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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif casting his vote at the Senate elections at Parliament House.

# PM terms promotion of foreign direct investment as top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister

Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Tuesday highlighted that promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country to sibility study should be transform challenges into opportunities was top priority of the government.

He was chairing a high level meeting to review progress on foreign investment. The meeting re-viewed in detail the there should be no comprodum of understandings with the Gulf countries un- ister also directed all the which big ships could now

of the meeting, the prime minister said all possible spective MoUs. facilities will be given to the investors adding that special cells in the federal min-

sector. The prime minister said the establishment of minister also stressed to SIFC had helped restoring conduct feasibility study confidence of the investors. He directed that a fea-

which had the potential to services of internationally recognized experts should be obtained in this regard.

He emphasized that in Chiniot Iron project. projects presented for ining the progress on their re-

promote innovation and re-search in the investment Muzaffar Garh, Layyah ment.

Furthermore, the prime

for railway connectivity from Reko Diq to Gwadar seaport adding that work conducted for such projects should be started on the railway line to access the attract investors and the power plants of Thar Coal. He further directed that steps should be taken regarding foreign investment

The meeting was inprogress on the memoran- mise on the quality of the formed that the dredging work of the Gwadar port (MoUs) and agreements vestment. The prime min- had been completed after der Special Investment Fa-cilitation Council (SIFC). ministries to further im-prove their relations with meeting was told that a prove their relations with meeting was told that a Talking to participants the Gulf countries regard- huge investment was expected from the Gulf countries in a range of sectors in-He said all the neces- cluding renewable energy, oil sary requirements should be refining, mining, food secu-

fulfilled with respect to the rity, banking and financial istries will be established to foreign investment in the services, logistics, water supply and waste manage-

**Umar Ayub** 

appointed as

opposition

leader in NA

SLAMABAD (Online):

# **Ruling alliance sweeps Senate polls with** PPP grabbing 11, PML-N six seats

PM felicitates newly elected senators

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb win from Islamabad and Punjab, respectively; polls postponed in KP amid oath-taking dispute election from Sindh.

ISLAMABAD (Agen-cies): The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday took the lead in the Senate Pakistan Muslim League-Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) clinched Nawaz (PML-N) cl polls with 11 seats, while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) clinched six seats.

Muttahida The Qaudmi Movement Paki-stan (MQM-P) and an independent candidate Faisal Vawda secured one seat each. nered 79 votes.

Mehmood coming in second with 81. Meanwhile, PPP's Rana Mehmodul Hassan

secured 224 votes to win seat. the general seat in Islamabad while PTI's

Farzand Hussain Shah gar-Punjab In Punjab, all seven candidates vying for the dent candidate.

general seats in Punjab were elected unopposed at the end of March. Today, polls were held on two

Musadiq Malik were suc-

Pak, Kazakhstan express keen interest to deepen collaboration on regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kazakhstan have underscored the shared commitment to strengthen bilateral ties and deepen collaboration on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The commitment was made during a meeting between Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin and Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad



ing 125 and 123 votes, re-spectively. PML-N's Khalil Tahir Sindhu was successful on a minority

Sindh In Sindh, the ruling PPP secured 10 of the 12 seats up for grabs. The remaining two were won by the MQM-P and an indepen-

On general seats, PPP's Ashraf Ali Jatoi (22 votes), Dost Ali Jessar (21 votes), Kazim Ali Shah (21 votes), Masroor Ahsan (21 votes), Nadeem Bhutto (21 votes)

MQM-P's Amir Chishti (21 votes) and in-dependent Faisal Vawda (21 votes) also won from a general seat. A day earlier, the PPP had decided to

**Speaker NA** calls on President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwane-Sadr

During the meeting, the speaker congratulated the president on assuming his office, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Matters related to parliamentary affairs and legislation were also discussed during the meeting.

In its notification, the ECP stated that polls for the Senate seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not be PPP's Rubina Saadat Qaimkhani (57 votes) and held until the administration of oath to the elected mem-Quratulain Marri (58 votes) bers seats. Prime bers against the reserved won on two seats reserved

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz for women. PPP's Poonjo Bheel (117 votes) was also suc-Sharif felicitated the newly cessful on a minority seat. elected senators on their Prior to the polls, Sindh success and expressed good Chief Minister Murad Ali wishes. Shahhad expressed the hope for all PPP candidates to be message, the prime minister said the Senate elec-

elected to the Senate. Speaking to the media outtions were the continuaside the Sindh Assembly, he tion of democratic prosaid that Sarfaraz Rajar withdrew his nomination will play their role for the papers on the party's directives as the party was uplift of the constitution Vawda

and the development of the In an indirect reference to the PTI, CM Shah said country. Newly elected senators that those who made tall should participate in effecclaims about giving surtive legislation for public prises in the Senate election welfare and national develfinally retreated from the opment and prosperity, he

In his congratulatory

He hoped that senators



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Wang Wenbin says

The polling for the 19 vacant seats was held in the National, Punjab, and Sindh assemblies while elections on 11 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's seats were postponed by the Election Commission over the "denial" of oath-taking to the lawmakers elected on reserved seats. Overall 356 lawmakers

rejected

Islamabad

ity seat. cast their votes in the upper house of parliament's elections, whereas, votes of

seven NA lawmakers were cessful on the two technocrat seats, garnering 128 and 121 votes, respec-

women and technocrats seats each and one minorwere successful. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Petroleum Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): In Islamabad High Court yet another relief for the former prime minister and ex-PTI chairman Imran Khan, a court in Islamabad on Tuesday acquitted him, ex-PTI leader Asad Umar and other suspects, including PML-N MNA Raja Khurram Nawaz, in the case of vandalism registered against them at Margallah police station.

Judicial Magistrate Mureed Abbas proence. nounced the decision.

Advocate Sardar Masroof Khan and Amina Ali appeared in the court on behalf of the suspects.

The decision came the suspension of senonly a day after the tence.



**Islamabad court acquits** 

Imran in vandalism case

Farooq

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Palestinian students with Federal Minister for Science and Technology and Minister of Federal Education & Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Ambassador of State of Palestine, Ahmed Jawad Rabei and others on the occasion of Launching Ceremony of COMSTECH Scholarships and Fellowships Program for the Palestinian Nationals at COMSTECH Auditorium at Federal Capital.

### **Science Minister inaugurates** a 5,000 fellowships programme for Palestinian students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Tuesday inaugurated a 5,000 fellowships programme for Palestinian students in a ceremony held here. The second phase of the programme is announced in collaboration with the Association of Private Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) and COMSTECH consortium.

Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, addressing the event as a special guest, expressed his immense pleasure at initiating this timely and significant step.

He said it is a gift from Pakistan to the Palestinian brothers. He highlighted the

(IHC) suspended the sentence awarded by the trial court to Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case.

