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Islamabad starts work to complete 80-km section of Pak-Iran gas pipeline

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi expected to visit Pakistan on Apr 22; Islamabad faces penalty of \$18bn for failure to complete project; 80-km section to be completed in 24 months at cost of Rs44bn.

With Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's expected visit to Pakistan on April 22, authorities have commenced the work to begin the construction of the 80kilometre section of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline from Gwadar to a point where it can be connected with the Iranian section of the project, reported an English daily on Sunday.

As per the publication, citing a senior official of the Energy Ministry, the Inter-State Gas Company (ISGS) has already issued tenders seeking the much-delayed re-validation of survey and sign (FEED) by consultants.

comes amid the United to the bilateral project, coupled with warnings of the pipeline by Februpotential sanctions, which has faced a nearly decade-2014 followed by its ment (GSPA) of the 781operationalisation in Janu- kilometre project.

Over the years, Pakiwhich authorities in Tehran Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Front-End Engineering De- have never subscribed, saying the US sanctions are not The development justified. However, in January, Tehran issued the last States's explicit opposition notice to Islamabad seeking ary-March 2024 or face a \$18 billion penalty under long delay as it was set to the penalty clause of the be completed in December Gas Sales Purchase Agree-

> According to the official, the laying down of the stan maintained that it 80-km section of the pipecould not materialise the line is essential to avoid arproject in its territory be- bitration in France which cause of the US sanctions may lead to the imposition imposed on Iran, a view of the aforesaid penalty on



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman hosts an Iftar at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah for PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Saudi Crown Prince MBS hosts Iftar for PM Shehbaz in Makkah

Monitoring Desk MAKKAH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, on Sunday attended Iftar hosted by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah.

"Crown Mohammed bin Salman hosts an Iftar at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah, attended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Crown Prince of Bahrain, where they all broke their fast together," reported Saudi Ga-

A statement issued by

Defense Minister Khawaja

Muhammad Asif on Satur-

day asserted that Pakistan

was fully prepared to pro-

vide a comprehensive re-

sponse if India takes any

sized Pakistan's readiness

will receive a full reply.

not hold back", he said.

if anything occurs, we will

lighted Pakistan's unwaver-

to defend itself against any

Talking to a private

We are prepared, and

The minister high-

news channel, he empha-solve.

aggressive action.

Khawaja Asif says:

Pakistan stands firm to

defend its sovereignty

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing commitment to safe-

potential threat, stating, "If India's hollow claims of

India takes any action, it military superiority, he

the PM Office said that the crown prince had extended special invitation to PM Shehbaz-led delegation for

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and members of the federal cabinet were also invited to the Iftar, as per the statement.

PM Shehbaz landed in Saudi Arabia on Saturday on a three-day visit from April

He is accompanied by federal ministers Including Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan,

guarding its sovereignty

against any form of aggres-

He pointed to Pakistan's decisive re-

sponse to India's reckless

incursion in February

2019 as evidence of its re-

tent history of exposing

Pakistan has consis-

Khawaja Asif said,

"We've consistently re-

sponded to India swiftly,

and history is bound to re-

Attaullah Tarar, and Ahad Khan Cheema

Earlier Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has arrived in Makkah Mukarama from Madina to perform Umrah.

The members of federal cabinet including Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Attaullah Tarar and Ahad Cheema are accompanying the Prime Minister.

Earlier, the Prime Minister offered Isha prayers and nawafil at Masjid-e-Nabvi and paid respects at Roza-e-Rasool (PBUH).

Secretary **General MWL** Dr Al-Issa visits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr

Mohammad Abdulkarim Al-Issa, a distinguished figure in the realms of religion and philanthropy, on Sunday arrived in Pakistan for a significant visit from 7th April to 16th April 2024, aimed at fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

General of Muslim World League and Chairman of Council of Muslim Scholars, Dr Al-Issa has long been at the forefront of promoting a more inclusive and tolerant understanding

mate Change Governance of the members of the Committee. The committee will be chaired by the Deputy ister, Romina Khursheed Chairman Planning Com-

PM constitutes body to

review climate change

governance, funds

and Mechanisms to access Climate Funds and nominated Climate Change Min-Alam and Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr Abid Suleri as tives from civil society and its members alongwith other senior members.

mate Change and Environ-mental Coordination has cific topics.

ISLAMABAD (APP): issued a detailed notifica-The Prime Minister has tion explaining the conconstituted a high-level text, mandate, terms of committee to review Cli- reference (TORs) and list

mission that comprised of government officials, parliamentarians, representaenvironment NGOs, private sector, research insti-The Minister of Clitutes, and expert/advisors

President Zardari calls for strengthening bilateral ties with Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday called for further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields.



The two leaders spoke over the phone and discussed matters of mutual interest, a post on President of Pakistan X account said.

President Zardari felicitated the Turkish President on the forthcoming Eid-ul-Fitr and invited him to visit Pakistan, besides expressing his best wishes for him and the people of Turkiye, another related X post said.

Norway Removes Pakistan from its National **Threat Assessment List**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a for intelligence and security significant development, Norway has taken the decision to remove Pakistan from its National Threat Assessment List, a private news channel reported on

This decision follows effective diplomatic efforts by Pakistan, which successfully persuaded Nor-wegian authorities to exclude Pakistan's name from their list of nations of security concern.

Sunday

The announcement came through the latest re-Police Security Service, nities for its students and which holds responsibility researchers.

matters within the country.

For years, Pakistan, among other nations, had been listed in Norway's National Threat Assessment, posing challenges for Pakistani students and researchers who encountered obstacles due to their country's inclusion on the list.

Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives bore fruit, leading to its removal from the list

This decision is anticipated to bolster Pakistan's positive image on the global platform and create port issued by Norway's new educational opportu-

Toshakhana case Info minister rebuts Imran's fabricated, baseless allegations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Bushra Bibi in the Information Minister Toshakhana reference "in an Attaullah Tarar on Sunday rebutted former prime minister Imran Khan's allegations against the senior military leadership in connection with the Toshakhana case, saying they were "false, fabricated and base-

The former premier had alleged that the senior

attempt to stifle my spir-Imran and his spouse

were sentenced to 14 years in jail in the case in January, days before the February 8 general elections.

Last week, the Islamabad High Court suspended the sentences. However, appeals against military leadership "implicated" him and his wife are still pending.

ZABhutto's anniversary meeting to be held on April 14

Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would deliver his speech to a large number of people in the public meet-

The meeting decided to ensure the presence of a large number of the people to pay tributes to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on the occasion said that the all arrangements were being made regarding the public meeting. He said that the apex court had washed the dark stain over the court by giving the historical verdict of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's reference. He further said that PPP had continued playing its role in protecting the democracy.

Nisar Khurho and Senator Wagar Mehdi said that the Sindh government had issued directives to step up action against criminal to restore law and order situation in the province.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking with media men on eve of participating in 27th Sehri organized by JDC.

Restoration of law, order top priority of Sindh govt: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan People's Party Leader and Sindh Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Sunday said that the top priority of the Sindh government was to restore law and order situation at any

cost in the province. While reacting to a press conference of MQM-P leader Khawaja Izharul Hassan, he said that the Sindh Chief Minister held a meeting with the IGP

and directed them to restore law and order situation. Nasir Shah said that the Police and Rangers were not only carrying out targeted operations in Karachi but also cracking down on

street crimes. I do not understand, why Khawaja Izhar was feeling bad on the appointment of an IGP of good reputation, he asked.

