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Discusses security, regional issues with Saudi Defence Mnister

PM Shahbaz calls for strengthening Pak-Saudi defense. economic ties

Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here at the Prime Minister House on Saturday and discussed in detail bilateral matters, regional peace, security and situation in the region.

Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also attended the meeting.

They also exchanged views on increasing cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the areas of defence and security. The Prime Minister

congratulated the Defence Minister on receiving Pakistan's highest civil award Nishan-e-Pakistan. He thanked the Saudi Defence Minister for attending the Pakistan Day

parade as a special guest. PM Shehbaz expressed

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): best wishes for Custodian Prince Khalid Bin Salman of the Two Holy Mosques of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud.

Talking to the Saudi
Defence Minister, the Prime Minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had close brotherly ties based on commonalities of religion, history and culture, which were further strengthening with the passage of time.

Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Saudi Arabia, he said adding Saudi Arabia fully supported Pakistan on every front.

He said during his previous tenure as prime minister, Saudi Arabia played a very critical role in improving the economic situation of Pakistan, and it was

Continued on page 2



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee along with Tri-Services Chiefs at Pakistan Day Parade

Pakistan not to compromise its sovereignty, tolerate any destabilizing efforts: President

Says Pakistan is a peace-loving country and responsible nuclear state that wants relations with all its neighbours.

SLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday said that Pakistan was a peace-loving and responsible nuclear state but it would neither make any compromise on its sovereignty nor would tolerate any efforts of terrorists or any group aimed at destabilising it.

"Pakistan wants relations with all its neighbors. We are a peace-loving country and a responsible nuclear state. However, let me make it clear that we will not compromise on our sovereignty... We will not tolerate any efforts by terrorists or any group to de-

PM, FM strongly

condemn Moscow

terror attack

Sharif and Foreign Minis-

ter Ishaq Dar on Saturday

strongly condemned the

terrorist attack in Moscow,

Russia, last night which re-

sulted in loss of many lives

and injuries to several oth-

On X, the prime minis-

er, while strongly con-

demning the heinous attack

in Moscow, extended heart-

felt condolences to the fami-

Russia at this difficult

time," he further posted.

Dar, on his X account, strongly condemned the

dastardly terrorist attack in

Moscow and prayed for the victims and their families.

WB approves

149.70 m dollars

loan for Pakistan

SLAMABAD (Online):

World Bank (WB) has ap-

proved loan amounting to

149.70 million dollars for

by WB will be spent on two

million dollars will be pro-vided for Digital Economy

Enhancement Project. 71.7

million dollars will be pro-

vided for protection and

fortification of barrages in

Sindh. Country director has

said disastrous flood in

2022 adversely affected in-

frastructure in Pakistan

Steps for protecting and

strengthening barrages are

essential. E- services will

be provided to citizens and

The amount approved

According to WB 78

Pakistan

'Pakistan stands with

Foreign Minister Ishaq

lies of the victims.

(APP)

Minister

Shehbaz

SLAMABAD

Muhammad

stabilize our country," the Sharif, federal cabinet mempresident said addressing the Pakistan Day Parade ceremony held here.

Pakistan Day is observed in remembrance of the adoption of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940. This resolution, put forth by the All-India Muslim League, called for the creation of a distinct homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent.

The day started with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and a 21-gun salute in the provincial capitals. Besides President Asif

Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz "Today's parade is a reminder of our unity,

bers, services chiefs, diplomats, notables from different walks of life and a huge number of citizens attended

the ceremony. Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud, who previously served as an F-15 pilot in Royal Saudi Air Force, was the guest of honour of the ceremony

In his address, President Zardari said that the Pakistani nation and armed forces were always ready to respond to any aggression at all times.

strength, and pride," said the president who earlier reviewed the parade after arriving at the venue escorted in his chariot by the presidential guards guards mounted on horses.

The president congratulated the nation on the Day which commemorated the historic struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent to achieve a separate homeland under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He also paid tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis with a resolve to make all-out efforts

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Acting Governor Balochistan Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai conferring Presidential Awards and Tamgha Imtiaz among the personalities for their services

Nation celebrates Pakistan Day with national zeal and zest

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Defense of Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Khalid

bin Abdulaziz Al Saud calls on Prime Minister

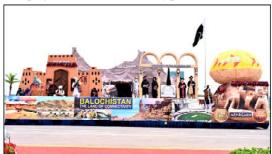
ISLAMABAD (INP): Nation is celebrating Pakistan Day today with a renewed pledge and commitment to transform the country into a true Islamic welfare state as per the ideology of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and ensure its progress, prosperity and a strong

The day is observed to commemorate the passage of historic Lahore Resolution on 23rd March in 1940, under which Muslims of the sub-continent set the agenda of a separate homeland for themselves.

The day dawned with 31-gun salute in the federal

capital and 21-gun salute in provincial capitals. Special prayers were offered in mosques after Fajr prayers for progress and prosperity of the country. Radio Pakistan, PTV and other TV channels are airing special programs to highlight the importance of this day and pay tributes to the leaders and activists of Pakistan Move-

The spectacular and colorful Pakistan Day Military parade was held at Parade Avenue in Islamabad today with three wings of the armed forces displaying their professionalism and military prowess.



ISLAMABAD: The float of Balochistan Province participates in Pakistan Day 2024 parade ceremony, at Shakarparian Parade Ground

Tarar urges devotion to build an ideal, strong, prosperous Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday emphasized the collective efforts to transform Pakistan into an ideal,strong and prosperous

Speaking on Pakistan Day, he urged everyone to channel their efforts to-

wards this common goal. Highlighting the signifi-cance of Pakistan Day, Tarar recalled how the Pakistan Resolution of 1940 laid the foundation for the nation's independence. This resolution, passed during the annual meeting of the All India Muslim League in Lahore, became a pivotal moment in the struggle for a separate homeland for Muslims in the subcontinent.

The minister underscored the historical importance of the Pakistan Resolution, stating that it infused a renewed sense of purpose and unity among Muslims, spurring them to persevere in their quest for îndependence. He paid homage to the sacrifices made by leaders like Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, whose vision and determination led to the creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. On Pakistan Day, the information minister urged the nation to commemorate the struggles of its forebearers and commit

to upholding their legacy. He reminded Pakistanis of the preciousness of their hard-won independence and urged them to contribute towards making the country stronger and more

Calling for unity, Tarar urged people to set aside their differences and work together as a cohesive na-

developed.

Investiture ceremony held at Governor House, 12 personalities conferred prestigious civil awards

Independent Report QUETTA: The investiture ceremony was held at the Governor House on Satur-

The acting Governor Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai conferred the prestigious Presidential awards on prominent personalities in recognition of the remarkable services in different sectors.

The simple but impressive ceremony was attended by the provincial ministers, members of the assembly, dignitaries from different walks of life besides family members of the recipients of Presiden-

In all twelve personalities who performed and served extraordinarily in different sectors were conferred on the highest civil awards, on behalf of the President of Islamic republic of Pakistan.

Abdul Rauf Baloch, Imtiaz Buzdar, Lal Jan Jaffar and Professor Dr.

the Sitara-e-Imtiaz on public service. Similarly, Abdul Karim Baryalay was conferred on

the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in services in literature.
The former Chief Justice (Retd) Muhammad Noor Meskanzai was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz in

the law sector (posthumous) Moreover. Mariyum Warzgani, was awarded the Presidential Award of Pride of Performance for services in medical sector while Shakar Bibi was conferred on the Pride

of Performance Award on services in art. Shaheed Balaach Muhammad Nausherwani was awarded the Tamgha-e-Shujaat (posthumous) for extra

bravery and valour. Commissioner Sibi, Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai, Khalid Baqi,

and late Ghulam Qadir Khan Buzdar were conferred on the Tamgha-e-

Governor calls for making joint efforts for stability and development of country

Independent Report QUETTA: The acting Governor Balochistan, Captain (Retd) Abdul Kĥaliq Achakzai has called for making joint conscious efforts for stability, survival and development of the

On the Pakistan Day we have to make pledge that we would perform our duties with honesty as a responsible citizen.

The acting Governor also stressed the need to utilize our capabilities for national solidarity, besides the country's stability and development. In a message issued here on eve of Pakistan Day, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai said that we are celebrating the day when the historic resolution was adopted in Lahore the same day before 84 years.

He said that after seven years of the resolution, the long struggle and great sacrifices proved to be fruitful and we succeeded in getting an independent and sovereign country for us.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan NASR missile contingent

participate in Pakistan Day 2024 parade march past ceremony, at Shakarparian Parade Ground.

Constitution of steering committee to revamp country's economy

sion to constitute various committees with an revamp aim economy is a positive to boost country's economic condition. The Economic Coor-

dination Committee will play a positive role in achieving the positive results to improve the economy of the country.

Shehbaz Sharif, who ment of country's will himself head these committees, is seriously considering to work for the economic betterment alongwith creation of employment manship of Finance opportunities for the Minister for broaden-

As per sources, the tax to GDP will be the top priority of the government for achieving its goals.

The Finance Divitarial support to the sources said.

ISLAMABAD (NNI): steering committee, which will monitor the implementation of the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) reforms agenda plan.

In this connection, the prime minister is hopeful that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb will work hard in restoring the country's economic condition on positive direction. The Prime Minister has vowed to empower the Finance According to Minister in taking posi-sources, Prime Minister tive steps for the bettereconomy.

The sources further said that a tax policy board will be established under the chairing the revenue.

Prime Minister is taking full ownership of driving the economic agenda, which is the right thing to do in revitalising sion will provide Secre- country's economy, the



dom of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Saud viewing the flypast of jets during the Pakistan Day Parade ceremony, at Shakarparian Parade Ground, Islamabad

CM Bugti participates in Pak Day national ceremony; greets whole nation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti participated in the national ceremony held marking Pakistan Day in Islamabad on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad, Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu as well

Defence, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Alsaud especially participated in the national cer-

The Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Bugti congratu-lated the whole nation on important occasion of the country.

He said that 23rd March is the day of revival of the pledge of develop-ment, peace and prosper-

He expressed the resolve to promote political traditions based on reconciliation and national consensus and rid the country as high military and civil of the challenges and hardhigh ups. of the challenges and hardships being faced by the country.

Saudi Defence Minister thanks **COAS** for inviting at Pakistan Day Parade

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Saturday attended the Pakistan Day Parade



and thanked Army Chief, General Syed Asim Munir fo inviting him as Guest of Honour at the occasion.

The Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia received a varm welcome on his arrival at Noor Khan Air Base specially participated in the Joint Services Pakistan Day arade of the Armed Forces as Guest of Honour, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Upon arrival at the Parade, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir welcomed Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz

the Parade, Prince Khalid After the withessing Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud met the Army Chief.

In the meeting, matters of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations and increasing cooperation in various fields, especially defence were discussed.

On this occasion, the Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia said, "Saudi Arabia-Pakistan have historical and strong brotherly relations, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have always been well-wishers of each other.

The Army Chief thanked the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia for visiting Pakistan.

After a successful one-day visit to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz returned back to the Kingdom.

Before the departure, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir greeted Prince Khalid bin Salman from Noor Khan Air Base.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh offers fateha at the mausoleum of Quaid -e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of Pakistan Day celebrations.

President confers civil awards on Pakistanis, foreign nationals on Pakistan Day

President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday conferred Pakistan's highest civil awards on a number of citizens of Pakistan as well as foreign nationals in recognition of their distinction, excellence, contributions and show of valour in different

The awards were conferred in an investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr which was attended by ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and family members of the recipients of the awards.

