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Terrorism to be countered with full force: **Federal & Provincial** Govts. mobilizing all available resources for dev. of Gwadar: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the federal and provincial governments are mobilized all available resources for development of Gwadar.

He said that work is continued on the projects of rehabilitation of rain affected areas in Gwadar.

He vowed not to leave the affected people in isolation till their complete rehabilitation.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting in Gwadar on Thursday.

Those present in the meeting were included the member of National As-



GWADAR: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a high level meeting

Col Wu Qian says:

China willing to work with Pakistan to enhance capability of tackling security challenges Under the strategic

BEIJING (APP): The Chinese military is willing to guidance of the leaders of work with the Pakistani our two countries, our two side to enhance the cana- militaries have maintained

provincial assembly from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Commissioner Makran Division, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Secretary Fisheries, Imran Gichk Director General Provincial

Disaster Management Authority, Jahanzaib Khan, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Aurangzeb Badini and other concerned high

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order and progress of Gwadar Safe City Project.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meeting with Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Issa at Supreme Court of Pakistan

Executive meddling in judicial affairs won't be tolerated, CJP tells PM

Under no circumstances can independence of judiciary be allowed to be compromised, says Isa; Prime Minister commits to upholding judiciary's independence; Pledges his full support for the initiative, vowing to convene a meeting of the federal cabinet to seek approval for the commission's formation

SLAMABAD (Agencies): In a resolute stand against encroachments on judicial independence, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday reafirmed the sanctity of the judiciary, declaring that under no circumstances would the autonomy of judges be rity ompromised

Ĥis remarks came duraforementioned judges ng a crucial meeting with penned an open letter, derime Minister Shehbaz tailing coercive tactics em-Sharif at the Supreme Court ployed by intelligence agencies to influence court proearlier today, attended by Federal Minister for Law edings Azam Nazeer Tarar and

Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor a series of high-level con-Isman Awan The meeting, convened

SC conditionally allows army

courts to announce reserved verdicts

in the wake of startling revtoday's meeting with the elations by six judges of the prime minister. A subse-Islamabad High Court quent press release from the (IHC) regarding alleged inapex court outlined the meterference by intelligence ticulous deliberations unagencies in judicial proceeddertaken in response to the ings, marked a pivotal mo-IHC judges' letter.

ment in the ongoing saga surrounding judicial integ-Just days ago, the ing democracy. He unequivocally stated that any executive interference in the

Responding swiftly to e gravity of the situation, pensable nature of judicial CJP Qazi Faez Isa called for autonomy.

sultations, culminating in ment, a proposal was



PM lauds PN for safeguarding country's maritime interests Navy were discussed.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday visited the Naval Headquarters here wherein he appreciated the services of Pakistan Navy to safeguard the maritime interest of the country despite limited resources.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by the federal ministers, especially lauded the professional response of the Pakistan Navy to foil the recent terrorist attack on Na-

val Airbase Turbat. Upon arrival, the prime ninister was welcomed by

> Shuhada monument and afterwards was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Naval Ĥeadquarters. During the meeting,

matters pertaining to the Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of the Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Gov't to form independent inquiry commission on IHC judges' letter: Tarar ISLAMABAD (APP): duty of the government Minister for Law and Justhat this matter should be tice Azam Nazeer Tarar on investigated, he said, add-Thursday said that the feding that the Prime Miniseral government has deter would place this matcided to place the IHC ter in the cabinet meeting judges' lefter before cabitomorrow. net meeting tomorrow for The minister said that formation of an indepenthe Prime Minister had dent inquiry commission said that he would go to into the matter. meet the Chief Justice de-He said that the comspite all of his busy schedmission would be headed by a reputable retired judge The meeting between and its terms of references the Chief Justice of Paki-(TORs) would be finalized stan Qazi Faez Isa and the after the consultation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lasted for one and a attorney general of Pakihalf hours, he said, adding stan He was addressing a that the most senior judge press conference here in Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was also present in the meeting. The issues per-İslamabad along with Attorney General of Pakistan taining to the important Mansoor Usman Awan. Azam Nazeer Tarar national issues including said that the letter has been economic and judges' lettrending in the media and ter were also came under social media. Now, it is the discussion, he said.

the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017, to delve into the allegations of interference. The commission, to be headed by a re-During the meeting, tired Judge of unblemished CJP Isa emphasised the integrity, aims to unravel the pivotal role of an independent judiciary in upholding the rule of law and fortify-

affairs and workings of judges would not be tolerated, highlighting the indis-

In a significant develop-

complexities surrounding the issue and safeguard judicial independence. Minister Prime Shehbaz Sharif, in response, pledged his full

tabled to constitute an in-

quiry commission under

support for the initiative, vowing to convene a meeting of the federal cabinet to seek approval for the commission's formation. Continued on page 2

NEPRA okavs **Rs2.75** tariff hike for three months

the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf and was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out naval contingent. The prime minister also laid a wreath at the

future modernization plans of the Pakistan Navy. Later on a detailed briefing was presented by Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) on the prevailing maritime envi-

ronment, challenges being faced by Pakistan Navy and its response to meet the nallenges. The prime minister

The Naval Chief ap-

prised the prime minister

on roles, capabilities and

was especially apprised about the capability requirements of Pakistan Navy to meet the current and future challenges being faced by the country in the maritime domain.

He was also apprised of the measures to benefit rom economic prospects f the maritime sector.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stressed that a strong economy held the key to meet all the challenges faced by the country. Towards the end, the prime minister also visited the Command Operations Centre of Pakistan Navy.

bility of the two countries to tackle various security risks and challenges including terrorist attacks and jointly safeguard re-gional peace and stability, Spokesperson of China Ministry of National Defense, Col. Wu Qian said on Thursday.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, true friends and good brothers through thick and thin and share weal and woe, he said during his monthly briefing while responding to a question asked by APP regarding the participation of PLA tri-services contingent in the Pakistan Day military parade in Islamabad on March 23.

The spokesperson re-marked, Chinese people often call Pakistan by our affectionate name for its ironclad brother.



warm applause.

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur.

Acting Governor announces to set up trauma center in old DHQ Hospital Chaman

Aimal Mandokhel, Medi-

cal Superintendent of

Hospital, Dr. Abdul

Rasheed Nasar, Additional

Deputy Commissioner Arif

Khan Kakar, DPO, Shahid

Jamil Kakar, Dr. Abdul

Sadiq Achakzai, Dr. Shams

Kakar, district President of

PML-N, Attaullah, Dr.

Abdul Wali, Gul Zaman and

others were also accompa-

nied with the acting Gover-

also met the patients visit-

ing the Hospital and in-

quired about the health fa-

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

Independent Report QUETTA: The acting Governor Balochistan and Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has announced that the Trauma Center would be set up in the old District Headquarter Hospital Chaman where every possible facilities would be provided to the

people. The acting Governor said that the fruits of government initiatives must reach to the general public without any interruption and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.

He was visiting the old cilities available for them. DHQ Hospital on Thursthe overall functioning of day the MSF and informed that

He reviewed the healthcare facilities, availbeing provided to the paability of the medicines and duty roster of doctors. tients

frequent and close highlevel exchanges and ISLAMABAD (APP) achieved positive outcomes The Supreme Court of Pain areas including joint exkistan on Thursday granted ercises and training profesconditional permission to army courts to pronounce sional exchanges, personnel training and equipment reserved judgments against and technological cooperathe accused allegedly involved in the incidents of tion, he added.

May 9. The Chinese military is willing to work with the Pa-The top court ordered kistani side to continuously that judgments should be enhance our capability of pronounced only in those tackling various security cases in which the accused risks and challenges, espemay have been released becially our ability to respond fore Eid. to terrorist attacks and The court sought dejointly safeguard regional peace and stability, he said.

tails of the accused sentenced to less than three During the Pakistan years and adjourned the Day military parade, the 36-member PLA Guard of hearing to the fourth week of April. The court also instructed the attorney gen-Honor escorted the Chinese national flag while marcheral of Pakistan to submit ing across the avenue and the compliance report to shouted Long live Pakistanthe registrar's office.

China friendship in Urdu in It further said that the response to the audience's attorney general has assured that statutory exemptions would be granted to the accused with lesser

sentences. During the hearing, the op court's bench also ranted permission to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to withdraw the intra-court appeals in the

same case. Info minister says: Fake news is

majo challenge worldwide

ISLAMABAD (APP) Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that misinformation, disinformation, and fake news were problems The District Health of the entire world which Officer of Chaman, Dr.

had to be controlled. During a meeting with the Political Counselor of the British High Commission Miss Zoe Ware, the minister said the biggest challenge on social media was fake news and the government was dealing with this problem.

In the meeting, relations between the two countries, and the promotion of cooperation in the fields of media were discussed in detail. Cooperation in the fields of film and drama was also discussed.

Attaullah Tarar said He was briefed about that journalists should adopt the process of verification on social media and every possible facilities are the whole world should develop a code of conduct related to social media.

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms Jane Marriott, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for further boosting bilateral cooperation with UK

ISLAMABAD (APP): sides exchanged views on matters of bilateral impor-President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday said that Pa-

kistan and the United King-During the meeting, the dom (UK) enjoy cordial represident expressed his lations, rooted in history warm sentiments for His and shared legacy, which Majesty King Charles III and the Princess of Wales, Catherine Middleton and have been reinforced by high-level interactions and wished them good health. people-to-people contacts over the years. He stressed He also mentioned that the people of Pakistan held His the need to further strengthen Majesty the King in high trade and economic ties for esteem. Talking about the the mutual benefit of the

pressed these views while talking to the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Both poverty alleviation.

Interior Minister, CM KP vow to eliminate terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur here on Thursday vowed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and expedite intelligence-based operations fur-

Both the leaders expressed deep condolences on the killing of the Chinese national at the Besham suicide blast

The Interior Minister arrived at the Chief Minister House where was welcomed by the KP CM and exchanged views on the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They expressed complete solidarity with families of victims of Chinese nationals, people, Govt of police China and expressed the resolve to bring the facilita-

hospital

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved an in-crease of Rs2.75 in the electricity tariff applicable from April across the country under fuel price adjustment (FCA).

The power regulatory body forwarded its decision to the federal government for notifying the hike in the power tariff. After the notification, the new tariff would be in effect for the upcoming three months, imposing a significant burden on consumers amounting to Rs85.2 billion.

The decision was made with NEPRA's approval of the fiscal year 2023-24 second-quarter adjustment. **Distribution** Companies (Discos) requested a higher increase of Rs4.43 per unit; however, NEPRA decided to go with the Rs2.75 hike.

This increase, which will show up in the electricity bills for April, May, and June, is the result of several factors 'influencing' the operational costs of the power industry.

Eight of a family killed in Buner crash

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir BUNER (INP): At least Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has eight members of a family assured that he would not were killed after their vesit with ease till complete hicle fell into a gorge in rehabilitation of the rain and Buner district of Khyber flood affected people of Pakhtunkhwa on Thurs-Gwadar.

The Chief Minister The victims, including was speaking on occasion five women and two chilof the distribution of relief dren, were travelling from cheques among the affectees Sawari Bazaar to Shahi area in Gwadar on Thursday. when their vehicle plunged He said that all availinto a ravine after its brakes able resources are being mofailed near Chagharzai's bilized for rehabilitation of Pandir area, according to the affected people in Gwadar.

Police and rescue teams arrived at the scene and moved the bodies to the

CM assures complete rehabilitation of Gwadar rain & flood affectees

Independent Report

Chief Minister

He said that rescue activities were started on emergent basis after the rains. Moreover, prompt steps were taken for rehabilitation of the routine life and draining out the water from urban areas of the port

city. The Chief Minister also mentioned that the Chief Secretary and Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority were personally present to supervise the rescue activities in Gwadar.

Later, he distributed He said that he paid the relief cheques among the rain and flood affected people of Gwadar



GWADAR: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti distributing cheques among affectees of recent rains. MNA Malik Shah Gorgage and MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman



Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Quetta

At UN

Pakistan renews commitment to beat plastic pollution, bolster waste management

Hyderabad,

Ouetta.

delegate

UNITED NATIONS INP): Pakistan has plans to fight plastic pollution and improve waste management system, Ambassador Munir Ákram has said, amid global efforts to sustain a liveable planet.

"We plan to implement 'Zero Plastic Waste Cities along the Indus' under the overall framework of the 'Living Indus Initiative' to tackle the challenge of plastic pollution," the Pakistan envoy told an event organized by the Mission of Turkiye, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and UN-Habitat.

The event was held at the UN headquarters in New York to mark the International Day of Zero Waste. The Day highlights both the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram expressed appreciation for the initiatives of the President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis and the message from Ms. Emine Erdogan,

the First Lady of Türkiye, ment Policy in 2022 in response to the challenge of for their commendable efforts in this regard. hazardous waste manage-In Pakistan, he said zero ment.

Regarding plastic waste plastic waste cities will be Ambassador Akram noted established in the country's that Pakistan generates 3.9 Indus Basin as part of this initiative, starting with the largest cities in the Basin million tonnes of plastic waste annually, with only such as Karachi, Lahore, 25% to 30% being managed

Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Islamabad, Peshawar and carried by the Indus River system to the sea each year. Highlighting the global challenge of waste genera-It is in this context that Pakistan looks forward to tion, Ambassador Akram the conclusion of an interemphasized the significant governmental binding treaty amount of waste produced annually, including munici-

pal, solid, and hazardous Ambassador Akram waste. Pakistan, with a population of 241 million stressed the importance of promoting a circular economy and emphasized people, generates 30 million tonnes of municipal solid the need for changing sociwaste each year, with 10 to etal attitudes, financial re-14 percent of it classified as sources, and technology for hazardous waste, he told waste management. He also stressed the

Additionally, Pakistan application of the principle receives an average annual tonnage of 80,000 hazardof Common but Differentiated Responsibility as a cenous waste from various tral component of policy inparts of the world. Pakistan, he said, has terventions to achieve the

also formulated the National goal of waste reduction, re-Hazardous Waste Manageuse, and recycling

A significant portion of plastic waste, approxi-mately 164,332 tonnes, is

Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti being presented salutation on arrival in Gwadar **Assisting Pakistan to** on plastic pollution," Am-bassador Akram said. deal with energy crisis top priority: US

WASHINGTON (INP): US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller on Wednesday maintained that assisting Pakistan in addressing its energy crisis re-mains a top priority for the United States.

During a routine news briefing in Washington on Wednesday, Miller when questioned about US pressure on Pakistan to halt its gas pipeline project with Iran, underscored America's commitment to aiding Pakistan's energy needs, noting that the US has provided substantial support, including 4,000 megawatts of energy through various projects.

