interview at Jammu Kashmir House, he stated that the timber, cigarette, and food mafias were now obsolete.

Haq emphasized the restoration of good governance, stressing that it relies on law enforcement and accountability.

He ensured equal application of the law, starting from top-level officials down to society's

iff. Under this application grassroots. the tariff of electricity is The PM highlighted likely to be increased by key appointments made on Rs 5 per unit for one month. merit, aiming to revitalize

The increase in tariff has been sought under Monthly Fuel Adjustment (MFA)

In the event of acceptance of application=, financial burden of over Rs 40 billion is likely to be shifted to the consumers.

According to CCPA application 6 billion 87 crore and 60 lac units electricity was sold in the month of February. out of it 24.77 percent electricity was generated from water. 13.94 percent electricity was generated from local coal and 1.89 percent elec tricity was generated out of imported coal. 11.04 per cent electricity was generated from local gas and 2.33 percent electricity was generated from imported LNG.

#### **PTI moves IHC for rally** permission in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has approached the Islamabad High Court seeking permission to hold a rally in the federal capital Gwadar City. flour bags and cooking oil. The consignment that reached Gwadar by road is being handed over to Gwadar district administration by China Overseas

Ports Holding Company, Gwadar Pro reported. Earlier this month, fol-COPHC also distributed food to 1000 local families. General Consular of Karachi Mr Yang Yundong in a letter to DC Gwadar had expressed solidarity

GWADAR (INP): As a with the people of Gwadar part of humanitarian and assured their fullest endeavours to mitigate support in the wake of unprecedented rain early this month. China has been a

acute plight of Gwadar flood victims, Consulate General of People's Repubregular supplier of food in lic of China in Karachi has Gwadar the past few years. delivered essential food On March 14. Chinese items (Ration) for 2000 overnment also provided \$100,000 emergency cash flood affected families in

assistance to Pakistan for rain-hit areas in Balochistan The ration consists of and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A donation ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for emergency aid provided by the Chinese government to rain-hit areas in Balochistan and KP.

On behalf of the Chilowing the torrential rain, nese government, Ambassador Jiang Zaidong handed \$100,000 emergency cash assistance over to the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mohammad Syrus Sajjad Oazi

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**QUETTA: Provincial Election Commission Farid** Ahmed Afridi checking document peppers of candidates submitted for senate general election in last date at Election Office.

**Chinese Karachi Consulate** donates ration for 2000 **Gwadar flood victims** 

ment vehicles was halted, with surplus vehicles auctioned The PM personally restricts his vehicle use after 2 PM. He announced a

51% budget cut for the Prime Minister's Secretariat by June 30, a significant departure from past practices of supplementary grants.

Plans include a social protection program for vulnerable groups, and establishment of a ten billion rupees endowment fund for regular relief.