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PML-N's Ayaz Sadiq elected NA speaker in protest-marred session

Ayaz pledges to conduct affairs of NA in accordance with constitution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- 2018 in the 14th National kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) law- the election of the National maker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was elected as the speaker of the National Assembly on Friday after the conclu-

sion of the voting process. The PML-N politician defeated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independent lawmaker Malik Aamir Dogar, who was supported by the Sunni Ittehad (SIC) Council lawmakers in the House.

Sadiq won the speaker's contest with 199 votes, gaining a majority from the members of the PML-N, PPP and other lawmakers backing his nomination in the lower house

This is the second time that he has become the speaker. Sadiq had served as the speaker from 2013-

Assembly speaker has been completed and the counting of votes is underway in the session that has been marred by protests of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) lawmakers. Sadiq will now be administered oath by outgoing Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. After the oath-taking, the new speaker will then take charge of the house forthwith. Ashraf

will, subsequently, step down from his position. As the first order of business Sadiq will now hold elections for his deputy. Pakistan Peoples (PPP) Syed Party's Ghulam Mustafa and SIC's Junaid Akbar will contest

for the slot. Today's session

The NA session was alleged rigging in the



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on his election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly in the Federal Capital.

convened today to elect Feb 8 polls

the speaker and deputy Before the session speaker during which started SIC's parliamentary opposition lawmakers party meeting was held in the chanted slogans against house's lobby, where they vowed to continue their pro-

tariat

Chief Minister Syed Murad

South, including under-

passes, Khaliquzaman

Road, Aiwan-e-Saddar Road, the road between

Sindh Secretariat and High

Court, II Chundrigar Road,

and other areas.

test in the assembly. This is the second consecutive day that SIC has been protesting in the National Assembly over "rigged" results. As the session began, Speaker Ashraf asked if there were any new members present who had missed the oathtaking a day earlier. As no new members

came forward, the speaker then gave the floor to PTIto the New Secretariat. backed Omar Ayub Khan to speak on a point of order. The lawmaker alleged

that foreigners were present in the house. "People who got fake

KP CM by two-third majority mandate have entered the house, hence, they should be expelled," said Omar, KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur demands CEC's resignation in fiery victory speech; Demands adding that "prisoner number 804", the number assigned to PTI founder

Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, PESHAWAR (Online): Ali should be brought to the Amin Khan Gandapur has Assembly. been elected as the Chief Minister of Khyber CM pays surprise visit Pakhtunkhwa. He secured 90 votes, during the session to low-lying areas, of the provincial assembly held in Peshawar today. PML (N) candidate **New Secretariat**

for the Chief Minister slot Ibadullah Khan secured 16 KARACHI (APP): Sindh board and other suction votes machines were not installed.

the province.

said the new provincial govcollection.

province

Speaking in the House

after his election, newly elected Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said efforts will be made for bringing reforms in system of justice and accountability in

He said laws will be enacted from this assembly for curbing corruption in society. He said terrorism has badly affected the made for lasting peace.

JUI boycotts

Ali Amin Gandapur ernment would expand the tax base to increase revenue

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah pays a surprise visit

Ali Amin Gandapur elected 16th

He said tourism and mining will be promoted for the development of the

sion, opposition leader Ibadullah Khan said all out cooperation will be extended to the government for welfare of the people. He stressed the need for unity among political parties for the development

gratulated Ali Amin Khan on becoming the leader of

ruary 8 general elections.

The session has now compared to the latter's 16. Senate by-elections

Ali Shah started his Friday As a result, he directed morning with surprise vis-Commissioner Karachi to its to check dewater maensure that the machinery chinery in the low-lying arwas deployed and to report eas and the attendance of back to him. The Chief Minister officers at the New Secrepaid a visit to the New Sec-The Chief Minister of retariat and was welcomed Sindh recently visited low-

by the Chief Secretary, Dr lying areas in District Fakhre Alam. During his tour, Murad Ali noticed that some secretaries were absent from their offices at 9:30 a.m. To ensure that the staff follows their example. the CM instructed the

Chief Secretary to issue di-

judicial inquiry into May 9 incidents

Ali Amin Gandapur said job opportunities will be created for the youth. Speaking on this occa-

of the country. Ibadullah Khan con-

Six seats were de-

As per schedule,

province and efforts will be the House.

been prorogued. Soon after being

elected as the new Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, Friday delivered a fiery victory speech, demanding the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja to resign alleging his role in the stealing of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) mandate in the Feb-

Gandapur, a PTI leader who contested the polls as an independent candidate from KP, was elected as the province's new chief minister after voting concluded in the KP Assembly. Gandapur defeated Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Dr Ibadullah Khan after securing 90 votes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs expressed remarkable performance and cooperation during interim set up.

He stated this while speaking at a farewell ceremony organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in his honour on Friday.Murtaza Solangi said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the demoing government would meet cratic process was going on in the country. the expectations of the

The caretaker minister people.

US, Sindh govt complete Sindh Basic **Education Program**

KARACHI (APP): The United States, in partnership with the Sindh government, celebrated the successful completion of the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) at a ceremony at High School Damba Village.

The SBEP, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), invested \$159.2 million to build 106 schools and strengthen the education sector throughout the province.

U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome, former Minister for Sindh Education and Literacy Department Syed Sardar Ali Shah and Sindh Secretary School Education and Literacy Department Dr. Shereen Mustafa attended the closing ceremony highlighting the successes of the multifaceted program.

said he had been reiterating the commitment of the government since the first day that the elections would be held at time schedule given by Election Commission of Pakistan. "The caretaker gov-

ernment organized timely elections and today new assemblies have come into being in the country," he maintained. Democracy could not

High quality basic

"Let's continue to ex-

The SBEP was devel-

Now, over 80,000 stu-

education positions every

child for success, and we

firmly believe that it is one

of the best investments we

can make in any country.

Ambassador Blome said.

pand access to education,

prioritize learning, and scale

these reforms across Sindh

and all of Pakistan so that

oped in response to the

devastating floods of 2010-

11, which destroyed the

school infrastructure in

dents from disadvantaged

communities have access to

top-tier education in mod-

ern, climate-resilient schools

- equipping an entire gen-eration with the skills and

knowledge essential for

21st-century success.

Sindh.

all children can thrive."

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing during launch-

ing ceremony of Womentum Organization at Governor House.

MoPA played remarkable

role during interim set

up: Solangi

press release issued by Rukhsana Bangash, Political Secretary to the Presi-dent of PPPP. succeed without participation of people, Murtaza Solangi said and expressed the hope that the upcom-

rains

poles

Convener MQM-P calls for helping people in rain

Asif Zardari

constitutes

committee to

oversee party's

affairs in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP):

President of Pakistan

Peoples Party Parliamentar-

ians (PPPP), Asif Ali Zardari.

Friday formed a committee

to oversee party affairs in the

prises two members

Nadeem Afzal Chan and

Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, said

The committee com-

Punjab Province.

emergency situation KARACHI (APP): Con-vener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi has asked the members of Coordina-tion Committee of his party, members of provincial as-

people to a safer place and

other activities and be

present among the people, said a spokesperson on Fri-

He also appealed to the people that do not go

out of the house unneces-

sarily, especially keep chil-

dren away from electric

ISLAMABAD Senator Nisar Ahmed members of provincial as-Khuhro of Pakistan sembly, officials and work-People's Party (PPP) has claimed that the upcoming ers to stay among the people in their respective government would successareas to help them in any fully complete its tenure by kind of emergency after the resolving the prevailing is-sues being faced by the He instructed that especially the members of the Sindh Assembly along with country.

