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No peace in world without permanent peace in Gaza: PM

Voice of masses

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monhe continued. day said permanent peace in Gaza was imperative for peace in the world. He was speaking at the plenary meeting of the special session of World Economic Forum on the theme of "Rejuvenating Growth".

He said, "The world will not be in peace unless

there is a permanent peace in Gaza. As he talked about Gaza, the audience in the hall

responded with resounding applause.
He said the conflict in Ukraine brought to the world skyrocketing commodity prices, and Pakistan could not import and procure vital raw materials for industry and

'On top of that inflation is breaking the back of developing countries," he said. Coupled with that, Pakistan faced devastation in 2022 due to huge unimagin-

The prime minister said, "Pakistan is one of those countries which have nothing to do with the reasons leading to climate change. Our contribution to emissions is not even fraction of one percent.

Due to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, large swathes of land were submerged, millions of houses and animals were washed away, and stagnant water brought water borne diseases all across the country,

He said his government spent Rs 100 billion from scarce resources for relief and rehabilitation of the flood

"We are grateful to the friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries, the United Kingdom, the United States and many other countries for their support at a difficult time.

Pakistan's economy suffered losses of 30 billion dollars because of the floods and then it approached international entities in Geneva and other places and had to borrow loans at expensive rates due to the natural disaster which was not its fault, he mentioned. "Our country was hit in a way which I had not seen in my life time," he remarked. He gave the example of his family to express his determination and resolve to put Pakistan on the road to progress

He said his father and his brothers were sons of a poor farmer in undivided India and they migrated to Lahore, Pakistan at the time of partition. With the sheer dint of hard work, in 1965 his father and family raised the largest steel engineering company in Pakistan but it was nationalized on January 2, 1972, he said, adding his family stood up and accepted the challenge and in next 18 months set up six new small factories to avoid further nationalization.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif speaks at a Closing Plenary-Rejuvenating Growth, at a Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Balochistan Apex committee meets, makes important decisions:

Peaceful Balochistan guarantor of stable Pakistan; **Independent Report** OUETTA: The 16th meeting of Provincial Apex Committee of Balochistan was held with the Chief

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over 16th meeting of Provincial Apex Committee

Calls on COAS

Turkish Commander lauds Pak Army's role in regional peace, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander Turkish Land pressed satisfaction over Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters on Monday and appreciated the role of Pakistan Army in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

According to the Inter
Services Public Relations

According to the Inter
GHQ, the Commander
Turkish Land Forces, laid (ISPR) news release, during the meeting, matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed.

However, they extween the two countries. based on historic, cultural and religious affinity. The COAS emphasized the need to further strengthen existing military to military cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

Earlier on arrival at Turkish Land Forces, laid wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary.

WHO officer Dr. Nazii

and the administrative of-

ficer said in the briefing that

during the last polio cam-

paign, the majority of re-

jected children have been

in-charges, 25 monitors, 23

fax centers, 18 transit

points have been estab-

lished and 326 teams were

and its suburbs, Tehsil

Driji, Sonmiani Winder and

Gadani, they said.

They said that 78 area



Commander Turkish Land Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir at General Headquarters in

Jam Kamal launches anti-polio drive in Hub

QUETTA (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal along with Deputy Commissioner Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar on Monday inaugurated an anti-polio campaign in his constituencies in Hub Dis-

Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister regarding the preparation of the drive that the authorities were paying special attention to polio after the reports of polio virus being positive after the sampling of the sewage drains of the district Hub.

She said in the briefing that this year, a special polio campaign has been started in Balochistan after polio cases were reported in Dera Bugti and Chaman.

formed to administer polio vaccine in Hub district. The special anti-polic campaign will continue from April 29 to May 3, Around 360 teams have been formed across the district to vaccinate children, who will go door to door to administer polio drops to children in Hub Town

recovered.



HUB: Deputy Commissioner Hub Rohana Gul Kakar inaugurating anti-polio drop

as CJP not to hear cases today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The roster of today's hearing in the Supreme Court (SC) was revised as Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa will not

hear cases on Monday.
The SC registrar issued the revised roster moments before the commencement of the today's proceedings.

The channel said the SC officials informed the litigants about the changes in the roster just before starting the hearing.

As per the channel recluded in Bench No 1.

Four terrorists gunned down in Tank operation

ANK (INP): Security forces personnel gunned down four terrorists during an operation in District Tank of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

According to a statement issued by the military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday, the security forces launched the operation after receiving information about present of the terrorists in the area.

According to the ISPR, the slain terrorists were involved in a number of attacks against security forces and civilians. It may be mentioned here that a sessions judge, Shakirullah Marwat, was abducted while travelling from Tank to DI Khan on Sunday but he was recovered from North Waziristan district during the night.

Woman murdered for using mobile

phone in Khuzdar KHUZDAR (INP): A man in Balochistan district of Khuzdar has confessed on Monday to murdering his wife for using mobile phone. Sources in district administration informed that the murder had happened about two weeks ago in Greesha area of Tehsil Zahri in Khuzdar District.

investigation led to the discovery that the killer is the husband of the slain woman. Rahmatullah allegedly confessed to killing his wife for

SC roster revised

port, Chief Justice (CJ) Qazi Faez Isa will conduct the Chamber Work today while Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, and Justice Athar Minallah will be in-

The security forces cordoned off the area and launched a swift action which resulted into the death of four terrorists.

Accused using mobile phone.

The sources said the

on these projects, and decided to strictly implement Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional the proposed SOPs in this Chief Secretary Home, regard. Zahid Saleem, Inspector There was consensus General of Police, Abdul in the meeting on starting Khaliq Sheikh, Chief Col-

IMF approves

Minister, Mir Sarfraz

Ahmed Bugti in the chair

The meeting was attended by the Corps Com-

mander, Lt General Rahat

Nasim Ahmed Khan, Pro-

vincial Minister for Home,

Mir Ziaullah Langove,

here on Monday.

disbursement of \$1.1 bn loan tranche **Monitoring Desk** ISLAMABAD: The Inter-

national Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday approved disbursement of \$1.1 billion last loan tranche, marking the successful end of the second bailout package in eight years but it took heavy toll in the shape of unbearable inflation and

slowing economic wheel.
The Executive Board of the IMF approved the completion of the second review of the \$3 billion Standby Arrangement, confirmed the Ministry of Finance. This also paved the way for the release of the last loan tranche of \$1.1 bil-

lion. The IMF board also backed Pakistan's intent to get another bailout package to ensure 'permanency in economic stabilisation and deepen structural reforms'

cisions were made about

second phase of repatria-

CPEC projects and the Chinese nationals working

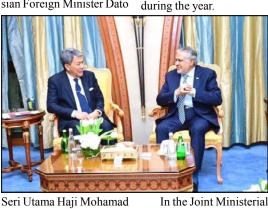
besides others.