These initiatives have significantly bolstered Pakistan's power generation capacity and are actively contributing to the provision of electricity to its citizens.

Miller also mentioned ongoing efforts in areas such as smart agriculture and energy. However, he refrained from commenting on the potential damages Iran may impose due to the pipeline project.

A day earlier, Matthew Miller told newsmen that the US does not support Pakistan's plan to build a pipeline to import gas from

Iran. He refused to comment on the nature of sanctions Pakistan could face for importing energy from Iran. However, he cautioned

Islamabad against going ahead with the plan. "But we always advise everyone case that doing business with Iran runs the risk of touching upon and coming in

and would advise everyone to consider that very carefully," said Miller, adding that "the assistant secretary made clear last week, we do not support this pipeline going forward."

Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia told the House Foreign Affairs committee last Wednesday in a hearing that importing gas from Iran would expose Pakistan to US sanctions.

Pakistan's outgoing caretaker government approved the construction of an 80-kilometer section of the pipeline in Febru-ary, largely to avoid pay-ing Iran \$18 billion in penalties for years of project delays

Miller's remarks came after Pakistani media reported Tuesday, Islamabad was planning to seek a US sanctions waiver.

Review petitions regarding Mubarak Ahmad bail decision: SC seeks written opinion from Ulema within two weeks

criminal case only the plain-

tiff, accused and govern-

ment can be made respon-

dents. The opinion of all

Ulemas will be heard even

without making them re-

spondent. If mistake has

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) during hearing of review petitions regarding Mubarak Ahmad bail decision has sought written opinion from all the Ulemas within two weeks who are petitioners in the

The court has directed been committed by court in that the Ulemas should the decision then we will keep their opinion restricted correct it. It is better to to the points raised in court's decision. The opinthan creating chaos by rais-ing sticks. It is matter reions which are received after set time will not be lated to Shariah. counted

with deliberation. Legal This direction has been issued by a 3-member bench of SC presided over opinion will not be sought from Ulemas beby the Chief Justice of Pacause we know the law kistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa more. In Shariah, knowlhere Thursday. edge of Ulema is more than

During this time, Counus. We will seek guidance cil of Islamic ideology, JI, on it. What is definition of Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan Muslim in Islam. The reference of Ayat 40 of Surahand Ulemas in large nume-Al-Ahzab has been given ber from different religious parties remained present in in court's decision. the court.

Member of Council for The CJP Qazi Faez Isa Islamic Ideology (CII) said remarked the relevant per-

Eight NADRA officials suspended as action 'begins'

in data theft case ISLAMABAD (INP): Eight National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) officials have been suspended as the action began in data theft case on the recommendation of Joint Investigation Team (JIT), sources said on

plinary action has been ini-

tiated against over a dozen

NADRĂ officers and eight

were suspended and charge-

individuals have not been

shared due to court pro-

ceedings and data privacy.

tigation Team (JIT) submit-

ted a report to the interior

ministry regarding the leak-

tained from Multan to

Peshawar and then to Dubai,

and was also sold in Argen-

mended action against sev-

team, headed by FIA Direc-

tor Cybercrime, was con-

stituted to investigate the

March 2023 cyberattack, in

which personal information

of citizens, including mili-

tary officials, was accessed

eral senior Nadra officers?

The report recom-

The joint investigation

tina and Romania?

However, the names of

Earlier, the Joint Inves-

Thursday.

sheeted.

sons can be made responfrom one ayat of the Holy dents in civil cases. In the Ouran.

Page 02

CJP remarked we are bound to the definition of Muslim which has been enshrined in the constitution

Different Ulema said they have no objection over on the words written in the constitution.

The CJP remarked if some one has objection over adopt proper procedure the constitution he should get amend it from the parliament. Amending the constitution is not our man-We want to go ahead date. The further hearing will be conducted after ascertaining the opinion of ulema

The court has also remarked replies be given to whatever questions are.

The court remarked the review scope is limited. However we will ascertain the opinion of Ulemas. The decision will be reviewed according to it.

The hearing was admeaning cannot be derived journed for two weeks.

ADC chairs meeting regarding block identity card issues in Nasirabad

OUETTA (APP): On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Batool Asadi, a meeting was held regarding block identity card under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Abad Abdul Hameed Thahim on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by officers of NADRA, Representatives of intelligence agencies and other officers

While several block ID cards will be investigated so

ABBOTTABAD: National Cricket Team cricketers take part in fitness camp at Army School of Physical Training Kakul Academy in Abbottabad.

Executive meddling in judicial...

Continued from page 1 He echoed the sentiments expressed by CJP Isa, affirming his commitment to upholding an independent judiciary and undertaking necessary measures to safeguard its autonomy.

Following the meeting, most member of the Paki-

ing day, 27 March, 2024, the CJP met with the Attorney-General and the Law Minister, and thereafter, the CJP along with the Senior Puisne Judge met with the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the senior

the same day.

adjourned, it added.

today, 28 March 2024.

mised.

4 miners killed after coal mine collapsed in Kurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): The deadly explosion in a coal mine in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunl wa has cla

contact with our sanctions,

court meeting to apprise the judges of the developments. The swift and decisive actions taken by the judiciary and the executive have underscored the seriousness with which the issue of judicial independence is being addressed.

In the aftermath of the revelations, bar associations across the country rallied behind the judges, sounding the alarm over the perceived threat to judicial independence. The collective response reflects a unified front in defence of the judiciary's autonomy amidst a charged political climate, where recent court rulings have come under intense scrutiny. APP adds: Chief Jus-

tice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday said that freedom and independence of the judiciary wouldn't be allowed to be compromised under any circumstances.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) received a letter dated 25 March, 2024 from six judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), on 26 March, 2024, said a press release issued by the top court.

Considering the gravity of the allegations levelled in the said letter, the CJP called a meeting on the same day with the Chief Justice and all the Judges of the Islamabad High Court after Iftar at 8:00 pm at the Chief Justice's residence, it added.

The press release further said that concerns of all the Judges were heard individually in a meeting that lasted for over two and racy a half hours. The follow-

stan Bar Council present the lives of at least four in Islamabad. miners

A full court meeting of The incident, believed all the Judges of the Suto have been caused by gas preme Court of Pakistan saturation, led to the colwas called under the chairlapse of the mine. Deputy manship of the Chief Jus-Commissioner Javedullah tice of Pakistan at 4:00pm Mehsud confirmed that the explosion occurred due to The full court delibergas filling in the mine lo-

ated over the issues raised cated in a remote area of in the letter sent by the six Kurram. Judges of the Islamabad The victims, identified High Court. as Shahrukh Khan, Danish A consensus was de-

Khan, and brothers veloped amongst the ma-Sharinzada, were from jority of the members of Swat. the Full Court that in view An investigation is cur-

of the gravity of the situarently being carried out to tion, the CJP may hold a determine the exact reasons meeting with the Prime behind the tragedy. Minister of Pakistan on

Earthquake the issues raised in the said letter and the meeting was jolts Islamabad, **Rawalpindi and** The SC's press release said that Prime Minister parts of Pakistan accompanied by the Law ISLAMABAD (APP): An Minister and Attorney General, met with the CJP, earthquake measuring 5 on Senior Puisne Judge and the Richter Scale jolted Registrar of the Supreme Pakistan's Khyber Court at the SC at 2:00pm Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces and the Gilgit-The meeting lasted for Baltistan region on Thurs-

about an hour and a half, day. Tremors were felt in said a press release issued Rawalpindi, Islamabad, by the SC this evening. It said that the CJP Swat, Bajaur, Upper Dir, Abbottabad, Mardan and clearly stated that interferother cities.

ence by the Executive in the The epicentre of the affairs and judicial workearthquake was reported to ings of Judges will not be be at the border between tolerated and under no cir-Pakistan and Afghanistan, cumstances can indepenaround 55 kilometres from dence of the judiciary be Chitral allowed to be compro-

Pakistan's National Seismic Monitoring Centre

He and the Senior reported that it was 5.3 Puisne Judge stated that magnitude earthquake and independence of judiciary its epicenter was located at the depth of 86 kilometers. is a foundational pillar that upholds the rule of As of now, there have law and a strong democbeen no reports of loss of life or damage to property



OUETTA: Heavy warm and dusty winds bellowing in city creating problems for residents and commuters causing by tremendous environmental pollution, in Quetta.

Federal & Provincial Govts....

Continued from page 1 and would continue to do

The high ups of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) briefed the meeting about the measures taken for drainage of rain water in Gwadar.

Similarly, the Secretary Fisheries Department briefed about the problems faced by the fishermen and government measures taken to address them.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister made pledge to eliminate menace of terrorism from the province.

He said that restoration of peace is our topmost priority and we would counter terrorism with full force.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the Pak Army, other security forces and whole nation have competed the terrorism with determination

with application form.

advance within a week.

age of citizens' data by the NADRA The report unso in future. veiled that data of 27 mil-He said that China-Palion Pakistanis was stolen kistan Economic Corridor from 2019 to 2023 with the help of Nadra offices of (CPEC) project is guaran-Multan, Peshawar and tor of the development of Karachi. According to the Pakistan and Balochistan. JIT report, data was ob-He said that the devel-

opment of the province and country is linked with the development of Gwadar. The foolproof secu-

rity of Chinese experts and all workers engaged in the projects is being ensured. In this regard, the speed of work has been

expedited on the Gwadar safe city project, he maintained While the safety mea-

Divisional Office

Quetta

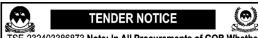
DCO

PAKISTAN

and stolen. The JIT submitsures are being adopted in ted its report to then careaccordance with the given taker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar folstandard operating procedures of the Ministry of lowing the completion of inquiry. The caretaker pre-Interior, he mentioned mier ordered NADRA to iniadding that it has been detiate actions as per the findcided to review the same ings and recommendations. fortnightly.

that the reasons for their ID cards can be revealed in the meeting As per details, disci-

On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Naseerabad Abdul Hameed Thahim said that steps were being taken to activate block identity cards of legitimate and genuine persons, identity card was very important.



TSE-232403386873 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For AII Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

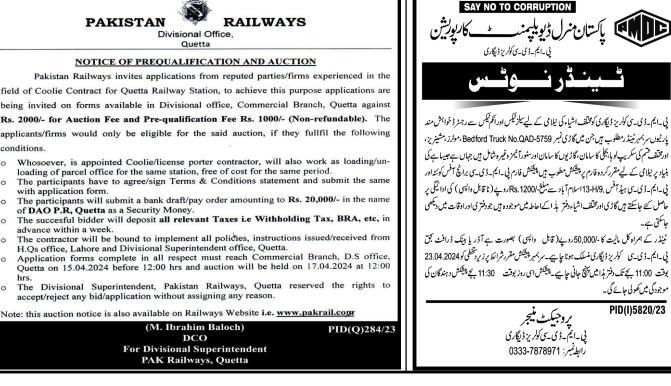
ame of Work/s

1 ANNUAL REPAIR & SPECIAL REPAIR OF 8,600,000 BUNGLOW NO.49-AZARGHOON ROAD QUETTA(R/O

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 6,020,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is C6 (11), C5 (11) . Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 16 April, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 16 April, 2024 till 11:00 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE DIVISION QUETTA C&W Complex NEAR CHAMMAN PATAK MIR JAFAR KHAN JAMALI ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 0812920243 Email: maintainancexen@gmail.com

Executive E Maintenance Division-I Quetta PRQ No.1749/28-3-2024 ob 💿 dpr.gob <u>f</u> @dgpr.balocl بى _ايم _ د مى _ى كولريز د يكارى یی۔ایم۔ڈی۔ی کولریز ڈیگاری کو مختلف اشیاء کی نیلامی کے لیے سیلز ٹیکس اور انکم ٹیکس سے رجٹر ڈخواہش مند

جاسکتی ہے۔





addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Ahsan Iqbal says: **PMDC's int'l recognition** 'historic milestone' for Pakistan's health industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said the recognition of Pakistan Medical Dental Council (PM&DC) by the World Federation for Medical Education was a testament to Pakistan's commitment to excellence in healthcare and medical education.

effective "An healthcare system's greatest indicator is to ensure that all citizens, despite their socioeconomic background, get the best available health facilities in a timely, acceptable, affordable, and accessible manner," he said while addressing a ceremony held to commemorate a significant milestone in the history of medical education and healthcare in Pakistan.

The minister commended the collective efforts of healthcare professionals. educators, policymakers and stakeholders who tirelessly worked towards enhancing the standards of medical education and healthcare delivery in Pakistan, a news release said

Highlighting the no-table progress of Pakistan's parities in healthcare access healthcare sector over the past decade, the minister shared that 3.5 percent increase in life expectancy from 2005 to 2019 was recorded. In the area of infant mortality, he said a 15 percent decline was recorded

from 2000 to 2019, with an infant mortality rate of 58 per 1,000 live births. Remarkable increase was also marked in the number of healthcare facilities, which grew up to 20 & from 2007 to 2017, resulting in a total of 7,089 healthcare facilities. Ahsan Iqbal empha-

sized that a concerted effort ance for all citizens. from all stakeholders was required to achieve the country's roadmap for health, which aimed to bridge disparities in healthcare access among poor, expand healthcare services and make universal healthcare a possi-

bility for every citizen. "Doctors play a critical role in strengthening can advocate for increased government funding and improved working conditions in public health facilities," the minister stated. One of the foremost sions.

across all socioeconomic groups, as evidenced by the fact that the poorest 20 percent of the population use only 13 percent of healthcare services.

Citing examples from developed countries, the minister urged Pakistani to take lessons from Singapore and Japan for prioritizing preventative measures, Norway and Estonia for using telemedicine, Canada and New Zealand for drug price negotiation with pharmaceutical companies, and Germany and Switzerland for mandatory health insur-

Pakistan's commitment to address healthcare challenges, such as rural healthcare, health equity, and medical professional shortages, stems from an urgent need to transform the existing healthcare system. The minister ex-

pressed confidence in government's dedication to follow a carefully planned approach that will ensure awareness building, access enhancement, and data usage for health related deci-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is reviewing Guard of Honour at Naval Headquarters.

CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): for Pakistani nationals through engagements with The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Reforeign employers. This involved the for-Development (OP&HRD) has given the mulation, signing, and execution of Letters of Intent task to the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) (LOIs) and agreements with stationed abroad to strategically enhance job oppor-

foreign companies, critical in amplifying the export of tunities for Pakistanis in the Pakistani manpower. It has emphasized the An official source told crucial need for close col-

laboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This for employment prospects step will facilitate the de-

sign of training programs specifically tailored to the kills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are wellequipped and aligned with global standards.

