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In congratulatory telephone call **Crown Prince reaffirms** Saudi support for Pakistan

PM vows to transform Pak-Saudi ties into strategic partnership



SLAMABAD (Online): Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman has reaffirmed his country's support for Pakistan

In a congratulatory telephone call to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said both the countries enjoy close brotherly relations.

The Crown Prince felicitated the Prime Minister on his re-election.

The Prime Minister thanked the Saudi Crown Prince for the telephone call

as well as the warm message of greetings sent by him immediately after he had assumed the office.

Shehbaz Sharif also conveyed his sincerest wishes and prayers for the Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz. He said the people of Pakistan have great love and respect for him.

the Saudi King and the Crown Prince.

also wished a blessed month

QUETTA: Iranian Consul General, Hassan Darvishwand exchanges views

Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar and others during Iftar Din-

of Ramadan to the Saudi leadership as well as the Saudi people, and prayed that this holy month brings peace and prosperity to fuslims all over the world.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan is proud of its historic, deep rooted and fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and the two countries have always stood together through thick and thin. He lauded Saud Arabia for its unwavering commitment and support to

Pakistan The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to the Crown Prince to undertake health and wellbeing of the an official visit to Pakistan Custodian of the two Holy at the earliest convenience and said the people of Pakistan are awaiting to accord a very warm welcome to The Crown Prince

thanked the Prime Min-The Prime Minister ister for his kind sentiments



Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain General Shaikh Mohamed bin Isa bin Salman AI-Khalifa meeting with Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir at GHQ in Rawalpindi

COAS underscores commitment to enhance ties with Bahrain

RAWALPINDI (APP): strong defence, diplomatic Commander of the Naand economic relations tional Guard of the Kingwith Kingdom of Bahrain dom of Bahrain, General and underscored Pakistan's Shaikh Mohamed bin Isa commitment to enhancing bin Salman AI-Khalifa military ties with Bahrain. The COAS emphacalled on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army

on Saturday.

sized upon the importance Staff (COAS) here at GHQ of collaboration in addressing shared security chal-The meeting focused strengthening bilateral lenges and promoting peace

and stability in the region. military cooperation. Both The visiting dignitary leaders discussed matters of commended Pakistan for its mutual interest including efforts in combating terroregional security dynamics, ism and extremism and accounter-terrorism efforts knowledged the professionand training exchanges, an alism and dedication of Pa-Inter Services Public Relakistan Army.

ions (ISPR) news release On the occasion, the deepening cooperation COAS said that Pakistan values its traditionally and security domains

Govt. decides for special anti-polio drive

SLAMABAD (INP): Following the presence of the polio virus in the sewerage of major cities of three provinces, government has decided to launch a special threeday anti-polio drive, sources said.

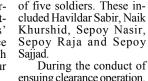
Polio virus was found in the sewerage of Punjab,

President, PM, other condemn **Two army officers** among seven martyred in terrorist attack on Mir Ali checkpost

ISPR says troops effectively engaged and sent to hell all 6 terrorists during clearance operation

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: Seven security personnel including a lieutenant colonel and a captain embraced martyrdom during a terrorist attack on security forces' post and ensuing clearance operation in North Ŵaziristan in the early hour

of this morning. According to the ISPR. a group of six terrorists at-



multiple suicide bombing

attacks, which led to col-

lapse of portion of a build-

ing, resulting into Shahadat

ensuing clearance operation, the troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Kashif, effectively engaged and killed all tacked a security forces'



post in Mir Ali area. The troops foiled the initial attempt of intrusion. The terrorists rammed an explosive laden vehicle

front, Lieutenant Colonel Continued on page 2

CM condemns terrorism attack on security forces caravan in North Waziristan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minster Balochistan, Mir condemned the terrorism attack on the caravan of se-

down at all He said that the whole nation is standing by its Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has brave security forces in the war against terrorism.

The Chief Minister curity forces in North said that the Pak Army always combated the cow-In an official condem- ardly acts of terrorists

lender of jacking up the electricity tariff from July 1, while monthly, quar-terly and yearly fuel ad-justments will be slapped reaffirmed He Bahrain's commitment to with Pakistan in defence on consumers for cost recovery. **PM**, MNAs



discuss political situation LAHORE (APP): Prime

National

Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday here held separate meetings with members of

Muhammad Usman Owaisi

and Abdul Ghaffar Wattoo.

they discussed matters re-

During the meetings,

nable

Waziristan.

Assembly

the six terrorists. However, during intense exchange of fire, lead-

ing his troops from the into the post, followed by



Pakistan likely to

sign staff-level

agreement with

IMF next week

Mohsin Naqvi seeks report of Greece, Libya boat incidents

ally nil.

around 61 migrants went

missing and presumed dead

Libya's coast, the Interna-

tional Organization for

Migration (IOM) said, in

the latest migrant trag-

edy off North Africa.

ner Party hosted by Iranian Consulate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday summoned a report of hundreds of Pakistanis -Greece, and Libya boat incidents

According to the de-tails, Mohsin Naqvi asked the Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to submit a report of the investigation proceedings so

far. The Federal Interior Minister said that those who are involved in crimes related to human trafficking deserve no concession.

The "large number of mi-He maintained that the grants" are believed to real culprits of the boat accidents must be dealt with have died because of high waves that swamped iron hands, as criminals of human trafficking must be their vessel after it left jailed for their wrongdofrom Zuwara, on Libya's northwest coast, the ings.

It is pertinent to men-IOM's Libya office said in tion here that an Italy- a statement.

36 candidates file nomination papers for 11 different seats of Senate from Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 36 candidates belonging to different po-litical parties and independent have filed their nomination papers for 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan here on Saturday.

The candidates have filed papers for seven general seats and two each allocated for women and technocrats in the Senate of Pakistan.

The prominent who submitted their nomination papers are included: Anwarul Haq, Mir Changez Jamali, Sardar Umar Gorgej, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Kauda Babar, Aimal Wali Khan, Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Rahat Jamali, Sana Jamali, Amanullah Kanrani, Ahmed Khan, Jan Muhammad Buledi, Abdul Haq Hashmi, Attaur Rehman, Nasimur Rehman, Shahzaib Durrani, Saeedul Hasan, and others.

The elections are scheduled to be held on the seats of Senate on April 2, 2024.

LAHORE (APP): Speaker of Punjab Assembly Malik bound fishing trawler re-Muhammad Ahmad Khan portedly carrying at least on Saturday called on Prime 800 people — including Muhammad Minister Shehbaz Sharif. capsized off Greece. Only

The speaker congratu-104 people are known to lated the prime minister on have survived and the assuming the office and exchance of finding more surpressed his good wishes, vivors was seen as virtu-PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. In another incident,

Speaker Punjab

Assembly calls

on PM

During the meeting, the verall situation in the country including political and other issues of mutual inafter their boat sank off terests were discussed

US envoy reaffirms support for

democratic process in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House and discussed bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest

In his remarks, the Speaker said Pakistan attaches great importance to long-standing friendly relations with the United States

He emphasized promoting parliamentary ties between the US and Pakistan saying these can play an important role in promoting public and parlia-

mentary relations between the two countries The US Ambassador

reiterated his country's commitment to continue supporting the democratic process in Pakistan. He said collective efforts are necessary to promote regional and international peace and prosper-

Sindh and Balochistan's big cities.

Sources familiar with the development said the samples taken from Karachi, Okara, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Jacoabad, Islamabad, Kohat, Quetta, Peshawar and Sibi sewerage, tested positive, pushing the number of the

garding constituencies of positive polio virus samples to 46 this year. the MNAs and the overall A schedule for a three-day anti-polio drive (March political situation in the 25-28) has been finalised with the input of the provcountry. inces.



LAHORE: Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to expand 'counter terrorism' cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-Afghan interim minister. kistan and the Taliban-led Earlier this week, Afghan government Satur-Kabul emphasised main-

Amir Khan Muttaqi.

taining relations with day agreed to expand "counter-terrorism" coop-Islamabad, saying that it eration and continue workwas a necessity to have ing together in building fraimproved relations with all ternal bilateral relations. its neighbouring countries.

The development Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah came during a telephonic conversation between For-Mujahid urged the new government of Pakistan to eign Minister Ishaq Dar show flexibility towards and his Afghan counterpart the deportation of Afghan "Expanding cooperarefugees. "First, the Istion in connectivity, trade, lamic Emirate has always security, counter terrorism sought good relations with

all its neighbours, including and people-to-people con-Pakistan, where a new govtacts is a top priority for Pakistan," Dar posted on ernment has emerged. Af-X, as he received a conghanistan also needs good gratulatory call from the relations with Pakistan.

associated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). **Ex-Caretaker PM** 'Terrorists have at-Kakar submits tacked on the ground while PTI supporters did that on social media front," the minnomination ister said in a strong reacpapers for tion to the PTI's alleged senate seat "malicious campaign"

against the martyrs. QUETTA (APP): Caretaker 'The PTI has remained Former involved in disrespecting Prime Minister of Pakithe martyrs," said the min-ister in a news statement stan Anwarul Haq Kakar on Saturday subwhile citing some examples such as May 9 when the mitted nomination papers for the vacant senstate institutions came unseats from ate der attack and martyrs' Balochistan. memorials defiled, and also

The Election Commission Balochistan chapter said that submission of nomination papers is underway as Saturday is the last day to submit the papers. "On behalf of PM

Kakar, Senator Danesh Kumar submitted the nomination papers, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) spokesman said.

It may be recalled that eleven seats of Balochistan province are lying vacant in the senate for which, as per ECP, polling is set to take place on 2 April. The members of the

Balochistan Assembly will have the authority to elect 11 Senators, comprising seven for general seats, two for women, and two for technocrats.

nation statement issued bravely. here on Saturday, the Chief The terrorists would Minister said that the atnever succeed in their netack of terrorists on the sefarious designs. curity forces is condem-

He also paid rich tributes to the brave officers Mir Sarfraz Ahmed and jawans who em-Bugti said that the morale braced martyrdom in line of security forces and Genof duty in North eral public would not be Waziristan.

Tarar condemns PTI's 'malicious campaign' against Mir Ali's martyrs

APP):Federal Minister for formation which saluted them Information and Broadcastfor their "unforgettable" ing Attaullah Tarar while sacrifices. paying tribute to all seven

martyrs of Mir Ali includ-

ing Lieutenant Colonel

Sved Kashif Ali and Cap-

tain Muhammad Ahmed

Badar on Saturday strongly

condemned the "malicious

campaign" launched by some social media accounts

The minister said there is no soft corner in the hearts of the people for those who



had disrespected its martyrs. "We will not compromise on the dignity and honor of the martyrs and the law will take its course.3

Such vile campaigns against martyrs and national institutions laid bare the reasons of foreign funding being received by the PTI, he said alleging that such initiatives were meant Lasbela helicopter crash. to appease the terrorists He paid tribute to the mar-and enemies of Pakistan.

ANP supported JUI-F in Senate's bi-elections, says Asghar Achakzai

Independent Report

lam (JUI) in the bi-elec-

tions of Senate held in

persons on Saturday, Asghar Achakzai said that

PPP, PML-N and JUI se-

cured one seat each in the

said that it would be our en-

deavour and desire that

Senators may be elected unopposed In Balochistan like

Asghar Khan Achakzai

Talking to the media

Balochistan recently.

Senate bi-elections.

Sindh. We would also want QUETTA: The Provincial that there may not set up President of Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai has stated mandi for sale and purchase of the Senate seat in the ovince that the ANP had supported Jamiat Ulema-e-Is-

He said that PPP could have also won the third seat in the bi-elections even, it would make an attempt for the same.

However, all parties honored the mandate of each other in the Senate bipolls

He also demanded of all government and opposition parties to forge unity so as to get their seats in the upcoming Senate elections.



QUETTA: Senate elections candidates submitting their nomination papers to Provincial Election Commissioner Fared Ahmed Afridi

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Quetta

Sunday March 17, 2024

Miscellaneous

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Imran Khan approves names of PTI candidates for Senate election

Khan or not.

Irshad Hussain,

Rubina Naz

Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): As leader Asad Qaiser ex- nocrats: Dr Yasmeen the country is now set to witness the Senate election following the government formation, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday announced the final list of candidates for the upper house polls, which are slated to take place on April 2, amid confusion within the party over the names of contend-

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is set to hold the Senate election next month to fill the 48 seats that fell vacant upon the expiration of the 6-year term of the incumbent senators last week.

As per the electoral body's schedule for Senate polls, today (March 16) is the last date for the submission of nomination papers. Earlier, senior PTI

Rashid Women seat: Sanam pressed doubts if the names of candidates has been Javed finalised by the PTI's PTI leader Mian Aslam founding chairman Imran Iqbal had earlier announced

the party's candidates for However, PTI later rethe Senate elections, but leased the list of candidates confusion emerged as 'approved" by Khan, via Qaiser raised questions regarding the names of candithe party's official account on X, formerly Twitter. dates Here is the province-"I have no clue if Imran

vise list of candidates: Khan approved it or not. I Khyber Pakhtunkhwa don't want to comment on General Seats: Murad Qaiser made these com-Saeed (Covering: Azhar ments while speaking dur-Mashwani) Faisal Javed ing an interview with a pri-Khan, Mirza Afridi, Irfan vate news channel on Fri-Saleem, Khurram Zeeshan. day. Technocrats: Azam Swati, The remarks came at a

point when the top party Women: Ayesha Bano, leadership sees rifts and differences in opinion regarding major decisions including making an alliance with General Seats: Hamid Khan, Zulfi Bukhari (covthe Sunni Ittehad Council

ering: Omer Sarfraz Cheema (SIC) after February 8 elec-& Col Ijaz Minhas) Tech- tions

Shehbaz Sharif issues Senate ticket to Talal LAHORE (Online): President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif has issued Senate ticket of general seat Punjab to Talal Chaudhry.

PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry said in former twitter X I am grateful to Quaid Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab. I am very grateful to my party PML-N. They demonstrated confidence on me by issuing Senate ticket to

He stated I will try my best to come upto the confidence through my loyalty and performance. This ticket is in the

name of Jaranwala, in the name of love for Nawaz Sharif.

Decision to make alliance

ISLAMABAD (INP): Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barister Ali Zafar has said that Sher Afzal Marwat had rightly said that decision to make alliance with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) was wrong

Speaking in a private V programme, Ali Zafar said earlier the decision was made to forge alliance with the Shirani group. "We wanted reserved seats, but when the final negotiations were held, we could not make alliance with the Shirani group. The next option was MWM. They had one member in Parliament. At the last moment the decision was changed and the alliance was made with the Sunni Ittehad Council," Zafar said.

Zafar further said that the SIC did not contest the election nor did they give a list of reserved seats. Marwat was right when he said decision of making alliance with the SIC was a mistake

He said some people met PTI founder in Adiala Jail and came out and announced joining the Sunni Ittehad Council. Why the decision was changed, Marwat and other people knew well.

