Balochistan suffered loss of US\$ 1.6 b due to previous floods:

Commitment made by world community for

rehabilitation of flood affectees not fulfilled: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

He said

and floods.

on Friday.

Balochistan had suffered

The province had also

The Chief Minister

been suffered the most due

stated so while participating through video link in the

meeting of Chief Ministers of all provinces on climate

change chaired by the Prime

Minister Muhammad

Shahbaz Sharif in Islamabad

sor to Chief Minister for

Environment, Naseemur

Besides him, the Advi-

to the climate change.

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

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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Rehman and Secretary En-

vironment, Nadeem Khan

stance of Chief Minister

Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah

regarding formation of con-

sultation committee, the

Chief Minister Sarfraz

Bugti stressed that consul-

tation of the provinces is

necessary for decision and

policy making about cli-

mate change so as to form

the national policy and

guideline for coping with

the challenges of climate

change. Besides, the pro-

posed fees structure should

be decided on basis of re-

quirements of the provinces

so that it is acceptable to

said that the provincial gov-

ernment would follow the

guideline to be decided with

mutual consultation to cope

with the challenges of cli-

The Chief Minister

them, he added.

While endorsing the

were also present.

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXV No. 246, Shawwal 18, 1445 AH Saturday April 27, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

Complete independence impossible without economic stability: COAS

Says inimical forces impeding Pakistan's development to be failed with nation's support: Negative propaganda and social media trolls will not distract from working toward nation's prosperity and development; No instability to be tolerated in country's journey of prosperity: We are all a united team Pakistan.

Army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir has said the efforts of those who obstruct the development journey and divert attention from it will fail with the support of the

dressing participants at the Green Pakistan Initiative Conference.

He held negative propaganda and social media trolls could not divert their attention from Pakistan and working towards the

ity of its people of prosperity and d The COAS reaffirmed ment," he asserted.

the resolve to overcome obstacles and focus on national advancement. "In today's era, complete independence without economic stability is not possible," he stressed.

Furthermore, he reiterated his commitment to zero tolerance for any form of instability that could impede the nation's journey towards prosperity. "No instability will be tol-

development and prosper- erated in Pakistan's journey of prosperity and develop-

In a call to action, the army chief urged all stakeholders to unite in rejecting negative forces and distractions, and focus on Pakistan's journey of development and stability.

" Let us all reject the negative forces, focus on Pakistan journey to development and stabilit and forge unity besides putting Pakistan on path to development, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan committed to deepen collaboration with SCO: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): security priorities, extremfence & Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif is leading the Pakistan delegation to Kazakhstan for the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The meeting reviewed the regional security issues, including the defence cooperation initiatives, a news release said. The Defence Minister also held meetings with the defence ministers of the friendly countries of the SCO to discuss issues of bilateral defence coopera-

Various areas of mutual interest including respective regional security, counter terrorism, Afghanistan situation and review of national

ment and maritime security were also deliberated upon.

Minister of Defence stated that Pakistan is deeply concerned about the escalating situation in Gaza. Pakistan has consistently advocated for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations resolutions. He also said that Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the SCO platform. "I would reiterate that Pakistan takes great pride in our partnership with SCO and are fully committed to further deepening and expanding this association", said the Minister for Defense while

addressing the forum.

PTI denied permission to hold Karachi power show

KARACHI (INP): The Friday denied permission to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a power show at Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah on April 28 sources said Fri-

According to sources, the police report stated that the permission to hold a public gathering was denied, in light of potential security threats and the recent surge in terrorist activities in the city. In a report to District Commissioner, the Police urged against giving permission to PTI to hold a public gathering as there are threats of a possible terrorist attack in the port city. It is important to mention here that today the Sindh High Court will hearthe PTI plea seeking permission to hold power show

inKarachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah.



KAZAKHSTAN: Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a group photo with Defence Ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

played down concerns

about political tensions aris-

ing from the sanctions, say-

ing: "Pakistan continues to

be one of our most impor-

tant partners in the region.

There continues to be a lot

of cooperation that we have

with the government of Pa-

kistan, especially in the se-

curity space and trade sec-

Sanctions on missile parts suppliers not to dent ties with Pakistan: US

WASHINGTON (INP): ton on Thursday, State De-State Department says Pakistan continues to be important partner in region: Íslamabad trashes US report on human rights as unfair and politically mo-

The United States has made it clear that the recent sanctions imposed on companies allegedly supplying missile components to Pakistan will not dent the bilateral relations with Paki-

The State Department emphatically declared that there's 'absolutely no' undercurrent of discord between the United States and Pakistan, despite recent sanctions.

Addressing the daily news briefing in Washingpartment Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel

SLAMABAD (APP):

Patel recalled that the The meeting com-Pakistani finance minister was in Washington last week and held consultations with members of the State Department. 'This is a robust relationship, and we look to continue strengthening it," he

Chairman COPHC lauds MoMA's efforts at Gwadar Port, Free Zone

Chairman Yu Bo of China Overseas Ports **Holding Company Ltd** (COPHC) called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Friday and appreciated the ministry's consistent support and efforts in facilitating the operational activities at Gwadar Port and Free

prehensively covered various developmental areas and key policy recommendations essential for enhancing the port's efficiency and competitiveness, said a press re-



to national economy will be held accountable: PM

Cabinet briefed on progress of PIA privatization; Extends validity of registered Afghan refugee cards to June 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): that will present its report Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the elements involved in the deep-rooted menace of corruption and criminal negligence for denting the national economy would be held accountable.

Referring to the track and trace system agreement made in 2019, the prime minister said this system was nothing but a cruel joke to the nation as no improvement was seen in the sectors of tobacco, cement, sugar and fertilizer. He said the agreement

was totally a fraud as even no penalty clause was included in it.

Chairing a meeting of the Cabinet at the PM House, he said that he had ordered to form an inquiry

within 72 hours. As regards the macro-

economic indicators, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the collective performance of both incumbent and the interim governments. He said according to a recently published report on Pakistan economy, many indicators including IT export, remittances, capital market were showing positive results due to the prudent policies of the government.

However, he maintained that lot of work needed to be done. The government will perform 'major surgical operation' to get rid of the deep-rooted flaws in the country's economy, he added. PM Shehbaz Sharif in-

tribution (DISCOs). Companies He said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had old and obsolete systems which needed to be

the power sector review in

four phases in which impor

tant decisions were taken to

minimize power theft and

line losses, and to reduce

prices of the electricity.