Following were the recipients of Nishan -e-

Muhammad Hafeez Qureshi (late) (nuclear science), Iftikhar Hussain Arif (literature poety), Ìslahuddin Siddiqui (hockey), Syed Qaim Ali Shah (public service), Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq (public service), Dr Shamshad Akhtar (public service), Air Marshal (retd) Najib Akhtar (public ser-

Hilal-e-Imitiaz:-

Brig. Syed Sarfraz Ali (Late) Strategic Planning & Development, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig (Science), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed (Education), Prof. Dr. Igrar Ahmad Khan (Education), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar (Education/ Medical Sciences), Arts (Culture), Mehmood Ahmed Tahir Bhatti (Film Direction & Fashion Designing), Muhammad Anwar Masood Literature (Poetry), Zahid Malik (Late) (Journalism), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib (Social Services), Ahmad Ìrfan Aslam (Public Service), Raja Naeem Akbar (Public Service), Lt. Gen. ® Muhammad Akram Khan (Public Service), Brig. Atif Rafique (Public Service), Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan (Public Service), Syed Tariq Fatemi (Public Service), Tariq Bajwa (Public Service), Tariq Mahmood Pa-sha (Public Service), Shahid Khan (Public Service), Sibtain Fazal Haleem (Public Service), Capt. ® Żahid Saeed (Public Service), Zahid Akhtar Zaman (Public Service), Mufti Abdul Shakoor (late) (Public Service), Nasir Mahmood Khosa (Public Service), Javaid Aslam (Public Service), Fawad Hasan Fawad (Public Service), Dr. Usman Anwar (Public Service), Prof. Dr. Adil Najam (Education), Bilal Siddique Kahmyana, Tanweer Ahmed

HILAL-E-QUAID-E-AZAM:-

Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman, Khalifa Bin Jassim Al-Kuwari, Yong Ye, Knut Ostby, Philippe Steinmetz, Dr. Sebastian Paust, Michal Rossman and Samantha

SITARA-E-SHUJAAT Tariq Mahmood (Gallantry), Muhammad Aamir Naseem (Gallantry), Majid Saleem Malik (Gallantry),

Muqaddas Haider (Gallantry), Muhammad Younas (Shaheed), Nizam Ullah (Shaheed), RaHat Saleem (Shaheed), Ghulam Abbas Laghari (Shaheed), Abdul Latif Nok (Shaheed), Muhammad Saeed Ahmed (Shaheed), Ajmal Masih Muhammad (Late), Ramzan (Shaheed), Shams

(Shaheed), Muhammad Sohrab (Shaheed) Gallantry, Asad Ùllah Khán (Shaheed), Israr Muhammad, Zia Úllah Khan, Mir Zubair Mahmood and Muhammad

Hilal-e-Shujaat:-Mushtaq A Sukehra (gallantry). Ahmed Sitara-e-Imtiaz:-

Shama Hafeez, Qari

Lt. Cdr. ® Hafiz Buzurg Shah Al as Haider (Gal- Azhari, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta, Faakhir Mehmood, Jharna Basak Shabnam, Naila Kiani, Shoaib Anwar Malik, Fahad Haroon, Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Dr Kazim Niaz, Muhammad Sulaeh Ahmed Foruqui, Farhan Faruqui, Dr Muhammad Farooque Hassan, Duraid

> President Pride of Per-Farrah Mahmood Rana, Suhail Sarwar Sultan Warraich, Lt. Gen Ahsan Gulrez and Lt Col. Junaid

Qureshi, Yasir Malik and

Abdul Quddoos Bizenjo.

Ali Zulfiqar. Quaid-e-Sitara-e Azam:-

Husein EF Kavazovich, Salma Salman Zahid.



Celebrating Pakistan Day with traditional zeal and fervor, Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkiye Rahat Ali Khan Arts Dr. Yousaf Junaid, hoisted the flag to the tune of (Qawwali/ Singing), Mohammad Ahmed Shah Mohammad Ahmed Shah guests and Pakistani community in Ankara

Pakistan not to compromise...

to protect national security

and sovereignty. The president's address encompassed domestic subjects like recent elections, efforts against terrorism, economic challenges, and the establishment of SIFC, and the regional situation including the human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as

He told the gathering that the Kashmir dispute was the main reason for instability in the region as the people of Kashmir had been demanding their selfdetermination rights for the last 76 years.

Condemning the Indian brutalities and the human rights violations in Kashmir, President Zardari urged the international community to play its role in the implementation of the UN Security resolution. He also assured the Kashmiris that the people of Pakistan would continue standing by them till they were given their right to self-de-

termination. Coming to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, he appealed to the international community to take measures to ensure that killings of women and children was stopped and a ceasefire was declared, besides establishing a humanitarian corridor.

The president also re-

Continued from page 1 iterated Pakistan's continued support for the Palestinian people till the resolution of the issue as

per their aspirations. Recounting the country's journey marked with many ups and downs, he said despite numerous challenges, the Pakistani nation achieved distinctions in the fields of defense, agriculture and technology, besides its internationally recognised contribution to fighting against terrorism.

Highlighting the current social, political and economic challenges facing the country, he said fol-lowing the successful holding of elections and the formation of a democratic government, it was the responsibility of all to seek

solutions to all the issues. "I believe that the way we faced the difficulties in the past, can steer the country out of the pervading problems even today. The Pakistani nation is hardworking and intelligent. The youth, using their mental capabilities, can guarantee a

bright future," he remarked.
President Zardari told the ceremony that the Special Investment Facilitation Council had been formed to attract investment in agriculture, livestock, mining, Information Technology and energy sectors.

He also requested all the political parties to set aside their political interests and work unitedly to bring in



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the United Arab Emirates hoisting the national flag during the National Day event at the **Embassy**

Ex-FS, PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan

passes away at 89 ISLAMABAD (APP) Former Foreign Secretary and Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board Shaharyar Khan passed away on Saturday in Lahore after pro-

tracted illness. He was 89. Born in 1934, late Shaharyar Khan had joined the Foreign Service in 1957 and served till his his retirement as foreign secretary in 1994.

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, in a statement condoled over Khan's death who "served Pakistan with great distinction both as a diplomat and Chairman PCB.'

"He will be greatly missed," Dar said and prayed to Allah to grant him a higher place in Jannah and solace to his family and friends. Foreign Office paid

tribute to the ex-ambassador and high commissioner and honoured his "monumental services in protecting Pakistan's diplomatic interests". In a post on X, For-

eign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Qazi said he was deeply saddened by Khan's passing and lauded him as "one of Pakistan's finest diplomats." Qazi said Khan left be-

hind a "rich legacy of accomplishment and protecting and promoting Pakistan's interests".

He had earlier served as Ambassador to Jordan and France as well as High Commissioner to London.

Another slot of chairman PC goes to federal minister Aleem

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has been allocated another slot in coalition government amid the reports that he has been appointed as chairman **Privatization Commis-**

sion (PC). The appointment order will take effect immediately.

Establishment division has issued notification with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Minister privatization has already said the entities running in loss are eroding the economy like termite. In the prevailing situation 15 to 20 percent entities should be privatized forthwith.

Privatization of loss incurring entities is not a problem to convince some one. It is question of survival of national economy. We will have to decide the fate of loss incurring entities immediately.

PM Shahbaz calls for...

Continued from page 1 highly regarded.

He said the people of Pakistan had a special place in their hearts for the Saudi royal family. While mentioning, Special Investment Facilitation Council, the Prime Minister said one window operation was created for the investors through the establishment of the council, which would facilitate business activities and investment.

He said immense opportunities were present in Pakistan in different fields including agriculture, information technology and min-

He underlined the need for further cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the fields of defence and economy.

The PM reiterated his earlier invitation and said Pakistan was waiting to welcome the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

The Saudi Defence Minister felicitated the Prime Minister on assuming his office and expressed best wishes for him.

He thanked Pakistan for inviting him as a special guest for Pakistan Day parade and said he had the opportunity to witness the best capabilities of armed forces of Pakistan during the parade.

He said the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir to Saudi Arabia was very important and fruitful to further promote defence relations of the two coun-

Pakistan Day celebrated across Balochistan































Armed Forces show military prowess

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Armed Forces on Saturday demonstrated military prowess marking the 85th Pakistan Day on Saturday in the grand joint services parade witnessed by Defence Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud as the guest of honour and members of the diplomatic corps of the friendly countries.

The theme for this year's Pakistan Day Parade was "Long Live Pakistan" that included foreign military contingents of friendly countries of China and Azerbaijan with the latter participating for the first time in the National Day Parade. The Commander in Chief of the Country, President Asif Ali Zardari was the chief guest on the occasion.

The morning began with special prayers for the country and a 31-Gun salute in the federal capital and 21-Gun salute in all the provincial capitals.

The Rangers Exhibition Drill Squad (REDS) using 303 silver coated rifles commenced the parade with enthralling performance followed by the drum solos per-

formed by military bands.

The flag bearing contingent entered the parade venue marching in a unique style practically depicting the Quaid's motto of faith, unity, and discipline.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif entered the Parade venue, escorted by the smartly turned-out Core of Military Police contingent led by Major Qasim. The military welcoming committee welcomed the Prime Minister. The trumpeters ushered the arrival of the President into the Parade Venue who was mounted in the traditional Presidential Chariot escorted by the President's Guards riding brilliant black, white and brown horses holding spears and swords by its Commandant Colonel Ayaz Ahmed at the left and Adjutant Major Shah Zaman Ali on the right of the Chariot.

President Guards have the honour to be the security contingent of the President, whereas Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah presented them the national flag by his hand which is hoisting at the Quarter Guard of the Battalion. The President Body Guard is the senior most unit of the Armoured Corps, and has this unique feather in its cap of presenting Guard of Honour to the Father of the Nation and all the Heads of the country so far. The Welcome Committee welcomed the President who was joined by Chief of the Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Saher Shamshad Mirza, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral, Naveed Ashraf, and the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hamid Rashid Randhawa and Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

The Presidential Salute was presented to the Chief Guest by the Parade and national anthem was played which was participated by all the spectators and parade contingents

The parade commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Lieutenant Talat Shehzad of Pakistan Navy. The verses focused on commandments of Allah Almighty while fighting the enemy forces to remain steadfast and obey the Almighty and His Prophet P.B.U.H. and avoid conflict within as it will make them coward and persevere as Allah is with those who observe patience.

Parade Commander Brigadier Shehzad Ali Arshad of 39 Azad Kashmir Regiment sought permission to the President for the review of the Parade.

The Parade review witnessed the marching columns of the Punjab Regiment, infantry's second most senior Baloch Regiment, Frontier Force (FF) Regiment, Azad Kashmir Regiment, Sindh Regiment, Norther Light Infantry Regiment, Mujahid Regiment, Pakistan Navy, Flag bearing contingent, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent, Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Pakistan Police contingent comprising KP Police, Gilgit Baltistan Scouts, Tri Services Lady Officers contingent, and the Special Services Group (SSG).

A special recognition to the Pride of Pakistan recipients commenced with the announcement of Christian community's Johnson Tariq who protected a women in Ichra Bazaar of Lahore from goons, Tanveer Ahmed, a philanthrope who rendered huge donations for mosques, schools, the flood-affected, girls education, health, scholarships for poor students, hepatitis treatment, dialysis facility and establishment of girls college etc, Hindu community's Rohan Kathwani who in 1.58 mins assembled periodic table at Islamabad Science Festival and broke the previous world record, Sania Alam from Sindh, a record holder in super learning and had received the Brain of the Year Award from the UK's Brain Trust and was the coach of World Champions and got life time achievement Award from US President Joe Biden, Dr Alia who in 2022 Floods established free medical camps in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, whereas the UN in in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, whereas the UN in recognition to her services conferred Frontline Climate Health Award at COP-28 in 2023, Syeda Maryam Mir, the first women commercial pilot of PIA, hailing from AJK, she had been promoted to first officer rank after completing required flight hours, she has been flying in the national flag carrier, Afshan Afridi a social worker, persons with disabilities (PWDs) rights activist and first disability and the second states of Device Adventises. disabled women of Darra Adam Khel to receive Henry Viscardi Award of US, member HRCP KP and she had trained over 500 PWD girls and women on leadership qualities, and Najeebullah Mohmand who established two free libraries in erstwhile FATA and rendered huge services for children education and ensured 80% school attendance for children in FATA and established Mishal women skill training centers in the former tribal region.

The fly past by PAF and Navy airmen commenced whereas the masses were informed that the PAF under the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sindhu's leadership has undergone strategic revamp and J-10C induction in the shortest time and its performance in many drills have balanced the power in South Asia with its first shot capability. Moreover, the Fifth-Generation Stealth fighter of JF-17 Thunder induction made the country the first nation in the region to fly it.

The fly past commenced with the precision night attack capability aircraft, three-aircraft formation of Mirages of No. 27 Squadron of Zarar formation lead by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander Muhammad Emad Iqbal, flying at 250 feet above the ground, followed by J-10C cobra formation of No. 15 Squadron led by Officer Commanding Wing Commander, Wajeeh Ullah and it was the first squadron of J-10C and the current PAF Chief also started his career from this squadron.

Officer Commanding Wing Commander, Wajeeh Ullah and it was the first squadron of J-10C and the current PAF Chief also started his career from this squadron.

The nations pride of JF-17 Thunder formation of Black Panthers, No. 16 Squadron entered the parade venue led by Officer Commanding, Wind Commander, Arshad Mushtaq, the Griffins three F-16s of No. 9 Squadron led by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Hassan Siddiqui who hunted the Indian SU-30 during Pakistan-India skirmish on February 27th, No.7 Squadron formation of the Legendary Deltas Mirage led by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Ahmed Waheed, F-7PG Aircraft of No. 20 Squadron, the Cheetahs, led by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Muhammad Mohsin, three F-16s of No. 5 Squadron, the falcons led by Squadron Leader, Saad (it's the first jet Squadron of the country), three F-16s from No. 29 Squadron, led by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Usman Saeed (this squadron hunted down Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan's Aircraft on Feb 27), J-10C No. 15 squadron the Cobras under Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Bilal Raza (it's the first to hunt enemy aircraft in the PAF history) and the force multipliers of PAF, two AWACS comprising Saab 2000 of No. 3 and No. 53 Squadrons, led by C-130 H model of No. 6 Squadron, the eyes and ears of PAF, joined the fly past. The C-130 was led by Officer Commanding, Wing Commander, Ahsan Zafar and Saab 2000 by Wing Commander Omar Safdar and the other second Saab 2000 by Wing Commander Yawar Changhezi. Moreover, the two Long Range maritime Patrol aircraft, PC-3 Orion, the flying destroyers formation led by Captain Yazdan Ali, and the second aircraft led by Commander Waleed Akbar Abbasi, whereas two maritime patrol ATRs of No. 29 antisubmarine squadron of Pakistan Navy aviation was led by Officer Commanding, Commander Usman Butt, whereas the second aircraft by Commander Junaid Mughal which led to the conclusion of the fly past.