While underscoring the significance of this initiative, highlighted its dual impact, not only in enhancing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad but also in contributing to the economic growth of the nation. Furthermore, he stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues faced by overseas Pakistanis during their stay abroad.

ing that exporting value-added products could help Pakistan earn valuable foreign exchange. He also urged the need better marketing and for projection of gemstone products from Pakistan to tap into the global gem and

APITAL EWS

jewellery market. The president expressed these views during a meeting regarding the development of the Gems and Jewellery sector in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Devel-Company opment (PGJDC), Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, and senior government officials attended the meeting, a press release by the President House said. The CEO of PGJDC



President for developing

Pakistan's gems and

Page

03

ties in this regard. Speaking on the occasion, the president said that Pakistan's gems and jewellery sector had huge potential which needed to be fully exploited for the country's development.

He underlined the need to encourage foreign companies to invest in this secfor which would not only help improve the country's economy but would also open up opportunities for the local population through employment gen-eration. The president urged the need to focus on the training and skill enhancement of the local workforce, besides promoting diversification and industrialization of the gems and jewellery sector to increase its contribution to the country's economy.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, is being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Fed-eral Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani upon his arrival at the Ministry.

Digital transformation can lead country towards progress: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and GSMA country lead for Digital Transformation, Saira Faisal on Thursday discussed matters pertinent to digital transformation, innovation, and the startup ecosystem.

Saira Faisal extended congratulations to Minister of

decide soon PTI Parliamen-

The petition filed by Malik Habib Noor Orakzai

against EC decision came up

for hearing before single

bench of IHC led by Jus-

tice Miangul Hassan

tice Miangui Aurangzeb Thursday.

should wait now. We call

the EC just now. Justice

Miangul Hassan remarked

if EC walas donot come

tioner took the plea the or-

The counsel for peti-

then we will decide it.

wrapped up petition.

suming charge of the Ministry, said a news release. Saira Faisal provided an overview of GSMA's

operations, upcoming programs, and their coordination with the Ministry of IT to Minister Shaza Fatima.

Shaza Fatima highlighted the ongoing digitali-During the meeting, zation efforts in Pakistan, and said that digital transformation is crucial for the

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah has stressed to ensure austerity and quality during the maintenance of Parliament lodges and hostel of Members of the National Assembly (MNAs)

source

international market.

APP here on Thursday that

currently, there were 21

CWAs posted abroad by the

task was to evaluate and

improve the progress of

CWAs in identifying and

exploring targeted demand

The main aim of this

Government of Pakistan.

said that every possible measure should be ensured ISLAMABAD: CEO Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim accompanied by Karim Khoja, CEO of Roshan, call on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza to utilize the public money keeping in view the long term utility and durability.

He expressed these views during his meeting with senior officers of the for immediate Capital Development Authority (CDA).

He also expressed his of cleanliness and poor sembly Secretariat

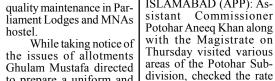


Mustafa expressed dismay AC arrests five people over negligence to cleanliness on price of Parliament lodges list violation

ISLAMABAD (APP):

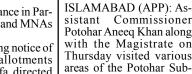
Ghulam Mustafa also

dismay over the negligence the CDA and National As-



to prepare a uniform and smooth policy for smooth allotments and maintenance of Parliament Lodges. He also said that en-

lic money Mustafa Shah directed



Deputy Commissioner

strict actions.

list in the vegetable market I-10 and arrested five

people for price list violation. According to ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah suring the same parameters Tabbassum, the AC conin maintaining Parliament ducted a surprise visit on lodges would save the pubthe special directives of

its illegal occupation over Kashmir for long and the Fakhtoo, Bilal Siddiqi, day is not far away when the occupied territory will be freed from its yoke.

Fatima Khawaja.

Kashmir will soon

be freed from Indian

yoke; says APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hayat Ahmed Butt

The All Parties Hurriyet Muhammad Yousuf Falahi,

Conference (APHC) has Ameer Hamza, Dr

said that India cannot keep Muhammad Shafi Shariati,

Fayaz, Rafiq Ahmed Shah

Advocate Zahid Ali, Zaffar

Akbar Butt, Fayaz Hussain

Jaferi, Shabir Ahmed Dar

Firdous Ahmed Shah

Jahangir Ghani Butt,

Saleem Nanaji, Sajad

Hussain Gul, Muhammad

Yasin Butt, Shamsuddin

Rehmani, Sarjan Barkati

guishing in different jails of

and search operations and

other brutalities would not

be able to suppress the

Kashmiris' freedom senti-

He said during cordon

India and the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar while expressing concern over the surge in atrocities and injustice in IIOJK condemned the continued illegal detention of Hurriyet leadership, youth and activists languishing in jails of India and the occupied territory.

He said that the poand others had been lanlitical detainees included APHC chairman Massarat Alam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Aasiya house raids, the arrests and Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Dr Abdul Hameed Fayyaz, Naheeda Nasreen, ment. He added that the Fahmeeda Sufi, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Kashmiri people would Saifullah, Farooq Ahmed continue their liberation Dar, Adv Shahid-ul-Islam, struggle till complete suc-Muhammad Rafiq Ganai, cess.

Psychological test of Islamabad Capital Police officials conducted

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Po-

actively participated in the test. The conclusion of the workshop saw recommen-dations formulated for re-

zens.

lice Officer (ICCPO) Dr solving ongoing issues faced Akbar Nasir Khan, the by officers and officials. Islamabad Capital Police conducted a psychological test of officials deputed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the performance and mental capabilities of officials who are going abroad.

This initiative seeks to enhance the aptitude of officials within the security division. The test included a special psychological examination committee, chaired by SSP Security Division, while SP CTD, SP Headquarters, and psychological experts were the members of the committee. formance and solve the

Officers and person-nel from the Foreign Office cials on a priority basis.

Dr Muhammad Qasim filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) seeking urgent Abdul Ahad Parra, Maulvi hearing of cases pending Bashir Irfani, Mushtaqu hearing since the last 6 Islam, Omar Adil Dar, Aadil months Ahmed Zargar, Dawood The petition has been Zargar, Zahoor Ahmed filed under the directives of Butt, Noor Muhammad

federal minister for housing. It has been prayed in the petition the case be heard immediately and decision be given on the petitions.

FGHF

moves SC

hearing of

pending cases

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Federal Government Hous-

ing Federation (FGHF) has

May 9 incident **Court** approves

interim bail before arrest of Raia in 14 cases ISLAMABAD (Online) Malik Ijaz Asif special judge Anti Terrorism Court

proved the interim bail before arrest of former law minister Punjab Raja Basharat against surety bonds in 14 cases of May

(ATC) Rawalpindi has ap-

The court issued notice to the government for April 17. Raja Basharat ap-

peared in the court along with his counsel Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan advocate

Counsel Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan said Raja Basharat has no link with May 9 incidents. He has been involved in false cases for merely political vengeance.

Ramadan festivities "Maah-e-Isar **OAman**" starts

SLAMABAD (APP) Ramadan festivities titled Maah-e-Isar O Aman' featuring Tilawat and Naat competition started here on Thursday at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage -Lok Virsa.

and order situation in the federal capital, Islamabad is a big challenge, due to which the officials were facing not only physical but also mental difficulties. Eid

According to Lok Virsa, Ramadan festivities In this regard, psycho-logical tests of different diwill daily start from 5 PM vision police officials were onwards featuring conducted. The purpose is Tilawat and Naat competo further improve the pertitions spiritual reflections to devotional performances.

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Angels and Fairies of Pakistan Sweet Home with PPP leaders Nadeem Afzal Chan, Syed Nayyar Bukhari, Faisal Kareem Kundi, Zamurd Khan and other at Pakistan Sweet Home in the Federal Capital.

ICT admin intensifies efforts against social evils, inspects 648 areas, arrests 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): All magistrates have launched rigorous campaign targeting inflation, illegal occupation

violators this proactive approach aimed at to ensure fair pricing, maintain public spaces, and curb the nuisance of professional beggars during the holy month of Ramazan

During the inspections of all three Ramazan ba- croachment operation were also conducted in the Fedzaars, which were set up by eral Capital and cleared ilthe district administration, legal encroachments from different paths, roads and markets, he added. Additionally, strin-

gent measures were taken to regulate petrol stations, leading to the closure of two illegal filling agencies and the arrest of two individuals involved in mal-

The spokesman emphasized the paramount importance of ensuring the consistent availability of essential commodities at government-mandated

Leopard poachers penalized for illegal hunting

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Forest Department in Nowshera took action on Thursday against poachers who had hunted down a leopard in the Shah Kot area

fundamental rights of the The incident, capcitizens. The provincial tured in a video shared government must initiate online by the poachers, once again highlighted the process of establishing the provincial commission the challenges faced by on the human rights and give authorities in safeguardsuo-moto powers to take noing rare wildlife, a pritices on the violation of any vate news channel rehuman rights in the province. ported. Abbas said that the Sindh Human Rights Commission in

In response, the department imposed a hefty fine of Rs250,000 on the ing to protect the rights of the poachers for their illegal act. production.

State Shaza Fatima for as- country's progress.

IHC directs EC to decide PTI MPs petition on reserved seats soon

ISLAMABAD (Online): issued on March 4. Only Islamabad High Court one reserved seat was given (IHC) while directing Electo us in KP. tion Commission (EC) to

The court inquired why the petitioner is not party. It is not in powers tarians petition on allotment of reserved seats has of general secretary. The counsel for the

petitioner said party has given application through general secretary.

The court inquired how many members of provincial assembly of your party have .

The counsel for the petitioner told the court there are two MPAs which are ours. The notification of both the MPAs have been attached. According to March 3 notification only one seat was given der for reserved seats was while we have two seats.

ISLAMABAD: A man on his way carrying a bundle of dry woods on his motorcycle for domestic use in the city.

IFA cracks down on fake butter factory: 500 kg seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) Of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Dr Tahira Saddique on Thursday said that in a swift operation orchestrated by the authority, a clandestine factory producing counterfeit butter faced the music. Talking to APP, she

said that the IFA accompanied by the food safety teams (FSTs) raided at Taramri area in the Federal Capital, where authorities uncovered a clandestine operation masquerading under the guise of butter

In the supervision of Director Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Irfan Nawaz Memon, she said that the food team raided inside a nondescript house, which was involved in the nefarious activities of producing fake butter. Upon investigation, the authorities unearthed tins filled with counterfeit ghee, further exposing the extent of the operation's deceit. On investigation, the unscrupulous entrepreneur admitted to peddling approximately Rs 1200 per kilogram of adulterated desi ghee to unsuspecting consumers.

at Lok Virsa Islamabad Capital Police is always engaged in law and order duties in order to ensure the safety of the lives and property of the citi-Maintaining the law

> Lok Virsa has planned an array of activities to make this Ramadan truly special and will continue till

ISLAMABAD (APP): It tainable Social Developis imperative to protect the ment Organization (SSDO) human rights of the people of Punjab by establishing independent Human Rights Commission and strengthening automotive power, SSDO. An independent Punjab Human Rights Commission should be set up to protect fundamental

and beyond.

human rights of the citizens of Punjab. The violations of human rights needs to be addressed through an institutionalized framework of the Punjab Human Rights Commission.

Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director of Sus-

and panhandling across the Federal Capital's bustling markets and arrested 29 accused during the inspec-tions of 648 areas while imposing a fine of Rs 84,000 to violators. Talking to APP here Thursday, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum said

to establish Punjab Human

Rights Commission

professional beggars from different areas of the city and handed over to different police stations, he said. Furthermore, anti-en-

said that the establishment

of the human rights com-

mission in every province is important to protect the

functional and actively work-

vulnerable communities.

rates. **SSDO urged Punjab Govt**

magistrates accompanied by the district administration teams, apprehended thirteen individuals for flouting price regulations, while a fine of Rs 84,000

was also imposed to the Similarly, district administration teams intensipractice. fied efforts against almsseeking and arrested 14

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse. Independent

Friday March 29, 2024

Judiciary's SOS

Some clearly thought that senior judges would prove just as easily 'manageable' as our seasoned politicians usually are. They must have received a shock this Monday when almost the entire Islamabad High Court formally decided to take a stand and push back against what many of its judges describe as repeated interference and meddling in their court and the cases before them.

A day later, the public learnt that six of the IHC's eight sitting judges had forwarded a complaint to the chief justice of Pakistan to seek the Supreme Judicial Council's guidance on what judges ought to do when they are subjected to blackmail, harassment and coercion by "members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies" The judges made it clear that they expected some action from the judiciary to reclaim its independence and improve vironment." their institution's deteriorating image in the eyes of the public.

The judges who co-signed the letter framed their demand for a judicial convention to look into the matter by referencing a recent judgement from the Supreme Court, in which it reinstated former IHC judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui's status as a duly retired judge. It may be recalled that retired justice Siddiqui had been unceremoniously ejected from the judiciary in October 2018 over a complaint he had made regard-



Upon perusing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)'s detailing the Green Paaccompanied by high-

pressive picture. statement, which articulates its overarching goal: "Ensure food security and optimize agricultural production in Pakistan through innosustainable, precisiondriven agricultural practices based on the agroand preserving the en- Arabia.

this mission, emphasizing the utilization of innovative technologies and sustainable, precision-driven agricultural Pakistan's agro-ecoderscores the importance of prioritizing the welfare of rural communities and the conservation of the envition.

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC this expanse, 24.1 mil- meters in 2021. lion hectares are cultiavailable for agriculture, and 22.4 million hectstrategic marketing,

smart business propositions are being presented to potential investors, promising enwebsite, one encounters ticing returns on investan impressive brochure ment. These plans aim to catalyze a transforkistan initiative. The mation in Pakistan's agbrochure boasts a pro- riculture, livestock, and fessional design, featur- afforestation sectors by ing easily readable text deploying state-of-theart machinery and cutdefinition images show- ting-edge digital techcasing various facets of nologies. The objective the GPI, painting an im- is to transition to modern mechanisms, maxi-The initiative com- mizing output, and unmences with a vision locking Pakistan's immense agricultural potential

But what it does not tell is that Pakistan is Water scarce country facing a frightening situvative technologies and ation. The country ranks 14 among the 17 'extremely high water risk' countries of the ecological potential of world, a list that includes the land, while safe- hot and dry countries guarding the well-being like Israel, Lebanon, of rural communities Jordan, Iran and Saudi It also does not

Furthermore, the factor in the 1991 Wabrochure outlines the ter Accord, canal water mechanism to achieve allocation among provinces based on a baseline volume of 144.8 billion cubic feet water is allocated to practices tailored to Punjab, 42% to Sindh, 7 percent to Khyber logical potential. It un- Pakhtunkhwa, and 3 percent to Balochistan. The brochure was

also silent about the fact that Pakistan is already facing climate-related ronment in the pursuit threats to water reof food security and sources as is evident the state of the Indus

9.1 million hectares over the fact over 80 over-extraction of groundwater for irrigasustainable practice has amount of additional led to the depletion of water required for such

as a crucial backup wa-Pakistan's looming water supply. If current ter crisis? trends persist, the entire country may confront water scarcity by 2025. 274 million acre-feet Complicating matters (MAF) of water, while further is Pakistan's staits current water retus as a lower riparian sources remain at 191 country to India, with 78 percent of its water inflows originating ply gap of approxifrom there. Moreover, mately 83 MAF. inefficient water usage

SIFC's Agriculture Plans and Water Scarcity...