Interacting with media person in the Parliament the officials and workers House Lobby on Friday, he should play their active role said the former governin draining the rain water ments since 2008 had comfrom the roads, to ensure pleted their tenure successsmooth flow of traffic, fully, so the upcoming gov- evant institution shifting of rain-affected

During his visit, he rectives to the department's noticed that in some areas, secretaries to arrive on time the machinery of the water at their offices.



PESHAWAR: Ali Amin Gandapur speaks on the assembly floor after being elected as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at KPK Assembly in Peshawar.

Senator Khuhro claims of successful completion of tenure of upcoming govt

ernment would also com-(INP): plete its tenure.

Senator Nisar Khuhro urged the all political par-ties in the National Assembly to play positive role for the country's development as masses have sent them in the lower house through vote to resolve their issues. To a question, he said

that the allegations of rigging were leveled in all elections, adding, if any candi-date has proof then he/she should contact to the rel-

Pakistan Navy continues relief efforts in Gwadar's rain hit areas

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Navy continues relief efforts in rain and flood hit areas of Gwadar to provide relief to the affectees.

According to details, divers and mobile medical

The Pakistan Navy troops along with civil administration through continued efforts were engaged for early restoration of road connectivities for onward smooth conduct of rescue activities. Further, Pakistan

Navy teams were providing cooked food, drinking water and ration bags to distressed people in various areas of Gwadar. Apart from ration distribution

medical assistance was also being provided to the local affected community. In this regard, Pakistan Navy's medical teams were providing free healthcare facilities to flood affectees at a medical camp established for local flood affected populace.

Pakistan Navy has always remained at the forefront in extending humanitarian assistance during natural calamities. Pakistan Navy was determined to continue the rescue and relief operation till the rehabilitation of all distressed people of Gwadar.

election of NA speaker and deputy speaker

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam of Maulana Fazlur Rehman ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has anopted to boycott the election of speaker and deputy speaker in the National Asnounced the election schedule on the six vacant seats in the Senate. sembly on Friday.

Talking to a private TV channel, Shahida Akhtar Ali said their party's stratclared vacant when the Senate members were elected as members of other houses. egy is crystal clear as they will not take part in any including election schedule election process in the Na-tional Assembly. Shahid Akhtar said "The JUI will for one vacant seat in Islamabad, two in Sindh and sit on the opposition benches until it gets its three vacant seats in Balochistan. mandate.

nomination papers can be collected on March 2 and **ECP fixes** 3. The elections will be held March 9 for on three vacant seats of Balochistan, two of Sindh presidential and one of Islamabad. election

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday announced the schedule for the presidential elec-tion to be held on March 9.

According to the schedule, the candidates may submit their nomination papers for the president office, until Saturday noon in Islamabad and four provincial capitals— Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

Nomination papers will undergo scrutiny by the Re-turning Officer in Islamabad by 10 am on Monday (March 4). Candidates have the option to withdraw their nomination papers before the Returning Officer in Islamabad until noon on Tuesday, (March 5).

KSA gifts 100 tons dates to Pakistan as

goodwill gesture ISLAMABAD (INP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a goodwill gesture has gifted 100 tons of dates to its Pakistani brethren.

Following the recommendation of leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Saudi government has extended a heartfelt gift to the people of Pakistan continuing its annual tradition during a ceremony held here at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

on vacant seats to be held on March 14: ECP

How Punjab Assembly will elect new Senators?

The Punjab Assembly will elect twelve members of the Senate in the month of March.

The Punjab Assembly will elect members of the Senate on seven general These six Senate seats seats, two women's seats, two technocrat seats and one minority seat.

On March 8, 2024, 11 senators from Punjab will complete their term.

Among those who resigned, four senators are from PML-N on general seats — Asif Kirmani, Mossadegh Malik, Rana Mahmoodul Hasan and Khalid Shaheen Butt.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Baitul-Mal Syed Tariq Mahmood-Ul-Hassan exchanging views with H.E Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliky Royal Saudi Arabia Ambassador in Pakistan.

All is finally well between PML-N, MQM as agreement reached for parliamentary support

ISLAMABAD (INP): A "According to the Charter three-point government formation agreement has been reached between Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) and Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM-MQM will vote for PML-

N for Prime Minister and Speaker. The three-point agreement was also signed by the leaders of both the parties. al government system and solving the problems of Karachi are

also part of the agree-

ment

Constitutional amendments will be a priority," the agreement stated. MQM will sit on government benches instead of opposition," as

per the agreement copy signed by the leaders from both sides. MQM will vote for PML-

N for Prime Minister and Speaker.

PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal also told media that MQM-P and PML-N are allies and all matters solved between both sides



SEHWAN: A large number of devotee attending 772nd Urs of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar.

Pakistan Navy troops in coordination with local administration w ere continuously engaged in de-flooding of homes and streets in different parts of the city while Pakistan Navy boats,

teams were prepared to promptly respond to any emergency situation.

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by petty but

OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Starting over

The four provincial assemblies and the National Assembly have now been sworn in.

Though rigging allegations and various election-related irregularities and illegalities have cast a dark shadow, these assemblies will represent the people as they oversee the next chapter of this country's governance. There is no sugar-coating the fact that there are immense challenges before them, the realities of which will begin to dawn as the dust from the post-election chaos begins to settle.

The country is socially and politically fractured, its institutions in crisis, its coffers nearly empty, and its economy in a tailspin. The compact between its people and the state appears broken, its administrative apparatus seems to be malfunctioning, and its judiciary has never seemed as helpless as before.

Dependent on liquidity and capital injections from foreign lenders, Pakistan is in the unenviable position of being just a few missteps away from catastrophe. Yet if there is one thing the country has demonstrated time and again, it is that its people's will to endure is unconquerable. The citizenry will continue to hope that the men and women sworn in over the past week can steer the country back to stability and, hopefully, prosperity. Having taken their seats in their respective assemblies, they must now demonstrate that they are ready for the responsibility entrusted to them. The fate of millions depends on what path they take forward.

Given the difficult situation, both the government and opposition must resolve that their decisions will prioritise the public good over anything else. The government benches must realise that the public mood is extremely sensitive due to the unprecedented hardships the nation has suffered over the past two years. It must get to work at once on ameliorating economic conditions. The opposition benches must realise that they will need to constructively guide the government, especially towards achieving common goals. The question of legitimacy cannot be abandoned. Those who feel they were robbed of their mandate must continue their fight. They owe it not just to their voters but also to Pakistan's struggling democracy that they pursue the righting of the wrongs committed against it.

However, the focus of all stakeholders should remain on what future they want for the people of Pakistan. Lawmakers should use their presence in the assemblies to advance their legislative agenda and ensure that present and past mistakes are not repeated in the future. Much has been learned from political misjudgements of the past decade.

The time has come for the political leadership to demonstrate it is ready to move on. Parliament remains the most important forum through which a political negotiation on what tomorrow should look like for the millions who call Pakistan home can be held. Let the politicians figure out a way forward.