Speaker National Assembly (NA) has appointed Umar Avyub Khan as op-IHC's two-member position leader Speaker bench, comprising IHC Ayyaz Sadiq has issued Chief Justice Aamer notification of appointand Justice ment of Umar Ayub Khan. Miangul Aurangzeb, heard Umar Ayub Khan will Imran and Bushra's apassume charge of his office peals against their conafter issuance of notificaviction and in the refertion

The process of scru-The court gave its rultiny in respect of opposiing after the National Action leader was completed countability Bureau in speaker office. (NAB) lawyer said the

The speaker declared Umar AYub opposition leader after his satisfaction. Bureau had no objection to Imran Khan tells court

#### **'Bushra Bibi** poisoned in Bani Gala sub-jail'

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan Tuesday apprised the court that his wife and ex-first lady Bushra Bibi was poisoned at the Bani Gala sub-jail. The PTI founder made

the claim during a hearing of the £190 million settlement case in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. Khan informed the accountability court udge that the former first lady had marks on her skin and tongue after "being poisoned". He sought the court's order for an inquiry into the incident and a complete medical checkup of Bushra Bibi. Khan said:

said that she herself will know who is behind it." review its implementation He insisted that the after every ten days. People medical examination of the should also support the former first lady should be government in this done by Dr Asim Yunus, a cleanliness drive, he appealed. She also directed doctor at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital to make all water filtration and Research Centre. plants of Lahore functional

the

on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador shed light on Kazakhstan's chairmanshin in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the forthcoming events scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan.

In response, Khawaja Asif emphasized the significant potential for further enhancing cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan across various sectors, including military military-technical and other strategic domains.

### CM launches Naya Dour, Saaf Suthra Lahore initiative Maryam also sets up task force to check electricity theft

**Independent Report** at the earliest. Earlier, Water and AHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sanitation Agency (WASA) Sharif, chairing a meeting gave a detailed presentation here on Tuesday, announced on drainage and sewerage the launch of a 'Naya Dour, rehabilitation, construction Saaf Suthra Lahore' and repair project in 9 zones initiative, under which all of Lahore. A sewer master major and minor roads of plan and the construction of Lahore will be repaid and water collecting tanks were constructed, streets paved, tuff tiles installed, and 222,000 also discussed in the meeting. Meanwhile, Punjab

streetlights restored. Chief Minister Maryam The CM gave a 3-Nawaz Sharif, chairing a month deadline to complete special meeting focusing on comprehensive electricity theft established development plan of a task force to tackle Lahore, saying that she electricity pilferage at the wanted to see every street district level. The CM said and neighborhood clean. She this task force will include representatives of Police, Magistrate, Intelligence, Recovery, DC Office, Prosecution and Law Departments, adding that more than 600 Special Police teams will also participate in anti-power theft

campaign.

PTI attempts to politicize matter of judges' letter:

Law Minister SLAMABAD (APP) Federal Minister for Law counterterrorism measures and Justice Senator Azam and will provide necessary Nazeer Tarar Tuesday said assistance in the investigathat statements of Pakistan tion of Dasu terrorist at-Tehreek Insaf (PTI), and tack, a Chinese foreign minits founder were an attempt istry spokesperson said on to politicize the suo-motu Tuesday. action of Supreme Court in matter of IHC judges' let-

Giving reaction on a statement of PTI leader during his regular briefing in response to a question Barrister Gohar, the minister said that only the Constitution would be followed assurance of foolproof sein this country, adding that curity measures for the what the PTI founder said Chinese national working was not a law. Project as well as across the

He said that those who had been making references against judges in their regime shouldn't give advice to the government.

#### EC suspends notification of success of speaker

BA in PB-51 ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has suspended the notification of success in respect of speaker Balochistan Assembly (BA) speaker BA Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

The petitions filed by candidates Abaseen Achakzai and Asghar Achakzai against result of PB-51 Chamman came up for hearing before Election commission.

## China firmly supports Pak counterterrorism efforts

#### Will provide necessary assistance in the investigation of Dasu terrorist attack

China firmly support

asked by APP about Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif's

on Dasu Hydropower

country and exemplary

punishment for the perpe-

trators of March 26 attack.

The spokesperson

BEIJING (APP): China said, since the attack, China firmly supports Pakistan's has been in close communication with Pakistan and added, we hope that Pakistan will get to bottom of what happened with utmost resolve and efforts, bring the perpetrators and whosoever behind the attack to justice and do ev-Pakistan's counterterrorism erything possible to protect efforts, Wang Wenbin said the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in the

> untry. Wang Wenbin remarked that China firmly safeguards the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions overseas.

"China will provide necessary assistance to Pakistan in the investigation of the case," he said.



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris protesting against Indian brutalities and demanding UN to take notice on completion of 1700 days of Indian military siege on occupied Kashmir in the city.

# PTI among five parties to form 'grand opposition alliance'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Five major opposition parties including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) held a meeting and discussed forming the 'grand opposi-tion alliance' to give a 'tough' time to the government. Chairman PTI Gohar Ali Khan, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Liaquat Baloch, and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chief Mehmood Achackzai attended the meeting. Majlise-Wadhat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) head Allama Nasir Abbas and Balochistan National Party (BNP) Chairman Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub and Asad

Qaiser were also present on the occasion.

Sources privy to the development said that matters related to the formation of the Grand Opposition Alliance' were discussed in the meeting.

All these parties had earlier rejected the February 8 elections results and termed it 'manipulated'.

The PTI has been mulling over forming a joint opposition alliance since after the general elections 2024 as the party held several meetings with other parties including the Moulana Fazal-ur-Rehmanled Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) having reservations on the polls.

importance of this large-scale scholarship programme in collaboration with partner universities from Pakistan and other Muslim countries in promoting science and technology. The minister emphasized that this initiative reflects the essential and intrinsic relations between Palestine and Pakistan at all levels, in line with the vision of the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Coordinator General

of COMSTECH, Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry revealed that in the first phase of the COMSTECH Palestine programme, 500 fellowships were announced in various fields of science,

technology, health, and agriculture

### LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairing a special meeting focusing on electricity theft, established a task force to tackle electricity pilferage at the district level.



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**OPINION** 

### Daily **Independent**

# Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

# Letter inquiry

There has been a twist in the tale. After the Supreme Court last week deferred to the federal cabinet, asking it to deal with a disturbing letter six Islamabad High Court justices had addressed to the chief justice, observers had worried that a government-sponsored inquiry into intelligence operatives' alleged interference in judicial affairs would prove to be a non-starter.

Even as voices from within the legal community were still criticising the Supreme Court for neglecting its responsibility and ceding full control over the inquiry to the government, a respected former judge, retired chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, was duly appointed to head the inquiry commission tasked with looking into the judges' letter.

By Monday, however - following an open statement from more than 300 lawyers, amidst whispers that the six IHC justices may be considering directly petitioning the Supreme Court, and a polite 'no, thank you' from Mr Jillani — the scheme seemed to have fallen apart.

Accepting demands that the letter be taken up by the Supreme Court under its jurisdiction defined in Article 184(3), Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa announced on Monday that his court had taken suo motu notice of the matter. A sevenmember bench will take the case up for hearing tomorrow. Although some concerns regarding the size and composition of the bench have been raised by certain quarters, the development is a breakthrough for the legal community and is being seen as a positive step.

It is hoped that the court will now arrange for the proceedings to be broadcast live, as in past important cases. The issues raised by the six justices of the Islamabad High Court have caused quite a sensation, and it would, therefore, be in the public interest if they are also addressed transparently.

The legal community deserves much credit for refusing to accept a compromise in the form of an inquiry commission and pushing for the letter to be taken up by the Supreme Court.

Mr Jillani's well-reasoned refusal to sit in inquiry over six serving justices also deserves commendation. The former chief justice of Pakistan, while thanking the government for its consideration, courteously pointed out that since the letter had been addressed to the Supreme Judicial Council and its chairman, it would be improper of him to interfere in an institutional matter. He also objected to the inquiry's terms of reference, as set by the government, noting that they did not seem relevant to the issue raised in the judges? letter, namely, a consultation on what judges must do when they are placed under duress. In doing so, Mr Jillani greatly strengthened the argument that others had been making: the judiciary must address this issue internally. One now hopes it will do so enthusiastically.