Besides, he said the govern-

ment had also decided in

principle to divest the Dis-

replaced to increase the tax to GDP ratio. He pointed out that the FBR had the potential to earn extra revenues worth hundreds of billions of rupees by implementing reforms in its sys tem.
"We have to take tough

decision in larger interest of

arrest over MPO

violation,

illegal occupation

Monitoring Desk

QUETTA: A lower court

on Friday issued a warrant

for the arrest of Mahmood

Khan Achakzai, the chief of

the Pakhtunkhwa Milli

Awami Party (PkMAP),

over charges of illegal occu-

pation and violation of the

Maintenance of Public Or-

tv channel report, a judicial

magistrate in Quetta issued

the arrest warrant for

Achakzai in connection

with a case registered at the

Gawalmandi police station

carried out at the residence

of Achakzai after he was

pitted against Asif Ali

Zardari by the opposition

parties in the election for

the position of president of Pakistan. Achakzai was not

present at his house at the

district administration ini-

tiated a case against the

PkMAP chief under differ-

ent charges, including ille-

gal occupation and viola-

tion of the Maintenance of

Public Order (MPO).

Following the raid, the

Reportedly a raid was

According to a private

der (MPO).



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti attending a meeting through video link presided over by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif regarding climate change

Public parking plaza to be extended further: Misuse of available resources important issue in Balochistan, says Bugti

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that misuse of available resources is an important problem in the prov-

He said that on one hand, we are facing the resources constraints, while on the other hand, the resources which are available are misused

The Chief Minister was speaking to the media persons during visit to the public parking plaza lo-cated on Circular road here

on Friday evening. Also present on the occasion were the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad

Hamza Shafqaat and other concerned high ups.
The Chief Minister

said that the public parking plaza would be extended further and it would be run under public-private part-He expressed displea-

sure over non-completion of the parking plaza and said that he has suspended the concerned Executive Engineer on non-completion of the work of parking

He said that we would resolve the issues of wrong parking and traffic in

He said that Rs. 1 million monthly are being collected from the parking Continued on page 2

Nawaz Sharif set to lead PML-N again

LAHORE (INP) – Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is set take the reins of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz once again, former interior minister Rana Sanaullah announced on Friday

His declaration followed a crucial meeting of the PML-N Punjab chapter where party members and office-bearers unanimously passed a resolution to make Nawaz Sharif the president of the PML-N.

"Mian Nawaz Sharif ceased to be the president of the PML-N as the result of a controversial judicial order. All obstacles of suppression are over and he stands vindicated. The PML-N will move forward under his leadership,' Sanaullah asserted during a media interaction.

'Mian Nawaz Sharif has been requested to reassume the charge of the

Sanaullah said that the former prime minister had been forcibly separated from the party in 2017. He said that while [in-

cumbent PML-N president] Shehbaz Sharif was attempting to rescue the country from economic crises day and night, Nawaz Sharif assuming the leadership role within the party would help overcome shortcomings and weaknesses.

Sanaullah, who was flanked by party leaders Javed Latif and Khurram Dastgir, said that the PML-N was a democratic and political party, adding that 'there's no hindrance in expressing opinions within the PML-N". He further said that the PML-N would present its political manifesto to the people of Pakistan in next few weeks

persons including seven women and six children

curred during recent rains and flood in the province. This was stated in a report of Provincial Disaster Management Authority Warrant issued dia on Friday. for Achakzai's

(PDMA) shared with me-According to the report, eight persons died and five others injured due to

died in different mishaps oc-

the rains and flash flood in

Among injured persons in the province.

rains in Balochistan were included seven males, four females and three chil-

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 21

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dawoodi Bohra com-

munity called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at

21 persons die, 14 injured in

different mishaps during

suggested that 251 houses were damaged completely while 1910 others were par-

tially damaged. Besides, three bridges and 14 roads were also damaged due heavy rains and flash floods in the province.

As per the report, 115 animals were perished. Moreover, the standing crops cultivated on 62 acres of land were also damaged

PTI senator puts forward conditions for talks with govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition Leader in the Senate, Shibli Faraz on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is ready for conditional talks with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government.

In an informal conversation with media, Shibli Faraz expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with anyone including federal government for the betterment of Pakistan, but only if the government creates a conducive environment for talks.

He emphasized that political cases must be withdrawn, and the rule of law and onstitution must be upheld, demanding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, women, and political prisoners, however, he stressed that legal cases should be pursued if they

are genuine The PTI senator further added that the government must allow political freedom and stop political victimization. The opposition leader

said that PTI held intraparty elections for the third time, but objections were raised on the party polls again. He warned that political stability cannot be achieved in such environment. Faraz lamented that there are differences and conflicting views even within the Pakistan Muslim League (N). He specifically mentioned Rana Sanaullah, who he claimed was speaking differently than others. Furthermore, Shibli Faraz emphasized that the uncertain situation regarding the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) chairmanship would soon



QUETTA: Former Caretaker Minister Khurram Shahzad and Sardar Qurban Jogezai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Rain fury triggers floods in Balochistan, causes extensive damage

QUETTA (INP): Torrential rains accompanied by thunder and lightning wreaked havoc across various districts of Balochistan once again, reported on Friday.

According to administrative sources, torrential rains submerged large swathes of land, collapsed numerous mud houses and other installations in Chaghi and damaged more than 50 houses in border areas near

Administrative sources said that the border city of Taftan bore the brunt of the heavy downpour, with significant damage inflicted upon homes and other structures.

The majority of the city found itself submerged as a result of the floodwaters. The local administra-

tion has initiated the rescue April 27 in Balochistan aroperation to relocate the eas including Noushki flood-affected families.

In Chaghi district, Thursday night's floods washed away homes while agricultural fields have been inundated with extensive damage to crops.

Furthermore, stormy winds also paralysed life in Dalbandin city, causing several shop signboards to topple while low-lying areas in Dorban were inundated by rising waters.

The Met Office had already forecasted a new round of rain system from April 25 and said that the westerly wave to extend its grip over most parts of the country by April 26.

As per the weather report, the rainfall is anticipated to continue until

QUETTA: Members of Sunni Tehreek (PST) are holding protest demonstra-

tion against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the inno-

cent people of Palestine, at Quetta press club.

people As a result, Muhammad Shafique 28, Ahmed

SCHOOL OF INFANTRY & TACTICS, QUETTA CANTONMENT

Following quotations are invited upto 10 May 2024 at 1000

hours out of Special Annual Training Grant FY 2023/24. The

Purchase of Fur & misc items for YO's Tac-3 (New

c. Renovation/ uplift of Halls (Eftikhar Auditorium, Ayub

d. Repair/maint of Abid Majeed Sports Complex (AMSC).