Glimpses of Pakistan Day celebrations

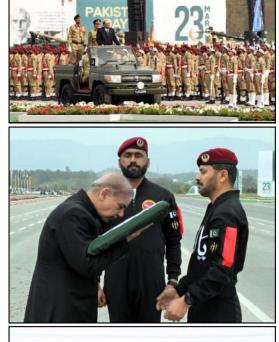












































Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Sunday March 24, 2024

Pipeline under fire

While US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu's recent testimony before a Congressional panel contained no bombshells about the cipher saga, the American diplomat's replies to questions from lawmakers about the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline should certainly be cause for concern.

American reservations over the gas project clearly infringe on Pakistan's sovereign right to take independent foreign policy decisions. Mr Lu told lawmakers that it was an American through PS-4 and PS-5). "goal" to ensure the pipeline is not completed. Using highly undiplomatic language, he observed that if "they [Pakistan] get in bed with Iran, it will be very serious for our relationship".

The Foreign Office reaction to these comments was measured, as the spokesperson told the media that there was no room for discussion on a third-party [US] waiver, while the pipeline plays an important role in Pakistan's energy secu-

It is hoped that the state remains steadfast in upholding its commitments to the project, and rejects unwarranted foreign pressure. Until the caretaker government gave the goahead for revitalising the pipeline last month, the scheme had been in the doldrums for over a decade, mainly out of concern over attracting America's wrath.

Pakistan should be the best judge of its energy requirements, and unsolicited advice for ambitious individuals inducted into these govsuch as that offered by Mr Lu emments to advertise their should be rejected with thanks. The American official also questioned how Pakistan would procure the financing to complete the scheme. Again, that should be Pakistan's headache, not

anyone else's.

The fact is that the Iran pipeline appears to be a viable energy project, as the other maior regional scheme — the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline — is in deep freeze particularly after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Moreover, if Pakistan reneges on the deal with Iran, it risks entering a messy litigation process, and paying a hefty \$18bn in penalty.

Mr Lu's comments should also serve as a warning to our policymakers of the demands some of our friends may make of us in future as geopolitical the high standards of ethics, austerity and acturbulence increases. For instance, today, Washington has issues with CPEC and the Iran pipeline; tomorrow it could let its displeasure be known regarding our relations with Moscow or other American foes.

Pakistan should be ready to face such criticism, and take stan, on the other hand, decisions that are in the national interest. Pakistan values its ties with the US and other Western states. But this does not mean relations with other states/ blocs should be held hostage to the whims of its Western partners.

However, it is also true that lives in a palatial house Pakistan can only take truly independent decisions when it square yards. The printe does not have to depend on others to keep its economy afloat. India and China can ignore US strictures about not official luxury cars and trading with Russia because of their economic heft. Pakistan must heal itself if it wants to achieve true sovereignty.

Pakistan's PSDP conundrum

Shahid Mehmood Economic headlines in Pa-

kistan are centred on big macro numbers, which often miss important insights One such instance focused on the amount of 'development' expenditure released in the first month of the resent fiscal (FY23-24). While hardly consequential in terms of expense, there was one striking statistic: almost all of it was spent on 'development' schemes put orth by MNAs and MPAs.

In essence, this sliver

of information was an apt demonstration of how Pakistan's development expenditure (PSDP) has been hijacked by various interest groups. And it is not just the group capture' that plagues Pakistan's development expenses, but also a host of other problems, ranging from the design and acceptance of a proposal to evaluation failure of the outcomes (cost-benefit analysis Confirmation of these issues comes from a piece of excellent research (Reforming the Federal Public Sector Development Programme, PIDE) by Dr Muhammad Ahmed Zubair, Dr Mahmood

Khalid, Dr Ahsan ul Haq readers to know that the is-Satti and others, reflecting the waste being piled up in the name of development through the PSDP.

Without going into the

details of this interesting and readable paper, here are a few statistics that aptly indicate the challenge at hand. For example, just to finance the various projects already in the portfolio, it would require an average allocation of Rs600 billion per year for the next 11 years, provided no new projects are approved (they already have been). The failure to complete PSDP works on time due to various reasons one of them being an unhealthy dependency on foreign financing—the 'throwforward' (the needed future expense to complete these

hopping Rs8 trillion. This throw-forward can be viewed as undocumented debt that taxpayers will have to cough up, aside from the ones they are already saddled with. In the end, though, the majority of these development efforts will come to naught, generating more long-term liabilities on top of the ones we already have.

projects) has crossed a

sues plaguing our public sector development work had already been foretold. A fascinating debate in the first half of the 20th century took place between two groups of economists (the Austrians and the Central Planners, mainly belonging to the Lausanne and Italian economic schools). Known as the 'Socialist Calculation Debate', a fundamental question at the heart of this classic debate was the role of centralised decision-making. The issues that were raised at that time remain as relevant today as they were back then. In Pakistan's case, in the context of centralised

jections raised by the Austrians were prophetic. For example, this article mentions in the beginning that almost all the development allocation goes to schemes proposed by MNAs and MPAs — clearly, it is not meant for development but for buying political loyalties. From coming up with shortand long-term plans and their approval to the calculation of their returns, the whole process of Pakistan's centralised planning is questionable and dubious. Top that with irrational estimates

planning, the fears and ob-

capacity and qualification of institutions to undertake such ventures, and we have a process that caters less to development and more to fulfilling the financial demands of interest groups via taxpayers. To put it mildly, in its present shape, the PSDP provides substantial free riding' to interest groups. There has existed a never-ending list of such wasteful projects and programmes in the name of development, over the course of our history, to which both the federal and provincial governments are mercilessly beholden. Any positive spillover of such efforts is secondary or coincidental rather than intentionally planned. Building roads, bypasses, underpasses and signal-free corridors is not for economic mobility but primarily for handing out fat contracts to

Or take the recent example of last year's hurriedly passed bill to establish 24 new universities. What was the need for these when

powerful contractors. They

have helped greatly in turn-

ing our cities into gas cham-

bers while, coupled with con-

tinued horizontal expansion,

resulting in higher import

Pakistan are hardly producing anything of global quality, and none of them have the required teaching faculty? We got a hint of the 'need' when a senator revealed that every approved university's charter sells for billions; besides, the area's MNAs, MPAs or senators get to employ their chosen people in those institutions, with their lifetime perks (wages, pensions, etc) footed by the taxpayer. And, of course, who

scoops up the land just before the approval of development schemes is another sordid tale of corruption yet to be told. In the end, the country is left with tremendous amounts of waste. Amidst all this, a genu-

ine puzzle is the widespread support that this kind of brick-and-mortar-led development garners from Pakistan's economist and business community, which thinks erroneously that this is the best way to aggregate riches for the country. There are, of course, exceptions to this. Perhaps no one has been more consistent in his opposition to this mode of development than Dr Nadeem ul Haque, who calls it the Haq-HAG (Harvard Advisory of foreign inflows, and the around 200 universities in Group) model that harkens

back to the 1950s and 1960s Back in 2011, as deputy chairman, Planning Commission, he advocated for change in our development outlook in the Framework for Economic Growth, but as usual the plea fell on deaf ears. What can be done then?

Whilst some reform propos-

als are reportedly already under consideration, this favours writer decentralised 'RASTA' pertaining to Pakistan's premier academic research initiative approach, whereby cities or districts compete for development funds based on their proposals. The development proposals are to be submitted to either a committee of renowned experts, or for peer review, with the best proposals winning the government's financial support. Put another way, this approach would bring development policymaking into the open rather than letting it be based on political, questionable decisions taken behind closed doors. When it comes to growth and development policies, Pakistan's policymakers should now decide whether they want to continue in the unproduc-

tive ways of the past or

Applying while on the job

Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

"The desire for a post-retirement job influences pre-retirement judgements." These words of caution came from Arun Jaitley, one of India's tallest political figures, in a debate in India's parliament on Sept 5, 2013. When Mr Jaitley spoke, he hadn't the faintest idea that his words, which were referred to the Indian judiciary, would apply to Pakistan's caretaker governments

of the Constitution and meant to ensure transparency, neutrality and a level playing field for all political parties taking part in elections. Pakistan's caretaker setups have more often than not become fertile grounds the perceived victors in expectation of a quid pro

Created as a creature

In theory, per Section 230 of the Elections Act, 2017, caretaker govern-

warmers, and composed of individuals who undertake day-to-day governance responsibilities before the elected representatives of the people of Pakistan take over. As part of their responsibilities, they are supposed to be "impartial to every person and political party". To drive home this point, the Constitution through Article 224(1B) prohibits members of the caretaker cabinets, including the prime minister and the chief ministers and their spouses and children, from contesting in the elec-

The term "such Assemblies" was likely used by the drafters of the Constitution to lay stress on the expected impartiality of caretakers and to include within its ambit all provincial assemblies and the National Assembly to which Yet, in practice, the word "Assem-blies" has been taken literally and all other facets of the political landscape have been deemed fertile ground for members

tions to "such Assem-

blies", which immediately

a result of which caretaker ministers have considered political appointments for

themselves as fair game. Our recent history is peppered with instances of caretaker ministers being awarded lucrative positions post-caretaker government. For instance. the caretaker chief ministers of Punjab in the 2013 general elections and the 2023 national polls were both made chairmen of the Pakistan Cricket Board. The first one was appointed immediately after the election. The latter was appointed just a couple of days before the Feb 8 poll, and was post-election made the federal interior minister, on top of now being set to contest the

upcoming Senate polls. In 2013, the caretaker federal water and power minister joined the governing party after the elec- such nominations and aptions and was made a minister, and at a later date a senator. Similarly, the federal interior minister in the recent caretaker government resigned prior to the

ments are intended to be of the caretaker cabinets to tion schedule. He now nothing more than seat occupy, post-election, as heads Pakistan's largest province as its chief minister. Meanwhile, the sports minister in the caretaker

government Balochistan now sits as an elected member of the National Assembly, having adopted the same route as the chief minister of Balochistan. To top it off, even the prime minister of the recent caretaker government finds himself in the running for the Senate elections and potentially stands a chance of becoming chairman of the Upper While some would ar-

gue that there is nothing wrong in elected governments identifying capable individuals and offering them jobs they feel are suitable for them on the basis of past performance even if they had been caretaker ministers — there exists a very real sense that pointments are nothing but to certain caretaker ministers for their efforts to aid the cause of a particular government coming to power in the first place.

The then outgoing

Punjab and the federation, both of which stayed on for longer than what the Constitution mandated, the fiercest criticism during and after the completion of their reign. Yet, some of the most influential members of these governments are now either playing an integral role or are angling for one in the current political set-up. What is particularly disturbing is that some of them are aiming to become senators through the votes of the same assemblies they headed as caretakers not too long

The fact that though they were prohibited from directly contesting the elections, they were allowed to indirectly benefit from the exercise they helped administer makes a mockery of the very purpaints the electoral prothe Elections Act had intended to remove.

There is a need to repeople and no one else.

caretaker dispensations in visit the entire concept of caretaker dispensations in Pakistan. The concept has been reduced to a five-yearly lottery where were subjected to some of individuals otherwise incapable of holding the reins — due to their being political novices get to wield power in the run-up to the polls. Once the elections are over, the same individuals use their tenure in the caretaker set-up as a job application for a more permanent, lucrative stint in the elected government whose ascent they had allegedly facilitated.

The country cannot afford to install at the helm, even for an interim period, individuals who are looking to curry favour with the powers that be while undertaking their constitutional du-

In Pakistan's case, it pose of caretaker govern- is clear that the desire for ments. This not only a post-caretaker cabinet job has influenced the fair, in a bad light, but also duties. In the final analyreinforces the partiality sis, Pakistan is a democthat the Constitution and racy, a country meant to be ruled by those who embody the will of the

Self-imposed poverty

Naeem Sadiq

tions, Sweden stands out for its high standard of living, technological innovations (Spotify, Minecraft, Skype, Saab, Volvo, Ikea), outstanding environmental activists like Greta Thunberg and famous artists like ABBA. It hosts the world's most gifted minds every year for the award of the Nobel Prize, a tradition that has continued

since 1901 What makes Sweden a huge success story and one of the most develworld? The answer lies in countability of public money exercised by its political leaders. When it comes to the salaries, perks and privileges of parliamentarians, Sweden and Pakistan are at the opposite ends of the spectrum. Sweden is often called a country where politicians have little pay and no privileges. Pakihas politicians who ruthlessly devour taxpayers' resources — bestowing limitless perks and privileges upon themselves. The following paragraphs explain the reasons for Pakistan's poverty and the lessons it could learn from Sweden.