By Qamar Bashir

exacerbates the crisis, sumption rate per hectwith only two-thirds of are calculated at around available water being utilized, while one-third hectares, cultivating an is lost or discharged into the sea. It also did not men-

tion that Pakistan ranks hectares of range land would necessitate ap-36th globally in total reproximately 72.23 MAF newable water resources while most efand 177.83 MAF (totalficient countries in ing 250 MAF) of additerms of renewable wational water, respecter resources are Denmark, Sweden, Finland resents 130% more ments in modern irrigaan Norway and the botthan the country's current water resources. tom five water-stressed countries are Yemen, Addressing this critical water scarcity challenge Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Lebanon is paramount for any (BCF). 48% of this and Israel. This shift investment initiative ingwater use efficiency in Pakistan's diminishdevelopment in Pakiing share of global re- stan, necessitating innonewable water re- vative solutions and just 0.5 percent despite management strategies its 2.8 percent share of to bridge the widening Implementing cuttingthe global population. gap between water de-Particularly alarming is mand and supply.

Perhaps the bro- chure entices investors challenge of bringing an menting water supplies, vated, with an additional chure was also silent to invest in bringing an additional 250 MAF of particularly in rural aradditional 9.1 million water into the country's eas where access to percent of its population hectares of land under water system to remain conventional water experiencing 'severe cultivation and develop- within the 1991 water sources may be limited. ares designated for water scarcity' for at ing 22.4 million hectares accord and to pre-empt range use. Through least one month annu- of range land for live- any possible political collaboration and innoally, largely due to the stock development, it uprising, as every provmust address a crucial ince zealously guard international scale is esquestion: how will it pro- every drop of water sential for achieving tion purposes. This un- vide the immense which has been allocated to it. While this goal may

Pakistan's groundwater a vast expansion, espe- seem daunting, it is works, enforcing reguresources, which serve cially considering achievable through political commitment, consensus-building, By 2025, Pakistan meticulous planning, is projected to require resource allocation, and toward optimizing waleveraging human expertise, intellect, and MAF, resulting in a tional cooperation. A for transboundary wastaggering demand-sup- multifaceted approach ter management and ex-With a water conand strategic invest-

> ments. Firstly, the SIFC 7.93 MAF per million can provide leadership and allocation of readditional 9.1 million sources to construction benchmark Singapore hectares of land and de- of new dams, delay acveloping 22.4 million tion dams, reservoirs, made significant investand storage facilities to ments in water infracapture and store water structure, technology, during periods of abun- research, and goverdance, ensuring a de- nance reforms to compendable water supply during dry seasons. tively. This demand rep- Additionally, investtion systems and water ing for desalination conveyance networks plants, NEWater facilican optimize water dislosses, thereby enhancsectors. Secondly, embrac-

measures is crucial. As the beacon of irrigation, precision ag-

As the SIFC's bro- address the formidable tainable means of aug-

Lastly, fostering vation on a national and long-term water security. Strengthening water governance framelations, and promoting integrated water resource management strategies are vital steps ter allocation and usage.

Furthermore, forgknowledge, along with ing partnerships with regional and interna- neighboring countries is necessary, focusing ploring regional wateron innovative solutions sharing agreements can unlock synergies and mitigate the impacts of water scarcity across borders.

SIFC might also and Australia. Both bat water scarcity. Singapore's ongoing efforts, spanning several decades, include fundties for wastewater resitive urban design practices. Similarly, agement reforms, especially during severe ciency programs, irrigation modernization, salination. By embrac-

tribution and minimize cycling, and water-senfrom water abundance aiming to expand agri- across agricultural, in- Australia has heavily into water stress is evident cultural and livestock dustrial, and domestic vested in water maning advanced water con- droughts, with initiasources, accounting for comprehensive water servation and efficiency tives like water effiedge technologies and and infrastructure for practices, such as drip water recycling and deagricultural optimiza- from the change in mon- Basin aquifer, ranked as hope for Pakistan's ag- riculture, and water-ef- ing these strategies with soon patterns, receding the 2nd most over- ricultural and range land ficient industrial pro- determination and fore-In an effort to at- glaciers, rising tempera- stressed underground development, the SIFC cesses, can significantly sight, SIFC can provide tract investors, the bro-chure leverages tures and recurrence of state water reserve globally. has the potential to cata-floods and droughts. As With over 60 percent of lyze the realization of the and enhance productiv-MAF into the existing

ing interference by Pakistan's chure apex intelligence agency in cases tied to the PML-N chief, Nawaz Sharif. It appears that because the million hectares. Within the passing a total of 79.6 million hect

SC endorsed retired justice Siddiqui's position, the judges of the IHC also want it to consider what serving judges are being forced to endure and, at the least, issue an advisory on age nor position. One has what judges are supposed to only to visit a cancer hospital to realise how indisdo when faced with such situations. The ball is now in Chief victims is. Or read recent Justice Qazi Faez Isa's court, and, as head of the judiciary, nouncement by Catherine, Princess of Wales, that she he will feel pressure to take has been diagnosed with action.

A judge's bedroom was re- She is 42 years old, a lovportedly spied on with a con- ing wife and a devoted cealed camera; another's other level, by appeasing relative was picked up and the ravenous press, she is tortured into giving a state- rying into the fishbowl of ment against them. Two vith an almost judges felt pressured to re-Shakespearean irony, her 75-year-old father-in-law King Charles III has also consider their position on the maintainability of a high-probeen diagnosed with canfile case because intelligence cer. The House of Windsor is two steps closer to beoperatives began harassing coming a hospice. In 2011, the same their friends and family. A district and sessions judge re- and Kate Middleton marported that a 'cracker' was thrown into their home in a ried, the billionaire Steve Jobs died of pancreatic cancer. Famously, he said bid to intimidate them. When that "being the richest man out-of-favour politicians complain about the threats, intimidation and even torture time". Unconsciously, Jobs echoed the sentithey face, they are often tuned out; however, six sit- Elizabeth I: "All my posting judges detailing brazen sessions for a moment of time." abuses of power are quite difficult to ignore.

Though he seems to have ish monarchy has usually been aware of these issues for applied the drip-feed sys-tem of information about almost a year, Justice Isa itself. Paid to lead public must now pay heed to them lives, their personal lives (however salacious) reand address them to the sat- mained private, off-limits. isfaction of his subordinate For instance, Queen Mary is remembered as an judges. The die was cast the elderly dowager, dripping moment this letter appeared with jewels. Few knew in the public domain; all eyes are on the SJC to see how it for a week with her wig tied in place because her proceeds. hairdresser was on leave.

Pakistan's diverse cli- per IMF, Pakistan's per irrigation, 70 percent of nation's aspirations for ity. Moreover, promot- water resources of the mate zones and vast capita annual water drinking water, and 100 rapid progress. The ac- ingrainwater harvesting county and pave the way

Cruel malignity

F.S. Aijazuddin Cancer respects neither a morphine injection, to catch the serious morning papers instead of the less desirable afternoon edicriminate the choice of its tions.

Commanding as a revelations by royalty. queen, to her six children The public an-Queen Mary could be cold, aloof and unapproachable. The youngest an epileptic — she kept an unspecified cancer is at hidden from view in one level heartrending. Sandringham.

Queen Mary came from a long-lived family. mother of three. At an-Her grandmother died aged 91, her aunt at 94, and her uncle at 93. She herpaying the price for marself died aged 85. Her granddaughter Queen Elizabeth II inherited strong genes. Elizabeth's mother died at the age of 101, her maternal grandmother at 75, and grandfather at 89. That genetic longevity may be withheld from the present House of Windsor.

In Pakistan, it took year that Prince William the death of a mother to bring cancer to the forefront of the public's awareness. In the 1980s, Imran Khan's mother Shaukat Khanum was diin the cemetery doesn't agnosed with colon cancer. matter to me", adding the Disappointed with the fatruism, "the most precious cilities available in local resource we all have is hospitals, he took her abroad for treatment.

His resolve to build a facility in Pakistan for cancer patients who could not afford equivalent treatment here was ce-Over the centuries bemented by one incident tween the first and second the sight of an elderly dis-Elizabethan ages, the Brittraught Pathan in Mayo Hospital. His sick brother lay in the corridor of the crowded hospital. To pay for his brother's medicines, the man had to labour daily at a nearby construction site.

Today, the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centres founded by Imran that, while her husband Khan in memory of his George V was ill, she slept mother (she died in 1985), have two state-of-the-art tertiary care cancer hospitals in Lahore and

Or that in 1936, she Peshawar with a third ensured that his 'peaceful the largest - currently in end' was accelerated with an advanced stage of construction in Karachi. The efficiency of their organisation, their facilities and the medical attention patients receive whether fee-paying or free

- are more than legendary. They are a reality. Cancer is not like an

appendectomy: here today, gone tomorrow. It requires continuous treatment and monitoring to detect recurrence. The Shau-kat Khanum hospitals received almost 14,500 new cancer patients last year. In addition, they have over tired employees. 30,000 patients on active

follow-up for a period of ment to the Provincial up to five years following Employees Social Secutreatment. Over 75 per rity Ordinance, 1965, encent of all patients in the sured that full-time 'do-SKMCH system are mestic servants' were treated entirely free of brought within the law's charge, funded by zakat fold. It became mandaand donations. tory for every employer Each patient is a helpof a domestic servant to

less victim of a cancer the provide the latter with US-Pakistani oncologist comprehensive medical Dr Azra Raza calls a "mocare. This included in-pativeless malignity", just as tient and out-patient the hospital itself is often treatment, essential drugs the target of malignant supplies prescribed by a criticism. doctor, hospitalisation,

If you have the time including in cases related that Elizabeth I and Steve to pregnancy. However, Jobs were denied, go to the such medical treatment, Shaukat Khanum Hospithough on the statute tal in Lahore. There, you books, has not been implemented. will meet an Afghan national. He will show you

photos of his three chilagainst maids and other dren — two boys and a domestic staff prompted girl, bright faced and smilthe Punjab and federal ing, the same ages as Wilgovernment to promulgate liam and Kate's children. the Punjab Domestic He will then show Workers Act, 2019, and you an image of his once the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Act, 2021, rebeautiful wife. Because she is undergoing free treatment for leukaemia, spectively. Both laws en-

involving a complete visage protecting the blood replacement, they rights of domestic workhave not seen their chilers, including regulating dren for three years. If you their terms of employwait, you will then see her ment and working conditions, and ensuring social emerge from the recovery room — an emaciated livprotection, besides safeing corpse. She is, in guarding their welfare.

Maulana Rumi's words, The Acts require the neither hair, nor skin employer to provide digonly a soul that lives nified working conditions within. -- Courtesy Dawn and take occupational drawn between a re-

companying brochure techniques at both indi- toward a more resilient and should outline a com- vidual and community water-secure future for prehensive strategy to levels presents a sus- the people of Pakistan.

Domestic workers

health and safety mea- sourceful entrepreneur

Parvez Rahim

Bhutto introduced five

brought in amendments in

sures. The lawmakers from an industrial or comhave mentioned that do- mercial establishment and On assuming power after mestic workers shall be an old couple dependent addressed as such and not on their meagre lifetime West Pakistan in the 1970 as 'servant'. (It is ironisavings or pension to surelections, Zulfikar Ali cal that there is no issue vive, and who employ a with the commonly used domestic worker to look term 'government serlabour welfare laws and after their needs. There vant'

However, there are justification to apply the other laws applicable to industrial and commercial glaring differences in the two laws. In Punjab's establishments. These laws pertained to the educase, a child under 15 cation of workers' chilyears is not allowed to dren, the constitution of work in a household in a workers' welfare fund, any capacity while the Acts only extend to fullcost of living relief, rules age limit is 16 for the on workers' participation capital. Before imposing in company profits, and age limits, the governold-age pension for rement should have formu-In 1972, an amendpulsory education and implemented them. In worker is required to

12-hour period free of duty during the day. The Acts have taken key provisions from various labour laws and com- convention asserts that bined them. For instance, leave entitlement, the registration of employers, daily working hours, overtime pay, vaccination, the appointment of opportunities to particiinspectors, prosecution of employers, penalties and accidents involving domestic workers have Incidents of violence been taken from the Factories Act. Similarly, the fixation of a minimum wage, conditions of payment of wages and the establishment of the Mini- ernments' labour departmum Wages Board are ments have consistently taken from the Minimum failed to ensure even the Wages Ordinance, while registration of the numerthe resolution of disputes ous industrial and comis from the Industrial Re- mercial establishments lations Act. The service of falling within their donotice, or payment in lieu main. Expecting them to thereof, is from the achieve the gigantic task Standing Orders Act. The domestic workers' welfare ing all households emfund is from the Companies Profits (Workers Participation) Act, and maternity benefits from the law on the subject.

laws may think that an obligation has been fullated plans for their com- filled in view of ILO convention C189, (Domestic Workers' Convention, Punjab, no domestic 2011), which has so far not been ratified by work beyond eight hours Pak-istan. The convention a day, while the addresses discrimination Islamabad law is more re- with regard to the condialistic in that it allows a tions of employment and work, and to other abuse of the human rights of mi-

does not appear to be any

same laws to the latter.

holds employ domestic

workers on a part-time

basis, it appears that both

time domestic workers.

Pro--ponents of these

While many house-

grant domestic workers. Article 4 (2) of the the minimum age of employment should not deprive domestic workers from compulsory education, nor interfere with pate in further education or vocational training.