The global lender approved the completion of the second review of the arrangement hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the country's debt trap had become a 'death trap', calling it the biggest challenge for his government. He made these remarks while addressing the closing session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh,

Saudi Arabia Pakistan, Malaysia to hold JMC this year to study markets, explore economic opportunities

RIYADH (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday met with Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato

nomic Forum (WEF) being held here, two sides agreed to hold the next round of Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in Islamabad



Bin Haji Hasan in which they reviewed the broad range of relations with a special focus on enhancing trade and investment ties. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the World Eco-

In the Joint Ministerial Commission meeting, the two sides will study the markets and take full advantage of the opportunities offered in various sectors for tangible economic outcomes, according to a press release

Pakistan mulls introducing digital currency RIYADH (INP): Pakistan's towards digital currency

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said that the government is considering the possibility of introducing digital curncy within its borders.

Economic Forum (WEF) special meeting in Riyadh, Finance Minister Aurangzeb expressed Pakistan's contemplation

Speaking at the World

adoption. "We generate Rs9.4 trillion in annual revenues, yet

half of our economy remains undocumented," he stated Aurangzeb further said that an agreement was signed with McKinsey on Friday to facilitate compre-

hensive digitalisation of the

trative and legal flaws. Certain important de-Besides, it was decided to take the result-oriented imprisonment in law and order, elimination of ter-

we have to fight against terrorism together: CM

steps for prevention of two-way smuggling of sugar, fertilizer, patrol and rorism and smuggling and tion of illegal immigrants diesel. Moreover, the meeting

The meeting reviewed foolproof security of the also decided to prevent the smuggling of non-custom paid to Pakistan from the border area. The provincial Home department presented data about the illegal immigrants repatriated from Balochistan in

it's briefing.

The process of repa-CTD arrests four key TTP terrorists

in Bisham attack PESHAWAR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday claimed to have arrested four key terrorists of

Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), involved in a suicide attack on the vehicle of Chinese engineers in Bisham district, last month.

Terming the arrests a big headway', the CTD KP spokesperson in a statement identified the suspects as mastermind Adil Shehbaz, and Muhammad Shafiq Muhammad Qureshi, Zahid Qureshi and Nazeer Hussain. The head of the arrested terrorists, Adil Shehbaz, was a resident of Jalalabad dis-

trict of Afghanistan. The four terrorists including Adil Shebaz Muhammad Qureshi, Zahid Quresh and Nazir Hussain were residing in district Mansehra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The spokesperson said that "terrorist Shehbaz has admitted to playing a pivotal role in the execution of the Bisham attack". He has also confessed to having links with Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan

Kidnapped judge Shakirullah Marwat rescued from DI Khan

D I KHAN (INP): The Dera Ismail Khan Police on Sunday said that kidnapped judge Shakirullah Marwat has been rescued from DI Khan.

The senior judge was abducted from DI Khan two days ago. Police sources claimed that the judge has reached his home safely. Armed men had ambushed and kidnapped the senior judge, a police official said Sunday.

Around 15 men on motorbikes intercepted Judge Shakirullah Marwat's vehicle as he was traveling towards Dera Ismail Khan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said police official Faheem Khan. The assailants set the car on fire before fleeing with him. The driver remained unharmed Khan said

lector Customs, Abdul Qadir Memon, besides other concerned high ups. activities at large scale for prevention of the smuggling other concerned high ups. by removing the adminiscision of federal govern-ment was made conditional go to homes of those Balochistani who are anwith the timeline decided. gry, and would try to remove their reservations, he Meanwhile, addressadded

ing the Apex committee meeting, Chief Minister said that peaceful Balochistan is guarantor of also said that we are setting positive direction for stable Pakistan. province. The fruits of He said that the war against terrorism is not of good governance would

the Army and militants, rather it is all of us, and we have to fight it together. The Chief Minister asserted that the killers of in-

months, he added. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti stressed that all of us have to play our role nocent people don't deserve any relaxation. We ince.

The Chief Minister

good governance in the

start reaching in five to six

President confers NI (M) upon Commander Turkish Land Forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on



Monday conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, in a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, senior military leadership and other senior officials. The Nishan-i-Imtiaz (M) was conferred upon General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu in recognition

of his illustrious services.

Later, the visiting Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, also called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Special anti-polio drive gets underway in Balochistan

Secretary Health formally inaugurates polio immunization campaign; pledges to eradicate polio virus from province with support of polio workers, parents and civil society

Independent Report

QUETTA: The special anti-polio campaign got un-Balochistan province on Monday.

persons after inauguration of the immunization campaign, Secretary Health said that the polio immuniderway in 30 districts of zation campaign has been started in 30 districts of the



The Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan formally inaugurated the polio immunization campaign by administering anti-polio vaccine to the children at Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication here.

Also present on the occasion were Coordinator of EOC, Syed Zahid Shah and other concerned officials besides the representatives of World Health Organization and UNICEF. Speaking to the media

sion of saving our children from the polio virus.

During the campaign, more than 2.395 children below five years of age would be administered antipolio campaign in 30 districts of the province, he

adding that for the purpose, over 10,000 teams have been formed.

These teams would visit home to home to administer the anti-polio drops to the children, he

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Weathering the storm

The year 2023 is a sobering reminder of the tumultuous relationship Asia has with climate change and how this change appears to be gaining momentum each year. According to the World Meteorological Organisation, Asia bore the brunt of climate and weather disasters last year, with temperatures in the region climbing almost 2°C above the historical average. This warming has led to more frequent and severe weather phenomena, from debilitating heatwaves to devastating floods. Pakistan finds itself grappling with these realities early

The National Disaster Management Authority has issued warnings of ongoing severe weather conditions likely to persist until April 29, including potential flooding and storms that threaten to disrupt lives and livelihoods. These alerts come in the wake of a series of weather-induced calamities since February that have inflicted significant damage, with the death toll rising and infrastructure strained. This escalating frequency and intensity of weather-related disasters makes evident the need for Asian countries to bolster their meteorological capabilities and disaster preparedness.

For Pakistan, the challenge is twofold. Firstly, there is a pressing need to enhance the capacity and resources of the NDMA and provincial meteorological departments. This means investing in advanced forecasting technologies and expanding early warning systems to ensure timely and accurate weather updates. Secondly, we need a strategy for climate resilience. This would involve building and updating infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices so our food sources remain secure, and empowering local populations through community-based disaster-risk management programmes. Every citizen must be made aware of their role in disaster preparedness and response. Moreover, the plight of farmers, highlighted by recent storms affecting the wheat harvest in Punjab, makes a strong case for agricultural reforms. Policies that support crop insurance, improve access to weather-resistant seed varieties, and promote water conservation techniques are vital. Such reforms will help stabilise agricultural output and safeguard farmers' incomes against the caprices of climate.

On a regional level, Asian countries must work closely on climate action initiatives. Sharing technology, knowledge, and strategies can amplify individual efforts and lead to regional resilience. Global cooperation, too, is key. Developed nations need to support vulnerable regions through funding, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives.