Resolving conflicts

Nikhat Sattar More battles are fought within and between kith and kin, than between be able to play the part states and sworn en- of mediator and settle tinued arguments. emies. It is a fact that the controversies as they harmony that should arise

ideally exist in families is The ideal situation often wrecked, mostly should be that the parties recognise that their cur-

also major issues rent relationship is unsuch as inheritance, financial and marriage-resound and harmful to lated matters. Fre- themselves and their quently, it is a mere dif- families and resolve their ference of opinion that differences through dialeads to family disputes, logue and compassionwith parties refusing to ate discussion. But understand and tolerate where they feel that supthe diversity of views. port of a third party is Disputes within required, they may re-

families almost always quest a friend or an outlead to unhappiness, a sider to mediate. Mediadisturbed life and grief tion is highly recomover time. While matrimended in Islam, as a demonial disputes occur sirable means of creating frequently in our society, a peaceful environment fights between siblings. and harmony among children (mainly sons) people.

and parents and close The Quran and varirelatives too are comous ahadith underscore mon. Brothers have the necessity of making been known to break off peace between people, ties with each other, and particularly within famiothers either stop comlies. "If two parties munication or play out among the Believers fall a cold war that is both into a quarrel, make ye unhealthy and painful, peace between them: but especially if the children if one of them transof the warring parties are gresses beyond bounds involved. Battles of ego, against the other then perceived slights and fight ye (all) against the third-party gossip abound. Friends are one that transgresses until it complies with the prone to fighting over command of God; but if minor issues and too ofit complies then make ten a blossoming or peace between them fruitful relationship is with justice and be fair: laid to rest, because of for God loves those who minor misunderstandare fair (and just)" (49:9). ings. Conflicts among Note the stress on juspeople, including loved tice and fairness. If anyones, are natural. Huone of the parties mans need to recognise

is the aggressor, it their cause and manage them accordingly. If famia compromise in his lies are too often ripped favour: indeed, he must apart by internal fighting, be brought to underhe angst and resentstand the consequences ment of unresolved conof his transgression. flicts spills over to the And once he has larger society. Families realised his error, peace are the building blocks must be established in a of society and each is refair manner. The parties flective of the other. must be reconciled in a Families need to develop way that yields a winthe insight, wisdom and win situation for all, with willingness to address no one having to give internal issues as they up his legitimate right. If arise, before letting them the weaker party is - Courtesy Dawn

become major battles. In forced to give in, this both cases, it is impor- would merely incite the tant for an individual or aggressor to become a group of individuals to even more intolerant and could lead to con-

> Breaking off relationships between families is considered by God to be a deplorable themselves act. Kinship is to be revered and upheld. Increasing intolerance in society, however, is causing families to split up, with close relatives unwilling even to face each other. Such a situation requires intervention by others who might be sensitive to the issues at hand and whom the parties trust.

Various strategies can be used effecti-vely to resolve familial conflicts. The me--d-iators should be pa---tient, neutral, tactful and diplomatic and willing to facilitate dialogue as long as necessary. Reconciliation (sulh) is of prime importance and the parties concerned need to be reminded of the de-

sirability in God's eyes of forgiveness and brother/sisterhood. Even if a major inury has been caused, it is best, in God's eyes, to forgive and give up one's right to fight back (42:40). Similarly, avoiding a quarrel is best. According to a hadith (Sunan Daud), the Prophet (PBUH) said that a house in paradise is assured for one who avoids quarrelling even if he is in the right. On the other hand,

renouncing one's rights would be unjust to make continuously in order to establish peace would go against the principles of justice, equity and fairness, qualities that the Quran has insisted upon. Such an attitude will merely increase the unjust acts of the aggressor who will become more emboldened. As Hazrat Ali has said: "The disservice to ihsan (goodness) is exercising it in the wrong place.

Commerce News

Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ruling class normal

Pakistan is on fire, and not in a good way. Interrelated demographic, ecological and economic crises are escalating. The incoming government owes its 'success' to the establishment and is considered illegitimate by large segments of the population, especially young people and the ethnic peripheries.

The PML-N and PPP will claim otherwise, but the widespread perception that the 'new' dispensation is effectively PDM 2.0 speaks for itself. The N continue to call them-'new' ruling coalition only symbolises the depth of our political crisis. Given our own

house is on fire, it is unsurprising that we have largely ignored the heroic political act by a US Air Force officer, Aaron Bushnell, who set himself ablaze in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. to protest the genocide in Palestine.

Bushnell's last words before his act of self-immolation were: "This is what our ruling class has decided is normal." Indeed, gruesome statesponsored violence against oppressed peoples is routine in our world, from Palestine to Balochistan, Kurdistan to Senegal, and Burma to Yemen. The corporate media obliterates the histoterror is called 'self-defence' while everything is legitimated if it happens in the name of 'national security

It is not just acute cases of systemic oppression that get muted. In Pakistan, even a hopelessly rigged election can lief to Gwadar, which is metamorphose into a 'national security threat'.

After Feb 8, the caretaker government (read: establishment) has imposed a blanket ban on the social media site X. The post-poll rigging carried out to bring PDM 2.0 into existence was being exposed with so Trump in the 2020 US much irrefutable evi- presidential election -

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar dence that our holy is, by current estimates, guardians decided it was time to do away with the

niceties entirely. This has been followed by dire warnings to journalists who transgress the boundaries of what is considered ac- ruling class resolve the ceptable reporting, culminating in the arrest of Asad Toor by the FIA. In ism and there-by a nutshell, this is what, to red-u--ce the appeal of paraphrase Bushnell's immortal words,

Pakistan's militarised ruling class has decided is normal The PPP and PMLselves principled defend-

ers of democratic principles but have remained mum about all of this. We should not be surprised. Long before Imran Khan and the PTI came to power in 2018, it was a PML-N government with Nawaz Sharif in the prime minister's office that introduced a parliamentary status quo of establishbill which made the notorious Peca into law. That was in 2015.

The very term 'ruling class' demands a reckoning with the fact that our predicament is beyond singular regimes, that things will not just get better because one segment of the bourgeoisie has replaced another in government. This is particularly true in our own context where virtually all bourgeois parties other for the – look no further than the PPP putting up Sarfaraz Bugti and Jamal Raisani in Balochistan. Speaking of which, has bothered to provide re-

currently drowning due to torrential rain? For those who still of the political spec-think that PDM 2.0 is an trum, however far down unqualified improvement upon Imran Khan and the PTI, it is worth noting that Joe Biden — who so many celebrated when he defeated Donald Courtesy Dawn

expected to lose to Trump in the election this year. Simply put, the evidence does not prove that the supposedly more 'liberal' (read: centre-right) segments of the inherent contradictions of contemporary capitaltheir far-right competi-

tors Anyone who actually cares about the mass of peop-le in whose name all ruling clas-ses act would be focusing on creating a po--pular political narrative that does not leave us to 'choose' bet-w-een the centre right and far right. One can and should condemn the way the PTI has politicised young people in the digital age, but armchair criticism leads back only to the ment-dominated musical chairs. Refusal to acknowledge even the possibility that those who have experienced state repression since April 2022 may coalesce around a new politics means, in effect, reinforcing the ruling class normal

Bushnell chose his sensational act of sacrifice because the Israeli war machine and its backers, including Genories of such peoples; state compete with one an- cide Joe, continue to act unimpeded, even in the establishment's favour face of online dissent at a global scale. For now, Trump is likely to be the major beneficiary of the disjunct between popular sentiment and the esanyone in government tablished institutional order. Unless there is a wilful commitment to creating a substantive alternative on the left the line, those who seek to draw attention to the fires engulfing humanity and nature will have only one option: to literally set themselves on fire. --

Pakistan's pearls, precious stones see 47% increase in **China's Market in 2023**

Chinese skills.

"As

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's pearls and precious stones saw a 47% increase in exports from Pakistan to China in 2023, signaling not only the natural beauties in the Chinese market but also the potential of Pakistan's mining and gemstone industry.