There are millions of households in Punjab and Islamabad, who employ domestic workers. Who will ensure that they are following the law in letter and spirit? The govof registering and inspectploying domestic workers is unrealistic. There is no point in framing laws which look impressive but whose implementa-

Parallels cannot be tion is hugely uncertain. -- Courtesy Dawn

his landslide victory in

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Friday March 29, 2024

All watercourses in Punjab to be brick lined: CM Punjab

56 types of agricultural machinery to farmers on 60% subsidy while farmers would be given 1,000 laser levelers in the next six months

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday ordered to complete brick lining of all watercourses in the province in five years under 'Sarsabz Punjab Khushaal Khastkaar' initiative.

The chief minister was presiding over a meeting in which formal approval was given to various agriculture projects.

During the meeting, approval was given to the project under which lining of all watercourses in Punjab would be carried out besides solar tube-well project. In the first phase, lining of 1,200 lining of 1,200 watercourses would be carried out in two years at a cost of Rs 10 billion while in the second phase 7,000 lining of watercourses would be ensured Farmers

possessing upto 25 acres high tech agricultural of land would be provided machinery. solar system in two years.

agriculture secretary briefed the chief minister about agriculture projects. Decision was made in the meeting to give 56 types of agricultural

machinery to farmers on 60 per cent subsidy while farmers would be given agricultural machinery. 1,000 laser levelers in the next six months. plan, Maryam

authorities to increase seed production from 400,000 tons to 600,000 tons. The meeting also subsidy.

discussed proposal to cultivate sovabean seed on 100,000 acres of land with University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The chief minister

said the federal government requirement was 29 million would be contacted to waive off tax and duty on 26 million tons.

machinery.

To control smog and In the meeting, the avoid burning of crops coulture secretary residues, the meeting unanimously decided to contact federal government to waive off tax on rice straw shredder machine.

Meeting was told that there was 30 to 37 per cent tax and duty on high tech Under mechanization

agricultural Nawaz machinery would be directed the relevant bought with Rs 2 billion in three months and machinery would be provided to farmers on

Under two years mechanization plan, 23,000 agricultural the cooperation of equipment, 2280 laser land leveling would be given to farmers on subsidy.

The country's wheat tons while Punjab produces



pilot project of Basic Health Centre Shamkay Bhatian.

Governor Sindh announces comprehensive IT program for youth of Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori has said that acquiring modern education is imperative for the progress of any society. This is why,

following the initiation of the IT course in Governor House Karachi, a similar program is now being launched in Hyderabad. In the first phase this

50,000 youngsters will be provided with various IT courses including Artificial Intelligence free of cost.

Addressing a press conference at Hyderabad Press Club on Thursday regarding comprehensive IT

program, Governor Sindh with a budget of Rs. 50

AHORE:

Punjab under one roof.

Development Authority,

informed that a website for the program will be launched tonight, followed by the establishment of an IT university whose location will be determined

website.

unemployment issues.

He said whoever registers through the website, will be emailed about the date of the test,

moreover the entire course program will be linked to He emphasized the importance of both education and skills, stating that the country was facing economic challenges and Governor Sindh mentioned that this program is being initiated

Ministers review plan for establishment of Nawaz **Sharif Cancer Hospital**

Independent Report Punjab's Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir,

The hospital aims to standing domains of calls provide comprehensive patients for better Officer Lahore Bilai treatment facilities for treatment facilities will be Siddique Kamyana highlighted that the

said that UNICEF is playing an important role for the public welfare in the province. He said that crores. without any incumbent provincial government also intends to contribution from the government. He highlighted the involvement of donors this partnership to some

ational

on Thursday.

cooperation

and an expert team of IT other sectors including professionals who will upgradation of schools. play a crucial role in supply of clean drinking training the youth and facilitating their journey water, through the IT courses.

He further stated that along with basic courses, the IT University will offer courses in Artificial Intelligence and upon completion, the qualified youth will be eligible to earn up to hundreds of thousands of rupees. He expressed confidence that those completing the courses can earn a monthly income up to 1.5 to 2 million rupees.

Lahore Police launch campaign to install safety wires on m/cycles

LAHORE (APP): In compliance with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, Lahore Police has launched a campaign to install safety wires on motorcycles to protect against fatal accidents caused by metal wires. The distribution of safety wires among motorcyclists is being carried out free of charge.

Capital City Police He handed over these medicines while visiting the Health Department,

matters of mutual interest PESHAWAR (APP): A solarization of schools delegation of UNICEF Madaris, tube wells and deserving households in headed by Abdullah Fadil.

UNICEF's delegation

calls on KP CM, discusses

Page 05

called on Chief Minister the province. Touching upon the priorities of his government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur here regarding development of at Chief Minister's House newly merged districts, the During the meeting they discussed matters of chief minister said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially merged areas had been affected badly during mutual interest with special focus on public welfare activities being the war against terrorism. carried out in the province That's why he said that the provincial government expect special cooperation from its development partner for providing relief with the assistance of UNICEF. Prospects for further expanding mutual and partnership between UNICEF and the provincial government were also between to people of newly merged districts He made it clear that fast track development discussed in the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, the chief minister of newly merged districts is the priority area of the provincial government adding that, despite the numerous challenges and difficult financial situation, special efforts are being

made for this purpose; and that's why the government further enhance and expand also need special cooperation from international donor agencies and developmental partners in this regard.



sewerage,

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique being briefed about progress of construction work of New Lady Willington Hospital during his visit to site of the project.

Health Minister handovers emergency medicine supplies to hospitals in 17 districts

Independent Report ESHÂWAR: Ĥealth Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah handed over the first batch of emergency medicines worth 2.9 billion rupees to district health officers and hospitals in 17 districts of the province, including former FATA.

medicines was a significant challenge for the new government, as hospitals had been facing shortages for the past six months. expressed

gratitude to Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for ensuring the provision of medicines on priority basis. Approximately three billion rupees have been Kamyana Provincial Ware House of released for medicines, ensuring their availability

Independent Report LAHORE: Provincial Senior Minister Marriyum plan. Initiatives to combat Aurangzeb held a meeting Thursday with

plastic bags will be banned from June 6 under a phased pre-smog and seasonal smog have already been initiated with

Khidmat-e-Khalak Foundation at KKF hospital.

Senior minister

holds meeting with

HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui addressing during Rashan bags distribution by

Mayor Karachi chairs meeting of SSWMB KARACHI (APP): Mayor environment expert

reviewed plans for the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital in Lahore, Karachi Barrister Murtaza aligning with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Wahab, who is also the Chairman of Sindh Solid Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Waste Management Board (SSWMB) said that a plan should be envisaged to make the garbage useful.

on Thursday, detailed discussions were held regarding the master plan of the state-of-the-art cancer hospital. Health Secretary Ali Jan Khan and CEO IDAP Captain ® Shameer provided insights

into the project's progress. Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized that the longstanding demand of cancer

environmental and climate change expert Advocate action plans. Efforts are Parvez Hassan on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz.

Matters pertaining to added improving the air quality index and environmental challenges, especially in Lahore, Punjab, were discussed. Parvez Hassan Minister Maryam Nawaz presented important recommendations regarding smog control.

Marriyum Aurangzeb stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a Smog Legislation Plan had been devised, with all departments working together to address environmental issues. "Due to the adverse effects of polythene bags on the environmental improvement environment, single-use

GILGIT: Minister Social Welfare Gilgit-Baltistan,

Dilshad Bano addressing during the 18th

Assembly session of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly

under the chair of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan

Secretary HUD&PHE

Asad Khan visits RDA

as possible.He instructed

the officers to take strict

action in accordance with

the law against illegal

occasion said that the

projects would be started

soon and all-out efforts

would be made to complete

construction work within

shortest possible time

frame. The officers of

The DG RDA on the

housing schemes.

and

Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate.

RAWALPINDI (APP):

The Secretary Housing,

Urban Development and

Public Health Engineering

(HUD&PHE), Capt. ®

Asad Ullah Khan here on

Thursday visited Rawalpindi Development

Chairing a meeting held at RDA office, the

Secretary appreciated the

work being done by RDA.

spokesman, the DG RDA

briefed the Secretary about

the reforms and development works being

carried out by RDA.

Detailed briefings were

also given on RDA projects

including Rawalpindi Ring

Road project, Nullah Lai

Expressway project and

others. The Secretary

initiate the projects as soon stability.

According to RDA

Authority (RDA).

visited

Sharif had launched the largest campaign in the province's history titled 'Plant for Pakistan" in collaboration with the private sector to enhance environmental conditions, adding that environmental improvement measures were being taken with the cooperation of private sectors. She said that subjects were being included in the educational curriculum foi

He was chairing a meeting of the SSWMB underway to improve where he directed the legislation and laws related officials concerned to to environmental issues coordinate with those who and smog control", she are interested in recycling of garbage. said a statement The Senior Minister Punjab apprised that Chief

on Thursday. The Chairman SSWMB said that sanitation work has improved a lot in Lyari and Central district where there are complaints they should be resolved

immediately. On the occasion, Managing Director SSWMB Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, Executive Director Operations Tariq Nizamani, Executive Director Finance Rahmatullah Sheikh Director Sabir Shah and other officers were also present.Murtaza Whab said that his priority was

to solve the problems of the people and to ensure immediate resolution of complaints.

He said that all the complaint cells should be kept operational during the holy month of Ramazan.

CDC organizes awareness walk, seminar

to mark World TB Day KARACHI (APP): Centres for Disease Control and Prevention million.

The (CDC), TB program and authorities have been District Health office in directed to submit a report collaboration with the USAID organized an within 10 days. He has also awareness walk and seminar to mark World TB taken action over the installation of defective

Day here in Bilal Colony cable and street lights in of Korangi district on Thursday. The walk was the Agra locality. directives while presiding held from the Government dispensary to the

government secondary school located in Bilal Colony to spread awareness about Tuberculosis disease l, its prevention and treatment. The program was

Water and Sanitation organized under the Agency (WASA) and Parks directions of Deputy Horticulture Director General CDC Dr Authority (PHA) also Zulfiqar Dharejo and was briefed the Secretary about attended by Additional the performance and Director Dr. Samreen projects of WASA and Ashraf, DHO Korangi Dr PHA. The Secretary Teerath Das and others. directed WASA authorities

The goal of TB Day to make earnest efforts to is to make people aware of prevention and the treatment of Tuberculosis increase the revenue and ordered that bold steps directed the authorities to should be taken for which claims the lives

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Thursday.

Communications and Works (C&W) Shakeel Communications and Works, Idris Marwat, Ahmed has expressed his Managing Director Khyber anguish over the alleged use Pakhtunkhwa Highways of poor-quality material in the projects of the Malakand Thana Authority Asad Ali, Chief Engineer Foreign Aid Naveed Iqbal, Project University bridge, Aladand Directors Waqas, Zahid and Bazdara roads and District Headquarters Hospital Malakand. and Arslan and other

officers were also present These projects have on this occasion. been completed at Rs 150 concerned

Minister in detail about the development projects being built with foreign assistance, new schemes and planning for the welfare-oriented project in the future. Addressing the

He issued these meeting, the provincial minister said that the

FAISALABAD: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmad Lone installing a kite string protector on a motorcycle for safety measure at Allied Chowk.

construction of this installation of safety wires During the meeting held at the Infrastructure Development Authority, on motorcycles will help save valuable human lives from metal wire accidents Punjab (IDAP) head office funds for the project. Additionally.



LAHORE: Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins, U.S. Consul General in Lahore meeting with Provincial Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed is also present on the occasion.

Minister expresses anguish over alleged use of poor-quality material

mother from Jhang welcomed quintuplets into projects constructed with the world on Thursday at foreign assistance here on Faisalabad's Hospital. Secretary The five newborns,

comprising three boys and two girls, were safely delivered, with both the mother and babies confirmed to be in stable condition by attending physicians, said a private news channel. This joyous event contrasts with a tragic incident last year in Hyderabad, where a woman from Umerkot gave birth to sextuplets, though unfortunately, five of the infants were stillborn. Despite this loss, the mother successfully underwent the delivery and is reported to be in stable health.

Quintuplets

born in

Faisalabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

Allied

Man gets life imprisonment for killing wife KHANEWAL (APP): A man was convicted of life imprisonment and a fine for killing his wife over a domestic dispute in the last year. According to the prosecution, Azhar killed his wife on March 21, 2023, over a domestic dispute.A case number 249/23 was registered against him under section 302 with Tulamba police station.On Thursday, Additional District and Session Judge Muhammad Fakhir Altaf awarded life imprisonment and a fine of

accompanied by Directorfor patients in hospitals General Health Dr. Shaukat Ali, Additional DG Administration Dr. Siraj, Director Public Health Dr. Irshad Roghani, and DHOs from various districts.

Speaking to the media Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah told that emergency medicines have been dispatched for all hospitals across the province, totalling 17 districts.

A total of 47 different types of emergency medicines have been included in this essential supply. The Health Minister highlighted that the shortage of essential

otherwise, hospitals would not benefit from such funds.Responding to a question, the Health Minister acknowledged that hospitals have been historically plagued by crises in the caretaker government. The biggest and first challenge for the health department is being addressed today. He assured the public that this supply chain will not be interrupted. Currently, medicines are being dispatched for three months, and the next batch of medicines will be sent immediately after the

budget.

HYDERABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori addressing to media persons at press club.

Directorates for special education, women to be established soon: Mashal

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister, Mashal Azam Yousafzai participated as Chief guest in the annual distribution prize ceremony at Special who performed well during Education Complex the academic year. She also Hayatabad here on Thursday.

She was of the view that separate directorates of special education and women empowerment will be created soon, while steps will be taken to increase the quota for disabled people in government jobs by 10%. are out of schools and we education institutions

will get buildings on rent to admit them in schools where they will be equipped with the jewel of education. She expressed these

views while addressing the annual prize distribution ceremony held at Special Education Complex Rs 500,000 to the accused. Hayatabad Peshawar.

Advisor to Chief Minister Mashal Azam Yousafzai attended the ceremony as a guest and distributed prizes and shields among students paid tribute to the parents of special children.