TENDER NOTICE

The Director General Local Government &Rural Development

Balochistan Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public

Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (a)The bidde must have completed three assignments of similar nature of work in last 3 years. (b) Registration with PEC (c) Registration with relevant

taxation departments. (d) Audit report of 3 years. (e) General and

Personal Experience. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid

Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of amoun

specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled

bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained

from the office of the under-signed upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through Green

Challan. In account of C03870/If Others please specify (The NIT &

Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pl

Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT

bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by

13/05/2024 till 11;00 AM at the office of the undersigned. **Tender**

opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the

under-signed at 12:00PM.S Address: Directorate General

Balochistan Local Government & Rural Development Westerr

13/05/ 2024, during office hours on working days. Last Date of

of following objects. Tender Fee +1 (Green Challan) Rs.1000/-

1. CONSTRUCTION OF DIVISIONAL & DISTRICT

OFFICE BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KILLAABDULLAH

Hall, Akhtar Malik Hall and Shabir Sharif Hall)

firm will be liable to pay all taxes i.e GST. IT and BST:-

a. Repair/Maint of Short Rg 1,2,3,4 & 5.

e. Contact: 0333-0532545.

TSE-232404394603

The rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the

Umer 40, and 10-year-old Shakeel Umer were killed.

day, rescue sources said.

Pishin, Harnai, Zhob Barkhan, Gwadar, Kech, Awaran, Chagi, Kharan, Kalat, Mastung, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Sibbi Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Loralai, Qilla Saifullah, Qila Abdullah, Quetta, Ziarat, Shirani, and Musa Khel are

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has cautioned citizens against unnecessary travel as the country braces for another bout of

expected to receive rainfall.

The NDMA emphasized that the expected rain this week could lead to flash floods and landslides, particularly in low-lying and mountain-



QUETTA: Provincial Minister PPP Mir Changez Khan Jamali and MPA Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

SIC second largest party in NA, ECP tells NA secretariat

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday officially informed the National Assembly (NA) Secretariat that Sunni

flood-damaged high-

Saturday April 27, 2024

NHA's flood

repair to be

completed by Dec ISLAMABAD (INP):

Alliance Council (SIC) is the second largest party

in National Assembly.
As per details, ECP officially notified the National Assembly Secretariat regarding the party positions in NA. According to the ECP report, Sunni Alliance Council (SIC) has total 82 members including 49 from Punjab and 33 independent candidates after PTIbacked candidate joined the SIC, making it the secondlargest party in the National Assembly.

Sunni Ittehad Council with 82 members (including 49 from Punjab and 33 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), PPP 71, MQM 21, JUI 11, PML-Q 5, IPP 4 and MWM, PKMAP, BNP,

PMÁP, BÁP PML-Z each have one member. The Election Commission has clarified that no specific seats have been allocated to

the Sunni Ittehad Council. The National Assembly Secretariat had requested the Election Com-

ISLAMABAD (INP): The mission to provide an updated party position, which has now been notified. The development came after the NA Secretariat earlier announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed ndependent members of National Assembly (NA) cannot be considered lawmakers belonging to the Sunni Alliance Council

> According to the details, the NA Secretariat said that it has not been conveyed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) about independent MNAs joining the SIC. "The PTI-backed lawmakers would be considered independents until the National Assembly Secretariat receives the party affiliation notification from the ECP,' the secretariat said in a statement. On February 18, the PTI, whose candidates contested the February 8 general elections 'independently', decided to form an alliance with the SIC. Previously, the PTI had also announced to form a coalition in Centre and Punjab with the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) but the move faced backlash by some party members.

The China the emerging power

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: "There's a lot of hype in certain countries, especially the U.S. and even certain Western countries about China's so-called overcapacity, said host Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defense Committee on CGTN's show Global South Voices. The fourth episode debunks the "China overcapacity" myth, revealing the protectionist mindset behind such accusations with guests from Malaysia, Pa-

kistan, China and Norway joining the show. Recently, U.S. politicians and media have sensationalized the concept of "overcapacity" in China, particularly focusing on the expansion of Chinese manufacturing in new sectors like electric vehicles (EVs), lithium-ion batteries, and solar panels. This narrative suggests that Western anxiety about their competitiveness in these industries is driving them to label China's growing industries as overcapacity to hinder their progress. Aqdas Afzal, associate professor of Economics at Habib University, Karachi, pointed out that it is the fear of China's rise and the yearning for

votes in the election year that drives the spreading of 'China overcapacity' hype in the U.S.. "I think that there is concern that certain Western nations have about China's stellar and exponential, amazing economic growth and how to make sense of that. And think the second reason is political because this is an election year ... So I think we cannot really dissociate or decouple what is going on in terms of the policy utterances that are coming from the U.S. and domestic politics in the

Out of geopolitical concerns, the U.S. uses multiple means to suppress China's growth, the CHIPS and Science Act being one of them. Chen Xi, founder of Harbor Overseas, believes that the U.S. should join the market competition in China and use the Chinese supply chain to collaborate, to provide a better option to getting to a green economy and adapt to climate change globally rather than fabricating excuses to hinder China's develop-

win-win situation could be achieved should the U.S. find the appropriate way to cooperate with China, and this would also

Koh King Kee, president of the Center of New Inclusive Asia praised China's efforts in developing green technology and bringing tangible benefits to those underdeveloped regions around the world. He argued that actually the world needs China in these

China's rise is an oportunity for the world. We are from the Global South, and we welcome China producing (more) cheap goods." He also warned that actually the real overcapacity now in the world is the U.S. debt and U.S. military. The U.S. cannot accept China's rise as peers, because the U.S. was the sole superpower since the end of the Cold War. But China's rise is unstoppable. This is the reality that the U.S. must

accept. În addition, Norwegian diplomat Erik Solheim said that Europe should not blindly follow the U.S. on every step, especially when it comes to China. "With the good will in Europe and in China, we can go a long way to make a better world together." He also praised China for "bringing down prices" in developing countries in terms of using green technology

Babar Azam Lightning kills three in Mansehra points finger MANSEHRA (INP): Three including a child were killed when lightning stuck Katalo Kerry area of Oghi on Frion batting after another defeat According to details, heavy rain followed by hailstorm lashed different areas and lightning fell over three

AHORE (INP): National team captain Babar Azam voiced his disappointment as Pakistan succumbed to yet another defeat against New Zealand in the ongoing series

Addressing the media following the fourth match at Gaddafi Stadium, Azam squarely attributed the loss to the team's batting performance, stressing that the inability to notch up runs proved to be their Achilles' heel.