"I think there was some miscommunication in this

price.

regard," Zafar added. Marwat, in an interview with a private TV, had

said that they made two wrong decisions for which they were paying a heavy The first mistake was made when we contacted

JUI Sherani group. He said he along with Asad Qaiser and Barrister Gohar was given the task. "We held several meetings with Sherani Sahib." Marwat said in Balochistan and KP, the PTI founder was ready to make seat adjustment with

Shirani group. "After that we announced in the media that we had made an alliance with Shirani group. Then after three or four days, Shirani Sahib's party disappeared from the scene and batsman party came for-ward. Who brought the batsman party? Why did Shirani Sahib was removed? This is a question mark," he said. The second big mistake was the decision to join

Mailis Wahdatul Muslimeen. "Due to these wrong decisions we lost more than 80 seats," he added. Pakistan day parade:

Speakers call for global intervention over Kashmir to ensure peace

Transitioning into the

They severely con-

Professor

Shahid

comprehending this histori-ISLAMABAD (APP): cal backdrop in framing the The speakers at a seminar narrative of Kashmir's selfon Saturday urged the international community to determination struggle. intervene in the Kashmir crisis to ensure Kashmiris' that the Treaty of Amritsar right to self-determination holds significance for scholars, researchers, and social to bring peace and tranquil-

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar during Iftar Dinner Party hosted by Iranian Consulate

QUETTA: Iranian Consul General, Hassan Darvishwand presenting a gift to Balochistan Governor

ity to the region. scientists. It not only es-The event titled "From tablished Jammu and Kash-Amritsar Treaty to Abromir as a unified state but gation: Kashmir's Journey also introduced a peculiar for Self-Determination and system where the people Peace" which witnessed the of Kashmir became subjects participation of prominent under a ruler's authority. scholars, youth activists and locals including women, second session, a notable was organized by Jammu gathering of civil society Kashmir Peace & Justice members, including lumi-Organization (JKPJO), said naries such as Professor a press release. Shahid Hussain Mir, Prof.

The seminar, held in Sajid Hussain, senior jourtwo sessions, shed light on nalist Khizar Hayat Abbasi, the harrowing history and and Muhammad Yaseen ongoing struggles of the Khan, attended the event. Kashmiri people, highlighting the inhumane repercusdemned the atrocities ensions of the Treaty of dured by Kashmiris, span-Amritsar, signed on March ning from the oppressive 16, 1846 between the Brit-Dogra rule to the recent reish East India Company, vocation of Articles 370 and 35A by India. and Ranjit Singh, head of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab.

The speakers high-Hussain Mir eloquently lighted how this infamous delineated the centuriesagreement, orchestrated by long struggle of Kashmiris, colonial powers and rehighlighting the systemic gional actors, perpetuated discrimination and oppresdecades of slavery, exploision faced under various tation and marginalization rulers under authoritarian Dogra

counted harrowing events Prominent Kashmiri such as the killings of silk factory workers in 1924 leader, peace activist and Chairman of JKPJO, and the massacre outside of global solidarity in secur-

deep scars etched into Kashmir's collective psyche.

In his concluding re-Tanveer emphasized marks, Chairman of JKPJO, Tanveer ul Islam delved into the aftermath of partition in 1947 and the subsequent human rights abuses perpetrated against Kashmiris

He fervently appealed to the international community, particularly nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait to proactively facilitate dialogue and advocate for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.

The seminar culminated with a resounding call to action for the international community to stand in solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people and work towards a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Participants expressed optimism that through collective efforts, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people for self-determination and peace would finally be realized.

The event underscored He poignantly re- the urgent need for sustained attention to the Kashmir issue and emphasized the indispensable role

Pakistan to host ICC **Champions Trophy** 2025: PCB Chief

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, has assured fans that the ICC Champions Trophy will be held in Pakistan as planned for next year. Naqvi's comments came after the conclusion of an ICC meeting in Dubai.

"The PCB is looking forward to hosting the Cham-pions Trophy in 2025," Naqvi said. "It will be a great privilege for Pakistan to welcome the top eight ODI the reduction in the price teams to compete on home soil." of High Speed Diesel (HSD) by Rs 1.77.

However, Naqvi acknowledged a potential challenge: India's participation. There's a history of political tensions hindering travel between the neighboring

LAHORE: Member National Assembly Abdul Ghaffar Wattoo calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt maintain petrol price at Rs 279.75, reduce HSD

2024

by **Rs** 1.77 ISLAMABAD (APP): Keeping the previous price of petrol unchanged, the government has maintained the price of petrol at Rs 279.75 and has announced

According to the gov-

with SIC was wrong: **Barrister Ali Zafar**

countries.

Beyond the Champions Trophy, Naqvi also confirmed a finalized tri-series between Pakistan, South Africa, and New Zealand. This ODI series will be held in February 2025, just before the Champions Trophy. The PCB chairman extended invitations to the chairpetrol men of Cricket South Africa and New Zealand Cricket to visit Pakistan.

The tri-series marks a return to such events for Pakistan. The last time they hosted a tri-series was in October 2004, which included Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Death anniversary of "1965 War Hero" **MM Alam on Monday**

ISLAMABAD (INP): medal. The 11th death anniversary of "1965 War Hero" Muhammad Mahmood Alam, popularly known as M M Alam will be observed on March 18, 2024 (Monday).

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) legendary war hero MM Alam's record of shooting down five Indian war planes in less than a minute remains unbeaten.

Alam, nicknamed as 'Little Dragon' popularly, while piloting an F-86 Sabre, shot down five Indian war planes in less than a minute during 1965 Pak-India war and altogether, downed nine war planes in the aerial fight.

MM Alam was the first ever fighter pilot for PAF, listed on top in the hall of famers' list at the PAF Museum in Karachi. Alam is considered as a national hero for Pakistan, most significantly, for his remarkable show of brilliance in the war of 1965 he was awarded the 'Sitarae-Jurat' and also the BAR onds

The war hero was born on July 6, 1935, in Calcutta, India and was the eldest of 11 siblings. No one in his family before him had been part of the military, and in fact, he joined the armed forces against

his father's will. In 1965, when India started war in the late mist dark night, Alam who was the first commanding ofalso known as Thar, district ficer of the first squadron in Sindh. of Assaults Mirage III, took his F-86 Sabre jet

son stated that the postplane equipped with AIMmortem of the body is un-9 sidewinder missiles and derway to identify the fly over the skies of cause of death. meanwhile. Sargodha to defeat the enthe investigation into the emies who entered in Pacase has been launched. kistani Air Space. Here, MM Alam made development occurred in

the unforgettable history the ill-fated Abdul Hakeem by knocking down nine Intown of Khanewal district. dian Fighter Jets 'Hawker neighbors recovered the Hunters' in air to air combodies of three siblings bat despite Hawker from a house after "day-Hunter superiority over Flong silence". 86. He shot down as he sets an unbeaten world three deceased were siblings record by downing five Inafter the neighbors called dian aircraft in thirty secupon them having found

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah talks with media

persons during press conference regarding submitting of nomination pa-

pers at election commission office in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (INP): price of high-speed diesel The preparations are has been reduced from Rs in full swing for a 287.33 to Rs 285.56 while special parade markmaintaining the previous price of Rs 279.75 for ing Pakistan Day on March 23, with the enthusiasm of the

As part of the fortnightly revision of prices of armed forces. The President's petroleum products, on the bodyguards, recommendation of Oil and nowned for their pre-Gas Regulatory Authority cision and dedica-(OGRA), the Government tion, are gearing up of Pakistan has decided that

for their participathe consumers prices to tion in the parade, take effect from March16, showcasing their deep-rooted patrio-**Boy found dead** tism.

Speaking about from house in the importance of the Hyderabad event, Major Shah HYDERABAD (INP): Zaman highlighted Sindh Police claimed to the

The police spokesper-

Back in 2020, a morose

Police confirmed the

the dead bodies.

longstanding tradihave found the body of a tion of escorting evyoung boy in a house loery president since cated in the Latifabad No. Pakistan's inception. 5 area of Hyderabad on Saturday. According to police He emphasized the meticulous preparaofficials, the boy has been identified as Abdul Rehman tions that span an parade. and hails from Tharparkar,

Two army officers among seven...

tain Muhammad Ahmed

Badar, having fought gal-

lantly, paid the ultimate

sacrifice and embraced

Shahadat.

solve.

Army

ers in the incident. Syed Kashif Ali and Cap-

prayed for eternal peace of the martyred and patience for their families. He said the entire nation is proud of these mar-

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist present in the area. rorists The ISPR, in its state-

ment, reaffirmed the commitment to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country saying such sacrifices of brave soldiers further strengthen their re-

President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on security forces' post in North Waziristan. remembered.

In a message today, he ommiserated with the bereaved families of martyred soldiers and officers of Pak He prayed for eternal

beace of the martyred and patience for their families. The President reaf-

firmed the unflinching national resolve to extirpate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Minister Prime Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the cowardly ttack of terrorists in North Waziristan.

In a statement today, he expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of seven security forces per-

entire month for just one day of festivities. This year, Major

President's bodyguards

prepare with patriotism

Shah Zaman revealed that 57 troopers and horses from their unit will partake in the parade, underscoring the magni-tude of their contrirebution.

For Lieutenant Colonel Ayaz Ahmed, the parade symbolizes not only a moment of pride for their unit but also an opportunity to enhance their honor and that of their regiment.

Wajid Hussain, a dedicated horse careūnit's taker, expressed his pride in being part of the team responsible for escorting the President of Pakistan on a buggy during the

Continued from page 1 sonnel including two offic-

The Prime Minister

tyrs who have sacrificed their lives to thwart the nefarious designs of the ter-

In his condemnation message, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar paid tribute to the brave soldiers and officers of Pak Army who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the country.

Terming today's attack a cowardly act of terrorists, he said the sacrifices of our armed forces will always be

The Minister said the government is fully committed to root out the menace of terrorism and will spare no effort in this regard.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, while strongly deploring the terrorist attack in North Waziristan today, reiterated the national pledge to eliminate terrorism. In a statement, he ex-

pressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of seven security personnel. He said the nation sa-

lutes these brave soldiers and officers of Pak Army who sacrificed their lives in defense of the motherland

Centra Jail in ul- Islam empha ing justice and freedom for sized the importance of 1931, shedding light on the the people of Kashmir.



QUETTA: President ANP Balochistan Asghar Khan Achakzai talking with mediamen after submitting nomination papers of Aimal Wali Khan for Senate elections

Real Madrid file complaint after latest racist insults towards Vinicius Jr

PARIS (INP): Spanish club Real Madrid announced Friday that it had filed a complaint regarding the racist insults made against Vinicius Jr before Atletico Madrid and Barcelona's midweek Champions

League matches. "Real Madrid C. F. has filed a complaint with the Official State Prosecutor over hate and discrimination offences pertaining to the racist and hateful abuse aimed at our player Vinicius Junior," said the club in an official announcement. "Real Madrid condemns these violent attacks of racism, discrimination and

hate... which have sadly been a recurrent and ongoing concern for some time. The complaint comes in the wake of videos on social media showing racist chants aimed at Vinicius Jr by Atletico Madrid fans outside the Metropolitano Stadium before

Wednesday's Champions League match against Inter Milan. On Thursday, the 23-year-old called on the Champions League and European football's governing body UEFA to take action against the supporters.

"It's a sad reality that happens even during matches where I am not present," Vinicius added in the message posted on

increment in major industries production ISLAMABAD (INP): In a tors, including beverages (2.02%), apparel (28.06%), leather products (10.43%), promising sign of economic

Pakistan witnesses

recovery, Pakistan has seen wood products (26.97%), chemicals (19.23%), phara surge in the production of major industries for the maceuticals (16.58%), and third consecutive month in machinery (161.93%). January, indicating a gradual However, the textile revival in industrial output. sector witnessed a contrac-According to data from tion, with ready-made gar-

the Pakistan Institute of ments recording a negative Statistics, major industries growth of 28.06% in Janurecorded a 1.84% increase ary. Similarly, the producon an annual basis and a tion of edible oil increased 0.03% rise on a monthly basis in January. This folby 6.79%, while vegetable ghee production decreased by 9.24%. lows a 3.43% increase in December 2023 and a 1.4% rise in November, signaling a sustained uptrend in in-

dustrial production. The notable contributors to this growth include beverages, apparel, leather products, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals, collectively witnessing a remarkable 59% increase. Notably, this surge in production comes after a 14-month decline, with major industries experiencing positive growth in August 2023 and September.

However, October saw a 4.08% year-on-year decline in output due to factors such as improved dollar supply, removal of import barriers, clearance of pending letters of credit, and increased foreign exchange reserves with the State Bank, stimulating economic activities.

Despite these fluctuations, January's production figures indicate positive tial for further expansion in growth in 10 out of 22 seckey sectors.

(19.69%), solvents and naphtha (21.23%), and furnace oil (16.37%). However, petrol production increased by 4.01%, diesel by 0.76%, and LPG production by 2.75%. Iron and steel production saw a modest increase of 1.04% in January, while fertilizer production surged by 30.32%. Furthermore, the production of rubber products increased by 8.13%, and pharmaceuticals by 16.58%, with machinery manufacturing witnessing an impressive growth of 161.63%. This consistent growth in major industries production signifies a positive trajectory for Islamabad's economy, indicating resilience and poten-

In the petroleum products sector, there was a negative growth of 2.42% in January, primarily due to declines in kerosene (19.80%), batching oil

Independent

APITAL NEWS

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Conflict and climate crisis present fundamental threat to people living in conflict hit regions: Speakers

While highlighting the nexus between conflict and climate crisis, the speakers during an interactive dialogue held on the sidelines of the 55th session of the UNHCR have said that a holistic approach on the part of global community was required to tackle both issues simultaneously.

The interactive dialogue, which was arranged by International Action for Peace and Sustainable Development in collaboration with Kashmir Institute of International Relations, World Muslim Congress, International Muslim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Women Union and YCP, crisis has become an increaswas attended and addressed by international law experts, journalists and rights activists from different parts of the world in- regions with heavy troops' cluding Sardar Amjad Yousuf president IASPS ,Robert Fantina from Canada, Dr. Waqas Ali Kousar, Sheni Hamid from UK, Catherine mir, the speakers said that Constantinides from South the huge presence of mili-Africa, Ahmed Qureshi, tary and their activities in APHC leader Faiz the region not only

> and others, received a press release here on Saturday. The speakers said that

the dangerous nexus be-tween conflicts and climate

ingly pressing concern for the world. They pointed that the effects of climate change were more visible in concentration. Referring to the pres-

ence of over 900, 000 troops tive region. in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kash-APHC leader Faiz the region not only Naqashbandi, Dr Shugufta, exacerbrate the environmental degradation but also impede efforts aimed at addressing the pressing environmental issues. They said that de-

ployment of troops and military activities have not only adversely affected the lives of the Kashmiri people but it has also been the cause and consequence of habitat loss, deforestation, pollution in the res-

The expansion of military facilities, they said, has played a significant role in contributing to ecological problems. "Use of heavy weapons, explosive materials and mines in ecologi-cally sensitive areas by the Indian forces has been the main cause of deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution", they said.

one people

resolute.



ISLAMABAD: Portraits of Founder of the Country, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and National Poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal have been erected at Parade ground ahead of March 23, Pakistan Day in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan Day:

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are working on maintenance of a bridge on Colo-

nel Sher Khan Shaheed Road near Pirwadhai stop, one side of the bridge was collapsed owing to the heavy traffic.

Aseefa steps into political, presidential spotlight

significant move marking her entry into the political arena, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, the youngest daughter of President Asif Ali Zardari, is set to contest the upcoming by-elec-tion for the NA-207 Nawabshah constituency.

