Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXV No. 220, Ramzan 19, 1445 AH Saturday March 30, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

PM directs for vigorously pursuing initiatives against

Extends congratulations to Shahbaz Sharif

US to stand with Pakistan in tackling global, regional challenges, Biden tells PM

Says US will continue to forge a strong partnership between both nations

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the United States ship between the peoples of the United States and Paki-Joe Biden, in his first communication with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after assumption of his office, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected government of Pakistan.

In his letter to the prime minister, President Biden reiterated the US' unwavering commitment to standing alongside Pakistan in confronting the most pressing challenges facing the world and the region.

public health protection, economic development, and education, affirming the commitment to advancing these goals in tandem, a press release of Prime Minister Office said

Highlighting the significance of the enduring partner-

stan, President Biden said the partnership was critical to ensuring the security of the world and the people.

Moreover, President Biden emphasized the continued collaboration between the two nations under the US-Pakistan Green Alliance Framework, aiming to bolster environmental improvements and sustainable develop-

He also assured to continue support for Pakistan's He also emphasized the shared vision of prioritizing endeavors in sustainable agriculture, water management. and recovery efforts following the devastating 2022 floods President Biden reaffirmed the joint commitment to

upholding human rights and promoting inclusive development, signaling a strengthened partnership between the United States and Pakistan



along with leaders of allied political parties



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on measures against the spectrum of illegal activities.

We are well aware of hardships being faced by people due to poverty & inflation: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that we are well aware of the certain hardships being faced by the people in prov-

of people subside after hearing their sorrow and

Governor Balochistan in a statement issued here on

The Governor said that the human society is name of mutual partnership of

He said that support and help of the poor and underprivileged segments of the society is a real quality

of good human being.
The Governor also said that becoming voice of the ince due to poverty and in-voiceless and shelterless people in life is an appre-However, the miseries ciable and likable social practice.

He said that what mental satisfaction is found by This was stated by the extending help to the otherwise deprived and destitute people of the society can't be expressed mere in words. The Governor said that service of the ailing humanity is real pride of the

Senior journalist Shahid Rind appointed as spokesman to GoB



Independent Report QUETTA: The senior journalist and famous analyst, Shahid Rind has been appointed as the spokesman Government of Balochistan on Friday.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration

Department on Friday. The S&GAD has also issued notification of appointment of Shahid Rind as GoB spokesman after approval of the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Shahid Rind is ranked among credible media persons and analysts of the country. He has served as Bureau Chief of a private TV channel (ARY News Network) for long time.

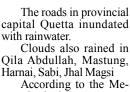
Heavy rains kill 5 in Dukki

DUKKI (INP): Heavy rains in different areas of Balochistan including metropolis Quetta continued on the second day wherein five laborers died when the roof of a house collapsed in Dukki. The local people removed the dead bodies and shifted them to the nearby government hospital.

Thunderstorms also occurred in Loralai, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Shirani and

The roads in provincial capital Quetta inundated

teorological Department, Quetta, Loralai, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Shirani, Zhob. Qila Saifullah, Pashin, Qila Mastung Harnai, Sibi and Jhal Magsi received heavy rain with



has included Ishaq Dar in strong winds and thunder. the Council.



QUETTA: Security personal stand alert during Good Friday service at Bethel Memorial Methodist Church.

Members of the Federal Cabinet, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Provincial Chief Ministers and high-level government officials were present in the

Pakistan expresses

dismay over

absence of Indian

diplomats

from Iftar dinner

SLAMABAD (INP):

Pakistan expressed dismay

over the absence of Indian

diplomats from the Iftan

dinner held for ambassadors

at the Foreign Office (FO).

government's desire for

positive relations with India, the Indian High Com-

mission displayed conduct

contrary to diplomatic

norms. An invitation to

PM Shehbaz alongside am-

bassadors from other coun-

tries was given. Foreign

minister Ishaq Dar hosted

The Indian diplomats

It is worth noting that

former foreign minister

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had

hosted an iftar dinner in

2022, where Indian diplo-

mats were also in atten-

Finance minister

out as Council of

Common Interests

reconstituted

ISLAMABAD (INP): On

the advice of Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif, Presi-

dent Asif Ali Zardari has

reconstituted the Council of

Common Interests (CCI)

including Foreign Minister

Ishaq Dar and excluding Fi-

fication released on Friday,

the Chairman of the eight-

member CCI will be Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

while the chief ministers of

all four provinces will be its

position of minister of for-

eign affairs was included in

the Council instead of the

minister of finance. Al-

though the federal minister

of finance traditionally

serves as a permanent

member of the CCI, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

For the first time, the

According to the noti-

Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Minister

nance

members

the dinner on March 27.

Iftar dinner invitation.

despite

According to sources,

the new

meeting. The agenda of the meeting was "Measures against Spectrum of illegal activities & Criminal Mafias". The participants were briefed in detail on steps taken against the criminal

meeting on measures against

spectrum of Illegal activi-

mafias, smuggling, hoarding, money laundering, power theft and repatriation of illegal foreigners etc. The participants acknowledged the importance of such actions and their

spectrum of illegal activities ISLAMABAD (APP): economy and well being of the people of Pakistan.

Sharif Friday chaired a The meeting showed

firm resolve to take action against smugglers, hoarders and market manipulators, who have impacted the economic trajectory and to provide immediate relief to common citizens.

The meeting gave approval of agreements among Federal and Provincial governments on Anti-Power Theft policy, restructuring of Power Distribution Companies on modern lines, installation of Smart meters for full eradication of Power Theft and ordered strict action against the corrupt officers.

Chief of the Army Staff assured unwavering resolve of Pakistan Army to support government's initiatives aimed at economic positive impact on the covery of the country.

China joins probe into deadly suicide attack

Culprits of Shangla attack will be brought to justice: Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the real culprits of Shangla attack will be brought to justice.

He gave the assurance to the special investigation team that came from China did not even respond to the during a meeting at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad The Interior Minister

briefed the Chinese investigation team about the progress made so far in the investigation into the inci-

Measures pertaining to the protection of Chinese nationals and overall security were also discussed on the occasion. The Interior Minister also met with the Chinese Ambassador and updated him on the probe into Shangla incident.

Meanwhile China's inter-departmental working group has carried out comprehensive emergency response work with the Chi-

Continued on page 2

Federal, provincial govts on same page to address Balochistan issues: Bugti

Balochistan government making efforts to promote the good governance as the beneficiary of such governance was common people of the province, who is main victim of bad governance

such governance was com-

mon people of the province,

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Friday said that both the federal and Balochistan provincial governments are on the same page to address issues of the

Addressing a press conference along with leaders of allied political parties in Islamabad, he said that the state is using the relevant tools to prevent threats and causes of insurgency in Balochistan

He said that the leadership of Balochistan was united for resolving the issues of province. He said the Balochistan govern-

Ban imposed on use of red carpets in govt functions as per PM directives ISLAMABAD (Online):

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif while taking stern notice of use of red carpets dur-ing the visits of federal ministers and senior authorities and government functions has expressed annoymance over it.

According to cabinet division PM has ordered to impose ban on use of red carpet besides declaring it non disagreeable act.

ment was making efforts to date have been conferred by promote the good governance as the beneficiary of

who is main victim of bad governance. He mentioned that all parties were actively involved in providing relief to the common men of the province. He said that for the first time in history. Senators have been elected from the province unop-

In response to a question, he stated that violence cannot guarantee the provision of rights to granted to Balochistan to minutes

the country's parliament.

He expressed gratitude to the Pakistan People's Party, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Awami National Party, and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz for giving him the opportunity to serve the people of Balochistan as Chief Min-

Paying tribute to the security forces for foiling terrorist attacks in Gwadar and Turbat, the Chief Minister said the vigilant jawans thwarted the terrorist attack in Gwadar by killing the suicide bombers within Balochistan as all the rights a period of only twenty



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Ahmed Jawad Rabei, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President urges int'l community to ensure protection of Palestinian civilians in Gaza Strip

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the international community to make efforts for free flow of humanitarian assistance to Gaza and ensure lighted the atrocities and protection of Palestinian

civilians in the Gaza Strip. He was talking to Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabei who called on him in

Islamabad on Friday. The President said Pakistan has historic ties with Palestine, and would continue to stand by its Palestinian brothers and raise its

voice at all fora. He lauded the bravery and resilience of the Palestinian people for their long struggle against Israeli occupation.

The President said Pakistan will send additional relief goods, including food and medicine, to the Pales tinian people. The Ambassador high-

the Israeli forces against innocent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. He appreciated Pakistan's support in the field of education as over 50,000 Palestinians have graduated in various disci-

reign of terror unleashed by

plines from educational initutions in Pakistan. He also conveyed the warm regards of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and thanked Pakistan for its consistent sup-

port and solidarity with the

Palestinian people.

Cabinet okays 3-year term for Lt Gen Munir Afsar as Nadra Chairman

Caretaker govt in 2023 initially appointed Afsar as NADRA Chairman until further orders

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Cabinet on Friday gave the green light to the appointment of Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar as Chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for a three-year

On October 2, the Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar-led caretaker government initially appointed Lt. Muhammad Munir Afsar as NADRA Chairman until

further orders. Following deliberations and considerations, sources within the government have revealed that the federal government has now officially endorsed his appoint-



ment for a tenure of three

The approval of this appointment came through the circulation of a summary from the Ministry of Interior. the Federal Cabinet, and cognizant of the need for robust governance structures, also sanctioned the inclusion of Rule Seven A in the NADRA Rules

All candidates on 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan elected unopposed **Independent Report** his candidature for the gen-

QUETTA: All the candi-

cials at Chinese Embassy.

dates in competition run for 11 seats of Senate from Balochistan have been elected unopposed. The candidates were elected unopposed on seven general seats as well as two seats each allocated for technocrats and women in the Upper House from the province.

This was announced by the Provincial Election Commissioner, Muhammad Farid Afridi in a statement issued here on Friday. He said that the candi-

date contesting election on technocrat Muslihuddin Mengal withdrew his candidature. Therefore, other two

candidates contesting election on Technocrat seats were elected unopposed after retirement of Mengal. Earlier, the candidates contesting election on seven general and two women

seats were elected unop-

posed. jaz Ahmed was the

last candidate who withdrew

eral seat. So, other remaining seven candidates were elected unopposed on seven general seats, the PEC in-Meanwhile, as per the Form-55 of the Election

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with Chinese offi-

Commission of Pakistan regarding success of the candidates on Senate seats. former caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Aimal Khan Nasar of Awami National Party, Saidal Khan Nasar and Agha Shahzaib Durrani of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Sardar Umar Gorgei of Pakistan Peoples Party. Jan Buledi of National Party and Ahmed Khan of JUI were elected unopposed on

Similarly, Rahat Jamali of PML-N and Husna Bibi were elected unopposed on two seats of women while JUI's Maulana Abdul Wasey and PPP's Bilal Khan Mandokhail were elected on the seats allocated for technocrats.

the general seats.

Bibi Aseefa elected unopposed from NA-207, **NawabShah**

LARKANA (APP): Daughter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari elected unopposed National Assembly member on NA 207. NawabShah seat of by-elec

According to Returning officer and Aditional Deputy Commissioner Ali Sher Jamali issued form 47 in which three candidates Abdul Rasool Brohi Amanullah Solangi and Miraj Ahmed of NA 207 withdraw from Bye-election on Friday in before the Returning officer. On this vacant seat To-

tal eleven persons submitted their nomination papers after scrutiny seven candidates drop out due to uncompleted requirements and four candidates nomi nation papers accepted.

Election Commission of Pakistan announced Byelection will held on 21 April and NA 207 seat was vacant by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari.

PM Shehbaz vows zero tolerance against smuggling, corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad country had to face loss of around Rs 400 to 500 billion Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government will not allow any political or bureaucratic interference in its move to curb smuggling, corruption, power theft and tax evasion in the country.
"No political and bureaucratic influence will be al-

lowed to interfere in this major surgery which we have to undertake collectively for the good of Pakistan and its 250 million people," the prime minister said while chairing a meeting on anti-smuggling.

He said it was very important to understand the real

challenges of the country and then immediately fix them to revive and stabilize the economy.

For this, he said all stakeholders including the provinces, institutions, and armed forces will have to collaborate with the federal government to tackle one of the most important challenge of revival of economy.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said illegal trade and smuggling were the biggest challenges that had badly dented the country's economy.

He recalled that in 2022, the coalition government allowed export of 250,000 tons of sugar, but it had to withdraw its decision "because we were told that the surplus target was not up to that level". However, he said the same amount of sugar was later exported to Afghani-

Similarly, the prime minister pointed out that the

annually in term of power theft, whereas leakages, transmission losses and line losses of electricity were other than that. As regards tax revenues, he said the government's target this year was Rs 9 trillion. But it has the potential of collecting Rs 4 trillion extra revenues by streamlining the tax system and by curbing corruption and tax eva-

He said a tax amount of Rs 2.7 trillion was still under litigation either in tribunals or in appellant courts. The government, he said would try its best to recover this

Appreciating the efforts of Chief of Army Staff in curbing smuggling and power theft, the prime minister said during the nine months of interim government, an amount of Rs 58 billion was saved in power sector.

Similarly, a significant improvement was witnessed in smuggling in the country due to the commitment, will to do, and cooperation of all provinces, and the personal commitment and interest of the Chief of Army Staff, the prime minister added.

Besides initiating reforms in certain sectors, he said the government was also committed to promote industry

and agriculture sector in the country. He informed that the government had chalked out a plan to fully digitize the system of Federal Board of



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb talking to media during his visit to Utility Stores Corporation to oversee the implementation of the enhanced Ramadan Relief Revenue (FBR) to boost the tax revenues in the country. Package.

In the heart of Balochistan's

bustling administrative ma-

chinery, Ghulam Jan Naseer

stands as a beacon of inno-

vation and technological

advancement. As the MIS/

ICT Director for the

Balochistan Public Procure-

ment Regulatory Authority

Shehzada Farhat says

Concrete measures at public, private sector levels required to be taken to promote archery

QUETTA: Concrete measures at public and private Balochistan Archery Assosector levels are required to be taken so as to promote archery, an archaic and tra- Amin Badini, President, ditional game of Balochistan Archery Asso-Balochistan province.

pressed by erstwhile Direc- ern and traditional games of Chief Guest Shehzada tor General, Public Rela- archery, adding that archery Farhat distributed prizes

tions, Balochistan, former

PRO to Inspector General

of Police, Balochistan, Ex-

family. Shehzada Farhat on

chery Championship,

2024", held in the football

ground of Ayub Stadium

Ouetta in connection with

ciation under the dynamic leadership of Muhammad

that Six archery academies took Balochistan Archery Academy clinched first position while Moulana Niaz Muhammad Durrani Arciation was earnestly striv- chery Academy Quetta se-These views were ex- ing to promote both mod- cured second position.

and shields amongst the

players. On the occasion,

Muhammad Amin Badini,

President, Balochistan Ar-

Arbab Mati-ur-Kehman

Kasi, General Secretary,

Balochistan Archery Asso-

President, Balochistan Mix

Martial Arts Association.