Karim Jan, a Pakistani Economic Net that quality Pakistan's northern and northwestern areas were their unparalleled beauty rich in mineral resources, and craftsmanship, are

boasting gems like vibrant finding a prominent place topaz, deep red rubies, in this competitive green emeralds, and landscape. sapphires.

The reciprocal nature Extracting these gems of this growing trade is a delicate process, relying relationship promises a growing demand for these on the skilled hands and mutually beneficial future for both nations, with age-old techniques of local miners and artisans. Pakistani gems shining Pakistan can further brightly in the vast Chinese improve by utilizing market," he stated.

According to sources from Pakistan's Ministry Chinese gem and jewelry exporter consumers increasingly of Commerce, Pakistan's vinistry to China, told China seek out rare and highgemstones, exported to China crossed Pakistani gems, known for \$4.34 million in 2023. whereas last year it was \$2.95 million.

PSX stay bullish, gains 747.16 more points SLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 747.16 points, a positive change of 1.16 percent, closing at 65,325.69 points against 64,578.52 points the

previous trading day. A total of 344,227,410 shares valuing Rs13.385billion were traded during the day as compared to 424,043,562 shares valuing Rs 17.053 billion the last day.

Some 348 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 172 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses,

20 remained unchanged. and to managing environmental share.

impacts, fostering social Products witnessed a inclusivity, and upholding high standards of corporate maximum increase of Rs governance. OGDCL view 450.00 per share price, closing at Rs 8,850, the ESG Policy as a crucial first step in embracing more whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs113.50 sustainability practices and

rise in its per share price to Rs2,462.05. corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

D-8 market: Atif Independent Report tapping into these markets KARACHI: Atif Ikram has the potential to correct Sheikh, President FPCCI, Pakistan's regional trade has represented Pakistan in deficit for a number of reasons: (i) Pakistan has the all-influential General friendly ties with the D-8 Assembly meeting of the D-8 Chambers of members (iii) we have Commerce and Industry geographical contiguity or (D-8 CCI). He apprised

Pakistan needs to tap

into \$4.92 trillion

that the meeting was also attended by Iran, Turkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, some member countries (iii) land-based routes can be used for transshipment (iv) Bangladesh and Nigeria. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh shipment to these countries takes lesser time and costs (v) with intra D-8 trade at expressed his vision that

merely 5 percent, there are Pakistan must tap into the low-hanging fruits to be export market of D-8 grabbed in a short-span of countries with a combined time GDP of \$4.92 billion; and, Weekly inflation

08, 2024. land-based access with

Pakistan Financial Literacy Week 2024 under the theme of 'Digital Bankari- fori aur asaan' from March 04 to

1st Pakistan

Financial

Literacy Week

from March 4

KARACHI (APP): State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

will organize 1st edition of

Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad will inaugurate Pakistan Financial Literacy Week (PFLW) 2024 on Monday, March 04, 2024 at SBP Karachi, said a statement issued here.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Clemens Schulte, APL Qingdao, Maritime Gisela, Al-Fuwairit and African Baza, carrying Containers, Palm oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Friday.

Meanwhile another ship 'Eagle' scheduled to load/offload Rice is also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. A total of twelve ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last for 24 hours, out of them five

ships, APL Qingdao, Clemens Schulte, Sunny 29,518-44,175 and above Bay, Chemroad Aqua and Rs. 44,175, increased by Dravin left the Port on 1.75 percent, 1.86 percent. today morning

Pak welcomes resumption of CASA-1000 activities in Afghanistan by WB

recent announcement by to energy collaboration, among other initiatives in support of the people of Afghanistan related to its "Approach 3.0", the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project ("CASA-1000") in ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the building Materials Àfghanistan will be Exhibition and Conference organizers by the Institute of Architects of resumed.

The request was made in December by all three neighboring countries participating in the construction "This Afghanistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): announcement marks a The Government of significant step forward in Pakistan has welcomed the the region's commitment the World Bank that, said a news release issued here on Friday.

As a result, the Government of Pakistan is pleased to announce it has joined the other neighboring countries - the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan - in signing a Joint Declaration to thank the World Bank for its timely response in approving the "ringfenced" resumption of



ISLAMABAD: A vendor hold umbrella as displaying fruits on his pushcart attraction for customers at a road during rain.

CPI inflation decelerates to 23.1 % in February

ISLAMABAD (APP): February 2024 The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 23.1 percent during the month of February 2023 as compared to 28.3 percent recorded during January 2023, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Friday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at31.5%.

On month-on-month basis, no change observed in February 2024 as compared to an increase of February 2023. On month-1.8% in the previous month and an increase of 4.3% in February 2023.

According to the data, CPI inflation Urban, 1.9% in the previous month increased to 24.9% on and an increase of 4.0% in year-on-year (YoY) basis in February 2023.

compared to an increase of 30.2% in the previous month and 28.8% in February 2023. On monthon-month basis (MoM), it increased to 0.2% in February 2024 as compared to an increase of 1.8% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in February 2023.CPI inflation Rural, increased to 20.5% on year-on-year 2023.CPI basis in February 2024 as compared to an increase of 25.7% in the previous month and 35.6% in on-month basis, it decreased to 0.3% in February 2024 as compared to an increase of

ESG policy to promote sustainable practices ISLAMABAD (APP): environmenta The Oil and Gas stewardship, socia social

Development Company responsibility, Limited (OGDCL) has effective taken a significant stride governance practices. towards sustainability by announcing its Environmental, Social, and its Governance (ESG) policy.

University of Sargodha.

In response to the growing demand from investors and stakeholders for transparency and accountability in ESG factors, OGDCL's Board of Directors released its comprehensive ESG policy statement on February 27, 2024, said a news release.

The OGDCL ESG becoming a responsible, policy underscores the adaptable, and resilient company's commitment to organization



SARGODHA: Vice Chancellor University of

Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas visiting different

stalls during Research Arena Exhibition held at

OGDCL rolls out its

whereas the share prices of

Egypt,

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 71,357,500 shares at Rs.5.36 per share, K-Electric 19423756 shares with 4.87per share and Treet Crop 17,473,574 shares at Rs 18.02 per

on Friday. According to the Rafhan Maize PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.30 points as compared to 315.31 points during the past week.

As compared to the

up by 1.27 pc ISLAMABAD (APP): combined consumption The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive

group in the week under review witnessed an Price Indicator (SPI), increase of 32.73 per cent. The weekly SPI with witnessed an increase of the base year 2015-16=100 1.27 per cent for the

combined consumption covers 17 urban centres and groups during the week 51 essential items for all ended on February 29, the expenditure groups. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, increased by 1.36 percent and went up to 311.92 points from

last week's 307.73 points. SPI The

consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs.

ndependent

Punjab Governor says: Auditor General's Dept vital role in improving transparency, governance

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation led by Deputy Auditor General (Central) Tariq Bashir Chatha met Governor Punjab Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore.

During the meeting, the Deputy Auditor General (Central) presented the Accounts and Audit Report of the Punjab Government for the year 2023-24 to the Muhammad Punjab, of Audits; Ikram Haq, indispensable

Faryal Magsi and Audit increasing the efficiency of Officer (Admin) Syed the institution. Nafees Ahmed.

Auditor

transparency

Deputy Auditor Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Governor in detail about Muhammad Balighur Rehman, said that the the steps taken to improve General's the institution.