The minister said that the Sindh government would restore law and or-

Sindh and AIGP Karachi der in the entire province. Police to get rid of bandits from katcha area soon, says IG Sindh

KANDHKOT (INP): Sindh Police has determined to get rid of bandits from katcha area with full support from government, IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon said on Sunday.

Talking to media in Kandhkot, he said the conditions seemed to be improving in katcha area including in Kashmore. "Hopefully we will get rid of bandits soon.

He said police and rangers have been active in katcha area to maintain law

Pointing out tactics of bandit gangs, IG Police said that, earlier they were kidnapping people, now they

honey-trap them.
He said the police saved over 500 people in three months from being abducted with honey-trap adding that the police force has sealed the katcha area. He said police has devised a strategy to control street crimes from Karachi to Kashmore. Ghulam Nabi Memon said several policemen have martyred while fighting with dacoits. He

resolve tribal feuds. Replying a question IG Memon said a joint investigation team working over Priya Kumari case.

said arms sales increases

owing to tribal disputes,

efforts are being made to

reports of differences within PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP) PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat has refuted reports of differences within the

In a statement on Sunday, Marwat stated that all PTI leaders were standing by the party founder's cause, emphasising that this solidarity was impera-

tive at this juncture.

The PTI leader also asserted that he would not respond to any questions about the party in a manner that could sow seeds of discord within its ranks. Marwat announced that PTI leaders, workers and supporters would take to the streets on Feb 8 to reclaim what he believes is the

rightful mandate of the PTI. Police report reveals arsenic presence on threatening letters received by judges

ISLAMABAD (INP) – The Islamabad Police have forwarded the investigation report concerning the threatening letters received by judges of the Islamabad High Court to the Ministry of Interior.

The report reveals that the letters were tainted with arsenic powder, although the amount was not

paving respect at Roza-e-Rasool (SAWW). **MQM-P** blasts Sindh govt over alarming rise in Karachi street crimes

KARACHI (INP): The rising crimes in Karachi are not possible without police acting as accomplices, said MQM-P leader Faisal Subzwari who also asked why the federal government wasn't taking notice of the alarming situation.

Regretting the fact that nothing is being done check the increase in street in crimes in the port city, he said most of the criminals at the end had always been found to be from the police, as he blasted the PPP government over the killing of dozens of people by criminals during robberies.

Subzwari censured the Sindh home minister over his comments in which he had blamed media for disproportional coverage of crimes in Karachi. He must

only after thinking properly, otherwise, remaining silent was the best option, he remarked.

The MQM-P leader said how it was possible that the police didn't receive a share from the criminals snatching mobile phones from citizens when they had been getting money from those involved in illegal business of Iranian oil and the goods meant for Afghan transit trade

MADINA MUNAWWARAH: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif

Subzwari, who was addressing a press conference along with other party leaders, announced that they would formed neighbour committees to keep an eye on the illegal activities and criminal elements. The provincial government had failed miserably in protecting the lives and property of people, he noted.

The law and order was worsening in not just Karachi but also in the entire province, he added – a clear reference to the dacoits operating freely in the Katcha area located along Indus River in upper Sindh.

Subzwari also mentioned that the mobile phones and bikes snatched or stolen in Karachi were not "airlifted" to other parts of the country. The goods were transported by road, he said and questioned how and why the police were no

able to confiscate the same. Speaking on the occasion, another MQM-P leader Khawaja Izharul Hassan said the PPP government in Sindh

Two terrorist killed in North Waziristan, **ISPR**

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between the security forces and terrorists in North Waziristan District on Sun

Pakistan Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which two terrorists were killed. Weapons and explosives were also recovered from them. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Former CS Punjab Javed Mehmood

passes away AHORE (APP): Javed Mehmood, former chief

secretary (CS) Punjab, passed away on Sunday. He had been fighting cancer and receiving treatment at Jinnah Hospital in Lahore, according to the

family sources. The funeral prayers will be held in his hometown, Roshan Bheela in Kasur, at 10am on Monday.

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Sindh Chapter's President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on Sunday

said that the main public meeting of the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's 45th death anniversary would be held at Garhi Khuda Bux on April 14. He said that the Chairman of Pakistan People's

He expressed these

views in a meeting pertaining to the public meeting held at the People's Secretariat. The meeting was attended by PPP Sindh Chapter's General Secretary Senator Waqar Mehdi, Javed Nagori and other PPP

KARACHI: A large number of people getting board on Eid Special Train at Cantt Railway Station, departing to their home towns to celebrate Eidul Fitr, festive with their loved ones.

Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

9th May's sorry saga: Is reconciliation on the table?

While 9th May, 2023's sorry saga would always remain in the mind of each and every patriotic Pakistani as the "black day" and flash when spate of attacks on military installations, memorials, and sanctuaries of martyrs were witnessed in different parts of the country with no exception to the Rawalpindi and Lahore, it is obvious that the State of Pakistan remains resolute in its stance against engaging in any form of negotiation with individuals or groups who have become instruments of external forces to sow discord within the nation.

The whole nation still remembers the gory incidents rather riots in the country by the violent leaders, workers and supporters of a particular political party with its total backing and instigation what was also called as "9/11 type" attacks on the country's national interests. As sorry affairs of the 9 May were just mind boggling and shocking, an impression seems to be created among different circles including social media ones that whether reconciliation is on the table? How can just forget when the violent people had broken the fighter jets of 1965 war, what means they had attacked the pride of Pakistan Air Force attained by defeating the enemy in the air war. Similarly, the model of Chagai Mountain, which reminded the nation of nuclear tests carried out by its scientists that made the country's defence invulnerable, was also set on fire. Then there seemed to be a scheme/method behind that madness on 9th May last year as all such symbols were targeted selectively which had a link either with national heritage or were the pride of the Armed Forces. In this backdrop and that in light of the tragic events of 9 May, one thing must be crystal clear that no dialogue shall be entertained with perpetrators, facilitators or sympathizers associated with the planning and execution of such acts.

Obviously, unless those responsible openly condemn the heinous attack and publicly accept responsibility for their actions without expectation of any absolution from the state, there is no option of con ciliation. They must issue a public apology and commit to abstain from any involvement in similar incidents in the future, what has not been witnessed yet, another sorry state and condemnable. What's most important is that unless those accountable openly denounce the heinous attack and publicly accept re sponsibility for their actions without anticipating absolution from the state, reconciliation is off the table. And of course, they also must issue a public apology and pledge to refrain from any future involvement in similar incidents. It appears to be the policy of state that those individuals who contributed to internal polarization at the behest of external inimical powers, fostering division and promoting hatred to the extent of negating each other's existence, will not be engaged in dialogue. Similarly, individuals who, for vested interested, inflicted economic or political damage while marring the international image of the country will not find any avenue for negotiation or reconciliation with the government. Those who, driven by personal interests, orchestrated economic or political harm against the nation on the international stage. will also not be afforded the opportunity for negotiation or reconciliation at all

"Extrajudicial Killing: Responding to India's Actions"

By Qamar Bashir

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



In January 2024, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary made a significant revelation, alleging that India had orchestrated at least 12 extrajudicial killings in Pakistan linked to the Kashmir cause and the Khalistan movement. This disclosure

marked the third highprofile accusation against India following similar allegations involving Canada and the United States. By engaging in these unlawful acts, India has aligned itself with countries like the USA, Russia, and Israel, known for eliminating adversaries both domestically and interna-

tionally with impunity. The statement made by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary made in January this year did not gain significant traction and was dismissed within and outside the country as routine accusations exchanged between the two countries for political pointscoring, lacking substantial evidence.