Rehmatullah Khan Nurzai

ciation, Faizullah Kakar.

Pakistan to seek extended IMF program by June

Finance Minister:

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan will likely sign a staff-level agreement (SLA) for an extended IMF program by the end of this fiscal year, namely, before the end of June 2024. He said talks would begin in mid-April.

We are hopeful that by the time we wrap up this fiscal year i.e. end June to early July, we reach at least a staff-level agreement with the IMF," Aurangzeb said while talking to reporters at the Pakistan Stock Ex-

change (PSX) where a gong ceremony was held to welcome the finance minister on Friday. However, he did not

disclose the size of the upcoming program but said Pakistan needed an extended facility spanning over at least three years. Aurangzeb said all of

the conditions set by the IMF favoured Pakistan's economic recovery.

The minister said privatisation of power distribution companies or disco was next on the card after selling off the PIA.

Pakistan to continue political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of longstanding Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the Foreign Office spokesperson revealed that the Indian occupation authorities are reportedly set to auction some blocks of Lithium reserves, discovered in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

There are concerns that

the occupied region would be awarded the contracts to exploit this valuable resource that belongs to the Kashmiri people, the FO spokesperson said, adding that these measures by the occupation authorities to deprive Kashmiris of their right to natural resources are illegal and exploitative.

IIOJK must not be deprived of its natural resources. The people of Kashmir have the foremost right over the wealth of their cious metals like Lithium, she maintained and added, "We call on India to abandon such exploitative plans and respect the right of Kashmiris to their own land corporations from outside and natural resources.

under the Finance Government of Balochistan, Naseer is the architect behind the transformative Electronic Procurement System (EPPS), a project that promises to revolutionize public procurement in the

With an impressive educational background that includes a M.S. in Computer Science and a master's degree in Economics from the University of Balochistan, along with certifications in Project Management, Procurement, and Oracle Database Administration, Naseer brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role. His responsibilities span managing ICT services, staffing, and public procurement services, as well as overseeing the implementation of technology services across the province.

Beyond his administrative duties, Naseer's ambition stretches to the broader mizing e-Governance serand across Pakistan. His participation Humphrey Fellow, focusing on ICT policy management, artificial intelligence, data protection, data-driven

ship, has further equipped him with the tools and insights needed to drive socio-economic change through technology. During his fellowship at

Ghulam Jan Naseer leads ICT

revolution with vision for e-Governance

cybersecurity, and leader-

the Maxwell School, Naseer immersed himself in courses related to Technology Policy and Management, including leadership management, data-driven decision making, public management of technology and development, and ethics of data science. His commitment to learning and growth was evident as he audited advanced courses in

Big Data Management, participated in an enhancement workshop on Generative Artificial Intelligence from the University of Balochistan stands on the North Carolina, and en- cusp of a technological regoal of enabling and opti- gaged in various seminars, naissance. With his vision workshops, and panel dis- and leadership, the provvices within Balochistan cussions on topics ranging ince is poised to embrace a from resilient IT strategies for developing countries to investment opportunities in

Pakistan. United States, as part of the citizens.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, was not just an academic endeavor. He actively contributed to the community through volunteer work at the Food Bank of CNY, the West Side Learning Center, and a local church in Syracuse. Furthermore, his participation in the City Open Data Challenge, sponsored by

the City of Syracuse Office of Analytics, Performance & Innovation, underscores his commitment to practical and impactful technology solutions. Reflecting on his experience, Naseer stated, "The Humphrey fellowship has

not only equipped me with the necessary tools but also instilled a sense of responsibility to make a positive impact on the community and beyond." He is determined to leverage his enhanced skills in leadership management, data-driven decision making, and public technology management to foster prosperity and effect socio-economic transformation in Pakistan.

As Naseer prepares to apply his global insights and innovative strategies to his role as Director of IT, future where e-Governance is not just a concept but a reality that drives efficiency, transparency, and Naseer's time in the inclusive growth for all its

Army, Wapda, Navy win opening matches of All Pakistan Ramadan **Cup Basketball Tournament**

game was played in the

province for centuries,

hence, to provide opportu-

Balochistan and scion of chery to demonstrate their chery Association, Chief

distinguished Khan of Kalat talent at national and inter- Officer, Local Government,

national level, it was inevi-

of archery event in 23rd

March, 2024 sports festi-

val would prove to be ben-

23 March Sports Festi- eficial for promotion of ar- and others were also

chery game in Balochistan.

He said that inclusion

PRO to Chief Secretary nities to the players of ar-

Friday while addressing the closing ceremony of "Ar-closing ceremony of "Ar-closing ceremony of table to arrange events of archery frequently.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-under floodlights with the kistan Army, Lycans A, support of the Pakistan kistan Army, Lycans A, Wapda and Navy registered big wins on the first day pool round matches in the Women's and Departmental categories of All Pakistan 3x3 Ramadan Cup Basketball Tournament here at outdoor basketball courts of Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad organized by Federal Basket-

ball Association (FBBA). nament Ouj E Zahoor, large numbers of basketball the four-day event played

GOB. Tender Fee Not required

(Total Item(s) Count: 1)

1 Material Handling and Conditioning and Storage

S.No Class of Object

TENDER NOTICE

The FOOD DIRECTORATE invites bids from eligible Bidders for

supply of following items. TSE-232403387211 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders**: 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 30,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 6,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years.

Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding

firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of

Pakistan. JV is permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security

In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-

responsive. Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. (SIX (6) Samples of "A" CLASS EMPTY GUNNY BAGS are required printed with the words "FOOD DEPARTMENT

BALOCHISTAN 2024". Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage

Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 %

specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be

obtained electronically fromwww.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed

atwww.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be

submitted electronically latest by 16April, 2024till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Balochistan Food Directorate Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali Road Near Chaman Phatak Quetta Phone no: 0819201993Fax no: 0819202475

FOOD BALOCHISTAN

Email: dgfoodbalochistan@gmail.com

PRQ No.1766/29-3-2024

Sports Board (PSB).

In Women's category Pakistan Army with a bril-White by 16-3 points. Army's Aamina Mohsin scored 6 and Aiman Riaz scored four points. In

the second match, Lycans A won by 11-2 points against Lycans Juniors with the help of According to organiz- Farhna Naz's five points Police by 21-13 points, ing secretary of the tour- and Fariha Mushtaq's three points, while in the third match, Lycans B deteams are participating in feated AK Purple by 6-2

Bid Security

In the departmental category Wapda (A) beat Army (C) team by 19-16 points with the help of Zain ul Hassan who scored liant game defeated AK 15 points for the winning side. In second match Navy Beat Police (B) by 18-2 points in one sided match Navy's Zia ul Rehman socred 8 and Usman Khalid scored 6 points in the match while Wapda (C) won against thanks to Aalijah and Sajid Ali who scored 10, 10 points in the match. Wapda (A) thrashed Army (B) by 21-11 and Wapda

13points respectively.

My original CNIC bear-

LOST & FOUND

(C) beat Police (A) by 21-

ing No. 54400-9166799 5 in name of Mir Salal Khan Baloch S/o Javed gbal Baloch has been lost omewhere in Quetta. Founder may please contact 0344-1877796

founder through video link Islamabad High Court (IHC) has wrapped up the petition regarding privacy of PTI founder in jail and meeting with him through

IHC wraps up the petition

regarding privacy in jail

and meeting with PTI

video link. The court gave time to amicus curiae for preparations in connection with Sher Afzal Marwat petition challenging clause 265 of jai I rules.

The report regarding meeting with PTI founder on March 26 and 28 was filed in the court.

The court remarked the petitioners are satisfied. We wrap up the petition regarding meeting with PTI founder in

The court remarked the plea of amicus curiae for granting him time for preparations in connection with the petition through which clause related to jail rules has been challenged.

The court got written in its order that the amicus curiae Zainab Janjua presented before it Indian reference to jail rules . In the decisions of Indian courts political talk in the jail has been allowed. Justice Sardar Ijaz

Ishaq Khan took up the petitions for hearing Fri-Amicus curiae Zainab Janjua appeared in the

Sher Afzal Marwat did not appear in the court and

his junior advocate appeared Superintendent Adiala Jail Asad Warraich filed the

report regarding meeting with Imran Khan in jail. AG told the court that we have worked out SOPs with mutual consul-

ciate our response. Justice Sardar Ijaz remarked you could do this job earlier.

tation. You should appre-

AG told the court they had finalized SOPs within two days.

With reference to rules, the definition of clause 265 is different in Punjab government.



OUETTA: Vendor sells watermelons to earn his livelihood for support his family as demand of watermelons increased in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, at Samungli road in Quetta.

ABBOTTABAD: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident as security has been high alert in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Abbottabad.

Culprits of Shangla ...

Continued from page 1

nese Embassy in Pakistan and the relevant enterprises in the wake of the Dasu terrorist attack, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson

said on Friday. The head of the working group, Director Bai Tian of the Department of Foreign Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who arrived in Pakistan on March 28, met with Pakistan's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister of the Interior and other officials, Lin Jian said during his regular briefing held here at the Interna-

tional Press Center (IPC). Director Bai Tian asked Pakistan to thoroughly investigate the incident as soon as possible, properly handle the aftermath, effectively strengthen security measures, completely eliminate security risks, and make every effort to ensure the absolute safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan, he added.

Pakistan said that it has fully carried out investigation and follow-up work on the incident, and taken all measures to further strengthen the security protection of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions, he added.

The spokesperson said that the working group will also carry out related work during its stay in

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232403387013 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST QUETTA CITY QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and bld Security 2%

S.No Name of Work/s CONSTRUCTION OF ROOMS

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders**: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authorit Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 3,466,852 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years. showing financial capacity of the firm. PEC Registration C-6 or above and Specialized Code is CE10(I), CE10(ii) EE11, and Ce11 Income Tax Registration cettification or source of the control of certificate is required. 03 successfully similar work completion certificate each of estimated cost or above, for the last 03 year. The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank. Credit Line Certificate. The bidder should have fully operational office/ branch in Balochistan. The firm must be provide from last 3 year audit report duly issued by the registered with ICAP. The bidder must be submit the Income Tax Return of the last (3) three year. The Bidders must comply with all prevailing all Govt taxes as notified by FBR from time to time. The firm must be attached tender fee challan in original. Submission of the required Bid Security in original with technical bid Undertaking on legal valid and attested stamp paper that the firm is not involved in litigation with any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or autonomous body anywhere in Pakistan. In case nvolved in any litigation process, proof of dispute resolution is required. Affidavit on judicial stamp paper. Affidavit on stamp paper of Rs. 100/- duly notarized to the effect that iii. Bidder has submitted the correct and complete information along with the bid/offer. If any document / information is found forged / engineered / fake / bogus at any stage, the bidder may be declared as Blacklisted in accordance vith law and the performance guarantee and payment, if any may be forfeited. Signature & company/firm seal on every page of the bidding document. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 16 April,2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 16 April 2024 till 10:30 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:30 AM Address: Quetta Phone no: 0819204754 Email: fawaddfo@gmial.com

DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST QUETTA CITY QUETTA CTTY Q

Finance minister calls for fiscal discipline by reducing operational expenditure

Muhammad Aurangzeb, Friday, called for maintaining fiscal discipline through reduced operational expenditures and also advocated for a public-private partnership model to foster national development.

He expressed the views in a significant meeting held here at the State Bank of Pakistan to deliberate on pivotal economic strategies and reforms. Governor SBP Jameel Ahmed, Chairman Pakistan Banks' Association Zafar Masud, and high-ranking officials from various Pakistani banks attended the

profound step towards into a permanent state, the aligning financial institutions with Pakistan's broader economic goals, underlining the need for strategic collaboration and robust implementation of reform initiatives, said a statement received here.

The minister opened the discussion highlighting the robust start to the year, with a notable 5% growth in agriculture, spearheaded by a bumper rice crop. Aurangzeb acknowledged the visible signs of macroeconomic stability depicted by a narrowing current account deficit and exchange rate stability.

Underscoring the obing. jectives of sustaining the The meeting was a stability and its transition jectives of sustaining the providers, and addressed

finance minster emphasized the synergy between the industrial sector and energy resources, alongside ongoing dialogues with the Min-

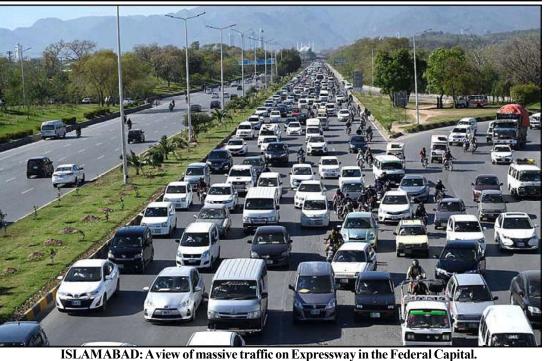
istry of Energy.
He lauded the caretaker government for maintaining fiscal discipline and re-framed the "IMF program as Pakistan program" aimed at reinforcing Pakistan's economic foundation. He also called for proactive implementation and ownership of the reform agenda.

The Minister stressed the importance of broadening the tax net to include under-taxed and untaxed

the critical issue of energy theft, advocating for streamlined governance and eventual privatization of power distribution companies. He commended the State Bank for its decisive actions against illegal exchange operations and its support for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) through issuance of necessary NOCs, acknowledging the positive reception of the airport outsourcing plan. The discussion with the banking sector leaders focused on the essential roles banks must play in supporting priority sectors like agriculture, SMEs, and

technology, through appro-

priate incentives and infra-





Rain-windstorm,

thunderstorm at various

parts of country: PMD

territory in line with the

India was systematically

paving the way for settler

colonialism in IIOJK. For

this purpose, the report

added, non-local Hindus

were being brought from

mainland India and settled

in IIOJK to convert the

territory's Muslim major-

Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir.

Dust storm/dust raising

winds are likely in south-

rainfall may trigger land-

slides in Upper Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Murree,

Galiyat, Kashmir and Gilgit

Baltistan and may affect the

vulnerable points during

March 29 (night) and

and lightning may damage

standing crops, loose struc-

Windstorm/hailstorm

March 30.

Khyber tures like electric poles.

FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, ISLAMABAD

Moderate to heavy

ern parts of the country.