The writing is on the wall. The time for incremental steps is over. The scale of the challenge requires bold, decisive actions that reflect the urgency of the moment. For Pakistan, and Asia at large, building resilience is no longer a matter of choice but a necessity for survival in an era marked by unprecedented climatic upheaval. As we advance through 2024, let this be the year when we all proactively ensure that our communities are safeguarded and that the future is secure against the inevitable next storm.

Stirring monster

gain territory and con-

solidate control. How-

proved to be a signifi-

Nangarhar prison, a fu-

neral procession in

Nangarĥar, and attacks

dents at Kabul Univer-

sity. In the 2020 attack on

Nangarhar Jail, carried

out by 11 suicide bomb-

ers, 1,000 prisoners were

released, including 280

quently, the number of

ISKP attacks in Afghani-

2020 to 334 in 2021. Two

weeks after the exit of US

stan, the attack on Kabul

cruitment was done pri-

marily from areas around

the Pak-Afghan border,

from where it attracted

Salafi linkages and sec-

tarian influences. The

group has consequently

tried to attract militants

on the pretext that the

Taliban betrayed the

jihadi cause and hence it

is the only viable option

tends to expand in the

periphery, including In-

Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and

Bangladesh,

to be associated with.

Initially, ISKP re-

on the

atta-c--ks

Mohammad Ali

Babakhel Last month's attack on a Moscow concert hall garnered global media ever, by 2019, ISKP was attention, highlighting facing intense pressure the rapidly expanding and consequently lost capabilities of the mili- territorial control, which tant Islamic State. The withdrawal of US troops cant setback. In the secfrom Afghanistan has ond phase, from 2020 provided opportunities onwards, it began focusfor militant groups to re- ing on urban warfare. visit their policies and This change of strategy targets, resulting in a came with the objective surge in terrorism. In the of eroding the legitimacy South Asia region, in ad- of the Afghan Taliban dition to ideological af- among the locals. The filiates of Al Qaeda, the shift was followed by Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) now poses a significant threat.

Since its formation on local Shias and stuin 2015, ISKP has extended its influence in South Asia and is experiencing a resurgence enabled by the post-US withdrawal situation. Although the group was ISKP members. Subseforced in 2019 to surrender control of territory it once held in northern stan increased from 83 in and eastern Afghanistan, it has shifted its focus to urban warfare troops from Afghaniand has since executed numerous lethal attacks. airport resulted in 170 It is also striving to deaths broaden its geographic scope beyond Afghanistan by attracting talent from existing extremist networks.

A central body, the former TTP fighters with General Directorate of Provinces, is entrusted by the IS to coordinate ISKP's territorial losses regional affiliates. The in Afghanistan and the GDP has a dedicated bu- Taliban takeover have reau for South Asia since changed recruitcalled the Maktab al- ment patterns, and the Saddiq. Reportedly, ISKP maintains communication with its local leadership, but local formations also exercise operational autonomy. ISKP seems flexible in its ambitions, operations, and ties with other militant groups. This is why, after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and despite the arrests and killings of its members, ISKP remains a signifi-

cant threat The ISKP's strategy disenfranchised turn? -- Courtesy Dawn

Pakistani nationals had

played a significant role in

progress

prosperity of Saudi Arabia.

Qasabi stressed the need to

and new generation.

Muhammad Aurangzeb,

Commerce Minister Jam

Kamal Khan, Information

Attaullah Tarar, Petroleum

Minister Dr Musaddik

Malik and Special Assistant to PM Tariq

Fatemi also attended the

Rupee sheds

01 pasia against

US dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistani Rupee on

Monday lost 01 paisa against the US dollar

in the interbank trading and closed at

Rs 278.39 against the

previous day's closing of Rs 278.38. However,

according to the Forex

Pakistan (FAP), the

buying and selling rates of the dollar in

the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs

279.85 respectively.

Pakistan (SBP).

Association

Saudi Minister Al-

Finance Minister

can be divided into two Rohingya population in phases: from 2015 to late Bangladesh offers the 2019, its strategy was to ment of sympathisers. In Bangladesh, the one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar (52 per cent of whom are children) have already been targeted by the ISKP; however, the group withdrew when faced with wrath

counterterrorism (CT)

operations. Denying space to violent non-state actors in poor or disaster-affected communities is critical. Sta-tes should invest more funds in eradicating illiteracy and developing vocational skills in order to deter employment by militant groups within poor communities, streng-th--en relief op-

erations and improve the well-being of disaster victims in order to discourage employment within disaster-affected communities Since the with-

drawal of US troops from Afghanistan, the ISKP has not faced the same pressure from CT operations, but it has still not seemed very successful in expanding its influence in South Asia. The primary reason for its inability is its confinement Afghanistan, the availability of a smaller number of foreign fighters to join ISKP, and its lack of success in establishing an operational hierarchy outside Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the ISKP is trying to take advantage of the withdrawal of US troops, weak governance, isolated administration, absence of an organised CT apparatus, use of The ISKP also in- technology, latest propaganda techniques, and the vacuum created due

to a fractured Al Qaeda. The question rethe Maldives. However, mains: are the great powit has struggled with ers intent on stopping it ground operations. The in its tracks, or will the presence of Myanmar's threat be allowed to re-

Campus protests

Huma Yusuf

The world has been watching as police storm US university campuses to arrest pro-Palestine supporters. This is an uncomfortable escalation of mounting surveillance and censorship at campuses after months of a growing crackdown: cancellations of poetry readings and talks, social media campaigns against students and faculty, dismissals of university presidents, suspension of pro-Palestine student

The mass arrests of students and clearing of encampments has ignited calls for another free speech movement on US campuses, akin to the one in the 1950s against the excesses

McCarthyism. Calls to defend the right of students to protest are mounting globally, and recalling how such activism in the past helped ensure just outcomes ranging from the Vietnam War to South African apartheid. But nothing is ever so straightforward.

Free speech and prodemocracy advocates should worry about the way in which this is playing out. It is not a given that a wider student movement is brewing the summer break is imminent and it is unclear whether the students can sustain the momentum. The clampdown

also shows how easily peaceful protest can be re-construed as disruption, hate speech, and the threat of violence (in a recent op-ed, an anti-protest Columbia University professor framed persistent drumming as a form of violence). Where such precedent is established, more clampdowns will follow — and not just on American campuses. Authoritarians everywhere are taking lessons from the US on how effectively to shut down critical voices. Start small,

send out law enforcement. This is why the challenges of students at elite US university campuses are relevant beyond the context of Gaza.

student arrests are inspiring romanticised paeans to Gen Z, pointing out that a generation that was being written off as ill-informed and apolitical is in fact ready to fight for justice. Rather than indulge in complacency, activists everywhere should focus on what is working, and what is not.