The Foreign Secretary's statement was vindicated when similar allegations were corroborated by an investigative report by "The Guardian," on April 4, 2024 disclosing that nearly 20 killings in Pakistan since

report was authenti- and killed in Vancouver, Similarly, strained rela- Pakistan's concrete tions to uncover any cated when in a reveal- Canada, in September tions with the United counteractions. ing interview with CNN, Indian Defense 2023, RAW enlisted Minister Rajnath Singh the help of a hitman in billion and US invest- ernment must be Pakistani soil. This admitted to carrying New York to murder ments totaling \$63.03 thinking of adopting a could out extrajudicial killings and warned of Pannun, another Sikh similar actions in Pakistan if terrorists sought refuge there after committing acts of terrorism. While aimed at Pakistan, this admission hinted at India's readiness to extend such operations across international borders, cells in the UAE, later day, when the Foreign stan have already been including in the territories of influential na-

tions like the USA and

Canada.'

The narrative of the Indian espionage agency was compelnarrative unfolds. India has successfully managed the rebellion and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and has. for the most part, the nation. However, neutralizing their handlers—who were mostly based in Pakistan, the US, and Canada—was a more pressing issue. To resolve the issue, the Indian government authorized RAW to conduct covert operations to kill firebrand Sikh and Kashmiri leaders and handlers, in the US, Canada, and Pakistan motivated by the KGB, Mossad, and CIA, which are notorious for eliminating its enemies abroad.

The Raw launched strikes in three distinct Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a of \$3,754.05 Mn and action to hold India acligence) on its part trajudicial actions.

of 2023. On 30 Nov, Gurpatwant Singh billion. activist, but before the port garnered signifi- ration from the re- sures and monitoring frustrated the attack.

targeting Pakistan. It Later, it cultivated local criminals, Afghan illegal aliens, and assassinations of individuals primarily connected to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, allegedly linked with master-Sikh separatists inside terrorist attacks inside India.

The narrative, while seemingly logical and compelling, ultimately failed to achieve its objectives in any of the three cases. Canada and the United States reacted assertively, issuing stern warnings to India and demanding accountability for the masterminds, financiers, and RAW operatives involved in the killings.

India. The Guardian tivist who was shot Bn in 2022 with India. fell short of outlining thorough investiga-States will impact Indian exports of \$118.8 closed doors, the gov- covert operations on

killer had accom- cant attention in Paki- sponses of Canada suspicious activities plished the task, the stani media, becoming and the United States more closely and de-US security forces the main topic of to similar incidents and veloping appropriate, The Raw was par- however, the Pakistani sponse to India. ticularly careful while government did not First created sleeper sponse until the next tween India and Paki-ture. established a system to Office spokesperson downgraded, how- ing restraint and prifinance the killing issued a detailed press ever, similar to oritizing de-escalaspree through Dubai, release beginning with Canada's expulsion of tion, the Pakistani Nepal, and Mauritius. customary rhetoric, the Indian Ambassador armed forces must but later offered speling. This is how the Jihadis to carry out the Shahid Latif and diplomatic measures to fend the country's Mohammad Riaz.

In both cases, a fessional killer in Pakihended, leading to the and business ties. disclosure of the entire plan to Pakistani authorities.

Canada went a step United Nation Charter, volve filing formal besides increasing further by expelling the violating the sover- complaints or seeking collaboration with al-Indian Ambassador eignty and integrity of resolutions condemn- lied nations and muland downgrading dip- Pakistan and interna- ing India's violation of tiplying diplomatic eflomatic and economic tional diplomatic Pakistan's sover- forts aimed at garnerties. This action could norms, and calling on eignty nations as part of Compotentially jeopardize the international compliance. It eliminated Canadian Investment munity for collective (Inter-Services Intel- ability for India's ex-

The Guardian reproach, drawing inspi- terintelligence meaprime-time talk shows, giving a befitting re-

register its protest.

RAW agent stationed economic ties have alprovocations. This abroad recruited a pro- ready been down- may have included graded, and this devel- enhancing border sestan, who then as- opment has impeded curity, and maintaintightened its grip over minding high profile sembled a team of tar- any possible efforts ing preparedness to get killers responsible through formal or in- respond effectively for targeted assassina- formal channels to re- to any hostile action. In both the cases, connect any meaning- tions, similar to the assassins were appre- ful trade, investment responses against

> actively engaging with and Afghanistan. the international com-

2020 were attributed to well-known Sikh ac- Bilateral trade of \$9.9 countable. However, it must be conducting other instances of for-While behind eign interference or involve firm and strategic ap- strengthening counproportional and effective countermea-Though the diplo-sures as deterrent to provide its official re- matic relations be- any such attack in fu-

While maintain-

and reduction of dip- have already incific details about two lomatic ties, Pakistan creased vigilance assassinations: that of may be considering and readiness to desovereignty against Pakistan-India potential threats or past airspace viola-Pakistan must be tions by India, Iran,

Pakistan's re-The Press Release munity, particularly sponse should be calprimarily drafted for through the United culated, strategic, and consumption of the Nations and other focused on exposing media ended with a multilateral forums, India's misconduct safe, calibrated and to raise awareness on the international measured customary and seek support for stage while ensuring response, where it con- holding India ac- the protection of demned India, charged countable for its ac- Pakistan's national init for breaking the tions. This could in- terests and security ing support and The Pakistani ISI achieving account-

Commerce News

CM KP for modern farming technology in agriculture

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chaired an Agriculture Department, in which important policy decisions were taken to develop the agriculture sector on modern lines. The Chief Minister has directed the relevant authorities to take innovative measures in order to have maximum production with minimum cost, adding that modern farming technology should be introduced and the field of research in agriculture be aligned with contemporary requirements for this

He further directed them to collect detailed data of agricultural lands across

income for the provincial government. He directed that agriculture department should cultivate itself instead of giving these agricultural lands on contracts. However, he said encouraged to cultivate saffron in the land suitable for this purpose.

The Chief Minister the province and to take

PESHAWAR (Online): necessary steps for the further directed them to cultivation of saffron in initiate wild olive grafting suitable lands by upcoming program in the merged season, adding that saffron districts. He underlined the important meeting of crops being grown in need for the construction neighboring countries of small artificial dams to should also be evaluated in cultivate vegetables in the order to have better districts where there is shortage of water, adding production. He urged upon that drip irrigation system authorities to ensure useful can also be introduced in utilization of available such areas; agricultural agriculture land in the activities should be carried province so as to make it out keeping in view the an effective source of specific climatic conditions and other related aspects

> province. Self-sufficiency in agricultural production is much needed to control prevailing inflation, he said that farmers should also be and added that his government will extend its all-out support to agriculture department for

of different regions of the



RAWALPINDI: A worker hanging vermicelli for dry at his workplace as demand increased for upcoming Eidul Fitr Festival.

Int'l Conference on Food: Over 27 % world population face food shortage

MULTAN Chairman Department of Human Nutrition Dr Tauseef Sultan has said that about 27 percent of world population was faced with issue of food insecurity. However, Half of Pakistan's populace is undergoing malnutrition.

He said this while addressing International Conference at the department. The world conference was attended by scholars like Dr suffered badly in terms of Esatanely (Nigeria), Dr

Traner (Indonesia), Ahmed ul Aareb (Saudi Arabia), Dr Amjid (Turkiye), Dr Ansar (Australia), Mazhar Iqbal (Doaba Foundation), Pervaiz Iqbal Ansari (Farmers Development Organization), Dean Department of Food Science and Nutrition Dr Saeed Akhtar and many others attended the conference. According to World Hunger Index 2021 22, nine countries were food insecurity.

the purpose. Wheat procurement drive to commence from April 22: DC

FAISALABAD (APP) Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh said on Sunday that wheat procurement drive in Faisalabad would start from April 22, 2024.