The prime minister of Pakistan, a country mired in debt and poverty, spread over 12,000 square yards. The prime titled to a modest house of only 360 square yards. The Speaker and deputy Speaker of our National Assembly enjoy full-time drivers maintained at ing an entitlement of public expense. The Rs15,000 per month as Swedish parliament's ad hoc relief allowance Speaker, on the other for each MP. Relief from

in Pakistan are entitled to basic salary of Among the comity of na- Rs150,000 per month, while Swedish parliamentarians receive just about half of the after-tax salary of an average primary schoolteacher.

Pakistani lawmakers

have concocted numerous

allowances and perks that could overwhelm and disgust even the richest countries of the world. To quote just a few, Pakistani MPs receive an office maintenance allowance of Rs8,000 per month. Swedish MPs, on the contrary, receive zero office maintenance allowoped countries in the ance and hold meetings in public libraries or party offices. Pakistani MPs receive Rs10,000 per month as telephone allowance, while Swedish MPs use their own phones and receive zero telephone allowance. Pakistani MPs receive Rs5,000 per month as sumptuary allowance. No such allowance is the entitlement of any MP in Sweden. Pakistani MPs are entitled to free installation of a residential telephone, while Swedish MPs have no such ludicrous privilege.

It appears that the primary motive of becoming an MP is to promote tourism and air travel. Each Pakistani MP receives 25 business class return air tickets every year. In addition, they receive travel vouchers of Rs300,000 every year for travel by self and family from any destination to any other destination within the country.

The MPs of Sweden enjoy no such luxuries. Although 'ad-hoc' is intrinsically a shady term, Pakistan's parliament has no qualms in designhand, is entitled only to what, one might ask. public bus tickets. Mem- Then there is a 'special'

bers of parliament (MPs) daily allowance of Rs4,800 per day and an 'ordinary' daily allowance of Rs2,800 per day that each MP is entitled to. To incentivise the reluctant arrival from home to parliament, each MP additionally receives a gift of Rs2,000 per day as conveyance allowance. None of these allowances are given to or even imagined by any Swedish MP.

Adding yet more to the perks, Pakistani MPs are entitled to receive the same level of free medical tre-atment as a Grade 22 officer. In Swe-d--en, the MPs receive the same medical treatment as given to any ordinary citizen. Not to miss out on any aspect of

Pakistan's MPs are entitled to free official blue pass-ports for self and spo-use. Swedish MPs are entitled to the same passport as that of any ordinary citizen. No nation in the

world can survive, let

alone progress with such an immoral allocation of so much to so few, while its teeming millions are deprived and tortured and left to fend for themselves. Pakistan ought to awaken from its deep slumber to understand why some countries succeed and others fail. Will the new occupants of Islamabad's Constitution Avenue have the courage and sagacity to strip velopment themselves and all government officials of perks, privileges, allowances, government vehicles, free petrol, electricity, guards, drivers, secretaries, assistants, naib qasids and numerous other discriminatory entitlements that the ordinary citizens cannot even dream of? It is time for Pakistan to catch up with the rest of the world by jettisoning the inequity imposed by its own selfentitled colonial ruling

The newly elected Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the ruling PPP chairperson Mr Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari have reiterated their commitment to making the rehabilitation of flood-affected communities a priority.

More than a year

and a half after the del-

uge, hundreds of thousands of families are still waiting to be rehabilitated. Rebuilding two million houses, repairing and reconstructing 20,000 schools, dozens of roads, culverts, health facilities and water supply schemes is a herculean task. The PPP government has resumed these projects initiated in its previous term. International donors, including the World Bank and the Development Asian Bank, have provided substantial financial and technical assistance. While rebuilding critical infrastructure and services is indeed a priority, it is also an opportunity for a paradigm

An important lesson from the 2022 floods is the need to embark on a macro-level resilient development model for the province. Anything less than a climate-resilient Sindh would mean funnelling precious resources into a flawed demodel. Sindh's peculiar topography makes it vulnerable to multiple climate hazards. The Indus poses a perpetual flooding risk from north to south. The Kirthar hills to the west expose the province to devastating flash floods. The coastal belt in the south is prone to cvclones, tsunamis and a rise in sea levels. The eastern desert strip experi-ences frequent dry spells and droughts, whereas major cities like Karachi and Hyderabad experi-

Resilient Sindh ence urban flooding and heatwaves. Worst still, a gentle gradient north to

south makes natural

drainage terribly sluggish.

Naseer Memon

All this shows the scale of fragility amid the vagaries of climate change. The province's economy, especially in the rural areas, is largely dependent on an inherently delicate agro-pastoral production model. A scarce asset base and skewed land ownership in favour of the landlords are root causes of the poverty trap in the rural areas. Consequently, over 40 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, which is perennially vulnerable to

the climate's wrath.

A carefully crafted climate approach for distinct hydro-climatic zones is needed. A new perspective is required to design roads, culverts, bridges, houses, schools, public utility structures and flood protection infrastructure. Town planning and urban drainage ought to incorporate new benchmarks to confront increasing unpredictability of extreme weather events.

Abnormal rains in August 2022 in Sindh, unusual rainfall in Balochistan districts bordering Sindh in July-August 2022, and the recent experience of a winter downpour in Balochistan must be noted by development planners. Given its insufficient capacity and flawed design, the existing infrastructure was bound to collapse under such heavy precipitation.

Unannounced climatic somersaults are expected with more frequency. The Sindh government should revisit its plans in order to avert another catastrophe that could ruin the already poor public infrastructure and services built over decades. One should not forget that the schools dam-

aged by the floods constituted nearly half the entire school infrastructure built over the last 75 years in the province. Encroached natural courses, poorly designed drainage systems, rickety flood prevention infrastructure, a ramshackle canal network and primitive cropping patterns are key factors that turned climate hazards into calamities. Unless the province focuses on these causative factors, rehabilitation will be unsustainable.

Economic well-being is key to community resilience. According to the Food and Agri-cul-ture Organisation's recent report Unjust Climate, a single day of extreme precipitation causes poor households to lose 0.8pc of their in--co-mes in comparison to better-off households

Floods and heat stress cause poor households to lose livestock holdings either through distress sales of animals or higher levels of livestock mortality. Poor households reduce their investment in agriculture when faced with floods and droughts, as they redirect their scarce resources away from agricultural production to immediate consumption needs. This was observed during the 2022 floods when over 2m households in Sindh lost their houses, livestock and crops. According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment report, poverty in Sindh will increase by between 8.9 and 9.7 percentage points. Rebuilding homes will only help if the local economy is also resuscitated. Compensation for loss or damage or any other cash handout will only provide fleeting relief, which is not a substitute for economic rehabilitation. Sindh needs a comprehensive plan to make the province resil-

Governor confers civil awards on Pak Day

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali here Saturday conferred civil awards on from personalities different walks of life in a ceremony held at Governor

House on Pakistan Day. governor conferred Sitara-e-Imtiaz to Dr Asmat Jan Afridi and Dr Nadeem Jan for public service while recipients of Tamga-e-Imtiaz include Mayor Peshawar, Haji Ghulam Ali, Amjad Aziz Malik, Dr Umar Shehbaz, Dr Muhammad Ismail, Dr Kashif Kifayat, Fr Amjad Mehboob, Ajab Gul, Muhammad Wasim, Danish Atlas, Professor Dr Shoukat Saeed, Professor Dr Sardar Khan, Professor. Dr Abdul Naeem, Abdul

(APP): Batin Farooqi, Almas Khan Khyber Khalil, Fazal Wahab Dard Haji and Professor Gul Rahim Khan. Personalities who

were conferred Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously include Shams-ul-Qamar Andaish, Kheraz Gul, Dr Bhag Chand, Muhammad Tariq, Barki, Abbas Marjan Muhammad Azam Khan, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Faisal Magsood Qureshi, Dr Sultan Zaib, Dr Bashir Ahmad, Dr Muhammad Muhammd Farooq, Toufeeq, Musarrat Dilbar, Haji Muneer Khan, Muhammad Inamullah, Manzoor Ahmad, Allah Ditta Abbasi, Siraj Muhammad and Gul Wasim.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali conferring Presidential Civil Award to Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali on eve of 23rd March ceremony at Governor House.

Punjab Health Minister pays visit to review revamping projects

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique paid a visit to Holy Family Hospital (HFH) Rawalpindi and Rawalpindi Institute of

Urology (RIU).

He made a detailed review of the ongoing revamping project in both Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has directed the contractors to make all operation theaters in Holy Family Hospital fully functional before

He visited patients at Rawalpindi Institute of various government Urology and inquired about hospitals of Punjab.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique speaking on the occasion, said that the ground and first floor of Holy Family Hospital will be completed by March 31. basement and second floor will be completed in the second phase. We will not tolerate a single percent lapse in the revamping project in Institute of Urology. The Health Card will be made active for the people of Punjab very soon with a good package. Revamping project is being reviewed by visiting



LAHORE: Minister for Education of Puniab Rana Sikandar Hayat speaks during the celebrate Pakistan Resolution Day ceremony, at Nazria-e-Trust Pakistan, in the Provincial Capital.

Police implementing all CM orders to save youth from drugs

LAHORE (APP): In order to achieve and complete the mission of Chief Minister arrested, while 258 kg of charas, 01 kg of ice, 20 kg of opium and 4628 liters Punjab Maryam Nawaz of alcohol were recovered Sharif to save the young from the possession of the generation from drugs, Punjab Police are the last four days, a total continuing its crackdown of 3475 raids were across the province. Intelligence-based operations have been accelerated against antisocial elements involved in the nefarious business of drugs across the province, including Lahore. Punjab Police Spokesman said that during the last 24 hours, 657 raids were conducted on the possession of the accused. hideouts of drug dealers across the province. 351 cases were registered against involved in the drugs elements involved in drug business, supply chain etc trafficking

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar directed that targeted operations should and 350 accused were educational institutions.

accused. Similarly, during conducted at the hideouts of drug dealers and other places across the province. 2067 accused were arrested while registering 2064 cases. 1687 kg of charas, 08 kg of ice, 05 kg of heroin, 82 kg of opium, 21616 liters of liquor were also recovered from the

LAHORE President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz to IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar. Dr. Usman Anwar, as Inspector General of the anti-social elements be accelerated against the Police, carried out farreaching reforms and around reorganisation of the Punjab Police.



PESHAWAR: Superintendent of Police (SP) Headquarters, Arshad Khan is distributing national flags and stationery to children during ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan Resolution Day, at Motorway road in Peshawar.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman in a group photo with personalities who got Presidential Awards on eve of 23rd March ceremony at Governor House.

Pakistan Day Governor Punjab conferred civil awards on 132 personalities on outstanding performance

Independent Report AHORE:

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred civil awards on 132 personalities on behalf of President of Pakistan for showing outstanding performance in various fields on the occasion of Pakistan Day here at Governor House Lahore. The Punjab Governor awarded sitare imatiaz, Presidential Award for pride of performance and tamgh e imtiaz.

Among the recipients of awards are Dr. Jamshed Iqbal, Dr. Abid Mehmood, Prof. Dr. Mehmood Ayaz,

Agency for International Development's (USAID)

Mission Director for

Somvongsiri, engaged with

provincial leadership,

government counterparts.

and development partners to advance USAID's

longstanding commitment

to improving lives and

during her visit to the city.

continues to collaborate

with Pakistan to address

climate, environmental,

and economic challenges,

Sindh Governor

pays tributes

to Quaid on

Pakistan Day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on

Saturday visited the

mausoleum of the Father

of the Nation Quaid-e-

Azam Muhammed Ali

Jinnah and paid rich

tributes to him on the

occasion of Pakistan Day.

including Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon were also present

on the occasion. The

Governor laid a wreath and

offered Fateha. He also

prayed for the development and prosperity of the

IGP Punjab

awarded

Hilal-e-Imtiaz

Sindh Ministers

shared

Pakistan,

achieving

Prof. Dr. Sohail Nadeem, Javed Bashir Ahmed, Wasif Nagi, Dr. Rashid Bajwa, Waqar Ahmed Chauhan, Mohsin Hasan Butt, Khawaja Zakauddin (Late), Sardar. Ramesh Singh Arora, Jameel Ahmed, Asim Ahmed, Muhammad Raghib Hussain, Saleem Bukhari, Muhammad Nadeem Jataid, Mian Sultan Khan (Late) Ali Tahir, Muhammad Riaz, Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Prof. Dr. Faisal Shafat, Dr. Naveed Arshad. Prof. Balgis Shabbir, Inavat Hussain Bhatti (Late), Zulfikar Ali Attri,

Kate Somvongsiri spotlights

U.S.-Pakistan Partnership,

climate resilience in Sindh

future for generations to

come, according to a

communiqué on Saturday.