One key success is the local relevance of the protests. Rather than broadly campaign for an two-state solution, studemands of their universities: to divest from companies that are providing weapons to the Israeli army and those that profit from the war. They have also framed their demands in the context of increased transparency.

Protesters are also informed about their First Amendment rights and the legality (or not) of various protest tactics. They are well networked across the country, and supported by legal rights groups. Where protesters have been targeted with charges antisemitism and disruption, there is an accompanying debate about their interpretation of the

While the protesters were right to build on the momentum of anti-fossil fuel campaigning, which has invited wider participation, there is some danger that these protests become all-inclu- cision to allow such sive: in some universities, there are also demands to cut ties with Israeli institutions or end scientific research that could support the manufacture of weapons that could be used to perpetrate genocide. At Cocapture the narrative, dis- lumbia University, pro- tesy Dawn

tort and weaponise the testers have also made opposition's words, then demands about low-income housing in the nearby Harlem neighbourhood and called for the university to review its relationship with the New York Police The images of mass Department. While this diversity of demands will sustain a culture of campus activism, it risks dilution of the present cause.

The extent to which students are informed also varies greatly. The history of certain slogans and images being used, for example, is poorly understood, and so has resulted in protesters being accused of antisemitism. In a university setting, protest Israeli ceasefire or the should not just be about opposition, but also dents are making specific education. The growing toxicity of anti-protest stances means there are dwindling opportunities for learning and dia-

Over recent days, my social media feeds increasingly feature young voices from Pakistan wondering whether they should launch pro-Palestine protests and not just leave such activism to the 'goras'. This is the wrong approach. Activism works when it is rooted in a local context and driven by specific demands. Pakistan has a powerful history of student activism, from the protests against Ayub Khan's dictatorship to the more recent Student Solidarity Movement demanding student unions and an end to student harassment.

The recent bill supporting students unions and Quaid-i-Azam University's degroups means Pakistan too is at the cusp of a revival of student activism. Let campus probut let them do so in the spirit of justice, knowledge and positive change. -- Cour-

Commerce News

Pak-Saudi economic ties enter a new era with trade boosting steps ahead: PM

RIYADH (APP): Prime the foreign investment in Minister Shehbaz Sharif the country. Shehbaz said that the Pakistani nationals had on Monday said that the economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had entered a new era as both countries were set to take concrete measures to boost the volume of bilateral trade.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of World Economic Forum here, said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was playing an active role in and-half years. promoting and facilitating

The Saudi minister told the prime minister that on the directives of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom further promote the was prioritising trade sentiments about the Pakand investment in Saudities among the youth Pakistan

A delegation of Saudi businessmen, traders and investors would soon visit Pakistan, he added.

The Saudi minister and Broadcasting Minister said that the targets were being set to take the bilateral ties to a new height within one or one-

Minister meeting. Prime



RIYADH: Saudi Minister for Commerce H.E. Majid Al Kasabi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Digital transformation

Civil society, private sector & academia's collaboration with govt vital: Shaza Fatima

Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima on Monday said that collaborations among the government, civil society, private sector and educational institution is vital for achieving digital transformation in the

She expressed these views in her special remarks at the Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Report: Validation Workshop dialogue hosted by the Sustainable Development digital ecosystem,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Policy Institute (SDPI) identifying strengths, Minister of State for and the Asian we ak nesses, Development Bank (ADB) to facilitate knowledge exchange among key stakeholders, driving sustainable development in Pakistan's landscape.

The Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Validation Workshop is a crucial milestone in the ongoing efforts to assess and enhance Pakistan's digital landscape. The diagnostic report provides key

opportunities, and threats across different pillars.

Shaza emphasized the importance of diagnostic reports and research surveys for the government in creating well-informed policies, strategies, and their implementation.

She stressed that short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans must be based on available data ensure effective decision-making in the digital transformation ecosystem, journey.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships namely, MSC Beira IV, Gold Trader and Milaha Qatar carrying Container, Chemicals and berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectivelyon Sunday.

monetary stance SBP maintains policy rate at 22% KARACHI (APP): The descending trends State Bank of Pakistan, The con

Continuing tight

Monday, persistently kept policy rate unchanged at 22 percent while stressing on continuation of the current as inflation has continued monetary policy stance to

the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), noted that the macroeconomic though contributing to considerable improvement in both inflation and moderate was still high despite of and high base effect.

reviewed Inflation outlook and found it in line with the MPC's expectations to moderate noticeably in bring inflation down to the target range.

The central bank, in a declined to 20.7% from statement issued here 23.1% in February while following the meeting of core inflation fell significantly to 15.7% from 18.1% in February.

Besides stabilization measures coordinated tight monetary and fiscal policy response other factors that have led to this favorable outcome external position amid include lower global moderate economic commodity prices, recovery, level of inflation improved food supplies



of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

CDNS attains Rs 1375b targets in fresh bond ISLAMABAD (APP): the annual target and

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 1375 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 80 percent of annual target in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to April 25.

The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1742 billion for the year 2023-24, in which it is encouraging that 80 percent of the target has been achieved, and it is hoped that National Savings will surpass its annual target this FY 2023-24, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on

Monday. The CDNS surpassed

achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added

BankIslami achieves remarkable financial results of Rs 6.3 billion

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan

H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called

on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication

Maintaining its growth momentum, BankIslami delivered an impressive return for its shareholders, with a remarkable 99% surge in its profit before tax for the first quarter of 2024.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

The Bank's profit before tax reached Rs. 6.3 billion, with a post-tax profit of Rs. 3.2 billion, representing a growth of 79.2%. Despite adverse market conditions, the Bank remains committed to financial excellence.

Prominently, demonstrated magnificent cost efficiency, as evidenced by the reduced cost-toBankIslami

grew its financing portfolio despite navigating through ongoing

Consequently, the investment portfolio reached Rs. 332.2 billion, while the financing portfolio was at Rs. 253.6 billion showing an improvement in infection ratio to 8.2% from 9.0% in

income ratio of 43.1% during the period, compared to 47.9% in the same period last

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged strategically expanded its investment portfolio and at Rs1.78, whereas an increase of 31 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which uncertainty was traded at Rs348.79

compared to the last closing of Rs348.48.
The Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Rival witnessed no change and closed at Rs75.79 and Rs74.22 December 2023. respectively.

Shehbaz's resuming The price of the PMLN's presidency to be Euro decreased by 49 paisa and closed at Rs refreshing change: Zahid 298.38 against the last-day closing of Rs 298.87, according to the State Bank of

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that PM Shehbaz Sharif's resuming of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) presidency after a seven-year gap will be a refreshing change. Talking to business community on Monday, he said that this shift will be a significant development

and a welcome change in

the country's politics. Mian Zahid Hussain

said that the business community anticipates that political and economic conditions will improve rapidly under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif. At the same time, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will work hard to promote economic diplomacy.