Dr. Arif Alvi, the former President, possesses a wealth of attributes that make him a distinguished figure in the political arena. In essence, Dr. Alvi embodies the qualities of an astute politician with a positive, creative, and non-violent approach to governance. Dr. Arif Alvi's political journey began in

1979 with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), where he opposed martial law under General Zia-ul-Haq. He later became a founding member of PTI in 1996, serving as its Sindh president. Despite navigating through mental to the party's inter-General Pervez Musharraf's martial law, he secured a National Assembly seat from Karachi in 2013 and won against MOM-P heavyweight Dr. Farooq Sattar in 2018. Known for his loyalty to Imran Khan, Alvi assumed

the presidency in 2018, navigating Pakistan's volatile political landscape effectively with a few hiccups here and there.

Having successfully completed his tenure as the supreme commander of the armed forces of Pakistan and head of all three pillars of the state, Dr. Alvi now faces a pivotal moment in his political career. With the leadership wider each passing day, exacerbated by the incarceration of its founding chairman, Mr. Imran Khan, the need for Alvi to assume an active role in the party has never been more apparent. Imran Khan's likely strengthening rival parties writing and keen political ents. While lawyers turned prolonged detention un- at PTI's expense. These insight, it is undeniable politicians may bring ana-

Alvi to step up, especially as other key leaders of PTI find themselves either in jail or in hiding due to alleged

lawyers, often labeled as "paratroopers" by analysts. These individuals lack a political background and grassroots support, making them ill-equipped to handle the intricacies of political maneuvering effectively. Their tendency to resort to legal battles instead of leveraging popular support has been detriests. This lack of political acumen has significantly undermined PTI's stand-

plete disarray Their failures have been glaring: firstly, their inability to defend their own chairman entangled in numerous frivolous cases and subsequent incarceration. Secondly, their failure to secure the release of key political figures and thousands of workers unjustly imprisoned. Thirdly, the loss of the party's election symbol resulted in a significant blow to PTI's electoral prospects and brand value. Fourthly, their actions inadvertently led vacuum in PTI growing to the absorption of newly elected members into a sectarian political party, further tarnishing PTI's identity. Lastly, they were unable to defend the allocation of reserve seats for women and minorities,

weakened PTI but have also alienated certain segments of its support base. Their professional mindset predisposes them

to view fellow lawyers as adversaries, contributing to a lack of unity within PTI. This absence of cohesion, a hallmark of effective political parties, has left PTI fractured. Divergent opinions among selfassumed leaders mirror the courtroom dynamics of lawyers competing for fa-

During the PTI gov-ernment, I had the privilege

party's standing and undermined the political capi-

derscores the urgency for missteps have not only that they cannot match the lytical skills and legal exexperience and expertise of genuine politicians due to many pressing reasons.

Genuine politicians bring years of political activism, governance, and public service to their roles, allowing them to navigate complex challenges with finesse. Their understanding of political dynamics, constituency needs, and policymaking processes equips them to handle intricate political maneuvering, coalition-building, and effective constituency engagement. In contrast, lawyers-turned-politicians may initially lack direct political experience, presenting challenges in grasping the nuances of political dynamics and effectively engaging with constituents.

politicians often have strong roots in their constituencies and a profound connection with the concerns and aspirations of the people they represent. Their longstanding presence and engagement within communities allow them to establish meaningful connections with constituents and address their needs effectively. Conversely, lawyers turned politicians may encounter difficulties in building such connections, especially if they lack prior experience in community engagement or grassroots organizing. Thirdly, genuine poli-

ticians typically demonstrate strong leadership qualities, including the ability to make tough decisions, build consensus, and inspire confidence among party members and supporters. Their leadership is characterized by a keen understanding of political dynamics and a commitment to advancing the interests of their constitu-

pertise to the table, they may face challenges in political leadership, including building alliances and

navigating internal party dynamics. outlined above, it becomes looking, modern, and prosapparent why it is crucial for former President Alvi, a close associate of Imran he persistently master-Khan and someone with deep ties to PTI, to step forward and provide political leadership to the party. As a genuine politician with years of experience in governance and public service, Alvi possesses the necessary acumen to navigate the complex challenges faced by PTI. His understanding of Secondly, genuine constituency needs and ability to establish meaningful connections with constituents can help reinvigorate the party's grassroots support.

Moreover, Alvi's demonstrated leadership qualities, including his track record of making tough decisions and building consensus, make him well-suited to unite the party and provide a clear direction amidst internal turmoil. His commitment to advancing the interests of PTI supporters and addressing their concerns underscores the importance of his leadership at this critical juncture. als underscores his com-By stepping forward,

Alvi can work towards reclaiming PTI's iconic symbol and disassociating it from sectarian affiliations, thereby restoring the party's brand value and integrity. Additionally, his efforts to secure the release of Imran Khan and other imprisoned party members would signal a commitment to upholding democratic lead PTI effectively and justice for all PTI members. a brighter future.

With over ten months of experience working closely with Dr. Arif Alvi adapting their approach to as his press secretary and the broader demands of media advisor. I can attest to his wisdom, articulate nature, and exceptional team-building skills. As a statesman, Dr. Alvi envi-Given the context sions a vibrant, forwardperous Pakistan. During his over five-year tenure, minded Pakistan-specific COVID-19 protocols, saving many lives and positioning the country favorably compared to others worldwide. Dr. Alvi emphasized the importance of fast-tracked education and skill development through smart and effective shortduration courses to uplift illiterate and unskilled segments, transforming them into wealth-generating assets. He advocated for leveraging the latest technological advancements such as quantum computing, internet of things, big data management, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality. Additionally, he highlighted the significance of research and development as essential for achieving fast-track progress and development. On the social front, Dr. Alvi's advocacy for early detection of breast cancer, addressing mental health issues, and promoting inclusivity for differently-abled individu-

mitment to social causes. Overall, Alvi's leadership is essential in reasserting PTI's position as a formidable political force, reuniting the party under a unified vision, and overcoming the challenges that lie ahead. His experience, integrity, and dedication to serving the people make him a fitting candidate to principles and ensuring take the country towards

state oppression. As PTI grapples with these unprecedented challenges, Alvi's leadership and guidance could prove instrumental in navigating the party through turbulent times and charting a course towards stability

and resilience.

PTI's leadership is currently dominated by

vorable outcomes, resulting in internal discord and confusion. As a consequence, PTI finds itself in a state of disarray, unable to present a unified front or pursue a cohesive agenda.

of serving as Director General to two PTI ministers, Fawad Hussain and Shibli Faraz, and developed a close relationship with Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi. ing and effectiveness, From my experiences accompanying Mr. Qureshi leading to its near-comon official and unofficial engagements as Press Attache in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and later in Geneva, Switzerland, I observed their exceptional abilities. In my opinion,

their presence at the forefront of PTI leadership, the lawyers and Mr. Raoof Hassan had a marginal role in PTI decision making. But in the absence of the political leadership, despite their sincere intentions, these lawyersturned-PTI leaders have inadvertently damaged the

tal built by PTI's founder, Mr. Imran Khan. While PTI owes gratitude to lawyers and Mr. Raoof Hassan, who is renowned for his exceptional

**Commerce** News

"Should Dr. Arif Alvi Fill the Leadership Vacuum in PTI?"