Along with Consul General Conrad Tribble,

Somvongsiri met with Chief Minister Syed

Murad Ali Shah to reaffirm

USAID's partnership and

support for development

initiatives in Sindh.

development goals in Sindh Discussions with Sindh established with U.S.

Minister of Health and

Under the U.S.Pakistan "Green Alliance"
Azra Pechuho, centered on ongoing collaborations in the 1950s, CG Tribble and the Mission Director

health as well as successful

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minority

Affairs, Ramesh Singh

Arora, stated that Pakistan

Day is a time for renewing

our commitment and

willingness to sacrifice for

the nation.

Pakistan

2022 floods.

interventions during crises

Director

Azra Pechuho, centered on in the 1950s, CG Tribble

such as COVID-19 and the initiatives on maternal and

Arora emphasizes

renewed commitment

on Pakistan Day

eternal

In his message on ancestors have bequeathed us a remarkable legacy,

(Saturday), he emphasized that this day signifies the realization of the dreams of the

IGP orders speeding

up crackdown on

kite-flying activities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Inspector
General Police Punjab Dr.
Usman Anwar has icc.

flying. He directed that indiscriminate action

KARACHI (APP): U.S. ensuring a sustainable

Mission

Mehboob Ali, Ms. Musrat Kalanchvi, Ms. Zubaida (Nagma), Muhammad Hussain Askari (Late), Baqir Abbas, Nazir Qaiser, Hameed Razi, Ghulam Abbas, Khalid Masood. Khan, Mrs. Farkhunda (Late) Bukhari Muhammad Ilyas, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Dr. Nasrullah Khan Nasir Ghulam Muhammad Arif Najmi, Salman Ghani, Muhammad Sharif Tahir, Zaman Anwar, Shajar Abbas, Shakeel Jazeb, Atif Ikram (Late) Captain ® Waheed Mahmood, Shahid Iqbal, Syed Adeel Hussain Shah (martyr), Khaliq Dad,

USAID's decades-

long partnership with the

Sindh government spans

various sectors, including

education, water and

sanitation, health and

nutrition, clean energy,

food security, economic

advancement, and climate

resilience. During their visit to Jinnah

Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC),

assistance in collaboration

observed the impact of

USAID-supported

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Muhammad Igbal (RA).

importance of honoring the

eternal sacrifices made, underscoring that our

and manufacturers of

metallic strings. He ordered

accelerate

and Allama

He emphasized the

newborn care.

Amin, Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Qari Wasim ullah Amin, Dr. Salman Raza Naqvi, Syeda Aruba Bilal Hussain Geelani, Dr. Tahir Masood, Dr. Hamad Umar, Dr. Mohammad Yar, Prof. Dr. Aamir Saeed Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Prof. Dr. Syed Mehmood Raza, Dr. Shaghfata Jabeen, Prof. Sajjad Naseer, Dr. Shahid Hameed, Dr. Rashid Naeem Siddiqui, Dr. Shafqat Yosuf Prof. Khan, Chauhan, Dr. Arshad Rizwan Jameel Rehman.

4 drug peddlers arrested: 1 kg ice recovered

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the successful operation against the drug peddlers arrested four accused and recovered 1 kg of ice and 55 grams of heroin from their possession here on Saturday.

According to the police spokesman, on the direction of the District Police Officer Dera Nasir Mehmood, Cantt police station led by the SHO Gul Sher Khan with police team conducted the successful operation against the drug peddlers.During the ested Fiaz son of Rab nawaz resident of Kandiyal and recovered 370 grams of ice from his possession.

Similarly, another accused Imran son of Ramzan arrested and 55 grams of heroin recovered from his possession. Ashir son of Azeem resident of Awanaabad was arrested and 331 grams of ice recovered from his possession. Meanwhile police arrested Anser Shah recovered 372 grams.

incumbent government Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was committed to extend best services to masses and to play role development of Speaking on the occasion of his visit to the tremendous potential and Quaid's mausoleum along Pakistan will be made part with President PML-N

Pays tributes to Quaid Minister Maritime says

serving country

PML-N's top priority

KARACHI (INP): Paying Pakistan on this day. He

of G20 soon. The minister Sindh chapter Bashir said, 'We are aware of Memon and party workers, he said that today problems of the people. the day of

determination. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that the masses would observed the commitment and performance of his party during the ongoing year. He said, our leaders gave a message to create a new country named will give results.

rich tributes to father of the

nation Quaid-e-Azam

Mohammed Ali Jinnah on

Pakistan Day, Federal Shehbaz Minister for Maritime Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Affairs Qaiser Ahmed and Chief of Army Staff Sheikh has said that the (COAS) Syed Asim Munir had made decisions about austerity measures. He said that all ministers had willingly decided not to draw salaries for the first time in the history of the country. He said that Pakistan had

said that Pakistan's

leadership including Prime

Minister Muhammad

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that PML-N was a sincere party and it had performed well in the past.

Speaking of PPP's support, the minister said that he also respected PPP for giving them free hand. He said that PML-N had accepted the challenge and



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori taking with family members of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during the Pakistan Day ceremony at the mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in the Provincial Capital.

Punjab, KPK health departments to exchange experiences: Minister

Independent Report

Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazeer has said that health systems will be exchanged with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

He said this after meeting KPK Minister for Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah here on Saturday. Both ministers discussed health related issues. Kh. Imran Nazeer said that both provinces will benefit from each other's systems in the health sector. He said that setting aside politics, both provinces will serve the public together to strengthen the health sector.

Later, he chaired a meeting held to review the health system being launched in the province. He observed that a province cannot be son of Manzoor Shah and free from spurious medicines until fool-proof not be compromised.

system is in place in other provinces. Punjab health minister said that the revamping of all DHQ and THQ hospitals in Punjab will be completed by March 2024, adding that all the structures of BHUs and RHCs will be made according to the same design. On this occasion, KPK Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said that the professional and technical expertise of Punjab in the health sector will be utilized for the improvement of the health system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Lauding the modern equipment and upgradation in the health system of Punjab, he said the health sector is also being upgraded in the KPK. He said that the

provision of quality and

affordable medicines in the

country is the basic right of

the people, which should



CCPO Lahore, RPOs, against the accused DPOs should ensure involved in manufacturing, on Yadgar-e-Shohda to mark Pakistan Day celebrations. implementation of Anti- sale and use of metallic. 23 March: A historic day signifying Muslims epic struggle for Pakistan

23rd March 1940 is a momentous day in the history of subcontinent that signified Muslims' epic struggle and strong commitment for Pakistan.

orders to all supervisory

officers to speed up

measures to prevent kite

Rejecting the negative policies of Congress and offers of colonial masters, the Muslims of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent had united at Iqbal Park Lahore in 1940 where that set a clear direction for creation of Pakistan.

Like other provinces of Pakistan, the Khyber Pakthunkhwa's people had extended all-out support to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah when he came here to mobilize its people for Pakistan following an adoptation of the historic

resolution. The arrival of the great leader committed to

PESHAWAR (APP): The the cause of a separate Muslim homeland for Muslims had moved the people of KP (then NWFP) whom decorated their homes, bazaars, vehicles, and towns with Muslim League flags inscribed with different slogans of Pakistan and Quaid-i-Azam Zindabad besides showered rose petals on their beloved Quaid. Quaid-i-Azam received a rousing welcome when he came to Peshawar in 1945 at Peshawar and later Islamia College

Peshawar (ICP). From Chitral to DI Khan and Waziristan to Kohistan, the people of all 37 districts of Khyber Pakthunkhwa arrived to see few glimpses of the legandry Quaid besides raised full throated slogans of Pakistan and Quaid e

Azam Zindabad. "The students of

Muslim Students students for Pakistan. Federation of ICP had Visited ICP in 1936, 1945 presented him Rs 8,000 as fund for the Pakistan Movement and assured him to present 8,000 committed educated workers

accomplishment of his great mission when he came again to ICP" said former Vice Chancellor ICP, Professor Dr Muhamnad Naushad Khan while talking to APP.

"It was the love of people of KP with Quaid-Azam that Muslim League had won more than 50 seats in this province and after that nobody could stop independence movement of Pakistan from here.

He said Quaid-i-Azam visited Islamia College Peshawar three times in his life to acknowledge the

and 1948, the legandry Quaid was impressed by the devotion of its faculty, staff and students besides the building's domes, lushgreen lawns, and majestic edifice of its beautiful architecture.

Dr Naushad said that Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had considered students of ICP and people of KP as a front-line force in his constitutional and peaceful struggle for independence of Pakistan. In his last visit to the ICP as Governor General of Pakistan on April 12, 1948, the great Quaid presented glowing tributes to the services of its students towards making of Pakistan in these words.

"I am indeed very happy to be present here outstanding role of its today and to have the promotion of harmony.

privilege of addressing the students of this great Darul Uloom, who are the future builders of Pakistan.

In fact, he reminded the students that now we have achieved the national goal of Pakistan and it was responsibility to work hard our respective professions with high-level of dedication, commitment and sincerity to make it one of the greatest state of

the world. He advised the students to develop a sound sense of discipline, character, initiative and a solid academic background and devote themselves wholeheartedly towards studies. "Now we have our government, own therefore, we must be constructive in criticism and students can make a big contribution towards

FBR declares essential to install point of sale system for dozens of businesses

Announces to start registration under TFS from April 01

declared essential to install point of sale system for dozens of businesses all over the country.

FBR has made; point of sale system mandatory for private schools, hospitals, retailers, hotels, fitness centers and other dozens of businesses from July 01, 2024.

FBR has issued SRO No 428(1)/2024 in this regard. Under it the business institutions will have to install soft ware and hard ware duly

ISLAMABAD (Online): approved by FBR in foreign Federal government has connection with; point of companie sale system.

FBR has asked the private acquisition of licenses.

It has been said that dozens of professional service providers, health manufacturers retailers, whole sale retailers and import cum retailers have been integrated in the list of these businesses where point of start registration in sale is mandatory. FBR has directed

companies, clubs, private educational institutions, hospitals, vendors selling such restaurants. hotels, guest devices to apply for houses, marriage halls, courier services, beauty parlors, medical services, laboratories, chartered accountants and retailers to care providers including install point of sale on their cum installations .It will be connected with FBR Meanwhile, system. Federal Board of Revenue

(FBR) has announced to

connection with Traders

as per demand of IMF. Retailers will start to get register them from

April 01 in the cities of Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Peshawar. Recovery of tax will start from them with effect from July 01, 2024. In the SRO issued by FBR special procedure has

been proposed for small traders and shopkeepers. Every trader and shopkeeper will have to file application for registration under clause 181 of the ordinance.

Chairman of National

Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan

Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All

Karachi Industrial Alliance,

and former provincial minister Mian Zahid

Hussain has said that

Pakistan needs fresh long-

term IMF loan for its

he said that in the

prevailing situation.

economic reforms were

significant so that the

country can become self-

reliant, and he said there was no need for further

borrowing.

Mian Zahid Hussain

said that borrowing should

be stopped as soon as possible; otherwise, the

entire debt servicing

burden will continue to be

shifted to industry and the

after gaining earlier in the

week over expectations of

a series of interest rate cuts

On Wall Street, the

later this year

economic survival.

Businessmen

Fresh IMF loan needed

to support Pakistan's

economy: Mian Zahid

Talking to business not only wants the community on Saturday, continuation of strict

default.

Due

was the only option to save the country from

continuous breach of

promises, the attitude of the IMF has become

inflexible, while the attitude

of the friendly countries has also become cold, the

policies but also wants to

see further increases in

electricity and gas prices and prolong interest rates

in double digits.

The IMF wants to

increase the tax base, sell

failed enterprises, and bring non-tax-paying

sectors into the tax net.

However, in Pakistan, governments generally

cannot do anything other

than increase taxes on

certain items, resulting in

inflation.

Stocks mixed after

rallying over interest

rate outlook

He said that the IMF

business leader said.



Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema welcomed the delegation from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) led by H.E. Mr. Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari, Chairman of QFFD, who is on a two-day visit to Pakistan from 23-24 March 2024 in Islamabad.



QUETTA: President Al-Khidmat Foundation Quetta Abdul Majeed and others giving away invitation of 24th March Donor Conference to President Chamber of Commerce Balochistan Abdullah Achakzai.

GDP growth rate below potential despite efforts to boost: APBF

President All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), Syed Maaz Mahmood has said that country's GDP growth rate has always remained below its of goods, food, petrol, and fundamental changes in potential despite efforts to other necessities has governance, fairness, boost economic growth, as increased, and inflation has openness, accountability, the development of almost reached 45 percent, and the consistent important sectors and investment prospects was hampered by inadequate governance issues.

In a statement issued on Saturday, he asked the government to give priority the haughtiness and bad should fulfill to the economic recovery, emphasizing the necessity of joint efforts to tackle President said that the

ISLAMABAD: People are buying vegetables in a Sunday weekly bazaar, in the Federal Capital.