Chairing a meeting, he directed the Food Department to complete necessary arrangements for issuance of 'Bardana' (bags) to farmers so that wheat procurement could be started on time. He said that distribution of 'Bardana' would start from April 19 and for the purpose, wheat growers should apply through 'Bardana App' from April 13, 2024.

He said that 11 procurement centres would be made functional where farmers could sell their produce government-fixed rate.

He directed the assistant commissioners and food controllers to finalise their arrangements at tehsil level so that the wheat procurement drive could be launched in a fair and transparent manner.



IBECHS Tariq Mehmood discussing matters of bilateral interest during a

Kyrgyz businessmen want to collaborate with Pakistani counterparts, says Meher

Honorary Consul of entrepreneurs to Pakistani counterpart underscores the potential for deeper economic ties between the two countries.

Sharing the outcome of his recent two-week long visit to Kyrgyzstan with a delegation of exporters and importers led by the response from Kyrgyz Chaudhry Faran Shahid counterparts was

Arain here, he said the overwhelmingly positive, Pakistani trade delegation reflecting a Kyrgyzstan, Meher Kashif under his leadership Younis said on Sunday that remained engaged in a tremendous positive series of fruitful and result-response from Kyrgyzstan oriented meetings with oriented meetings with representatives from both the private and public

> The primary focus was on exploring avenues for cooperation in key sectors, notably pharmaceuticals, textiles and education etc. He said

shared enthusiasm for collaboration. Meher said that

beyond these specific sectors, the delegation also emphasized the importance of strengthening overall bilateral trade cooperation between the two countries. By building upon existing economic ties and exploring avenues collaboration, they aimed to enhance mutual prosperity and contribute

Tailors overcharging Prices of poultry, irk Eid shoppers in KP PESHAWAR (APP): The demanding upto Rs3,000

overcharging by tailors have irked Eid shoppers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and demanded of the district administration to take stern action against price-hikers and profiteers.

As only few days left in Eidul Fitr celebrations, the male and female tailors started overcharging people by earning almost double profit in the last days of Ramazan than normal days that annoyed customers of all aged

groups Ìn Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera, the tailors are heavily customers charging

per suit for stitching these Expressing davs. dissatisfaction

overcharging and quality of stitching clothes by tailors, the Eid shoppers asked the district administration to maintain check and balance over the market rates and regulate charges of tailoring as quickly as possible.

The tailors started looting people as one suit was being stitched at Rs Rs2500 to Rs3000 these

Therefore, I opted to buy ready-made cloth to save tailors charges," said Oaiser Khan a resident of Nowshera district

ghee surge in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Prices of poultry, ghee, and cooking oil have surged in Bahawalpur, however, the price of eggs has decreased.

APP learned on Sunday that the poultry meat was sold out at Rs 619 per kilogram, and Banaspati ghee was sold out at Rs 440 per kilogram which earlier, was sold out at Rs 430 per kilogram. Cooking oil was sold out at Rs 450 to 550 per kilogram as per different varieties. respectively. However, eggs per dozen were sold out at Rs 243 which earlier, were sold out at Rs 480 per dozen.

Beggars flock to Lahore's markets, malls ahead of Eid

Ul-Fitr approaches, professional beggars have flocked to markets, main roads, Ramazan bazaars, traffic signals and shopping malls to seek fortunes. The beggars of all age groups can be seen seeking alms outside mosques after prayers and at shopping centres, markets, as scores of people head to markets for Eid shopping in the evening. Also they ensure their presence at traffic signals and other major roads and use different ways to seek alms from

But the story goes beyond further as several

LAHORE (APP): As Eid- begging rackets become active as Eid draws nearer. These begging rackets divide their respective areas while special persons are deployed to monitor their activities and "earnings" on special occasions like Eid, said an elderly man Mushtaq Ali Likewise, Bushra, an 16year-old girl, who seeks alms on Ferozepur Road, told APP that no one from her family was educated and this was the best way to earn a living. Bushra said that she come here daily from Sundar Adda along with her mother, 9-year-old brother and a younger sister to seek alms as this is the best way to earn a square meal, she told APP.



PESHAWAR: The shopkeeper is selling vegetables on city Sabzi mandi.

NEPRA disposed of 17,545 consumers' complaints ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Consumer Affairs Department of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) disposed of, 17,545 complaints of electricity consumers against various power distribution companies (DISCOs) during the last fiscal year 2022-23 while 1,294 were still under process.

According to official data, the authority received a total of 18,839 complaints from the electricity consumers against various DISCOs during the fiscal year 2022-

As per breakup, out of total, the head office Electric Supply Company.

received 2,209 consumers' complaints against various DISCOs while the regional offices received 16,630 complaints during the last fiscal year.

Similarly, the head office disposed off a total of 1,946 complaint while the regional offices disposed off 15,599 complaints of consumers during the said period.

The head office received a total of 313 complaints Islamabad Electric Supply Company, 268 Peshawar Electric Supply Company, 223 Hyderabad Electric Supply Company, 419 K-Electric, 133 Sukkur

Campaign

against drugs

continues

in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): On

special direction of Chief

Minister Punjab Maryam

Nawaz Sharif, the

campaign against users and

sellers of drugs has been

more than 10,000 raids

were conducted across

Punjab, in which 4713

accused were arrested and

4941 FIRs were registered

Over 3,398 kg hashish and

20 kg opium were

recovered, besides the

recovery of 17.5 kg of the

Four daily wages

sanitary workers

seriously

unconscious

Independent Report

SHIKARPUR: The Four

Daily Wages sanitary work

ers went unconscious and

sent to Shikarpur District

Headquarter Ĥospital for

medical treatment where

unavailabity of health facili-

ties, were referred to Sukkur

According to reports, one Daily Wage

Sanitary worker Qavi

Kumar was on it's Munici-

pal Committee duty en-

tered in the main hole for

sanitary work and sud-

denly went out of sense

due to heavy gutter gas in-

side, later three other sani-

hospital on Sunday.

most dangerous drug, ice.

In the last 17 days

intensified.

Govt decides to complete ongoing tourism, culture projects on priority: Advisor

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zahid Chanzeb on Sunday said that the provincial government has issued clear directives for early completion of all ongoing projects on priority basis under the Tourism, Culture Archeology

He said that it is also decided to transform the archeological sites, ruins, museums and religious places in the province as per the requirements of the modern era, initiate its digital marketing, provide more facilities to the visitors and prepare documentaries in the languages and cultures of

It has also been campaign to spread such people there through diplomatic means. This was revealed by

Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology, during his visit to the Provincial Tourism and Culture Secretariat in Peshawar and the briefing held there on. During the visit, he held introductory meeting with the tourism the various sections of the department.

the committee room of the department, he urged the

PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali addresses

to media persons during ceremony of the Journalists

Ramadan Sports Gala, held at Peshawar press club.

21 dead, 1587

injured in 1430

RTCs in Punjab

Independent Report

persons were killed and

1587 injured in 1430 Road

Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in

all 37 districts of Punjab

during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 725 people

with serious injuries were

shifted to different

hospitals, while 862

victims with minor injuries

were treated at the incident

site by Rescue Medical

burden of Hospitals.

Teams thus reducing the



He said that tourism Zahid Chanzeb, the Advisor to the Chief leave their offices and Minister Khyber work side by side with the field staff for obtaining better results so that they could be aware of the ground realities of their espective fields.