He said that the fake cases against Nawaz Sharif have met their fate and that his presidency will give the party more public recognition and a new lease of life.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Antigua, Majestic Noor and FSM scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and LPG also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24

Ahsan Iqbal highlights role of engineering in developed world

Planning, Development mechanical, civil, bioand Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Igbal said that behind the development of the modern world is the hard work of engineers and the solution of most of the problems of all sectors of life, including health, food,

and industry is related to the field of engineering.

He expressed the views at the ongoing "Science Mela 2024" at University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Narowal Campus. Students of different departments of the university presented their final year projects for exhibition at the Innovation Center of the University of Engineering and the seminar hall Technology sub-campus Narowal Campus.

medical engineering and computer engineering. Students of various universities including Agriculture University Faisalabad, UMT Sialkot Campus, ITU University of Narowal, Veterinary University Narowal Campus participated in the science fair.

Later, Ahsan Iqbal handed over new buses provided to the University
of Engineering and
Technology Narowal
Campus to the Campus to the the world of education and administration and also research, you need to go planted a sapling in the university. He also participated in the prize have established distribution ceremony in the seminar hall of UET

ALABAD: A lady health worker

administering polio drops to a child during 7-days

Police committed to

continue best services

for masses: RPO

the masses and more properties of the masses

commendatory hard to ensure maximum

certificates to traffic relief to masses through

police officials over improving service delivery.

(retd)

impressive performance

here, the regional police

officer said that the

basic purpose of the

police department was

to serve the people and

to protect lives and

adding that all possible

efforts were being made for

department was striving

He said that the

this purpose.

anti polio campaign in the city.

MULTAN (APP): Regional Police Officer

Chaudhry on Monday said

that the police would

continue best services for

improvement was being

made in service delivery for

awarding cash prizes

In a ceremony of

(RPO) Capt

public facilitation.

Muhammad

NAROWAL (APP): Narowal. The projects Speaking on this Federal Minister for related to electrical, occasion, he said that UET Planning, Development mechanical, civil, bio-Narowal Campus was his dream for which he had worked hard to achieve. "Behind the development of the modern world is the hard work of engineers. The solution of most of the problems of all sectors of life, including health, food, and industry is related to the field of engineering. Today we are living in the era of technology, today's era is the era of artificial intelligence," he added.

Tuesday April 30, 2024

He said, "If you want to establish your place in departments like National Center for Satellite Technology.

Balighur Rehman condoles with Saira Afzal

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Monday visited the residence of Member National Assembly (MNA) Saira Afzal Tarar at her ancestral village and extended condolences to her on the death of her father, Senior

Politician Afzal
Hussain Tarar.
Governor Punjab
Muhammad Balighur
Rehman offered
Fatiha and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the highest ranks in Jannah to the departed soul.

He also prayed to give courage and sustenance to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity. The Governor Punjab said the services of Azfal Tarar

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb disclosed this in (late) for the country a statement issued on and the party will Monday. While giving always remembered.

LARKANA (APP):Three ter Muhammad Ali Malkani said that we had come here to visit the martyrs' shrines. He said that maintaining law and order was the priority of the Sindh government. In response to a question, he said that a JIT had been formed for the recovery of Priya Kumari, which was doing its job.

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views

with MPA Imdad Pitafi during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Three Sindh Ministers

visit ancestral Bhutto

family graveyard

Marriyum says:

EPD seals 170brick

kilns, registers 169

FIRs in 15 days

Ministers,

Provincial

Muhammad Ali Malkani,

Dost Muhammad Rahmoon

and Tariq Ali Talpur visited ancestral Bhutto family grave-

vard in Garhi Khudabakhsh

Bhutto here on Monday. They paid tributes to Shaheed

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed

Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed

attended the shrines of

Begum Nusrat Bhutto and

recited Fateha and laid flow-

persons, Provincial Minis-

Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has

sealed 170 brick kilns,

besides registering 169 FIRs during a province-

wide campaign against the scourge of pollution during last 15 days.

Shah Nawaz Bhutto

Speaking to the media

Mir Murtaza Bhutto.

ers wreath.

LAHORE

He said that bumper quantity of wheat had been produced in Sindh, adding he would talk to the Chief Minister Sindh and the Provincial Minister of Food Department so that Pasco

period, the department

inspected a total of 4488

brick kilns in various districts, and 170 kilns

were sealed for violations

of environmental laws, 705

brick kilns were issued

notices and fines totaling

Rs.20.1 million were

imposed on the owners of

brick kilns found guilty of

violations. Similarly, police

were also approached for

environmental

could also buy the crop.

5 killed, 2 injured in different incidents

FAISALABAD (APP) Five people including a minor girl were killed while two others sustained multiple injuries in different incidents in Faisalabad during last 12 hours.Police spokesman said here on Monday that Maqsood Anjum resident of Siddique Nagar was shot dead by his rivals Sajid alias Lalo, etc. to avenge an old enmity in Mithaiwala whereas accused Waqas alias Kashi shot dead Muhammad Rafiq resident of Chak 165-GB over a plot dispute.

CM KP felicitates newly elected local bodies representatives

Khan Gandapur on Monday congratulated the newly elected six local bodies representatives in byelections.

Chief Minister in a statement said that in unofficial and inconclusive PTI-backed candidates have won five out of six seats of Tehsil Chairman which is a manifestation of the trust of the people of the province on his party.

"I thank the people of these constituencies for showing full confidence in the supporting PTI-backed candidates ", said Chief Minister Ali Amin

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief the party leadership and Minister Khyber workers for the excellent Pakhtunkhwa Ali Ámin success of the candidates supported by the party in the by-elections",

The chief minister said that in these elections, the nation has given a huge mandate to his party across the country. He said party's

founder can be put in jail

but cannot be removed

from the hearts of the people, said Ali Amin. He further said that the public mandate should be recognized in the better

interest of the country and Ali Amin said that they will continue all

political, constitutional and legal struggle to achieve Gandapur. their right to provide relief to people of the province.



a banner along with students during Traffic Awareness walk (Use Helmet) at Faisal Chowk in the Provincial Capital.

Provincial Outbreak Committee to provide immediate response during any outbreak

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The first meeting of the Provincial Outbreak Committee, chaired by Minister of Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah, was held on Monday at Health Department

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Commissioner Peshawar Riaz Khan Mahsood, Special of the province. Initial presented Secretary Polio Program meetings have been committee.