PCSIR employees face

financial crunch over

nonpayment of salaries

KARACHI (INP): The including tier-1 scientists employees of the Pakistan and physicists. These

forefront

their

PCSIR, established contributions to scientific

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

(PCSIR) were gripped by

severe financial crisis over

nonpayment of salaries

cast a shadow over the

dedicated workforce of

PCSIR, an institution of

national significance

renowned for its scientific

with the mission to foster

scientific and industrial

development in Pakistan,

This dire situation has

since January 2024.

research endeavors.

Industrial

and physicists. These

individuals are at the

groundbreaking research

initiatives, contributing

significantly to the advancement of various

fields crucial for national

predicament facing PCSIR

employees paints a starkly different picture. Despite

innovation, these diligent

professionals are facing

severe financial strain due

However, the current

invaluable

issues for years, the cost which is not bearable for economic the common man.

On the other hand, well and to save them from the system. The APBF poverty

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's economic only way for this to go difficulties. Syed Maaz from a failure to a success Mahmood said that since story, as in other countries, it has been causing serious is if the federal and governance and economic provincial governments defy them and pursue

> The APBF Chairman the new government unemployment.



ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has appointed Mrs Shahida Parveen as Convener FPCCI's Women Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regional Standing Committee on Women Empowerment & Development for the year 2024-2025.

The committee would Women represent Chamber Of Commerce & Industry, Peshawar Division, according to press statement received here.Shahida Parveen, the Proprietor Blossom's Beauty Saloon has been authorized to select and appoint professional and experienced members throughout the KPK Region (minimum nine members) in here Committee from the

relevant fields and sector. She has been asked to convene meeting of the Committee within 30 days of this nomination and has been advised to hold at



Dow fell as it was pulled lower by Nike, which offered a lackluster outlook. The wider S&P 500 retreated slightly, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq gained to finish at a record for the third straight day.

Frankfurt rose after a survey showed improved business confidence, while Paris closed lower.

Markets 'catching their breath after an eventful week," said Charles Schwab analyst Joe Mazzola.

'The market heads into the final week of the first quarter buoyed by optimism over the economy and renewed confidence the Federal

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Reserve will embark on a Tajran Karachi Javed for enabling it to directly

London, which has lagged behind most major markets so far this year, was the strongest major market Friday, with the FTSE 100 index closing up 0.6 percent.It had gained almost two percent Thursday as the Bank of England signaled it could start cutting interest rates over the UK summer.

"The FTSE 100 is benefitting more than the other indices because it was cheap," said Kathleen Brooks, an analyst at XTB.com.

'This shift in rate cut expectations from the BOE is like a red flag to a bull, and markets have rallied sharply," she said.

The Swiss National Bank on Thursday became the first major central bank to cut rates aimed at combating inflation.



QUETTA: People are busy in Eid shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitar during the Holy Month of Ramadanul-Mubarak, at roadside stall located on Jinnah road in Quetta.

Farmers' body demands agri-emergency in Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI) on Saturday urged the federal government to declare an agriculture

emergency in the country. In a statement, Kissan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Hussain Bath demanded the restoration of the Rs1.8 trillion package announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the farmers'

community.

He said that the farmers will begin a protest after Eidul Fitr if the government fails to address issues of the community. "A sit-in will be staged in Islamabad if fertilizers, saying that the

farmers were buying urea for Rs6,000 per bag.

The farmer leader

claimed that there was not a clear government policy regarding the agriculture sector. He said that his organisation could guide the government about the crops that could bring foreign exchange to the country

Ittehad Kissan President Mian Umer said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has not conducted a single meeting on the agriculture sector.

Criticising government over its lack of interest in the sector, he claimed that the "sugar needed." He lamented the mafia" has not paid farmers hike in the price of the after buying sugarcane from them

Qatar Fund keen to increase footprint in Pakistan's power, housing sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): visit to Pakistan (from 23- CEO, Chief Executive Officer, Fund Development (QFFD), Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari here on Saturday showed his interest in increasing the footprint of the fund in Pakistan's power generation and housing sectors.

Both countries would further enhance bilateral cooperation by initiating technical level discussions, said a press statement issued by the Economic Affairs Division.A QFFD delegation, led by Al-

Kuwari is on a two-day Small traders reject plan for tax collection thru electricity

KARACHI (INP): Small businesses in Karachi have rejected government's proposal for tax collection through electricity bills, adding that such proposals were rejected by the community in the past. President of Anjuman implement this decision on traders' resistance. He said traders blatantly reject government's proposal and if government tried to impose then traders

24 March 2024), the statement added. The State of Qatar and QFFD delegation, along with the in the development of the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater called on Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema. On the occasion, the Minister for Economic highlighted the priority of his government to further strengthen

cooperation between the development of mega projects in the water affectees by pledging US\$ sector. He welcomed the 25.00 million.

between the two countries. congratulated Al-Kuwari on receiving the Civil Award conferred upon him by the Affairs President of Pakistan in recognition of his services to Pakistan. Cheema bilateral expressed his gratitude to the State of Qatar for two countries in the galvanizing international support for the floods 2022

Advisor Federal Ombudsman assures ICCI of direct access to its Portal

ISLAMABAD Advisor Federal Ombudsman, Mehboob Alam has assured that the Ombudsman office will provide complete access to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to its Portal redressal.The Advisor speaking during meeting with President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and other office bearers during his visit to Chamber on

Ombudsman office was playing a pivotal role in redressing complaints with regard to the Government agencies independent, quick and free of cost investigations. Ahsan Zafar appreciated the role of the Federal Ombudsman Office in complaints since its inception and briefed the Advisor about the working of the Mediation Council at the ICCI and expressed the hope that by getting a direct access to Ombudsman office's portal.

country and the longstanding relationship



ISLAMABAD: Families shopping for upcoming Eid al-Fitr celebrations in Karachi Company Market.

Karachi retailer 'fined' for selling cheaper flour KARACHI (INP): A

retailer in Karachi's Jodia Bazaar, the country's oldest and biggest wholesale market of essential goods, faced penalty for selling flour at lower price' than the official rate.

Karachi Wholesaler Grocers Group (KWGG) has lamented the fines imposed on the retailer, threatening of a shutterdown strike against the 'injustice'

A team of Deputy Commissioner visited market and checked the prices and food items being sold at various shops in Jodia Bazaar on Saturday. During the inspection, the DC found a retailer selling cheaper flour.

In a statement. Wholesaler Grocers Chairman Abdur Rauf said that the shopkeeper was selling the flour at Rs115 per kg against the official rate of Rs123 per kg.

Lamenting the fine imposed on shopkeeper, the chairman said that selling cheaper flour to poor citizens became a crime in the

FRIA says: IMF's directions to now carry forward fiscal discipline of country

Vice Chairman, Ferozepur Road Industrial Association Shahbaz Aslam has said that the economic and fiscal discipline of the country will be driven under the direction of IMF, leaving little room for the government to make its way, which has not come up with any plan to fix the economy and provide relief

to the trade and industry. In a statement issued Saturday, he said that higher inflation, rising utility tariffs, growing unemployment and, above all, the malaise and despondency among the masses were likely to continue unattended.

Shahbaz Aslam said that economic vulnerability now looms with political uncertainty at its core. The Moody's Investors Service has recently given a 'credit negative' signal to Pakistan in the face of prolonged political ambiguity and social tensions over election results, which will make it tough to approach the IMF for a new program, weaken external

LAHORE (INP): Senior economy and make liquidity management more challenging.

He said that the ivatization commission of Pakistan was struggling since months to effectively put in place the privatization of lossmaking public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again,

by the IMF. The election held on Feb 8th in Pakistan threw up a number of surprises with a significant shift in the country's political landscape, he added.

The business leader said that decision-making processes and any constitutional amendment were likely to be driven and influenced more by conflicting self-interests of the coalition partners, watering down the key objectives. This was not what the country needs in these unprecedented times of political and economic challenges confronting the



QUETTA: Dates are being selling on a shop as a demand of Dates increase on the arrival of the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, located on Qandhari Bazar in Quetta.

conflict has ground on.

Guterres arrived on

Saturday in Al Arish in

Egypt's northern Sinai,

where much of the interna-

tional relief for Gaza is de-

Receiving him, regional governor Mohamed

Shusha said some 7,000

trucks were waiting in

North Sinai to deliver aid

to Gaza, but that inspec-

tion procedures demanded

livered and stockpiled.

UN chief visits Gaza

border in new plea

for ceasefire

Monitoring Desk

AL ARISH: UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres

will visit Egypt's border with Gaza on Saturday to

renew pleas for a ceasefire

that could bring relief to a

territory devastated by

more than five months of

war between Israel and

rael threatens to launch a

major military operation in

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The US

Congress early on Saturday

overwhelmingly passed a

\$1.2 trillion budget bill,

keeping the government

funded through a fiscal year

that began six months ago

and sending it to President Joe Biden to sign into law

and avert a partial shut-

down. The vote on passage

of Homeland Security, Jus-

tice, State and Treasury,

which houses the Internal

Revenue Service, will remain

Key federal agencies

was 74-24.

His trip comes as Is-

Hamas.

Russia arrests suspected gunmen as concert death toll soars to 143

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia said on Saturday it had arrested 11 people, including four suspected gunmen, in connection with a shooting rampage that killed 143 people in a concert hall near Moscow, the deadliest attack in Russia for 20 years.

The militant Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Friday's attack but there were indications that Russia was pursuing a Ukrainian link, despite a statement from Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak that Kyiv had nothing to do

Russia's state Investigative Committee said 133 people had been killed. State TV editor Margarita Simonyan, without citing a source, had earlier given a toll of 143.

In a televised address, Putin said 11 people had been detained, including the four gunmen. "They tried

to hide and moved towards Zakharova said on Tele-Ukraine, where, according gram. to preliminary data, a window was prepared for them on the Ukrainian side to cross the state border," he

The FSB security service said the gunmen had contacts in Ukraine and sian invaders, liberating its were captured near the bor- own territory and is fightder. It said they were being transferred to Moscow. The FSB security ser-

vice said "all four terrorists" had been arrested while heading to the Ukrainian border, and that they had contacts in Ukraine. It said they were being transferred to Moscow. Neither Putin nor the FSB publicly presented any proof of a link with Ukraine, with which Russia has been waging war for the past 25 months.

"Now we know in which country these bloody bastards planned to hide from pursuit — Ukraine," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman

Ukrainian military intelligence spokesman Andriy Yusov told Reuters: "Ukraine was of course not involved in this terror attack. Ukraine is defending sian invaders, liberating its ing with the occupiers' army and military targets, not civilians.

He said the FSB version that the suspects were arrested en route to Ukraine was "of course another lie from the Russian special services"

Putin cast the enemy as "international terrorism" and said that he was ready to work with any state that wanted to defeat it. "All the perpetrators,

organisers and those who ordered this crime will be justly and inevitably punished. Whoever they are, whoever is guiding them,'



A view shows the Crocus City Hall concert venue following Friday's deadly

Russia pounds Ukrainian power facilities; Zelenskiy seeks air defences, 'political will'

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia pounded Ukrainian power facilities on Friday in an attack described by Kyiv as the largest airstrike on its energy infrastructure in two years of war, and portrayed by Moscow as revenge for Ukrainian attacks during its

presidential election. The missile and drone attack hit a vast dam over the Dnipro river, killed at least five people and left more than a million others without power, forcing

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Presi-

dent Joe Biden will wel-

come Iraq's prime minister

on April 15 for talks on the

US troop presence, the

White House announced

Friday, as tensions subside

following US clashes with

trip to Washington by

Prime Minister Mohamed

Shia al-Sudani, who took

called for an exit of US

forces, redeployed nearly

10 years ago as part of a

campaign to defeat the Is-

lamic State extremist group,

better known as ISIS, which

had seized vast swathes of

Mumbai, India.

Monitoring Desk

authorities recovered two

bodies from the shores of

West Aceh on Saturday and

said local fishermen re-

ported several other drown-

ing victims washed up af-

ter a vessel carrying

Rohingya migrants cap-

sized off the coast earlier

this week. More than 70

Rohingya were "presumed dead or missing", which if

confirmed would be the

biggest loss of life in such

an incident so far this year,

the U.N. refugee agency

(UNHCR) said on Friday.

Seventy-five people were

Monitoring Desk

STANBUL: In the skies

above Istanbul's Tophane

neighbourhood, seagulls are

sent scattering by a drone

that's filming a policeman

arresting a young woman

series called "Degenler",

one of about 60 filmed an-

nually in Turkiye that have

made Istanbul and other

Turkish cities familiar to

viewers in nearly 170 coun-

tries around the world.

Over the past 15 years,

Turkiye has established it-

self as the foremost ex-

porter of series after the

United States and Britain.

But it's for a television

on the streets below.

CEH JAYA: Indonesian

office in October 2022.

It will mark the first

Sudani in the past has

pro-Iran militias.

Kyiv to seek emergency electricity supplies from Poland, Romania and Slovakia, Kyiv officials

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, speaking in his nightly video address, said the strikes proved again that Russian attacks on infrastructure could be halted only with more air defence systems and that required political Ukraine's allies.