Likewise, he said development schemes should not be delayed in any way, while in case of officers and learned about unavoidable situations, financial or administrative difficulties should be Addressing the directly brought to his meeting that was held at notice so as to ensure its timely resolution at the highest level.



By Aijaz Mughal MERKOT: The family of the young man who has been missing for several days from police custody is in shock. Rally and protest in front of the Press Club on behalf of the heirs, on the request of the father, Sessions Judge Umerkot summoned the police. Demand of the victim's family to take notice from the Supreme Court and the

higher authorities. According to the details, 20-year-old Umair Ahmed Mughal, a resident of Mohalla Bhitai Colony, has been mysteriously missing for the past several days. On behalf of his relatives and citizens under the leadership of his troubled son Muhammad Asif Mughal A rally was taken out from Allahwala Chowk and a strong protest was held in front of Press Club

The protestors were holding pictures of the missing youth in their hands, on which were written slogans for the recovery of the youth.

Rather than avoiding

meant "understanding that

we can only make progress

if we directly and openly

communicate with one an-

other", the Treasury chief said. Yellen also stressed,

ahead of talks with Beijing

mayor Yin Yong, the need

cials to understand China's

play a critical role, from

boosting consumption to

addressing overinvestment

and Beijing of course has

particular importance," she

said A senior treasury offi-

cial told reporters on Sat-

urday that Washington be-

lieves household spending

needs to be a bigger part of

China's economy. Speaking

to professors from the Pe-

king University National

School of Development,

Yellen said she was keen to

hear their perspectives on

'the potential long-term

impacts of today's policy

decisions".

"Local governments

"economic future"



hometowns to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with their loved ones.

Commissioner visits bus terminals, reviews facilities

LAHORE (APP): Lahore of another unannounced Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa Sunday visited bus terminals to ensure that no passengers, going to their hometown to celebrate Eid, was overcharged by the bus services.

In a surprise visit to the Badami Bagh Lorry Adda, he checked tickets expressed his displeasure upon finding men present in the women's passenger hall. He ordered for deployment of a guard outside the women's hall and warned

visit to ensure compliance. In a strict move to ensure passenger safety, Commissioner Randhawa suspended a passenger bus for 72 hours for issuing a ticket for roof travel to Lucky Marwat. He said the administrator lorry adda and secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) were also guardians of passengers' lives and safety, and instructed them to take stern action against any instances of passengers

traveling on roofs or complaints of overcharging. Irregularities in purchase of health equipment surfaced in IKDP: Audit Report

PESHAWAR Complaints of widespread irregularities procurement of equipment

and construction contracts at the Institute of Kidney Diseases Peshawar surfaced in an audit report released here Sunday.

According to an audit report, by buying various equipment for the kidney center expensive prices from the market rate and giving the construction contract to

(APP): has caused a loss of millions of rupees.

In the audit report of the Institute of Kidney Disease Peshawar. objections were raised on medical devices and other

Medical equipment and other items were purchased at prices higher than the market rate and by purchasing medical equipment at higher prices, the exchequer suffered a loss of Rs 9.7 million, the company after according to the audit approval, the exchequer report.

sand/stone supply chain LAHORE (APP): In a of sand and stone, with significant crackdown on daily kickbacks totaling illegal mining activities, a millions extracted from major operation, led by local officials and Provincial Minister for employees, severely Mines & Minerals, Sardar undermining the national Mines & Minerals, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, treasury.

Minister uncovers huge

corruption in illegal mining,

uncovered corruption and illicit practices in the sand and stone supply chain, amounting to millions of rupees in losses to the national exchequer. operation,

conducted mountainous region of Sakhi Sarwar, DG Khan, revealed widespread irregularities in the supply

Accompanied by his team and local lawenforcement, Minister Gorchani personally oversaw the swift apprehension of suspects, resulting in the filing of multiple FIRs and immediate suspension orders issued against the Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Mines & Minerals Department



SKARDU: A participant reciting Holy Quran during the Husn-e-Qiraat and Hafiz Quran competition at Jamia Masjid Skardu-Baltistan in the Ĥoly Month of Ramazan.

Over 70,000 Pakistani children born with heart defects each year

gering number of Pakistani children, exceeding 70,000 annually, are born with congenital heart disease (CHD), according to healthcare professionals. This alarming statistic high-lights a critical public health concern in the country.

Professor Dr. Sohail Khan Bangash, head of the pediatric surgery unit at the National Institute of Cardiology (NICVD), Karachi, sheds light on the break-down of these cases. He reveals that roughly 80% of these children have holes in their hearts, while the remaining 20% suffer from ments. Ages of affected chil-portance of early detection.

KARACHI (INP): A stag- dren range from newborns to 14 years old. The lack of readily available specialized care is another pressing issue. Dr. Bangash emphasizes the scarcity of pediatric heart specialists in Pakistan, with only 100 physicians and a mere 25 pediatric heart surgeons nationwide. Karachi itself houses just 7 surgeons. with 4 stationed at the NICVD, and one each at Aga Khan Hospital, Liaquat National Hospital,

This shortage significantly impacts access to treatment. Dr. Hameedullah Malik, a pediatric physivarious other heart ail- cian, underscores the im-

and SIUT.

International News

Yellen, Premier Li express hope for US-China cooperation

Furthermore, the

analysis showed those 855

drivers, 62 underage drivers, 174 pedestrians, and 579 passengers were

among the victims of road

traffic crashes. The statistics show that 301

RTCs were reported in

Lahore which affected 321

persons placing the Provincial

Capital at top of the list

followed by Faisalabad 101

in with 119 victims and at

third Gujranwala with 83

RTCs and 78 victims.

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: United States Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen and Chinese Premier Li Qiang sounded a hopeful tone on US-China cooperation on Sunday, though the American policymaker noted both sides cannot shy away from tough conversations.

The US-China relationship can only move forward with direct and open communication, Yellen told Li, after arriving in the Chinese capital from the southern city of Guangzhou.

"China sincerely hopes that the two countries will be partners, not adversaries," Li said in welcoming remarks to Yellen. He added that Chinese internet users have closely followed the details of her trip since her appearance in Guangzhou, showing "expectation and hope for the China-US relationship to

continue to improve"

city, including hours of discussions with her counter- hard conversations, this has part, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Both countries have since agreed to hold talks on balanced growth under an existing working group, allowing officials to discuss the key US concern of overcapacity.

This refers to a situation where Chinese govern- to engage with local offiment support to industries fuels production capacity, but risks a surge of exports at depressed prices to the global market, undercutting international competitors. Washington is especially

to do, I believe that, over the past year, we have put our bilateral relationship on more stable footing," she said in opening remarks to Premier Li as she began two

Yellen held a series of days of high-level talks in meetings in the southern port Beijing. Gaza's largest hospital an 'empty shell' with

human graves: WHO

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The World Health Organisation said on Saturday that Gaza's largest hospital had been reduced to ashes by Israel's latest siege, leaving an "empty shell" with many bodies. Israeli forces pulled out of Al Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Monday after a two-week military operation, during which it said it had battled Palestinian militants inside what was once the Palestinian territory's most important medical complex. A WHOled mission finally accessed the hospital on Friday, after multiple failed attempts since March 25, the UN health agency said, describing the massive destruction

"WHO and partners managed to reach Al Shifa once the backbone of the health system in Gaza. which is now an empty

concerned about this phenomenon in new industries such as electric vehicles and solar energy. Yellen's trip marks her second visit to China in less than a year. While we have more

shell with human graves af-

ter the latest siege," agency

chief Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus wrote on X

seen "at least five dead bod-

ies during the mission"

They had also found that

"most of the buildings in

the hospital complex are ex-

tensively destroyed and

the majority of assets dam-

the WHO chief said. "Even

restoring minimal function-

ality in the short term

seems implausible," he said.

adding that "an in-depth as-

sessment by a team of en-

gineers is needed to deter-

mine if the remaining build

ings are safe for future use"

Tedros lamented that ef-

forts by WHO and other

aid groups to revive basic

services at Al Shifa after

Israel's first devastating raid

on the hospital last year "are

aged or reduced to ashes'

He said the team had

formerly Twitter.