Azam conceded that despite a commendable effort in restricting New Zealand, Pakistan faltered in their batting innings failing to muster the necessary momentum to chase down the target. Reflecting on the missed opportunity, he acknowledged the team's failure to capitalize on crucial middle overs, lamenting their inability to reach the attainable target of 179

Regarding the team dynamics and the infusion of young talent, Azam commended the efforts of the budding bowlers while acknowledging the necessity for squad alterations due to injuries. Despite the setbacks, Azam remains optimistic about the team's potential to bounce back and deliver stronger performances in the remainder

Misuse of available...

Continued from page 1

plan to build a hotel on roof

of the parking plaza.

right to lead good life.

ing the issues.

He said that we have

The Chief Minister

He stressed that the

Every individual has to

Referring the cleanli-

said that the people of

Balochistan have complete

cooperation of citizens and

media is required for resolv-

fulfill one's responsibility

to resolve the issues besides

betterment of the city, add-

ness, he said that the situa-

tion of cleanliness would be

improved and issues of

sewerage would be resolved

rent of government prop-

He announced that the

ing he stressed further.

of the series.

the country and we will implementation

regards, privatization of the State Owned Entities (SOEs), the prime minister assured that the process would be done without delay and in a transparent manner.

Meanwhile the Federal Cabinet was informed on Friday that the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was on track and several companies were taking keen in-

Federal Secretary

for Privatization briefing the cabinet regardthe recent progress of PIA's privatization process, told that the advertisements inviting expressions of interest were published in national and international newspapers on Prime Minister

The meeting of the cabinet was held at the PM House under the chairmanship of Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif. The cabinet directed to ensure transparency in the privatization of PIA.

Meanwhile, the Secretary Aviation, briefing on the recent measures taken to improve the facilities at Pakistan's airports, particularly Lahore and Karachi, informed that the service counters at the airports had been increased and further improvement of the facilities was

progress. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the federal cabinet approved the establishment of an additional special court in Makran Division to deal with anti-narcotcases Balochistan province.

The jurisdiction of this special court will extend to the districts of Panjgur, Kech, Gwadar, Hub and



OUETTA: A delegation led by President PPP Gwadar Yousaf Faryadi meeting with acting Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Those behind causing loss....

Continued from page 1

fully monitor the phase," the prime minister remarked.

terest in the airlines.

April 2, with the last date being May 3, and so far several compa-

nies had expressed

The cabinet directed that judges of good repute be appointed in the special court and the prosecution process be made

more effective. On the recommendation of SAFRON. the cabinet approved the extension of the validity of Proof of Registration (POR) cards of Afghan refugees from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. The cabinet was told that with this extension, POR card holders will be able to avail schools, bank accounts and other facilities in Pakistan.

These POR card holders will be repatriated in the third phase of the program of repatriating illegal foreign nationals residing in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the first phase of repatriating the foreign residents living in Pakistan without any identity documents is in progress. The meeting was further told that the consultation with all stakeholders regarding the drone policy for the use of drone technology in the agriculture sector was in the final stages and will soon be presented to the cabinet for approval.

The cabinet approved the appointment of four ex-officio members of the Board of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

The cabinet also approved the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases on April 18, 2024.



TSE-232404399663 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Officer, Haranai invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule

rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2% S.No Name of Work/s

1 Construction of Eco Tourism Hut at Harnai 3,000,000 Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 2,100,000 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 09 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 09 May, 2024till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Haranai Phone no: 0833520468 Email: dfobarkhan@gmail.com

PRQ No.1983/25-04-2024

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, HARNAI

TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate of Education (Schools) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232404399491 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRAGOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

Class of Object

1 Educational Lab Equipment (Total Item(s) Count: 241) 3% Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 80,000,000 Million each in Previous 3 Years. Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.100,000,000 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. The bidder must have functional corporate office having Ptcl phone No. in balochistan. Last 3 year audit report. All supply order must be obtained through BPPRA bidding process under proper TSE NO. Related to Government Department (2021-2023) Qualified bidder must provide sample of quoted items. Affidavit on stamp paper Rs. 100/= Dully notirized to the effect that the bidder has submitted correct & Complete information along with the bid/offer. If any document/information is found forged/engineered/fake/bogus at any stage, the bider may be declared as blacklist in accordance with law & performance gurantee & Payment. Validity 30-06-24 with a code me06 Medical Equipment/Science Equipment valid Having Specialized relataive Code and meet project cost limit Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank, Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 09 May, 2024 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Directorate of Education (Schools) Balochistan Brewary Road Quetta

Phone no: 0819202102 Email: programdirectoremis@gmail.com

PRQ No.1988/25-04-2024



bypass road Quetta



for supply of following items. TSE-232404399501 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOTender Fee Rs.2000/-

ICT Equipment (Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment) (Total Item(s) Count: 5)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 2,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan, JV is permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financia evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and nonresponsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Musi agree to serve the Contract within the stipulated time period. At Least 3 Nos of Plates each size and 1(one) liter plate Developer Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically lates by 15 May, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Block # 09, Room # 1, Press Building, Civil Secretariat, Zhargoon Road Quetta

Phone no: 0819201881 Email: govt.press1970@gmail.com

PRQ No.1995/26-04-2024

CONTROLLER GOVERNMENT PRINTING & STATIONARY DEPARTMENT



SUJAWAL: Doctors examine patient at free medical camp establish by Pakistan Navy at Jangu Jalbani, District Sujawal, Sindh.

PM directs formation of committee for consultation with provinces on carbon credits policy ISLAMABAD (APP): ing day," he said, adding The prime minister all across the prime minister all acro

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday directed formation of a committee for consultation with the provinces for policy making on guiding principles for carbon credits. He was chairing the third meeting of Pakistan Council for Climate Change. The federal and provincial governments would work together for after consultation with the making policies regarding climate change, he said.

garding climate change are regarding policy making increasing with every pass- and gave recommendations.

provinces, there was no question of policy making of any kind on the issue.

cussed in detail policy guidelines for foreign trading in carbon credits. He suffered from the adverse instructed that a policy draft effects of climate change. It should be presented in the next meeting of the Council provinces. The chief ministers of the four provinces

Saudi Arabia's Umrah and Ziyarah

Forum focuses on innovative ways

to enhance pilgrim experience

ISLAMABAD (APP): cial systems in the Umrah participants highlighted

concluded at the King development opportunities Madinah Airport to better salman International Conin housing and hospitality accommodate the increasing

services, Arab News re-

cused on services at ports,

the automation of opera-

efficiency of workers, and

the important role of ser-

at holy sites and through-

was air travel services, with

One of the key topics

The topics they cov- comprehensive range of importance of transparency

ered included services for services throughout pil- and the need for full com-

services for pilgrims, finan- their rituals. For example, contracts.