Department has an He said that Auditor important role in improving General's organization will and review the lega governance in government organization requirements departments. He said those and make a strategy to departments that are not include those departments being audited for any reason should be made part of the are not being audited for Governor of Punjab. The audit system. Governor any reason. He told the delegation comprised Punjab said that the use of Punjab Governor that Director General Audit modern technology staff trainings are including management being conducted in Naseem Rashed, Director information system is the institution on a for regular basis.

ATC grants

bail to 16

accused in

Jinnah House

attack case

AHORE (APP): An anti-

The court ordered the



Baba Ali Rehman, a retired Naib Qasid of Lahore High Court, award a certificate to a trainee the Federal Judicial Academy.

Four more matches decided in senior Interdistrict cricket tourney

Owais 3/27

KARACHI (APP): Four the day at TMC Ground more matches were decided in the Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament at various cricket grounds.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi. Brilliant centuries by Jehangir Javed 124, Ubais Ullah 124 and Waqar Ahmed 103 were made, a communique said on Friday. Scores in Brief :

In the first match of 2/28.

bonds of Rs 100,000 each for availing the relief of bail.ATC Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal heard the post-arrest bail petitions of accused and allowed them on completion of arguments by the parties. Muhammad Danish, Farhan Ahmad, Mukhtar Khan, Saqib Munir, Mian

Zone-IV Greens defeated Abdul Rehman, Hassan Ijaz, Yasir Abbas, Muhammad Kashif, Mian Zone-VII Blues by 5 Wickets. Zone-VII Blues 216/6 in allotted 45 overs. Waqar Bilal, Suleman Ilyas, Adnan Ahmed 103 3x6 1x6 Ashraf, Muhammad Shan, Hammad Bhatti 41, Rizwan Abbasi 22, Abdur Raheemullah, Hafiz Muhammad Nauman and Rehman 20. Muhammad Muhammad Rayan were included among the accused

Zone-IV Greens 220/ who were granted bail. in 29.2. Overs. The Sarwar Road Muhammad Maaz 68 9x4, police had registered a case against Pakistan Tehreek-Afnan Khan 54 5x4 3x6, Rameez Shahid 43, Mudasir 27. Afroz Hasan e-Insaf leaders and workers on charges of attacking Jinnah House.

National News F

PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Shahzad Naeem presenting annual Audit Report of 34 Department for the year 2023-24 to Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

KPIC, **TIP** joins hands to promote good governance domestic worker LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Independent Report Chief Information Commissioner KPIC and Kashif Ali Sheikh, PESHÂWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Executive Director, TI-Commission (KPIC) and Transparency Pakistan in presence of International-Pakistan (TIP) on Friday joined organizations. hands to promote good

Under the MoU, both the organizations will Khyber collaboratively work in Pakhtunkhwa Information mass awareness regarding Right to Information Act (RTI) and training of Commission (KPIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Public Information Officers (PIOs) for the Transparency International- Pakistan to smooth flow of public extend collaborative efforts information

Both the institutions in ensuring merit and look forward to a fruitful openness in public affairs partnership that will perform by public entities. The MoU was signed promote citizen int by Farah Hamid Khan, into public affairs. promote citizen integration

Diplomats from various countries appreciates business opportunities with Pakistan

(APP): Rudiger Lotz, Consul General of the Federal election,

International News

hosted by prominent businessman and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire Fazal Karim Dadabhoy in honor of Dr.

Republic of Germany at Dadabhoy residence and was attended by former caretaker provincial information minister Ahmed Shah, Mohammad

Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of the murder following alleged torture of a domestic worker in other senior officers of the Sargodha. She immediately sought a report from the Inspector General of Police regarding the incident.

CM seeks

report on

murder of

Chief Minister Maryam

According to the initial report, the accused has been identified, and raids are underway to apprehend him. Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the need for a thorough investigation into the incident and urged that the perpetrator be brought to justice swiftly. She stated that violence of any kind has no place in Punjab.

3 injured in jubilant firing, 2 held after **CPO** notice

FAISALABAD (APP) Three people including two minor children sustained multiple injuries due to jubilant firing while the police arrested two accused after the City Police Officer (CPO) took notice.

A police spokesman said here on Friday that Muhammad Iqbal of Jameel Town, Ghulam Muhammad Abad, 5-yearold Ibrahim of Tariq Town Kokianwala.

IGP discusses admin, professional steps about police working

LAHORE Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar chaired a meeting of the police executive board on Friday and discussed

police field formations.

Senior

(APP): inclusion of Band Staff in Telecommunication Wing and Welfare initiatives were discussed

Page

03

The meeting also at Central Police Office here reviewed progress of various development administrative and projects, welfare measures of the force. The IGP related to working of the ordered that proposals should be finalised and officers presented in the next presented suggestions and meeting for taking a recommendations regarding decision. He said the administrative and policy supervisory officers should issues. In the executive complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated time line under board meeting, various

issues including Punjab Mounted Police Force, personal supervision.



LAHORE: Deputy Auditor General (Central) Tariq Bashir Chatha presenting the Accounts and Audit Report of the Punjab Government for the year 2023-24 to the Governor Punjab Muhammad **Balighur Rehman at Governor House.**

'Eat Safe Kids Campaign' launched across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Javaid, Secretary School Punjab Food Authority, in collaboration with the School Education Department and Special Education Department, Friday launched a province-wide 'Eat Safe Kids Campaign' in private and public schools to promote nutritious eating habits from childhood.

the inaugural ceremony was organised at the Government Boys High School in Kareem Block and the Government Central High School for The Deaf in Gulberg. The programme was the importance of fruits, attended by PFA vegetables, whole grains, Director General and lean proteins in their Muhammad Asim diet.

Monitoring Desk

Bangladesh that raged

through a six-storey build-

where many families with

children were dining has

killed at least 46 people and

injured dozens, the health

gas leak or a stove could

have caused Thursday's

blaze in the capital, which

spread quickly after break-

ing out in a biryani restau-

rant, and was only brought

SEOUL: South Korean

President Yoon Suk Yeol

said on Friday improved

ties with Japan were help-

from Pyongyang's weap-

ons developments and

Tokyo which have been

fraught with historical

baggage for years at a time of China's growing influ-ence and North Korea's

growing missile and

"Now, South Korea

and Japan are working to-

Hospitals were treat-

Fire authorities said a

minister said on Friday.

Education Muhammad Ahsan Waheed. Additional Secretary School Saba Adil, Additional Secretary Special Education Khadija-tul-Kubra, Special Education DG Amna Munir and Additional Director Generals of PFA. The 'Eat Safe Kids

In this connection, Campaign' consisted of various interactive activities, workshops, and educational materials to engage children and make learning about healthy eating fun. Children will learn about

KARACHI Diplomats of Germany, China and Oman while crediting the performance of the caretaker

governance.

with

The

government and security agencies for holding peaceful expressed hope that democracy will strengthen in Pakistan, the future of

Pakistan is, however, in the hands of the youth. They were talking to Iqbal Memon, Home journalists at a dinner Secretary.

More than 100 killed while seeking aid in Gaza, overall death toll passes 30,000

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Gaza health authorities said Israeli forces on Thursday (Feb 29) shot dead more than 100 Palestinians as they waited for an aid delivery, but Israel blamed the deaths on crowds that surrounded aid trucks, saying victims had been trampled or run over.

At least 112 people were killed and more than 280 wounded in the incident near Gaza City, Palestinian health officials said.