US, Russian, **Belarus ISS** colleagues return to Earth

Monitoring Desk naut, a Russian cosmonaut and Belarus's first ever space traveller on Saturday returned to Earth safely after a fortnight aboard the International Space Station, Russia's Roscosmos agency re-

"Today, at 10:17am Moscow time (0717 GMT), the descent vehicle of Sozuz MS-24 manned spacecraft landed near the Kazakh city of Zhezkazgan," Roscosmos reported. "The (vessel's) deorbit and its descent to Earth went off normally, the agency added.

Russian cosmonau Oleg Novitsky and the first ever Belarusian cos-Marina monaut. Vassilevskaya, "spent 14 days in orbit", while American astronaut Loral O'Hara completed a 204day mission.



at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Israeli embassies 'no longer safe' after Syria strike: Iran **Monitoring Desk**

Iran's supreme leader warned on Sunday that Israeli embassies are "no longer safe" after a strike in Syria which Tehran blamed

on Israel killed seven Revolutionary Guards members. 'The embassies of the Zionist regime are no longer safe," Yahya Rahim Safavi, senior adviser to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was quoted as saying by the ISNA

news agency. Tehran has vowed to venge Monday's air strike on Damascus that

levelled the Iranian embassy's consular annex, killing seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members including two generals.

The resistance front is ready; how it (the response) will be, we have to wait," Safavi said, noting that "confronting this brutal regime is a legal and legitimate right".

He also noted that multiple Israeli embassies around the region "have been shuttered' There was no imme-

diate comment from Israel.

Mexico says diplomatic staff leave Ecuador after embassy raid

Monitoring Desk QUITO: Mexico's diplo-

matic personnel were leaving Ecuador on Sunday, its foreign minister said, as the two countries severed ties after Quito's security forces stormed the Mexican embassy in a raid that prompted searing international rebukes.

'Our diplomatic staff are leaving everything in Ecuador and returning home with their heads held high [...] after the assault on our embassy," said Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena on social network X, formerly Twitter. She spoke after Spain and the European Union joined the United Nations chief and Latin American countries in condemning Quito for the raid — which it carried out in a bid to arrest former Ecuadoran vice president Jorge Glas, who was sheltering at the embassy

Glas sought refuge there last December after an arrest warrant was issued against him for alleged cor-

Blast kills seven children in Syria

Monitoring Desk dren were killed in southern Syria's Daraa province on Saturday when an "ex plosive device" detonated, state media reported.

'Seven children" were killed "and two other people were injured, one of them a woman, when an explosive device planted by terrorists" went off in the city of Sanamayn, state news agency SANA reported, quoting a police source. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor gave a different toll, saying that 'eight children of different ages were killed and another was wounded" in the blast.

Israeli military reduces troops in southern Gaza, spokesperson says **Monitoring Desk**

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military has withdrawn all ground troops from the southern Gaza Strip except for one brigade, a military spokesperson said on Sunday.

The military did not immediately provide further details. It was unclear whether the withdrawal would delay a long-threatened incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which Israeli leaders have said is needed to eliminate Hamas

in militia attack in eastern Congo **Monitoring Desk** ety leader, told Reuters. BUNIA, Democratic Republic of Congo (Reuters)

25 civilians killed

The death toll from an attack in a village in eastern Democratic Republic of

Congo's Ituri province rose to 25 on Sunday, a local chief and civil society leader said, after a government spokesman and a U.N. document confirmed the attack on Saturday. The Cooperative for

the Development of the Congo (CODECO) group, one of many militias operating in the conflict-ridden east, carried out the killings in the village of Galayi, 70 km (45 miles) northwest of the city of Bunia, they said.

Fifteen bodies were addition to 10 bodies recovered on Saturday, Banzala Danny, a local chief, and Vital Tungulo, a civil soci-released in March.

An internal U.N. document seen by Reuters, and Jules Ngongo, spokesperson for the governor of Îturi province, both confirmed the attack and the initial death toll of 10 civil-

"We assure that all the killers will be punished by justice," Ngongo said. The human rights situation in Ituri has deteriorated since the beginning of the year as CODECO carries out more attacks, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) said in a report published in March CODECO and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), another militia group, are discovered on Sunday, in responsible for most civilian killings in eastern DRC, according to a report by the

US, Britain, Australia weigh expanding AUKUS security pact to deter China, FT says

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The US, Britain and Australia are set to begin talks on bringing new members into their AUKUS security pact as Washington pushes for Japan to be involved as a deterrent against China, the Financial Times re-

The countries' defence ministers will announce discussions on Monday on "Pillar Two" of the pact, which commits the members to jointly developing quantum computing, undersea, hypersonic, artificial intelligence and cyber technology, the newspaper reported on Saturday, citing people familiar with the situation.

They are not considering expanding the first pillar, which is designed to deliver nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia, the FT said.

AUKUS, formed by the three countries in knowledge of the talks said.

2021, is part of their efforts to push back against China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific region. China has called the AUKUS pact dangerous and warned it could spur a regional arms race.

Rahm Emanuel, the US ambassador in Tokyo, wrote in an opinion piece, opens new tab in the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday that Japan was 'about to become the first additional Pillar II partner". A senior U.S. admin-

istration official told Reuters on Wednesday that some sort of announcement could be expected in the coming week about Japan's involvement but gave no details. Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will likely discuss expanding AUKUS to include Japan when the president hosts the prime minister in Washington on Wednesday, a source with

Govt orders Wapda employees to submit zero power theft surety certificates

ISLAMABAD (INP): The cial will be held responsible. federal government has decided to launch a crackdown against Wapda officers and officials who were found involved in power theft and in this respect, the Power Division Ministry has sought surety certificates from Senior Superintendents to Linesmen of

According to details, now all power distribution companies' officers and other staff will submit surety certificates to the government that their areas are free from power theft and if any irregularity is found in the area then the set by the International concerned officer and offi- Monetary Fund.

The Pakistani government has announced a crackdown on electricity theft in the country in a bid to reduce power bills. Last week, protests erupted across the country with electricity consumers burning copies of their bills and vowing not to pay them alleging they were inflated and beyond their means.

A partial shutterdown strike was observed in different parts of the country, prompting the government to take measures to reduce power bills without violating the terms

Senate Secretariat establishes facilitation desk for Senators-elect

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ters to the Senators. Addi-Senate Secretariat has established a facilitation desk in the Parliament House on Sunday to assist and support the recently elected members of the Upper House of the Parliament.