Ashrafi re-elected member

of Muslim World League's

Supreme Council

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood

Ashrafi, Pakistan Úlema Council Chairman and Interna-

tional Tazim-e-Haramain Sharifain Council Secretary

General, has been re-elected as a member of the Supreme

Islamic values and the welfare of Muslim communities

worldwide, Ashrafi has consistently been at the forefront

of advocating for unity and cooperation within the Mus-

lim world. Ashrafi's re-election to the prestigious Supreme

Council reaffirms his influential role in shaping the dis-

remarkable leadership in promoting interfaith harmony, countering extremism, and fostering dialogue among di-

No political prisoner

in country at present:

Senator Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): PTI could hold negotia-

Parliamentary Leader of tions with its traditional

political rivals then why it

with the government for the

"The opposition should hold talks with the

treasury benches for re-

solving critical issues

and crises of the coun-

problems and issues of

national interest, and

also suggest their solu-

should bear criticism with

open hearts as it is part

of debate and discourse

judiciary in the past and

At the same, they

Senator Siddiqui con-

sake of the country.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) in the could not sit on the table

ing convicted in various try. It should pinpoint

ernment did not want to and political norms," he

He extended an olive demned intimidation of the

Senate Irfan-ul-Haque

Siddiqui on Friday said

oner in the country at

present while the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf founder

was behind the bars for be-

bate on the presidential ad-

dress in the Upper House,

Senator Siddiqui said in past the PML-N leadership

had to face imprisonment

in fake cases, but its gov-

branch to the opposition

pursue the politics of re- added

Taking part in the de-

there was no political pris-

Throughout his tenure, Ashrafi has demonstrated

course surrounding contemporary Islamic issues.

With a longstanding commitment to the upliftment of

Other discussions fo-

tions, ways to improve the sector, and explored the

vices provided for visitors develop financial proce-

out their journeys in tal solutions for processing Makkah and Madinah. transactions.

discussions about the in housing and hospitality

growth in flight numbers services, during which

and the need to provide a speakers emphasized the

grims' journeys beyond pliance by service provid-

those purely focusing on ers with the terms of their

Umrah and Ziyarah Forum and ziyarah sectors, and

vention Center in Madinah.

During the three-day event,

participants discussed

ways to foster collabora-

tions, enhance the pilgrim-

age experience and improve

the services provided for

The agenda for the forum, organized by the Saudi

Arabia's Ministry of Hajj

and Umrah in partnership

with the Pilgrim Experience

Program, included six dis-

cussion sessions and 24

workshops led by 29 ex-

pilgrims and other visitors,

advancements in air travel

Council of Muslim World League.

perts and specialists.

without the consultation of directed that the provinces and other stakeholders should be taken into confidence regarding the impor-The participants dis- tant policy draft on climate change. He said Pakistan was one of the countries badly

caused by them. As a servant of Pakistan, he said, he worked for "Our challenges re- expressed their viewpoint the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affectees and fought the case of Pakistan

was gravely affected by the

rains in 2022 and the floods

The prime minister all across the world regarding climate change.

He said Ahsan Iqbal and Sherry Rehman and all the relevant institutions and ministries took important steps to take Pakistan out of that difficult time and to build infrastructure in the country regarding climate change. He said he and the Pakistani nation were thankful to the friendly countries and the international community particularly Secretary General of the United Nations for coming to the aid of affected Pakistanis



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the third meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Police Facilitation center, directs 24 hour service for citizens

Mohsin Naqvi on Friday visited a Police Facilitation (PFC) in Islamabad's F-6 sector to inspect the counters made for the convenience of the

Mohsin Naqvi directed the officials to keep the PFC open for 24 hours for the convenience of the citizens. He said that the citizens should be able to avail the services at facility centers at any time according to their convenience.

Minister for Interior the staff for serving the citizens. He directed the authorities to provide comfortable chairs to the applicants coming for driving licenses. Naqvi met the citizens who came to the PFC and asked about the solution to the problems.

Citizens welcomed the announcement of keeping the Police Service Center open 24 hours and thanked Interior Minister Mohsin

Inspector General Police Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi gave a briefing about

from their respective areas ISLAMABAD (APP): and urged the government ters in the house and said Lawmakers in the National to ensure prompt payment Assembly raised various to the growers.

MPs highlight critical issues

critical issues from their respective areas on Friday and called upon the government to take action to address

During a point of order, Mian Ghous Muhammad highlighted that approximately Rs. 20 billion is payable to sugarcane growers by sugar mills. He said that in Punjab, there is a law mandating mills to pay interest to farmers if payments are de-

He expressed concern that mill owners are not meeting their obligations

CDA organizes

E-Katchari

to facilitate

residents

The Estate Wing of the

Capital Development Au-

thority (CDA) on Friday

organized an E-Katchari to

facilitate the residents of the

organised on the special in-

structions of Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif, in which

the online complaints of the

citizens were received while

considering the problems

related to the Estate Wing

in the sectoral and non-

IRSA releases

113,600

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Indus River System Au-

thority (IRSA) on Friday

released 113,600 cusecs

water from various rim sta-

tions with inflow of

released by IRSA, water

level in River Indus at

Tarbela Dam was 1448.73

feet and was 34.73 feet

higher than its dead level of

flow in the dam was re-

corded as 30,800 cusecs

According to the data

Water inflow and out-

178,100 cusecs.

1,398 feet.

The E-Katchari was

federal capital.

Muhammad Iqbal Khan asked the government to address law and order challenges in his area, urging the federal government to enhance

Khalid Ahmed highlighted similar concerns about law and order in his constituency, appealing for federal intervention to improve the situation.

security measures and take

care of the needs of inter-

Agha Rafiullah Syed expressed disappointment

over the absence of minis-

that government representatives must be present to address public concerns raised by members.

He stressed the importance of government representatives being available in the National Assembly to respond to the issues and queries brought forth by legislanally displaced persons tors on behalf of their constituents.

Riaz Fatyana acknowledged the Speaker's directive to ensure ministerial presence and requested assistance from the Interior Ministry to facilitate Umrah visits for National Assembly members.



ISLAMABAD: Moroccan Ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Karmoune meet Pakistan Red Crescent, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari.

Speakers for proactive approach, inclusive strategy to address Afghanistan issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): manded the stakeholders to adopt a proactive approach and inclusive strategy at the regional partners' level to address issues of Afghanistan. During the working session-I on the theme of "Unravelling Afghanistan's Shifting Landscape", the experts suggested a regional dialogue and cooperation, border and refugee management, leveraging partnerships and engagement with locals, building the economic capacity of Afghanistan through connectivity, trade, and transit routes, and adopting a broader perspective on the Afghan issue, a news release said.