The report said that

goal of BJP and RSS.

ter 5th August 2019, the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is working on a vicious plan to deprive the unique identity and culture of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and impose its Hindutva agenda on them.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service today said India wants to snatch Kashmiris' identity to harm their struggle for right to self-determina-It said that Hindutva

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has fore-

cast intermittent rain-wind-

storm/thunderstorm with

snowfall over mountains in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir,

central/upper Punjab,

Islamabad and north Balochistan during the next

likely during the forecast

period. Heavy falls are ex-

pected at isolated places in

cademic Excel

Hailstorm is also

reaches to 18% of total: Report veals that there are cur-ISLAMABAD (APP): A report of the Law and Jusrently 126 judges working tice Commission of Pakiat the upper tier of the justan has said that currently diciary, which includes the Supreme Court of Pakistan,

there are 3142 judges and judicial officers working across of the country including 2570 males and 572 Thus the number of

female working judges has reached to 18% of the total working Judges. The commission has

recently released a report that summarizes the statistics of females working in the justice sector of Paki-The report further re-

IRSAAdvisory body to meet on April 2

ISLAMABĀD (APP) The Advisory Committee of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) will meet here on April 2 to finalize water share of the prov inces for the upcoming Kharif season scheduled to commence from next month. The meeting will be presided over by Chairman IRSA Abdul Hameed Mengal. The meeting would attend member Federal Asjad Imtiaz Ali member Punjab Amjad Saeed, member Sindh Muhammad Ehsanul Haq Leghari, member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Zahid Abbas.

the Federal Shariat Court, and the Five High Courts. Out of these 126 judges, 119 are male judges, while only 7 are female judges. Therefore, female judges

Female judicial officers' strength

make up only 5.5% of the total working strength of judges at the upper tier. The report states that there are a total of 3016 Judicial Officers working at the District Judiciary level. Out of these officers, 2451

are male and 565 are female. This means that 19% of the total Judicial Officers are female. The report also provides district-wise details of the positions held by female judicial officers, highlighting their significant role in the administration of justice. Additionally, the report includes a provincewise list of Ex-Cadre positions held by female judicial officers.

different Provincial Bars in the Country. Out of these, 198,100 lawyers are male, while around 40,000 lawyers are female. This means that female lawyers make up about 17% of the total imber of lawyers enrolled.

According to the report, data collected from the Prosecution Departments reveals that there are currently 2210 Prosecution officers working in the country. Out of these, 1869 officers are male and 341 officers are female, indicating that women make up only 15% of the total network strength of Prosecution officers.

The report highlights the significant contributions of women in the justice sector of the country but also points out that their representation is not proportional to their share of the overall population. Therefore, it is recommended that the government and other relevant stakeholders take steps to Furthermore, the re- encourage the inclusion of port reveals that there are 230.879 lawyers enrolled in sector.

ICCI, CDA sign MoU for upgrading, maintaining public washrooms

(CDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday for the upgrade and maintenance of public washrooms located in various markets across the capital city.

The agreement was singed by President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Mashoog Ali Shah, Director of Sanitation CDA, said a press release issued

Under the agreement, ICCI will be responsible for overseeing the newly constructed washrooms in various markets throughout the capital city. Their duties will include ensuring the operational functionality, management, maintenance, and upkeep of hygienic standards to facilitate visi-

tors to these markets.

ISLAMABAD (APP): sion, the President of ICCI Islamabad Chamber of stated that a nominal fee Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Capital Deuse of these facilities, and velopment Authority the revenue generated would be allocated towards the upgrading and maintenance of the wash-

Additionally, ICCI will ensure the deployment of janitorial staff, attired in appropriate uniforms, at each facility. The agreement was singed by President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Mashoog Ali Shah, Director of Sanitation CDA, said a press release issued here.

emphasized ICCI's commitment to facilitating Islamabad's evolution into a model city and pledged to utilize all resources towards achieving this goal. Additionally, he unveiled plans to install water filtration plants at multiple locations to guarantee access to clean and



ISLAMABAD: Bishop of Fatima Church addresses on Good Friday Day. KPC, Unilever collaborate for capacity building on climate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Karachi Press Club (KPC) and Unilever Pakistan joined hands in an interactive session aimed at delving into the intricacies of climate change reporting and its crucial role in shaping public awareness and policy discussions.

The session commenced with an overview of Unilever's sustainability initiatives, which not only seek to transform the livelihoods of those associated with the organization but also aspire to create a broader societal impact, ac- information and resources.

The National Academy of

Higher Education (NAHE),

under the auspices of the

Higher Education Commis-

sion (HEC), has announced

the results of the pre-as-

sessment test conducted

for the Interim Placement

of Fresh PhDs (IPFP)

Batch-V here on Friday.
The test, held on Feb-

ruary 25, 2024, marked a

significant milestone in the

selection process for aspir-

ing scholars, said a press

HEC announcement of the

test, 518 applications were

received. Following initial

scrutiny, 473 applicants

appeared for the test. The

applicants were provided

with approved contents,

weightage, and a model pa-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Deputy Commissioner

Irfan Nawaz Memon on

Friday reviewed the meet-

ing and directed the con-

cerned to take action

against token tax violations,

fancy number plates and

According to ICT spokesman, Dr Abdullah

Tabbassum, Directors of

Excise and Taxation Depart-

ment, Additional Deputy

Commissioner General, As-

sistant Commissioners,

Magistrates and other

stakeholders attended the

tinted glass vehicles.

ing clarity and guidance suits.

In response to the

release issued here.

Discussions centered on the need to differentiate between climate change and its impacts, as well as environmental degradation.

journalism

Afia Salam, Media Development Specialist, and Climate Change expert emphasized the significance of bridging the private and public sectors to find mutually beneficial solutions.

She said, "Bringing together the private and public sectors is essential to provide reporters and journalists with access to accurate and authentic field cording to a news release. crucial for effective climate

throughout the preparation

process. The test, con-

ducted at five designated

centres across the country-

Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi,

Peshawar, and Quetta-en-

compassed both objective

and subjective compo

nents. According to the

combined results of the

IPFP pre-assessment test,

249 candidates remained

successful, while 225 oth-

ers were unsuccessful. The

candidates can access the

ETC portal, https://etc.hec.gov.pk/#/login to

mark for successful appli-

cants was to secure at least

50 percent marks in the

test. These results highlight

the dedication and academic

prowess of the applicants.

reflecting their commitment

the DC directed the magis-

trates and Excise & Taxa-

tion officers to launch a

crackdown against tinted

glasses and fancy number

plates. He urged the citi-

zens of the federal capital

to remove tinted glasses

and fancy number plates

from their vehicles and use

only approved number

plates issued by the Excise

and Taxation Department

to avoid any action. It is

pertinent to mention here

that the joint operation of

the Excise and Taxation

Department.

The minimum bench-

view their results.

NAHE announces results

of pre-assessment test

per well in advance, ensur- to advancing scholarly pur-

DC reviews meeting, takes

action against token tax

violations, traffic rules

change journalism." Shoaib Ahmed, Secre-

tary of the Karachi Press Club, underlined the strategic necessity of facilitating such conversations and bringing them to the fore-front for actionable solutions. He said, "It is imperative to facilitate these conversations and highlight them for impactful and actionable solutions," offering the Karachi Press Club's platform for organizing future events of this nature. Fatima Arshad. Head of Sustainability at

climate change. **Qawwali evening** featuring **Ustad Shahid** held at Lok

Unilever Pakistan, empha-

sized the ongoing nature of

Virsa ISLAMABAD (APP): Qawwal Ustad Shahid Ali Khan entertained the audience with a devotional Oawwali performance here at Lok Virsa - National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage.

He performed at 'Mah-e-Isar O Aman - a cultural extravaganza featuring Naat and Tilawat competition, a captivating calligraphy exhibition, and tantalizing cultural foods organized by Lok Virsa.

Pak most senior naturist Prof Z.B. Mirza passes away

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior biodiversity expert, naturist and Chairman Scientific Committee of the Islamabad Widlife Management Board, Prof. Dr. Z.B. Mirza, 88, passed away peacefully at his residence on Friday

The funeral prayers of the deceased would be held after prayers at 5 pm, H-11 Gravevard.

Professor Zahid Baig affectionately known as Prof. Z. B. Mirza, made significant contributions to the fields of ornithology, conservation, and biodiversity in Pakistan, earning both national and international recognition.

Throughout his career. Prof. Mirza authored over 60 research publications and penned 27 books, including the acclaimed "Field Guide to Birds of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Voters cast their vote during the APP Employees Union Election-2024 at APP Headquarters.

Principal F7/2 in BS program category in Academic Excellence Award Ceremony **High Commission of Malaysia** denotes essential educational materials to I'abad Model College

ISLAMABAD: DG, FDE, Tanveer Ahmed awarding prize to Prof Fauzia Sheikh

The High Commission of Malaysia in Pakistan under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), donated essential educational materials to Islamabad Model College for Girls, located in Quaid-University E-Azam Colony, Islamabad.
The donation included

60 chairs and 10 tables for preschool children, 30 stationery-filled goodie bags, former participants of tion.

and a fresh coat of paint for the classrooms, aims to enhance the learning environment for the students and support the institution's educational goals, said a news release. Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, has handed over the donated items at the school premises. The event witnessed the presence of

Pakistan's MTCP program alongside dedicated staff members of the High Commission. Addressing the event,

Ambassador Azhar Mazlan underscored Malaysia's steadfast commitment to fostering educational advancement in Pakistan. He expressed his de-

light in supporting education and empowering young minds through this donaSpeaking on the occapotable water.

ISALAMABAD: Labourers working on Chak Shahzad Road expansion in the Federal Capital.

Islamabad needs urban climate resilient infrastructure to sustain livable status: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a seminar on Friday underlined that amid growing population and climate-induced disaster risks it has become imperative for the federal capital to maintain a climate resilient infrastructure to sustain as a livable metropolis.

The seminar titled, Building Urban Climate Resilience in Islamabad,' was jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) here. CANSA representatives participated in the seminar online. Stressing the need to establish some model municipalities having climate resilient infrastructure, SDPI Deputy Executive Director, Dr Shafqat Munir said that Pakistan needs to have a strong local government system to develop climate smart urban centers whereas devolution at the small-scale needs to be achieved as every disaster hits local tier or bottom level of states, such as cities or municipalities.

Referring to the SDPI Report on the same title, he said: "in Nepal, a mayor from a small municipality has developed climate smart infrastructure in his municipality, but in Pakistan, financial constraints for local level authorities are the main impediments to achieve the goal of urban resilience.

He, however, pointed out that there a lack of strong local government system in the country, which needs to be made stronger, and democratic with maximum powers rest with the elected local lead-

He informed that the SDPI is also engaging with provincial governments to convince them to invest in peri-urban areas and local governments for the sake of climate resilience.

Aleena Kareem said transparency in public projects, better reporting and impact evaluation mechanisms and public-private partnerships could support urban resilience initiatives. She suggested the authorities concerned to come up with net zero targets for Islamabad to contain its carbon emissions to avoid climate disasters.

Nakul from CANSA said Pakistan has highest population growth and urbanization rates needs a proper mechanism and effort in this regard. Since the cities in South Asia are at

the receiving end due to the economic nature of development, robust efforts are required other than COP forums to meet its urban resilience goals, Nakul

Associate Research Fellow, SDPI, Zainab Naeem delivered a brief presentation on the Report which said: "around 4.3 billion people. i.e. 55% of world population, live in urban centers whereas the South Asia has accelerated growth trend with one of the highest urbanization trends in Pakistan".

She highlighted that the nexus between climate change and urban growth is prevalent in major economic sectors in the entire South Asia. "Climate Change can exacerbate existing health risks in urban areas due to factors like air

pollution and extreme heat. However, South Asia would require \$215 billion annually by 2030 for flood protection due to recurring flood risks," she added. 'Annual mean tem-

perature per decade increased by 0.32° Celsius in Pakistan with a significant increasing trend of annual mean temperature between 1961-2022 following rapid population increase due to rural-to-urban migration,' she noted. The Report suggests some action points leading to institutional building, coordination and governance, policy interventions, planning frameworks like green procurement, supply chains, pollution laws and liabilities on polluters and financing to create sustainable revenue streams for green and resilient urbanization.

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Saturday March 30, 2024

Biden letter to Shahbaz Sharif & correspondence-New turn in Pak-US relations

Undoubtedly, it is new turn in the relations of Pakistan and United States when the benefits but also various first diplomatic correspondence took place between tages for our health, with US president and Prime one of the greatest being the increase in hu-Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Joe Biden wherein it was vowed that Washington will "continue to stand with Pakistan" in tackling the "most pressing global and regional challenges".

This is the first communication between a US about the 'boys' often still there by the time president and Pakistani leader in a long time. The ing and the need to think terrible. Yes, there has letter also holds significance as Islamabad's ties with the White House were strained after after the cipher saga and allegation levelled by the former ruling party — Pakistan According to the Paki-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Biden, in his letter, wrote, "The enduring partnership between our nations remains critical to ensuring the security of our people—and people around the world—and the United States will continue to stand with Pakistan to tackle the most pressing the statistics are 44pc sure all children get 10 to global and regional challenges of our time."

"That includes advancing our shared vision for a fution data but one can say that out of 100 boys, 82 and 71pc respectively), tivities quickly or to dipaying jobs are hard to teachers. It might need and programming conture of greater health security, economic growth, and remain by the time they reach Grade 12. For every reach Grade 12. For every the disconnection for all " access to education for all."

"Through our US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, we will also continue to strengthen our climate resilience, support This modern civilisation, sustainable agriculture and man unprecedented water management, and power, progress, and prosperity has an inher assist with Pakistan's recovery fault that inery from the devastating exorably leads to crisis after crisis since it is itfloods in 2022," he added. self a product of violent reaction against revela-

President Biden stated tion. the United States remains disagree with the intellectual foundations, norms, committed to working with secular ethics and values Pakistan to protect human of this modern civilisation, we all are rights and promote sharing and are destined to share its ultimate crisis just as we are sharing and destructive nuclear when continue to forge a strong Descartes' declaration havoc they are about to partnership between our nations, and close bond benations, and close bond between our people, he concluded.

After the formation of the new government led by PM pulse brought about the Shehbaz, both countries Nascent capitalism facilicame closer after an improvement in ties as an increase was witnessed in bilateral engagements.

While it is very important unprecedented power and prosperity to hudevelopment between the manity, and on the other two countries with US has his moral anchor. taken lead by writing official letter to the Premier unleash a mix of con-Shahbaz Sharif, it is also unavoidable to strengthen stored the past, the advent of the bilateral relations further.

One must appreciate the correspondence between toregone conclusion. Equipped with the fac-Biden and Shahbaz hoping it would bear fruit in time edge man was destined to master the laws and to come.