Muhammad Qasim Khan, the Secretary of the Senate, has already sent leting the incoming Senators.

nation on Sunday paid sa-

lute to the martyrs of

Gayari Sector tragedy on its

12th anniversary remem-

bering the tragic loss of sol-

diers after a large avalanche

hit an army unit in the

Siachen Glacier on April

By Tanveer Ahmad

Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO:

Deputy Commissioner

Ghotki visited the markets

of Mirpur Mathelo,

checked the prices of con-

sumer goods, strict action

should be taken against

those who cause inflation,

tails, Deputy Commis-

Muhammad Ali Shah, As-

sistant Commissioner

Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali

along with Mukhtiar Kar

Abul Hasan Rahoo visited

the markets and reviewed

them. Instructions have

According to the de-

Ghotki Dr.

tionally, he has directed the formation of a coordination committee to manage the registration and facilitation procedures for the newly elected Senate members. Staff members from

different departments are actively involved in assist-

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur

an avalanche struck the mili-

tary unit, an Inter Services

Public Relations (ISPR)

teams had declared this

mission impossible, but the

Pakistan Army, especially

the Engineers Corps, car-

been issued to take effec-

tive measures to prevent artificial inflation. Deputy

Commissioner Ghotki Dr.

Syed Muhammad Ali said

on this occasion that artifi-

cial inflation is not accept-

able in any case. That they

buy according to the offi-

cial price list. He directed

the Assistant Commis-

sioner and Commissioner

that all the shopkeepers

should be made to display

the price lists while fines

should be imposed on the

wholesalers who charge ar-

bitrary prices so that the

grievances of the people can

be redressed.

The foreign rescue

news release said.

chairing a meeting of the Agriculture Department.

Nation salutes martyrs

of Gayari Sector Tragedy

on 12th anniversary

RAWALPINDI (APP): The diers were martyred when

The Northern Light ried out the mission with

Infantry (NLI) battalion great courage and bravery.

headquarters was com- In memory of the martyrs,

pletely destroyed in the the Yadgar-e-Shahada (mar-

tragedy while none of the tyrs' monument) as a monu-

people present could be ment was erected on the

DC Ghotki vists markets

to check prices

rescued alive as 129 sol- high peak of Siachen.



KARACHI: Dua for prosperity and development of the country being offered during a Mehfil organized by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on eve of 27th Ramzan ul Mubarak night.

PUC welcomes Dr Al-Issa's visit, anticipates boost in interfaith harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Sunday extended a warm welcome to Mohammad

Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League (MWL), as he embarks on a pivotal visit to Pakistan from April 7 to 16, 2024. media, Talking to

Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi said the visit is anticipated to herald a new era of collaboration and understanding, fostering interfaith harmony

Rs732,000 fines

imposed on

transporters for

overcharging

in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The

Transport Department and

Mass Transit Department

Sindh have intensified their

crackdown on the collec-

tion of additional fares, as

instructed by Senior Min-

ister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

In their latest campaign, a total of 1012 ve-

hicles were meticulously

inspected, resulting in a significant return of Rs. 22

lakh 85 thousand to passer

gers who were overcharged

on the spot. Furthermore,

fines amounting to Rs

732,000 were imposed on

transporters found guilty of

charging extra fare.
Senior Minister

Sharjeel Inam Memon em-

phasized that ensuring fair

fare collection and provid-

ing relief to passengers re-

mains the government's

KP policeman

arrested in

Karachi with

smuggled arms

in school bag

KARACHI (INP): Counter

Terrorism Department in-

telligence wing in a raid

foiled arms smuggling in a school bag in Karachi. In-charge CTD Raja Umar Khattab has said that

an in-service constable of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa po-

lice was arrested in raid.

Weapons recovered from

"Arrested suspect has

the school bag carried by accused Azharuddin," CTD

been affiliated with an in-ter-provincial arm smug-

gling gang," Raja Umar Khattab said. "This gang

used to supply online

official said.

foremost priority.

and cooperation in the re-

He emphasized the significance of Secretary General Al-Issa's visit, highlighting his steadfast commitment to humanizing the world and enabling individuals to practice their faiths and beliefs freely. Ashrafi commended Dr. Al-Issa's efforts in promoting tolerance and understanding on a global

specifically pointed to the recent global conference organized by the MWL, titled

Islamic Schools of Thought and Sects," to enhance understanding and unity among different Islamic schools of thought and sects. Ashrafi lauded the initiative as a crucial step towards fostering greater cohesion within the Mus-

Expressing optimism about the outcomes of Al-Issa's visit, he underscored the potential for strengthened bilateral ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, particularly in the realm of religious pluralism. Ashrafi

lim world.

tance of collaboration between the two brotherly nations in various sectors marked by mutual respect

General engages in a series of meetings and engagements during his visit, he expressed hope that Dr. Al-Issa's presence will serve as a catalyst for enhanced interfaith dialogue and cooperation, paving the way for a more harmonious and inclusive society in Pakistan and beyond.

Shangla attack: Report reveals vehicle carrying Chinese nationals was not bullet, bomb-proof

PESHAWAR (INP) - The to their camp in Dasu. preliminary investigation of Besham suicide attack on Chinese nationals show that neither their vehicle was bullet nor bombproof.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police sent second report of the tragic incident to federal govern-

The report revealed that a woman engineer was also among the deceased. Five Chinese nationals

were killed when the vehicle they were travelling by was attacked near Besham - a town located in Shangla disof Pakhtunkhwa.

A suicide bomber had rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the convoy of Chinese engineers which was on its way from Islamabad

According to report, the bus of Chinese nationals plunged into a 300-feet deep ditch after the suicide

The Besham police station was just 6 KM away from the site of incident while Dasu dam was at the distance of 77 KM. The report added that

the CCTV cameras were installed in all the buses of Chinese convoy.

Earlier, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed to have arrested more than 10 terrorists and their facilitators involved in the attack.

Dasu is the site of a major dam and the area had been attacked in the past. A blast on a bus had killed 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals, in 2021.



LARKANA: Members of Government Secondary Teachers Association (GSTA) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Gift of Eid clothes distributed among the children of

By Adeel Ahmed Dall SHIKARPUR: CEO Indus Cottage libraries Net work Pakistan(ICLN)visited the schools of Shikarpur along with other social and

Gifts of Eid clothes were distributed among students in different schools of Shikarpur, Zarkhail and Sultankot.

CEO of Indus Cottage Libraries Network Paki-Agha with Chairman of Shikarpur Social and Literary Forum, syed Naseem Bukhari, Mr parwaiz Abro CEO of famous NGO CARD and Secretary of Sindhi Adabi Sangat branch, Shikarpur, Dr. Aamir Abbas Soomro, Babar Ali Farooqui. And the famous writer Anwar Ali Soomro paid tribute to the students and teachers who showed interest in

operation in the establishment of libraries. Dr. Amir Abbas soomro said said that knowledge is the third eye of a person that takes him from floor to the throne. CEO "CARD" Parvez Abro said that knowledge and love of books make human charac-

Well-known columnist Naseem Bukhari said that school libraries play an important role in the intellectual development of chil-

Muhammed CEO ICLN PAKISTAN who especially came from Islamabad said that There is a serous need to promote book reading culture in our society because some people are promoting the culture of fighting and friction and we need reading books in our schools to promote the culture of reading books through the libraries to make them knowledgeable



and cooperation. As MWL Secretary

SSP issue directives for city traffic plan during Eid

LARKANA (APP):SSP Larkana, Mir Rohal Khan Khoso on Sunday directed traffic sergeants to enforce the traffic plan effectively to improve traffic flow ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Emphasizing citizen facilitation, the SSP stressed the provision of necessary facilities to alleviate all manner of issues. Stringent measures, including legal action, were instructed against vehicles parked im-

Considering the burgeoning population and traffic congestion, the SSP mandated strict enforcement, particularly against overloading and driving without proper lights, at-tributing them to frequent

Transporters increases fare amidst Eid travel rush

KARACHI Karachiites preparing for Eid al-Fitr celebrations are flocking to bus terminals, eager to travel to their hometowns. However, this

festive travel comes with a hefty price tag, as transporters have significantly inflated fares.

