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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 302, Shawwal 15, 1445 AH Wednesday April 24, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Iranian President vows to enhance cooperation with Pak in diverse sectors

LAHORE (APP): Iranian dends. President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi says Paki- Iranian President said the stan and Iran are keen to develop centers of arts and learning besides promotion of arts and sciences.

Addressing students and faculty at Government College University in Lahore, he said it is need of the hour to pay special attention to arts, sciences and technology to shine tors. among the comity of na-

tion sector may pay divi- his visit.

On Allama Iqbal, the poetry of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal enjoys special acceptance in Iran. He said Pakistan and

Iran maintain the same stance on Palestine issue. Dr Raisi said Iran would further enhance its

cooperation with Pakistan in the energy and other sec-The Iranian President thanked Prime Minister

President Raisi said Muhammad Shehbaz that universities should be Sharif and Chief Miniscenters of learning and re-ter Punjab Maryam search and a comprehen- Nawaz Sharif for the sive strategy in the educa- cordial hospitality during



KARACHI: Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi along with others paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during ceremony held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

Modern research center to be set up for lawyers:

Pending cases to be disposed of soon: CJ BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has stated that the cases pending in the courts would be disposed of soon.

It is loss of the lawyers if cases remain pending, observed the Chief Justice while addressing the reception hosted here at the High Court on Tuesday.

The reception was arranged in honour of the newly appointed Chief Justice Hashim Kakar and retiring judge Mr Justice Nazeer Ahmed Langove.

The Chief Justice BHC said that he considers the Bar his mother institution as the judges come from

Mr Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar pointed out that the youngsters are disappeared but their families don't know anything about them.

He also noted with concern that the innocent people are killed in the name of honour, which is sorrowful. He said that he would never commit negligence in resolving the problems.

He said that we are endeavouring to resolve all issues of the lawvers

He announced that modern research center would be established for the

All the judges of High Court as well as office bearers of different bar associations and senior lawyers participated in the reception gathering.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presenting a memorial shield to Commander West (Navy) Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed

Balochistan's lawmakers call for development initiatives in province

Members National Assem-(MNAs) from Balochistan emphasized the importance of progress and development in the province, urging an efficient utilization of re-

sources to uplift the area. Speaking at National Assembly forum, JUI-P lawmaker Engineer Mohammad Usman Badini hailing from Balochistan raised concerns over funding issues in Balochistan University, emphasizing that employees have not yet received salaries of six months. He also highlighted the vast expanse of his constituency, spanning over 1000 square kilometers and rich in resources, urging development efforts in the region. PML-N's Haji Jamal Shah Kakar emphasized the significance of Balochistan for the country's development and nation's future. He stressed

the need for development initiatives in the area to achieve prosperity for the people of province.

IPP lawmaker Gul Asghar Khan underscored Pakistan's resource wealth and advocated for development through strategic planning. Delivering his inaugural speech in the National Assembly, he called for prioritizing the resolution of

public issues.

MNA Mian Khan Bugti stressed the need for educational uplift in Balochistan, describing it as a region lagging behind as compared to other parts of the provinces. He highlighted the underdevelopment in Western side of Balochistan, citing deficiencies in gas, electricity and

other essential facilities. Mian Bugti called for concerted efforts to uplift the region, urging the concerned for provision of gas facilities to the local population.



we would speak to the tribal

personalities for ending vio-

to resolve the issue of

Balochistan through dia-

the issue of Balochistan is

not resolved through nego-

development schemes

would be completed timely

Balochistan is impossible in

after the budget.

development

the present budget.

tiations.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Jus-

tice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar along with Federal

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah

Missing persons issue is very

old, cannot be resolved

overnight: Law Minister

Voters rejected PTI's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies in

constituted on this matter,

he pointed out. The repre-

sentatives of Balochistan

were also part of this com-

sented before missing per-

sons commission, he indicated. Some among them

Information and Broadcast-

ing Attaullah Tarar said on

Tuesday that the voters

during the recent bye-elec-

tions had rejected the Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf's nar-

rative of hatred, hypocrisy

ference along with Minister for Law and Justice

Addressing a press con-

10200 cases were pre-

Federal Minister for

mission.

ership

were resolved.

Federal government has

said missing persons mat-ter is very old and it cannot

be resolved overnight on

between political and mili-

tary circles. Government is

taking this issue seriously.

This matter is linked to ter-

rorism. However commit-

tee has been constituted and

investigations have been

started. The country is put

on the path to economic de-

velopment. People have

absolutely rejected PTI

contradictory statements,

this was said by law minis-

ter Azam Nazir Tarar and

information minister Ata

Tarar while addressing a

joint press conference here

Law minister Azam

Nazir Tarar said talks are

underway between politi-

cal and military circles since

some time on the issue of

missing persons. Pakistan

has played role of front line

country in war affected area

since four decades. This

war has led to enhance enor-

Tuesday.

"Talks are underway

court's orders.

Tarar held an important Press Conference

He said that it is better

What should we do if

He announced that the

However, he added that

Better plan being devised for improving law and order:

Govt's formation completed; ministers given portfolios; 16-point reforms prepared, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti says committee being formed for talks with those on the mountains; recovery of missing persons government's responsibility

would work along with all

security institutions for

maintaining law and order

was addressing a hurriedly

called press conference

along with provincial min-

are forming a committee for

holding talks with those

moving on the mountains.

talk with the parties

present in the parliament

and outside, stated the

isters here on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed

The committee would

in the province.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the formation of provincial government has been completed with portfolios assigned to the min-

The Chief Minister Bugti maintained that we said that we have prepared 16-point reforms agenda for bringing improvement in the government affairs and the provincial ministers would work on them

He said that the Provincial Minister for Home Chief Minister adding that

Govt committed

to implement

minimum wages ISLAMABAD (APP) The National Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the government to ensure the payment of minimum wages in both government-run departments and private enter-

prises. The resolution was in-troduced by MNA Syed

Rafiullah. In response, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that federal government is committed to implementing minimum wages in the capital and its

affiliated departments. He said that Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners in the federal capital are overseeing the implementation of minimum wages. He further said that following the passage of the minimum wage legislation by parliament, a notification was issued for its implementation.

US warns Pak of 'possible sanctions' for doing trade with Iran

WASHINGTON (INP) The United States hinted at the "risk of possible sanctions" on Pakistan if Islamabad did trade with US State Department

spokesperson Matthew Miller while reacting to a question on the visit of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said that the United States is one of Pakistan's largest export markets. However, he advised "caution to those considering trade deals with Iran," citing the potential threat of sanctions.

"We advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential risk of sanctions.'

The spokesperson did not specifically name Pakistan but reminded it of the US significance as the biggest foreign market and one of the biggest investors in the country.

We have also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years. Pakistan's economic success is in both of our interest, and we look forward to continuing our partner-ship," he added.

PM Shehbaz likely to visit **Saudi Arabia** this week

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to travel to Saudi Arabia on a threeday official visit this week.