The loss of civilian lives was the biggest in weeks. Hamas said the incident could jeopardise talks in Qatar aimed at securing a ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages it is holding. When asked if he thought it would complicate the talks, US President Joe Biden said:

Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iranians voted for

a new parliament on Friday

in an election seen as a test

of the clerical establishment's

legitimacy at a time of grow-

ing frustration over economic

woes and restrictions on po-

Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei, who has

called voting a religious duty,

litical and social freedoms.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte attend a cer-

emony of signing an agreement on security coop-

eration and long-term support between Ukraine and

Netherlands, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in

Iran election:

"I know it will." Medics metres apart, in the first said they could not cope with the flood of serious injuries, which came on the day the death toll in nearly five months of war passed 30,000, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Israel disputed the account provided by officials in Hamas-run Gaza, which has been bombarded by Israeli forces for months in a Palestinian militant group's deadly rampage in southern Israel on Oct 7. Its military said the trucks were operated by private contractors as part of an aid operation that it had been overseeing for the

past four nights. One Israeli official said there had been two

of which dozens were killed or injured as they tried to take aid from the trucks and were trampled or run over. He said there was a

second, subsequent inciwar that began after the ber in a "limited rebut gave no figure himself. In a later briefing, Israel Defense Forces spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also said dozens had been trampled to death or in-

incidents, hundreds of

dent as the trucks moved off. Some people in the crowd approached troops who felt under threat and opened fire, killing an unknown num-Palestinians transport casualties following Israeli fire on people waiting for aid in Gaza City. sponse", he said. He dismissed the casualty toll given by Gaza authorities

personnel for Haiti jured in a fight to take supplies off the trucks. **US Supreme Court to** hear Trump's

to help Haitian national immunity claim police fight armed gangs, a UN spokesman said on Monitoring Desk Thursday. WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court agreed on \$10.8 million have also Wednesday to hear Donald

been deposited into a trust Trump's claim that as a fund to support the multiformer president he is imnational security support mune from prosecution, mission, UN spokesman further delaying his trial on Stephane Dujarric told recharges of conspiring to porters, adding that further overturn the 2020 election. pledges of \$78 million had Trump had been also been made.

scheduled to go on trial in The United Nations Washington on March 4, Security

in the high-stakes case for the week of April 22 and said Trump's federal election interference trial would remain on hold for now.

judge in the state of Illinois ordered the former president stricken off the state's primary ballot for his role in the January 6 Capitol ers are on the results. Make riot. Today, both Trump

friends happy and disap-point enemies," Khamenei and incumbent President said on state television. Joe Biden are due to pay The election is the first dueling visits to the USformal measure of public Mexico border Thursday as opinion since anti-govern-ment protests in 2022-23. they try to win over voters on immigration.

security mission, UN says Monitoring Desk authorised in October a UNITED NATIONS: The foreign security mission Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barto Haiti, a year after the bados, Benin and Chad Caribbean country asked have formally notified the for help to fight violent United Nations of their ingangs that have largely tent to contribute personoverrun its capital Portnel to an international force au-Prince.

Five countries pledge

15-member The council's resolution requires countries to inform UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of their parof ticipation in the security

mission. While approved by the Security Council, the mission is not a UN opera-The response to Haiti's request for help was

delayed due to a struggle to find a country willing to lead a security assistance mis-

Council sion.

Bangladeshi leader says a shopping mall that caught fire had no emergency exits

the first floor of the Green Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall in downtown Dhaka. More than a dozen firefighting units were deployed.

Firefighters rescued survivors and pulled out bodies, and by early Friday, at least 43 people were confirmed dead

under control following two hours of effort by 13 **Russia ready to** units of firefighters. hand over crash ing 22 people with burns, victims' bodies Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen told reporters. "All to Ukraine, 22 people [...] are in criti-cal condition," Sen, himself **RIA** says a well-known physician,

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia is ready to hand over to Ukraine the bodies of the victims of a January military plane crash, the RIA news agency cited Russian human rights Tatyana official Moskalkova as saying on

Kyiv of downing the Ilyushin Il-76 plane in Russia's Belgorod region and killing 74 people on board, including 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers en

route to be swapped for Russian prisoners of war. It has not presented

evidence

Three shot dead at US dental clinic CALIFORNIA (INP): A manhunt was launched by police in the Califor-nia city of El Cajon on Thursday after a shoot-

nuclear programs. During a ceremony to mark an ining at a dentist's office dependence holiday, Yoon left one dead and two insaid next year would be jured, local media rethe 60th anniversary of ported. Police in the normalised diplomatic retown, about 20 miles (30 lations with Japan and he kilometers) outside of San hoped it could be a chance Diego, said on social mefor the bilateral relationdia they were searching ship to reach a "higher for an "armed and dangerous" 29-year-old suspect level.

who fled the scene after the attack

Bangladesh building fire kills 46, injures dozens

Dhaka Medical College DHAKA: A massive fire in

Hospital. "We are trying our "boir lives," he ing home to restaurants said

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed shock and sorrow at the incident, ordering swift treatment for the injured.

Šhe urged adherence to construction rules and regulations, including requirements for essential safety features such as fire exits and ventilation systems to prevent such tragedies in the future. One survivor, Mohammad Altaf, recounted his narrow escape from the blaze that killed two colleagues. "I went to the kitchen, broke a window and jumped to save myself," he told reporters, adding that a cashier and server who urged people to leave during the

South Korea's Yoon says better Japan ties helping deter North Korea threat **Monitoring Desk**

gether to overcome the painful past and moving toward a 'new world'," he said in a speech to commemorate the formation of ing to combat threats an independence movement against Japan's 1910-1945 occupation of called for help from the international community Korea. "The security cooperation between the two countries against to bring about unification with North Korea. Under North Korea's nuclear and missile threats has been Yoon's conservative adstrengthened further," he ministration, Seoul has sought better ties with added

During his speech, Yoon said that Seoul would need international help for any prospect of unification with North Korea

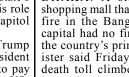
"Unification is a challenging task that we cannot accomplish alone. The international community must pool its strength in a responsible manner," he said. Yoon's comments come after the North's leader Kim Jong Un in January called South Korea a "primary foe" and said unification was no longer possible.

but the nation's highest court scheduled arguments Ruler Khamenei seeks big turnout amid discontent On the same day, a was the first to cast his vote in Iran. "Vote as soon as possible ... today the eyes of Iran's friends and ill-wish-

least 46 and rescuers continued to search for more victims The fire started late



Contributions



shopping mall that caught fire in the Bangladeshi capital had no fire exits, the country's prime min-ister said Friday, as the death toll climbed to at

Thursday in a restaurant on

said after a visit to the first moments had died later.

Friday. Moscow accuses

Daily Independent, Karachi

counts

countries

President for enhanced cooperation between audit institutions of Pakistan, Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for increasing cooperation between the supreme audit institutions of Pakistan and Azerbaijan for sharing best auditing practices to enhance transparency and financial accountability.

The president, talking to the visiting Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vugar Gulmammadov who called on him, said that public sector accounting was a critical component of financial management within government organizations that helped ensure transparency and accountability in government spending.

Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), Muhammad Ajmal Gondal and officials of AGP also

attended the meeting, a eration between CAA and AGP would be mutually President House press rebeneficial for both the counlease said Chairman of the tries.