"Russian terror is only possible now because

Biden and Sudani will

discuss "our shared com-

mitment to the lasting de-

feat of ISIS and evolution

of the military mission," a

White House statement

that the two would "dis-

the fight against the ex-

the Israel-Hamas war

with armed groups linked

of attacks on positions in

United States, the main

Indian soldiers stand guard next to captured Somali pirates after they were

brought in for prosecution by the Indian Navy, at the Naval Dockyard in

rescued.
"We have evacuated

two bodies from the shores.

We have identified them both as females," Mirza

Saprinadi, national head of

operations at Indonesia's

search and rescue agency,

told reporters, adding that

immigration officers had

confirmed the victims as

carried by the current and

local fishermen reported

several other drowning vic-

tims found along the west-

ern shore of Aceh province,

on the Indonesian island of

"Latin Americans find

Turkish series very close to

their culture," said Erdi Isik,

development manager at Ay

Yapim — Turkiye's leading

exporter last year and whose

production "Yargi" ("Fam-

ily Secrets") last November

won an International Emmy

for best telenovela. "When

I show samples to a panel,

even if they don't under-

stand a word of Turkish,

they catch what it is about

because the family culture

is very much the same," he

said. Censorship constraints

in Turkiye also provide

more modest material, im-

portant for audiences in the

Middle East.

Sumatra, Mirza said.

The bodies had been

Indonesia recovers two

bodies after Rohingya

boat capsizes off Aceh

From Dubai to Chile,

Turkish series expand

their empire

ally of Israel

Sudani's office said

Tensions soared amid

Iraqi PM to visit

Washington for troop talks

Iraq and Syria.

we don't have enough modwhich, to be honest, requires enough political will to provide them," Zelenskiy

"All our partners know what is needed and who can make truly lifesaving decisions." Military aid to Ukraine from Western allies has slowed in recent months, in particular a \$60 billion package from Washington, stalled by political disputes in the US

Lebanon to complain to UN, saying Israel disrupts

cuss the future relationtion of its sovereignty by ship" between Iraq and the United States following systems, the foreign minissaid Israel was affecting the airspace of Beirut's Rafic to Iran carrying out a slew Hariri International Airport the Middle East of the for the consequences of any accident or disaster.

List reveals

Indian firms

made big

donations to BJP

Monitoring Desk

MUMBAI: Huge donations

by firms under criminal in-

vestigation or suspected of

being shell companies have

been funnelled to India's rul-

ing Bharatiya Janata Party

and other parties, new data

showed, highlighting the

backscratching ties between

corporate titans and the gov-

ernment. Last week, India's

election commission pub-

lished a list detailing buyers

of electoral bonds, a conten-

tious funding scheme that has

helped Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's party build

Editor suspended

over Macron-

related headline

Monitoring Desk MARSEILLE: The news

editor of a regional French

daily was suspended after

a front-page headline criti-

cal of President Emmanuel

Macron, management said

on Friday, causing outrage

launched a major operation

against drug trafficking in

the southern port city of

Marseille and elsewhere,

saying that gangland battles

that last year left dozens

dead had made life a misery

Marseille visit, La Provence daily published a

front page on Thursday

showing two people, pre-

sumably drug dealers,

watching a police patrol.

Following Macron's

for residents

Macron on Tuesday

across the newsroom.

an immense campaign war.

navigation

CAIRO: Lebanon will file an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council over what it called Israel's violadisrupting its navigation try said on Friday. In a statement, the foreign ministry safety of civil aviation in the "Lebanon also holds Israel internationally responsible

systems Monitoring Desk

funded through Sept 30 after the bill was passed in the Democratic-majority Sen-



ate. But the measure did not include funding for mostly military aid to Ukraine, Taiwan or Israel, which are included in a different Senatepassed bill that the Republican-led House of Representatives has ignored. Senate leaders spent hours on Friday negotiating a number of amendments to the budget bill that ultimately were defeated. The delay

Friday midnight deadline But the White House Office of Management and Budget issued a statement saving agencies would not be ordered to shut, expressing confidence that the Senate would promptly pass the bill, which it did. While Con-gress got the job done, deep partisan divides were on display again, as well as bitter disagreement within the House's narrow and fractious Republican majority. Conservative firebrand Repreincluding the departments sentative Marjorie Taylor

> Johnson, a fellow Republican, for allowing the measure The 1,012-page bill provides \$886 billion in funding for the Defense Department, including a raise for US troops. Biden, a Democrat, has indicated

Greene threatened to force a

vote to remove Speaker Mike

he will sign it. Major League Baseball launched a probe into Shohei Ohtani, one of the biggest names in baseball, and his long-time interpreter Ippei Mizuhara on pushed passage beyond a Friday.

New Hong Kong security law comes into force amid fears for freedoms

HONG KONG: A new national security law came into force in Hong Kong on Saturday despite growing international criticism that it could erode freedoms in the city, which is ruled by China but has some autonomy stemming from its history as a British colony.

The law took effect at midnight, when it was published on a government website, days after Hong Kong's pro-Beijing lawmakers passed it unanimously, fast-tracking legislation to plug what authorities called national security

loopholes. Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee signed the new national security law on Friday evening, saying it "accomplished a historic mission, living up to the trust placed in us by the Central (Chinese) Authorities". Australia and Britain on Friday criticised China for its actions in Hong Kong after a meeting in

temic erosion of autonomy,

thorities, however, in a

spreading remarks" Hong Kong returned

The United Nations and the European Union criticised the extremely swift passage of the law, Adelaide, noting in a joint which was first tabled as a

Monitoring Desk LOS ANGELES: The trial of a rancher accused of killing a Mexican migrant on his property in Arizona began Friday, as tensions mount in the United States over an inflow of migrants across the southern border.

is charged with second-degree murder for the death of Mexican Gabriel Cuen-Buitimea, 48, on his prop-erty in the border town of Nogales in January 2023.

During opening arguclaimed that Kelly was eating on his land with backair and scare them.

"He knew that he and his wife were in danger," said attorney Brenna Larkin.

freedoms and rights"

Australia and Taiwan updated their travel advisories for Hong Kong, urging citizens to exercise caution. You could break the laws without intending to and be detained without charge and denied access to a lawyer," the Australian government said. Hong Kong austatement, "strongly condemned such political manoeuvres with skewed, fact-twisting, scaremongering and panic-

to Chinese rule in 1997 with the guarantee that its high degree of autonomy and freedoms, including freedom of speech and of assembly, would be protected under a "one country, two systems" formula.

statement "deep concerns draft bill in early March.

Trial begins for US rancher accused of killing migrant

George Alan Kelly, 75,

ments Friday in a southern Arizona courtroom, the rancher's defense attorneys ing lunch that day when he saw a group of men walkpacks and rifles. After hearing a gunshot he reached for his AK-47 to fire into the

"He raises his rifle at

and portrayed the incident as the product of a bias in

an angle high up so that he knows he's not going to hit anybody. And he fires. He fires until the threat is gone," Larkin said. But prosecutors said the migrants were unarmed

Kelly's mind toward migrants commonly held in regions close to the border with Mexico. "They weren't approaching him. They weren't any kind of threat to him. They were going parallel to his residence,

chief deputy county attorney Kim Hunley said. "I want you to consider Gabriel Cuen-Buitimea as a human being, and not as George Kelly described him, an animal. added Hunley, referring to a statement by the rancher

on the case The prosecutor said that throughout the trial, evidence and testimony will show that Kelly "is guilty as charged.

by Israel had held up the the southern Gaza city of Rafah, just over the border flow of relief, according to from Egypt, despite international appeals against such an attack. a statement from Shusha's office. Guterres is expected A majority of Gaza's to visit a hospital in Al Arish 2.3 million residents are where Palestinians evacusheltering around Rafah. Though conditions are ated from Gaza are receiving treatment, and meet UN worse in the north of the humanitarian workers on strip, the plight of civilians the Egyptian side of the across the territory has deteriorated sharply as the entry points for the aid. **US Congress averts** government shutdown,

passing \$1.2 trillion bill

Vehicle line up, near the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza

Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah, Egypt.

Indian court effectively bans madrassas in Uttar **Pradesh before election**

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: A court in India has essentially

banned Islamic schools in the country's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, a move that could further distance Muslims from Prime Minister Narendra government ahead of gen-

Friday's ruling scraps a 2004 law governing madrassas in Uttar Pradesh (UP), claiming it violates India's constitutional secularism and ordering that students be moved to conven-

tional schools. The Allahabad High Court order affects 2.7 million students and 10,000 teachers in 25.000 madrassas, said Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, head of the

'The state government shall also ensure that children between the ages of 6 to 14 years are not left without admission in duly recognised institutions, Judges Subhash Vidyarthi and Vivek Chaudhary Modi's Hindu nationalist wrote in their order, which was made based on an appeal by lawyer Anshumar

Singh Rathore. Reuters could neither contact Rathore nor determine if he is connected to

any political group. India holds a general election between April and June that Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is widely expected to win. Muslims and rights groups have accused some BJF members and affiliates of promoting anti-Islamic hate

board of madrassa educa-tion in UP, where one-fifth demolishing Muslimof the 240m people are owned properties. Haiti gang wars push hunger to worst

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Almost half of Haiti's people are struggling to feed themselves as gang violence els of food insecurity. spreads across the country, with several areas close to famine, international organisations said on Fri-

Inflation and poor harvests have also helped push Haiti to its worst levels of food insecurity on record, they said.

Rising hunger is fueling the security crisis that is shattering the country. We need urgent action now - waiting to respond at scale is not an option. Jean-Martin Bauer, the World Food Programme's Haiti director, said.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) - an organisation which sets a scale used by the United Nations and governments to assess

levels on record that about 4.97 million people out of a population of about 11.5 million were facing crisis or worse lev-

> Eight areas were now assessed to be in an emergency phase - the worst level before famine, it said.

These include the Artibonite valley, Haiti's farming heartland, which has been badly hit by gangs expanding from the capital Port-au-Prince, rural parts of the Grand-Anse peninsula and neighborhoods of the capital such as the poor Cite

The Caribbean country has been gripped by violence since rival gangs unleashed a wave of attacks this month, including raids on police stations and the international airport. The conflict has killed thousands and displaced hundreds of thou-

Houthi leader says there has been 'reckless' American-British attacks on Yemen **Monitoring Desk**

CAIRO: The head of the

Houthi supreme revolutionary committee, Muhammad Ali Al-Houthi, said on Saturday there have been "reckless" American-

British attacks on Yemen. The American-British attacks aim to break a naval rael, which is besieging Gaza, Muhammad Ali Al-Houthi said on X. The Houthi-run Saba News Agency said separately that U.S.-British aircraft had launched five raids on Hodeidah, the area where Yemen's main port is located. Iran-aligned Houthi militants have repeatedly launched drones and missiles at international commercial shipping in the Red Sea region since mid-

Monitoring Desk BARCELONA: Tourists arriving at Barcelona's airport or gazing at its iconic Sagrada Familia basilica will this Easter holiday be met with large signs in English that read: "Drought alert. During your

stay, save water". As the impact of climate change intensifies across southern Europe, Spain's Mediterranean region of Catalonia, which includes Barcelona, is enduring its worst drought on record. Reservoir levels are only around 15 per cent of their capacity, prompting curbs on water use by residents, visitors, agriculture and industry. Beach showers are shut and swimming pools cannot be filled with tap water, among other restrictions. Catalan officials have appealed for tourists to act responsibly, but are also adamant the drought should not put them off coming to the Spanish city and region most-visited by

November. Barcelona officials worry about tourism amid drought

foreigners, where tourism



Tourists are seen next to a sign outside a church in Barcelona alerting them to severe drought in Spain's north-eastern region and urging them to save

water due to low reservoir levels.

Pak, Saudi Arabia to work together, further enhance bilateral cooperation

President confers Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Saudi Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reiterated their resolve to work together and further enhance bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Defence Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, who called on him at Aiwani-Sadr on Saturday.

Minister. Prime Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif, Federal Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Chief of Army Staff, General Sved Asim Munir, and the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki. were also present during the

visiting dignitary, the President said that Pakistan accorded utmost importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia as both countries enjoyed a fraternal bond marked by shared faith and historical relations.

He underscored the need for further increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields. The President deeply thanked KSA for the support provided to Pakistan during challenging times. He lauded the leadership of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and the vision of the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud that would propel Saudi Arabia towards remarkable progress.