The prime minister will leave for Saudi Arabia on April 28 (Sunday), his second visit to the Kingdom since assuming the top of-

Shehbaz Sharif last traveled to Saudi Arabia during his second term as PM at the start of the on-

going month.
During his visit, Prime
Minister Sharif met with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of KSA Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and discussed further fortifying of the fraternal relations between the two brotherly nations and exploring avenues for enhanced collaboration across various sectors. The prime minister had also performed Umrah and offered Nawafil inside Ka'aba as he was granted access inside 'Baitullah', as

a special gesture. The premier, during his upcoming visit, will hold meetings with Saudi crown orince and other officials. After PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit, Saudi Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman will also travel to Pakistan.

Rahila Durrani assigned deptts of Colleges & **Higher & Technical Education as well Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education bye-elections: Attaullah Tarar
ISLAMABAD (Online): mously internal and exter-(Schools) Ms Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani has nal challenges of Pakistan. also been assigned the de-We have paid price for it.

First talk in this regard was held in PPP governpartments of Colleges, Higher and Technical Edument and a commission was

This was announced in an official notification issued here on Tuesday.

Security forces kill terrorist in **Pishin IBO**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed a terrorist last night during an intelligence based operation in Pishin, Balochistan.

According to ISPR, three terrorists were also apprehended in injured condition who has been identified as an Afghan na-A huge cache of arms,

ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation. Security forces of Pa-

Azam Nazeer Tarar here, he kistan, in step with the said much hue and cry was made about so-called rigging Nation, remain deterin the by-elections but even mined to thwart ata single proof could not be tempts of sabotaging peace, stability and presented by the PTI leadprogress of Balochistan.

PM lauds CIDCA's role in bolstering Pakistan's economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Phase-II of CPEC would Chinese International Development Cooperation opment. Agency, led by its Chairman Luo Zhaohui, called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister said China is Pakistan's most trusted friend and appreciated China's steadfast support to Pakistan.

Acknowledging CIDCA's pivotal role in bolstering Pakistan's economic development, the Prime Minister specifically commended CIDCA for its vital support during the 2022 floods and for its relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister underscored that CPEC has contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as the progress and prosperity of the peoples of the two coun-

He hoped that the tors.

high-level delegation of the result in more industrial, scientific, and green devel-

He further said CPEC-II is also an opportunity for the private sectors of both countries to form joint ven-

Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong also attended the meeting.

The Prime Minister witnessed the signing ceremony of four Memorandums of Understanding focusing on Flood Rehabilitation, Information and Communication Technologies, Juncao Technology, China-Pakistan Development Cooperation Planning 2024-2028 alongside a Letter of Exchange on the establishment of a First Aid Centre in Balochistan, and Protocol on Cooperation in Human Resources Development under the Global Development Initiative.

These agreements signify the deepening cooperation between Pakistan and China across various sec-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of different agreements between China and Pakistan regarding cooperation in various fields.

Punjab to welcome Iran's investment:

Maryam; emphasises stronger industrial, agri cooperation

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the Punjab government would welcome Iranian investment in the valueadded livestock market of the province, emphasising stronger bilateral cooperation in industrial and agriculture

The chief minister, in a meeting with President of Iran Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his spouse Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda at the Governor's House here, sug-



gested that both countries could earn valuable foreign exchange by establishing MDF zones and promoting halal meat export, according to a press release issued by DGPR. Referring to the Pak-Iran friendship spanned over decades, the chief minister said that her government wished to carry out economic projects to alleviate poverty.

She told the Iranian president that immense oppor tunities were available in Punjab for investment in the environment-friendly green energy sector.

Terrorists involved in attacks on Customs officials killed in DI Khan operation

PESHAWAR (Agencies): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Tuesday claimed to have killed at least eight terrorists who were involved in attacks on Customs officials in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

One of the mostwanted terrorists, Jahanzaib, was also among those killed in the operation conducted on Monday in the KP district, the CTD said in a statement. The dead terrorists, ac-

cording to the statement,

were also involved in extortion and attacks on security forces as well as target killing. The terrorists were present in the district with plans to cause sabotage, it "The escape routes of

the terrorists were blocked," the CTD said, adding that there is a fear of the presence of facilitators of terrorists in the local population. "Strict action is also

being taken against the facilitators," the agency main-



QUETTA: Spokesman of Government of Balochistan Shahid Rind, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat, Deputy Commissioner Lt. (retd) Saad bin Asad and DG PDMA Jahanzeb talking with DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran during their visit to DGPR Office

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

By-election trends

While it is too early to deduce a definitive political trend from the provisional results of Sunday's 21 by-polls held so soon after the Feb 8 general elections, the exercise has once again emphasised the need for the state — particularly the ECP and the administration — to work on improving the credibility of the electoral process. Five National Assembly seats were up for grabs, while the rest of the contests were for the provincial legislatures, 12 of those for Punjab Assembly constituencies. Just as allegations of rigging and irregularities had marred the Feb 8 polls, similar accusations were levelled in a number of constituencies during the by-polls, most of which were won by PML-N candidates.

An example was the 'confession' of a presiding officer at a Lahore polling station. The PTI might have played up these claims, but independent observers, too, were of the view that all was not well at many polling stations in Punjab. The ECP 'took notice' of the apparent electoral malfeasance and sought a report. Meanwhile, violence was reported from Narowal, resulting in the death of a man near a polling station.

Whereas the by-polls should have been a straightforward process, this was not to be. Clearly, the lessons of the Feb 8 polls, as well as earlier fiascos such as the 2021 Daska by-election, have not been learnt. Unless polls in Pakistan are transparent — and seen to be so — the country's democratic evolution will remain slow.

The ECP bears the principal responsibility for ensuring this transparency; others in the government, state and bureaucracy also have a duty to promote electoral integrity. Unless the culture of violence and rigging is rooted out, so that the vote is the sole determinant and source of political power, the credibility of the electoral process in Pakistan will continue to remain under a cloud. By-elections in Pakistan have generally attracted little voter interest, with voters often tending to cast their ballots in favour of the party already in the saddle. As per the provisional results, the PML-N secured two NA seats, while winning 10 provincial constituencies in Punjab. Many of these were seats that N-League candidates had already won on Feb 8.

Rather than reflecting any great triumph for the N-League narrative, as its leaders are claiming, the results are more an indication of the fact that voters want to maintain the status quo at this point in the electoral cycle.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to ignore the rigging claims, which also dominated the Feb 8 polls. They indicate that the electoral victory is not as clear as the ruling party is portraying. There is much time between now and the 2029 elections. This period should be used by all stakeholders to ensure the next elections are free of controversy.

Towards the end

Arif Hasan

Europe destroyed itself and also the rest of the world as a result of World ies, and the initial formu-War II. Since it had colonies all over the world, they were also inadvertently drawn into the chaos.

Towards the end of the war, and especially after, Europe discovered the terrible physical and 'moral' cost of it. Europe barbaric destruction of had in the past two centuries devastated its colonies through highly rapacious and political processes supported by deep-seated racism. By the end of the war, the Euhow the Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs had been placed in concentration camps and gassed and millions as they were looked upon as racially

The Jews were an educated, financially powerful community with and American politics, academia, and global financial institutions. As such, their inhuman extermination, and the large numbers involved, became the most important issue that troubled postwar Europe's conscience. The devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not acquire the same describe the mass murder importance in the European psyche.

inferior to the Aryan race.