Syed Ali Bakhsh, Director Special Education Complex, Hayatabad, while welcoming and thanking Advisor to Chief Minister Mashal Azam Yousafzai for her visit to the Special Education Complex, said that there Many special children are around 57 special across the province, including two major special education complexes in Peshawar and Mardan. Speaking about the Special Education Complex Hayatabad, Director Syed Ali Bakhsh said that more than 650 students are studying in the Special Education Complex.



projects constructed with

During the meeting, the concerned authorities briefed the Provincial

OMMERCE NEWS

Page 06

PM chairs review meeting on stoppage of electricity theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): campaign Prime Minister Shehbaz electricity theft. Sharif Thursday chaired a high level meeting on stoppage of electricity theft and directed that immediate disciplinary action should be initiated against the officers and exemplary punishment should be given to them for abetting the crime and causing loss of billions of dollars. He said it was their responsibility to create a stable system by taking measures like launching a

stop

The present situation presented, he added. bear the problem of electricity theft, he added. He said a strategy was decided to install

should be formulated at the smart meters earliest for decreasing line transformers under the losses and for upgradation public sector development of transmission lines. programme. He said generation monitors would be companies were a burden deployed at the feeders which were causing huge on the national exchequer

and work should losses. be started on their The meeting was

privatization at the briefed that the areas with

earliest. A report on low rate of electricity theft complete plan for would have solarization of tubewells in loadshedding. less of the economy could not Balochistan should be amendment was brought in section 462(O) of Pakistan During the meeting, it Penal Code through an

ordinance to make electricity theft a cognizable offense. Due to the anti-theft Feeder campaign in September last year, the rate of electricity theft had seen considerable drop. The prime minister said under the anti-theft campaign, since September 2023.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

State Minister for

Information Technology

and Telecommunication,



campaign.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Albert Khorev, engages in discussions with Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, aiming to enhance trade connectivity and tap into the true potential of bilateral trade.

Chief Representative of CFFEX in Pakistan and PSX Director meet Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Finance Minister, Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday held a meeting with You Hang, the Chief Representative of China Pakistan. Financial Futures Exchange (CFFEX) in Pakistan, and highlighted Director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation and exploring new opportunities for transparency, strengthening Pakistan's financial markets and investment landscape.

sector in Pakistan. During the meeting, Finance Minister He also emphasized supporting the Aurangzeb and Chief the role of strategic development of Pakistan's Representative Hang partnerships with financial markets and engaged in detailed international financial contributing to the discussions on various institutions and exchanges, country's aspects of financial market such as CFFEX, in prosperity.

development, including the achieving these objectives potential for collaboration and advancing the between CFFEX and PSX country's financial market to promote innovative infrastructure. financial instruments in Chief Representative

Hang expressed CFFEX's The Finance Minister keen interest 1n the collaborating with PSX and government's commitment other stakeholders to to implementing reforms explore opportunities for aimed at improving the launching new financial products, sharing technical regulatory framework, expertise, and promoting market and cross-border investment China and the between development of a vibrant Pakistan.

reaffirmed and resilient financial He CFFEX's commitment to He also emphasized financial markets and contributing to the country's economic

Railways CEO shares plans | Minister chairs meeting on

Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Fatima Khawaja Thursday said that the assuming the office. present government was The minister said that diligently pursuing Pakistan's IT professionals measures to attract foreign can serve as the premier direct investment (FDI) choice for international and boost IT exports.

Govt. taking every

possible step to increase

IT exports, FDI: Shaza

During a discussion with a high-level delegation from the Pakistan Software Association Houses (P@SHA), led by its Chairman, Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Shaza Fatima highlighted the critical role of the IT industry, particularly in providing internationallevel training to youth creating and employment dedicated efforts in

Independent Report

restaurants and wedding

halls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) will be

registered under the tax net,

and they will be charged a

fixed sales tax for the

the Advisor to KP Chief

Minister on Finance

Muzzammil Aslam at a

consultative session on

subordinate legislation

under the KP Sales Tax Act

2022 arranged by Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Revenue

Authority (KPRA) here

in the session which was

funded by the Sub National

Governance Program and

was attended by lawyers,

tax experts, government

officials, withholding

agents, businessmen, and

FAISALABAD (APP):

Korean Ambassador Park

Kijun said on Thursday

that serious efforts would

be made to enhance direct

He was the chief guest

on Thursday.

This was stated by

services they offer.

PESHÂWAR:



ISLAMABAD: Chief Representative of CFFEX in Pakistan, You Hang, along with CEO PSX Farrukh Khan meet with the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Restaurants, wedding halls to pay fixed sale tax on services: Muzzammil

All

NCA approves revised first quarter GDP estimates for 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accounts Committee (NAC) on Thursday reviewed the quarterly estimates of Ĝross Domestic Product (GDP) for first and second quarter for the years 2023-24 and approved the revised first quarter estimates of 2023-24.

The 108th meeting of the NAC was held with year Secretary Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives in chair, said a press release issued

meeting held in November 2023 approved the introduction of Quarterly National Accounts (QNA)

SNGPL intensifies efforts against gas theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has ramped up its operation against gas theft, disconnecting 36 connections that were diverting gas illegally to other consumers. The task force has also seized a substantial number of compressors from the region. According to Shahid Akram, the spokesperson of SNGPL, the operation also resulted in the confiscation of 42 meters

in the statistical system of growth of 17.66% as the country. QNA provide the pulse of the economy at a shorter interval as compared to the Annual National Accounts (ANA). The committee approved the revised first quarter estimates of 2023-24. Overall GDP of the

first quarter for financial 2023-24 has witnessed a revised growth of 2.50% as compared to 2.13% estimated in 107th NAC meeting.

Growth in agriculture has witnessed a healthy revision to 8.58% from 5.06% mainly due to upward revisions in crops the period under review posting a double digit grew by 5.6%.

compared to 6.13%. The important crops, which were previously estimated based on area, has witnessed a phenomenal growth of 31.47% because of very low base in 2022-

The significant increase in production in final estimates of cotton increased by 108.2% to 10.22 million bales this year against 4.91 million bales last year, rice output increased by 34.8% to 9.87 million tons as against the production of 7.32 million tons last year, where as maize crop out put during

Russian Ambassador greets Jam on assuming charge, discusses trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): possibility of further Russian Ambassador to increasing trade in this Pakistan, Albert Khorev sector. on Thursday engaged in discussions with Federal acknowledged Russia's Minister for Commerce, vast market potential, Jam Kamal Khan, aiming offering to enhance trade connectivity and tap into exporters opportunities for growth the true potential of bilateral trade.

and diversification. During the meeting, Federal Minister Jam Ambassador Khorev Kamal emphasized the extended an invitation to need for exploring new federal minister Jam Kamal routes and avenues to for upcoming exhibitions bolster trade relations, said scheduled in April and a press release issued here. July.

Additionally, he

Pakistani

ample

promoting the IT industry.

chambers of commerce.

to which people have

opted for stamp papers

and only 6 percent of the

property tax collected in

the province is paid to

the province and the rest goes to the federal

entrepreneurs, the advisor directed the Director

Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) to

establish a women's desk

in KPRA for their facilitation. He added that

93% of the province budget

is dependent on federal transfers which is overly

reliant on the federal

government and the fiscal

space with the provincial

and hopefully they would

exploit it by enhancing

investment and technical

cooperation. He was

optimistic that Pakistan

would soon emerge as a

major player in South-West

Asia because of its

economic growth and social

development. He said that

the FCCI should play a

key role in enhancing

bilateral trade between

Faisalabad and Korea,

while the Korean embassy

would also complement

these efforts. He said that

relations between the

Korean embassy and the

FCCI would be further

strengthened to give a quantum jump to bilateral

trade. About the short stay

period on multiple visas,

To encourage women

Khyber

government.

General

representatives of the government is shrinking.

trade with Faisalabad

the

companies and urged P@SHA to assist in bridging the demandsupply gap of IT professionals. Zohaib Khan reaffirmed P@SHA's

The

congratulations to Minister

of State for IT, Shaza

P@SHA

Chairman

extended

commitment collaborating with the Ministry of IT for the economic stability of the country. He commended Minister of State for IT,

opportunities for them.



for Eid trains, service land record upgrades through e-Kutchehri computerization

months

government.

enhancing

facilitating

LAHORE (APP): Railways Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amir Ali Baloch has said that discounts on fares for special trains during Eidul-Fitr will be considered.

Addressing public inquiries through the Facebook e-Kutchehri on Thursday, he mentioned that the issue of delay in salaries for PR employees had been resolved, and efforts to expedite gratuity and pension disbursements were underway. Baloch noted that introduction of premium lounge dining cars on the Zakariya Express had been well-received, and plans were in place to include these coaches on the Tezgam and Hazara Express trains soon.

PESHAWAR (APP): He also mentioned Provincial Minister for that gradual upgrades were Revenue, Nazir Ahmad being made to smaller Abbasi on Thursday chaired a meeting that was platforms, and instructions had been given to assign convened to discuss the sequential numbers to train computerization of land compartments. Baloch records. empĥasised

The meeting among that passengers on long-distance routes might be others was attended by Project Director, Khalid inconvenienced by an Zaman and concerned officials of the Land increase in Green Line Revenue Department. stops and announced plans to increase the number of The meeting was

AC sleepers on certain briefed about ongoing trains during the summer projects of land record computerization in the province.Chairing the

Regarding the Karachi Circular Railway, he clarified that it falls under meeting, the provincial revenue minister directed the jurisdiction of the the setting up of counters Sindh government and in patwar circles of Lora, Bakot and Booni to issue decisions regarding it will be made by the provincial computerized documents of land records.

He said that counters Korean envoy promises all in respective areas would facilitate people in getting efforts to enhance direct land record besides reducing the load on the Service Centre in Abbottabad.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar

trade between Faisalabad SLAMABAD (APP) and Korea. Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 01 paise Addressing business community at the against the US dollar in the Faisalabad Chamber of interbank trading and Commerce & Industry closed at Rs278.03 against the previous day's closing (FCCI), he said Faisalabad

was the textile hub of of Rs278.04. Pakistan. He said bilateral However, according cooperation in the sector to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying would be further improved in the coming years. He particularly identified and selling rates of the dollar in the open market agriculture, textile, energy stood at Rs278.2 and and IT and said that these Rs280.9, respectively. The sectors had potential to price of the Euro decreased increase cooperation for by 98 paisa to close at Rs299.99 against the lastbenefit of the two

countries. He said that Korean day closing of Rs300.97.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting about Mines and Minerals.

relocated to different locations. Legal action has The advisor to CM been initiated against the said that the 23 percent individuals found to be property tax, charged in the involved in the crime. province is very high due

that had been unlawfully

The commended the successful initiation of "Kino and

In a bid to expand minister trade horizons, the Ambassador proposed the exports" to Russia by road export of "Halal meat" expressed the from Pakistan to Russia.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production. Rana Tanveer Hussain chairs a meeting at Ministry Industries and Production.

connection.

reported.

report.

country

The

in the world's mobile

communication field with

innovation, China Daily

launched the Mobile

GSMA

Banks to open on March 30, 31 to facilitate tax collection

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Thursday, announced that banks will observe extended banking hours on Saturday March 30 and to open on Sunday March 31 adding that they think by 2024 to facilitate the taxpayers in payment of government duties and taxes.The SBP, in a statement issued here, said that the central bank has decided that branches of all banks that are open on Saturday shall observe extended banking hours till 4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday for collection of taxes through Alternate Delivery Channels

Over-the-(ADC's) Counter facilities. To ensure same day

clearing and settlement of payment instruments.

1bln 5G connections this year: GSMA ISLAMABAD (APP): predicted that by the end China's telecom operators have invested relentlessly

China to surpass

of this year, the county will surpass 1 billion 5G over the past five years in connections and that by building out a fantastic network, GSMA director-2030, the number will soar to 1.6 billion connections. general Mats Granryd said, 5G's contribution to

GDP in China is expected 2030 the country will reach to reach almost \$260 billion in 2030, which is 23 almost 90 percent in 5G percent of the overall He said China has annual economic impact of quite a lot of contributions mobile in China.

Also by 2030, 5G connections in China will account for nearly a third of the global total, with 5G adoption in China reaching almost 90 percent, making Economy China 2024 it one of the leading The report markets globally.



has

ISLAMABAD (APP): (CCP) is preparing to put China has made significant in place a comprehensive investments in Pakistan legal and regulatory through the China-Pakistan framework, said a press Economic Corridor (CPEC) release issued here on Thursday. The CCP is poised to and various Chinese companies operating in the

sign a Memorandum of This investment is Understanding (MoU) expected to increase with China's State Administration for Market manifold after the second stage of CPEC. To facilitate Regulation (SAMR), marking a significant these expanding business activities, the Competition milestone in bilateral Commission of Pakistan cooperation.

ISLAMABAD (APP): 111 sustained losses The 100-index of the whereas the share prices of Pakistan Stock Exchange 29 remained unchanged. (PSX) continued with The three top trading bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 594.34 points, a companies were PTCL with 55,715,919 shares at positive change of 0.89

Rs.18.42 per share, Lotte Chemical with 27,228,578 percent, closing at historic level of 67,142.12 points shares with Rs.19.56 per share and Telecard Limited

A total of 421,118,268 shares valuing Rafhan Rs.16.159 billion were Products traded during the day as compared to 354,597,630 shares valuing Rs.11.884 Some 352 companies runner-up was Bata sacted their shares in Pakistan Limited with a

transacted their shares in the stock market; 212 of them recorded gains and

billion the last day.

with 25,547,322 shares at Rs.9.29 per share. Maize Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.125.00 per

share price, closing at Rs.8,175.00, whereas the Rs.58.00 rise in its per share price to Rs.1,739.00.





ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with delegation of Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA).

PSX closed at historic high level of over 67,000 points



Friday March 29, 2024

International News

Ukraine destrovs

26 Russian

Monitoring Desk

neighbourhood in the re-

Monitoring Desk

with taking part in an anti-

fascist group's assaults on

people they viewed as far-

right activists will remain in

jail after a judge denied her

attorney's request that she

be released into house ar-

old teacher, is accused of

taking part in a serious as-

sault on two far-right mili-

tants by a group of anti-fas-

cist activists in Budapest

last February. She pleaded

not guilty at a hearing in

January. Prosecutors are

seeking an 11-year sentence

Ilaria Salis, a 39-year-

rest

for her.

gional capital.

Page 07

Israeli tanks and

armoured vehicles have

also massed around the

Nasser Hospital, the Gaza

health ministry said, add-

ing that shots were fired

but no raid had yet been

The Palestinian Red

Talks in Qatar to-

Putin says he won't start a war with NATO but Western bases hosting **Ukraine F-16s would be targets**

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin scoffed at the possibility of his country launching an attack on a NATO member, calling it "sheer nonsense," but warned that any Western air base hosting U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets that are slated for deployment in Ukraine would be a "legiti-mate target" for the Kremlin's forces.

"Their statements about our alleged intention to attack Europe after Ukraine is sheer nonsense," Putin said late Wednesday, referring to warnings in the U.S. and Western Europe that Russia could turn its sights on other countries unless it is stopped.

He noted that the U.S. defense budget is more than 10 times higher than Russia's. "In view of that, jets arrive. are we going to wage a war

against NATO? It's ravings," he told military pilots during a visit to an air base

fly the warplanes.