Health Benefits of Fasting



Muhammad Umer

The month of Ramadan brings with it not only blessings and spiritual health benefits. Fasting has numerous advanone of the greatest beand improving life, keeping diseases at bay, and aiding in the elimination of toxins from the body, thus detoxifying it. During Suhoor (pre-dawn meal), opt for easily digestible foods such as grains, lean proteins, and beneficial fats that provide sustained energy. Make sure to include yogurt and buttermilk in options that can lead to and increase the conyour diet, and make an effort to consume at least eight glasses of water throughout the night to

prevent dehydration. Avoid lying down immediately after eating Suhoor or Iftar (meal to man growth hormone break the fast) as it can (HGH) and changes in lead to digestive issues. genes that have positive If possible, refrain from effects on brain cells, the consuming heavy meals digestive system, and during Iftar and instead

immune function. Fast- opt for a glass of water during Iftar as the day- because after a day of hunger. Being careless ing helps in prolonging and a fruit salad. The long fasting can dehy- fasting, careless eating with your food choices healthier your table is drate your kidneys, and during Iftar can lead to can significantly inadorned with fruits, the the gases in cold drinks healthier you will be. Minimize the consumption of fried snacks such fasting is not to indulge as samosas, and women should try to prepare yogurt-based snacks, samosas and other snacks at home using healthy oil, while avoiding unhygienic outside room, avoid overeating, indigestion and other is-

hospitals experience a ish the body's water levsurge in emergency cases, primarily due to the consumption of outside food and careless eating habits. Excessive consumption of greasy foods during Iftar can

can have adverse effects on them. The purpose of in oily and high-sugar foods. Maintain balance (iftar), will feel a reducin your food and drink choices even during Iftar corporate light physical parties. Do not turn your activity, such as a short stomach into a storage cucumbers in the During Ramadan, evening meal to replen-

> Increase the intake of meat, vegetables, fruits, and lentils, and that are often high in salt,

weight gain.

and balance in your prethe meal to break the fast tion in body weight. In-, after suhoor and

sumption of salads and feel active throughout take and get their blood the day and aid in digestion. Take extra precauhave diabetes, heart disease, or high blood presshould regularly monitor avoid processed foods their blood sugar levels to adjust their medicawhich can contribute to tion or insulin dosage contribute to heart prob- high blood pressure. Pay and prevent dangerous main purpose of this lems. Avoid cold drinks attention to your weight spikes or prolonged month.

crease blood sugar lev-Maintaining a check els. Diabetic patients can consume fruits such as dawn meal (suhoor) and apples, guavas, melons, and papayas. Those with heart conditions should avoid foods high in saturated fats, which are often found in butter and fatty items. Patients with high blood pressure iftar, as this will help you should limit their salt inpressure checked at least twice a week at a tions with diet if you nearby clinic. During the blessed month of Ramadan, prioritize your sure. Diabetic patients health because when you are in good health, you can perform your worship in a more fulfilling manner, which is the

Support for boys

Faisal Bari

referred to in Pakistan. It they reach Grade 12. is actually about schoolboys also need in

schools. We still have a significant gender gap in Pakistan, and it persists across the primary, middle, secondary and higher-secondary levels. stan Education Statistics by the Pakistan Institute remain out of school. of Education recently, More damningly, we at the primary level. There is significant provincial variation as well.

The above are overall national level numbers. At the middle level, GER drops to 53pc for boys and 48pc for girls. At the secondary level, stages. If we want to enand 39pc respectively, begin school but only 22 around an equal per-

These numbers are

about the support that been some progress over the years, but it has been glacial and despite the promise of Article 25A (right to education) enrolments in schools in that was added to the Constitution through the 18th Amendment in April 2010, we still have not achieved universal enrolments for schooling, and 26 million-odd chil-2021-22 report released dren of school-going age gross enrolment rates have not even reached (GER) are 82 per cent for universal enrolment or boys and 71pc for girls completion at the primary level — this is after more than 75 years of being an independent country.

But the numbers tell other stories as well. Our dropout rates are very high as children go through the schooling 12 years of education, we ery 100 girls, 71 begin higher secondary levels

No, the article is not school but only 21 are (22pc boys and 21pc on girls too of course. real girls). Which means that, Puberty, early marriage, (50pc). This is an important policy issue to debate. Why do so many children drop out and why is the dropout percentage higher for boys than it is for girls?

> been working in a large non-profit for education services for the last couple of decades, told that their organisation was quite concerned about the issue. Their information, coming from teachers, principals and coordinators working with children in schools, was that as boys grow — and this is especially true for lowincome households expectations from them

A friend, who has

change quickly and peer and societal pressures mount. The pressure from low-income households is to withdraw rectly enter the job mar-

over the years, a higher safety and the distance percentage of boys to school are all causes (60pc) drop out than girls of dropping out. The pressures are different for boys, and have to do mostly with work opportunities and the need to

As we have educated more and more children, the returns on education have also moved up and are now only available post-Grade 12 or graduation. When we had fewer educated people some decades ago, a person could sometimes get a job with decent pay even after matriculation. Now the same happens usually post-graduation. But for many low-income households keeping a male child in school or college for this long has a significant opportunity cost. And some househave sons not contributing to household inWe also do a poor

job of providing support to our children as they go through adolescence. Boys undergo many girls, the daily rouseveral changes during adolescence but we do school and home. For not have any educational or counselling more important as after programmes in place school hours they usuthat can help them. Nor ally have more freedom do many schools have to go out and interact any academic counsel- with friends. This interling programmes. So, children have to really fend for themselves. Children from low-income households fare are linked to delinpoorly here too. They do not have much support from their households, and if they do not c o u n s e 1 l i n g get support from schools either, they find themselves at the mercy of misinformation and

disinformation. The teaching profession is increasingly their education should be inducting more females of central focus. But we holds cannot afford to as well. Some provincial are also seeing trends governments even have where too many boys are policies to hire only fe- dropping out of school and at the higher second- have to reduce the drop- them from education to comes for long after male teachers at the pri- and too early. Boys face ary level it drops to 22pc out rates. The other fact either join vocational children are in their mary level. The private different dynamics and for boys and 21pc for to note is that though training programmes that teens. If parents feel that sector has mostly female pressures, compared to girls. This is cross-sec- more boys enter primary would take children to even after 12 or 14 years teachers. For example, come by, they will take specific training and sideration through our ket — at times with just children out of schools gender sensitisation for education system for primary-level education. much earlier. For boys, teachers to be able to supporting boys as well.

address some of their

concerns. In our society, boys interact with society more than girls. For tine revolves around boys, peer groups are action can be positive but can also set off peer pressure dynamics. In many societies, these quency, drug use and even violence. It underscores the need for programmes for boys.

The gender gap though narrowing, still exists and requires attention. Given the social returns of educating girls, girls in our society. We There are pressures such pressures are very understand boys and -- Courtesy Dawn

Materialistic metaphysics

Ghulam Shabbir

which has attained for

civilisation, pure reason edged out religion. Thus, this Enlightenment movement triggered the Scientific Revolution, whose persistent dynamic im-Industrial Revolution. tated this revolution for its own advantage and helped spread materialism that might be termed both a boon and bane of Western modernity. On the one hand, it brought hand it deprived man of

Now, the hubris of modern man was about to the book, ie, Jews and structive and destructive capabilities. With religion reduced to a relic of cannibalistic capitalism - ie, the emergence of corrupt socioeconomic structures with laissezfaire morality — was a foregone conclusion. ulty of creative knowlforces of nature. But mastering that 'mastery'

purview of revelation was beyond his ken.

What could religion do to rein in man's lust for power and selfaggrandisement? A study of civilisations shows that shorn of morality, man could be the most dangerous species on self a product of violent earth. His self-destructive genius puts the survival of the world and life Whether we agree or in it at stake. Life on earth has witnessed extinction five times, the fifth time about 60 million years ago. Now we must consider of what wreak on our planet. Noam Chomsky says: "Nuclear arsenals and climate change are an ample testimony to the fact that man is an evolutionary error." His remark echoes a striking similarity with the divine judgement at the time of creation. "Indeed, we offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man [undertook to] bear it. Indeed, he was unjust and igno-

rant" (33:72).
This "Trust" is bestowal of faculty of reason and volition on man to establish a just moral social world order. The Quran invites people of Christians (3:64) to share this responsibility. Hence, today we are "reaping" what was laid down in the intellectual foundations of the European Renaissance, Christian Reformation Movement and Peace of Westphalia, which alienated religion from the socioeconomic and political spheres. The ethical hollowness of modern man has rendered his vision myopic and priorities so

quenchable desires, he is probing in the dark.

Man is zeroing in on Mars while the affairs of the earth are becoming ever more complicated and dangerously intractable. Pure intellect has successfully defeated the moral purpose of life, turning modern man's endeavours and achievements into Frankenstein's monster. So, be it the rapid deterioration and decomposition of man's social life and/ or ecological disasters, both are the outcome of the corrupt socioecon-omic structures ba--sed on materialistic metaphysics.

The Quran offers a complete pro--gramme for selfre-ctitude which is su--fficient to save our civilisation. The plight of man at the advent of Islam, as portrayed in vivid imagery in the Quran, was highlighted thus: "Corruption has appeared on land and in the sea as an outcome of what men's hands have wrought"

Nuclear arsenals and climate challenges are the outcome of what modern man's hands have wrought due to his unbridled acquisitiveness, self-aggrandisement and military-cum-cultural and epistemological hegemonies, with corrupt socioeconomic structures their main props. The panacea for all these maladies lies in the return of religion to socioeconomic and political af-

fairs of the globe. At the time of creation, God set a challenge to man that the equality which all people share in the eyes of God should reflect in the socioeconomic and political order. Failure to live up to the challenge is not only of Muslims; it is, in fact, the failure of entire mankind. Are we awake to this rewarped and distorted that ality? -- Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad

Soon after the Babri Masjid was demolished by Hindu nationalist mobs in Decem-ber 1992, Fahmida Riaz wrote an epic poem entitled Tum bilkul hum jaise nikle. Three decades later, her words ring truer than ever.

For progressives in Pakistan, India has often represented the possibility that the postcolonial state can be democratised, that ideologies like socialism and secularism can be mainstreamed, and that relations with the world can be guided by principles such as non-alignment and anti-imperialism. But over the past few

years, as Pakistan ĥas been pulverised by various iterations of 'hybrid' militarised rule, it has become increasingly difficult to look towards our neighbour with any degree of envy. In June, India will go to the polls and all indications point to a victory for Narendra Modi and his BJP. Only Jawaharlal Nehru has enjoyed three successive terms in government; Modi seems set to overhaul Nehru's long legacy. Soon, our Indian mirror will likely show Pakistanis an image of our own brutalised selves.

1. Democracy: Indian political life is not overdetermined by an allpowerful military. This is no small mercy. But seen on a broader canvas, the political mainstream in both India and Pakistan has been transformed by the combination of digitalised mass media and an extremely young population. In Pakistan the establishment cultivated troll armies and is now suffering blowback. In India, Modi and the BJP have built an even bigger captive audience that is unremittingly rechristening India as a majoritarian

Modi regime has ruthlessly clamped down on independent media and political dissidents. In the lead-up to elections, it has incarcerated competitors demic and inequality has like Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party whilst also defanging an already emaciated Congress. All of this is happening to the loud acclaim of a large and expanding social base.

Secularism: Indian secularism has a long but flawed history. The father of the Indian constitution and iconic Dalit leader Dr Ambedkar warned that if all Indians were equal on paper, actually existing Indian society was deeply hierarchical. For decades, a wide cross-section of social and political forces defended and fought for secular principles in spite of societal resistance. Today, the Hindu right has been mainstreamed to a degree that was unimaginable Masjid demolition took

such as the RSS were cre- tonomy in trade relations ated in the 1920s, they remained sleeping giants until the turn of the century. In Modi's India, the Hindu right has fully ingrained itself in society through welfare groups, religious mobilisation and ideological campaigns. Its vigilante role is like the religious right in Pakistan, but one step ahead: it also wins elections.

Economy and environment: Since the end of the Cold War, India has enjoyed exalted status as a major success story of neoliberal globalisation. It has been lionised as the world's software and pharmaceutical outsourcing hub, has produced glittering spectacles like the IPL, boasts the world's biggest film industry and has been described as home to a huge middle class. While India is not tary-run corporate empire out. -- Courtesy Dawn

Our Indian mirror More generally, the and its economy has a stronger productive base, now rings hollow. Tens of millions fell into poverty during and after the panreached earth-shattering proportions: the richest one per cent of Indians today have a bigger share of income than the same ruling class did under British

> Meanwhile, big industrial conglomerates like the Ambanis and Tatas pillage India's peripheries along with mu-ltinational ca--p-ital for minerals and other na--tu-r--al resources. In--di-genous populations and nature in Orissa, Jhar-k-and and Bihar are expropriated in ways similar to the Baloch and other peripheries

Foreign policy: India once championed the Palestinian cause. Today, it is aligned with the murdereven when the Babri ous Zionist regime, and clamours to be the righthand of US imperialism. It While organisations certainly enjoys auwith powers like Russia but Modi's India puts to shame the once proud legacy of a country that led the Non-Aligned Movement. In the realm of Indo-Pak ties, Modi has mirrored the reactionary forces that demonise the 'other' to appease hawkish galleries.

Pakistan and India are both home to very young populations, ecological crises and toxic politics. They are not the same, but their disturbingly similar trajectories will only change if enough of us on both sides coalesce around progressive alternatives that speak the language of a wider South Asian post-capitalist peace. Popular, democratic impulses in both countries' peripheries give us hope. But the time to build a critical mass of support in overburdened by a mili- the mainstream is running



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the meeting to review law and order situation at

Maryam Nawaz approves Nawaz Sharif Kisan card

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday gave approval to the 'Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Kisan Card Project' aimed at uplifting the agriculture sector and socioeconomic condition of farmers in the province.

The CM presided over the meeting related to agricultural reforms here. She said that under the Kisan card 500,000 small farmers would be given loans on easy terms. This loan will be worth Rs 150 billion and given in one year. Farmers would also be given loans of Rs 30,000 for per acre land for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides

Under the Nawaz Sharif Kisan Card different types of subsidy would also be provided to farmers, she added. The meet-

LAHORE: Secretary Establishment Inamullah

Khan Dharijo and Director General Farhan Ali

Khawaja distribute shield and certificates in the

ceremony of 51 common passing out ceremony in

Final recommendations of

consortia established in seven

important themes sent to CM

sion to set up consortia

comprising Vice-Chancel-

lors and faculty members.

The major themes on

which the consortia were

established are as follows:

nance, Climate Change, En-

trepreneurship, Character

Building, Drugs and Nar-

cotics Control, Women

Empowerment, Promotion

of Technology. It should be

noted that the Governor of

Punjab took a keen interest

in the consortiums and

chaired several meetings at

the Governor's House.