This announcement follows the vacancy of the seat after President Zardari's elevation to office, providing Aseefa with an opportunity to step into the political arena with her maiden election bid.

Scheduled to arrive in Nawabshah on Sunday, Aseefa will formally subcal legacy.

members are gearing up to welcome her at Nawabshah Airport, where she will kick off her campaign amidst a rally towards Zardari House, underscoring her commitment to serving the constituency.

Simultaneously, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari's impending assumption of the title of first lady of Pasion to her burgeoning political career.

Following her father's inauguration as the 14th president of Pakistan,

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a ing her family's rich politi- prestigious designation.

This rare occurrence Supporters and party deviates from tradition, as historically, the position of the first lady has been reserved for the spouse of a head of government or state. Aseefa's journey to the forefront of politics has been characterized by her steadfast support for her father and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Over the past decade, she has been a vocal advokistan adds another dimen- cate for the party's political objectives, standing alongside Asif Zardari in various capacities.

Seminar on

Islamophobia

Notably, her presence at her father's oath

party's cause.

of love, unity for nation SLAMABAD (APP): In a Babar, a college student being of Pakistan. They from Islamabad. "Our dihave invoked divine blesspowerful display of patrioversity is our strength, and tism and solidarity, the ings upon their homeland, youth of Pakistan exour unity is our power.3

Youth unite in declaration

pressed their unwavering Acknowledging the devotion to their country, vibrant tapestry of colors that adorn their nation, the emphasizing the profound bond of brotherhood and youth have celebrated the unity that unites them as unity that binds them together as a cohesive whole.

Drawing upon the metaphor of a tree with Through their collective efforts, they aspire to uphold numerous branches but anthe values of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for chored by a singular root, the youth have eloquently articulated their role as the "Our differences are foundation of Pakistan's what make Pakistan beaustrength and resilience. Detiful," stated Sadia Ali, a spite the diversity of lanyoung activist from guages and cultures across Rawalpindi. "But it is our

the nation, their message shared love for our country remains consistent and that truly defines us as one people. "We are the roots of In their public decla-Pakistan, the foundation rations, the youth have of-

upon which our nation fered fervent prayers for stands," remarked Ayan the prosperity and well-

Accused of misconduct IHC writes note to look into matter on administrative side in case of ATC judge Hasnat

ISLAMABAD (Online): It was said in the deci-Islamabad High Court sion that Aamir Mughal and (IHC) has written note his lawyers appeared in to administrative comcourt on February 6 on bail mittee to look into matapplication.

The ATC while exter of Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain of tending interim bail gave

Ambassador Bilal says: Efforts to combat Islamophobia anchored in int'l human rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Office in Geneva Bilal Ahmad has emphasized that efforts to combat Islamophobia were an-

consensus and take con-

crete action re HRC resolu-

chored in foundational principles of international human rights. eternal prosperity and event on international day stand united in our committo combat Islamophobia, ment to its future.' he underscored the need to reinvigorate the political

In a poignant expression of unity, the youth have resoundingly proclaimed a single sentiment that echoes from the depths of their souls: "Long Live Pakistan." This solemn declaration symbolizes their unwavering dedication to the long-lasting prosperity and unity of their beloved homeland.

Modi govt outlaws 2 more pro-freedom parties in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP) Modi-led Indian government continuing to suppress the Kashmiris' just struggle by banning profreedom parties in occupied Jammu and Kashmir has outlawed two more organizations Jammu an

The event was co-organized by the OIC Observer Mission and United Nations Geneva, a post on X said on Saturdav

He said that HRC resolution 53/1 signified that a large majority of humanity condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran Addressing a special to stigmatize Muslim communities.

Unchecked religious hatred could quickly become social malaise and political crisis, he further cautioned



ISLAMABAD: A Truck Art painter decorating a goods truck with different designs and pictures at Pirwadhai area in the Federal Capital.

QAU invites application for PEEF Master level scholarships

expressing a collective hope to see its cherished symbols - the flag, the moon, and the stars – forever filled with pride and joy. "Our love for Pakistan knows no bounds," declared Bilal Ahmed, a university student . "We pray for its

mit her nomination form Aseefa is poised to become ceremony as president for the by-election, sym- the second daughter or sisbolizing her debut in elec- ter of a head of state in the ing commitment to the toral politics and continu- nation's history to hold this

Kashmiris determined to achieve freedom goal against all odds: Shabbir Shah

Campaign against institutions case:

Court approves

bail after arrest of

court.

correct

ISLAMABAD (APP): Se-nior leader of All Parties mined to carry on their just Hurrivat Conference and Chairman of Democratic Freedom Party, Shabbir Ahmed Shah on Saturday has praised the grit and determination shown by the Kashmiris in their ongoing struggle against Indian occupation and tyranny. According to Kashmir

Media Service, Shabbir Ahmed Shah in his message from the infamous Tihar Jail in New Delhi said that the Kashmiris have been endurtinued their repressive acts ing Indian atrocities with including arresting youth courage for a long time, but even in the holy month of their spirit of freedom is Ramadan.

ISLAMABAD (Online):

bail after arrest in respect

of journalist Asad Toor in

launching campaign against

plea of journalist Asad Toor

came up for hearing before

special judge central Islamabad Hummayun

Hadi Ali Chattha counsels

for Asad Toor appeared in

The bail after arrest

Imaan Mazari and

Syed Ishfaq Hussain

the institutions case.

Dilawar Saturday.

the court.

Special court has approved

held at **National Skills** Universitv

mined to carry on their just ISLAMABAD (ÅPP) struggle against all odds. He said that the re-

forces' personnel have con-

Under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary Minsolve, courage, sincerity and brotherhood exhibited istry of Federal Education and Professional Training by the Kashmiri people in Muhyuddin Ahmad Wani, the face of Indian represa seminar was held on Frision and nefarious designs day at National Skills Uniwas exemplary. Facing versity Islamabad on the hardships and difficulties in occasion of International the struggle for freedom is Day of Islamophobia comsign of living nations, he memorated on March 15 added. Shabbir Ahmad Shah every year. lamented that the Indian

Joint Education Advisor Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and Director National Curriculum Council Secretariat Dr. Shafqat Ali

Janjua said that Pakistan is committed to dialogue and cooperation with the international community for the promotion of global values of tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence journalist Asad Toor among all countries and

Investigation officer of the case appeared in the case along with record. Counsel Hadi Ali Chattha added

filed Supreme Court observation in the court. Upon it the court inquired from investigation officer and special prosecu-tor FIA is this observation

added

peoples. Pakistan's initiatives are aimed at creating mutual understanding and promoting inter-faith harmony, he

He further said that the aim behind acts of Islamophobia is to increase inter-religious hatred and miss-understanding between the different civiliza-

"By associating Islam with extremism and terrorism wrongly leads to marginalization and stigmatization of Muslims" he

tions. FIA special prosecu-tor replied yes the observation is correct. The court while approving bail after arrest of Asad Toor ordered Shah special prosecutor of him to file surety bonds FIA also appeared in the worth Rs 5000.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters watching and playing cricket at Faizabad interchange.

Anti Terrorism Court date of February 13. (ATC) on administrative The decision sai symbolized her unwaverside who is accused of misconduct.

ism case,

Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir have written note to see the matter on adminispetitioner

trative side. However IHC accepted bail plea of Aamir Masood Mughal in terror-

The decision said that Kashmir including Peoples according to lawyers they Freedom League and later came to know their bail Jammu and Kashmir plea was rejected. Peoples League, as well as The investigation ofextended ban on Jammu ficer of the case confirmed and Kashmir Liberation the stance of counsels for Front (JKLF) for another five years

It was further said in The JKLF headed by the decision that the jailed leader Muhammad Petitioner's lawyers ac-Yasin Malik was first cused Judge Abul Hasnat banned in March 2019, said Zulqarnain of misconduct. a press release.

for scholarship application is 29th March 2024. As per the PEEF Master's Level Scholarship policy 2023-24, the minimum eligibility criteria includes that the student must have Punjab domicile, secured at least 60% marks or a minimum CGPA 2.5 in the graduation level examination held in 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 (spring

ISLAMABAD: Traffic crossing soil barrier on Margallah Avenue, mega project starts at E-11 and culminates at GT Road in Sangjani, the completion of D-12 to E-11 portion was due in the last month.

Residents gather for suboor, celebrating **Ramazan with family**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In bonds we share and the the spirit of Ramadan, the sense of community that streets of twin cities of this month fosters. Rawalpindi and Islamabad

Echoing Rahman's echoed with the laughter sentiments, Ayat Fatima and chatter of families and another attendee, remarked, friends gathering for suboor. "Ramadan holds a special The city's diverse place in our hearts, and gathfood points witnessed a ering for suboor with our bustling scene as residents loved ones amplifies the indulged in a variety of deblessings of this sacred lectable dishes, including month. It's a time for rethe renowned nihari, barbeflection, gratitude, and tocue, chicken karahi, and getherness.

The tradition of comhalwa puri, all emblematic of the Garrison city's rich munal suhoor holds deep culinary heritage. As dawn significance for Pindi's resibroke, families flocked to dents, symbolizing unity, their favorite food spots, generosity, and the imporeager to partake in the pretance of shared experiences. dawn meal before beginning As the month progresses, their fast. Amongst the the vibrant vibes of throngs of people, the at-Ramazan are expected to mosphere was filled with continue, culminating in the joy and camaraderie, as resijoyous celebrations of Eiddents expressed their deul-Fitr. With the aroma of light in celebrating Ramazan traditional delicacies lingering in the air and the sounds of laughter filling the streets, the twin cities embraces the spirit of Ramazan wholeheartedly, embody-

Talking to APP, Abdul Mateen, a local resident, commented, "There's something special about coming together with family and ing the essence of commufriends for suboor during nity and compassion that Ramadan. It's not just about defines this auspicious time the food; it's about the of the year.

with loved ones.

AJK leaders condemn ban on various pro-freedom organizations

and Pakistan chapter leaders on Saturday strongly condemned the ban on Jammu and Kashmir National Front, Jammu Kashmir People's league and Jammu Kashmir People's Political League by the fascist Modi government.

AJK leaders Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Imtiaz Wani in a joint statement issued in Islamabad said that banning a political organization on fabricated charges has exposed the real face of fascist India under Modi. They said that anyone who raised his voice for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris was suppressed on one pretext or another. The Hurrivat AJK leaders said that Kashmiris are making unprecedented sacrifices against the illegal Indian occupation and vowed that New Delhi cannot suppress the spirit of freedom by killing or arresting innocent people.

ISLAMABAD (APP): years of schooling or 4-year Quaid-i-Azam University education after HSSC/F.A/ F.Sc./Grade 12 examina-(QAU) has invited applications for the Punjab Edution). The students who cational Endowment Fund were awarded a BS degree from Quaid-i-Azam Univer-(PEEF) Master's Level sity are also eligible. Scholarship from M.Phil/ MS students admitted in

However, those who secured admission as a fulltime student in the current academic year (2023-24) in the university/degree awarding institution and the students enrolled in and 2nd semester (fall/spring) session and morning/evening/ afternoon sessions are also eligible.

Similarly, the declared monthly income of parents (from all sources) is equal to or less than sixty thousand (Rs. 60,000, while, the children of Govt. employees in BPS 1-4 are exempted from the condition of and fall sessions) from monthly income if salary is Punjab (minimum sixteen the only source of income.

Syed Ali Ahmed 34th **Death Anniversary being** commemorated on March 21

ISLAMABAD (APP): morial Society. The event The 34th death anniversary of the esteemed activist of the Kashmiri freedom movement and former President of Azad Jammu Kashmir, Ghazi-e-Millat Col. (Retd) Syed Ali Ahmed Shah is set to be commemo-

Fall-2023 & Spring-2024.

documents from QAU

Student's Financial Assis-

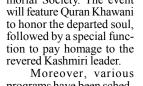
tance Office, the deadline

According to the

rated across Azad Jammu Kashmir on March 21. The occasion aims to reaffirm the commitment to

furthering the departed leader's mission of liberating Occupied Kashmir from Indian unlawful hold. The Kashmir Press

Club in Mirpur, the late leader's native city, will host a significant ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on March 21 under the auspices of the Syed Ali Ahmed Shah Me-



programs have been scheduled across AJK to commemorate the death anniversary, including visits to the late leader's mausoleum for prayers and offerings of fateha for the departed soul and other martyrs of Jammu & Kashmir.

These gatherings also seek to invoke prayers for the swift success of the Kashmir freedom movement, emphasizing the enduring legacy of Syed Ali Ahmed Shah in the pursuit of Kashmir's liberation.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling vegetables during holy fasting month of Ramadan at sasta Ramzan Bazar Abpara in the Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurrivat Conference Azad Jammu Kashmir

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

In essence, both play-



Sunday March 17, 2024

Moving away

Pakistan's politicians and policymakers must evaluate economic models that yield better results than the old fiveyear plans. Instead, just like its predecessor, the Shehbaz Sharif government is drafting a five-year roadmap outlining the many analyses have been way to economic resurgence and stability. The ultimate aim is to curb inflation, alleviate poverty and create jobs. A committee has been formed to consult the relevant ministries to set targets for the next five years in different sectors. Once the required information is gathered, the economics planners intend to roll out a "consolidated document" that includes five-year targets for a number of sectors such as energy, agriculture, SMEs, exports, taxation, IT, investment and privatisation.

A key component of economic strategy in the 1960s and 1970s in many countries, five-year plans lost their utility in the free market system that consolidated its global hold following the fall of the Soviet Union. Countries are drifting away from such planning models. In recent years, for example, this model has made way for a three-year action plan as part of India's 15-year vision document. Other economies have also replaced this document with similar rolling, strategic economic models, which are flexible and in sync with today's realities. Five-year plans are a legacy of highly centralised economic systems where governments used to which administers the elecshape their growth by controlling economic activities through permits, licences, voucher schemes, nationalisation, credit allocations, etc. In the modern world, where the private sector is considered the engine of economic growth and development, such government intervention in the economy creates distortions that violence begets vio-lence, but do we really and impedes growth. Pakistan is a major example of why a impact on Pakistan's chilgovernment should not be indren? When figures of authority, often viewed as volved in economic activities. role models by the youth, In the light of past experiresort to brutality, exhibit ence, it is advisable that the dishonesty in their pro-fession, and normalise government evolve a well disrespect towards ordithought-out strategy to reduce messages are we instilling its footprint on the economy, in impressionable young minds? By allowing acts encourage market forces, and of violence to go unpunhelp the private sector realise ished and, in some cases, even rewarding them, its full potential. The sole objective of the government's dewe fostering? velopment vision should be to evolve sound policies for private investors for a period of, say, 20 years, decentralise the power structure for quick decision-making, and regulate the markets justly to protect consumers. This paradigm shift in planning is not only needed to tality, for their strength fix the economy but is also in keeping with the sociopolitical able. Rather, I worry about the enduring imchanges in Pakistan. Centralised planning hasn't worked here beyond a certain to them. point. It is hard to recall if any five-year plan has achieved its goals. Even the much-touted life, and are likely to perearly plans implemented under petuate this cycle of the Ayub regime in the 1960s produced only business monopolies, and an oligarchy that thrived on the state's largesse. It would be much better for normalised within society, the new government to focus on real reforms and formulation ^{It can potentially nave} tragic consequences, as of policies needed to pull the country out of poverty rather than waste its energy and resources on antiquated ideas.