Chamber of Accounts of He also appreciated AGP's role in carrying out Azerbaijan (CAA), Vugar Gulmammadov, briefed the peer reviews of the Supresident about the Memopreme Audit Institution randum of Understanding SAI) of Azerbaijan. (MOU) signed between the Talking to the delega-Supreme Audit Institution

tion, President Alvi said of Azerbaijan, CAA, and that Pakistan accorded spethe Supreme Audit Institucial importance to its relation of Pakistan, AGP, for tions with Azerbaijan, peer reviews of public acwhich were based on common faith, shared history, He said that the MoU and people-to-people conwould help deepen friendly tacts

relations between the two He stated that promoting cultural exchanges The president lauded and strengthening coopthe signing of the MoU beeration in the cultural and tween AGP and CAA, addeconomic fields was vital ing that it would increase for fostering understandcooperation between two ing and mutually beneficountries in the field of cial development between the two brotherly na-Public Sector Auditing. He added that coop- tions



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Saudi embassy, PBM join hands for Ramadan ration distribution, orphan care

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Embassy on Friday agreed to collaborate with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) to distribute ration bags during Ramadan ul Mubarak and take responsibility for the care of 100 orphans supported by Pakistan Sweet Home, with formal documentation to follow soon.

Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Syed Tariq Mahmood Al-Hassan, visited the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad upon a special invitation from the Saudi Ambassador, Nawaf Al-Maliki

dor warmly welcomed him needy and vulnerable individuals. The Saudi Em-

kistan Bait-ul-Mal In the meeting, the Managing Director of Baitul-Mal and the Saudi Ambassador reached an agreement to collaborate on initiatives within Pakistan's social sectors. The Saudi Ambassador assured the Managing Director of Baitul-Mal of seeking further

social projects in the country Previously, Saudi relief agencies and other social organizations from Saudi Arabia have collaborated with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal on numerous projects The Saudi Ambassa- aimed at the welfare of the

with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

cooperation for additional

recovers 3 hostages: DIG LARKANA (APP): Kashmore Police and Rangers conducted a joint operation and recovered three hostages including a policeman who was kidnapped

Kashmor police

In this context, DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab said that on February 28, armed criminals attacked the police picket in Mayani, Badani police station and kidnapped police officer Asghar Ali Chachar on resistance.

In addition, 10 days ago, two persons, Wahid Ali son of Shah Mohammad Chandio and Dadan son of Arbab Ali were abducted by bandits after demanding marriage certificate.

two injured in

roof collapse

KARACHI (INP): A teen-

ager was killed and two oth-

ers injured roof of a dilapi-

dated house came down here on Friday, rescue



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan, Vugar Gulmammadov, along with his delegation called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

on 06 March

Pakistan is hosting the 9th

Pakistan-EU Political Dia-

During weekly press briefing it was said by the

Spokesperson of Foreign

Office that Foreign Secre-

tary Muhammad Syrus

Sajjad Qazi will lead the

Pakistan delegation, while

Deputy Secretary General

European External Action

IGP reshuffles

5 DSPs in

Hvderabad

HYDERABAD (APP):

The Inspector General of Sindh Police Riffat

Mukhtar Raja has posted

five Sub Divisional Police

Officers (SDPOs) including

a DSP for Central Investi-

gation Agency (CIA) in Hyderabad.

fice order issued on Friday,

DSP CIA of Tando Allahvar district

Muhammad Aslam Langha

has been posted as DSP

vious stint in Hyderabad

became known for leading

encounters against suspects

who were mostly arrested

Uzair Baloch

acquitted in

one more case

KARACHI (INP): An

Anti-Terrorism Court

(ATC) Uzair Baloch and

other suspects in a case

pertaining to an attack on policemen to kill them dur-

the verdict to acquit Uzair

Baloch after the prosecu-

tion failed to establish the

charges against him and

three others. The other ac-

quitted suspects included

Muhammad Salam alias

The ATC pronounced

ing the Lyari operation.

in injured conditions.

Langha during his pre

CIA in Hyderabad.

According to the of-

The two sides will

logue on 06 March 2024.

Minister Aneeq calls for OIC Pakistan to host 9th Pakistan-EU delegation to broker ceasefire **Political Dialogue** talks with Israeli premier ISLAMABAD (Online)

Minister Aneeq high-lighted the brotherly rela-ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith tions between Pakistan and Palestine, affirming Pakistan's ongoing moral Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Friday proposed that a delegation comprising of cruand diplomatic support for its Palestinian brethren. He said, "Pakistan cial Muslim countries, under the banner of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), should talk to Israeli stands as the foremost sup-

porter of the Palestinian cause and will continue to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for immediate do so. The unity of the Muslim Ummah can lead to In a meeting with Pal-estinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i, the issue.

minister said Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Qatar, Egypt, and Pakistan should play their pivotal role in that regard.

ceasefire.

in Palestine.

promote exports.

changed views on mutual interests and the situation

Pharma industry should focus on Africa, Central Asia & Afghanistan to boost exports: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): visit to ICCI on Friday, he Caretaker Federal Minister said that Pakistan's pharma for National Health Sersector has the potential to vices, Regulations and Coexpand the country's exordination Dr. Nadeem Jan ports. The industry should has said that despite the focus on exports to counshort time, he made strenutries in Central Asia, Africa, ous efforts to bring reforms and Afghanistan.

Dr Nadeem Jan said in the health sector. He said several steps were taken, that it was his mission to including the digitization of bring reforms in the health DRAP, a new policy for the sector. He said that he worked day and night for prices of medicines, and the search for new markets to the country's pride he took practical steps to increase Talking to President pharma exports for the bet-Islamabad Chamber of terment of the economy and Commerce and Industry took the Pharma Park project forward. He said (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and other memthat this project is of key

Saturday March 02, 2024

Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: FO Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Office Spokesper-son Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has said that Pakistan will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Zahra Mumtaz

making 2024 pivotal for hu-man rights. She said that the Foreign Secretary urged the High Commissioner's Office to closely monitor the situation in IIOJK, to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human right situation there.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Pakistan denounces the decision by the Indian authorities to ban Baloch addressing the the Muslim Conference weekly press briefing on Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat Friday said Foreign Secrefaction), and Muslim Contary Muhammad Syrus ference Jammu and Kash-Sajjad Qazi delivered a mir (Sumji faction), while statement at the ongoing extending the current ban 55th Session of the Human on the Jamaat-e-Islami, Rights Council, reaffirming Jammu Kashmir for five Pakistan's commitment to more years

Restoration of peace Govt's top priority: Sindh^{CM}

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah says complete restoration of peace, provision of potable drinking water in Karachi and further improving transport and infrastructure of the province are the top most priorities of his government. He was talking to US Ambassador Ďonald Blome in Karachi today.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets American Ambassador Donald Blome at CM House.

Commissioner visits, inspected rain water **drainage in Nawabshah city** HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider Shah visited different areas of Nawabshah city in

of Nawabshah city, inspected rainwater drains, drainage disposals and reviewed the arrangements re-

structed the officers of the Municipal Corporation for availability of machinery for the cleaning of the

garding the expected rains. drainage channels and the The Commissioner disposal of rain water while giving instructions to should be ensured and the the officers of the Munici- supply of generators and pal Corporation Visited diesel should be ensured Quaid-i-Awam University, due to power outages.

10 days ago.