Due to the tragic war and the racism that was part of it, the major powers (who had won World War II and who were largely European colonists) got together to create the United Nations and formulate its goals, rules, regulations, and covenants, which have grown over the years. The covenants have proposed equality of mankind, irrespective of caste, creed, or ethnicity, and sought to maintain the sanctity of national frontiers and guarantee says anything that is out, and a more equithat the causes and reper-

of the UN's various agencies were for the most part ies, and the initial formulations of the UN Charter and its supporting docu-

ments were developed by Western intellectuals, politicians, academia. Thus, the UN was, for the most part, a European/ US construct. As a result of the

Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian land by Israeli homes, and the genocide that is accompanying it, Europe and the US, by supporting Israel's war against Hamas and the ropeans also discovered Palestinian people have violated everything that the UN Charter promotes and which the Western colonial countries have starved to death by the supported not only internationally but also within their own countries. Post-World War II, they have promoted these values as their own and have considered counstrong links to European tries and societies that violated them 'uncivilised'. So Europe has dismantled its own

'civilisation' and value

To assuage its post-

war conscience, Europe developed two terms: one was 'Holocaust' and the other 'antisemitism'. The Holocaust is used to of ethnic communities that Europe carried out. Another term that has evolved is 'antisemitism', which means that anyone who acts or says anything that is anti-Jewish is anti-Semite. Almost all European countries have laws that can punish those who deny the Holocaust and/ or is antisemitic.

would never be seen have supported this con- -- Courtesy Dawn

again. The headquarters cept since the end of World War II.

This is ironic because many communities in the Global South, such as the Arabs, and the Muslims, were not involved in the Holocaust, but they have been accused of denying it. Similarly, they had nothing to do with the extermination of the Jews. Not only that, the Arabs themselves are Semites, and Islam is a Semitic religion. The Muslim faith is derived from Abraham, as is the Jewish faith. They are two bra-nches of the same tribe. So history is

this form of reasoning. Another myth that has been promoted is the invincibility and discipline of the Israeli army. This has been proven by Israeli Western-supported victories because of which Arab countries have refrained from attacking Israel directly since 1967. Iran by its recent attack has shattered this myth and the denial of the Holocaust and antisemitism have become a joke universally but the price for this has been paid by the children and women of Gaza.

a major casua-lty in the

Euro-p-ean narrative of

The public, especially the young, in most Western countries have protested against their govern-ments' support for Israel. This should not be allowed to fizzle out, as the anger against the Saudi crown prince for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi has — he is now the blue-eyed boy of the Western world. The formal and informal alliances that had been formed among op-Israel and its sup- ponents of Israel porters and benefactors should be kept alive so have used these two that a positive change terms to promote the can take place in interconcept that any indi- national media and the vidual or country that last remnants of colodenies the Holocaust or nialism can be wiped that the causes and reper-cussions of World War II The Western powers the coming generation.

Wrong choices

Naseer Memon A fresh conflict has

erupted between Punjab and Sindh on the issue of irrigating a new command area. Punjab's irrigation sought a water availability certificate from the devastation in the Indus Indus River System Authority to irrigate two million acres of land under the Smaller Cholistan scheme. department's presenta-

tion reveals that the feasibility studies of the Greater Cholistan and Smaller Cholistan schemes have been completed to bring a total of 6.6m acres of new land under canal command. Sindh's objection was overruled at Irsa and the certificate was issued in favour of Punjab, but the province submitted a detailed note of dissent against the proposal.

Similarly, in August 2023, Wapda had presented a proposal on another forum to irrigate 6m acres of land in Cholistan through the Cholistan scheme entail Sutlej river on its left bank.

A drive for largescale corporate farming has already kicked off. Sindh's last caretaker government had leased 52,000 acres of land in six districts where the newly created Green Pakistan Initiative intends to experiment with corporate farming. Developing new command areas in Cholistan is also part of the mega farming campaign; \$40 billion in revenue and the creation of millions of jobs are being touted under the initia-

Undoubtedly, Pakistan has large swathes of barren land. But macroscale farming needs large amounts of guaranteed flood flows and an extensive irrigation infrastructure. Officials in Punjab, it seems, are given to claim the availability of surplus water whenever are they want to advocate projects, their reservoirs Courtesy Dawn

can be endless but it is undeniable that Sindh Punjab's irri-department sub-optimal flows that have led to ecological

> proposed an elaborate web of reservoirs and link canals. New reservoirs at Midh Ranjha, Shah Jewna and Chiniot, and new barrages at Hasilpur and Bahawalnagar on the Sutlej, are part of the scheme. Additionally, a new 195-kilometre link canal from the Chenab river that regulated flows of the Chenab will feed the Sutlej, which will eventually irrigate the Cholistan command area through two new feeder canals.

> The Punjab irrigation department's proposals for the Smaller data on water availability. Water availability from the first week of July to the first week of September has been shown as flood flows. These flows range from 4,137 cusecs to 4,122 cusecs. Developing such a huge command area on the assumption of the availability of flood flows negates the fundamentals of irrigation engineering. Indus data shows that below Kotri Barrage remained less than 10 milyears. Who can guarantee that the Chenab and Sutlej rivers will receive surplus flows every monsoon?

India is aggressively damming the Chenab. According to The Diplomat, over 70 major hydro-

new upstream diver- will hold water for weeks. sions. Sindh has always Amid climatic vagaries rejected this data and in- and frequent upstream terpretation. The debate diversions, the reliance on flood flows for developing a massive command area lacks logic. What if a dry spell persists for a few years in the Chenab and the proposed three reservoirs For the Cholistan are exhausted? Will the dream project, Punjab has command area be left parched and the crops allowed to wilt? The Chenab and Sutlej flows eventually reach the Indus and the proposed scheme will reduce flows to Sindh.

Pakistan's population is projected to cross 400m by 2050. This poses a challenge for food seis proposed for convey- curity. Hence, the objecing 'perennial' flows to tive shou--ld be to inthe Sutlej. Punjab claims crease food pr--oduction. which can be ach-ieved without controversial projects.