Several meetings of consor-

tia were also held within the

universities. Thus, as a result

of these efforts spanning sev-

eral months, the final recom-

mendations were formulated

The aim of forming these con-

sortia was that academia

should come up with solu-

tions for the challenges faced

by the society

Governance and Fi-

Civil Services Academy at Walton Road.

Independent Report

LAHORE: On the special

instructions of Governor

Balighur Rehman, the final

recommendations of con-

sortia established in seven

important themes in the

universities of Punjab have

been sent to Chief Minis-

ter Puniab Marvam Nawaz

Sharif in the form of a re-

port. The Puniab Governor

has urged upon the Punjab

Chief Minister, Maryam

Nawaz Sharif to issue in-

structions to the adminis-

trative departments of the

varsities for immediate

implementation of the rec-

ommendations of the con-

sortia. Earlier, Governor

Punjab identified seven key

themes in the three-day

conference of Vice-Chancel-

lors held in Murree in Sep-

tember 2022 and directed

the Chairperson Punjab

Puniab

Muhammad

ing decided that model agriculture centres would be established with the cooperation of the private sector. Modern agricultural machinery, training, pesticides and seeds would be provided at these model agriculture centres.

The CM gave approval to set up a modern agriculture center in each district in the first phase.

Maryam Nawaz directed the agriculture department to formulate data related to production and demand of every crop. For research and development of wheat, rice, cotton, the meeting also gave approval for setting up a state-ofthe-art centre of excellence.

The meeting decided that a board would control administrative affairs of the centre of excellence and research centre would be linked with regional univer-

Development Centre would be set up in Agriculture University Faisalabad with the cooperation of China at a cost of Rs 2 billion. To stop the ssale of

fake fertilizers and pesticides, an amendment would be made to the Agriculture Pesticide Act and Fertilizer Control Act. The meeting reviewed reorganisation of Punjab Seed Corporation and Punjab Agricultural Research Board. It decided to equip Agriculture Extension Wing with modern technology and to induct 500 agricultural graduates.

The meeting was told that farmers would be given 24800 modern equipment in two years which would cost Rs 7 billion. Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb.

Punjab police accelerate

crackdown on

drug peddlers

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab

Dr. Usman Anwar has said

that according to the vision

and direction of Chief Min-

ister Maryam Nawaz

Sharif, the mission of a drug-

free Punjab is progressing

rapidly. In a statement, he

said intelligence-based op-

erations are ongoing across

the province under the su-

pervision of RPOs, CPOs

and DPOs to save the

young generation from drug

addiction. The IG said that during the last 24 hours, 486

raids were conducted on the hideouts of drug dealers

across the province including Lahore. Over 217 cases

were registered against the

accused involved in the

Sub-cabinet committee reviews law, order in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the second meeting of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Orders was held in the Home Department under the chairmanship of Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique.

Provincial Minister for Industry Shafay Hussain, Provincial Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan, Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja ul Rehman and Provincial Minister for Agriculture Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah participated as committee members. In the meeting, Home Secretary Noor Ul Amin Mengal, Special Secretary Fazal ur Rehman, Additional Secretary Internal Security, Additional IG CTD Waseem Ahmed Khan, DG PP&PS Muhammad Shahid Iqbal and other officers attended. In the meeting, Home Secretary Nurul Amin Mengal also gave a briefing on law

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said that security has been beefed up throughout the province after the brutal attack on Chinese nationals in Bisham. In the meeting, cases of 53 prisoners were taken into consideration. Since June 20, 2022, 39 prisoners have been re-leased on parole.

Women empowerment nucleus of US Mission efforts: Kristin Hawkins

LAHORE (APP): US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins has said that women empowerment has been the nucleus of their efforts at the Consulate and women participation is encouraged through exchange programs, educational scholarships and internship programs.

In an interview with APP in connection with Women's History Month here on Thursday, she said the U.S. Mission shares the belief that gender equity is essential to economic growth and development, democracy, and political stability in all societies.

About the Women's International Women's Day on March 8, was commemorated throughout the United States and other countries to celebrate the strengths, resilience and accomplishments of women across all sectors ranging from business, academia, sports and others.

To a question, she said her efforts towards empowerment of women were not limited to Women's History Month only as women-centered initiatives occupy the whole calendar, adding that it is not only about celebrating women but making them independent, vocal, self-sufficient and leader. Charismatic Kristin Hawkins, passion-History Month, Kristin ate about women empow Hawkins said the month of erment and cultural preser-March, besides observing vation in Punjab, said "dur-



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the meeting about PMDFC projects.

Policeman gunned down in Tank

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A policeman was shot dead by unknown mis-creants here on Wana road in the limits of Shaheed Mureed Akbar police sta-

tion on Friday morning. According to police spokesman, a police head constable-Akbar Ali was going to his duty at Chowki Latif situated near Garah Baloch when unknown miscreants sprayed him with bullets near Sheikh Market. Latif was deputed at the chowki as Incharge.

A heavy police contingent reached the site and cordoned off the area. A search operation has been launched in the area to track down the suspects.

The funeral of the

martyred policeman would be offered at District Police Office at 11:30 a.m. to-

6 dead, 1225 in Punjab

Independent Report Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

DG Rangers chairs security meeting to assess law and order situation

KARACHI (APP): A high level security meeting was convened at the Headquarters Pakistan Rangers Sindh under the chairmanship of Director General (DG) Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas to assess the overall law and order situation in the city.

According to Rangers spokesperson on Friday, high-ranking officials from various departments including Commissioner Karachi, Additional IGP -Karachi, Special Branch, DIGP - CTD, Joint DG Intelligence Bureau, DIGPs of Special Branch, East, South, West, CIA, Traffic, Rangers, and sensitive institutions participated in

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the special security martrydom day of Hazrat

the conference.

Ali (A.S), Easter, Ramzan's last ten days, and Eid-ul-Fitr, with confirmation of actions to be taken in this regard.

The conference emphasized on intensified patrols to curb street crime, increased snap-checking, and formation of a joint action plan utilizing modern technology for the apprehension of criminals.

It was stressed in the meeting that in light of the directives issued, utmost efforts will be made to ensure full compliance with existing laws and codes of conduct.

Law enforcement agencies, on the occasion, reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the security situation, with a stern focus on curbing any form of religious intolerance, forced conversions, extortion, and extremism



LAHORE: Members of Awami Rickshaw Union are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, in Lahore.

Provincial Cabinet approves 1.15 billion Eid package for martyrs and poor families

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet constituted a committee to look into the grievances of the officers of the attached departments and the directives of the Peshawar High Court concerning reducing disparities in the salaries of the officers of attached departments and other cadres. The cabinet committee comprised of Advisor to Chief Ministers on Finance, Minister/Secretaries P&D, Establishment, and Population Welfare. The High Court had on a writ petition filed by over 973 officers of different attached departments directed the government to redress the grievances of the petitioners concerning granting them allowances allowed to officers of other cadres @ 1.5 of the basic pay in light of article 38(e) of the Constitution and the Principle of policy as provided in Article 29(2) and to remove disparity/discrimination among the civil servants. The Finance Depart-

ment has opposed the demand on the grounds of resource crunch and financial crises of the province. Its financial implications have

been estimated to be over Rs.971/- million per year. The Provincial cabinet which met Wednesday evening under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur was actively participated by Chief Secretary, Ministers, advisers and adminis-

trative secretaries. It took

several decisions about the

affairs of the province.

The cabinet approved the release of Rs.1.15 billion funds as Eid Package for distribution among the 115000 poor individuals of the province at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per head/family. The package will also include the families of police martyrs to whom the Police Department, already having their details, will directly disburse these amounts. The cabinet approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right of Digital Way Policy providing a frame work to facilitate the deployment of fiber connectivity through prompt resolution of public and private right-of-way issues commonly faced by telecom operators thereby leading to an increase in fiber connectiv-

Right of Digital Way policy as aligned with the Federal Public and Private Right of (digital) Way Policy Directive 2021. A Committee comprising Ministers/Secretaries C&W, Irrigation and Local Government Departments was also constituted to adopt this policy in a unified manner throughout the province.

Another Committee was constituted to categorize within 15 days the posts recruitment to which should be done through ETEA or the technical Departments/organizations themselves. The cabinet also directed that all Provincial departments/organizations must get NOC from ETEA before conducting screening tests for recruitment through private organizations (other than ETEA). The Provincial cabinet approved Zone Development Agreement for the Pakistan Digital City Haripur project. The Pakistan digital City Haripur is the first purpose-built Special Technology Zones (STZ) in Pakistan being developed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board under the



ity. With this, Khyber

PESHAWAR: Former Presidents Haripur Chamber Safdar Zaman Shah, Haji Manzoor, Malik Muhammad Nazeer and others meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House.

HCCI delegation calls on KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) led by Safdar Zaman Shah called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Friday.

The delegation formed the Governor about the problems and issues faced by the business community of Haripur.

The delegation also urged the Governor to play role for facilitating businessmen and resolve their

Speaking on the occasion, Haji Ghulam Ali highlighted the significance of businessmen and traders for strengthening the country's economy and assured cooperation with

He said that federal authorities have been informed about the concerns of the business community regarding prices of electricity and gas. He said that the government desires to solve the issues of businessmen and to facilitate them.

CM takes notice of rape of mentally ill girl

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif took notice of the alleged rape of a 9year-old mentally-chal-lenged girl in DHQ Hospital Layyah.
She directed authori

ties concerned to identify the accused after a thorough investigation into the incident, and sought a report in this regard from IG Police. Madam Chief Minis-

ter said, "All those involved in the heinous crime should be punished severely."

Home Minister for tightening security of Masjids, vital buildings

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar on Friday ordered to ensure tight security of mosques, Imambarghas, public private and other important buildings in the holy month of Ramazan.

He directed that the solid security measures should be ensured in mosques, Imambargahs and other open places.

The Minister said that vigilant security steps be made possible for the protection of the citizens on the occasion of all Friday prayer gatherings.

Minister pledges completion of PMDFC schemes by 2025

Independent Report ter for Local Government and Community Development (LG&CD) department Zeeshan Rafique has pledged that all ongoing Bank-funded World schemes under Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (PMDFC) will be completed by March 2025. PMDFC is working on municipal services projects in 16 cities including Daska, Hafizabad, Jhelum, Kamonke, Muridke, Wazirabad, Gojra, Jaranwala, Jhang, Kamalia,

Bahawalpur, Borewala, Khanewal, Kot Addu and Wahari in a transparent manner, which will significantly improve the quality of life there.

He was speaking in a briefing by Managing Director Syed Zahid Aziz during a visit to the PMDFC office, here on Friday

pressed his happiness that PMDFC was the oldest company of the Punjab government which had been playing an important role vices in different areas for last twenty five years. He said that it was gratifying that as a pilot project, traditional ponds in the selected villages were being cleaned using modern techniques. "Phase-wise cleaning of the polluted ponds is not only promoting aquatic life but also providing water for local agricultural purposes", he said. The minister emphasized measures to increase capacity building of municipal committees because the lack of efficiency of some municipal committees was hindering the timely completion of development schemes. He said that the problem of sewage needed more attention than solid waste management.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique inspecting the revamping project at Punjab Institute of Cardiology.

NAB Lahore DG vows justice, compensation for victims

tional Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore held its monthly open court session here on Friday, addressing grievances of victims defrauded in the housing sector and investment schemes. The Director-General of NAB Lahore, Amjad Majeed Aulakh, personally listened to all complainants and issued on the spot directives.

The victims from various housing societies, including Pak Arab Housing Society, Palm Vista Housing, Al-Rehman Garden, Al-Haram Garden, Khayabane-Amin Housing, Al-Jalil Garden, Formanites Housing Society, and Govt Cooperative Housing Society, Lasani Chicks, Doubel Shah and others participated in

the session.
The DG reported that 2,300 victims of the Pak already been distributed Rs

LAHORE (APP): The Na- 1.67 billion, with an additional recovery of Rs 540 million completed. Despite a hopeful outlook for significant recoveries in the case, progress has been hindered by a court stay order obtained by the main accused. An official inquiry has been initiated for 218 claimants against the administration of Palm Vista Housing, where victims were defrauded through membership forms. NAB Lahore has also requested special leniency in NAB rules against the administration of Al-Haram Garden, which, upon approval, will enable disciplinary action.

NAB Lahore is eager to take priority actions against the Al-Haram Garden administration to promptly redress the victims' losses. Complaints against the administration of Khayaban-e-Amin indi-Arab Housing Society have cate that despite payments made years ago for plots.

Higher Education Commis-

HYDERABAD: A large number of people offering Namaz-e-Jumma at Jamia Masjid city during Holy Fasting Month of Ramzan ul Mubarak

Minister holds meeting with ACASUS to discuss collaboration in KP

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Under the leadership of Health Minister Qasim Ali Shah, a meeting was convened titled "Reaching the Unreached" under the auspices of the EPI (Expanded Program on Immunization) and PEI (Polio Eradication Initiative). The briefing, organised by ACASUS, focused on collaboration ef-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Attending the meeting were Special Secretary Health for Polio Eradication Abdul Basit, Director General Health Services Dr. Shaukat Ali, Deputy Director Provincial Emergency Operations Center Zeeshan, along with personnel from all district Emergency Operation Centres participat-

Minister Qasim Shah highlighted the significant responsibility that falls on parents of unvaccinated children, a consequence of insufficient awareness. which poses a risk to the entire nation. It is imperative to avoid international sanctions due to such negligence. The Federal Government will be engaged in discussions regarding these issues, he observed.

Qasim Shah added that access to remote areas in southern districts is crucial, necessitating the resolution of every possible challenge. Minister Shah emphasized that this is the third phase involving a special campaign for unvaccinated children, ensuring their vaccination

injured in 1106 road accidents

AHORE: At least six persons were killed and 1225 injured in 1106 road crashes in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 550 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 675 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical

Finance Minister says:

Economy commences on better note in 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday said that with significant improvements in key economic indicators the economy in year 2024 commenced on a better

Addressing the business community at Gong Ceremony at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Karachi, the minister said that the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), was working to eliminate leakages in tax revenue and bring more people into the tax net.

The minister also highlighted the completion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review and the potential for future relations with the fund, said a statement issued

to bring reforms in Stateowned enterprise (SOEs), privatization and energy sectors besides improving tax system. He, however highlighted the role of the private sector in economic development.

acknowledged the imporin advancing economic growth adding that the government would work with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to create a conducive regulatory environment for economic growth in the capital mar-

He said the government would focus more on improving the efficiency, transparency, and protection of investors in the capital market to enhance its performance.

He said the finance ministry would collaborate with the capital market to 12 billion.

government was working facilitate access to capital for small and mediumsized businesses

Aurangzeb expressed gratitude for Chinese participation and investment in Pakistan's capital market and stock holdings.