**By Qamar Bashir** Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

# **Pakistan implementing an** economic reform plan critical for a robust recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank on Tuesday said that Pakistan was implementing an ambitious, credible and clearly communicated critical for robust recovery and poverty reduction.

Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by only 1.8 percent in the current fiscal year ending June 2024. According to the

World Bank's latest highlights the high fiscal Pakistan Development costs of federal state-Update titled Fiscal Împact owned enterprises (SOEs) of Federal State-Owned and the critical reforms Enterprises, this subdued needed to improve their recovery reflects tight performance, efficiency economic reform plan monetary and fiscal policy, and governance through import privatization.After a continued management measures contraction in FY23, the aimed at preserving scarce economic activity has strengthened over the first foreign reserves, and muted economic activity amid half of FY24 on the back of strong agricultural weak confidence. The Update also output, the report said

According to the report, together with improved confidence, also supported some recovery in other sectors. But growth remains insufficient to reduce poverty, with 40 percent of Pakistanis now living below the poverty line. Macroeconomic risks remain very high amid a large debt burden and limited foreign exchange reserves.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding export sector.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# **Delegation of All-Pakistan Car Dealers Association** calls on Excise Minister KP

desk.

Independent Report PESHĀWAR: delegation, led by Ghulam vehicles. Bilal Javed, Chairman of

All Pakistan Car Dealers caretaker government Association, and President abruptly halted this of Peshawar Traders process. In response, the Chamber, met with the Provincial Minister for Bilal Javed's leadership, Excise, Taxation and Narcotics, Khaleeq Ur Rehman here on Tuesday.

The focus of the discussion was on a critical issue affecting the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A few months ago, the association successfully advocated for the approval of an Islamabad Excise facilitation desk to assist thousand rupees and these ties on Peshawar residents with consuming their entire day.

(UAE) Ambassador to the verification of Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Al A Islamabad registered Zaabi, on Tuesday engaged in a fruitful discussion with However, the KP Pakistan's Federal Minister

for Commerce. The meeting focused on matters of mutual delegation, under Ghulam interest and strategies to enhance bilateral trade. urged the Provincial

**UAE envoy calls** 

on Commerce

Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The United Arab Emirates

During the meeting, Federal Minister for Minister to reinstate the Commerce, Jam Kamal, Ghulam Bilal Javed emphasized the strong highlighted the significant brotherhood relations inconvenience and financial between the two nations, burden faced by Peshawar which have continued to residents in traveling to strengthen over time, said Islamabad for vehicle a press release issued here.

verification, costing them He emphasized the approximately twenty-five need to further bolster commercial front.

energy rates to play role in national development: PBF LAHORE (INP): Pakistan relief to the fiscal deficit Business Forum (PBF) on but undermine the health of

**Industry needs competitive** 

Tuesday said that attempts to stem the growth of the energy circular debt not a sustainable way. through tariff increases was

Punjab Muhammad Naseer Malik said fifty six percent of direct taxes are paid by industry, which is more than twice its share in the GDP. Denying industry competitive energy tariffs undermines its positive contribution to the economy. "Tariff increases may provide short-term be revisited.

the economy," he added Muhammad Naseer

strategy aimed at two-fold increase in the country's Malik further stated that since exports within next five 2013, we have been adding years. He also asked the capacity by persuading companies that they will get Ministry of Trade for compiling of such a strategy in consultation with the successful entrepreneurs and payments against capacity addition regardless of whether the electricity is sold or not. This condition may have stakeholders. been the ground realty of that

The prime minister time when the country chaired a high level meeting needed more capacity and on the export sector. this was the only way of gaining investors' confidence but now the policy should

Prime

The meeting was attended by ministers including Jam Kamal, Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif on Tuesday directed

for formulation of a

Minister

Tanveer Hussain, utilization of the export prominent e-Commerce entrepreneurs like CEO Utopia Jabran Niaz, Zeeshan Shah, Salman Ahmed and other relevant authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM for mechanism to double

country's exports in five years

During the meeting, the prime minister directed for extending facilitation to exporters in the e-Commerce sector who had been exporting country's product to the world, besides resolution of the issues of "Made in Pakistan" brand exporters. He said that they were taking steps for maximum value chains.

sector, adding for the promotion of IT, domestic use item, textile and other exceptional sectors, the relevant stakeholders should be taken on board. The meeting was

apprised of proposals and recommendations for the development of export sector and the strategy in this regard.

The prime minister underlined for submission of recommendations over promotion of such industries that were exporting such items which had been part of the global

# **Gold rates dip** by **Rs.500**

per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed a decrease of Rs500 and was sold at Rs237,100 on Tuesday as compared to its last day rate at Rs237,600. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs429and was sold at Rs203,275 against the sale price of Rs203,704 and 10 gram 22 karat gold also decreased to Rs186,335 as from Rs186,728, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver also witnessed no change and was trade at Rs.2,600 and Rs.2,211.93 respectively.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ICT services export remittances saw a remarkable surge to US\$ 257 million in February 2024, marking an impressive increase of 31.79 percent compared to

IT exports increases by

31.79% in February 2024

\$195 million in February 2023. According to the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, ICT export remittances witnessed a substantial rise by \$ 257 million (14.94%) to reach \$ 1.977 billion during July 2023 to February 2024 of FY2023-

24, compared to \$ 1.720 billion reported for the same period last year.

This surge can be attributed to the concerted efforts of the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication and the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) in collaboration with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to enhance the ease of doing business environment.

Their initiatives have bolstered confidence within the IT industry, resulting in an uptick in IT & ITeS export remittance receipts

JazzCash, Pakistan's largest fintech organisation, has launched its Islamic savings product with the highest daily halal profit rates.

The product offers customers free accidental insurance upon subscribing to the service, giving them an added layer of protection from life's uncertainties said a news release. Murtaza Ali, Head the

of JazzCash, said, "JazzCash's philosophy

ISLAMABAD (APP): has been to build products fintech solutions.<sup>3</sup>

He further added, "We are grateful to Salaam Takaful for enabling us to offer free accidental insurance to customers subscribing to Islamic Savings, paving the way for a secure future for the communities we serve

JazzCash launches Islamic savings with

highest daily halal profits that suit our people's needs. With Shariahcompliant Savings, we are bridging a crucial gap that, in the past, has prevented people from adopting

per tola ISLAMABAD (APP): The Independent

# Momination papers of Murad, Swati others **PHC dismisses petitions** against acceptance for senate election

has dismissed the petitions leaders Murad Saeed, Azam Swati and others for Senate election.

They are candidates for Senate election.

acceptance of nomination papers of Murad Saeed for of filing papers. Murad Senate election came up for hearing before Justice Arshid Ali and justice Waqar Ahmad of PHC Tuesday.

exhibition at Alhamra Art Council.

on Tuesday decided to form

a committee to prepare

recommendations to ensure

the registration of children

at the time of birth.The

Government Department,

special secretary of Health

Department, chairman of

Technology Board, director-

general of National Database

and Registration Authority

(NADRA), and the Punjab

member of National

Commission on the Rights

of the Child (NCRC).

Punjab

Information

**Committee formed** 

to ensure child birth

registration

PESHAWAR (Online): Murad Saeed told the violating code of conduct. advocate took the plea in the court Taj Muhammad Afridi is complainant from

The petition against the very beginning. He was candidate at the time Saeed has not provided details of the cases. Murad assets. Murad Saeed has

Peshawar High Court court Taj Muhammad Amir Javed advocate (PHC) while upholding Afridi has withdrawn his told the court the appellant tribunal decision nomination papers and he nomination papers of is no more candidate for Murad Saeed for the against approval of Senate election. He cannot election of National nomination papers of PTI raise objection now being assembly were rejected for not candidate for Senate not depositing fine. election.Amir Javed Appeal has to be filed by oneself but Murad Saeed is absconding.