Ukraine's Western allies against providing air bases in their countries from Ukraine is awaiting the where the F-16s could delivery of F-16s, which launch sorties against the will increase military pres-Kremlin's forces. Those bases would become a "lesure on Russia, from its Western partners. Ukraine gitimate target," he said.

Putin

President Volodymyr "F-16s are capable of Zelenskyy said last year that 42 F-16s had been carrying nuclear weapons, and we will also need to promised. Ukrainian pilots take that into account while have been training in the West for months on how to

Military analysts have said the arrival of F-The F-16s require a 16s won't be a gamehigh standard of runways and reinforced hangars to changer in view of protect them from bomb-Russia's massive air force and sophisticated air deing attacks when they are fense systems, though Ukrainian officials have on the ground. It is not clear how many Ukrainian air welcomed them as an opbases can meet those requirements, and Russia portunity to hit back at would be certain to quickly ussia's air dominance.

Putin insisted the Ftarget a few that could accommodate them once the 16s "won't change the situation on the battlefield."



Palestinians search for food and belongings through the rubble of the buildings that were destroyed in the overnight Israeli bombardment in Rafah.

Russian veto brings end to UN panel monitoring enforcement of North Korea nuclear sanctions

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: Russia vetoed a U.N. resolution Thursday in a move that effectively abolishes the monitoring by United Nations experts of sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, though the sanctions

themselves remain in place. Russia's turnaround on the monitoring-which it repeatedly agreed to in the past-prompted Western accusations that Moscow was acting to shield its weapons purchases from North Korea for use in its war against Ukraine, in violation

vote in the 15-member council was 13 in favor, Russia against, and China abstaining. The Security Council resolution would have extended the mandate of the panel of experts for a year, but Russia's veto will halt its operation. The U.N. sanctions against North Korea still remain in force.

"strangle" North Korea and that sanctions have proven "ir-

Italian woman of the U.N. sanctions. The country's nuclear program. held in Hungary **UK minister threatened** to remain in jail with jail over BUDAPEST: Ăn Italian woman charged in Hungary

Afghanistan probe Monitoring Desk public inquiry examining LONDON: A UK governwhether a unit executed males of "fighting age" who ment minister is on a colliposed no threat in the warsion course with the law torn country between 2010 over his refusal to reveal the sources of allegations that British special forces committed war crimes in Af-

and 2013. The Independent Inquiry Relat-ing to Af-ghanistan ordered Mercer, $\overline{42}$, to hand over the names ghanistan. Johnny Mercer, next week or face a poten-Britain's minister for vettial prison sentence. In a erans, has said "multiple statement, the Independent officers" told him about al-Inquiry Relating to Af-ghanistan revealed it had leged murders and a subsequent cover-up during the issued the MP with a Section 21 notice under

He has refused to di-Britain's Inquiries Act. vulge their identities to a

Afghan conflict.

More Rafah strikes raise fears of all-out Israeli assault

Monitoring Desk began on October 7. Fighting has raged since last week around Gaza GAZA STRIP: Israel bombed at least four homes City's Al-Shifa Hospital, in Rafah on Wednesday, the territory's largest, and raising fresh fears among more recently near two hosthe more than a million Palpitals in the main southern estinians sheltering in the city of Khan Yunis, Allast refuge on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip that Amal and Nasser.

a long-threatened ground assault could be coming.One of the airstrikes killed 11 people from a single family, health officials said.

The health ministry said on Wednesday that at least 32,490 people have launched. Crescent warned that thoubeen killed in the territory sands were trapped inside during more than five and "their lives are in danmonths of war between Israel and Hamas. ger The toll includes at

drones in latest wards a truce and prisoner release deal, involving US least 76 deaths over the past overnight strike 24 hours, a ministry stateand Egyptian mediators, ment said, adding that have brought no result so 74,889 people have been KYIV: Ukrainian forces far, with Israel and Hamas wounded in the Gaza Strip shot down 26 out of 28 atsince the Israeli invasion blaming each other. tack drones launched over-

Ferdinand Marcos Jr said

on Thursday, upping the

stakes in an escalating row

rious over what it calls re-

peated hostilities by Chi-

nese vessels around dis-

puted features inside

Manila's 200-mile exclusive

economic zone. The United

States has weighed in with

moral support for its former

specify what the counter-

measures would entail, but

said they would come in

proportionate, deliberate

unabating attacks.

Marcos did not

colony and military ally.

in the South China Sea. The Philippines is fu-

Philippines ups stakes in China row, vows countermeasures to coastguard 'attacks' Monitoring Desk

nations that purport and claim to be our friends but MANILA: The Philippines we will not be cowed into will implement countermeasures against "illegal, coersilence, submission, or subservience," Marcos said on cive, aggressive, and dangerous attacks" by China's Facebook coastguard, President

The deterioration in relations with China comes as Marcos seeks to deepen defence ties with the United States, increasing US access to Philippine military bases and expanding joint exercises to include sea and air patrols over the South China Sea, frustrating Beijing. Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian on Thursday said the Philippines was to blame for the breakdown and was counting on support from external forces while peddling misinformation and infringing on China's sovereignty.

succeeding weeks and be "It is straying further down a dangerous path. The Chinese side and reasonable in response to what he called open and will not allow the Philip-ines to act willfully," Wu with any nation, more so told a briefing.

Four people killed and seven wounded in stabbings in northern Illinois

Maryland Police and US Coast Guard officials claim poor visibility amid treacherous currents in the wreckage-strewn channel makes search efforts too risky to continue.

created a traffic quagmire

for the surrounding region.

search for the missing work-

As the odds of their

"We do not believe

Maryland State Police

that we're going to find any

of these individuals alive.

Coast Guard Rear Admiral

Shannon Gilreath said at a

and US Coast Guard offi-

cials said diminished visibil-

ity and increasingly treach-

erous currents in the wreck-

age-strewn channel made

briefing

Rescuers lose hope of finding survivors from bridge collapse

Monitoring Desk US Eastern Seaboard, and BALTIMORE: Rescuers have lost hope of finding more survivors of the Baltimore bridge collapse, the survival vanished, the US coast guard said as efforts switched on Wednesday to looking for bodies ers was suspended on Tuesof the missing and more day evening, 18 hours after answers to why a container they were thrown from the

into the frigid waters at the bridge. US federal safety in- mouth of the Patapsco

Russian mine with 13 trapped miners almost completely flooded, one of the busiest on the

RIA reports **Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Water has almost completely flooded the Pioneer gold mine in Russia's Amur region, where 13 miners are stuck, Russia's state-run RIA

Novosti news agency said on Thursday, citing emerbridge. bridge. bridge. bridge into the frigid waters at the francis Scott Key Bridge gency services. The miners became

trapped on March 18 after a rock fall.

night by Russia, Kyiv's military said on Thursday. The Iranian-made drones were destroyed over parts of eastern, southern and southeastern Ukraine, the air force added. The Zaporizhzhia Russia's U.N. Ambassaregion's governor said on dor Vassily Nebenzia told the council before the vote that Telegram that two women Western nations are trying to had been wounded when debris struck a residential

relevant" and "detached from reality" in reining in the

vestigators have also recovered the black box from the freight ship that crashed into the bridge, the agency chief said.

Search divers were expected to return to the waters surrounding the twisted ruins of the bridge in Baltimore Harbour to search for six workers missing and now presumed dead

The disaster has continued search efforts on the river too risky to conof the Port of Baltimore, tinue overnight.

Climate change messing with how we measure time

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Struggle to wrap your head around daylight savings? Spare a thought for the world's timekeepers, who are trying to work out how climate change is affecting Earth's rotation ---and in turn, how we keep track of time.

In a strange twist, glo-bal warming could even help out timekeepers by delaying the need for history's first "negative leap second" by three years, a study published on Wednesday suggested.

Experts fear that introducing a negative leap second — a minute with only 59 seconds — into standard time could cause approached 0.9 of a sechavoc on computer systems across the world.

For most of history, time was measured by Earth's rotation. However in 1967, the world's time-which the world sets its keepers embraced atomic clocks

clocks - which use the frequency of atoms as their tick-tock — ushering in a more precise era of timekeeping. But sailors, who

still relied on the Sun and stars for navigation, and others wanted to retain the connection between Earth's rotation and time. There was a problem. Our planet is an unreliable clock, and had long been rotating slightly slower

than atomic time, meaning the two measurements were out of svnc. So a compromise was struck. Whenever the difference between the two measurements ond, a "leap second" was added to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the internation-

of four shafts, the emergencies ministry said in a statement posted on the messenger app Telegram. **New Delhi** summons US

of Moscow.

diplomat over **Kejriwal's** arrest remarks

Wednesday summoned a top US diplomat over Washington's remarks on the arrest of key opposition leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal just weeks before the parliamentary elections.

India to ensure a "fair, transparent, and timely legal process" for Kejriwal, who was arrested last week.

jected to the remarks two days after Washington

The Pioneer mine is one of the largest gold mines in Russia, and situated in the Amur region which borders China, about 5,300 km (3,300 miles) east Earlier, rescue efforts were suspended on Wednesday due to the risk of another collapse, state news agency TASS reported. Emergency workers would study water deposits discovered at the bottom

People walk past remains of vehicles near the presidential palace, after they were set on fire by gangs, as violence spreads and armed gangs expand their control over the capital, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Greek PM faces no-confidence vote over 2023 train crash **Monitoring Desk** nies wrongdoing and is

ATHENS: The government expected to survive the vote given its party's maof Greek Prime Minister jority. But the motion Kyriakos Mitsotakis faces highlights how many are a no-confidence vote on still angered by a disas-Thursday over the handling ter that revealed how deof a train crash last year that killed 57 people, after mecades of neglect and mismanagement dia reports emerged this week alleging manipulation jeopardised railway safety. Experts say little Leftist opposition has changed to improve

parties submitted a censure standards since. "Like every Greek citi-, we want to know the truth," Nikos Androulakis, the head of the centre-left PASOK party, told parliament on Wednesday. A judicial investigation

is underway and is expected accident in the country's to be completed in the com-The government de- ing months.

Twisted magnetic field observed around Milky Way's black hole **Monitoring Desk**

mers on Wednesday announced that they have detected a strong and organised magnetic field twisted in a spiral pattern around the Milky Way's supermassive black hole, had revealing previously unknown qualities of the immensely powerful object lurking at the center of our galaxy.

The structure of the magnetic field emanating from the edge of the black hole called Sagittarius A*, or Sgr A*, closely resembles one surrounding the only other black hole ever imaged, a larger one residing at the centre of a nearby galaxy called Messier 87, or M87, the researchers said This indicates that strong magnetic fields may be a feature common to black holes, they added.

in October 2023 to a coali-The magnetic field around the M87 black hole, tion of pro-Europe parties headed by Donald Tusk's called M87*, enables it to Civic Platform. launch powerful jets of masays those accused of breakterial into space, the researchers said. This indiing the law during PiS rule will be held to account by cates that while such jets have not been detected to prosecutors who it says are now free of political infludate around Sgr A*, they might exist - and might be ence On Tuesday, special services forced their way observable in the near future, they added. The researchers into the home of former jusreleased a new image showing the environment around tice minister Zbigniew Sgr A* in polarised light for Ziobro and the prosecution the first time, revealing the said four people - three

magnetic field structure. The

trust ... The Libor activipolarised light comes from ties of which you took subatomic particles called part put all that in jeopelectrons gyrating around magnetic field lines.

Monitoring Desk ROCKFORD: Four people were killed and seven were

and none were shot, according to Redd.

Rockford Police initially said five people had hurt when a man went on a been injured. Cori Hilliard. stabbing rampage Wednesa public information officer day across multiple locations with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, told The Associated Press Wednesday evening that two more victims were among those hurt.

Three people died at the scenes. The fourth died at a hospital.

Police later identified those victims as a 15-yearold girl, a 63-year-old woman, a 49-year-old man and a 22-year-old man. Their names were not released. Redd said residents in the area were being asked to review their home surveillance camera footage for anything related to the attacks.

Rockford's population is about 150,000 and it's 90 miles (145 kilometers) miles northwest of Chicago. The violence Wednesday came days after a teenage employee of a Walmart in Rockford was stabbed and in the city had stab wounds killed inside the store.

Officers search former Polish officials' homes in financial probe

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Polish special services searched the homes ers searched the room of former Deputy Justice Minister Michal Wos in a of former Law and Justice hotel belonging to the par-(PiS) government officials liament and another house again on Wednesday as part belonging to Ziobro's family, a prosecution spokes-person said. Wos said his of an investigation into alaged by the justice minishome outside Warsaw was try, a prosecution spokesalso searched.

The investigation regards alleged misuse of money from the Justice Fund, set up to help victims of crime.

"I have nothing to reproach myself for, everything was legal when I supervised the Justice Fund...I will file a complaint against the pros-ecution," Wos told reporters.

A former Supreme Audit Office president said in front of a parliamentary commission on Wednesday that he had proof that 25 million zlo-tys (\$6.3 million) from the fund were spent on Pegasus spyware which the new government says was used under PiS against some of its politicians.

Italian teacher Ilaria Salis, facing charges for taking part in an anti-fascist assault on far-right activists, talks with her lawyer, Eugenio Losco, in a court on the day of her hearing, in Budapest, Hungary.

Monitoring Desk MUMBAI: India on

The US State Depart-ment had urged of evidence.

motion against the conservative government this week accusing it of "trying to hide the truth" after a freight train collided head-India strongly obon with a passenger train in central Greece, the worst

said it is closely following reports of Kejriwal's arrest and that it encourages a fair legal process.

Libor trader Hayes loses appeal against rate-rigging conviction

ardy.

Monitoring Desk

history

LONDON: Tom Hayes, the first trader in the world to be jailed for interest rate rigging, lost his appeal against his conviction on Wednesday, a decision he said he would seek to challenge at the UK's Supreme Court

Hayes, a former star Citigroup and UBS trader, was convicted in 2015 of conspiracy to defraud by manipulating Libor, a benchmark rate once used to price trillions of financial products globally.

Hayes and other traders were acting illegally by taking their or their employer's commercial interests into submissions on the London interbank offered rate (Libor). Hayes was initially jailed for 14 years, with

Prosecutors said account when they made

the sentencing judge tell-

ing him: "Probity and

honesty are essential as is

WASHINGTON: Astrono

in a northern Illinois community, authorities said. A 22year-old man is in police custody and was being questioned, according to Rockford Police Chief Carla Redd. She said one of the people who was wounded remained in

critical condition. "My heart goes out to the families right now that are suffering a loss," Redd

told reporters. She said the Rockford

there's any other suspects that are on the run or at large at this particular time, Redd said. "Right now, we don't have a clear motive as to what caused this indi-

vidual to commit such a heinous crime.³ Not all of the victims found at multiple addresses

leged misuse of funds man-

lost power after eight years

The nationalist PiS

The new government

former justice ministry of-

ficials and one beneficiary

of the fund - had been de-

On Wednesday, offic-

tained

person said.