He emphasized that The Finance Minister the growing cooperation between PSX and Chinese tance of the capital market exchanges was vital for the economic development of Pakistan and mutual benefits for both countries.

Meanwhile, during his visit to Karachi, the federal minister also visited Utility Stores Corporation (USC) to review the coverage and benefits of the Ramadan Relief Package. The purpose of the visit was to ensure implementation of the

It is pertinent to mention, the allocated amount for the Ramadan Relief Package has been increased from Rs. 7.5 billion to Rs.



Aurangzeb in a meeting with Governor SBP and CEOs of all leading Banks, at SBP headquarters, during his visit.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to enhance cooperation in IT and Telecom sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima, and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, held discussions on Friday regarding matters of mutual interest and collaboration in the IT and Telecommunication

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan congratulated Minister of State for IT, Shaza Fatima, for assuming her office, said a news release. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in he IT and telecom sector. Shaza Fatima highlighted the brotherly rela-Azerbaijan, emphasizing Pakistan's high regard for its ties with Azerbaijan. expressed

Pakistan's desire to establish substantial relations between the two countries in the field of IT and Minister of State for

Shaza Fatima, articulated Pakistan's aspiration to initiate a youth exchange program with Azerbaijan. She emphasized that

the exchange of start-ups between the two countries

would enhance relations. **Minister Shafay attends**

Independent Report friendly and economic rela-AHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry and Com-

solar product launch

merce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain visited Raya Golf and Country Club Defence on Friday and attended the launching ceremony of a new solar product by the Chinese company Huawei as a special guest.

Alongside officials from the Chinese company, the provincial minister jointly launched the new solar product. The minister highlighted that Pakistan faces the challenge of environmental pollution and emphasized the strong

tions between Pakistan and China, suggesting that both countries can progress together in green energy ini-Chaudhry Shafay

Hussain emphasized that the future of Pakistan is intertwined with the promotion of solar technology. He mentioned ongoing discussions with foreign companies regarding solar panel production in Punjab and negotiations with the federal government to reduce import duties on solar panel motors.

Furthermore, he out

LAHROE: Provincial Minister for Industries Chaudhary Shafay Hussain

addressing the inaugural session of new solar products of Chinese Company.

month. Most importantly,

International Panel of Ex-

perts also inspected the tail

unique hydropower project

with 90% being underground

under high mountains over

burden. The project, com-

pleted in 2018 on River

Neelum in Azad Jammu and

Kashmir, comprises of a

Dam at Nauseri, an under-

ground waterway system

consisting of 52-Km long

tunnels and an underground

powerhouse at Chattar

Kalas with four power generating units of 242.25 MW

each. With average annual

energy generation of 4.6 bil-

lion units, Neelum Jhelum

Hydroelectric Project has so

far been generated 19.562

billion units of green and

clean electricity, thus, signifi-

cantly contributing to meet

electricity requirements of

the country.

Neelum Jhelum is a

race tunnel.

Neelum Jhelum achieves

max capacity of 969 MW

after TRT inspection

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Neelum Jhelum Hydroelec-

tric Project has achieved its

maximum generation capac-

ity of 969 MW yesterday.

of its operation earlier this

month after inspection of the tail race tunnel (TRT),

the project is continuously

in operation as per the

availability of water and contributing electricity to the National Grid, espe-

cially during Sehr and Iftar

of the holy month of Ramadan, said a press re-

low-flow season, operation

of Neelum Jhelum Hydro-

electric Project was stopped

on January 10 for inspection

of the rehabilitated tail race

tunnel. Subsequently, the

detailed inspection was suc-

cessfully carried out prior to

resumption of generation from the project early this

Taking advantage of the

lease issued on Friday.

Following resumption

PSX loses 137 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 137.02 points, a negative change of 0.20 percent, closing at 67,005.11 points against 67,142.12 points the previous trading day.

A total of 313.035.305 shares valuing Rs.9.899 billion were traded during the day as compared to 421,118,268 shares valuing Rs.16.159 billion the last day. Some 343 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 136 of them recorded gains and 188 sustained losses whereas the share prices of 19 remained unchanged.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

ships namely, X-Press Mekong, Taxidiara, Kerala, Sky Runner and Al-Bidda and scheduled to load/ offload Container, Cement Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Oil report period.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out them two ships Chemroad Rose and Belforest left the Port on today morning while three more ships, Sky Runner.

Weekly inflation

falls slightly

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The weekly inflation mea-

sured by the Sensitive Price

Indicator (SPI), witnessed

a decrease of 0.09 per cent

for the combined consump-

tion groups during the week

ended on March 28, the

Pakistan Bureau of Statis-

tics (PBS) reported on Fri-

data, the SPI for the week

under review in the above-

mentioned group was recorded at 323.20 points as

compared to 323.50 points

responding week of last year,

the SPI for the combined con-

sumption group in the week

under review witnessed an in-

crease of 29.41 per cent. The

weekly SPI with the base year

2015-16=100 covers 17 urban

centres and 51 essential items

for all expenditure groups. The

SPI for the lowest consump-

decreased by 0.27 per cent and

went down to 313.35 points

from last week's 314.20 points.

tion group up to Rs. 17,732

As compared to the cor-

during the past week.

According to the PBS

KARACHI (APP): Five

Furnace oil, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal respectively on

Minister forge path for enhanced economic ties ISLAMABAD (APP): phasized the necessity of Uzbekistan's Ambassador bolstering economic coopto Pakistan, Aybek Arif eration across various sec-

tors through Business to

Business and Government

Uzbekistan's Envoy,

Usmanov and Pakistan's

Commerce minister Jam

Minister for Commerce,

Jam Kamal Khan, aiming to

elevate economic relations

between the two nations.

said a press release issued

confidence in his ability to

enhance bilateral trade.

to Government agreements. Kamal Khan on Friday forged path for enhanced Uzbekistan's foreign minister and deputy trade economic and trade relasecretary have planned to visit Pakistan soon for B2B Uzbekistan's Ambassador , Aybek Arif Usmanov, met with Federal and G2G discussions aimed

at boosting trade, he added. Highlighting the potential in sectors like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, building materials, textiles, and leather, Usmanov underscored the importance of Minister Jam's experience in politics and expressed confidence in big 1 1111 edging the untapped potential between the two countries and emphasizing the need for improved connec-

Stressing the longstanding friendly ties between Pakistan and tivity and new trade routes Uzbekistan, Usmanov emto enhance trade volume



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov calls on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza

KP revenue minister chairs meeting on land records computerization

Independent Report ABBOTTABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Revenue and Estate, Nazir Ahmad Abbasi chaired a meeting on Friday to discuss the computerization of

land records. During the session, Minister Abbasi issued directives for the establishment of a dedicated counter at Abbottabad's Service Delivery Center (SDC), covering Lora, Bakot, and Boni patwar circles. The initiative, aimed at issuing computerized deeds to curb corruption was highlighted

extensive overview of the across the province.

project to the attendees Nazir Abbasi also directed the implementation of similar initiatives in other service delivery centers province-wide. He also addressed the

staff shortage issue in Service Delivery Centers.

The minister ordered the immediate reassignment of computer operators currently stationed in Deputy Commissioner Offices back to the Service Delivery Centers. Additionally, comprehensive plans were instructed to be formulated for the appointment of new during the meeting. computer operators as per Project Director the requirement in all Sercomputer operators as per Delivery Centers

SBP extends facility of importing cash US\$ till June 30

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday, extended the facility for exchange companies to import cash US Dollars till June 30, 2024, to ensure an adequate supply of cash

USD in the open market. SBP's Exchange Policy Department, in a circular letter issued here, informed that Exchange Companies were allowed by the department on July 25, 2023, to import through Cargo or Security Companies cash US Dollars up to 50% of the value of their export consignments till December 31, 2023.

To ensure an adequate supply of cash USD in the open market, the validity of the above instructions is hereby extended till June 30, 2024, the circular letter read, adding that all other terms and conditions of above mentioned circular letter shall remain unchanged. As per the circular letter issued in July 2023, Exchange Companies had to include such arrangement in their deal with the overseas entity while the system-

generated deal ticket should

also include particulars of the

amount to be imported as



enue, Muhammad Aurangzeb kickstarts business activity at the Pakistan Stock Exchange Gong Ceremony in Karachi as the Chief Guest, ringing the bell to symbolize the commencement of trading.

GILGIT: Chairman Committee on Telecommunication Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amjad Hussain Advocate chairs a meeting regarding the telecommunication and internet issue in GB. Zong 4G contributes to **Digital Transformation in**

Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication provider, has made significant transformation in the country through its partnership with Original Equipment ing cutting-edge digital plat-

vianuiacturers (OEMS). With the exhilarating introduction of OEM partnerships especially for its esteemed corporate clientele, Zong 4G unleashes a wave of innovation aimed at enhancing revenue streams and elevating the customer journey, said a

In today's dynamic digital landscape, Information and Communication Technology stands as the cornerstone for every cor- and Cyber Security.

Pakistan through OEMs poration, shaping communication channels and revolutionizing business opera-

> Recognizing its pivotal role, Zong 4G has taken a bold step forward, offerforms and services tailored for corporate clients.

> This initiative not only enhances Zong's DICT portfolio but also injects it with a thrilling blend of cost efficiency and diverse solutions, propelling businesses into an electrifying era of innovation and con-

In order to create ease for its corporate users, Zong 4G is offering the following services Network

Türkiye's foreign trade gap halves in January-February

ISTANBŮL (AA/APP): Türkiye's foreign trade deficit decreased by 51% to \$12.95 billion during the January-February period, on a yearly basis, official figures showed on Friday.

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) announced that the country's exports totaled \$41 billion, up by 8.5%, and imports dropped by 16% to \$54 billion over the same pe-

The foreign trade deficit was \$6.77 billion in February alone, narrowing by 44.2% year-on-year.

Türkiye's exports went up by 13.6% to \$21 billion, while imports fell by 9.2% to \$27.85 billion in February versus the same month last year.

The exports - excluding energy products and non-monetary gold - were \$19.6 billion, up 12.3%, and imports were \$20.99 billion with a 5.2% increase, year-on-year in February.

Gold rates up by Rs.3,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed an increase of Rs.3,800 and was sold at Rs.234,800 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.231,000 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.3,258 to Rs.201,303 Rs.198,045 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 184,528 from Rs. 181,541, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.20 to rs.2,600 whereas that often gram silver increased by Rs.17.15 to 2,211.93.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$40 to \$2,254 from \$.2,214, the Association reported.

PTC rebuts misleading tax loss figures, seeks fair market competition ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) on Friday expressed concern about the recent misinformation spread across the media regarding loss to the national exchequer due to non-payment of taxes by legitimate tobacco companies. PTC officials have expressed their concerns about the figures presented by an Islamabad-based

bacco companies around Rs 567 billion, said a news re-It is important to note that this figure is incorrect. misleading and detached from ground realities. The only loss incurred to the

think tank, showcasing a

substantial revenue loss in-

flicted upon the national

exchequer by legitimate to-

Government of Pakistan by the tobacco industry is because of tax evasion of illicit manufacturers as the legitimate industry pays all applicable duties and taxes.

The misrepresented number is for accumulated loss over a decade, which has unfortunately been overlooked in much of the discourse following the report's release. This oversight has led

to misconceptions and potentially skewed perceptions of the legitimate to-bacco industry's economic impact. The nuanced context

of these findings is crucial for informed public dialogue, as the portrayal of the data, without explicitly clarifying its decade-long spread, might contribute to

certain entities advocating for the illicit tobacco sec-

Representatives from PTC questioned the legitimacy of such a report, which downplayed the impact of the illicit tobacco trade in the country.

They shared that the

introduction of a 3-tier system in 2017 was the need of the hour for the government due to the fall in revenue collection, and this regime not only allowed revenues to increase and illicit market share to decrease but also paved the way for a level playing field and sustainability for the industry.

However, the illicit tobacco sector operates outside the stringent regu-

align with the interests of paradoxically, seems to evade the scrutiny and regulatory actions that are urged the law enforcement promptly applied to their legitimate law-abiding coun-

> There is a growing concern within the relevant segment that this portrayal and the ensuing public narrative might be steering the government towards policy decisions that inadvertently favour these noncompliant entities.

terparts.

The report also cited the Senate Special Committee on the causes of the decline in Tax Collection of the Tobacco Sector, to highcollection. Ironically, in the same minutes, the FBR claimed the illicit market share to be more than 36

a narrative that seems to latory framework and yet, per cent, which caused tax revenues to fall.

> The representatives agencies to initiate a nationwide crackdown against illicit cigarette trade, causing the Government of Pakistan losses of Rs 300 billion annually rather than what the impact the report has claimed spread out over a decade and raised questions regarding the intentions behind publishing such a report.

Contrary to the report's impression and subsequent coverage, the legitimate tobacco industry has significantly contriblight the issue of lower tax uted to the national exchequer, with substantial payments in the fiscal year, Rs 148 billion in 2021-22 and Rs 173 billion in 2022-23

Govt, lender banks end PIA's commercial debt negotiations ISLAMABAD (APP): one of the most complex The commercial debt negotiations of Pakistan International Airlines Corpora-

tion Limited (PIACL) have been successfully concluded among the government, domestic lender banks and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) as part the entity's restructuring privatization.

A statement issued by the PIACL on Friday said the step paved the way for filing of the Scheme of Arrangement (SOA) for legal segregation of PIACL with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan on Thursday. The federal cabinet had approved the legal segregation plan of PIACL on February 6,

privatisation has been a priority agenda for the federal government, and above ment in the national carrier.

restructuring exercise undertaken to prepare PIACL for privatisation. This arrangement will help make a viable business case for private sector invest-

The domestic banks and financial institutions demonstrated firm commitment to the government's privatisation initiative and extended their full co-operation in finalising the arrangement for PIACL's commercial domestic debt. Under the arrangement, PIACL's Commercial domestic debt will be moved to PIA Holding Company Ltd., established by the federal government as part of PIACL's legal restructuring. The term sheet covering mutually agreed commercial aspects of loan transfer was signed yester-





LAHORE: Women busy in shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr in the Ichhra Shopping Center of the Provincial Capital.

ICJ tells Israel to 'ensure urgent assistance' in Gaza

THE HAGUE: The rica has charged that Israel world's top court ordered Israel to "ensure urgent humanitarian assistance" in Gaza without delay, saying

"famine has set in".

The International Court of Justice's latest order comes as heavy street battles continued to rage in besieged Gaza — and a major medical charity said it "hasn't seen any change" since a United Nations Security Council resolution this week demanding an

immediate ceasefire.
"Israel shall... take all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay... the unhindered provision... of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance" in Gaza, the ICJ said. "Palestinians in Gaza are no longer facing only a risk of famine, but...famine is setting in," the Hague-based court

At the ICJ, South Af- additional measures. is perpetrating a genocide in Gaza, an accusation strongly denied by Israel.