Teenager killed,

Service (EEAS) Enrique a resolution of the Palestine Mora will lead the EU side. The minister stressed discuss implementation of the importance of collective the Pakistan-EU Strategic action to restore the sanc-Engagement Plan, countertity of the Islamic world. terrorism, as well as impor-Palestinian Ambassatant regional and global dedor, Ahmed Rabi'i exvelopments. The two leaders ex-

pressed gratitude for the love and support shown by the people of Pakistan to-wards Palestine.

during the visit. He congratulated Syed Tariq bassy in Islamabad has con-Mahmood Al-Hassan on sistently maintained posiassuming the position of tive and fruitful cooperation Managing Director of Pa-

Sindh Excise impounds 2337 vehicles during tax recovery campaign

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Panhwer informed, said a Excise and Taxation department, Friday, impounded 2337 vehicles and collected Rs25.4 million taxes in 11 days of road checking campaign aimed at recovery of outstanding taxes.

Inspection teams, across the province, checked 25054 vehicles and documents of 2013 defaulting vehicles were seized as well, Director General Excise and Taxation Aurangzeb formed.

statement issued here. The Excise and Taxation teams checked 5510 vehicles

in Karachi, 7039 in Hyderabad, 3043 in Sukkur, 3135 in Larkana, 2540 in Mirpur Khas and 3787 veiuries.

hicles in Shaheed Benazirabad he said. Road checking campaign to collect due taxes from the owners of defaulting vehicles will continue till March 7, 2024, the DG in-

According to details, roof of a house located in Sarjani Town area of Karachi suddenly came down resultantly three people were trapped under the debris.

A 12-year-old child identified as Raza was killed in the mishap while two others sustained in-**Two robbers**

sources said.

injured, held with arms, looted valuables

after encounter KARACHI (INP): Two robbers were injured and arrested with arms and ooted valuables after exchange of fire here in the metropolis on Friday.

The police on a tip-off approached a two-member gang of motorcycle riding robbers engaged in looting citizens in Jamshed Quarter area of Karachi.

Upon sight of police, the robbers started firing ers and Civil Society are holding protest demonand attempted to flee from the scene

In retaliatory firing of police, both robbers were prime minister. njured and held with arms and looted valuables.

World Civil **Defense Day** observed in tioned on merit and prior-**Mirpurkhas** ity to bidders with good MIRPURKHAS (APP)

On the occasion of World Civil Defense Day, a commendation award distribution ceremony was organized by the Civil Defense Department of Mirpur Khas in the Municipal Corporation Hall here on Friday.

Chief Warden Civil Defense and Mayor Municipal Corporation Abdul Rauf Ghori addressed the ceremony.

He said that Civil Defense volunteers are rendering their services fearlessly and free of charge in emergencies and other situations, which is commendable.

importance to the industry



HYDERABAD: Participants are holding rally on the occasion of "International Civil Defence Day" organized by Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, at Hyderabad press club.

Shehbaz as PM have to rule country with multifaceted crises: Mian Zahid

which the foreign exchange KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business reserves and the deficit re-Group Pakistan, President mained more or less within Pakistan Businessmen and the recommended limits of the IMF. The new long-term deal with the IMF will Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, include addressing the issues and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain that have pushed the country to the brink of bank-ruptcy. Addressing these has said that PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister will have to rule a problems in the economy will be a challenge for Prime country with multifaceted crises. Talking to business Minister Shahbaz Sharif becommunity on Friday, he cause the country's sluggish said that said that bringing economy and weak control political and economic staof the government were in bility to a country divided the interest of many influby politics and facing an ential groups. These groups economic crunch would be have been squeezing the a big challenge for new economy and the people for decades, and they will re-sist every move to stream-Mian Zahid Hussain said that Shahbaz Sharifhad

line things, he added. The business leader saved the country from bankruptcy by signing a standby agreement with the IMF, and said that in the event of another agreement with the now he will try hard to get a IMF, the lender would not positive response from the allow the deficit to exceed IMF in its last review and 1.5 percent of GDP, which enter a new agreement to means the government improve things. He said that would not be able to underthe old agreement with the take major infrastructure projects and go for heavy IMF was to save the country from bankruptcy, due to spending



Mullah Nisar, Zakir alias Dada and Ghulam Muhammad. According to the prosecution, Uzair and the other accused were charged with attack and attempted murder on the police team during the Lyari operation in

April 2012. The case was registered against the suspects at Kalri police station under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

SRSO officer died in road accident

SUKKUR (APP): Asim Shaikh, an officer of Sindh Rural Support Organiza-tion (SRSO) age 35 years, died in a tragic accident near Islamabad on Thursday night. The incident tool place when he was travel ing to Islamabad from Sukkur along with his three officials in a vehicle, which met an accident.

Chief Executive Of-ficer (CEO), SRSO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro visted the breaved family and offered his condolences and expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the death of the young officer.

Power outage hits Karachi after heavy rain

KARACHI (INP): Sev-eral areas of Karachi are facing power outage as at least 150 feeders of K-Electric (KE) tripped after the city received heavy rainfall.

As per details, the electricity was sus-pended in Baldia Town, Surjani Town, Gulistan-Korangi e-Johar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Gulshan-e-Maymar, Liaquatabad, North Nazimabad and Nusrat

Smuggling of Migrants Bhutto Colony

DC urges removal of signboards ahead of forecasted heavy rains

Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Tariq Qureshi has directed the relevant departments to take immediate action to remove heavy signboards and billboards from the city. According to a handout issued on Friday. a letter has also been written by the Deputy Commissioner to the concerned departments in this regard.

This action was deemed necessary as the meteorological department has forecasted heavy rains

HYDERABAD (INP): The in Hyderabad, and in such circumstances, it is crucial to undertake the mentioned operation to prevent any untoward incidents.

On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner Tariq Qureshi and Additional Deputy Commis-sioner Hyderabad Najeebur-Rehman Jamali visited various areas and pumping stations of Hyderabad and directed the concerned officers to assess the situation by visiting their respective areas



KARACHI: Motorists and pedestrians wade through a street after heavy monsoon rains in the port city of Karachi.

SSDO, US Embassy organise Interactive **Session with TIP experts**

KARACHI (APP): The Sustainable Social Devel-opment Organization (SOM), compounded by refugee influx. Despite being on Tier II Watchlist, Pakistan improved to Tier (SSDO) in collaboration with Sindh Human Rights II in 2022 and 2023 due to Commission (SHRC) and government actions like curbing trafficking and US Embassy organized an prohibiting child soldier recruitment. Civil society, interactive session with TIP experts here on Friday.

notably SSDO, aided capacity building. Sustainable Social D e v e l o p m e n t Organization's (SSDO) Executive Director Syed TIP survivor from New York Ansa and Jo-seph from law enforcement of Georgia participated as an expert in the Kausar Abbas emphasized session.

The representatives the importance of impleof the Sindh Government, mentation and awareness different academia, media, at the district level, identifying government deparliamentarians and civil society were also attended the session. Pakistan's strategic location fosters Traffick-ing in Persons (TIP) and

partments responsible for enforcing TIP regulations. SSDO has developed TIP standards and holds guarterly meetings to address the issue.

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HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Forest Work-

KARACHI (APP): The that all the lands are auc-Karachi Development Authority (KDA) is all set to auction its land across the offers city this month. eral KDA plots located in

In this context, the KDA lands across Karachi will be auctioned after completing all the necessary procedures, said Director General KDA Naveed Anwar while addressing a meeting regarding the auction.

In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the KDA lands to be auctioned and all the arrangements were finalized by selecting the government lands for the auction.

On this occasion, Naveed Anwar said that it will be ensured in all cases

KDA's www.kda.gos.pk and Facebook. Apart from this, in order to maintain transparency during the auction, letters have also been issued to the concerned institutions to ensure their presence on the occasion of the

entire process can be com-

public auction so that the

In the first phase, sev-

Korangi Town, North

pleted impartially.