This is a very important **Aqdas Afzal** point.

One of the first concepts in undergraduate economics textbooks is the distinction between positive and normative analysis. A positive analysis describes the world objectively, or as it is empirically observed, while normative analyses focus on subjective value judgements, or how the world ought to be.

The electoral outcomes of Pakistan's recent elections will have a tremendous bearing on the country's political and economic future. Predict-ably, released on the future course of Pakistan's politics and economy. But, somehow, most of these analyses were either kneejerk reactions or clouded by the analyst's normative

bias What follows is a positive' analysis of Pakistan's political system, as it only describes what is observed and, based on these empirical observations, what is likely to happen in the future. At no point should this analysis be taken as a position for how things ought to be.

A great majority of recent analyses seem to take the position that, given post-election reality, volatility in Pakistan's political and economic system will only increase, leading to, according to some analyses, a complete inversion of the system. What the analyses are hinting at is that this government will not be able to get its sea legs, and, sooner rather than later, Pakistan's political system will sink into such bewildering chaos that it will also take down Pakistan's democracy and its economy

with it. It is true that a political system's volatility always impacts economic sentiments, which, in turn, can have disastrous consequences for economies. In the midst of a political crisis, fearing the worst, people may decide to sit on their liquid cash, thereby drying up all demand in the economy. It goes without saying that such sudden evaporation of demand from an economy will invariably have a significant negative impact on economic growth and job cre-

Stability-instability Be that as it may, the structural characteristics of Pakistan's political system are such that doomsday scenarios usually do not come to pass. The main reason behind this is the disproportionate amount of power that resides with the system's 'veto player', which often works as an off-switch - or a circuit breaker, if you will whenever the political sys-

tem starts vibrating uncontrollably Still, the results of the recent elections in Pakistan have forced everyone to sit up and take notice, as a political party has done better than all others despite significant constraints. These unexpected results and the ensuing aggressive strategy employed by the party has thus convinced most analysts that the present government will neither survive nor be able to stabilise the economy.

Where analysts have a right to proffer their assessment, it is probably optimal to analyse the present political situation in Pakistan in light of the stability-instability paradox an international relations are correct in ascribing sig-

theory regarding the effects nificance to the results of of nuclear weapons. This the recent elections in Pa-

theory came on the scene kistan. But, these results in the early days of the Cold have only brought about a War. The stability-instabilnew balance of power, or an equilibrium, between the ity paradox has wide currency, and international reveto player and the politilations scholars are virtucal party, especially as the ally unanimous in their bependulum seemed to have lief that the paradox largely swung too far in one direcexplains the conflict in tion nuclear South Asia.

Specifically, the stabilers have now demonstrated their capabilities, thereby ity-instability paradox is used to better understand imposing a stability-instahow the introduction of bility paradox on the ponuclear weapons impacts litical system. In a sense, relations between two adred lines have been re-idenversaries. The paradox retified, boundaries have been veals that where the posredrawn, and spheres of insession of nuclear weapons fluence re-demarcated. Unlends a certain strategic stader this strategic 'stability', bility, given the exorbitant there will still be skircosts of nuclear conflict, mishes, but neither player these arms also inject tactiwill venture towards discal instability, meaning that turbing the new equilibshort of breaching each rium. In other words, the other's red lines, both adskewed distribution of versaries are more likely to power in the Pakistani poengage in low-intensity litical system remains intact, and for this reason, localised conflict with each other. The late Prof Kenwhere there may be social neth Waltz, a leading interunrest, there is a very high national relations scholar, probability that this govargued that the presence of ernment will stay in place unless acted upon by an nuclear weapons actually tempts nuclear-armed exogenous force. neighbours to fight 'small wars'

What this situation also points out is that un-To be sure, analysts der the veto player's notso-invisible hand, the new government will be successful in not only completing

the present programme, but also in signing on the dotted line with the IMF for a new programme. Both programmes will go a long way in providing muchneeded stabilisation to the economy

All said and done, there is perhaps some efficacy of having an off-switch in the political system. But, the larger — and normative -question is about its control. Who controls the switch, why and how? In order to address this normative question, there is a need to first focus on the lopsided nature of power distribution in the political system

To this end, all stakeholders, adversaries and players will have to sit across the table from each other to restructure the characteristics of this political system. There are multiple routes available for the willing. One route goes by way of Turkiye, while the other goes by way of Indonesia. But, at least in the

short to the medium term, it appears that the dynamic equilibrium described by the stability-instability paradox will dominate in Pakistan's political system. -- Courtesy Dawn

How to solve the 'bijli' problem

Engineer Khurram Dastgir-khan

Electricity draws incessant howls of outrage from Pakistanis. From industrialists to lifeline consumers, plutocrats to from abourers; everyone is unhappy. Pakistanis demand cheap and plentiful electricity – everywhere all at once and it is nowhere in sight.

A library can be filled with reform advice, reports, books, diagnostics, and the 'way forward' for the electricity sector published over the last three decades. Yet no subject is as resistant to positive change, and no other is as complex and consequential for the national economy. The sector has hundreds of thousands of employees spread in every nook of the land, has massive exposure to international donors, and has an annual turnover of more than Rs3000 billion.

The Power Division, which administers the electhe most challenging assigneral government collects ment in the federal government. It has five distinct state capacity is better – the quagmires: generation, transmission, distribution, finance, and the regulator.

morass gets compressed each month into a single piece of paper: the bill for the consumer. The electricity bill is a

summary of Pakistan's historically poor governance. No wonder reading the bill is a nightmare. It is crosshatched with a plethora of tariff categories, taxes, ad-justments, and fees that have nothing to do with electricity. It is a vehicle for obtaining revenue that the citizens do not pay otherwise or the officials neither have the ability nor the integrity to collect.

On one hand, many regions of the country deem free electricity their ransom for staying with the federation or payment for a deprivation the federal government owes them to rectify On the other hand, central regions pay for the brazen theft in other parts of the country

In an insightful recent monograph on the subject. Prof Ijlal Naqvi calls electricity losses "an indicator of state capacity". The fed-

bills in the areas where its

deep pit of theft and losses. precisely the areas where the writ of the state is feeble

All is not despair, however. Although the pub-lic saw only higher bills, the 2022-23 PMLN-led government made the landmark achievement of shifting of balance in Pakistan's electricity generation decisively towards domestic fuels. In a mere sixteen months, the Shehbaz Sharif government added more than 5000MW new generation capacity to the system, two-thirds of which is domestic or sus-

tainable energy The addition included the completion and operationalization of pending CPEC projects, 1980MW from Thar coal alone. The K3 nuclear plant 1100MW was completed and put into operation as well as the Karot Hydroelectric generation of 720MW capacity. The

sequently a remarkable de-

crease in loadshedding from

summer 2022 to summer

Rules and processes

bilateral contracts in electricity were notified. The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project was launched to install direct-reporting electricity meters for all industrial, commercial, bulk, and agricultural users nationwide.

Transmission lines for the Diamer-Basha and Sukhi-Kinari projects as well as downstream grid stations were launched to ensure ready evacuation before generation begins. One achievement on this account was the completion and operationalization of the crucial Thar-Matiari transmission line within four months The landmark Pollan-Jeevani transmission line connecting Iran's grid directly to Gawadar was agreed upon, built, and completed swiftly ahead of time and inaugurated jointly by PM Shehbaz Sharif and the president of Iran.

Shehbaz Sharif's pre-The answer is in one state-of-the-art 1266MW vious government restored Haveli-II LNG plant was completed and put into operation. There was con-swiftly nationwide in entities of the analysis of the total structure operation. There was con-

west, and south - lies in a for competitive trading and 31, 2022 left by the previ- coal, hydel, nuclear, and wind. The new government should ensure fullsteam progress on under-

> plant in the country. Yet the killing piece of paper, the dreaded electricity bill remains. How to deliver inexpensive and abundant electricity to Pakistan? How to unshackle the consumer from crushing capacity charges? How to reduce the purported 'theft' but also the subsidies that are twice the amount of theft? How to reduce expensive electricity and increase less expensive electricity?

If the current govern-

ous government. Sharif's government removed import duty on all components for domestic manufacturing of solar panels and removed GST on the import of solar panels. Moving ahead of the rest of the world, PM Sharif broke ground last summer on the 1200 MW Chashma 5, which will be the largest nuclear-powered electricity

construction large-scale hydel-power projects at Dasu and Diamer-Basha Ensure Chashma-5 is built at pace and commissioned. Fifth. undertake massive reform in all five parts of the electricity sector and re-engineer the Power Division, which has become a hollow, under-qualified, and obsolete administrative shell. Nothing should be unthinkable when reforming. Nothing.

The above sugges tions are by no means a comprehensive list but first steps towards mending a broken sector. These will perform indispensable pro-poor and pro-growth functions: reduce the price of electricity; reduce the strain on our balance of payments: and reduce caroon emissions.

five distribution companies beginning with Islamabad and ending at Multan. The This exceedingly complex rest of the country – north, for an open and free market Violent role model

of burning and lynching **Kishwar Enam**

individuals under the pretext of religion, showcas-It is widely acknowledged ing a disturbing trend that reflects poorly on our nation in the eyes of the understand its profound world.

While aggression is indeed a basic human trait and a mechanism for survival, societies establish boundaries for acceptable behaviour, with cultural and moral values playing a significant role. Deternary citizens, what subtle mining when aggression crosses into pathological territory is pivotal. Aggression can be impulsive, driven by emotions, or it can be premeditated and calculated. Both exacerwhat kind of society are bate the consequences. Anecdotes, such as

Witnessing a police one shared by a friend, officer slapping a woman or dragging her by the hair leave one appalled. This particular story conas she asserts her basic cerned an adolescent agrights fills me with overgressively telling his whelming sadness. I think teacher in class that the back to the Pakistan of city now belonged to him my youth, where women because of his father's and girls were treated electoral victory, which with respect in public he knew to be controverspaces. My concern is not sial. One dreads the whether Pakistani women thought of such children being in charge of Pakistan's future. We must educate parents and bravery are undeniabout the grave repercussions of exposing children pact of such violence on violence in any form. to

our younger generations A child's psychoand the values we impart logical and behavioral development relies on vari-Children exposed to ous factors, including heviolence within their reditary and environmenhomes may perceive it as tal influences. From early interactions within the family to later experiences in school and the abuse within their own families. Without adcommunity, each encounter shapes a child's equate guidance on con-flict resolution and nonworldview. In addition, today's digital world meviolent alternatives, they dia assumes a substantial may resort to aggression role in shaping a child's as a means of asserting behavioral development. control. When violence is In the list of risk fac-

tors leading to aggression it can potentially have among children and adolescents are genetic preevidenced by incidents of disposition and brain inmob violence and vigilanjury (which could be contism. The prevalence of genital or traumatic); exsuch brutality, particu-larly among the youth, is posure to violence at home, in school or within evident in recent episodes the community; being a

victim of child abuse or bullying; ready access to firearms, including those kept at home; and the use of drugs and alcohol. Also, socioeconomic factors and watching violence

on digital media cannot be ignored. Research has shown violent behaviour in children can only be reduced when these risk factors are reduced to a minimum. A child can be a witness to violence, a victim of violence or a perpetrator. Therefore, the factor under our control that needs to be re--d-uced significan-tly or eliminated is the ex--posure of our children to violence at home, in the community and through the media.

The detrimental effects of exposure to violence on the mental health of children and adolescents cannot be overstated. Witnessing or experiencing violence can lead to various mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. If signs of violent behaviour are observed in one's child, and in the presence of any risk factors, seeking professional guidance is imperative. Whether through paediatricians or mental health experts, interven-

tions aimed at imparting anger management skills and fostering empathy are essential for preventing harm. Central to our efforts is the need for leaders to prioritise the wellbeing and mental health of our youth. Through collective action, we must strive to create a society where violence is unequivocally condemned and children are taught positive values and conflict-resolution skills. Let us endeavour to build a

leaders future where our children In the 21st century, can grow up in a safe and this unconscious, and somenurturing environment, times very conscious and free from the hovering blatant, bias is only to shadows of violence and Pakistan's disadvantage, fear. -- Courtesy Dawn wasting 50 per cent of the

record time after the devastating 2022 floods. It also reduced the circular debt of electricity by Rs154 billion on June 30, 2023 compared

government's policy that tions will benefit from all new power generation clean, economical energy in Pakistan shall hence- to generate new employforth be based upon indig- ment and power our comenous resources, of which ing economic growth. to the record level on March major ones are: solar, Thar Courtesy TheNews

Women emerging

Bina Shah International Women's Day

is in March. Throughout

the month, there are

wo-men's rights marches,

celebrations, and confer-

ences, globally and in Paki-

stan. Du--r-ing the same

month, the new federal and

provincial cabinets in Sindh

and Punjab were sworn in.

It's a safe bet that advisers,

Pakistan will most

markedly suffer from the

absence of Hina Rabbani

Khar, whose performance

as foreign minister raised the

bar for experience and com-

petence in the foreign min-

istry. Likewise, not rein-

stating Sherry Rehman as

climate change minister

threatens to undo the

progress Pakistan made at

COP27, establishing it as a

country deserving of a

ground-breaking loss and

damage fund due to climate

been put off by the ugliness

of the Pakistani political

scene; perhaps they are

able to see through the re-

petitive cycles of revenge

politics and election ma-

nipulation, and choose not

to participate in an inau-

thentic mimicry of repre-

sentative democracy. But

the more obvious argument

is that Pakistani women are

excluded from the running

before they even have the

chance to opt in or out.

Because women are still in-

visible in public life, men

do not even see women as

industrialised nations.

caused

by

change

well

country already suffering from brain drain. The noninclusion of women in the political leadership, apart from the few handpicked tokens chosen for their blood ties and loyalty to the leading families, is harmful on many levels. Julia Middleton, the

Each cabinet has at least founder of Common Purpose, a global leadership two dozen men and one woman only. The KP cabidevelopment organisation, net has no women. The observed that countries with female leadership fared Balochistan cabinet, yet to be formed, is likely to exbetter during the Covid-19 pandemic, and in handling clude women altogether. the climate crisis and other chief secretaries, and other disasters, than countries led government members will bv men. be predominantly male as Intrigued by this find-

ing, Middleton surmised that women must create their own pathways to success rather than follow the template of men. created Middleton anoth--er organisation called Women Emerging; she and her first cohort of global participants set off on a six-month-long 'expedition' to discover approaches to leadership that resonate with women in different parts of the world. Pakistani psychiatrist

Dr Ayesha Mian, who had made her own leap from clinical practice to entrepre-Perhaps women have neurship during the pandemic, was among that historical first cohort; she is now in the process of launching a Women Emerging chapter in Pakistan. This initiative will select Pakistani women from the organisational and corporate sectors for their own six-month expedition, in which they will explore elements of leadership that resonate with the strengths and competencies of women. During the expedition, the women will fo-

cus on three E's: their essence, or what is core to their identity; the elements around them in an organisation, country and culture that they must navigate; and their energy, in which essence and ele-Dawn

talent, education, experi- ments are aligned to creence and intelligence in a ate shift and impact in a positive feedback loop that will strengthen and embolden women on their leadership journey. In this way, the women will gain agency and become change agents, becoming part of a global network of women on similar expeditions around the world.