Justice Arshid Ali remarked Supreme Court has made clear regarding abscondment.

Petition has been filed in PHC in connection with Saeed has not shown his details of cases while assets have been shown. not deposited amount of FBR documents are The counsel for fine imposed on him for attached therein.

> **CM** Punjab takes action on Bahawalnagar student rape BAHAWALNAGAR (APP): Following the disturbing incident of a student's kidnapping and rape at Islamia University's Bahawalnagar

has swiftly intervened on Tuesday.

prosecution of the perpetrators.

suspended for getting bribe ATTOCK (APP): The District Police Officer Attock on Tuesday suspended a Sub Inspector and charge sheet was

officer. Police sources said that District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas NCRC. Speaking on the Gul Khan immediately suspended Sub-Inspector Aizaz Ali posted at Jand police station for keeping a poor person including a rights and provision of better loader rickshaw in the police station.



LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Bachar is talking to the media with other MPAs, on the occasion of the senate election.

# Minister for regularization of tourism activities to increase revenue, service delivery

**independent Report** PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Tourism, Zahid Chanceil has stressed to regulate revenue generation.

tourism activities of He said that proper regulation would also help development authorities in discovering new avenues of upper areas and said that tourism and attract visitirs to KP. He also directed it would help enhance service delivery system and increasing revenue foolproof security measures for tourists in Eid

season and expressed hope that the authority would provide all the needed (KDA), facilities to visitors. Muhammad Shabbir here The minister also directed to expedite pace of

on Tuesday. The minister highlighted the need of developmental work on legislation to regulate Kaghan Valley Township tourism activities of Scheme.

# **1186 FIRs registered** against electricity theft in Rwp Division

since September 2023, while 994 accused were arrested and over Rs 88 million were recovered. He directed the authorities to ensure 100 percent electricity theft recoveries in all districts of the

He ordered to complete all the prevent electricity theft, the commissioner informed arrangements for power that 1186 cases had been supply especially in registered in Rawalpindi Murree during Eid days.

# National News

Page 03

# **Minister Health** approves promotion of 305 nurses

**Independent Report** ESHÂWAR: Minister Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Tuesday approved promotion and placement of 305 nursing staff promoted through departmental promotion committee in the Health

Department.

Health emphasized that promotion in service is a fundamental right of employees, and placements will address the shortage of nurses in various hospitals of the province.

On the other hand Minister of Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, chaired a Minister Syed Qasim meeting with a delegation Ali Shah stated that The representing Young Doctors Association, Provincial Doctors Director General of Health Services will issue announcements regarding Association, and other forums led by Doctor Nabi the placement of these Jan Afridi focal person to nurses in various hospitals health minister for health of the province. Following the approval of the community.

During the meeting discussions were held regarding the installation of prepaid electric meters at Lady Reading Hospital doctor's hostel and concerns of medical education, and 136 on officers regarding this matter.



**ABBOTTABAD:** Police Rapid Response Force officials are taking part in mock exercise as a practice to defend in perception of any terrorist attack, held in Abbottabad.

# Rs 30.5b distributed among 2.9m families under BISP so far: DG Punjab

MULTAN Director General, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Punjab Nadeem Alam Butt said on Tuesday that disbursement of quarterly grants, recently enhanced by the government to Rs 10,500 per registered family, was in progress and so far a sum below the poverty line, of Rs 30.5 billion has been DG BISP Punjab told distributed among over 2.9 mediapersons, according to million families under a release issued by BISP strict monitoring by BISP spokesman.

(APP): field teams across the

province. BISP was country's biggest social protection program and disbursement of Feb-Mar, third quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, was in progress to cover over 4.394 million registered families living

Revolution Guards Corps,

which runs Iran's overseas

Mohammad Reza Zahedi

and Mohammad Hadi Haji

Rahimi, both senior com-

manders in the Quds Force,

Guards' foreign operations arm. Zahedi, 63, had held a

succession of commands in

the force in a Guards career

spanning more than four

decades. Israel declined to

comment on the strike. The

UN Security Council was

Among the dead, were

Generals

military operations.

Brigadier

Chief Secretary Punjab health and education.

generation. Campus, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz He was talking to Director General (DG) LAHORE: Students watching the calligraphy Kaghan Development

Expressing grave concern, CM Maryam Nawaz has ordered the immediate arrest and

# Sub inspector LAHORE (APP): A meeting Zahid Akhtar Zaman and committee will comprise the secretary of Local meeting also decided to

registered issued to station house Khattak here on Tuesday. Chairing a meeting held here at Commissioner's Office Rawalpindi to

RAWALPINDI (APP): Division 1186 FIRs had been registered against electricity theft in Rawalpindi division, said Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir division.

in

**Court decision** Minister of Health, the services of these nurses will allowing be assigned to different hospitals across the Pervaiz to province. Out of these contest election nurses, 156 have been promoted based on challenged seniority. The Minister of

LAHORE (Online): The single bench decision on allowing former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Pervaiz Elahi to contest by election has been

One chaudhry Muhammad Arshid has filed petition in LHC allowing against Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi from contesting by polls in PP-32. The petitioner has made Pervaiz Elahi, Election Commission and other respondent.

### **Two brothers** shot dead in Bahawalnagar

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): Unidentified armed men gunned down two real brothers in Kora Khoh area of Bahawalnagar on Tuesday.

According to details, two brothers riding a motorcycle on their way to appear in court in a case were ambushed to unknown gunmen.

Both brothers identified as Sabir and Nanha Khan were killed in the firing and attackers fled the scene of crime.

International News

Authority

# challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

# **Biden and Xi discuss Taiwan**, AI and fentanyl in a push to return to regular leader talks

Chairperson of the National

Commission on the Rights

of the Child (NCRC)

Senator Ayesha Raza Farood

attended the meeting held at

depute the Secretary of

Coordination as the focal

person for enhancing

coordination with the

occasion, the chief secretary

said that birth registration

was very important for the

protection of children's

and

Implementation

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Presi-dent Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed Taiwan, artificial intelligence and security issues Tuesday in a call meant to demonstrate a return to regular leader-to-leader dialogue between the two powers.

The call, described by the White House as "can-did and constructive," was the leaders' first conversation since their November summit in California produced renewed ties between the two nations' militaries and a promise of enhanced cooperation on stemming the flow of deadly fentanyl and its precursors from China.

Xi told Biden that the two countries should adhere to the bottom line of "no clash, no confrontation" as one of the principles for this year.

"We should prioritize

stability, not provoke ments between the leaders. troubles, not cross lines but maintain the overall stabilfirst red line not to be ity of China-U.S. relations." Xi said, according to China Central Television, the state broadcaster.

The call kicks off several weeks of high-level engagements between the two countries, with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen set the island. to travel to China on Thursday and Secretary of State

Antony Blinken to follow in the weeks ahead. Biden has pressed for sustained interactions at all levels of government, believing it is key to keeping competition between the two massive economies and nuclear-armed powers

from escalating to direct While in-person summits take place perhaps once a year, officials said, both Washington and Beijing recognize the value of the agenda. of more frequent engage-

crossed," Xi told Biden, and emphasized that Beijing will not tolerate separatist activities by Taiwan's independence forces as well as 'exterior indulgence and support," which alluded to Washington's support for Biden also raised concerns about China's opera-

Taiwan remains the

tions in the South China Sea, including efforts last month to impede the Philippines, which the U.S. is treaty-obligated to defend, from resupplying its forces on the disputed Second Thomas Shoal.