Much like the previous year, transporters have hiked fares as Eid approaches, eliciting complaints from commuters about exorbitant charges. Key bus terminals such as Cantt Station, Taj Complex, Empress Market, Sohrab Goth, Lasbela, Nishtar Road, Liaquatabad, and Yusuf Goth have witnessed protests against the escalated rates.

Solar Eclipse will not be visible in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has said that the total Solar Eclipse on April 08 and 09 will not be visible in Pakistan including Sindh.

However, it will be visible from West in Europe, North America, North in South America, Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic.

NDF distributes wheelchairs among disables

NAWABSHAH (APP): National Disability Forum (NDF) Pakistan Nawabshah distributed wheelchairs and tricycles among disabled people. On this occasion, eminent social activist Abid Lashari said that as many as 7 wheelchairs and one tricycles were distributed among disabled from the donation given by Afzal Shaikh, who resides in

Hot, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted hot and dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

India cannot suppress Kashmiris' stance through military force: APHC-AJK

All Parties Hurriyat Con- different areas of Jammu ference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has said that India's continued military and police terrorism cannot suppress the Kashmiris stance on their right to self-determination in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kash-

APHC-AJK Convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said that India had actually converted the occupied territory into a military and police garrison. He said India has occupied more lands of the Kashmiris after 2019 on designs of Israeli style of which Indian troops and non-Kashmiris established in the region.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The were being allotted lands in and Kashmir.

He said that actually India was distorting the population ratio in IIOJK by issuing large-scale domicile to non-Kashmiris in the occupied territory

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar said the dream of permanent peace in South Asia cannot be realized without resolving the longpending Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He urged the international community to play its role in resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute so that durable peace could be

Karachiites demands release of founder Chairman Imran Khan.

Independent Report KARACHI: In a significant political development, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) staged a rally in East Karachi district, demanded the release of its founder chairman, Imran Khan, the participants of rally made protest against theft of PTI mandate, and demanded judicial freedom.

The rally commenced from Hakim Saeed Ground University Road near Baitul Mukarram Masjid of Gulshan-e-Iqbal Karachi, a spot in Karachi accessible from various routes, reached Shahrah-e Quaidin.

The event saw the participation of prominent PTI leaders, including Haleem Adil Sheikh, President of PTI Sindh, along with Raja Azhar, President of PTI Karachi, and other key figures of PTI like Jamal Siddiqui, Arslan Khalid, Fahim Khan, Amjad Jah, Nazirullah Mehsud, Waqas Khan, Agha Arslan, Sarina Adnan, Aftab Jahangir, and others.

Joining the rally were representatives from various wings of PTI, includ-united for peace, rule of law,

Women Wing, Insaf Youth Wing, Insaf Student Federation, and others. Participants of the rally vigorously expressed their demands for Imran Khan's release and vehemently condemned the theft of the mandate and demand for

freedom of judiciary. Addressing the rally participants, PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh reiterated the unified voice of the nation in demanding Imran Khan's release. He warned the government to heed the anger of the youth, stating that failure to do so would leave no path for their return. The streets of Karachi are filled with people, echoing the singular demand across the

nation: "Free Imran Khan." Sheikh highlighted the critical state of affairs in Pakistan, emphasizing that while the people's mandate is being stolen, attempts are being made to snatch away the mandate they provided. He asserted that Karachi's mandate has been snatched and handed over to an antistate party; he said we are ing the Insaf Lawyers, and constitutionalism.

Greece boat tragedy's prime accused arrested in Sargodha

SARGODHA (INP): Poof Sargodha.

It was disclosed after arrest of Yasir Bilal that the accused has been affiliated with an international network of human smuggling, police sources said.

Phularwan police arrested accused Yasir and recovered illegal arms from his possession. It was disclosed during questioning to the suspect that, he has been prime accused of the

Greece boat incident. The police after formalities handed over the accused to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The accused had received millions of rupees from the victims of the June boat tragedv and facilitated them to board on the ill-fated boat that capsized in Greece territorial waters leaving several youth dead.

He has been key aclice has arrested the prime cused in two FIRs of the accused of Greece boat incident from Phularwan area the incident. The law enforcement agencies searching for other accomplices of

the accused. Last year in June, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 800 people — including hundreds of Pakistanis —

capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived in the incident. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed authorities concerned to hold an inquiry into the human trafficking that led to the tragic incident of migrants' shipwreck near Greece with several Pakistani nationals onboard. He had directed concerned authorities for an immediate crackdown against agents involved in the heinous crime of human trafficking and called for bringing them to justice.



ards during protest rally against Israel attack on Ghaza, at old Numaish Chowrangi, in the Provin-

Fake job offers leading to abduction, extortion busted in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two resi- lured the victims online dents of Punjab were rescued from a kidnapping ordeal in Karachi on Sunday, exposing a disturbing scheme targeting victims seeking employment abroad.

The Anti-Car Lifting Cell (ACLC) and the Central Police Office (CPLC) conducted a joint operation in Karachi's Site area, leading to the successful rescue of the hostages. Additionally, five suspects were apprehended, and weapons were confiscated.

According to Senior (SSP) of ACLC, the arrested individuals initially ing fake job offers.

with promises of sending them abroad. The agreement involved a hefty sum of 35 lakh rupees (approximately \$16,000 USD) for facilitating their foreign employment. However, the situation took a sinister turn when the accused abducted the two Punjab residents from Bahadurabad. Further details regarding the demanded ransom amount were not disclosed. In a separate opera-

tion conducted in Rawalpindi, authorities Superintendent of Police dismantled a gang involved in large-scale extortion us-

Saamia's nest brand exhibition in Hyderabad HYDERABAD (APP): ucts and craft.

SUKKUR: Relief goods is being distributed among

needy persons during food aids distribution cer-

emony organized by Sunni Tehreek during the Holy

HerMarket launches

Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Sukkur.

Saamia's nest on the plat-form of HerMarket to empower women entrepreneurs and artisans was launched in Diraan restaurant on Sunday. Her Market is a place

aimed at promoting women owned Businesses and accessible space for clients to buy products/services in

HerMarket Memon said that objective of launching HerMarket was create a platform for women entrepreneurs particularly women artisans to showcase their products or services to earn lucrative remuneration of their prod- lifestyle products.

She said that launching of HerMarket would help women artisans to display their work directly to market instead of selling through middle men who usually do not pay appropriate payment of handwork to artisan women failing to earn livelihood for catering their family.

Founder said that the Exhibition was Shahzana being inaugurated to display the craft of women entrepreneurs particularly to

encourage women artisans. She said that various items had been displayed in the Exhibition combining furniture, apparel and

Exhibitor Saamia Qazi

Police recovers two hostages in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Police have reportedly recovered two hostages while conducting an operation in the site area of Karachi. As per the details, the

AVLC and CPLC teams conducted a joint operation in Karachi's site area where they encounter with the five accused kidnappers. After exchange of fire.

the police managed to arrest all the five accused kidnappers in injured condition and recovered the two hostages from their possession. According to the SSPAVLC, the culprit kidnapped two individuals hailing from Punjab within the jurisdiction of Bahadurabad, Karachi, and demanded a ransom of Rs 20 million from their family.

He further stated that the accused lured the citizens from Sargodha to Karachi under the pretext of their biometric verification for their journey to Italy.

different schools

intellectual personalities of the city.

Noor Muhammad Pathan along

reading books in the librar-

ies established in the

schools of Shikarpur and

dren and teachers. Agha

HYDERABAD: Youngsters busy in filling their water cans with clean water from hand pump.