Police received a medical call at 1:14 pm followed by additional calls for police and paramedics. "We don't believe

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

Friday March 29, 2024

PM assures to resolve issues faced by journalist community

ISLAMABAD (APP): Malik were part of the del- ment Prime Minister Shehbaz egation. Sharif on Thursday assured that all issues faced by the journalist community would be resolved and the government would fully support mediamen in the fulfillment of their responsibilities.

He was speaking to a delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS).

Naz Afreen Sehgal. Sarmad Ali, Mujeebur Rehman Shami, Shahab Zuberi, Muhammad Athar Qazi, Syed Munir Jilani, Mohsin Bilal, Mehtab Khan and Faisal Zahid

He informed the del-Federal Minister for egation

Information and Broadcast- government's efforts and ing Attaullah Tarar and rel-strategy to revive the evant officers attended the economy. meeting formulated to modernize The delegation felici-

the system of tax collection, tated the prime minister on he said adding Federal assuming his office and ex-Board of Revenue was bepressed best wishes. The prime minister ing completely digitalized

congratulated the newly and work was continuing elected panel of APNS and for increasing the tax base. expressed his best wishes. Cases of more than Rs He said he formed the 2000 billion were pending government in very difficult in the courts and tribunals,

circumstances and the rehahe told. bilitation of the economy He said recently the was the biggest challenge government held the Tax Excellency Award with the and priority of the govern-

aim to encourage good taxpayers, exporters and about the women entrepreneurs.

Billions of rupees of electricity were being stolen and to stop this the government approach had been A strategy was being adopted, he added.

He said privatization of loss-making state-owned entities, institutional reforms, domestic and foreign investment and austerity were priorities of the gov-ernment.

He said a committee had been formed to bring down the expenditure of the government and it would soon present its recommendations.





HYDERABAD: Federal Minister and Convener MQM Pakistan Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi addressing a press conference during the Ration distribution ceremony, organized by Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation at KKF center.

China keen to launch uplift projects for Gwadar's local population: Senator

man of the Standing Committee on Petroleum, Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir stated on Thursday that the Chinese government is eager to start uplift projects that will help the locals in the port city of Gwadar.

He told APP that "it is the government's responsibility to identify the areas where Chinese could launch uplift projects for the local people of Gwadar.

Declaring his optimism for the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a part of the Road and Belt Initiative, he said the government's will to finish the project—

the local industry. which has seen excessive traders and investors, pro-

QUETTA (APP): Chair- business-friendly initiatives, and hence they own CPEC. I foresee CPEC flourishing and becoming the center of attention in the coming days,

The senator stressing roof collapse occurred in the significance of estab-Duki In a condolence statelishing industrial zones said ment issued here on Thursthe Chinese government is day, the Chief Minister exall set to develop industrial pressed heartfelt grief over zones. With the completion and functioning of industhe loss of precious human lives in the incident. tries, the local industries He said that we share will too flourish, he added.

The government, he said, can save billions spent families of deceased in the difficult time. on transportation if local industries are strengthened. He also underlined the need for the provision of special initiatives to assist

here the mine workers died after roof of a house caved in Duki. Notification Special incentives to on success of

five Chinese nationals. At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said this attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-

China friendship. She said such attempts will not succeed and CM grieved over we will continue to work together to develop CPEC death of mine

Balochistan

proach.

workers in roof

collapse in Duki

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min

ister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed

Bugti has expressed deep

sorrow over the death of

mine workers in incident of

the grief with the bereaved

Info Minister

It may be mentioned

ISLAMABAD (Online): and promote cooperation. Pakistan has reaffirmed the She said Pakistan will commitment to bring to jusnot allow any force to sabotice the perpetrators, facilitage the relationship betators and abettors of tween the two countries.

Shehbaz Sharif.

Foreign Office

Bisham terror attack

of Pak-China friendship

said Pakistan and China are close friends and Iron brothact against these elements

and defeat them. Zahra Mumtaz Baloch said Pakistan will continue to work with the Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security

Bisham terrorist attack The Spokesperson which claimed the lives of ers. She said the two countries together will resolutely

CM terms unopposed election of Senators as victory of democratic thinking Independent Report

politics in the House. QUETTA: The Chief Min-Mir Sarfraz Ahmed

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has Bugti expressed the hope that the Senators elected congratulated the Senators from the province would elected unopposed from become the forceful voice In a felicitation stateof the province. He said that he is thankful to all the ment issued here on Thursally parties and opposition day, the Chief Minister said who made important decithat the unopposed election

sions in peaceful and poof Senators on general and litical environment. women seats of Senate He said that it would from the province is actube our utmost endeavour to ally victory of the democontinue the public friendly cratic thinking and apdecisions in the same man-

He said that all parner in future too. on Afghan govt's commitment

outlawed Tehreek-e- crease in terrorism. Taliban Pakistan (TTP)'s use of US-made weapons against the armed forces and innocent masses of the country has raised a question mark on the so-called commitments of the interim Afghan government for not allowing its soil against any nation. According to the sources, the Pakistan Army has been fighting against terrorism for the past two decades, whereas it was obvious to all that the terrorists have access to the weapons left by the US in

Afgĥanistan. The supply of arms to terrorists has caused signifi-

Fed govt conditionally allows export of flour

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government of Pakistan has conditionally allowed the export of flour.

As per the Ministry of Commerce notification, only flour made from imported wheat will be allowed for export. The flour export was allowed under the Export Facilitation Scheme 2021 and the export policy order 2022 has been amended. The notification stated that "Export of wheat flour manufactured from wheat imported solely.

ISLAMABAD (APP): of the region, especially in American weapons which Pakistan, as it led to an in- were recovered by security

On the intervening night of March 25 and 26, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) terrorists attempted to attack Pakistan Navy's PNS Siddique in Turbat. However, the security forces recovered M32 multi-shot grenade launcher, M16/A4, night thermal vision and other US-made weapons from the terrorists during the opera-The BLA terrorists

unsuccessfully attempted a cowardly attack on Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Complex on 20 March 2024. During the attack on GPA, BLA terrorists used

forces in retaliation. Among the US weap-

ons recovered from the terrorists were M-16/A4, AK-47 with grenade launchers and hand grenades. On January 29, secu-

rity forces conducted an intelligence operation in North Waziristan district. As a result of firing during the operation, the terrorist Naik Minullah was killed. The weapons recovered from the terrorist were American made rifles including M-4 Carbine and

other weapons. On January 22, security forces killed 7 terrorists at Sambaza in Zhob district



ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan presenting a souvenir to Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci during his visit to the Commerce Ministry.

Pak-Türkiye strategize to boost bilateral trade to \$5 billion ISLAMABAD (APP):

Turkish Ambassador to Pa-

kistan. Dr Mehmet Pacaci

on Thursday strategized to

boost bilateral trade to \$5

Dr. Mehmet Pacaci recently

met with Federal Minister

for Commerce Jam Kamal

Khan to discuss bilateral

Turkish Ambassador

billion

Thursday.

of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. Greets newly elected Senators from Balochistan: cant damage to the security

ties demonstrated positive

delays since its inception— vision of power, water, and is apparent. security to guarantee the "PML-N is known success of the ongoing security to guarantee the

for pro-development and projects in Gwadar.

NAB utilizing all sources to bring corrupt elements to justice: DG

Independent Report QUETTA: In compliance to directions of Chairman NAB, an open public hearing (Khuli Kachehri) was held in NAB Balochistan

office on Thursday. The Director General NAB Balochistan personally listened to the complainants and received complaints. During interaction with the complainants, the Director General explained about the mandate of NAB and informed the participants about the complaint filing procedure in NAB.

He explained that be brought to justice.

NAB does not take action on anonymous / pseudonymous complaints and only substantiated complaints which fall within the purview of NAB will be dealt

of success of PML-N MPA Sami Ullah from PP-145 in accordance with law. He Lahore of Punjab Assembly (PA) has also been chalurged that the National Accountability Bureau is aclenged in LHC. tive against corruption and

Election Commission utilizing all sources to bring (EC) and others have been the corrupt elements to jusmade respondents in electice and eradicate corrup tion petitions. tion. Those who looted the

Justice Sultan Tanvir of Election Tribunal (ET) resources and national treasure of state will be held will hear both the petitions accountable in every case. Sunni Ittehad Council The elements who cheated (SIC) candidate Zahir the public at large will also Abbas Khokhar has chal-

lenged the notification. Muhammad Yasir has challenged the notification

On the other hand EC rejected the plea for recounting of votes in NA-148 Multan.

24 individuals including Imran Riaz, Sami Ibrahim

Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attorney General of Pakistan, Mansoor Awan, address an important

DC for taking strict action against absent teachers in Nasirabad

Commissioner Nasirabad Batool Asadi on Thursday said that strict action would be taken against absent teachers which were affecting future of our children.

press conference.

He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting held by the District Education Group (DEG)

Assistant Commis- dia should also be used sioner UT Syed Mansoor to make the admission Shah, Shah Bakhsh Pindrani, Bashir Ahmed Lehri Pir Bakhsh Solangi Khanzadi Baloch, Yasmin parents.

QUETTA (APP: Deputy Baloch and Rasool Bakhsh and other DDEO officers were present in the meeting.

Interior's summary was cir-Addressing the meetculated for approval from the Federal Cabinet, which ing, Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Batool Asadi granted permission to insaid that the process of clude the names of journalschool admission campaign ists Sami Ibrahim and Imran should be accelerated so Riaz in the ECL. Their that more children could be names were included in the admitted to schools.

ECL due to ongoing inquir-She said that the meies. It has been reported that the approval to remove campaign more active so Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf that more awareness (PTI) leader Babar Awan's could be raised among the name from the ECL has been granted.

in NA-127 challenged AHORE (Online): The notification regarding suc-cess of PML-N leader and information minister Atta Ullah Tarar from NA-127 Lahore has been challenged. QUETTA: Director General NAB Balochistan listening problems during an The notification has been challenged in Lahore **Open Kutchery.**

NHA mobilizes efforts High Court (LHC) Like wise notification to clear landslide in Zhob,

Dhanasar section of N-50 OUETTA (APP): A heavy landslide occurred at the Zhob-Dhanasar section of N-50 which blocked the highway with large stones The NHA crews were

working to remove the heavy landslides for reopening the blocked road. The National Highway N- 50, Zhob-Dhanasar section blocked for all kind

of success of Sami Ullah from PP-145. of traffic due to heavy sliding causing damage to a portion of road in Dahnasar area caused by continuous

QUETTA: The Director General, Balochistan Food added to ECL Authority ISLAMABAD (INP): The Muhammad Naeem Bazai Federal Cabinet has ap-proved the inclusion of 24 has stated that it is the misindividuals, including jour-nalists Imran Riaz and Sami Ibrahim, in the Exit Control List (ECL). sion of BFA to provide quality and healthy food to the general public and it is continuously busy to achieve the goal.

According to media reports, the Federal Cabi-The standard of milk and edible oil is being renet has given approval for the inclusion of the names viewed under the free milk and cooking oil testing serof 24 significant individu-als in the ECL. In this revice gard, the Ministry of

checking is being done in the food centres, factories and food processing units in dif-(BFA), ferent districts of the province under special inspection plan prepared for the holy month of Ramadan, he added.

He urged the general public to inform the Food Authority if they saw sale of any adulterated or substandard food items so as to take timely action against those involved in

According to the Diit.

Provision of quality & healthy food to public mission of BFA: DG Independent Report rector General BFA, the

rain fall in the area.

of the road.

sued here.

According to the de-tails, due to landslides

caused by recent heavy

rains in Dahanasar, an area

adjacent to Balochistan and

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on

the main highway was af-

fected and all traffic was

area, said a news release is-

investors show interest in **Pak airports** outsourcing ISLAMABAD (INP): In

Seven foreign

vestors from seven countries have shown their interest in the outsourcing of the country's airports, it has been learnt on Thurs day.

Quoting its sources, suspended till the clearance the channel reported that the investors are from Ger-The NHA officers and many, France, the Nether-lands, Qatar, UAE, Malaystaff were working for removing heavy landslides throughout the blockage sia and Turkey.

> Court extends interim bail **PTI founder** in Jinnah house, other cases till Apr 4 LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC)

Lahore has extended interim bail of PTI founder in Jinnah House attack and other cases till April 4. follow-up handling work, The court also or

and has taken practical dered that attendance of the measures to strengthen the accused be got completed from Adiala jail through safety protection of Chinese personnel, projects and in-stitutions, Chinese Foreign video link. Judge Arshid Javed of ATC Lahore took Ministry Spokesperson, up for hearing interim bail pleas of PTI founder in Lin Jina said on Thursday. Jinnah house attack and kistan will be able to find other cases Thursday. out the truth as soon as

press release issued here. Federal Minister for Com-During the meeting, merce, Jam Kamal Khan,

Dr. Pacaci emphasized the importance of enhancing connectivity between Pakistan and Türkiye to achieve their economic targets, including increasing bilateral trade to \$5 billion, a goal set by the leaders of both countries. Minister Jam echoed the sentiment, highlighting the historical ties relations and congratulate and the growing relations his new role, said a and the growing relations

Senate elections in KP hang on reserve seat oath-taking, states ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speaker of the KP As-senate elections in the sembly to enforce the deci-Senate elections in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assion made by the Peshawar sembly depend on the oath-High Court.A five-member taking of reserve seats, said bench led by Chief Election the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in a Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, along with members Nisar Ahmed seven-page verdict issued Durrani, Shah Muhammad Jatoi, Babar Hassan In its verdict, the Election Commission warned of suspending the Senate poll Bharwana, and Justice (Retd) Ikram Ullah Khan. until oaths are administered in the Khyber delivered its verdict on the plea regarding the non-ad-The commission instructed newly elected members. ministration of oaths to

Pakistan to bring perpetrator of Dasu terrorist attack to justice soon: Lin Jian

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan possible and bring the muris intensively carrying out derer to justice," he told incident investigation and media during his regular briefing in response to a question about the last progress in the investigation and handling of the Dasu terrorist attack. He informed that the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy "We believe that Pain Pakistan are actively carrying out emergency response and aftermath work

CHAMAN: Acting Governor and Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai visiting Old Hospital Chaman

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