The session was held during the international conference on "Pakistan in the Emerging Geopolitical Landscape" by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

The Speakers at an interna- session included Rangina tional conference have de- Hamidi, Former Minister of Education of Alghani stan; Prof. Victoria C Fontan, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, American University of Afghanistan, Qatar; Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan's former Special Representative for Afghanistan; Dr. Ye Hailin, Professor and Vice Dean of the National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (NIIS, CASS); Dr. Foad Izadi, Associate Professor, Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran; and Dr. Bette Dam, Investigative Journalist, Author. The speakers of the session provided a comprehensive analysis of the evolving landscape in Afghanistan, emphasising the long-term consequences of investing in militarised



ISLAMABAD: People are taking picture with joker at Pakistan Monument during pleasant weather, in

ICT admin conducts operation against encroachments, illegal activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Industrial Area, Farwa Batool accompanied by the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) conducted anti-encroachment operation at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and removed all illegal encroach-

Islamabad Capital Territory issues in Federal Capital.

Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), he said the AC removed all illegal encroachments and structures blocking public pathways were demolished in the area. The AC also inspected the canteens and tuck shops of

shops in the area were found in the unlawful canning of gas cylinders, posing a safety risk. These shops were immediately sealed to prevent further illegal activity, he said.

He said the Islamabad administration's efforts were part of a broader campaign to crack down on various violations in the city. Daily operations were being carried out to combat encroachments, rising prices, and professional begging, he added.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents and businesses to adhere to city regulations to avoid penalties and contribute to the G-8 area. Four LPG a safer, cleaner Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting Public

plans for the expansion of

Madinah Airport to better

numbers of pilgrims and

other visitors arriving there.

examined financial services

in the Umrah and ziyarah

options for international

money transfers, ways to

dures, and innovative digi-

development opportunities

Art exhibition

highlighting

"Echoes of

Earth" on

May 4

ISLAMABAD (APP):

an art exhibition, titled

"Echoes of the Earth", a

celebration of climate con-

sciousness on May 4 at

Bhittai Auditorium in

ported by the US Mission

in Pakistan in partnership with Pakistan-US Alumni

Network orchestrated a

transformative writing

workshop aimed at cultivat-

ing the talents of aspiring

writers to tackle pressing

climate issues, said a state-ment issued by Theatre

PNCA, IFWA

to organize a

special puppet

show

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), in col-

laboration with the Interna-

tional Foreign Women As-

sociation Islamabad, will

organize a Puppet Show for

foreigners and the general public on April 28. The ac-tivity will be held at PNCA Auditorium. The family

puppet show will be per-

formed in English, featur-

ing 20 minutes performance followed by the presenta-

tion. The puppet theatre

PNCA will showcase the

skills of its puppeteers fea-

turing vibrant costumed

puppets and will present puppet folk tales.

Wallay here Friday.

The exhibition sup-

Islamabad.

Other topics included

transactions.

Another discussion

The minister in-

Lahore-Paris rally to highlight the positive image of Pak: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday said that the Lahore Paris Rally would play a vital role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan.

He said this while re-

viewing the arrangements of the Lahore-Paris rally 2024 during a meeting with the Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism and Develo p m e n t Corporation(PTDC) and

the organizers of the rally.

the meeting was to devise a strategy for the event's success. At the same time, security arrangements, logistics support and cooperation with international partners were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The Lahore- Paris rally, which will begin on August 26, will travel through 12 countries from Pakistan to France and will pass through major countries like Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania



ISLAMABAD: PM coordinator on health, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad is being briefed regarding Sehat Sahulat programme in State Life Corporation Islamabad, Federal Secretary for Health, Mr. Nadeem Mehbub is also accom-

Chairman PRCS engages in humanitarian collaboration with ambassador of Morocco

ISLAMABAD (APP): emphasized the substantial Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a courtesy meeting with Ambassador of the of Morocco in Pakistan, Mohammed Karmoune here on Friday. This meeting that took place at the Embassy of Morocco marked a crucial moment in the humanitarian relationship between Pakistan and Mo-

The meeting provided a platform for both parties to deliberate on matters of mutual interest, particularly focusing on humanitarian aid and disaster management. Chairman Laghari

partnership between the two nations in addressing humanitarian challenges. During the discus-

sions, Chairman Laghari

provided insights into the ongoing programs and projects of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, emphasizing the organization's commitment to serving vulnerable communities nationwide. He underscored the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in effectively addressing humanitarian crises, expressing gratitude for Morocco's past participa-tion in PRCS-organized events such as the Interna-

IPRI, ILA Italy ink MoU on cooperation in Intl law development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Italian Branch of the International Law Association (ILA Italy) and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Friday signed a General Agreement for Cooperation to promote cooperation, information exchange and academic programs between the two Institutions on issues pertaining to understanding and development of international law.

This strategic alliance marks a significant step towards leveraging complementary expertise and resources to address pressing

lenges and advance innovative solutions, a news release said issued here.

The agreement aims to enhance the scientific and academic level of both Institutions, promote friendship and understanding between the Italian and Pakistani academics and policymakers, and facilitate collaboration in research and analysis on international law. The agreement outlines various forms of cooperation, including mutual research programs, exchange of publications and

international legal chal-

and 5,000 cusecs respecthe Federal Capital.

ments around the hospital. Talking to APP, the

(ICT) Administration Spokesman, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, the authority was conducting extensive operations targeting encroachments, illegal gas canning, and cleanliness

In a recent operation conducted at the Pakistan

the hospital, focusing on cleanliness standards, pricing, and the use of plastic bags. After these inspections, she issued fines totaling Rs 23,000 for various violations and warned businesses to comply with regulations.

In another part of the operation, Dr Abdullah said the district administration teams targeted illegal gas cylinder filling activities in

ISLAMABAD: Students of Mehergarh's youth leaders visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Saturday April 26, 2024

Business concerns

With the country confronting one of its gravest economic crises, it is time for the government and business community to sit together and find a way out of it and build a strong, resilient economy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took the initiative when he met prominent Karachi business leaders on Wednesday to solicit their support for the government's efforts to revive the moribund economy.

"Today we need you to take a step forward and bring this ineffective. rental business to an end. Let's focus on genuine industrial and agricultural growth to double exports in the next five years. It's difficult but not impossible,' he told them.

He also referred Bangladesh's economic success and how that country had transformed its economy, even though it was once considered a 'burden' on West Pakistan before secession. He promised to incorporate the business community's recommendations in a comprehensive economic growth roadmap.