Abdul Basit, along with conducted in the relevant Additional Administration Dr. Siraj, Director EPI Dr. Arif, Director Public Health Dr. Irshad Roghani, Director IMU Dr Ijaz and all other relevant quarters in person. All DHOs and MSs attended the meeting online. It was reported to

DG districts to activate these committees. The minister stated that the purpose of the Provincial Outbreak Committee is to provide an immediate response during any outbreak. He further explained that this initiative will improve the provision of routine health the minister that district services, and the outbreak committees have performance of health been formed in all districts department officials will be of the province. Initial presented

details, the senior minister reported that during this against 169 kiln. International News

US, Britain urge Hamas to accept Israeli truce proposal

Blinken says Israel must still do more to boost humanitarian aid to Gaza

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday urged Hamas to swiftly accept an Israeli proposal for a truce in the Gaza war and the release of Israeli hostages held by the Palestinian militant

Hamas negotiators were expected to meet Qatari and Egyptian mediators in Cairo on Monday to deliver a response to the phased truce proposal which Israel presented at the weekend. "Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily, extraordi- Israel. narily generous on the part

meeting of the World Eco- "period of sustained calm" nomic Forum in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

"The only thing standing between the people of Gaza and a ceasefire is Hamas. They have to decide and they they will make the right decision." A source briefed on the talks said Israel's proposal entailed a deal for the release of fewer than 40 of the roughly 130 hostages believed to be still held in Gaza in exchange for freeing Palestinians jailed in

- Israel's compromise response to a Hamas demand

for a permanent ceasefire. A total of 253 hostages were seized in a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which have to decide quickly," he about 1,200 Israelis were said. "I'm hopeful that also killed, according to Israeli counts. Israel retaliated by

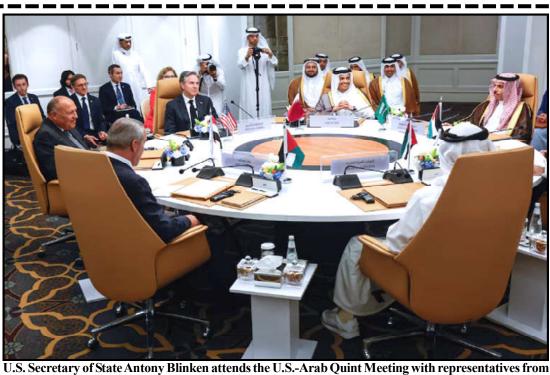
imposing a total siege on Gaza and mounting an air and ground assault that has killed about 34,500 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities.

Palestinians are suffering from severe short-A second phase of a ages of food, fuel and mediof Israel," Blinken said at a truce would consist of a cine in a humanitarian cri-

sis brought on by the offensive that has demolished much of the territory.

Britain's Foreign Secretary David Cameron, who was also in Riyadh for the WEF meeting, also described the Israeli proposal "generous". U.S. Secretary of State

Antony Blinken said Monday that Israel must still do more to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into the besieged Gaza Strip and that he would use his current Middle East trip — his seventh to the region since the Israel-Hamas war started in October — to press that case with Israeli



Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian Authority, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg arrive for a press conference, amid Russia's attack on

China set to launch high-stakes mission to moon's 'hidden' side

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China will send a robotic spacecraft in the coming days on a round trip to the moon's far side in the first of three technically demanding missions that will pave the way for an inaugural Chinese crewed landing and a base on the lunar south pole. Since the first Chang'e mission in 2007, named after the mythical Chinese

the technological chasm with the United States and Russia. In 2020, China brought back samples from the moon's near side in the first sample retrieval in more than four decades, confirm-

made leaps forward in its Chang'e-6 using the backup return journey home.

lunar exploration, narrowing spacecraft from the 2020 mission and collect soil and rocks from the side of the moon that permanently faces away from Earth.

With no direct line of sight with the Earth, Chang'e-6 must rely on a ing for the first time that it recently deployed relay could safely return an satellite orbiting the moon uncrewed spacecraft to during its 53-day mission Earth from the lunar surface. including a never-before-at-This week, China is tempted ascent from the moon goddess, China has expected to launch moon's "hidden" side on its

Israel kills at least 30 Palestinians in Rafah, new Gaza ceasefire talks expected in Cairo

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli airstrikes on three houses in the southern Gaza city of Rafah killed at least 25 Palestinians and wounded many others, medics said on Monday, as leaders of Hamas arrived in Cairo for a new round of talks with Egyptian and Qatari media-

In Gaza City, in the north of the Gaza Strip, Israeli warplanes struck two people and wounding sev- checking the reports.

eral people, health officials said. The strike on the other house killed two brothers, they added.

The strikes on Rafah, where more than one million people have sought refuge from months of Israeli bombardment, took place hours before Egypt was expected to host leaders of the Islamist group Hamas to discuss prospects for a ceasefire agreement with Israel. The Ishouses, killing at least four raeli military said it was

At least 40 people die in western Kenya after a dam collapses following heavy rains

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: A dam collapsed in western Kenya early Monday, killing at least 40 people after a wall of water swept through houses and cut off a major

road, police said. The Old Kijabe Dam, located in the Mai Mahiu area of the Great Rift Valley region that is prone to flash floods, col-

lapsed and water spilled downstream, carrying with it mud, rocks and uprooted trees, police official Stephen Kirui told

The Associated Press. Vehicles were entangled in the debris on one of Kenya's busiest highways and paramedics treated the injured as waters submerged large

NATO chief, on unannounced Kyiv visit, says arms flows to Ukraine will increase

Monitoring Desk KYIV: NATO boss Jens

Stoltenberg told Ukrainians on Monday that his alliance's members had failed to live up to their promises of military aid in recent months, but said the flow of arms and ammunition would now increase.

In an unannounced visit to Ukraine, the secretary general of the transatlantic military alliance held talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and

Gaza protesters disrupt Paris's Sorbonne university **Monitoring Desk**

PARIS: Protesters angry over the Gaza war took to Paris' Sorbonne University on Monday, chanting 'Free Palestine' at the university's gates while some students set up tents in the courtyard. Days after similar protests at Paris's Sciences Po elite school, the gathering at the Sorbonne was the latest sign that demonstrations on U.S. campuses.

was due to address Ukraine's parliament, the

His visit – the third

since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 - comes at a difficult time on the battlefield for Ukraine. After a failed Ukrainian counter-offensive last year, Russian forces have gained the initiative – at least in part due to a dearth of arms and ammunition from Kyiv's Western partners.

"I will also be very honest with President Zelenskiv and also with the Rada that NATO allies have not delivered what we have promised over the last months," Stoltenberg said on the train taking him into Kyiv on Monday.

"The United States spent six months to agree a package and European allies have not delivered the ammunition we promised. But now I'm confident that things will change," he said.

Russian forces advance in Ukraine's east **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: Russian forces advanced at points along the front line in Ukraine on Monday, taking a village in the Donetsk region, gaining better positions in the Kharkiv region and repelling a number of Ukrainian attacks, Russia's defence ministry

Russia controls about 18% of Ukraine - in the east and south - and has

been gaining ground since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counter-offensive to make any serious inroads against well dug-in Russian troops.