Women The Eme-rging model is not a conventional leader-ship programme, and nor will Women Emerg-ing teach prefor-m--ed, predesig-ned bu--siness skills, such as reading a budget she-et or creating cor--porate stra-tegy. Instead, fello--ws of the prog---ra-mme are taken through a group-based exploration of their own through conversation with women leaders from different parts of the world with other women in their peer gro-up, and in oneon-one sessions. This avoids the by now rather tired concept of empowerment, which implies imposed, rather than organic, personal and professional development.

The programme has its own unique curriculum, based in large part on the 100 podcasts that were recorded with the participants of the first global Women Emerging expedition on a variety of subjects pertaining to women and leadership. But this is not passive, one-way learning; Pakistani participants will add their own 'ingredients' to the global network of knowledge that the Women Emerging programme is building. It may be experimental, but don't underestimate the value of creating alternative rou-tes to success. When the patriarchal establishment doesn't allow women to take part in the political process, women will find the strength to chart their own course to the top. -- Courtesy

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Punjab Governor says: Foreign direct investment, local investors should be encouraged in Pakistan

Independent Report LAHORE: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Ahad Khan Cheema met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman. During the meeting, ways and means to increase foreign direct investment and local investment were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that foreign direct investment and local investors, especially new investors, should be encouraged in Pakistan. The Punjab Governor said that the officials of the government departments should serve the people and treat them with courtesy. Governor Punjab said that the federal government should play a vital role to meet the needs of finance in the universities of Punjab. He said that during the three-and-a-halfyear tenure of the previous

increase in the number of out-of-school children and reduction in the budget of many universities led to deficits. On this occasion,

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema vowed to make his best efforts for boosting the economy of the country

Earlier, newly appointed Commissioner Bahawalpur Nadir Chahta, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, Governor Punjab expressed good wishes to Commissioner Bahawalpur on assuming

office. Speaking on the homage to the martyred occasion, Punjab Governor army personnels, he said the people and providing against terrorism are

government from 2018 to 2022, reducing the education budget led to an should be a priority. He said that the district administration should take steps to control artificial inflation in the holy month of Ramazan . Governor Punjab said that Bahawalpur Division is an excellent city in terms of cleanliness. He said that

Bahawalpur division is one LAHORE: Member National Assembly Muhammad Usman Owaisi calls on of the most important Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. divisions of South Punjab. adding that steps should be taken to maintain its beauty, improve its educational institutions and bring improvement in all departments.

Meanwhile, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman paid tributes to the security forces personnel for foiling the terrorist attack on a security check post in North Waziristan. Paying

army personnels, he said Muhammad Balighur that the sacrifices of the Rehman said that serving security forces in the war them with basic facilities unforgettable

post in North Waziristan PESHAWAR (APP): Chief the bereaved families and Minister Khyber prayed for the highest Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Saturday condemned attack on security forces check post in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan.

Expressing his grief, Chief Minister personnel. the extended condolences to

personnel the families of the five personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel and a Captain, who lost their ives in the attack.

He empathized with sacrifices made by the

security emphasizing the nation's ranks for the martyrs and solidarity with them in the patience for the survivors. fight against terrorism.

CM KP condemns attack

on security forces check

Asserting that such cowardly acts will not The Chief Minister also conveyed his best wishes for the speedy deter the morale of the recovery of the injured security forces, the Chief Minister reiterated the Security forces' exhibited bravery in confronting the

reshuffles four bureaucrats

forces.

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Saturday has issued transfer and posting orders of four bureaucrats including Additional Secretary Chief Minister Secretariat.

According to KP E s t a b l i s h m e n t Department, Additional Secretary CM Secretariat, Muhammad Saleh has been posted as Director HRM/ Finance KP Public Procurement Regulatory Authority while Deputy Secretary Local Government, Naseer Ahmad has been transferred to CM Secretariat.

Ullah Arif Industries Department.

Maryam orders expediting Ramazan package

Minister Maryam Nawaz, digital monitoring of the Ramazan Nigheban Relief Package" is ongoing. The distribution

ational

ews

'Ramazan Nigheban Relief Package" has been completed and its digital monitoring has also been undertaken. Assessing

Ramzan Nigheban Package report which was submitted to the CM on Saturday, she directed to expedite the distribution process to the needy families, adding that said, "we cannot let the transparency should be poor people remain at the maintained in the distribution process of "Ramazan Nigheban reduction of prices is Package" under any satisfactory and she circumstance.

AHORE (APP): On the CM, the campaign against irection of Punjab Chief price hike has been accelerated across the province. It has been informed in the report issued by the Industries

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department that Price process to 2.832 million Control Magistrates families under the launched 1271 crackdowns against the profiteers. Random checking has been undertaken at 773,000 sites in15 days and 23,000 profiteers have been apprehended. A fine exceeding Rs62.2 million has been imposed on profiteers while 1,682 FIRs have been registered and 4,858 people have been arrested. The CM mercy of profiteers" adding that the recent trend in the Imstance. would not allow On the direction of hoarding at any cost.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Economics Affairs and Establishment Division Ahad Khan Cheema meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligur Rehman.

Senate elections 13 candidates submit nomination papers from KP

total of 13 candidates have submitted their nomination papers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Provincial Election Commission said here Saturday.

Qazi Anwar Advocate general, 2 technocrats and has submitted nomination scholars and 2 reserved papers for the seat of technocrat in Senate elections, Provincial Election Commission said. of Mehwish Ali Khan has submitted nomination submitted papers for the papers will be published women's seat, Waqar Ahmed Qazi, Khalid Masood have also Commission said. Scrutiny submitted nomination of nomination papers wil papers for Technocrat, be done by March 19 and Provincial Election Commission said. Likewise, Ayesha Bano also submitted her papers for Senate elections along with Azam Khan Swati and Syed Irshad Hussain have submitted their papers for the Senate papers for 2 Technocrat Technocrat seats, the Election Provincial Commission said. Irfan Saleem, Talha Mehmood, Dilawar Khan, Anwar Advocate, Waqar Faisal Javed, Mirza Ahmed Qazi.

PESHAWAR (APP): A Muhammad Afridi and Azhar Qazi Mashwani have also submitted papers for general seats, the Provincial Election Commission said.

Elections for seats for women will be held on April 2, Provincia Election Commission said.

The list of those who tomorrow on Sunday, the Provincial Election

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding Mines and Minerals.

Ministers highlight Ramazan package progress, steps to check price hike

LAHORE (APP): Punjab not set up previously Information Minister adding that agriculture fair Azma Bukhari said on price shops had been Saturday that for the first established in 25 districts time in the country's of Punjab. history a step had been taken to provide Ramazan

Azma Bukhari said that essential items were

CM condoles with bereaved families of martyred soldiers

terrorist attack on a check

post in North Waziristan

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while strongly condemning a

Communication and Works Shoaib Ahmed Bherth at the Planning and Development offices, here on Saturday. Chairman P&D Board Barrister Nabeel Javed Awan, Secretary C&W Sohail Ashraf, Secretary P&D Dr Asif Tufial, Member IDP

roads

Minister

LAHORE (APP): The P&D Dr Abid Bodala and Communication and Works Department has launched officers of Communication Works Punjab and attended the meeting. The secretary C&W presented repair and rehabilitation programme a comprehensive plan for 'Sarkain Bahal—Khushal under 'Sarkain Bahal-Khushal Punjab' slogan Punjab' programme, outlining the repair and rehabilitation of 590 arterial throughout the province. A meeting in this regard was chaired by and collector roads across for the province. All these roads would be completed in six months time period. Minister Bherth,

emphasizing the magnitude of the endeavour, revealed that a staggering 11,496 kilometers of roads would undergo repair and rehabilitation.

government's commitment to ensuring peace and security in the country. terrorists, sacrificing their Ali Amin Gandapur vowed that the sacrifices of lives for the nation, said Ali the security forces for the the nation's peace would not go in vain. KP govt

Amin Gandapur. He hailed **Minister chairs meeting** on roads repair and

rehabilitation program

hampers at doorstep of available in these model more than 6.4 million bazaars at 25 percent less families in Punjab.

Addressing a press conference along with Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen here at DGPR, she said that flour, sugar, rice, and they were being gram flour and ghee were included in Ramazan hampers.

'Nigheban Ramazan Nawaz package' and model bazaars mitigatin running were simultaneously to facilitate the maximum number of Bilal Yaseen said that there people. She said model bazaars had been set up in 15 districts of Punjab items included in Ramazan

where model bazaars were hampers. **Minister celebrates** Sikh Nanak Shahi calendar commencement

Shahi calendar.

Addressing

Muslim League Nawaz

(PML-N) government in

minorities in government

appointed as the general

Parbandhak Committee.

of

the

secretary

extended congratulations to LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minority the Sikh community on the Affairs and Chairman commencement of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC), Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, participated in a special ceremony held at Gurdwara Janamsthan Nankana Sahib to mark the beginning of the Nanak Shahi calendar of the Sikh religion.

implementing a five percent quota for religious The event was attended by a significant number of Sikh leaders from various countries. including Pakistan, as per a press release issued here on Saturday.

During the ceremony, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, alongside other Sikh leaders, unveiled the new Nanak Shahi calendar and

rate than the open market. She said that price control magistrates were discharging their duties in field after getting training monitored through a

dashboard. She said, "Punjab She said that the Chief Minister Maryam believes in mitigating the sufferings of the people." Punjab Food Minister

was no single complaint related to the quality of

has condoled with the breaved families of martyred soldiers. According to a Spokesman for the CM House Sindh, the Chief Minister expressed his

deep sorrow over the martyrdom of five army soldiers. The CM Murad said that the martyrs were our national heroes and valuable assets of the

country. He said that the terrorists would never succeed in their nefarious designs. He said that such

elements would be eradicated very soon. The entire nation is with the Pakistan Army, he added. **Court seeks**

report on red notices to **Moonis Elahi** through interpol

556th year of the Nanak LAHORE (Online): Court has sought report regarding the issuing of red notices to gathering, he emphasized that all religious minorities former Federal minister Moonis Elahi through in Pakistan enjoy equal rights and highlighted the interpol Police on next hearing. efforts of the Pakistan

Judge Tanvir Ahmad Sheikh of Special Court Lahore issued written order of FIA Money laundering case against Moonis Elahi. The court summoned

jobs. The minority affairs report on next hearing the minister underscored the serving of red notices to historic significance of a Moonis Elahi through Sikh being appointed as a interpol. provincial minister and a Sikh woman being

It has been said by the court in written order FIA Lahore presented report about freezing properties of Moonis Elahi



KARACHI: Senate elections candidates of Peoples Party (PPP) for Senate Candidacy are sitting with Provincial Election Commissioner or Returning Officer for submitting of nomination papers at election commission office in Karachi on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah also present on this occasion.

PPP finalises candidates for Senate seats from Sindh, other provinces

(APP): and Sarmad Ali for two Pakistan People's Party reserved seats for (PPP) has finalised Technocrat and Poonjo candidates for the Senate Bheel on one reserved seat seats from Sindh, other for non Muslim from Sindh province. Aimal Wali Khan

provinces and Islamabad. and Jan Muhammad Buledi will be joint candidates with ANP and According to final list issued by In-charge Bilawal House Media cell Surrender Velasai, Syed NP respectively while Mir Kazim Ali Shah, Ashraf Changaiz Khan Jamali and Jatoi, Masroor Ahsan, Sardar Umer Gorgaij for general seats from Nadeem Bhutto, Sarfraz Rajar and Dost Ali Jessar Balochistan provinces will be PPP's candidates for while Bilal Mandokhel on 6 general seats while Technocrat and Ishrat Quratul Ain Marri and Brohi and Kiran Baloch Rubina Qaimkhani for two will be the candidates on reserved seats for women, two reserved seats for Barrister Zameer Ghumro women.

Police solves blind murder case. killers arrested MULTAN (APP): Police on Saturday claimed to have solved the blind murder case of a person and arrested three outlaws including central accused within short time period. According to details,

a citizen named Ghulam Farid informed Makhdoom Rasheed police that unknown outlaws allegedly killed his son Saleem Akhtar near Chah Fida

Police registered the case and started search for the accused. CPO Sadiq Ali took notice of the incident and formed police teams for the arrest of the accused.

Student killed in road mishap BUREWALA (APP): A student was killed after motorcycle went

uncontrolled and collided with tractor trolley near Gaggu Mandi Sheikh Fazil unturned to organize road here Saturday. According to details,

a student named Muhammad Afaq resident of 375/EB was going to home from school. Suddenly the motorcycle went uncontrolled and collided with a tractor trolley near Gaggu Mandi Sheikh Fazil road.

As a result, the student died on the spot. Police handed over the body to heirs after

operating procedures necessary action.

24 hours.

were treated at the incident

the province this year.

appeals against acceptance and rejection of papers can be filed till March 21 and appeals will be decided by March 25. Provincial Election Commission said. So far 8 candidates have submitted nomination

seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Among them, Azam Khan Swati, Qazi Mohammad

8 dead, 1215 injured in 1122 road accidents in Punjab

pedestrians, and 409 Independent Report AHORE: At least eight passengers were among the persons were killed and victims. The statistics 1215 injured in 1122 road show that 265 accidents were reported in Lahore accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last which affected 295 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 87 Out of these, 522 people with serious injuries were shifted to in with 89 victims and at

third Multan with 70 hospitals, while 685 victims with minor injuries accidents and 66 victims. According to the data 1024 motorbikes, 54 autosite by rescue medical teams, thus reducing the rickshaws, 112 cars, 21

burden of hospitals. vans, 9 buses, 24 trucks and Furthermore, the analysis 72 other types of vehicles and carts were involved in showed 636 drivers, 36 underage drivers, 170 the accidents.

CM's aide says: **KP** making efforts to organize KP Cricket **Premier League**

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister portfolio, he has issued instructions completion of construction Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs, work at Arbab Niaz Cricket Syed Fakhar Jahan on Stadium as per Saturday expressed that he international standards as will leave no stone soon as possible. It has a worth to mention here that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the organizers of the Cricket Premier League in concerned League have organized Sindh and Talking to a delegation Kashmir Premier Leagues of the management of successfully and now their Kashmir Premier League delegation has met with the Advisor on Sports regarding the expected here, the advisor said that steps would also be taken holding of Premier League to play Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. the province. He said that During their meeting with efforts would also be made the Advisor on Sports, they gave briefing on the to host international cricket matches in the holding of KP Premier province. He said that soon League and essential after assuming charge of his arrangements.



HYDERABAD: A large number of people breaking fast (Iftar) during the holy month of Ramazan ul Mubarak arranged by sohni dharti youth council at Hyder Chowk.