The Saudi Defence Minister highlighted that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed strong historical, strategic and defence coop-

work together and support each other to further deepen bilateral relations. He highlighted that his country believed in regional prosperity and had succeeded in increasing economic integra-

Earlier, President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award, during a Special Investiture Ceremony, on His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Minister for Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in recognition of his meritorious services towards further strengthening bilateral cooperation and his contribution towards peace in the region. The President congratulated His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud on the conferment of

the award and thanked him

for his role in promoting



QUETTA: Acting Governor Balochistan Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai conferring Presidential Awards and Tamgha Imtiaz among the personalities for their services

Later, Ahsan Iqbal

Ahsan Iqbal says March 23 one of most important days in Pak **Movement history**

NAROWAL (APP): A grand ceremony of Pakistan Day was held at the DC Complex Narowal, where Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Iqbal and Deputy Commissioner Narowal unfurled of getting an independent country under the leader-

defence and rescue teams. They neither had the re-Chairman CM Initiatives sources nor the political Assembly Rana Manan, District Police Officer (DPO) Malik Naveed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Revenue Muhammad Azeem Shaukat and officers of various departments also par-

while talking to the media, said March 23 is one of the most important days in the Pakistan Movement history. On that day, the Mus-Special Initiatives Ahsan lims of South Asia dreamed country under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam. At The national flag was that time, they were sesaluted by the police, civil verely lacking in resources. nation, courage and desire. In seven years, they got a separate homeland under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he added. The minister said that today Pakistan has everything, resources, manpower, government and budget.



MUZAFFRABAD: Students holds Pakistani and Kashmiri national flags to celebrate Pakistan Resolution Day, in the city.

Hamza Nasir emphasizes unity on Pakistan Day

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan got this homeland after go-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s provincial leader Hamza Khan Nasir has said that Pakistan Day was very important in the history of Paki-

He expressed these views while addressing a function organized here on Saturday regarding Pakistan On this day, the Mus-

lims under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azâm Muhammad Ali Jinnah pledged to travel for freedom with new determination, he said. He said, "Our elders he said.

ing through great difficulties, now it was our responsibility to make it stable and strong. He said that March 23

has a unique place in the history of the subcontinent, on this day, under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the resolution of Pakistan was passed in Lahore to obtain a separate homeland. This resolution gave a new direction and thought to the Muslims and provided new vigor and enthusiasm

Pakistan Day great importance in national history: BBISE Chairman

man of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Mir Ijaz Azim Baloch said that March 23 is very important in our national history as on the same day in 1940, the historic Pakistan Resolution was passed in Lahore.

On the occasion of Pakistan Day, he said that the Muslims of the sub-continent under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah started the struggle to get a separate homeland. He said that after seven years of tireless

QUETTA (APP): Chair- work, many sacrifices and unprecedented efforts, they succeeded in getting a free and independent Pakistan for themselves. He said that Pakistan Day gave us a message of brotherhood and it becomes our duty to play our part in the construction and development of the country. This will be possible when we eradicate hatred and become one nation, he said. He said that Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan was facing numerous challenges today, the increasing unrest, terrorism, unem-

ployment and inflation.

PM, Jaffer discuss **Balochistan**

issues ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a meeting with leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to PML (N) Balochistan and the overall political situation in the

Pak HC in New Delhi holds flag-hoisting ceremony

NEW DELHI (APP): The High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi on Saturday held a flag-hoisting ceremony to commemorate the National Day of Pakistan with patriotic zeal.

The Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan to India Saad Ahmad Warraich hoisted the national flag at the Chancery lawn. The messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan were read on the occasion.

Eulogizing the inspiring leadership of the Quaid-Azam, the Charge d' Affaires stressed that the struggle for Pakistan's independence was paved by the sacrifices of millions of people including women and children across the subcontinent. The best homage to the memory of the martyrs was to redouble our collective efforts towards the prosperity and development of Pakistan according to the vision of our founding fathers, he added.

Turbat University observes World Water Day Independent Report

TURBAT: Green Youth Movement Club (GYM), University of Turbat organized an awareness walk on campus to mark World Water Day. The event centered around the theme "Water for peace

Mr. Jeand Baloch Focal Person, GYM at the University of Turbat led the walk. Faculty members and students from various departments participated in the walk and were holding placards to showcase and raise awareness about the responsible use of water and better sanitation prac-

The event was also aimed to underscore the University of Turbat's commitment to contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all by 2030.

During the event, the speakers emphasized that we must act upon the realization that water is not only a resource to be used and competed over – it is a human right, intrinsic to every aspect of life'



the United States Masood Khan has stated that nearly 84 years ago, on March 23, 1940, the founding fathers of Pakistan passed a resolution in the historic city of Lahore. It was at that time that our ancestors saw the dream of our independence that became true in August He made these re-

cial investiture ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

marks during a reception that was held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington to celebrate National Day of Pakistan. Masood Khan paid

rich tribute to Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah for his strong conviction and visionary lead-

give a new vigor and strength to Pak-US ties. He said Pakistan-United States relations

President Asif Ali Zardari cobferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan on the

Minister for Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), His Royal High-

ness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in recognition of his

services towards strengthening Pak-KSA bilateral cooperation during a spe-

Pakistan committed to peaceful

have a magnificent past; and they have a bright future. He said both sides are working hard to recalibrate bilateral ties structured around trade, investment, green energy, healthcare, education and science and technology. He reaffirmed women empowerment as an abiding obligation being a key driver of national suc-

He said we are com-



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan hoisting national flag on Pakistan Dayat the Embassy of Pakistan.

Hamza reviews progress of anti-encroachments, cleanliness drive

OUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat reviewed the progress of ongoing Antiencroachments and cleanliness drive launched in Quetta to keep the city clean and ensure the best

sanitation during Ramzan. On the direction of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Quetta Administration has initiated a plan for a cleanliness campaign and eliminating encroachments from the city to provide better facilities to the

Hamza Shafqaat said special efforts have been taken regarding the cleanliness situation and ensured civic facilitates to the Ouetta dwellers.

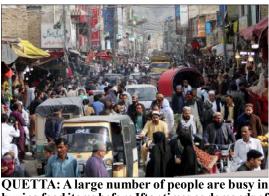
The commissioner who is also administrator of Quetta Metropolitan Cor-

poration (QMC), said that the Corporation was collecting waste through heavy machinery on daily basis as the city produced around 1.5 million tons of garbage annually.

During his visits to various areas of Quetta, Hamza Shafqaat instructed the QMC officials to install and repair the street lights in the area to ensure all kinds of facilities during Ramzan and Eid. Hamza said that any

kind of negligence and carelessness would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the officers concerned on receiving the complaint. He said the QMC and

the district administration have jointly launched a special campaign to clean the city and restore its lost beauty



buying food items before Iftar times as demands of food items increased in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak.

Pak Day ceremony held at Iqra Ilmi Markaz High **School Chaman**

Independent Report QUETTA: A special cer-

emony was organized to mark the Pakistan Day at the boys section of Iqra Ilmi Markaz High School Chaman on Saturday.

Addressing the Pakistan Day ceremony, the head of educational and senior journalist of Chaman, Syed Sardrar Muhammad Khondoi said that 23rd March is the day of revival of pledge and resolve.

On this day, we have to make pledge to maintain the objective for the country was acquired.

He said that the state was not founded in free,

rather all the nationalities

rendered great sacrifices for it's independence. He stressed the need

to educate our children generalizing education. He said that education

is key to success and development so we have to motivate the younger generation to acquire quality education. If we didn't pay much

attention on education, then our future would be at stake, he feared. He said that it is re-

sponsibility of all segments of the society and schools of thought to contribute in education sector.

Earlier, the national anthem was also played.

AJK PM says: Pakistan Day resolution altered region's history
MIRPUR (APP): Azad struggle of Muslims, not-

Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq highlighted the significance of the historic resolution adopted on March 23, 1940, in Lahore, stating that it significantly altered the course of the region's history.

In a message released late Friday on the eve of Pakistan Resolution Day, he emphasized that despite staunch opposition, the dream envisioned by forefathers was realized with the creation of independent Pakistan under Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali innah's leadership. Anwar ul Haq under-

scored the special importance of March 23 for the Muslims of the subcontinent, as it marked the foundation of a separate home-

live like a family. The Am-

bassador said the people of

Jammu and Kashmir should

be allowed exercise their

right to self-determination

through a ballot box in ac-

cordance with the UN reso-

lutions. Masood Khan also

congratulated two Pakistani

Americans who received

Pakistan's national awards

namely Nasruddin Rupan

and Hafeez Khan on the

occasion. Addressing the

gathering, USAID Assis-

tant Administrator of the

Bureau for Asia Michael

Schiffer thanked the Am-

bassador for the invitation

and for providing the op-

portunity to celebrate rich

heritage and vibrant culture

UAE Envoy

felicitates

Pakistanis on

Pakistan Day

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The United Arab Emirates

Ambassador to Pakistan,

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Sa-

lem Al-Zaabi on Saturday

extended warm congratula

tions to the people of Paki-

In a message com-

nemorating Pakistan Day,

he said, "I extend my warm-

est congratulations to the

friendly people of Pakistan,

and may this day be filled

with joy, pride, and a re-newed sense of unity

stan on Pakistan Day.

of Pakistan.

Jammu Kashmir Prime ing the active involvement of Kashmiri leadership in

the Pakistan movement. He highlighted the ongoing movement in Occupied Kashmir as an extension of the Pakistan movement, fuelled by Kashmiris

Terming Kashmiris as Pakistani by choice, he emphasized Pakistan's role as a sympathizer and hope center for Kashmiri Mus-

The AJK PM expressed hope for the fulfilment of Kashmiri sacrifices and objectives outlined in the July 19 resolution. He emphasized the deep-rooted bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan based on ideological, geographical, historical, cultural, and religious ties, stating that no power could He praised the historic sever this connection.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Jaffar Khan Mandokhel calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan resolution passed in Lahore to gain separate country

QUETTA (APP): Central Azam Muhammad Ali leader of Pakistan Muslim (PML-N) Chaudhry Naeem Karim said that under the leader-ship of Quaid-e-Azm Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the resolution of Pakistan was passed in Lahore to gain a separate homeland.

He said that this resolution gave a new direction and thought to the Muslims of sub-continent and gave new vigor and enthusiasm to the freedom movement saying that March 23 was a very important day in the history of Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized in Ouetta to celebrate PakiJinnah vowed to travel for freedom with new determination. Our elders got this homeland after going through great sacrifices, now it is our responsibility to make it stable and strong we have to move forward with one nation and one

thought, he underlined. He said that Ali Jinnah made the principles of Islam, peace, tolerance and love for humanity his motto, not only the Muslim of India but also other minorities living in the subcontinent were affected by the guiding principles of Quaid-i-Azam.

He said that Ouaid-e-Azam's thoughtful leaderstan Day. He said that on ship and true dedication to this day, the Muslim under achieving the goal was very



QUETTA: MPAs Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Malik Naeem Bazai and Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with acting Governor Balochistan Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq

Action taken against absent surgeons, doctors in BMC Ouetta

Achakzai

QUETTA (INP): While taking strong action against 128 absent medical staff of Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) Hospital of Quetta, the medical superintendent (MS) has returned the services of eight dental surgeons and 33 doctors to the health secretary for long

absence on Saturday. During the action, show-cause notices were also issued to 87 absent paramedics and nurses. According to MS BMC Dr. Kamalan Gachki dental surgeons and doctors were absent despite written and verbal warnings and notices showing reasons. He said that salaries of absent staff will be deducted without discrimination.

Four shot dead over property dispute PESHAWAR (INP)

Armed men gunned down four people over property dispute here in provincia capital on Saturday. A woman was also injured in the firing.

According to details, the incident took place at Warsak road in Mithra police station jurisdiction where armed men of rival group sprayed bullets at members of opponent group with whom they were in old dispute prop

erty issue. As a result of firing four people were killed while a woman sustained bullet wounds. The attack ers fled the scene of crime after committing murder of four people

Pakistan has vast opportunities in trade, businesses: NA Speaker ISLAMABAD (INP):

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that Pakistan has vast opportunities in trade and businesses. He expressed these views during his meeting with Ambassador of Republic of Turkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci who called on him at Parliament House in Islamabad.

verse natural landscape which renders it wonderful destination for tourists like Turkiye. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said ties between Pakistan and Turkiye are based upon shared values of religion and culture. While reminding about his initiative of 1st Speaker's Conference in 2017, he said Parliaments of both nations have vast opportunities of collabo-The Speaker said Pa-kistan is blessed with di-tiple parliamentary forums.

Commissioner Rukhshan **Division raises national** flag in Kharan

QUETTA (APP): Commis- ment officials were present.

sioner Rukhshan Division Shah Irfan Gharshin hoisted the national flag at the Commissioner's office in Kharan on Saturday to commemorate Pakistan Day. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kharan Munir Ahmed Soomro, Wing Commander Kharan Rifles Colonel Khurram Shahzad, SP Kharan Abdul Aziz Jakhrani and other govern-

Speaking at the occasion, Commissioner of Rukhshan Division Shah Irfan Ahmad Ghorshin said "we are breathing in the air of freedom today, all thanks to the passing of the Pakistan Resolution on March 23, 1940". At the end of the flag hoisting ceremony, Commissioner Rukhshan Division Shah Irfan Gharshin, Deputy Commissioner Kharan Munir Ahmed Soomro.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) Balochistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Quetta Press Club.