According to a report by the Zarai Taraqiati Bank, the national potential for total grain production is 100,933,000 kilogrammes per year, whereas the actual national grain production from 2015 to 2016 remained 38,227,000 kg. This means that Pakistan is producing only 38 per Punjab's share from the cent of its actual potential. Moreover, Pakistan's per acre yield of 1.05 tons pales in comparison with China's 1.9. India obtains 1.1 tonnes. In rice, Pakistan's per acre yield is 1.25 tonnes which is less than half of China's 2.6 tonnes. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka from 2001 to 2022, flows and India are ahead of Pakistan with 1.7, 1.6 and 1.3 tonnes per acre relion acre feet for nine spectively. Hence Pakistan has the potential to double its grain production from the existing cultivable land. It would be prudent for the decisionmakers to avoid the wrong choices and make attempts to increase crop yield and production electric projects on the through improved farm conjuring up numbers to Chenab are at different practices, modern water stages. Although they application techniques run-of-the-river and quality seeds. --

Commerce News

Economy on right path, govt committed to accelerate growth: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): resilience Federal Minister for challenges. Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Tuesday that the economy the right direction, underlining government's steadfast commitment to accelerate towards achieving both economic growth and comprehensive

social development. in Islamabad Business Summit, Collaboration for growth, the minister incumbent government's constructive measures on economic

these indicators signify a optimistic outlook for the

foreign exchange reserves

7th edition of the Leaders significant improvement, added. with reserves now exceeding \$13.3 billion. He further anticipated a boost highlighted the impact of following the disbursement of the country's tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Besides, the minister indicators, noting their



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Deputy Governor of the State Bank

Chinese company delegation meets **Ch Shafay Hussain**

LAHORE (APP): A manufacturing plant in delegation from a chip Punjab and requested land manufacturing company in in Bhalwal Industrial China met with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Chaudhry Shafay Hussain Shafay Hussain, here on Tuesday at the Punjab Investment Board.

Chinese zones. company expressed interest in investing in chip and card manufacturing. Andrew Leong from XH Smart Tech Limited stated that their group aims to duty-free machinery establish chip

Estate. During the meeting, Provincial Minister highlighted the extensive investment opportunities in Punjab's industrial

He mentioned the benefits of Special Economic Zones, including ten years of income tax exemption and one-time

The agriculture credit

Exchange (PSX) was He emphasized that performing well as it se indicators signify a witnessed remarkable favorable trajectory growth during recent days, compared to previous adding such sentiments was steadily advancing in standings, signaling an were helping to restore confidence. market Moreover, the agricultural He said that upon sector in the country assuming power, the experienced notable growth with the successful of the country stood \$3.4 harvesting of bumper billion, an import bill crops, promising a covering only 15 days. positive ripple effect on In his address at the However, he noted a the industrial sector, he

> disbursement during the period from July-February, 2024 witnessed 33.6 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, he said adding that during the period under review the current account deficit decreased by 74 percent and reached to \$1.00 billion as against the deficit of 3.9 billion.

> > **Independent Report**

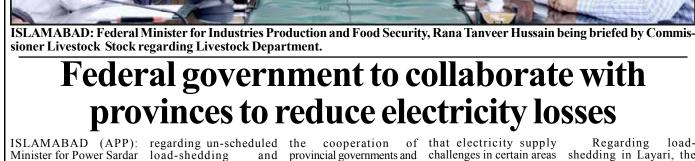
AHORE: The Federation

Commerce and Industry

(FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice

President Zaki Aijaz said

that Pakistan and



Leghari on Tuesday said the federal government would engage with provincial governments in order to mitigate electricity losses. He stated this while responding to a calling attention notice in the National

of Pakistan Chambers of necessary to prevent

regarding un-scheduled the cooperation of that electricity supply load-shedding and overbilling in the Karachi Awais Ahmad Khan Electric Supply Company.

He emphasized the need for assistance from law enforcement agencies to address the issue effectively.

minister The Assembly underscored that without Karachi, he highlighted

promote bilateral trade. He Afghan delegation, Khan now more than ever. He

Jan Alokozai, said that

FPCCI and ACCI are

promoting bilateral trade, and the Islamic Chamber of

Commerce is

playing a vital role in activities in this region. He

also

provincial governments and law enforcement agencies, especially in Layari and controlling power issues Azam Basti by Karachi and minimizing losses would be challenging.

plans to establish a new board aimed at enhancing governance in the sector. Addressing

specific situation in

said that there is potential

to increase economic

said that 70% of trade

between the two countries

is done through Lahore,

Azam Basti, for instance, He also revealed

three feeders served 12,200 consumers, leading to 10hour load-shedding due to losses. Efforts were underway to reduce the current loss rate of 38.3%,

challenges in certain areas

contribute to load-

He mentioned that in

shedding.

Regarding loadshedding in Layari, the minister detailed that out of 82 feeders, there was no load-shedding on 31, while others experienced varying durations of load-shedding based on losses. Providing an overview of Karachi Electric's operations, Leghari noted that out of 2,109 feeders, 1,500 faces no load-shedding.

Bill drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): and milk across the Federal Minister of country. Industries and Production and National Food Security current government's Rana Tanveer Hussain mission is the development Tuesday said the of the agricultural sector government was committed and also determined to to increase export of livestock from Pakistan this sector contributes around 62% of the agricultural GDP of the

Addressing a meeting, he said livestock sector was very important in the agriculture economy of Pakistan as around eight million families were connected to this sector.

He said there was a lot of potential to earn foreign exchange from the livestock sector.

He said Pakistan milk producing country and all necessary steps would be taken to meet the requirements of meat

Rana Tanveer said the increase the export of livestock. He said for the first

time in the history of Pakistan, a bill has been drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare. The bill will soon be sent to the cabinet for approval. He said practical

measures are being taken to protect livestock from diseases. 'Strengthening the

surveillance system to protect animals from diseases is need of the was the fourth largest time," he said adding that concrete measures are being taken to create real-time data of animal diseases in the country



views while addressing praiseworthy. He further

Afghan trade delegation visits FPCCI to boost bilateral trade

scope for promoting bilateral trade. Regional trade is of great importance, and it needs great

increased time. He further said that trade relations with neighboring countries are essential, and it is very important to have a banking channel to

led by Board Member Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) and Co-Chairman Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Khan Jan Alokozai, at the FPCCI Regional Office

added that steps were

smuggling, as smuggling

causes great harm to the

He expressed these

domestic economy.

on agriculture products from both sides should be eliminated, which would further enhance the trade. Pakistan is our second home; our culture and language are one.

He further said that they are willing to increase trade with Pakistan. Both The head of the countries need each other

exported to Afghanistan. said that Afghanistan is promoting its private sector. Political instability between the two countries affects trade.The delegation urged Pakistani

parts and other items are

investors to invest in

Afghanistan as Pakistanis.

Governor Punjab hails Pak-Iran friendship

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that Pakistan and Iran are bound to each other by rich historical, cultural and civilizational ties.

During a meeting with the President of Iran Dr. Sevved Ebrahim Raisi at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he said Pakistan accords great importance to its relation with Islamic Republic of Iran. President of Iran Dr. Sevved Ebrahim Raisi hailed the city of Lahore for its beauty and grandeur, adding that it houses many architectural heritage sites.

President Raisi expressed the hope that his visit will enhance people to people ties between the

LAHORE: Ms. Dr. Jamila Alam Al Hoda, wife of

the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic

of Iran being received during her visit Pakistan

Home at University of Home Economics, Gulberg.

Afridi praises issuance of

scholarships by Chinese

universities to Pak students

He expressed the desire to cooperate with the Chinese government signed the friendship

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial

Minister for Higher

Education, Meena Khan

Afridi has praised the

issuance of scholarships

by Chinese universities

for Pakistani students,

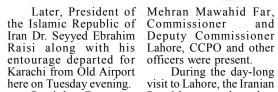
particularly those from

in the field of education

to ensure that Pakistani comments

students receive higher visitor's book.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Aisha Baligh and provincial ministers saw off the Iranian dignitaries.