Pretoria dragged Israel was in breach of its obligations under the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, and urging the court to order a ceasefire.

In a ruling in mid-January that made headlines worldwide, the ICJ ordered Israel to do everything it could to prevent genocide during its Gaza offensive. The court also ruled that Israel must allow aid into Gaza to ease the desperate humanitarian situation there.

South Africa followed up with a request for fresh measures a few weeks later, citing an ancourt declined to impose

Undeterred, Pretoria tried again — this time urging the court to impose emergency measures to "save the Palesbefore the court, saying it tinian people in Gaza already dying of starva-tion". The ICJ's judges said that the mid-January rulings "do not fully address the consequences

arising from the changes

in the situation...thus

justifying the modifica-tion of these measures".

ICJ decision, calling it "sig-

nificant". "The fact that Palestinian deaths are not solely caused by bombardment and ground attacks, but also by disease and starvation, indicates a need to protect the group's right to exist,' it said in a statement. The MSF medical charity said nounced incursion into there was no change on the the city of Rafah, but the ground since the Security

Council resolution.



Pretoria hailed the latest amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Khan Younis in the

South Africa bus crash kills 45 Easter pilgrims from Botswana

Monitoring Desk

crash in northern South Africa killed 45 pilgrims travelling from Botswana for Easter festivities on Thursday, authorities said, with the sole survivor an eightyear-old girl currently betreated

hospital.South African police said 31 female and 15 male Botswanan passengers died in the crash, after the driver lost control and collided with barriers on a bridge near Mamatlakala.

catching fire. Reuters TV footage from the scene showed a wreck of mangled metal from the bus amid scattered clothes belongings."Authorities are

still combing the scene for

more bodies," the police said

in a statement. All the victims were from the village of Molepolole near the Botswana capital Gaberone, it said. Some bodies were burned beyond recognition while others were trapped inside the debris or strewn about the scene

US provides Maryland \$60m to start rebuild of collapsed Baltimore bridge

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States government awarded the state of Maryland an initial \$60 million in emergency funds on Friday to clear debris and begin rebuilding the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, an extraordinarily fast disbursement after such a disaster. The bridge came tumbling down early on Tuesday after a massive cargo freighter that had lost power ploughed into

Harbour. Two bodies have been recovered and four others are missing and presumed dead, believed to be trapped in a vehicle beneath concrete and steel that fell into the water. Maryland Governor Wes Moore had requested the \$60m earlier on Friday, and within hours the US Department Transportation's Federal

Highway Administration approved the request to fund emergency work.

A tropical cyclone makes landfall in northern Madagascar, killing 18 people

Monitoring Desk ANTANANARIVO: A tropical cyclone that swept across Madagascar has killed 18 people and left four missing after making landfall on the north of the Indian Ocean island nation earlier this week, authorities said on Friday. The storm has also caused severe flooding that partly submerged entire villages, displaced or affected some 47,000 people and set off landslides that injured three people, the National Office for Disaster Management said.

Poland, Ukraine close to agreement on food imports

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Poland and Ukraine are closer to reaching an agreement regarding agricultural imports, the Polish prime minister said on Thursday after intergovernmental talks, as Warsaw seeks to defuse farmers' protests.

'We are close to a solution," Donald Tusk told a news conference.

Fallen crypto

tycoon sentenced

to 25 years in jail

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Disgraced

wunderkind Sam Bankman-

Fried was sentenced to 25

years in jail on Thursday

following his conviction in

one of the biggest financial

seeking a prison term of 40-

50 years after a New York

jury found Bankman-Fried,

known by his initials SBF,

guilty in November follow-

ing a five-week trial that

probed the one-time high

During the hearing Bankman-Fried told the

courtroom that he was

"sorry about what hap-

pened at every stage. And

there are things I should've

roller's spectacular fall.

US prosecutors were

fraud cases in history.

ish market.'

'This applies to the amount of products that can flow into Poland, once we determine it, we are close to ensuring that transit does not disturb the Pol-

Israel kills dozens in airstrikes across Gaza Strip

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israel sustained its aerial and ground bombardment of the Gaza Strip on Friday, killing dozens of Palestinians, as fighting raged around Gaza City's main Al Shifa hospital, Palestinian officials and the Israeli military said.

Palestinian health officials said two Israeli strikes on the Al-Shejaia suburb in eastern Gaza City killed 17 people, while an Israeli air strike on a house in the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip

said at least 10 policemen, tasked with securing aid to the displaced in northern Gaza, were among those killed in Al-Shejaia.

The Israeli military said its forces continued and rockets.

operations in around Gaza City's Al Shifa complex "while mitigating harm to civilians, patients, medical teams, and medical equip-ment", adding that over the past day it killed a number of gunmen and located weapons and military infrastructure.

Al Shifa, the Gaza Strip's biggest hospital be-fore the war, had been one of the few healthcare facilities even partially operational in north Gaza before the latest fighting. It had also been housing displaced civilians.

The Israeli statement killed eight people.

Gaza's Hamas-run

The Israeli statement said its forces conducted government media office raids in central and southern areas including Khan Younis and Al-Karara, where troops exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen before they killed them and located weapons

North Korea rules out any meetings with Japan

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea has no interest in dialogue with Japan, state media KCNA reported on Friday, citing foreign minister Choe Son Hui. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said he wants to hold talks

with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "without any preconditions" and is per-

sonally overseeing efforts

to realise the first such leaders' summit in 20 years in an attempt to defuse decades of tensions. But North Korea has said, it had no interest in a

summit with Japan and would reject any talks, signalling no thaw in relations between the two countries.

Choe also said Pyongyang has no intention to help with the issue of Japanese abductees, according to KCNA, adding North Korea will "respond

cannot understand why he persistently adheres to the issue that cannot be settled. Choe was quoted as saying by KCNA, referring to Kishida. North Korea admitted in 2002 to kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens decades earlier. Five abductees and their families later returned to Japan, saying the others had died.

However, Tokyo believes 17 Japanese were abducted, and continues to investigate the fate of those who did not return, according to Japanese media.

North Korea's ambassador to China, Ri Ryong Nam, also said there would be no meeting at any level with Japan, a separate KCNA report said. Ri remarked in a state-

ment, adding that an offi-cial at the Japanese embassy in Beijing proposed a contact via email to a counsharply" to Japan's interference with its sovereignty. "I cilor of the North Korean

Meloni, Le Pen rift mars far right's prospects of wielding EU power

Monitoring Desk PARIS: When a French minister compared Italy's nationalist Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni last year to the leader of the French far right, the Italian premier rang French President Emmanuel Macron to com-

Meloni was so incensed that the French leader felt compelled to send an emissary to Rome to appease her, said two sources with knowledge of the conversations.

The Italian premier's message to Macron was clear, according to one of the sources: she was no Italian version of Marine Le Pen. Both Macron's and Meloni's office declined to comment on the incident, which has not been previously reported. Meloni's anger illustrates the depth of divisions within Europe's nationalist right that may stymie its efforts to wield power at an EU

level despite record support ahead of European parliament elections in June, according to half a Reuters.

dozen sources with knowledge of their parties' strat-

Polls predict that Europe's nationalist and eurosceptic parties will win a record number of votes in June. Voters are expected to punish mainstream parties for failing to shield households from high inflation, curb immigration and deliver decent housing and

healthcare. A model constructed by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), a policy think tank, using polls from EU countries forecast in January that a populist right coalition of the Christian democrats, conservatives and radical right could, in theory, emerge with a ruling majority in the European parliament for the first

But the prospect of a single, muscular bloc encompassing the far-right emerging is slim amid stark differences between its leading figures. Meloni and Le Pen, the sources told

Polish prosecutors charge seven in financial probe

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Seven people were charged as a result of

an investigation into alleged misuse of funds managed by the Polish justice ministry under the previous government, a prosecution spokesman said on Wednesday.

The prosecution is now also analysing evidence to decide whether to request that some lawmakers be stripped of their parliamentary immunity about the investigation, the spokesman said.

The probe focuses on the alleged misuse of money from Justice Fund, set up to help victims of crime when it was run by the government of the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party.

PiS lost power in October 2023 to a coalition of pro-European parties and the new government headed by the coalition's leader Donald Tusk has vowed to hold to account those accused of breaking the law during PiS's eight-year rule.

Earlier on Wednesday and Tuesday special services searched the residences of several former government officials, including the home of former justice minister Zbigniew Ziobro, and a parliamentary hotel room of his former deputy Michal Wos.

Wos, who oversaw the Justice Fund, said his home outside Warsaw was also searched.

"I have nothing to reproach myself for, everything was legal when I supervised the Justice Fund. Wos told reporters and said he would file a complaint against the prosecution.

Ziobro, who has also denied any wrongdoing, said he had to interrupt chemotherapy he was undergoing because of Tuesday's search of his house, calling it a "spectacle of banditry and lawlessness"

A Reuters analysis of company filings and statements showed firms have seen more than one, oh, \$7 billion in write-downs and lost revenue.



Trade in support of Palestinians.

independent expert, who

was appointed by the UN

Human Rights Council in 2022 but who does not

speak on behalf of the

United Nations, said she

had "been attacked since

the very beginning of my

"I do receive threats,"

she acknowledged, but said

that she had received "noth-

ing that so far I have consid-

ered needing extra precau-

tions". And the pressure

merely encourages her "not to step back", Albanese said. Israel last month an-

nounced a visa ban on

Albanese over comments

denying that Hamas's Oct 7

raid was "anti-Semitic". And

it said that her report was

"simply an extension of a

budged much and the mar-ket will need more," said

analyst Neil Wilson at trad-

ations the market will test

how far Tokyo is prepared

to let it go." Earlier in the day, BoJ board member

Naoki Tamura said officials

would not embark on a

speedy programme of

monetary tightening as they

try to nurture an economic

recovery while keeping a lid

on inflation. "The handling

of monetary policy is ex-

tremely important from

here on for slow but steady

progress in normalisation to

fold back the extraordinar-

ily large-scale monetary

easing," he said, according

Shunichi Suzuki told re-

porters the government was

monitoring market move-

ments with a high sense of

urgency" and "will take

resolute action against ex-

Finance Minister

to Bloomberg News.

"Usually in these situ-

ing firm Finalto.

mandate'

 $\overline{\mathbf{Y}}$ en hits 34-year low,

most global markets rise

UN expert defiant amid threats after Israel 'genocide' finding acknowledged that "it has been a difficult time". The

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: A UN expert who determined that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza on Wednesday said that she had faced threats over her work but insisted it only made her more determined to push ahead.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on the rights situation in the this week there were reasonable grounds to believe Israel was committing "genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza

Israel, which has long been highly critical of Albanese and her mandate, denounced her report as an 'obscene inversion of reality", while pro-Israeli groups have called for her to step down.

Asked about the campaign seeking to underblowback at a news confer- mine the very establishment ence in Geneva, Albanese of the Jewish State".

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Wall Street and

European stock markets

mostly rose on Wednesday

ahead of key US inflation

data later this week while

the yen recovered slightly

from a 34-year low against

151.97 to the dollar in Asian

trading hours after a top

Bank of Japan official indi-

cated that it would press

ahead with a loose monetary

policy after last week's first

interest rate hike since 2007.

The Japanese currency

strengthened to 151.03 in

the European session on

speculation that officials

could step in to support the

yen, but then weakened.

a rally in Tokyo's bench-

mark Nikkei stocks index as

exporters benefited, making

est since 1990, the yen

slackened a bit overnight on

"After hitting its high-

it Asia's best performer.

The weaker yen helped spur

The yen dropped to

the dollar.

Ukraine, India hold talks to strengthen ties **Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: India's for-eign minister held talks Friday with his Ukrainian counterpart, who was visiting to strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation with New Delhi, which considers Russia a historic ally from the Cold War-era.

Indian foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said in a post on the social media platform X that he and Dmytro Kuleba discussed "the ongoing con-flict and its wider ramifications," and said the two would work together to boost relations between their countries

'India and Ukraine have been traditional friends, but I think there is much more that we can do and should do, not only in the interests of our nations. but also in the interest of global development and security architecture," Kuleba said Friday.

"We will be looking forward to restoring what had existed before the large scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine began."

India's Congress says facing 'tax terrorism' after second tax notice

Department "tax terrorism". Congress treasurer Aiay Maken told reporters

India will vote in

India's Congress party spokesman Ajay Maken addresses a press confer-

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's main opposition party said on Friday it had been asked to pay an additional 18.2 billion rupees (\$218 million) in taxes, which it called an attempt by the tax department to financially cripple it weeks before general elec-

Calling the latest notice from the Income Tax the party would fight the demand in court.

seven phases between April 19 and June 1 in general elections Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to win and secure a record-equalling third straight term.

ence at All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in New Delhi. Migrant crossings to UK hit new record, heaping pressure on Sunak

Monitoring Desk LONDON: More than 4,600 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain on small boats so far in 2024, a record total for the first three months of the year and giving Prime Minister Rishi Sunak a fresh politi-

cal headache. Provisional data from the Home Office, or interior ministry, showed on Wednesday that 4,644 people had been detected arriving across the Channel on small boats such as inflatable dinghies up to March 26 this year.

That compares with 3,770 for the same period last year and 4,162 for son said last week

2022, the previous record Sunak is hoping his

flagship scheme to deport those arriving in Britain without permission to Rwanda will deter people from making the dangerous cross-Channel crossings. Legislation which aims to get that plan up and running after a series of legal setbacks is due back in parliament next month. "The unacceptable number of people who continue to cross the Channel demonstrates exactly why we must get flights to Rwanda off the ground as soon as possible," a Home Office spokesper-

UN says households waste one billion meals a day

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Households around the world threw away one billion meals every single day in 2022 in what the United Nations on Wednes-

day called a "global tragedy" of food waste. More than \$1 trillion worth of food was binned by households and businesses at a time when nearly 800 million people were going hungry, the UN's

latest Food Waste Index It said that more than 1 billion tonnes of food —

almost one fifth of all the produce available on the market — was wasted in 2022, most of it by households. "Food waste is a global tragedy. Millions will go hungry today as food is wasted across the world," Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said in a statement. Such wastage was not just a moral but "environmental failure", the report said. Food waste produces five times the planet-heating emissions of the aviation sector.

done and things I shouldn't have." They "built something beautiful," Bankman-Fried said. "And I threw it all away." The final sentence was meted out by US District Judge Lewis Kaplan who used the hearing to carefully walk through the financial crimes committed by Bankman-

There was "never a word of remorse for the commission of a terrible crime," the judge said, adding that there was a risk Bankman-Fried would commit crimes again.

With the sentencing now done, Bankman-Fried's lawyers said they would appeal his conviction. Calling Bankman-Fried's seven-count conviction reflective of the defendant's "unmatched greed and hubris.'