IGP, prosecutor general Punjab jointly chair meeting

LAHORE (APP): Prosecutor General Punjab Farhad Ali Shah visited Central Police Office on Saturday and met IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, and both jointly chaired a meeting, which was attended by all regional police officers (RPOs), city police officers (CPOs), district police officers (DPOs), district public prosecutors through video-link.Deputy Prosecutor Generals Sultan Akbar Chatta, Arshad Ali Farooqui, Ahmad Saeed,

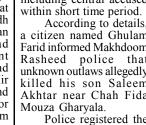
KARACHI

Usman Iqbal, Abdul Quddus, District Public Prosecutor Lahore Imtiaz Cheema were present in the meeting.It was decided in the meeting that direct coordination between the Central Police Office and the Prosecutor General Punjab would be made more effective. The prosecutor general Punjab and IGP Punjab signed a

memorandum understanding (MoU)

about the working standard

(ŜOPs)



Daily A oice of Massey Independent Sunday March 17, 2024

CommerceNews

Viable approaches can double agri sector's contribution to economy: PBF

Business Forum (PBF) Vice President Jahan Ara Wattoo has said that Pakistan's agriculture sector has great potential its current contribution of US \$ 03 billion to the economy can be doubled with viable per 40k, it led to a strong approaches encompassing all the aspects of this vital sector as well as the of concerns the stakeholders.

Addressing a workshop here Saturday, she said that in order to realize the full agricultural potential, there is a dire need to control cartels in

thus enabling the crop maize crop and its price component of the agri dwindled to half of its presector to yield tangible sowing value. In a results. She cited that the production cycle with very government is pinning high high costs, price slides like hopes on cotton growers these leave farmers and when it declared an crippled for years. For indicative price of Rs 8,500 urea alone, the growers paid more than Rs 120 revival of crops, and billion to black marketers production doubled in a this season, as the urea bags matter of one season. were being sold in the market at four different However, as soon as cotton started arriving in prices," she maintained. the market, the price Jahan Ara added that crashed to Rs 6,500 per

other agri puts such as maund as the market cartels diesel, electricity, water robbed the farmers of their and cropping/farming labour are also very costly, "We observed the while the growers by

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan the commodity markets same phenomenon in the and large have to pay 22 percent bank markup, and after these massive expenses, the prices collapse leave most of the farmers under heavy debts for years. PBF Chairman (South Punjab) Malik Suhail Talat said. "Agriculture does not fit into calendar years; it is all about continuity. Decisions made in 2024 regarding what to sow and what not to sow will define 2025. For the last decade or so maize has anchored agriculture. With its price crashing, each farmer will now have to decide whether to continue.



KARACHI: Affectees of Income Tax Employees Cooperative Housing Society are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

LCCI stresses facilitating

taxpayers amidst economic

Integrated

of the tax net.

undergo



hard-earned money.

RAWALPINDI: Citizens waiting in queues for purchasing subsidized flour on Stadium Road in the city.

Minister Shafay visits model bazaar at Johar Town

LAHORE Provincial Minister for Chaudhry Shafay Hussain Saturday visited Model Bazaar Johar Town to review prices, availability and quality of essential items.

While expressing indignation over absence of Punjab Food Authority convenience of the public lower prices in model Sarafa

(APP): the complaint cell and monitoring process in the Industry and Commerce office of the Model Bazaar. On this occasion,

Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that the people are day. getting real relief in the holy month of Ramadan through Model Bazaars. Due to ban

on the export of onion, the Rs.195,045 prices has come down, there will be further Rs195,945 whereas the statt in the Model Bazaar, he ordered to further improve the system of Model Bazaar for the available at 25 percent of Model Bazaar for the available at 25 percent Rs.179,616, the All Sindh bazaars, potatoes, onions

Textile exports earn \$11.145b for Pakistan in 8 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): million to 1,873.008 Pakistan earned million.

that

of

\$11,145.661 million from exports of textile products during the first eight months of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Saturday.

The exports of the textile product, however, witnessed a nominal decline of 0.65 percent during July-February (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$ 11,218.644 million during July-February (2022-23). The textile commodities witnessed positive trade growth included raw

cotton, the exports of which grew by 353.78 percent, from \$12.286 The per tola price of 24 million last year to \$55.752 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,050 and was sold at million this year. Likewise, the exports Rs.227,500 on Saturday

of cotton yarn increased by compared to its sale at 48.18 percent, from \$ Rs.228,550 on last trading 505.015 million last year to \$748.307 million this year The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.900 to and towels by 3.64 percent, from \$ 666.497 million to \$ 690.745 from million.

> wear also surged by 2.08 textile materials also w percent from 1,834.903 down by 0.60 percent. PunjabPK d Jewellers

The export of bed

textile commodities that Industry (LCCI) President witnessed negative growth

Kashif Anwar has penned include cotton cloth, a letter to Prime Minister exports of which declined Shahbaz Sharif to highlight by 8.71 percent, from \$1,380.075 million to critical issues, being faced by taxpayers and stressed \$1,259.897 million; cotton facilitating them by abolishing additional tax carded or combed by 32.55 percent, from \$0.970 million to \$0.654 million; burden. yarn other than cotton yarn was also sent to Federal by 18.06 percent, from Minister for Finance and \$29.562 million to \$24.224 Revenue, and the Chairman million, and knitwear by

of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), according 5.69 percent, from \$ 3,078.882 million to \$ to LCCI spokesman here 2,903.541 million. Saturday Likewise, the exports LCCI President said tents, canvas and tarpaulin by 10.72 percent,

that recent amendments introduced by the Federal from \$86.332 million to Board of Revenue (FBR) \$77.080 million, readythrough SRO 350(I)/2024, dated 7th March 2024 made garments by 2.99 percent, from \$ 2,380.837 which perceived as million to \$ 2,309.663 disproportionately million. The exports of art, impacting tax-compliant The taxpa entities and hindering comply silk and synthetic textiles also decreased by 10.88 percent declining from

the exports of all other

textile materials also went

Balance of \$273.080 million to China's loans \$243.361 million, made up articles by 1.62 percent, to small from \$484.765 million to \$476.921 million whereas

businesses totals 70.9 trln yuan BEIJING (Xinhua/APP):

The balance of loans for ISLAMABAD (APP): deliberations with the

A copy of the letter

challenges LAHORE (APP): Lahore private sector expansion. requirement, would not be Chamber of Commerce and He said that the able to file his electronic electronic return filing return without the prior the

Page

06

of requires commissioner approval approval through the ommissioner. He said that inder the Risk Information System (IRIS) provisions of the same if sales surpass five times the capital and non-SRO, failure on the part of the seller to submit a return by the stipulated deadline submission of balance sheet within thirty days. It will would result adjustments being made to create undue hardships for the compliant taxpayers the buyer's return. and force them to move out

The Integrated Risk prmation System Information The SRO also states (IRIS) would subsequently eliminate that the individuals, invoices from the nonassociation members, or directors of single- compliant seller and shareholder companies correspondingly deduct input tax credit from the would be mandated to biometric buyer's return. verification at a National

He also pointed out the SRO 1842(I)/2023 dated 21.12.2023 which Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) e-Sahulat Centre during the says that a retailer whose month of July every year. The taxpayer, who fails to comply with this deductible withholding tax under Section 236H of the Income Tax Ordinance.

President ICCI says: Govt urged to start deliberations with business leaders for budget 2024-25

micro and small businesses President Islamabad business leaders, and hamber of Commerce and

incorporate

Gold rates decline by **Rs.1,050** per tola ISLAMABAD (APP)

and also directed increase the onion stalls and immediately.

provincial The minister checked the weight and quality of the bags at the flour stall and checked the quality of meat at the fresh chicken sale center. He observed the process of supplying the being fully activated, selfitems to the elderly in the inflation will be stopped at senior citizen camp.

The minister also allowed to exploit the poor reviewed the process of people in the Ramadan and redressal of complaints in model bazaars.

LAHORE (APP): National

Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has

successfully acquired and

taken possession of 2553

acres, 06 Kanals and 09

Marla land for construction

of 600 MW Solar Power

Project in Tehsil Chowk

Sarwar Shaheed of

according to the company's spokesman

here Saturday. He added that NTDC Land

Acquisition Collector

announced award of the

said land under Section-11

of the Land Acquisition

Act 1894, today, i.e.

March 16, 2024 in the

presence of Director

General (Land) NTDC,

Chief Engineer Project

Delivery (North) NTDC

Lahore and others at the

proposed site of the solar

power project. The 600

and

Muzaffargarh district, power in the system by

Transmission

Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at tomatoes are also available at 25 percent lower prices in model bazaars. Rs2,600 and Rs.2,229.08 Some model bazaars respectively.

have also started free home The price of gold in delivery for senior citizens. the international market decreased by \$13 to \$2,175 from \$.2,188, the He said that the price control committees are also Association reported. any cost - no one will be

Sri Lanka records 2.3 pct negative GDP NTDC acquires 2,553 acres growth in 2023 COLOMBO (Xinhua/ APP):The GDP growth rate of Sri Lanka for the of land for 600MW solar power project in Muzaffargarh

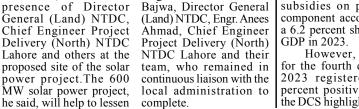
a 2.3 percent negative growth rate, the Department of Census and reliance on expensive fuelgrowth based power generation as Statistics (DCS) said in a per the decision of the Government of Pakistan

Overall, agricultural activities expanded by 2.6 percent, while industrial and service activities contracted by 9.2 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively, in the year Jhang (600 MW). The and 2023, the DCS said.

The three major economic activities of the economy-agriculture, industry, and services, contributed their shares to the GDP, at current prices, NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan by 8.3 percent, 25.6 percent and 59.9 percent respectively. The "taxes less

appreciated the efforts of Engr. Sohail Mumtaz subsidies on products' component accounted for a 6.2 percent share of the GDP in 2023.

However, the GDP for the fourth quarter of 2023 registered a 4.5 percent positive growth, the DCS highlighted.



year 2023 was estimated as provincial government is statement on Friday. striving to provide relief to people during the holy month of Ramazan as

delivered more than 2.8 million ration bags to deserving families across the province under the Nigehban package.

district

during a briefing by officials at a meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at the Civil Secretariat here on Saturday. The meeting reviewed the provision of ration bags and price control measures. The administrative secretaries of industries, agriculture, doorsteps Chairman PITB, DG families Punjab Food Authority, challenge.



Bukhari said along with Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen addressing a press conference.

2.8 mln ration bags delivered under **Ramzan package**

LAHORE (APP): On the DIG Special Branch and directives of the Chief officers concerned attended Minister Punjab, the the meeting while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link.Officials briefed the Chief Secretary that 319,000 ration bags were authorities provided to deserving people yesterday. They said that imported onions Ramazan were available at a price of Rs.95 per kg in the 10 These details emerged agriculture fair price (AFP) shops established in

Ramazan bazaars in Lahore, while the sale of imported onions in Rawalpindi, Faisalabad Sargodha and Gujranwala would start from today. The chief secretary

in

said that the delivery of ration bags at the doorsteps of deserving families was a big

Rates of vegetables, fruits soar in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The rates of vegetables and fruits soared as the wave of inflation could not be reduced in Peshawar.

The price of vegetables, fruits and live chicken continues to increase and the people are worried about the Holy month of Ramadan.

'We are witnessing an increase in the rates of vegetables and fruits and are compelled to buy because of the Holy month of Ramadan," a housewife told APP during a visit to the vegetables and fruits markets.

She said that the 120, okra 340 rupees are shopkeepers and vendors have official rates issued by being sold per kg.

Chinese banks totaled 70.9 trillion yuan (about 10 trillion U.S. dollars) at the end of 2023, according to a China Banking Association report.

With the popularity of automated banking services and online banking services, the number of over-the-counter friendly. transactions exceeded 491 billion last year, up 9 percent year on year, the

report said. The banking sector had some 41,700 customer service personnel at the end of 2023, it said.

This year, China's banking industry

Industry, Ahsan Zafar suggestions in the budget Bakhtawari has called upon document to ease their the Government to problems which in turn will immediately initiate benefit the masses, he said. deliberations with the

He expressed the business leaders in hope that the sitting government as per its connection with the forthcoming budget 2024election manifesto will pay 25 to make it businessheed to the issue on a priority basis and formulate long-term In a statement issued by ICCI, Ahsan Zafar policies in the best interest Bakhtawari said that owing of the business community

and ultimately the commor to the existing high inflation rate, the trade deficit is on the rise and the hardships of the business community have multiplied. Hence the situation demands that the Government should start of the entrepreneurs.

man. The President ICCI added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a visionary leader and is well aware of the difficulties



QUETTA: People are busy in buying fruits before Iftar times as demand of food items increased in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, at Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta.

EU allocates 500 mln euros for ammunition production

PHNOM PENH (Xinhua/ APP): The World Bank has approved an additional 35 million U.S. dollars credit to Cambodia for improving climate-resilient rural roads in three provinces, its ammunition production as part of its press release said on support for the European Saturday. defense industry.

In a statement, the commission said this would Road allow the European defense industry to increase its ammunition production to two million shells a year by the end of 2025. Its annual production capacity for 155 mm shells reached 1 Tboung million per year in January provinces.

have a population of over 2 million people, of whom 80 percent live in rural increasing its ammunition production and readiness.

Improving climate-resilient roads WB approves additional \$35mln credit to Cambodia

areas, the press release said adding that the RCIP was approved in July 2020, with financing of 100 million U.S. dollars. This additional credit will help pay for higher than anticipated project costs, mainly for road works contracts, it said, adding that high inflation and The credit will support the Cambodia Connectivity price increases of key Improvement Project inputs, including fuel and (RCIP), which aims to bitumen, over the past three years have resulted in improve climate-resilient road access to markets, higher costs than estimated in 2019 before the approval health services, and of the original project. Currently, road rehabilitation schools across Kratie, Kampong Cham, and Kĥmum works have been underway across 130 km of targeted The three provinces national and provincial

roads, and 142 out of 270 km of targeted rural roads, the press release said.



(GoP). NTDC is also in the

process of acquiring land

for two other solar power

projects in district Layyah

(1200 MW) and district

addition of 2400 MW solar

constructing these projects

will help meet the energy

demand and increase the

share of solar energy in the

thermal-dominant energy

mix.Managing Director

LAHORE: An artisan busy making small wooden items to attract customers at his workplace.

the concerned quarters of the district administration but I do not know why they are not following the rate. The butchers are selling the meat as Rs. 1000 per kg while the official rate is 750 per kg, she added.However, the

district administration officials have tried their level best to control the prices according to the official price list but so far

they have failed. Sales of onion 260, tomato 160, garlic 650 and ginger 610 per kg while potato 90,

kachalu 240, green pepper 340, capsicum 320, brinjal 160, cauliflower

To assist the European industry in

BRŪSSELS (Xinhua/ APP): The European Commission on Friday announced the allocation of 500 million euros (about 544 million U.S. dollars) to boost

Daily Noice of Masse,

Sunday March 17, 2024

International News



Iran Air could be banned from Europe if Tehran sends missiles to Russia, US warns

G7 warns Iran not to give Russia ballistic missiles for Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: G7 nations are prepared to respond with severe new penalties that could include a ban on Iran Air flights to Europe if Iran proceeds with the transfer of closerange ballistic missiles to Russia, a senior US official said on Friday."Our message today is, if Iran proceeds with providing Russia with ballistic missiles, the response from the international community will be swift and severe," the official told a small group of reporters.

joined G7 allies in issuing a statement warning the Is-lamic Republic not to pro-that the transfer has already ceed with the transfer in the taken place as Reuters reaftermath of a Reuters reported, there clearly was an port that Tehran has proeffort by Tehran to advance vided Russia with a large negotiations with Moscow number of powerful suron the missiles. face-to-surface ballistic mis-UN Security Council siles for use in its invasion

restrictions on Iran's export of Ukraine. The official, of some missiles, drones and speaking on condition of other technologies expired anonymity, said one option in October. However, the under consideration "would United States and European have the effect of ending Union retained sanctions on flights from Iran Air, its flag-Iran's ballistic missile proship state-owned carrier. gram amid concerns over into Europe - point being, this is not business as usual." exports of weapons to its proxies in the Middle East The official said that and to Russia.