Punjab Information Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique. Minister for Food and Livestock Bilal Yasin, Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafey Hussain, Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, Iranian Consul General in Lahore

During the day-long visit to Lahore, the Iranian President and other dignitaries had a very busy Rehman along with his wife schedule packed with multiple engagements, reflecting the importance of bilateral discussions cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim

> These engagements aim to further strengthen the existing relationship and explore new avenues for collaboration in various sectors. accomplishing the engagements in Lahore, the high-level Iranian delegation departed for Karachi.

ANF recovers 133 kg drugs in six operations RAWALPINDI (APP)

anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 133 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here Tuesday.

He informed that 2.4 kg Ice was recovered from two passengers going to Saudi Arabia at Islamabad Airport. 700 grams Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Peshawar

In third operation, 87 kg hashish and 33.9 kg opium recovered from Nowshera while 5 kg hashish and 1 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up in Tandujam, Hyderabad. 2.7 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested in Sohrab Goth Karachi. 600 grams hashish was recovered from a drug smuggler netted near Turki Toll Plaza Jhelum. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under

process



President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at

Knowledge without morality serves powerful: Dr Jamileh

LAHORE (APP): Prof Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda, the wife of Iranian President, said on Tuesday that knowledge without morality serves the purpose of powerful and cruel ones.

Addressing the international seminar: exhibition and launching of book titled 'The Art of Living Femininely' by Prof Dr Jamileh Alamolhoda here at the University of Home Economics, she said that she was happy to visit the women university, adding that there were women universities in Iran challenges with regard to

upbringing of coming generations and all of us She underscored the need for giving adequate have to play our special attention towards women role in this regard" whether it was a women She said that it was a university or a co-

high time to stand up for educational institute. She protecting the values of morality, adding that each said: "Culture of Iran and Pakistan have some of us was aggrieved over the common characteristics". killing of humans in Gaza. Independence of women She said that time had come was compared with to restore values of morality, adding that teachers were western countries, she said actually technicians of and added that for us providing protection and knowledge centre. She said: "I have mentioned in her taking women along was independence of women. book that if women play Jamileh Alamolhoda their role effectively and efficiently then success could be achieved". said: "There are a lot of

Governor urges young doctors to serve humanity

PESHAWAR Khyber Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Haii Ghulam Ali, has emphasized that serving the suffering humanity should be the purpose and

goal of young doctors. He addressed the 8^{th} Convocation of Gandhara University, Peshawar, as a special guest. He mentioned that young doctors will bring innovation and improvement to the field of medicine. The Governor highlighted that to completely eradicate diseases, it's essential to utilize one's education effectively, adding that as new diseases emerge respective fields.

globally, new treatment methods are being introduced.

"I hope our young doctors will make a name for themselves in society by contributing to the eradication of diseases," he "It should be your

commitment to improve the conditions of hospitals and provide every possible medical facility patients," he urged. He emphasized that the young generation

should set their goals for

Police arrest eight drug dealers with over 11 kg

charras RAWALPINDI (APP) Rawalpindi district police have arrested eight drug dealers and recovered over 11 kg charras, said a police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Rattaamral police held Tariq and recovered 2400 grams charras while Rizwan, Adeel, Bilal and Aliyan were sent behind the bars for having over 5.5 kg charras. Waris Khan police rounded up Bilal Khan and Waqas and recovered 1440 and 550

CM Punjab directs to established Provincial **Enforcement Authority**

Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting to review implementation of various government policies in the authorities will have province, directed to establish the Provincial Enforcement Authority in The CM said the

enforcement authorities would also be established in every district and tehsil of Punjab, adding that the Provincial Enforcement Authority would be including seizures of state headed by the chief properties. The CM secretary, supported by a director general, the enforcement authorities District Enforcement functional and start Authority will be headed

LAHORE (APP): Punjab by a deputy commissioner Chief Minister Maryam while Tehsil Enforcement Authority will be headed by the respective assistant commissioner. The enforcement

> powers to take action against price hike, encroachment of government lands and hoarding besides performing other special

tasks assigned by the

government from time to time, directed to make these legislation for the purpose.



BATTAGRAM: DIGHazara Tahir Ayub Khan, DPO Battagram Qamar Hayat Khan and other police officials are saluted the constable Amjad Hussain who martyred during duty by unknown terrorists at Khas Pull Check Post in district Battagram (Hazara Division) during funeral prayer, held at Police Lines Headquarter in Battagram.

KP Govt vows to fully support NCRC

Independent Report provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will provide full support to the National Commission for Child Rights (NCRC) to facilitate the process of registration of children and awareness. complete coordination between the concerned institutions will be

continued in this regard. Registration of children at birth is a very crucial process. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary Chairperson National Commission for Children's Rights Ayesha Raza grams charras respectively. Farooq participated in a the rights of children.

meeting organized on children's birth registration along with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary in Peshawar on Tuesday In the meeting, various feasible suggestions were considered regarding increasing the rate of registration at the time of birth of children.

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary said that to facilitate the process of registration of children at the time of birth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they will ensure the implementation of all feasible suggestions, and will fully cooperate with the NCRC to protect

International News

success

Iraq, Turkiye agree to cooperate against **Kurdish militants**

education and contribute

views on Tuesday during

his visit to China Window, a Chinese

Afridi shared these

center

During his visit, the

provincial minister

wall, and registered his

to the nation.

cultural

Peshawar.

BAGHDAD: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said relations with Iraq were entering a new phase after the neighbours agreed to cooperate against Kurdish militants, boost economic ties via a new trade corridor and consider Iraq's needs for access to scarce

first by a Turkish leader since 2011, following years of strained relations as Ankara ramped up cross-border operations against PKK militants based in mountainous, mainly Kurdish northern Iraq.

"I shared my belief to bolster border security

organisation PKK and its extensions targeting Turkiye," Erdogan said at a joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Moĥammed Shia al-Sudani

in Baghdad. The two countries Erdogan was in Iraq on a greed to a strategic frame-a long-awaited visit, the work agreement overseeing security, trade and energy as well as a 10-year deal on the management of water nated resources that would take Iraq's needs into account, Sudani said.

that the PKK's presence in Iraq will end. We discussed armed groups that could be the joint steps we can take working with terrorist against the terrorist organisations. He did not mention the PKK specifi-

> spokesperson said PKK members were welcome in Iraq so long as they did not engage in political activism or carry weapons. He did

Sudani said the two cross-border operations countries would cooperate against the group in northern Iraq since 2019.