NATO at 75 is

Next week, Biden will host Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House for a joint summit where China's influence in the region was set to be top



#### **Monitoring Desk** ISTANBUL: A fire killed at least 29 people in a 16-

storey residential building in Istanbul on Tuesday, the governor of Turkiye's economic capital said, updating an earlier toll of 15 dead

stronger – but and eight hurt. The number of also under threat people who lost their lives

in the fire [...] in Gayrettepe of Besiktas dis-**Monitoring Desk** BRUSSELS: The NATO trict has increased to 29," military alliance marks its Governor Davut Gul's of-75th anniversary on Thursfice said in a statement, reday, reinvigorated by ferring to the Istanbul Russia's invasion of neighbourhood. Jkraine - but menaced by "One person hurt in

the growing threat from Moscow and the spectre of

Donald Trump. In 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron slammed the US-led alliance - set up after World War II to face off against the Soviet Union - as suffering from a "brain death".

Now, four-and-a-half years later, the alliance has grown to 32 members with the addition of Sweden and Finland after what Macron described as the "elecan Israeli airstrike that killed troshock" of Russia's all-out seven people working for

assault in 2022. In response, the World Central Kitchen NATO has ramped up troop charity in Gaza. Blinken arrived in Paris for talks with senior officials including President Emmanuel Macron just hours after the Washingtonbased NGO was struck by

the fire was still being treated in hospital," it added. The fire began at 0947 GMT, the office said and was only brought un-der control by firefighters hours later. Television images

showed flames and a column of thick smoke rushing from upper-storey win-

The number of people reported killed and hurt rose throughout the afternoon in a string of statements from the governor's office, as more victims succumbed to their injuries.

> **Taiwan leader** embarks on 'peace journey'

to China Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Taiwan's former president Ma Ying-jeou headed to China on Monday tween Israel and Hamas. for what he called a "journey 'We've spoken diof peace" aimed at cooling rectly to the Israeli governcross-strait tensions. Speak ment about this particular ing to reporters at the airport incident. We've urged a before his departure, Ma deswift, a thorough and imparscribed his trip to China as tial investigation," Blinken 'a journey of peace and a journey of friendship'. China told reporters at a press conference in Paris, adding that claims democratic Taiwan as humanitarian workers have to be protected. "These people are heroes, they run

part of its territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring the self-ruled island under its control

ral Alexander Moiseev

as head of the navy,

the defence ministry

ence call with the se-

nior staff of the Rus-

sian Armed Forces,

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu also said

that Vice Admiral

Konstantin Kabantsov

was appointed as com-

mander of the North-

ern Fleet, and Vice Ad-

was named as com-

Sea fleet.

miral Sergei Pinchuk

mander of the Black

During a confer-

said on Tuesday.

### Iran president says Israel's Syria attack 'will not go unanswered' members of the Islamic

Monitoring Desk FEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday condemned a deadly air strike blamed on Israel against his country's consular annex in Damascus, saying the "cowardly crime will not go unanswered".

"After repeated defeats and failures against the faith and will of the Resistance Front fighters, the Zionist regime has put blind assassinations on its agenda in the struggle to save itself," Raisi said on his office's website.

to discuss the deadly strike "Day by day, we have witnessed the strengthenlater on Tuesday at a meeting of the Resistance Front ing requested by Syrian ally Russia. "Iran reserves and the disgust and hatred of free nations towards the its legitimate and inherent illegitimate nature of (Isright under international rael). This cowardly crime law and the United Nations will not go unanswered." Charter to take a decisive

The air strike on the response to such reprehen-Iranian embassy's five-storey annex killed seven to the world body said.

# **Russia needs new approach** to migration after concert attack, Putin says

**Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called for a new approach to migration after Tajiks living in Russia were detained for a deadly attack on a concert hall outside Moscow that killed at least 144 people and wounded 551

more. Islamic State, the militant group that once sought control over swathes of Iraq and Syria, claimed responsibility for the mass shooting. Russia has said it suspects Ukraine was linked to the attack, a claim denied by Kyiv and dismissed by Washington. At least 12 people - including four accused gunmen - have been detained in Russia in connection with the attack. Most are Tajiks who had lived and worked in Russia. Putin told police chiefs that the attack was aimed at sowing discord, xenophobia

Islamophobia inside Russia. But he said that migration systems needed improvement, as it was clear that work permits were sometimes being issued to people with serious criminal records.

'We need to deeply and radically update our approaches to migration policy," Putin said, adding that some people with almost no knowledge of Russian or Russian culture were being allowed to work without proper checks.

'The decisive principle should be that only those who respect our traditions. language, culture, and history can come to live and work in Russia." Russia's room for manoeuvre on migration. though, is limited. Millions of people from former Soviet republics in Central Asia have flocked to Russia's biggest cities over the past few decades, supporting a blossoming 24-hour consumer society and by working as taxi drivers.

conflict.

Taiwan's former president Ma Ying-jeou speaks to journalists ahead of his visit to China at the Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan.

# 12-year-old opens fire in Finnish school, injuring three: police

Monitoring Desk VANTAA: A 12-yearold opened fire on Tuesday at a school outside the Finnish capital Helsinki injuring three other children, police

said, adding that the attacker was in custody.

The school in Vantaa has around 800 pupils and 90 staff. Chil- jured were all 12 years dren in grades one to old.

nine, or aged seven to 15, attend the school.

"There are people injured in the shooting incident", police said shortly after 10am (7am GMT)

Police were alerted numbers on its eastern flank to the scene at 9:08am and put in place new plans and later specified that to deal with any Russian atthe suspect and the intack. "NATO has been reenergised after the invasion of Ukraine.



Blinken says US urged Israel to investigate airstrike that killed NGO workers

an Israeli airstrike in cenits stance in the war be-

into the fire.

## Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

### Wednesday April 03, 2024

# SC summons petitioner journalists seeking Intro of media regulations

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday summoned the petitioner journalists who filed a case seeking introduction of media regulations in the country.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case pertaining to the FIA's notices to journalists. The court sought written comments from respondents and adjourned the hearing for indefinite

The court in its order said that a request to withdraw the petition related to media regulation has been filed.

It said neither the petitioner came to the court nor the lawyer, nor the advocate on record.

It further said, it was claimed in the application that now the federal government is looking into the matter of media regulation itself. However, the Attorney General denied this attribution to the govern-

ment, the court noted. The court said that the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has been made as a respondent in this case and no one has country was not strong.

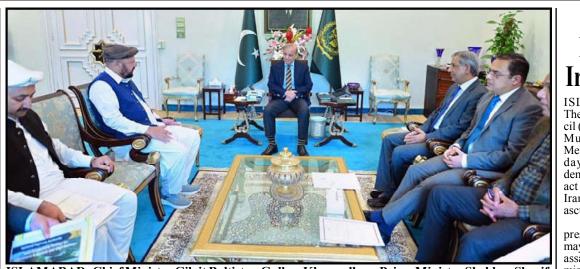
ISLAMABAD (APP): raised an objection on it. It said that the lawyer has told that a report of Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) is available regarding the abduction of Matiullah Jan. The court asked the respondents to submit this report.