President Vladimir

Putin in February ordered Russian troops to push further into Ukraine after the fall of the town of Avdiivka where he said Ukrainian troops had been forced to flee in chaos. Ukraine said it withdrew from Avdiivka.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Anwarul-Haq called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM meets Bill Gates; urges sustained efforts by partners for polio-free Pakistan

Monday met the founder and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, wherein he called for a sustained efforts by all the partners to reach the ultimate goal of a polio-free

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting here, the prime minister highlighted that Pakistan was working tirelessly to eradicate polio from the country, a PM

Office press release said. Earlier, both leaders had featured in a WEF's high-level panel discussion titled "Redefining the Global Health Agenda." The prime minister thanked Bill Gates for sending him a warm congratulatory letter upon his re-election.

immunization and polio vaccine program in Punjab province under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif as chief minister and em-

munization program a suc-

While fondly recalling their interactions during his previous tenure, the prime minister reaffirmed his commitment to continue working closely with Bill Gates to ensure a stronger partnership between Pakistan and the Gates Foun-

thanked the BMGF for its longstanding visit to Pakistan in Februsupport for polio eradication in Pakistan.

Bill Gates acknowl-

erations from this crippling

In addition to polio, Prime Minister Shehbaz and Bill Gates also disphasized replicating the cussed progress on ongoing same practice across the activities between Pakistan country to make the im- and the Foundation in the areas of immunization, nutrition, and financial inclu-

> said that the Gates Foundation was a trusted partner in Pakistan's socio-economic development and sought collaboration in other areas including IT, STEM education and disaster management.

Recalling Bill Gates' ary 2022, the prime minister extended an invitation to him to visit Pakistan edged Pakistan's efforts and again at a time of his con-



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Ali Madad Jattak, MPA Mir Liaquat Lehri and Shakeel Durrani meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz

PM, Malaysian counterpart reaffirm to broaden bilateral cooperation in diverse fields

RIYADH (APP): Prime Shehbaz Sharif was re-Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday recalled the historical ties between Pakistan and Malaysia, especially in the fields of education, science & technology and trade, and undertook to further enhance the

cooperation in the future. The prime minister invited a trade and business delegation from Malaysia to Pakistan to discuss enhancing trade and investment relations between the two countries.

The prime minister met his Malaysian counterpart on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

This was the first in person meeting between both leaders since Prime Minister Muhammad

elected in March. The two leaders have, however, spoken twice on telephone, i.e. on March 4 when Prime Minister Shehbaz took office as well as on April 10, this year on Eid ul Fitr.

Following up on their warm conversations on telephone, the prime minister appreciated the leadership of Malaysian premier and also commended his knowledge of art and literature particularly about the National Poet of Pakistan Allama Iqbal.

The two sides also agreed to have the next meeting of Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad soon.

Minister Prime Shehbaz reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to undertake an official visit to Pa-



QUETTA: Opposition leader in Balochistan Assembly Mir Younis Lehri and Rozi Khan Kakar meeting with Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir

Jam Kamal launches anti-polio drive in Hub

QUETTA (APP): Federal ing that during the last po-Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal along with Deputy Commissioner Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar on Monday inaugurated an anti-polio campaign in his constituencies in Hub District. Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister regarding the preparation of the drive that the authorities were paying special attention to polio after the reports of polio virus being positive after the sampling of the sewage drains of the

district Hub. She said in the briefing that this year, a special polio campaign has been started in Balochistan after polio cases were reported in Dera Bugti and Chaman. WHO officer Dr. Nazir and the administra-

lio campaign, the majority of rejected children have

been recovered They said that 78 area in-charges, 25 monitors, 23 fax centers, 18 transit points have been established and 326 teams were formed to administer polio vaccine in Hub district. The special anti-polio campaign will continue from April 29 to May 3, Around 360 teams have been formed across the district to vaccinate children, who will go door to door to administer polio drops to children in Hub Town and its suburbs. Tehsil Driji, Sonmiani Winder and Gadani, they said. The district officer said that our entire team, the district administration and health workers were work-

ing together

FM Dar meets Saudi Energy Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Mohammed Ishaq Dar on Monday met with Saudi Minister for Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, ARAMCO CEO Amin H. Nasir and ACWA Chairman Mohammed A. Abunayyan on the sidelines of the Meeting for Global Collaboration, Growth, and Energy for Development of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh. "There is great potential for enhanced energy cooperation between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X.

Six new private member bills introduced in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as six new private member bills including the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the National Highways Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and the Islamabad Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill, 2023 were

introduced in the Senate. **Anees Tariq** appointed as DG Industries **Independent Report**

OUETTA: Balochistan Secretariat Service (BSS) officer, Anees Tariq Gorgaij, serving as the Additional Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs has been transferred and posted as the Director General Industries, Balochistan.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) on Monday.

According to the notification, Habibullah Khan, serving as Deputy Commissioner Noshki has been transferred and directed to report in the S&GAD while in his place, Deputy Secretary, Energy Department, Amiad Soomro has been transferred and posted as the Deputy Commissioner

President Asif Zardari says Promoting AJK tourism vital for socio-economic uplift, generating economic activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said that strengthening the tourism sector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was significant to ensure the socioeconomic uplift and generate economic activities in

He, in a meeting with the AJK Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, assured that Pakistan would provide all possible support and assistance to facilitate investment in the diverse areas of AJK's economy, especially the tourism sector, according to a President House press

He said that AJK was blessed with immense potential for tourism and a beautiful landscape, which needed to be fully developed to attract tourists.

The two discussed the overall situation of AJK as well as the issues related to AJK's development.

President Zardari remarked that the AJK youth needed to be equipped with the latest skills and education to help them find gainful employment, besides contributing to AJK's development.

He said that Pakistan could assist the government of AJK in benefiting from the carbon credit markets. During the meeting, the president assured of his

support to the AJK prime minister and his govern-The AJK prime minister requested the presi-

Assembly. President Zardari also expressed grief over the loss of precious human lives

dent to visit AJK and ad-

dress the AJK Legislative

during the recent rain-re-lated incidents in different parts of the AJK and hoped that the AJK government would help the affected

The president also re-iterated Pakistan's commitment for continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) till the attainment of their right to self-determination.

Condemning the human rights violations and the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK, he called upon the international community to put pressure on India to end human rights violations being committed by its security forces and implement the UN Security Council resolutions.



RIYADH: Founder and Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Nazeer urges MNAs from **Balochistan to educate** masses against gas theft

Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, urged the members of the National Assembly elected from Balochistan on Monday to educate the masses against gas theft in the province.

In response to a calling attention notice regarding over billing and extra service charges in Balochistan, particularly in Quetta by the Sui Gas care, urging concerted ef-Company, he expressed forts to combat gas theft concern over the high inci- and promote responsible

tampering in the province. The Minister said that the government has launched campaigns against gas theft from time to time in the province. He cited a report indicating that the company is facing a 55 percent loss in the Quetta region due to gas theft.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said that natural resources



Naseemur Rehman, MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Umar Khan Achakzai, Director Khana Farhang Iran Dr. Abul Hassan and other addressing the event organized in collaboration with Pak-Iran Youth Forum and Khana Farhang Iran

Draft of Procurement policy of MSD prepared

Independent Report QUETTA: The draft of procurement policy of the MSD has been prepared, which would be presented in the provincial cabinet for approval through the

Health department. The strong supply chain management dashboard has also been launched in the Medical Store Depot for transparent and timely supply of

the medicines. This and similar other details were shared by the MSD high ups with the Secretary Health, Abdullah ups.