However, the community had its own apprehensions. It highlighted three major areas it considers important for economic revival: restoration of severed trade relations with India, resolution of domestic political instability in the country by engaging the incarcerated PTI leader Imran Khan, and reduction in their cost of doing business through a decrease in energy prices for manufacturing. There is no doubt that these issues are impeding a positive lasted through decades, business clime, which is required to boost private investment and economic growth. However, both the government and business community must jointly work their way around these obstructions to steer the economy out of its present cri-

Consider the call for the normalisation of trade relations with India, for example. The present political dispensation might face resistance from some quarters towards any effort in this direction. But this should history of modern empire. not stop the government from If the Viet Cong routed US troops in the trenches, taking steps, no matter how Washington lost the battle small, towards reducing tensions with India, in spite of the huge difficulties involved, especially with New Delhi's hostile the mid-1960s was amongst stance under Narendra Modi.

The PML-N leadership has tory. The movement signiexpressed its desire to improve | fied a moral deteat for US imperialism arguably as sigbilateral cooperation for economic progress, which could have a positive impact on overall South Asian economic cooperation. Likewise, the issue of reconciliation with Mr Khan is a tricky one. So far, Mr Khan has nam antiwar movement. A not shown any inclination to talk to political rivals, though he does bia University has triggered not appear too averse to a compromise with the powers that be. Lastly, the demand for lowering energy rates for industry is hard to meet as long as Pakistan remains in an IMF stabilisation programme.

Business conditions are indeed very difficult. But should businessmen wait for better times instead of helping the government find a way out of the current mess? Finally, there ingly like that of the iconic late 1960s. That moment are other issues such as policy inconsistency and a narrow tax people in the 'advanced' Western world were base whose resolution can uplift business conditions if the business community decides to work with the government.

The thin blue line in crisis

Afzal Ali Shigri

The spotlight on Pakistan's police force tends to be for all the wrong reasons. Political parties frequently include police reform in their manifestos and statements However, this commitment often seems like a mere ritual. Periodically, commissions, committees, and experts are engaged to suggest reforms. Yet, their recommendations typically end up being superficially implemented, and are ultimately consigned to the ar-

Even when reforms are ntroduced, they're often not taken seriously. If their implementation challenges arbitrary government decisions, they're reversed or abandoned. It's a cycle where change is promised, but meaningful progress remains elusive, leaving the olice system stagnant and

This approach has had destructive impact on our policing. Resultantly, successive governments, instead of considering this central aspect of governance hen facing law-and-order challenges, often look for quick-fix solutions. The

easy way out is to call in the civil armed forces that were created for the specific functions of protecting the borders and enforcing the law in areas governed under special laws for a predetermined period.

This option has so frequently been applied that it has practically become a regular feature of law enforcement, resulting in the overlap of jurisdictions, without delineation of the spheres of responsibility of two forces. Karachi is a classic example of such an arrangement that has continued for many years. According to the law, the responsibility of crime control and maintenance of peace lies with the police. The civil armed forces have a supporting role to play.

A force permanently deployed in a certain jurisdiction cannot work in a supporting role indefinitely and is, therefore, delegated policing powers for a fixed period, creating a dichotomy in the most important function of the state. If prolonged reliance on the civil armed forces is inevitable, the government should enact a special law and assign a specified area

they are held accountable for their actions. Here's a summary of

common grievances against the police: The police often resort to harsh methods reminiscent of colonial-era

suppression, especially in the rural areas, with little or no accountability for their actions. ii) The katcha area in two provinces has turned

into a lawless no-go zone

and a safe haven for gangs

of dacoits, who resort to

violent crime in the cities

and towns and then return

to this riverine area. iii) Urban megacities suffer from a notable policing failure to control crime, leading to the proliferation of organised crime syndicates and rampant street

iv) Corruption within the police, coupled with undue external influences, undermines trust in law enforcement, leaving citizens with no recourse even in the case of minor incidents

v) Frequent incidents of terrorism perpetuate an atmosphere of fear among the people who hold the police responsible for for policing to them so that this situation.

vi) A dysfunctional criminal justice system fails to convict criminals, allowing them to operate with impunity, thus continuing a cycle of crime and victimisation, and the police being the coercive arm of the criminal justice system is held responsible.

The routine response to these complaints includes new draconian laws that give vast powers to the executive, the establishment of new law-enforcement units/ institutions, special courts, and funds for fancy equipment. To make matters worse, the postings of officers at command level generally violate the rules and the much-trumpeted policy of merit in political manifestos. When these officers fail to deliver, resulting in protests, they are suspended and penalised and scapegoated for any failure. Successive governments have failed to reform the criminal justice system, particularly its core component, the police force.

Ironically, amidst numerous reports from commissions and committees, it was a dictator who, in 2002, repealed the antiquated colonial-era police law. This

legislation addressed all fundamental aspects of policing, drawing from international best practices in law enforcement. It established an operationally independent police force democratically overseen by civil society. The streamlining included upgraded command structures specialisation. Moreover, it

introduced civil society oversight through various tiers of public safety commissions and ensured accountability using independent police complaint authorities for each police force. And yet, this law was mutilated with the advent of a political government under the same ruler. Subsequently, under the guise of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, elected governments legislated a new provincial police law, rendering it corrupt beyond recognition, in violation of a Supreme Court ruling declaring the police law a concurrent subject. Strangely, the 1861 Police Act remains the valid law for ICT, blatantly flouting a high court judgement.

In 2018, the then Supreme Court chief justice, alarmed by public grievances regarding policing, rectify systemic issues. convened a committee of

nine retired IGPs under the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. Tasked with examining key issues in policing, the committee proposed recommendations for government action. These encompassed a standardised model for police law, enhanced police accountability, improved investigation procedures, alternative dispute resolution methods, urban policstrategies. counterterrorism measures by the criminal justice system, and legislative reforms.

This inertia is fuelled by entrenched interests and short-term political motives that favour a police force lacking in accountability, strength, and independence, and serving the ruling elite rather than ensuring the safety and peace pledged to the public.

It is imperative for political leaders to acknowledge that sustainable security and peace cannot coexist with a flawed policing apparatus. Instead of scapegoating an already compromised institution, it is time for introspection and decisive corrective measures to

Good days shall return

Raoof Hasan

An old saying has it that "when you dance with the devil, the devil doesn't change. The devil changes you." In this country, it is almost impossible to trace evil in the singular. It is always in multiples that one discovers it and its gruesome destruction. Simultaneously, one is amazed at the finesse and dexterity with which evil schemes are planned and executed, leav-

ng little to no trace behind. The act of tracking such crimes is made even more difficult because of the often open and blatant support the state apparatus provides to protect evil and its doers. It even goes on to reward them with nothing less than putting them in seats of power to continue playing their dastardly ames as may please their whims. The camaraderie between the evildoers and their protectors and promoters is close and has only with ignorable occasions of rupture.