Ballistic missiles would be a powerful new weapon for Russia to use in its war in Ukraine.

The United States has said Iran has already provided Russia with drones, guided aerial bombs and artillery ammunition that Moscow has used to attack Ukrainian targets.

Washington has been on high alert for a year about what it has described as an unprecedented Russian-Iranian defense partnership that will help Moscow prolong its war in Ukraine as well as pose a threat to Iran's neighbours.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter Kim Ju Ae attend a military demonstration in North Korea.

The United States

Israeli forces detain a Palestinian man near the Damascus Gate as he attempts to attend the prayer of Ramazan at Al-Aqsa mosque.

Biden praises US senate Al Shabaab lays siege to hotel in leader speech calling for Somalia; 3 killed **Israel elections**

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden praised Friday a speech by the US Senate leader urging new elections in Israel, saying many Americans shared concerns about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the Gaza war. The call by Demo-

cratic Senate majority chief Chuck Schumer, the highest-ranking elected Jewish American in history, was the most strident rebuke of Israel yet by a senior US official since Hamas's Oc-

tober 7 attacks. "He made a good speech, and I think he expressed serious concern shared not only by him, but by many Americans," Biden said when asked about the speech after a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at the White House. Biden told reporters in the Oval Office that Schumer had contacted his staff to say he was going to make the comments, and added that

Monitoring Desk MOGADISHU: Three people were killed in an

hours-long siege claimed by Al Shabaab fighters at a popular hotel near the presidential palace in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Thursday. Armed fighters stormed the SYL hotel in a hail of bullets before security forces announced they had brought the situation under control after more than 13 hours. It broke a relative lull in violence by the Al Qaeda-linked group, demonstrating its continued ability to strike despite a major military offensive against them.

Two killed in shelling of

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Two people

were killed and three

Putin, oversees drills Monitoring Desk new high stage," the leader's sister Kim Yo Jong SEOUL: North Korean said, according to state meleader Kim Jong Un pubdia KCNA, using North licly rode in a car given to Korea's official name, the him by Russian President Vladimir Putin in "clear proof" of the strengthening Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Kim Jong Un oversaw air warfare drills on Friday friendship between the two

countries, state media reported on Saturday. Pyongyang and Mosand urged "realistic" preparation for combat, KCNA said, after joint annual drills cow have forged closer ties involving South Korea and since Kim met Putin in the United States wrapped Russia in September and up this week. vowed to deepen military

North Korea's Kim

rides car given by

"Only realistic training directly related to warfare can prepare sol-diers as real combat fight-They deny Western accusations that North Korea is supplying Russia ers," Kim said, according to KCNA. with artillery shells and missiles used in Putin's in-

The South Korea-US joint drills were the first Kim's ride on Friday since Pyongyang in No-vember scrapped a 2018 in the Russian Aurus limousine is "clear proof of the DPRK-Russia friendship, DPRK-Russia friendship, which is developing in a comprehensive way on a sions.

Hamas proposes new six-week ceasefire in Gaza

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Hamas has proposed a new six-week truce in Gaza and prisoner swap on Friday, a day after Pales-tin-ian president Mahmud Abbas appointed Moham-med Mustafa, a long-trusted adviser on eco-

the Gaza Strip and a per-

On the other hand, 69-

manent ceasefire".

nomic affairs, as prime min-

relations.

vasion of Ukraine.

Shtavyeh now faces the task of forming a new gov-ernment for the Palestin-ian Authority, which has limited powers in parts of occupied West Bank.

The White House welcomed the appointment, calling on him to deliver "credible and far-"The agreement is for Mustafa has served as

a six-week ceasefire and a deputy prime minister for prisoner exchange," a

Putin vows to 'punish' Ukraine for attacks that mar presidential election

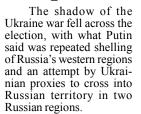
Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine on Friday of aiming to disrupt Russia's presidential election by shelling its territory and using 2,500 armed soldiers to try to pierce his country's borders, and vowed to punish Kyiv for its actions.

The first day of the election was also marred by disruptions, including dye being poured into ballot boxes, a Molotov cocktail thrown at a polling station in Putin's home town, and reported cyber attacks.

Millions of Russians cast their ballots across the country's 11 time zones at the start of the three-day tanks and 40 armoured veelection, which is almost certain to hand Putin six hicles and that 60 per cent more years in the Kremlin. of the soldiers were killed.

Indian navy intercepts Somali pirates on cargo ship Ruen

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: An Indian navy warship has intercepted the hijacked Ruen cargo ship and demanded the Somali pirates on board surrender, a navy spokesperson said on Saturday. The pirates who allegedly hijacked the Maltese-flagged bulk cargo vessel on Dec 14 opened fire on the navy ship in international waters.



"These enemy strikes will not remain unpunished," a visibly angry Putin said at a meeting of Russia's Security Council, which includes military and spy chiefs as well as the most powerful civilian state officials. Putin said there had been four attacks on the Belgorod region and one on Kursk by armed Ukrainian proxies numbering about 2,500. He said they had 35

Ukrainian officials said earlier on Friday that Russian armed groups based in Ukraine who are opposed to the Kremlin carried out the attacks in the Belgorod and Kursk regions.

Amid the Ukraine war, the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two, Putin, 71, dominates Russia's political landscape and none of the other three candidates on the ballot paper presents any credible challenge.

More than 114 million Russians are eligible to vote, including in four regions of Ukraine that its forces only partly control, but which it has claimed as part of Russia. Ukraine says the staging of elections there is illegal and void.

22 migrants drown off Turkiye The boat capsized

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Twenty-two off Turkiye's largest island, called Gokceada, migrants, including seven children, drowned after a boat capsized off the Turkish coast on Thursday

managed to make it out of

the water on their own, of-

ficials said. The victims'

nationalities were not yet

night

known.

which is located in the Aegean Sea off the coast of the north-western province of Canakkale, Two people were res-cued by the Turkish coastguard and another two near Greece's Lemnos island

"The Turkish coastguard found the bodies of 22 people, including seven children," the governor's office said in a statement.

on April 19 in world's Russian border city Belgorod, largest election governor says

India to begin voting

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India will begin voting in phases start-ing April 19 to elect a new parliament, the country's election authority said on Saturday, the world's largest election in which nearly one billion people are eli-gible to cast ballots.

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

A victory would make economy in the world at Modi, 73, only the second present, investment in infrastructure as well as welprime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's fare programmes for the poor. independence hero and its

Jail terms of up to seven years for 12 who stormed Hong Kong legislature in 2019

Square protests in Beijing.

Hong Kong's legislative

council building on July 1

2019, smashing windows

and streaming inside as

public anger mounted over

an extradition bill that

would have allowed au-

thorities to send people to

Those sentenced by

mainland China for trial.

guilty

Protesters broke into

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: A Hong Kong court on Saturday sentenced 12 people to jail terms from more than four years to nearly seven years in a high-profile rioting case linked to the storming of the city legislature during a prodemocracy protest in 2019.

The incident was a pivotal moment in the months-long protests that embroiled the China-ruled city in the boldest populist uprising against Chinese Communist Party rule months after pleading not since the 1989 Tiananmen

first prime minister, to win a third straight term. Modi and his party have been in campaign mode for months before the dates for the vote were announced. The prime minis-

wounded in a Ukrainian missile strike on the Russian border city of Belgorod, the regional govter has been flying around ernor said on Saturday, as the country almost every Russian citizens vote day, inaugurating new through Sunday in a threeprojects, making announceday presidential election. ments, taking part in reli

In a statement on the gious events and addressmessenger app Telegram, ing public and private meet-Belgorod Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said ings. In his speeches, Modi has been showcasing ecothat the city had been struck nomic growth during his by missiles fired from a Vamtwo terms which has repire rocket launcher system. sulted in India becoming the He said that vehicles and fastest growing major buildings had been damaged both in Belgorod and in surrounding villages.

> Aid group says 'unloading' food barge in Gaza Monitoring Desk GAZA CITY: A United States charity said on Fri-

day it was unloading the first shipment of food aid sent via a maritime corridor from Cyprus to war-rav-

"World Central Kitchen is unloading the barge connected now to the jetty," said Linda Roth, a spokesperson for the group. The Israeli military confirmed that the vessel the Open Arms, had arrived in Gazan waters and said





in Gaza and an exchange of several dozen Israeli hos-

humanitarian assistance for Haiti on Friday, according to a statement seen by Reuters in advance, as the Caribbean nation faces a long-running political and humanitarian crisis.

The announcement of further aid, first reported by Reuters, comes as gang violence has spiraled in Haiti, fueling a humanitarian crisis, cutting off food supplies and forcing hundreds of thousands from their homes. The additional assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development will go toward immediate food assistance, essential relief supplies, relocation support

economic affairs held a Hamas official said after board seat at the Palestine Investment Fund and weeks of so far fruitless mediation efforts, adding worked in a number of sethat the group would want this to lead to "a complete nior positions at the World Bank. (Israeli) withdrawal from

least 31,490 Palestinians have been killed and 73,439 year-old Mustafa who has wounde replaced Mohammed mon-ths. wounded in past five

Blinken says US working to 'bridge remaining gaps' on Hamas-Israel deal

Monitoring Desk tages for Palestinian prisoners, an official from the VIENNA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said militant group told AFP on Friday. Prime Minister Friday that Washington was working "intensively" Benjamin Netanyahu's ofwith its partners "to bridge fice said Israel would send the remaining gaps" for a deal to free hostages held a delegation to Doha for another round of talks on seby Hamas and secure a curing the release of hosceasefire in Gaza. tages in Gaza. "Yes, there has been a

"I think it reflects the counter-proposal put for-ward by Hamas. I obvisense both of possibility and of urgency to get an agreement, to get a ceasefire, to ously can't get into the details of what that involves, get the hostages back, to get but what I can tell you is even more humanitarian aswe're working intensively sistance in," Blinken said with Israel, with Qatar, with about Israel's move. When asked about a possible Israel military offensive on Rafah, Blinken said the US had not seen such plans, reiterating that Washington wants a "clear and implementable plan" to ensure civilians are out of harm's way

US aid chief to announce \$25 million in humanitarian assistance for Haiti

said. "Over the past weeks, violence by organized criminal groups has escalated dramatically and

worsened what is already a dire humanitarian situation in Haiti," Power said in the statement. "The untenable violence serves only to delay the democratic process while upending the lives of millions. We urge all actors in Haiti to stop the violence and make the necessary concessions to allow for transparent, inclusive, and credible elections, unimpeded delivery of aid.

In Israel's military offen-sive on Gaza Strip, at

> Trudeau says he mulls quitting

his job **Monitoring Desk**

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose Liberals are trailing badly in the polls, said on Friday he thought about quitting his "crazy job" every day, but insisted he would stay in

office until the next elec-

tion. That vote must be held by October next year and recent surveys of public opinion show the Liberals would be crushed by the right-of-centre Conser-vatives. Pollsters say voters are tiring of Trudeau, who took office in Nov 2015.

'I could not be the man I am and abandon the fight at this point," he told French-language broadcaster Radio-Canada in a lengthy interview.

> **French** govt 'weathered 48-hour cyber attack'

Monitoring Desk RENNES: A cyber atta-ck of "unprecedented intensity" against the Fre-nch government claimed by pro-Russian hackers this week failed to stop state operations running, a minister said on Friday. The attack came just months before Paris hosts the Olympics Games. The 48-hour effort, which started on Sunday, "hit 800 administrative centres at once", but "at no moment were communications down ... every civil servant was well-informed in real

the functioning of the state".

time and it did not destabilise



Members of an electoral commission check documents of voters at a polling station during the Russia's presidential election.

India's top political donor faces fraud, tax evasion probes

Monitoring Desk MUMBAI: India's largest known political donor is a lottery company which has been the subject of fraud and tax evasion probes, according to data published weeks before elections.

The election commission published late on Thursday a list detailing buyers of electoral bonds, a controversial funding scheme that has helped Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party build an immense campaign war chest dwarfing its rivals.

Monitoring Desk

enthusiasts meet in the

Thai capital Bangkok to

chat and have a good time.

But it's a pastime that may

encer who runs his own

cannabis shop regularly

touts recreational marijuana

as good for the country's

economy on his online plat-

form "Channel Weed Thai-

sector could be worth \$1.2

billion by next year, accord-

ing to the estimate by the

University of the Thai

Chamber of Commerce.

The booming cannabis

land

The 31-year-old influ-

be coming to an end.

Electoral bonds account for the lion's share of political donations in India, but the Supreme Court ruled them illegal last month, saying the scheme violated the right of voters to know who was financing their representatives.

Nearly \$165 million of the bonds issued between April 2019 and January of this year, or around 11 per cent of the total, were bought by a company helmed by Santiago Martin, dubbed the "Lottery King" by Indian media.

Thailand's flourishing cannabis culture to end as government seeks ban

"Where (else) in the world can we lie around on BANGKOK: Thodsapol the beach and enjoy a joint," Thodsapol told Hongtong is enjoying a smoke with his friends at Reuters, taking a puff from the "Green Party", a venue where recreational cannabis his bong

But the Thai government is looking to stamp out cannabis culture with a ban on its recreational use to be rolled out by the end of the year. Medical use will still be permitted. Thai Health Minister Cholnan Srikaew, in an interview with Reuters last month, described recreational marijuana as a "misuse" of cannabis that has a negative impact on Thai children and could lead to other drug abuses. Recreational cannabis flourished in Thailand after the country became the first in Asia to fully decriminalise the substance in 2022.



Presidential candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye greets supporters after he was released from prison in Dakar. Senegal.

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US aid chief Samantha Power is set to announce \$25 million in

and emergency health care, Power said in the statement. Psycho-social support, safe drinking water and protection for the most vulnerable, including women and girls, will also be part of the aid, Power

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

curity

UN passes Pakistan's resolution calling for combating Islamophobia

sented by Pakistan's Permanent Řepresentative to the United Nations to combat Islamophobia has been successfully passed by the world peace body, signalling a collective effort to ternational community address the growing concerns surrounding the issue on a global scale.

The resolution, spear-headed by Pakistan, gar- ceived overwhelming supnered widespread support from member states, underscoring the urgency and importance of combating discrimination and violence against Muslims. It specifically calls for action to end the ongoing violence targeting Muslims in the context of Islamophobia.