Khan during his visit there. The Secretary Health inaugurated the work of repair and renovation of

He also launched the digitalized supply chain management dashboard in The initiative is aimed

at bringing transparency in supply of the medicines. Also present on the

occasion were Deputy Secretary Riasat Ali, Additional Director General Health, Dr Fahim Khan and other concerned high

SIC head warns of resignation from assemblies if Imran does not get justice

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- said the PTI leadership kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza warned the government that they will tender their resignations from the assemblies if former premier Imran Khan does not get

In a tweet on Monday, If the founder of PTI [Imran Khan] does not get justice, we will not sit in the assemblies." In the tweet, Hamid Raza suggested to the PTI leadership that they need to consider resigning from the assemblies and coming to the

roads [for protest] SIC head Sahibaza Hamid Raza MNA also said that he will be the first person to resign from the National Assembly for PTI founder Imran Khan. He tered against them.

should give a time frame of three weeks to eight weeks to the government for their

On the other hand, the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan announced tabling a resolution against the fake police cases on PTI leadership. Talking to media out-

side the session court in Islamabad on Monday, Omar Ayub said an FIR was filed against him and his colleagues because they demonstrated for prisoner number 804 [Imran Khan]. He said they used their

constitutional and legal right of a peaceful protest rally in the presence of Islamabad police, the next day, a fake case under various provisions was regis-

Commander Turkish Land Forces calls on Defence **Minister**

ISLAMABAD (APP) Commander of Turkisl Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu Monday called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, whereas the Defence Minister wel comed the dignitary and expressed satisfaction over common understanding on regional and global geo-political situation.

According to the news release, both sides acknowledged the strong Chaudhry, Additional IG

According to the news release, both sides acknowledged the strong Chaudhry, Additional IG

The min relationship between their Armed Forces and committed to further expand defence collaboration.

The defence minister also appreciated Turkiye's strong support for Pakistan on multiple foras.

ECP summons KP CM over asset declaration discrepancies ISLAMABÂD (APP)

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minis ter Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday to clarify discrepancies found in his declaration of assets and liabilities submitted for the general elections of 2024. The ECP has instructed CM Gandapur to personally appear on Tuesday.

Seven-day anti-polio drive beings in Chaman **Independent Report**

CHAMAN: The seven day anti-polio campaign commenced in Chaman on Monday.

Deputy Commis-sioner Chaman, Captain (Retd) Raja Athar Abbas inaugurated the campaign at ceremony held at new district headquarter hospital. Also present on the

occasion were District Police Officer Chaman, Shahid Jamil Kakar, Assistant Commissioner, Mujeebur Rehman and other con cerned high ups.

The Deputy Commis sioner Chaman, SP Shahid Jamil and Assistant Commissioner administered the anti-polio drops to children to mark inauguration of the campaign in border district. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to make anti-polio campaign successful

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner urged the parents to cooperate with the polio teams and ensure immunization of their chil dren against polio.

Shahid Jamil Kakaı said we have to provide safe future to our children.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. General Bayraktaroglu, Commander of Turkish Land Forces called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Senate adopts SC's 4 recommendations about Money Bill

The Senate on Monday adopted four recommendations of the Special Committee related to Money Bill, the Tax Laws (Amendment), Bill, 2024.

Convener Special

Committee Farooq Hamid Naek presented the committee's report in the House. After through discussion on the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the committee unanimously recommended amendments in clause 2, in sub-clause (e), after the word "law", the words "or a mixed question of law and fact', shall be inserted; in clause 3, in sub-clause (e), after the word "law", the words "or mixed question of law and fact, shall be inserted. In Clause 4,- (a) in sub-clause (f), in section 132,- (i) in sub-section (1), for the second proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely:- "provided further that where an appeal is not decided within the aforesaid period, the Appellate Tribunal may, for reasons to be recorded by the Chief Justice.

in writing, condone the delay for an aggregate period of thirty days."; in sub-section (2), in clause (b), for the word "should" the word "if" shall be substituted; and (iii) in sub-section (3), for the words " to the afore-said hearing schedule by the taxpayer and the commissioner" the expression "by the taxpayer and the Commissioner, to the hearing schedule as prescribed, shall be substituted.

The committee also recommended amendments In sub-clause (g), in section 133,- (i) in sub-section (2), after the word "law", the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted; (ii) in sub-section

(3). after the word "law" the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted;

(iii) in sub-section (4), for the expression "a Special Bench, constituted", the expression Special Bench or the Special Benches, as the case may be, to be constituted

Aleem announces significant developments for motorway expansion

Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday announced the significant de-

velopments for the motorway expansion from Mansehra to Gilgit, Babu Sar top and Skardu region.

He made the announcement while addressing the 14th passing-out ceremony of 289 police of-ficers at the NHMP Training College in Sheikhupura.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Secretary of Communication Ali Sher vide comprehensive train-Ali Saber Kayani, Commandant DIG Syed Hashmat Kamal, patrol of-

said a press release issued

The minister highlighted plans to deploy Motorway Police to Gwadar and Karakoram areas, emphasizing the institution's integrity and its role in fostering integrity within the community.

He underlined the importance of China Pakistan . Economic Corridor (CPEC) in driving prosperity for Pakistan and reiterated commitments to enhance institutions, ensure quality selection process, and pro-

The minister announced an additional onemonth extension for training completion and salary ficers, and their families, increments for officers.



QUETTA: Justice of the Balochistan High Court (BHC), Shaukat Ali Rakhshani being briefed by Hamza Shafqat Commissioner and Administrator Quetta during his visit to Sandeman Library of Metropolitan Corporation.

NA passes tax laws amendment bill 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Monday passed the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which would give the legislative effect to the taxation proposals of the federal government. The bill was taken by the House as the supplementary agenda and Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the bill. The House passed the amended bill which aims to give legislative effect to the taxation proposals of the federal government to liquidate a significant number of appeals pending before Commissioner IR (Appeals) and Appellate Tribunals as ATIR is the last fact-finding authority in the appellate hierarchy provided in fiscal statutes.

GDA Pak-China Friendship Hospital starts services under Indus Health Network

QUETTA: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Pak-China Friendship Hospital started health services under Indus Health Network. The services were started on directives of Chief Minister Mir

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Khilji. The initiative is a revolutionary one for the people in health sector by the provincial government under GDA. Needless to mention here is that the newly built 100-bedded GDA Pak-China Friendship Hospital is a state of



Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan under supervision of Director General GDA, Dawood Khan

the art hospital according to the world standard. The hospital is equipped with modern technology offering 24 hour emergency services