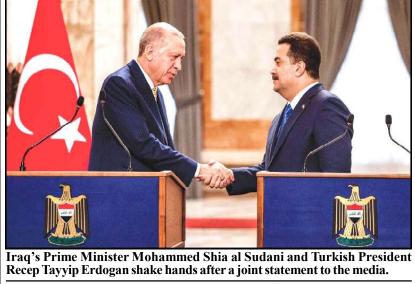
Monitoring Desk ERUSALEM: An expected Israeli assault on scrambling for ways to help the 1.5 million civilians sheltering in the south Gaza city but the

"We always are prepared with plans to upscale or downscale but, really, we don't know what to expect," said Bushra Khalidi, head of advocacy at Oxfam.

uncertain timeline poses a logistical night-

Oxfam joined 12 other aid groups in a joint call for a ceasefire on April 3, stressing that more than a million civilians, including at least 610,000 children, were 'in direct line of fire" in

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly that Israel will press ahead with the threatened assault on Rafah, the last major population centre in Gaza that Israeli ground troops have vet to enter



200 bodies exhumed at Gaza hospital

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Gaza's Civil Defence agency said on Monday that health workers had uncovered around 200 bodies over

the past three days of people killed and buried by Îsraeli forces at a hospital in Khan Yunis. When asked for com-

ment, the Israeli military said: "We will come back to you on the matter.' Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's Civil Defence, said that "civil defence crews are still recovering bodies from inside Nasser Medical Complex, pital.

and since Saturday bodies of nearly 200 martyrs have been retrieved".

Bassal said several of the recovered bodies had decomposed. There is difficulty

in the process of identifying them but civil defence efforts are ongoing," he said. On Sunday, Bassal said that some of those killed had been tortured. Ismail al-Thawabta,

head of the Hamas government media office in the Palestinian territory, gave a higher figure of 283 bodies found at the hos-

Tensions flare at US universities over Gaza protests

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK CITY: Ten-

sions flared between pro-Palestinian student protesters and school administrators at several US universities on Monday, as in-person classes were cancelled and demonstrators arrested.

The protests, which began last week at Columbia University with a large group of demonstrators establishing a "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" on school grounds, have spread to other campuses, including Yale, MIT and others. Some

Jewish students at Columbia have reported intimidation and anti-Semitism amid the days-long protest, which is calling for the prestigious New York institution to divest from companies with ties to Israel. Classes were moved online on Monday, with university president Nemat Shafik calling for a "reset" in an open letter to the school community. "Over the past days, there have been too many examples of intimidating and

harassing behavior on our

campus," she said.

Floods swamp China

Monitoring Desk QINGYUAN: Floods swa-mped cities in southern China's densely populated Pearl River Delta following record-breaking rains, sparking worries about the region's defe-nces against bigger deluges induced by extreme weather

The province once dubbed the "factory floor of the world" is prone to summer floods. Since Thursday, Guangdong has been battered by unusually heavy sustained and widespread rainfall, with powerful storms ushering in an earlier-than-normal start to the province's annual flooding season in May and June.

Prosecutors lav out 'criminal conspiracy' in Trump trial

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Donald Trump eng-aged in a multilayered conspiracy of fraud, lies and cover-ups, prosecutors said on Monday during opening arguments in the first ever criminal trial of a former US president. Assistant District Attorney Matthew Colangelo said Trump falsified business records to buy the silence of porn star Stormy Daniels over a 2006 sexual encounter that could have impacted his 2016 presidential bid.

collide and crash while training, killing all 10 crew **Monitoring Desk** KUALA LUMPUR: Two isn't authorized to speak to Malaysian military heli-

2 Malaysian military helicopters

copters collided midair and crashed during a training session on Tuesday, killing all 10 people on board and injuring a swimmer in a pool, authorities said.

The helicopters were rehearsing at a naval base in northern Perak state for the navy's 90^h anniversary celebration when the accident occurred, the navy said in a brief statement. "All victims were confirmed dead on site," it said. A video circulating on social media purported to be of the incident shows several helicopters flying low in a formation. One of the helicopters veers sideways and clips the rotor of another helicopter, causing both to plunge and crash. A local police officer, who declined Leonardo.

the media, confirmed the footage is genuine. The two choppers were mangled beyond recognition. Rescue workers sifted through the debris to find the bodies. The victims included three women and seven men aged between 26 and 41, authorities said. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the nation mourned over the "heart and soul-wrenching tragedy." He said the navy will immediately carry out an investigation to find the cause of the incident.

Seven of the dead crew members were aboard an AW139 maritime operations helicopter, the navy said. That aircraft is produced by AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of the Italian defense

Germany, Britain act against 'Chinese spies' **Monitoring Desk**

BERLIN: Germany and Britain on Monday both swooped on suspected spies accused of passing on secret information to China, as concern deepens in the West over aggressive Chinese espionage.

In Germany, investigators arrested three German nationals in the west of the country suspected of sharing information on maritime technology, prosecutors said in a statement. The trio, named as

Herwig F., Ina F. and Thomas R., are accused of taking part in an information-gathering project funded by Chinese state agencies, as well as illegally exporting a laser to

In Britain, two men were charged with handing over "articles, notes, documents or information" to China between 2021 and last year. Police named the men as Christopher Berry, 32, and Christoper Cash, 29, who previously worked at the emailed statement.

UK parliament as a re-

The German arrests and British charges come amid repeated Western warnings of Chinese intelligence services targeting advanced technologies. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser warned of the "considerable danger posed by Chinese espionage in business, industry and science". "The area affected in the current case innovative technologies from Germany that can be used for military purposes

is particularly sensitive," Faeser said. China firmly rejects accusations that it carried out spying activities in Germany, its embassy in Berlin said on Monday, after three Germans were arrested on suspicion of working with the

Chinese secret service. 'We call on Germany to desist from exploiting the espionage accusation to politically manipulate the image of China and defame China," a spokesperson for the embassy said in an

ter crash in Lumut, Perak, Malaysia. Russia will strike in unexpected places this summer, Ukraine says Oleksandr Pivnenko said.

Emergency personnel work at the site of a helicop-

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian troops will strike in unexpected parts of the front when they conduct their summer offensive in Ukraine and could try to advance on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, the commander of Ukraine's National Guard said on Tuesday.

Ukraine's second largest city has been pounded by missiles and drones in military assistance is firecent weeks, but Kyiv's forces will be prepared to proved this week and thwart any assault, reach Ukraine soon.

"We are getting ready. Yes, the enemy will give us unpleasant surprises. It will operate in areas where we do not expect it. But it will not achieve its goal," he told the Ukrainian news outlet Liga.net.

Russia has been inching forward in the east, but long-delayed U.S. nally expected to be apAn Iraqi government

not elaborate. The PKK took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 and is desiga terrorist organisation by Ankara and its Western allies. Turkiye has conducted a series of

President highlights significance of enhanced aerial connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday underlined significance of enhancing aerial connectivity with different countries and said that with increase in people to people contacts, potential of Pakistan's tourism sector could be adequately

The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) that called on him AAAG and its flight operaat the Aiwan-i-Sadr, Presitions

dent Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president further observed that Pakistan had a significant place owing to vast tourism prospects, particularly in the religious

Pakistan Stock Market possessed ideal investment opportunities and urged the investors to fully explore its potential, he added. The delegation ap-

Delay in tax cases: PM directs to suspend Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took notice of the "willful" delay in tax cases and ordered for suspension of Commissioner Inland Revenue Islamabad and other relevant

While issuing a directive for the suspension of all the relevant officials, the prime minister also asked for initiating an inquiry against them, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Soon after assuming the office, the prime minister had directed for immediate reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and decided to oversee the process himself.