A key aspect of the resolution is the request for the UN secretary-general to appoint a special envoy tasked with combating Islamophobia. The resolution underscores the need

UNITED NATIONS for concerted efforts to combating Islamophobia (INP): A resolution pre- counter Islamophobia, and their commitment to international peace and se-

> By addressing the root causes and manifestations of this phenomenon, the inaims to foster a climate of mutual respect and har-

The resolution re- bly. port, with 113 member states voting in favour of its adoption. Significantly, there were no votes cast against the resolution, highlighting the unanimous consensus among participating nations on the importance addressing

Islamophobia. worthy that 44 countries, including India, chose not to participate in the voting raises questions about the bigotry, stance of these nations on stressed

recognising it as a threat to promoting religious tolerance and inclusivity on the global stage. Meanwhile, on the In-

ternational Day to Combat Islamophobia, UN chief António Guterres appealed to maintain peace and order in Ramazan in his address to the General Assem-

António Guterres said sectarian rhetoric is defaming communities. "We must unite to fight intolerance and bigotry." he stated. He further said that social media platforms were fuelling hate speech, calling for an end to harassment

based on religion. 'We cannot continue However, it is note- to fight hate and bigotry. Today's terrorist incident in New Zealand shows that we must all stand together process. This decision and root out anti-Muslim Guterres



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H. E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi and Dean, School of Journalism Tsinghua University, Mr.Zhou Qingan inaugurated the new office of Pakistan Culture and Communication Centre, Beijing, China.

UN moot calls for strong political will to deal with climate threats

NEW YORK (INP): A Cli- threats posed by this phemate moot, hosted by Pakistan at the United Nations has called for prioritizing welfare of women and children and urged to demonstrate a stronger political will to deal with the threats posed by climate change

The panel discussion on climate change was hosted by the Permanent ality in Building Climate global greenhouse gas emis-Mission of Pakistan to the Resilience: Adaptation, sions. United Nations in collabo- Loss and Damage" was

women who happen to be most adversely impacted by the climate change nomenon. They said that urgent

steps needed to be taken to events work out modalities for the In his keynote address, Ambassador Munir mobilization of resources to Akram, Permanent Reprecater to the growing financial needs for the success sentative of Pakistan to the of the adaptation and resil-UN Pakistan's vulnerability to ience strategy. The panel discussion climate change, despite

on "From Rhetoric to Re- contributing minimally to

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif welcoming the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's economic roadmap has termed it a historic and revolutionary

Muhammad

tives

initiative measure. Hailing the Prime underscored Minister's economic road map, she said that vision of Shehbaz Sharif for promotion of foreign investment was admirable.

Muhammad

them

He highlighted the se-

NEW YORK: A view of panel discussion on climate change hosted by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in collaboration with the Islamic Relief Worldwide and UNICEF.

PUC escalates efforts to foster interfaith dialogue, harmony on global scale

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- ture of love, tolerance, and kistan Ulema Council coexistence. (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz He stressed that Islam

embodies peace, love, and Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sattolerance, emphasizing the teachings of Allah Almighty urday said the council is set to escalate its efforts on a and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be global scale to foster interfaith dialogue and harmony. upon him).

Addressing interna-Ashrafi lamented the tional media in connection incitement of non-Muslims against Islam, attributing it with the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia', to misinformation and hahe emphasized that tred propagated against Is-Islamophobia poses a grave lamic teachings. threat to Muslims world-Recognizing

Islamophobia as a crime, Ashrafi highlighted the des-Ashrafi urged world powers to accelerate initiaignation of March 15 as the 'International Day to Comto eradicate Islamophobia, labeling it as bat Islamophobia' by the a toxic barrier hindering in-United Nations, a milestone achieved through collaboraterfaith harmony. He called upon the tive efforts involving Paki-

United Nations, the Orgastan, Saudi Arabia, the Ornization of Islamic Coopganization of Islamic Cooperation, and other internaeration, and other entities. tional bodies to champion Ashrafi emphasized the urgency of addressing initiatives aimed at eradicatglobal anti-Muslim sentiing all forms of discrimina-

tion while nurturing a cul- ment, branding discrimina-

CM Maryam welcomes PM's economic road map, terms it revolutionary

LAHORE (INP): Punjab that the PM's economic road mishap includes reduction in inflation and poverty which be benefit the common man.

She said that it was out goal to achieve more production through lowcost agricultural intervention in the agricultural sec-

For the development and stability of the economy, everyone has to Maryam Nawaz said work together, she added.

tion as a significant threat to world peace.

He underscored the need to clarify the distinction between Jihad and terrorism through dialogue, particularly in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks which fueled widespread misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in the Western world.

The PUC, Ashrafi said, pledged to intensify its global endeavors for interfaith dialogue and harmony, culminating in an upcoming international conference, themed 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' in Islamabad after the holy month of Ramazan.

He informed that the conference would be comprised all faith leaders as the invitations will be tendered to Imam of Khana-e-Kaba, Grand Imam of Palestine, sheikh Al-Azhar, Pop Francis, Bishop of Canterbury and many more.

Security tightened around Adiala jail amid threats

RAWALPINDI (INP): The security has been tightened around Adiala jail amid safety concerns where the Pakistan Tehreek i Insaf founder Imran Khan has been incarcerated.

Pakistani

killed, wife,

daughter got

injured during

According to the details, an extra force has been deployed around the Adiala jail and barbed wires have been placed all around due Achakzai has demanded of to the security concerns.

Sunday March 17, 2024

PPP finalises candidates for Senate seats from Sindh, other provinces

stan People's Party (PPP) has finalised candidates for the Senate seats from Sindh, other provinces and Islamabad.

According to final list issued by In-charge Bilawal House Media cell Surrender Velasai, Sved Kazim Ali Shah, Áshraf Jatoi, Masroor Ahsan, Nadeem

Sarfraz Rajar and Dost

Ali Jessar will be PPP's can-

didates for 6 general seats

while Quratul Ain Marri

and Rubina Qaimkhani for

two reserved seats for

women, Barrister Zameer

Ghumro and Sarmad Ali for

Bhutto.

KARACHI (INP): Paki- Bheel on one reserved seat for non Muslim from Sindh province.

Aimal Wali Khan and Jan Muhammad Buledi will be joint candidates with

ANP and NP respectively while Mir Changaiz Khan Jamali and Sardar Umer Gorgaij for general seats from Balochistan provinces while Bilal Mandokhel on Technocrat and Ishrat Brohi and Kiran Baloch will be the candidates on two reserved seats for women. Rubina Khalid from KPK, Faiza Ahmed Malik from and Rana odul Hassan Punjab Meĥmoodul (Islamabad) will be the PPP candidates, Surrender Velasai stated. two reserved seats for Technocrat and Poonjo

PTI dissociates itself from 'overseas protests' outside **IMF**, WB offices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Af-Gohar said Saturday while ter back-to-back protests speaking to media outside led by overseas Pakistanis Ádiala Jail — Rawalpindi post-hearing of 190m NCA in the United States (US), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf scandal case against PTI (PTI) Chairman Barrister founder Imran Khan and his Gohar Ali Khan dissociated wife Bushra Bibi. It is notewith the ongoing protests overseas, clarifying that his worthy that several PTI workers from overseas chapter staged party did not have any part protests outside the IMF and in it in the recent demon-WB headquarters in Washingstrations outside the Interton against alleged irregularities

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Samiullah demands action against anti-social elements

SHO of police is aware of **Independent Report** CHAMAN: The President the suspected persons and of Chaman District Bar Asdens in his respective area sociation, Samiullah Khan of jurisdiction.

He said that it is topthe concerned district ad- most responsibility of the

prevention of crimes. In this

regard, the administration

has to adopt zero tolerance

policy against the crimes,

promise can be made on

protection of life and prop-

erty of the people, but un-

fortunately, our administra-

tion becomes active only

President

after loss precious lives.

The

He said that no com-

adding he stressed.

national Monetary Fund in the 2024 general elections in (IMF) and the World Bank Pakistan. Yesterday's protest WB) headquarters. in US was attended by former 'If overseas Pakipremier Khan's ex-chief of stanis are making up somestaff Shahbaz Gill and PTI thing, then it would be their spokesperson in the United own decision," Barrister States, Sajjad Burki.



ration with the Islamic Rehosted by the Permanent lief Worldwide and UNICEF in New York.

The speakers agreed that urgent steps need to be taken to work out modalities for the mobilization of The panelists in-resources to cater to the cluded climate and sustaingrowing financial needs for the success of the adaptation and resilience strategy.

APP adds: Speakers at a panel discussion on the impacts of climate change Friday urged the international community to demcal will to deal with the welfare of children and

occasion of the 16th anni-

versary of the opening of

the Pakistan Center for

Cultural and Communica-

tion Studies at Tsinghua

University, Pakistan Am-

bassador to China, Khalil

Hashimi and Dean of the

School of Journalism at

Tsinghua University, Zhou

Oingan inaugurated the new

office of the Pakistan Cen-

ter for Cultural and Com-

ceremony, Ambassador

Hashmi met with Peng

Gang, Vice President of

Tsinghua University, where he commended the high

education standards of the University appreciating its top rankings in Asia and the

The Ambassador also

thanked the Vice President

for Tsinghua University's

consistent contribution to

Before the unveiling

munication Studies.

world

New office of Pakistan

inaugurated at **Tsinghua** BEIJING (APP): On the Later, the Ambassado

Mission of Pakistan to the weather events on Pakistan including floods, glacial United Nations in collaboration with the Islamic Re- melting, and desertification. lief Worldwide and the UNICEF.

able development experts. representatives of civil society and international nongovernmental organizations, members of the UNbased diplomatic corps and faith-based organizations.

Later, the Ambassador

media and culture. The

School of Journalism of

Tsinghua University and the

Pakistan Center for Culture

and Communication Studies

emphasizing the urgent need for climate resilience Ambassador Akram commended the collaboration between the Government of Pakistan, the UN. and development partners

They urged the govonstrate a stronger politi- ernments to prioritize the aftermath of the 2022 floods

in developing the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation. and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) to address the **Pak Army** improves **Center for Cultural Studies**

mobile infrastructure in Waziristan

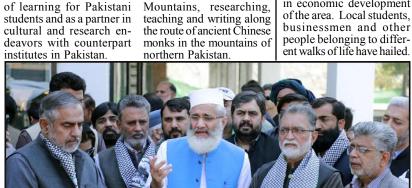
visited the School of Jour-WANA (INP): Pakistan nalism of Tsinghua Univer-Army was committed to sity and inaugurated the improve the communicanew office of Pakistan Cultion infrastructure in South ture and Communication Waziristan which was fac-Studies. The Ambassador ing various challenges over exchanged views on various the years. In collaboration possible initiatives to with mobile phone compastrengthen cooperation benies, Pakistan Army has intween the School of Jourstalled 19 mobile phone nalism and the Pakistan towers in the area in less Embassy to bolster China than one year time. Pakistan ties in the fields of

The local people besides communicating with each other, can now easily access the relatives living in other cities and abroad.

Improvement in comtogether with the Quaid-i-Azam university, Beijing Foreign Studies University munication infrastructure has also benefited the businessmen helping them to and Communication Unifurther spread their busiversity of China will jointly ness network and get betorganize a three-week ter products by contacting "China-Pakistan Cultural other businessmen.

Corridor Caravan Class' Availability and better this summer. This caravan service of the mobile netclass will cross the work will also play key role in economic development

China-Pakistan ties as a seat Karakoram and Hindu Kush Mountains, researching. teaching and writing along the route of ancient Chinese northern Pakistan



LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq talking with mediamen.



QUETTA: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch being briefed by district President Abdul Majeed during his visit to office of Al-Khidmat Foundation Quetta.

Quettaites not to be left on mercy of profiteers, vows Commissioner

Independent Report It may be mentioned QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Hamza Shafqaat has stated that the people of Quetta would not be left on mercy of the profiteers and stern action would be taken against He said that the action

is being taken by the price have been arrested on control teams against the charges of profiteering in profiteers all over the city. He said that all out re-Quetta. lief would be taken to pro-

vide relief to the masses were sealed, hundreds of especially during the holy others were issued warning by the administration. month of Ramadan.

Masood Khan presents credentials to Jamaica's GG as non-resident Ambassador

UNITED NATIONS ties. Earlier on March 12, (APP): Pakistan's Ambasthe Pakistani envoy called sador to the United States, on Senator Kamina Johnson Masood Khan, presented Smith, Minister of Foreign his credential to the Gover-Affairs & Foreign Trade, nor General of Jamaica, Sir and presented a copy of his Patrick Linton Allen, as a letter of Credence. non-resident Ambassador The Ambassador said to the Caribbean country he would work hard to during his visit to Kingston building a more strong, vion March 11 to 13, accordbrant and diverse partnering to a Pakistani embassy ship between Pakistan and press release. The ambas-Jamaica. They also dissador conveyed the greetcussed a wide range of biings of the President and lateral matters and agreed to enhance bilateral trade, col-

Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Governor General. laborate at the United Na-The Government of Pakitions and other multilateral stan, he said, desired to fora on candidatures, clistrengthen ties with Jamaica mate change, seabed issues in diverse areas. and peace and security.

Governor General Khan stressed the need for Allen felicitated Masood Khan on his appointment early finalization of Frameas non-resident Ambassawork Agreement on Coopdor and conveyed his willeration between Pakistan and Jamaica ingness to boost bilateral

knife attack here that the price control in Germany teams headed by the assistant commissioners and BERLIN (INP): A 58-year special magistrates have old Pakistani was killed been formed to take action while his wife and daughter against those involved in got injured in Germany the profiteering and hoardduring a knife attack in Gering in Quetta. The teams are many, reported on Saturconducting raids in differday. ent parts of Quetta. Several shopkeepers

of state While several shops

ministration to take stern area police to take steps for action against the anti-social elements so as to avert any untoward incident in Chaman. In a statement issued

here on Saturday, the President, Chaman Bat expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of dacoity and robbery during the holy month of Ramadan and stressed the need to ensure security measures on the basis of intelligence based operation in advance

incident.

Chaman Bar also asked the administration to prepare concrete strategy together with all stakeholders and to cope with any untoward ensure law and order before

He said that the area it's too late.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army Soldiers taking part in a rehearsal for Pakistan's Day parade in Federal Capital, ahead of Pakistan Day celebrations.

Gwadar North Free Zone: Water supply project 60% completed

This company is in the

A GPA official told

project to establish a water to the designated areas for supply network in the Gwadar North Free Zone factories Following a competi-

is nearly 60 percent comtive bidding process, GPA awarded the contract to plete. This significant development aims to address Saleh Techno Company. the immediate needs of companies eager to comprocess of installing water mence operations within pipelines from two prithe current year.

The project is divided mary sources: dam water, into two parts. The first including from the Sawar and Shadi Kor dams, and a segment, being overseen by the Gwadar Port Authority newly constructed, Chinese-funded 1.2 MGD de-(GPA), extends from the salination water plant. dams to the outer boundary of the Gwadar North Free Zone. Gwadar Pro that the cost

The second segment, of laying the water supply soon to be initiated by the network from both dams to the boundary of the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Gwadar North Free Zone is Rs 110 million, with an will run from the inner

GWADAR (INP): A boundary wall of the estimated completion date Gwadar North Free Zone to the designated areas for Chairman of GPA,

Passand Khan Buledi, has played a crucial role in securing approval for water and power projects within the government's 2023-24 budget.

In addition to the water supply project, GPA has also approved funding for electricity supply from the Deep Sea Port Grid Station to the North Free Zone.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has reallocated these funds to the Ministry of Energy for the development of the distribution network, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

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Ambassador Masood

The sad incident appeared in the city of Ulm in the southern German Baden-Wurttemberg when a mentally ill German entered the house of Paki-

stani-born family and stabbed 58-year Faheem with a knife.