Press Association of Supreme Court (PAS) lawyer Barrister Salahuddin took a position during the hearing that a petition of public interest cannot be withdrawn.

During the hearing, the chief justice remarked that false news was aired related to his wife which could have given a wrong impression. He asked whether the responsible should be served contempt of court notice and be sent to jail

after indicting them. The **ČJP** asked whether the membership of a journalist would be abolished for running false

Barrister Salahuddin said that the membership could be abolished after giving a show cause notice to the concern person. The lawyer said that such events happened because the defamation law in the



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Gulbar Khan calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

#### PM directs to build Daanish Thousands **Quran** copies Schools in three GB divisions distributed at

two Holy Mosques

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Arabia's Presi-dency for Religious Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques continues to distribute thousands of copies of the Holy Quran to worshippers and visitors to the two holy mosques during the blessed

month of Ramazan. To enrich the religious experience of non-Arabic speakers, the presidency distributes copies of translated meanings of the Quran, to take them home

as a cherished memory of their time in Makkah and Madinah, SPA reported.

The Saudi Arabia's Quran Affairs Department is responsible for providing the Quran to visitors and worshipers of the Prophet's Mosque. It provides translations for non-Arabic speakers and handles organizing the Quran copies inside the mosque, its expansions, and courtyards.

agement

miliarize the delegation with the cutting-edge facilities and protocols in place to handle emergencies effectively, a news release said.

the Executive Director PIMS hospital to clarify Justice Taria

ISLAMABAD (APP): tation with the stakeholdpower projects in Gilgit Prime Minister Shehbaz ers The prime minister Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to assured the GB chief mintice Minister Azam Nazeer build Daanish Schools ister that uplifting the GB across all three divisions of

Tarar, Economic Affairs people by providing them Minister Ahad Khan with education and health Cheema and relevant senior facilities was among the fedofficers attended the meeteral government's priorities. ing which deliberated on the He also sought recommendations on the ways to

exploit the immense tourism potential of GB, besides instructing to expedite work on Attabad and Harpo hydropower projects. Prime Minister

Shehbaz also sought a stratthat would present its recommendations after consul- egy for execution of solar

# **ICCI delegation lauds NEOC's proactive approach** towards public safety

NDMA, Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik. They were given a comprehensive overview of the Center's state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced technology and the skilled personnel tasked with managing emer-

suring the safety and well-

The delegation was given a detailed briefing on the operational capabilities agement.

# uplift of GB's education. health and tourism sectors.

# **PUC chairman condemns** Israel's aggression against Iran's consulate in Damascus

ences.

diplomatic premises, re-

gardless of political differ-

egregious crime had gar-

nered significant condemna-

"The attack on Iran's

Ashrafi urged the

ISLAMABAD (APP): sovereignty and respect for The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday vehemently condemned the Israeli brazen

United Nations Security Council to take immediate and decisive action to hold act of aggression against Iran's consulate in Dam-Israel accountable for its ascus, Syria. actions, stressing the need He, in a statement, exfor a robust international pressed his profound disresponse to deter further

may over the unwarranted acts of aggression in the reassault on the diplomatic gion. Moreover, he said this mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The PUC chairman tion from Saudi Arabia, Padescribed the attack as a flagrant violation of inter-

kistan, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other national law and a blatant Muslim nations worldwide. disregard for diplomatic 'This condemnation signinorms, emphasizing that fies unity among the Mussuch belligerent actions lim Ummah and delivers a only serve to escalate tenresolute message to Israel, sions and destabilize the rejecting its brutalities in all region further. forms and manifestations,

"The assault on Iran's he maintained. consulate in Damascus is a reprehensible act of aggresconsulate in Damascus is not just an attack on Iran, sion that must be unequivocally condemned by the inbut an attack on the sancternational community," tity of diplomatic missions Ashrafi said adding, "It is and the principles of interimperative for nations to national law," Ashrafi asuphold the principles of serted adding,



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov calls on Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

# **Dr Mukhtar reviews PSDP** health projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime briefing centered on evalu-Minister on National Health Services, Regulaating the progress of ongo-ing PSDP projects, identitions, and Coordination Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed on Monday received a briefing on the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects of the Ministry. Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, along with senior

and formulating strategies for their timely comple-tion. Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed emphasized the need for innovation, transparency, and accountability in the execution of PSDP officials of the Ministry of projects to maximize their Health briefed the Coordiimpact and ensure optimal nator to PM on the scope utilization of resources. of ongoing initiatives and

and services.

The discussion in the

fying potential challenges,

He stressed the need of institutional reforms in utilization of resources towards the improvement of healthcare facilities and healthcare infrastructure regulatory organizations.

safety during disasters. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought report regarding shifting of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi from PIMS hospital to Adiala Jail.

that why the accused was shifted to jail during his medical treatment.

**IHC seeks** report regarding shifting Pervaiz Elahi to jail

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The court instructed

# ISLAMABAD (APP): A of the NEOC by Chairman delegation of the Islamabad

Gilgit Baltistan to impart

world-class education and

accommodation facilities to

students from low-income

a meeting with GB Chief

Minister Gulbar Khan who

called on him, also consti-

tuted a committee to look

into the issues faced by GB

The prime minister, in

groups.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) visited the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) at the National Disaster Man-Authority (NDMA) Headquarters here Tuesday to gain in-

gencies of various scales. sights into its operational President of ICCI capacity and appreciated Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawri exthe proactive approach of pressed his admiration for the Centre towards public the NEOC's impressive capabilities and its commit-The visit aimed to fament to safeguarding the people of Pakistan. He lauded the Center's proactive approach towards en-

> being of the citizens, emphasizing the critical role it plays in emergency response and disaster man-

and Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a virtual meeting.

CDA adopting comprehensive strategy

to ensure best facilities in hospitals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking concrete steps to make the Capital Hospital, a state-of-the-art, hospital besides providing best treatment

tals for medical treatment could not face any kind of difficulty.

A comprehensive strategy is being adopted so that the patients visiting the hospi

In this regard, the administration of Capital Hospital has decided to purchase

According to the details, a modern Hearing Assessment System and other devices

'Cochlear Implant devices ' for the country's first public sector Cochlear Implant Center

established in CDA Hospital with all required modern facilities for the patients. A

budget of around 40 million rupees has also been allocated to implement the project.

would also be purchased from this allocated budget. In this connection, advertisements

have also been given in the newspapers. It should be noted that many deaf and speech-

impaired children have been treated under the supervision of expert surgeons and

doctors at the Cochlear Implant Center of the Capital Hospital. The CDA Board granted

the status of Cochlear Implant Center to make this facility more functional and a Center

The meeting was briefed about the progress on Attabad and Harpo hydropower projects. It was told that the said projects would help provide an uninterrupted power supply to GB. **LHCBA** 

Baltistan.

Federal Law and Jus-

# moves SC on matter of judicial inquiry ISLAMABAD (Online) Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) has filed petition in Su-preme Court (SC) in

connection with judicial inquiry on the letter of 6 judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC).

#### making federal government and others respondents has requested S C to conduct judicial inquiry in connection with 6 judges letter from supreme court judges. SC was requested to

annul the commission constituted by the government. SC should it-self hold inquiry on the matter of judges letter. Those found responsible for intimidating judges and interfering in court's matters be given exemplary punishment.

The LHCBA while

tions of senior police officers, the Islamabad Capital Police were taking all possible measures and initiatives in order to provide ent areas including sectors maximum facilities to the F-6, G-10/4, H-11, Bani citizens of Islamabad.

lowing the special direc- month.