LAHORE: President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi writing remarks in visitors book during his visit to Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Murad Ali Shah says There are vast investment opportunities in various sectors across province

Iranian President Raisi, Sindh CM discuss bilateral economic opportunities

KARACHI (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday during his visit to Karachi and had a detailed discussion on Pakistan-Iran fered prayers with provineconomic opportunities, cial officials and his delegainvestment. Raisi is currently on a three-day visit to Pakistan and had arrived a day ago. His visit is the first of its kind by any head of state after the February 8 general elections.

Raisi earlier landed at Jinnah International Airport's old terminal where he was received by

Tessori, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and provincial ministers.

He later visited Mazar-i-Quaid where he laid a floral wreath and ofincluding issues concerning tion in tow. Raisi's subsequent visit was to the Sindh Chief Minister's House. A ceremony was held in which an honourary doctorate was awarded to the Iranian president by Governor Tessori. A statement issued by CM Shah's spokesperson Abdul Rasheed Channa said the Iranian president and provincial chief held a meeting discuss-



ISLAMABAD: H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan paid a courtesy call to Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Pak-Saudi ties to be taken to new heights in fields of mutual interest: Speaker NA

bÎy Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to its long-standing brotherly relations with Saudi

"Pak-Saudi relations are bound by unbreakable bond of religion, culture, history, and mutual trust and respect," he said during a meeting with the Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan, Nawal bin Saeed Ahmad Al-

ISLAMABAD (APP): at Parliament House.
Speaker National AssemHe also expre He also expressed

"The continuous upward trajectory of our bilateral ties is extremely heartening, and we are committed to taking this mutually beneficial partnership to new heights by expanding cooperation in all fields of mutual interest.'

The speaker highlighted that the people of Pakistan held deep respect and affinity for Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Malkiy who called on him Two Holy Mosques.

List of necessary medicines issued for secondary & tertiary hospitals

Independent Report
QUETTA: The list of necessary medicines has been issued to the secondary and tertiary hospitals thanks to the Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan who took special interest in this regard. The Additional Secretary Health, Arif Khan, Deputy Secretary Health, Riasat Ali, Additional Director MSD Dr Ismail Mirwani, senior pharmacist, Ejaz Sheikh, Deputy Director DTL, Mehmood Baig, Incharge pharmacist of MSD, Naimatullah,

Muhammad and supply chain specialist, Fazal Kakar played important role in preparation of the medicines list. The Secretary Health said that the list of essential medicines has been issued for the secondary and tertiary hospitals in the province for the first time. The list was issued after consultation with the heads of different departments. The requirements of hospitals have been kept in view while preparing the list of essential medicines besides in accordance with the neces-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

Pakistan aims to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): mote sustainable value ad-Federal Minister for Planning and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan aimed to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047 and called for enhanced public-private collaboration and a streamlined regulatory framework.

"Pakistan is poised to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, bolstered by a targeted growth rate of 9%," he said while emphasizing the current opportune moment for international investments in Pakistan, including significant commitments From China and Saudi

"Leveraging productivity enhancements, Pakistan aims to establish itself as an attractive destination for global industries, fostering its position in the international market," he added.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal, speaking at the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024, stressed the imperative role of collaboration between the government and the private sector in driving economic growth.

He advocated for the development of comprehensive ecosystems within business clusters to optimize value chains and pro-

SSGCL to

suspend gas

supply in

Balochistan

today to repair

pipelines

QUETTĀ (APP): Sui

Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) will tem-

porarily suspend its gas

supply in some areas of

Balochistan to repair gas

supply pipelines on April 24 from 9am to 5 pm which

were damaged by recent

rains and floods in the

day Spokesman of SSGCL

Salman Ahmed Siddique

said that the SSGCL was

trying to improve gas pres-

sure in different areas of the

province as the gas supply

pipelines were damaged

jacent areas on April 24, from 9 am to 5 pm, he said.

Govt's priority

to protect life,

property of

views while visiting various

levies stations. He was ac-

companied by Levies Force

Risaldar Mohammad Asrar

various Levies stations of the district, the DC also re-

viewed the attendance reg-

ister of the employees,

weapons, the color of the

wireless system building

During his visit to the

Khocha.

In a statement on Tues-

Drawing parallels with successful models from countries like Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia, he emphasized the need for trading houses to facilitate

of local products. Underlining the interdependence of exports and global supply chains in driving economic advancement, Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need for Pakistan to transition from a predominantly domestic market focus to an exportoriented economy. He underscored the critical role of exports in revenue generation and integration into the global supply chain, citing

the global market integration

Highlighting the imperative of enhancing business competitiveness on a global scale, the minister urged businesses to prioritize export proficiency and sales mastery.

the current low export fig-

ures as indicative of the need

for strategic investment in

He emphasized the pivotal role of competitiveness and productivity in driving wealth creation, and the need for a progressive mindset to achieve the

nounced forthcoming measures aimed at reducing regulatory burdens on the private sector, signaling the government's commitment to fostering a conducive business environment. He reiterated the government's vision to streamline regulatory procedures to eliminate obstacles hindering entrepreneurial aspirations.

Ahsan Iqbal urged attention to the urgent need to enhance the investment landscape, citing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a promising platform for promoting Pakistan's attractiveness as a business-friendly destination. He emphasized the

importance of establishing a robust global business identity for Pakistan, drawing parallels with the successful initiatives seen during the early stages of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's potential to achieve significant economic milestones, projecting a trajectory towards a \$2 trillion economy by 2047 with a growth rate of 7%, and ultimately, a \$3 trillion economy with a growth



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addressing during Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024 collaborating for Growth.

Gillani calls for concerted efforts to tackle environmental issues, population growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Sved Yousuf Raza Gillani Tuesday called for concerted efforts to tackle economic challenges, environmental issues, social welfare, and population growth.

due to rains and floods. In this regard, gas sup-While addressing the ply will be temporarily 7th edition of Leaders in closed in some areas of Islamabad Business Sum-Balochistan by the SSGCL, mit he expressed gratitude to the organizers for the ingas supply will be suspended in respective areas vitation. He emphasized of Balochistan including the importance of forums Quetta, Kuchlak, Pishin, Ziarat, Harnai, Khad like the summit in fostering dialogue and collaboration tional security. Mastung. Mangocher, Kalat and ad-

among business leaders. He commended the summit for its role as a constructive forum for addressing key challenges and formulating strategies for economic growth.