Tourist take photos in front of Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

President for promoting barter trade, economic ties with Iran

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday underlined the need for promoting barter trade and economic relations with Iran for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

The president, talking to Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that both countries had great scope for expanding bilateral economic cooperation in diverse fields.

Talking to the ambassador, the president expressed his commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

He called for working together to overcome the common challenges faced by both sides.

The Iranian ambassador congratulated the president on assuming the office. He said that both Iran and Pakistan enjoyed historical, religious and cul-

coming stronger with time. He emphasised the need for increasing the bilateral trade volume, bank-

tural ties, which were be-

ing cooperation, and air and business linkages between the two countries.

The ambassador said that Pakistan could benefit from the Chahbahar-Zahedan railroad for trade with Central Asia, Europe

He expressed the hope that Pak-Iran relations would receive fresh impetus under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari. He also conveyed

warm regards from the Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, for the President Zardari. Later, Ambassador of

Palestine to Pakistan, Ahmed Jawad Rabei, also called on President Asif Ali Zardari and congratulated him on assuming the office.

The ambassador highlighted the atrocities and the reign of terror unleashed by the Israeli forces against innocent Palestinians in the

Talking to the Pales-President said that it was very painful to see the tragic sufferings of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli forces. He stated that Paki-

Palestine, and would continue to stand by its Palestinian brothers and raise its voice at all fora.

He lauded the bravery and resilience of the Palestinian people, who had been waging a long struggle against Israeli occupation.

President Zardari urged the international community to make efforts for the free flow of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by lifting all the barriers and ensuring the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. He said that Pakistan would send additional relief goods, including food and medicine, to the Palestinian people. The ambassador appreciated Pakistan's support in the field of education as over 50,000 Palestinians had

stitutions in Pakistan. He also conveyed the warm regards of the Palestinian ambassador, the tinian President Mahmoud Abbas and thanked the government and the people of Pakistan for their consistent support and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

graduated in various disci-

plines from educational in-



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

BCS officers assure wholehearted cooperation to CM for establishing good governance in Balochistan

Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) Officers have assured their wholehearted

cooperation to Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti for establishing good governance in the province. They were speaking

on occasion of the Iftar dinner hosted by the Balochistan Civil Services Officers in honour of the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, members of the provincial assembly and personalities belonging to different walks of life here the other day.

The officers of Civil Services including Commissioner Sibi Division, Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai, Commissioner Rakhshan, Shah Irfan Gharsheen, Adminis-

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

issued orders for medical

treatment of the prominent

Baloch singer, Ustad Noor

Muhammad Nooral on the

cial handout issued here on

late Thursday night, the

Chief Minister directed the

Secretary Health Abdullah

Khan to contact the family

of Ustad Noor Muhammad

ooral.

According to an offi-

government expenses.

CM issues orders for

treatment of Ustad Noorul

on government expenses

Bhangar, Javed Anwar Shahwani, Director General Social Welfare, Tariq Mengal, Deputy Secretary Ayesha Zehri and other officers appreciated the initiatives taken by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for good governance in the

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the full support shown by the officers of Balochistan Civil Services to the government and said that establishment of good governance is necessary for re-solving the public issues and making government departments effective. For the purpose, the present provincial government has started reforms process in

the treatment of Baloch

singer would be done from

private hospital of Karachi

as proposed by his family.

expressed best wishes for

early recovery of the Baloch

vincial Health Department

contacted the private hos-

pital of Karachi for treat-

ment of the singer on direc-

tives of Chief Minister.

Karachi for treatment.

singer, Ustad Nooral.

The Chief Minister

Meanwhile, the Pro-

He was also shifted to

trative Secretaries Fateh He said that development and prosperity of the province and establishment of peace is topmost prior-

> The officers of Balochistan Civil Services thanked the Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ghazala Gola, members of the provincial assembly Mir Shoaib Nausherwani Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak Mir Zahoor Buledi, Rehmat Baloch, Asghar Rind, Khaii Jan Baloch, Malik Naeem Bazai, Mina Majeed Baloch, Dr. Rubaba Buledi, Agha Shakeel Durrani and newly elected Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi on participating in the Iftar din-

Rana appointed chairman PM's Youth Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan as Chairman PM's Youth Programme, a government

notification said Friday. The appointment of Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan shall be in honorary capacity," said the notifica-tion issued by the Cabinet Division. The notification said the PM desired all relevant stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the

Chairman Programme in discharging his official business.





meeting with Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez.

Punishing Nawaz Sharif on Iqama in Panama case was a mistake: Aleema Khan ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry

Aleema Khan, sister of in-Pakistan carcerated Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan has said that it was a mistake of the judges to punish her brother's rival Nawaz Sharif on Iqama

in the Panama case,.

will be no justice. The law-

should now back these IHČ

Aleema Khan also said that the judge had made a mistake in the Panama case, the case in which Nawaz Sharif had been awarded jail sentence on the basis of an Iqama. "Nawaz Sharif was not punished in the original case; otherwise they would not have been roaming free like today," she added. Aleema Khan said "If you listen to the case, there will be no doubt from the

UNGA's revitalization key to promoting world peace, security: Pak

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Emphasizing UN General Assembly's status as the only forum with universal representation, Pakistan Thursday said that its revitalization was vital to promoting world peace and security, especially its authority for peace enforcement when the Security Council fails to act in a cri-

"This authority is significant in the context of the developments in Gaza, Naeem Sabir Khan, a counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said during a thematic debate on the "Role and Authority of the General Assembly," at the UN Headquarters in NewYork

While terming the revitalization of the 193-member Assembly a political rather than a procedural matter, the Pakistani representative called for boosting its role in the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Pak Railways considers eid train fare reductions

AHORE (INP): Pakistan Railways Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amir Ali Baloch has addressed passenger concerns and outlined potential improvements for the upcoming Eid holiday rush.

In a positive development for travelers, Baloch revealed that Pakistan Railways is considering reducing fares for special Eid trains.

This move would likely ease the financial buring home to celebrate Eid

Aurangzeb says: Ramazan Package enhanced from 7.5bln to Rs. 12.5 billion

Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had enhanced Ramazan Package amount from Rs. 7.5 billion to 12.5 billion rupees so that people belonging to vulnerable segment of the society could be provided essential items on subsidized rates as compared to the open market. He said this, while

talking to media persons during his visit to a Utility Store here in the Defence

Finance Minister said under the Ramazan package, apart from Utility stores, 1200 mobile points were also set up to provide essential items to the

KARACHI (APP): Federal people at their respective areas. He said there will be no compromise on the quality of the food items being sold through the Utility Stores. Responding to a suggestion regarding donations from philanthropists to Utility Stores Corpora-tion, the Minister termed it a good proposal and said as philanthropists of this city always generously helped the poor people and they must donate money to Utility Stores for the purpose.

Aurangzeb said there was a wrong impression that IMF was against the subsidies but the fact is that International Monetary Fund is against un-targeted subsidies while it wants the targeted subsidies be en-



QUETTA: Members of Christian community engaging in services of Good Friday, at a Church.

Ghazala hails unopposed election of Senators as important milestone

Independent Report preciated President Asif Ali QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan As-Zardari, Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, sembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has hailed the unop-Ms. Faryal Talpur and pro-vincial leadership especially posed election of Senators Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz from Balochistan and Ahmed Bugti on the initiatermed it an important milestone in history of tive in this regard,

the province. In a statement issued here on Friday, the Deputy Speaker said that credit of the unopposed election of Senators from the province goes to the central leadership of Pakistan Peoples'

in the forefront in uniting all the political parties in history of the province. She said that the positive role played by PPP in recent elections is being

appreciated not only at the

Ms. Ghazala Gola

said that PPP has always

Party.
She particularly apcountry's level. provincial but also at the

NHA restores road link between KP, Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): NHA staff deployed in the National Highway Authority on Friday successfully restored the vital road link between the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Following persistent and dedicated efforts by NHA's skilled construction experts, the road connection on the Dhanasar-Zhob section of N-50 has been fully restored, said a press release issued here.

Severe weather conditions, including heavy rains and subsequent landslides, had previously led to the suspension of traffic on this crucial route, necessitating diversions to alternate

roads.

Under the guidance of

region worked tirelessly around the clock, utilizing heavy machinery to effectively reopen the damaged road segments. The relentless efforts of NHA General Manager,

Agha Inayat, Deputy Director Agha Baseer, and their team were instrumental in achieving this feat through sheer hard work and commitment. It is worth noting that

the National Highway Authority has successfully restored traffic flow between KP and Balochistan via the N-50 route in the shortest possible time frame, ensuring vital connectivity was reestablished for the benefit of all Chairman NHA Arshad commuters and general



QUETTA: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater caused by poor sewerage system, showing negligence of concerned authorities, in Quetta.

Sarbuland greets senators elected unopposed

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan Information Secretary Sardar Sarbuland Jogezai congratulated the senators who were elected uncontested on general, technocrat and women's seats from Balochistan. He hoped that the

newly elected senators would play their role in solving the problems of Balochistan by highlighting them in the upper house in an effective man-

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the political parties present in the Balochistan Assembly have united and made all the senators successful in general, technocrat and women's seats for and appreciated the role all political parties in this re-

He said that in the past, questions have been raised regarding the election of the Senate in Balochistan but this time, due to the efforts of Chief Minister Balochistan and other political leaders, Senate candidates were elected unopposed on 7 general seats, 2 technocrat seats and 2 women seats from Balochistan.

He said that it has happened for the first time the history of Balochistan that all the candidates have been elected unopposed on the 11 seats of the Senate from Balochistan after consultation with all the political parties.

He said that all the political parties will continue to play their role in solving the problems of Balochistan by uniting like

Pakistan's India diplomat Disputes resolution, enhanced understanding vital for regional peace, stability

Pakistan's charge d'affaires in India said that the goal of regional peace and stability could be achieved by enhancing mutual understanding, addressing shared con-cerns and resolving longstanding disputes including Jammu and Kashmir. "A cycle of perpetual conflict and tensions, is not our ordained destiny. We can emerge from the shadow of the past and script a future of hope for our two peoples based on peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality and mutual respect" Saad Ahmad Warraich said addressing the Pakistan Day reception held at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, said a press re-

sioned amicable relations between the two countries. Unfortunately, the history of their bilateral relation ship remained challenged for the most part, he added.

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi offering Dua at

Martyrs Monument during his visit to Frontier Constabulary Headquarters.

The grand reception was attended by a large number of guests including political figures, members from the diplomatic corps, businessmen, representatives of media and civil society, and prominent Muslims personalities including the custodians of different

shrines in India. The charge d'affaires, who earlier received the guests at the chancery lawns, highlighted the significance of the Pakistan Day saying that the historic resolution adopted by the All India Muslim League at



QUETTA: MPA Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch distributing prizes among players during concluding ceremony of Youm-e-Pakistan Sports Festival.

Huge quantity of counterfeit medicines recovered in crackdown

QUETTA (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Balochistan has intensified its efforts to combat the sale of counterfeit medicines during the ongoing lockdown in the

A spokesperson for the FIA revealed a series of successful raids conducted across various regions. These operations resulted in the seizure of a signifi- and counterfeit medicines.

drugs and the registration of four inquiries against individuals involved in the illegal activity

A collaborative effort between the FIA's Anti-Corruption Circle Quetta and the district administration led to a significant raid on a store in Hazar Ganji. The operation yielded over 100 types of unregistered

BFA signs MoU with **ICCBS-Karachi University**

Balochistan Food Authority (BFA), Government of Balochistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Industrial Analytical Center (IAC), International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi. The purpose of this MoU is to create a long-term framework of collaboration, cooperation, and development of a strong linkage between BFA and IAC-ICCBS, for test-

KARACHI (APP): The is in the interest of both institutions. The BFA Director Technical Dr. Noor Hassan and Prof. Dr Farzana Shaheen, the Director of the ICCBS, University of Karachi, signed the MoU in an online meeting held at the HEJ, Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi on Friday. Among others who attended the meeting were officials from ICCBS including Prof. Dr. Shabana Simjee, Prof. Dr. Syed Ghulam Musharraf, and Dr. Shakil Ahmed, and officials ing of food products, which from BFA.

LHC seeks report on threats to life of PTI founder

AHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHĆ) while calling arguments on next hearing on maintainability of the petition against non provision of complete security to PTI founder in jail has remarked PTI founder has earlier been attacked too and we cannot afford any

further big incident. The petition came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan of LHC for

hearing on Friday. Advocate General (AG) Punjab Khalid Ishaq while raising the objection over maintainability of the petition said he will summon report on security concerns of PTI founder despite having objection on petition.

Courtsummons Pervaiz others for indictment on April 4

LAHORE (Online): Anti Corruption Court (ACT) has summoned former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and other accused on April 4 for indictment in illegal appointments case.

Judge Arshid Hussain Bhutta of ACT issued written order of the hearing.

The court summoned Pervaiz Elahi and other accused on April 4 for indictment. The court said in its decision central jail Rawalpindi filed medical reports of Pervaiz Elahi.

While talking to media men outside the Islamabad High Court on Friday, Aleema Khan said that the

letter of the six IHC judges has exposed many people. Unless the judges stand up for justice, there

judges," she added.

statement of Asad Majeed and

yers who had supported **Sports Dept trying to keep** youth away from social evils by games activities: MPAs

bly (MPAs) and Secretary

bers of Provincial Assem- Festival at Ayub Stadium.

QUETTA (APP): Mem- stan Day 23 March Sports nities were provided to the youth of the province, they Additional Secretary could make Pakistan fa-



Sports Balochistan on Friday said that Balochistan Sports Department was organizing sports competitions from time to time to

keep the youth away from social evils and drugs which was positive sign of players. MPAs including Mir Zahoor Buledi, Rahmat Saleh Baloch, Asghar Rind, Khairjan Baloch and Meena Baloch expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of Paki-

of Youm-e-Pakistan Sports Festival. Haji Ijaz Ali, Deputy Secretary Home Jahanzeb Sheikh, Assistant Director Activities Muhammad Asif Longo, Ayesha Zehri and other players and officials were also present on this occasion. They said that there was no shortage of talent in the players of Balochistan, it was necessary to provide suitable opportunities to the players.

mous not only in the country but also abroad. They

The speakers said that continued for 6 days.

said that on the occasion of March 23, sports competitions were organized across Balochistan in which more than 15 thousand athletes and officials participated. 44 local, national and international indoor and outdoor sports were included in the sports festival at Ayub Sports Complex on the occasion of Pakistan Day (March 23) which

den on passengers return-

if proper sports opportu-Chief Editor; Sved Faroog Shah printed at Independent Printers Quarry Road Quetta and Published from Al-Sved Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941, Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailvind@gmail.com,dailvindisb@gmail.com