Khidmat Markaz have fa-cilitated 12,237 citizens

with different services re-

lating to issuance of char-

registration, tenants regis-

tration and house servants,

general police verification

items

Islamabad Capital Police tions were also facilitating Khidmat Markaz has pro-vided several services to The CPO Safe City/ the citizens including issu-

been working while Police Khidmat Markaz in differ-Gala, Soan Garden, Khanna In this regard, the and at various police sta-

Police Mobile facili-

tificates after the complete

verification by police sta-tions concerned, 2,244

general police verification, 553 exit certificates to for-

missing documents and

valuables., 02 firs copies,

555 vehicles verifications,

and 348, tenants and 13

Traffic said that, well

Deputy Commissioner Swat says **Provision of quality medical** facilities in hospital top priority of district administration

**ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth** 

Programme Rana Mashhod Ahmed Khan in a meet-

**Police khidmat markaz** 

facilitates 12,237 citizens

during the last month

ISLAMABAD (APP): ance of 2,761 character cer-Islamabad Capital Police, tificates after the complete

acter certificate, foreign eigners, 653 reports of

and report of missing 5,108 foreigner registration

tions officer said that, fol- been entered during the last

A police public rela- domestic servant data have

ing with Managing Director PTDC.

By Haroon Siraj SWAT: Deputy Commis-sioner Swat Dr. Qasim Ali Khan on Tuesday visited the Saidu Group of Teaching hospitals.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Qasim Ali Khan made a detailed visit to various wards and departments of the hospital to review the performance of the Hospital. During his visit the Hospital Management Committee meeting was also held in the conference room of the Medical Superintendent's office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Swat Dr. Qasim Ali Khan.

During the meeting the past performance of Saidu Group of Teaching Hospital was reviewed in detail and a plan of action was prepared for the next month. The Chief Executive Dr Israr ul Haq and Medical Superintendent Dr sharafat ali gave a detailed briefing regarding the overall performance of Saidu Group of gical emergency patients. Teaching Hospital, Swat

district, resources, machinery and other issues in the hospital and other important issues were also discussed.

hospitals of Swat district

are among the top priorities of the district administration because only a healthy society can lead the country on the path of development. Deputy Commissioner urged the hospital administra-tion to ensure the provision of all medical facilities to the pa-tients in wards and said that there should be no in-terruption in medical facilities for sur-

0

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik briefed about

Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case filed by the wife of tation van service has also Pervaiz Elahi, Qaisra Elahi. The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that Pervaiz Elahi received injuries as he fell down in Adiala Jail

The doctors have advised to shift the accused to PIMS hospital for his medical supervision.

The doctors suggested two weeks complete bed rest to the accused and instructed to keep him in intensive care, the lawyer said, adding that medical treatment was a fundamental right of every citizen as per the constitution.

### Naat competition

held at AIOU ISLAMABAD (APP) Allama Iqbal Open Univer-sity (AIOU) organized a Naat competition between students of colleges and universities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, in which 18 students from different institutions participated and recited Naats.

Vice Chancellor. AIOU, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood was the chief guest while Director General Regional Services (DGRS), Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmed Khan hosted the event.

In his address, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that it is a great blessing to present the Naat of our Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and there is no competition or position in it, but it is an expression of devotion and love

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDÊ) has launched an ambitious reform strategy, "ISLAAH: Immediate Reform Agenda - IMF and Beyond," to propel Pakistan towards

economic stability and growth amid its looming financial crises. This initiative, embodying the ideals of rethink, reform, and revive, responds to Pakistan's urgent need for external financing exceeding USD 120 billion over the next five years, as highlighted by the recent IMF Report. PIDE's strategy is a clarion call for a systemic overhaul to ensure economic progress and prosperity, moving beyond the narrow interests that often dominate the discourse on reform in Pakistan.

facilities to the patients there.

Deputy Former Chairman of the Planning Commission and Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Eco-(PIDE), Dr. nomics

of Excellence to make it a specialized center for deaf and hearing patients. sized the need for a com- added that the agenda out- capital market participa- tion costs, both directly and LAAH IS

> challenges. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has outlined an agenda aimed at tackling key areas such as regulatory modernization, tax reform, market liberalization, energy sector efficiency, and improvements in agriculture and banking. A central component of this strategy is the implementation of a 'Regulatory Guillotine' to eliminate burdensome regulations hindering business growth and

cultural and banking sector improvements, and the development of real estate and capital markets to encour-

# **Capital markets** witness huge rush

ISLAMABAD (APP): items. With the start of the As third Ashra Ramazan, Eid shopping had gained momentum and the citi-

bazaars and malls. A great rush is being witnessed in almost all shopping malls and bazaars in-ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari cluding Jinnah Super Market, Aabpara, Karachi company, F-10 Markaz and other markets of the city.

local Several brands have begun displaying their latest Eid editions of dresses, shoes, and other essential accessories to attract buyers and gain maximum profits.

The shopkeepers have decorated their shops with colourful lights to attract customers. A large number of women and children are thronging to markets to purchase clothes, footwear, cosmetics, henna, customers, said a bangles and other shopkeeper.

Addressing the his-

the As the festival of of Eid comes closer, the hop- stalls of beautifully designed colorful bangles, jewellery and zens were thronging mehndi in the markets of the city have been set up which are attracting the custom-

> ers Number of famous shops also offering upto fifty percent discount to attract customers. However, the buyers also complaining of the price hike on the occasion of Eid.

> A customer said that parents and children are unwilling to compromise on purchasing Eid clothes and gifts no matter how much prices rise.

The sale of readymade garments also increased in the last days of Ramazan when garment outlets displayed various readymade clothes on sale which were attracting

PIDE unveils comprehensive reform agenda for economic revival

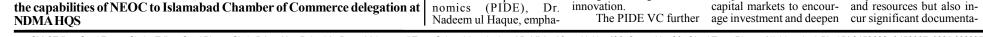
prehensive approach to ad- lines a series of innovative tion. The anticipated imdress Pakistan's economic reforms designed to rejuvesubstantial, promising to



groundbreaking economic nate Pakistan's economic reform initiative aims to landscape. These include streamline governance by debt restructuring and inaddressing the burden of tensified cooperation with 122 regulatory bodies operating directly under the the IMF, comprehensive tax reforms for a more busi-Federal Government, which ness-friendly environment, currently account for over and strategic opening of the 50% of the GDP, as reeconomy to prioritize exvealed by PIDE's Sludge ports and modernize im-Audits. port regulations. Addition-In our pursuit of ecoally, it addresses energy

nomic efficiency, it's imperative to shift from a syssector inefficiencies, agritem of permissions to clear rules, as permissions not only consume valuable time and resources but also in-

in terms of missed opporpacts of these reforms are tunities. To achieve this, we must prioritize clear rules, digitization, and market liberalization, putting an end to the bureaucratic penchant for permissions and paperwork, thereby overcoming the 'Permissionistan' syndrome. Drawing inspiration from India's successful reforms in 1991, it's evident that piecemeal approaches won't suffice. Instead, we advocate for the implementation of a regulatory guillotine, a proven strategy adopted by countries like Hungary, Mexico, South Korea, and the UAE, among others. Nadeem ul Haque further stated that amidst the urgent need for tax simplification and policy certainty, this budget season demands immediate attention towards streamlining taxes in a revenue-neutral manner and ensuring stability for a decade, with a commitment to refrain from introducing new taxes in each budget cycle.



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