Regarding security challenges, the Chairman noted the resurgence of terrorism and emphasized the importance of regional sta-

He underlined the need for global attention to end conflicts that threaten na-

Quetta Administration clears 15 Nullahs so far during cleanliness drive: Hamza

istrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat on Tuesday said that the administration has cleared 15 out of 82 Nuhllas so far during the ongoing anti-encroachments and

people: DC
QUETTA (APP): Deputy
Commissioner Duki Captain ® Fayyaz Ali on Tuesday said that the protection of life and property
of the people was the first of the people was the first cleanliness drive launched in priority of the government Quetta to keep the city for which all available reclean and ensure the best sources were being utisanitation. On the direction of He expressed these

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Quetta Administration has initiated a cleanliness campaign and eliminated encroachments on the nuhllas of city to restore them to their original shape to prevent urban flooding situations in the

Talking to media persons alng with Spokesperson of Balochistan govern-

QUETTA (APP): Admin- Shafqaat said special efforts have been taken regarding the cleanliness of drains and ensured smooth flow of sewage water during rains to facilitate the Quetta

> Under the supervision of Administrator Quetta Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, the corporation has collected over 200 tons of garbage from the nuhllas during the campaign.

> He said the drains were blocked due to the negligence of the departments concerns.

> Hamza said that any kind of negligence and carelessness would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the officers concerned on receiving the complaint.

> He said the business community is also involved in blocking the drains.



sioner Quetta Division and Administrator Hamza Shafqat along with Director PDMA Jahanzaib Khan watching garbage taken out from nullah at Jinnah road during cleanliness campaign.

PM seeks UK's support to promote higher education, improve quality

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing with the provincial gov-Prime Minister ernments to achieve that Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed the government's desire for working together with the United Kingdom to promote higher education and improve quality of education in

The desire was expressed during a meeting with the delegation of representatives from leading UK universities here at the PM House

The delegation was led by UK's International Education Champion Sir Steve Smith

The prime minister welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of promoting quality education, saying that it was the top priority of the government.

He expressed his commitment to ensuring that every child had access to education, and that the Federal Government was work-

The prime minister said as Punjab chief minister he had established the Education Endowment Fund in the province, and a similar initiative would also be taken at the federal

He said the government was taking steps on emergency basis for the development of the education

The prime minister, praising the UK's support for Pakistan's education sector, expressed his desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and trade. He highlighted that the

programmes in the universities of Pakistan and the UK on reciprocal basis was a welcome step The modern educa-

tion, especially science and

technology, was guarantee

of development of any na-

launch

the passage of time.

over decades which were further strengthening with He emphasized that there should be collaboration in the fields of research and technology in the universities of the two coun-

tion, he added. PM Shehbaz under-

scored that the bilateral re-

lations with UK spanned

He further said Pakistan wanted to take benefit of the capacity of the UK's education sector.

The delegation exressed their interest in collaborating with Pakistani universities and offered assistance in teacher training and capacity

building.

The prime minister was informed by the delegation that the scope of the Education Gateway Pakistan was being extended which would help enhance bilateral cooperation in the education sec-



QUETTA: Provincial Amir JUI Maulana Abdul Wasay and MPAs Zabid Reki, Asghar Tareen and leader of JUI Molvi Ghulam Sarwar Musakhail meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Pakistan not to surrender its water

rights: Tarar ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday firmly stated before the National Assembly that the government remained resolute in not relinquishing its water rights, emphasizing that any alteration to the Indus Water Treaty necessitated mutual consent from both Pakistan and India.

Addressing a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he underscored India's attempts to violate the agreement, highlighting signatory committed to upholding its integrity.
Azam Nazeer Tarar

reiterated that the Indus Water Treaty stood immutable unless both Pakistan and India reach a consensus for modification.

Bushra Bibi health condition declared ok

ISLAMABAD (Online): Health condition OF Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder has been declared all OK and report thereof has been sent to higher authorities. Sources said Bushra Bibi complained about her indisposition and burning in chest. Doctors of Adiala jail conducted her medical check up and advised her to consult specialists doctors particularly heart specialist of PIMS. PIMS doctor con-

ducted her detailed medical check up and declared her completely fit besides advising her to take care in her

Doctors team comprised Dr Bushra Liaqat, Dr Hira Tahir and Dr Sidra. Sources said PIMS hospital report has been sent to higher authorities.

(APP): ture Arif Tareen, Director Balochistan Minister for General Agriculture Exten-Agriculture Mir Ali Madad sion Masood Baloch, DG Agriculture Engineering Jatak on Tuesday said that measures were being taken Agha Ali Raza and other

Ali Madad vows to make

Agriculture ideal Dept

to make the Agriculture Department an exemplary sector which was a very important sector and 70 percent of the people were linked with it. He expressed these views while talking to officers of a departmental briefing here. Secretary Agriculture Suhail-ur Rehman Baloch gave a detailed briefing on the occasion.

Special Secretary Agriculture Qadir Baloch, Additional Secretary Agricul-

senior officers were present on occasion. Mir Ali Madad Jatak said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan, all resources would be used to develop the agriculture department on modern lines. He said that if proper attention was paid to the agriculture sector, not only we could be self-sufficient in grains, rather, we could earn a lot of exchange by doing deals.

Shahzaib Rind accorded warm welcome upon arrival in hometown

Independent Report QUETTA: The international combat karate fighter, Shahzaib Rind reached Quetta on Tuesday.

The sports department officials and others received him at the airport. Upon arrival in the

hometown, Shahzaib Rind was accorded warm welcome at the Quetta airport. Shahzaib Rind recently won the international

combat karate fight against Indian player in Dubai. He had knocked out the Indian player in first round. Speaking to the media after arrival in Quetta,

Shahzaib said that he is very pleased to win his fight against India. He said that he brightened the name of

Pakistan in the world. He said that Bollywood actor Salman Khan had also come to see his fight. Salman Khan had also watched his previous fights, adding Rind men-

Similarly, actor Imran Abbas had also witnessed his fight in Dubai and supported him a lot.

He said that he has been taking part in the international events on self help basis till now.



Work in progress to expand communication system in **Balochistan region: Khosa**

holding a meeting

vincial government is utilizing all available resources to expand communication system across Balochistan region. This was stated by

Provincial Minister of Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa while addressing meeting held here. The development projects in the province is

the first priority of the government and the role of the Department of Communications and Works is like a backbone in the development and prosperity of the province, he added.

Secretary Communications and Works Qamber Dashti briefed the minister about the development projects being executed in different parts Balochistan.

On this occasion, Additional Secretary Amir

Baloch, Zonal Chief Engineer Officers and senior officials of the department were also present.

neer Design Dr Sajjad

The Secretary Communications and Works while giving briefing to the minister, shared the detail information regarding the progress of all ongoing development projects in the provincial areas.

He said that due to slow funding, the projects could not be completed on

He further informed that a review on the progress of all ongoing development projects in the province is being made under the chairmanship of the secretary, communications and works.

The secretary would issue further orders for timely completion of development projects after reviewing issues being faced Hamza Zehri, Chief Engi- in completion of works.

nications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa said that transparency in all projects was the first priority of the government. He said that strong infrastructure is vital for development progress Balochistan. The provincial minis-

ter while giving instruc-tions said that selection of best team would be ensured to speed up the completion of all ongoing development projects. He said that any kind

of negligence regarding development and prosperity of the province would not be tolerated. Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa also instructed the concerned departments regarding the standards on development projects.

He said that a monitoring team would be constituted in completion of development projects.