But it is also true that the evildoers and their orchestrators were never so vividly exposed as they are their coffers with illicitly now. I don't think they earned billions, their could even have imagined

that such an occasion would arise when they would stand stark naked in the court of the people. It is also true that the animus people now harbour for the planners and executers of such evil plans is unbridgeable and the possibility of this relationship changing for the better is depleting with time. With it are also disappearing the chances of revival of the bond of traditional affection that had transcended some tragic

events in the past.

With old bonds having wilted under the weight of the people's power, a general perception pervades the environment that a constitutional and sustainable approach should be adopted. But those who wield power through a gravely rigged electoral process are resisting the drive with every instrument at their disposal as also the brazen support of the power-wielders. They understand that once they relinquish charge and give way to the induction of an honest breed of rulers who would advance the interests of the state and its people in preference to fattening

power would become ex-

This is an eventuality they remain unwilling to contend with. So, they are using the weapons of barbarity and fascism to prolong the night of agony for the state and its people with the former teetering on the brink of capitulation and the latter surviving on the fringes of life, eternally struggling for two measly meals a day.

But it is also unnatural that such a state would continue indefinitely. It is bound to unravel. This realization is sinking in with time, thus generating a feeling of fear among the power-wielders who have been used to controlling the levers of authority with their jumping jacks acting as their proxies to carry forth the work of domestic colonization.

Having successfully dealt with the likes of Sharifs and Zardaris by employing the trick of kicking out one to bring in the other and then kicking the second out to bring back the first, they could not fathom the immensity of challenges they would encounter if they were to deal with a man of character with an immeasurable stock of grit, resolve and perseverance. continues to grow. An in- the key to the fate of the When Imran Khan became the prime minister after winning the 2018 elections, they were simply not prepared to deal with his in-

tegrity and character. So, they started conspiring to oust him from the very beginning. It took them over three years of partnership with a bunch of criminals from the Sharif and Zardari clans, and billions in cash distributed to wean his assembly members away from him before they could see his back. They celebrated their 'victory' by plonking their erstwhile corrupt partners back in

seats of power. They did not stop there. Instead of capitulating, when Khan showed signs of resistance, they took to playing their evil tricks. They first tried to render him politically irrelevant. Then was the turn to eliminate him physically. Having failed in both attempts, they implicated him in fake, frivolous and fraudulent cases. They incarcerated Khan in three cases for a total of 31 years. They did not spare his wife either who has been imprisoned in one case.

carcerated Khan has become a mightier persona for the power-wielders than the one who was a free man. His size and stature have kept growing as he commands the hearts of the people who gave him a thumping majority in the delayed elections which were finally held on February 8. But the people's mandate was stolen in the thick of the night when winners were made to lose and those who had been humiliated in the initial vote count emerged victorious when the day dawned on February 9. The conspirators and their cohorts thought that they had finally won the day and Khan would be a forgotten story. They did not realize that they were in store for an

even bigger shock. A vast variety of adversities heaped upon the person of Khan has neither dampened his spirit nor diluted the resolve of his fol- him gaining unstoppable lowers. Khan's popularity strength, his adversaries cycle has not flattened. It continues to grow. A man the conspirators thought would be easily dumped has grown in stature beyond their wildest specu- with him, good days shall But here they were in lations. Today, he sits in his return to the fold. -- Courstore for a challenge that small cell at Adiala holding tesy TheNews

country. He resonates in the dreams of people across the length and breadth of the country who are eager to obey every command he

Repeated setbacks should have brought the dance of the devil to an end Good sense beginning with respecting people's mandate should have been accessed to find a way out of the horrible impasse the country is stuck in. But the powerwielders and their criminal partners still believe that they must continue using terror as a weapon to sub due the spirit and resolve of Khan and his followers That has not been and that will not be. The one they are trying to weaken continues to grow stronger. His strength does not come from brandishing weapons. It resides in the hearts of the people who repose an unflinching faith in his commitment to their cause. With grow weaker. It is only a bloated ego that stalls the path into the future. But it shall clear. Khan shall be back to steer the ship. And

Vietnam moment?

chances of any revival in

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It has been half a century since the humbling of the world's mightiest military, the US army, by Vietnamese guerilla warriors. It was, by all accounts, the most tumultuous defeat in the for hearts and minds at home. The anti-war movement which raged on American university and college campuses for a decade from the biggest popular mobilisations in US his-

feat on the actual battlefield. The eruption of student protests on American university campuses against the US-backed Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza has invited comparison with the Vietviolent clampdown on peaceful students at Columa wave of uprisings across the country, magnifying the extent to which young Americans oppose the Biden administration's unconditional support for Zionist pogroms.

nificant as its military de-

Peaceful protests against the Israeli war machine and complicit Western governments have been ongoing in many Western countries, but the violent reaction of university administrators and the state's coercive apparatus in recent days makes the current moment feel increaswas generational: young mobilising not only against imperialist war in Vietnam and other theatres of the Cold War, but also in support of revolutionary decolonisation in Latin America, Asia and Africa, whilst rebelling against racism, sexism and capitalism at home. The violent reaction of the US and other Western states to these movements was complemented by an all-out vilification campaign by corpo-

Similarly, beatings and arrests of student protesters — and many faculty members — in the US right now have been accompanied by a media campaign decrying them as anti-Semite. This trope has been commonplace since the latest ethnic cleansing operation began in Gaza, but has ratcheted up significantly of late.

Benjamin Netanyahu himself put out a video message spewing a series of orchestrated lies about attacks on Jewish students and the congruence between the current protests and those on campuses in Nazi Germany. The Israeli state has a matchless capacity to produce outrageous propaganda, but this feels different — the campus protests have rattled Tel Aviv and Washington. Indeed, the Columbia-inspired student movement confirms that peaceful protests are not dissipating, the panicked and violent reactions provoked suggesting weakness rather

than strength. Time will tell whether pro-Palestinian sentiment can match the longevity of the Vietnam antiwar movement, but the global movement in solidarity with Palestine is coeval with deepening politicisation on many systemic issues that make ruling classes everywhere tremble.

Take the climate crisis. A wide cross-section of young people are resisting the various forms of capital accumulation destroying ecosystems and threatening the future of human life. Youth icons like Greta Thunberg, who was until recently perceived to articulate a relatively harmless environmentalist position, has come out strongly in favour of Palestinians and, it should be noted. our very own Baloch long march — thus underlining the growing pull of anti-imperialist and anticapitalist international-

History never repeats itself in linear fashion, so there can be no question of seamlessly mapping our current moment onto the late 1960s ear-ly 1970s, especial-ly given the widesp-read appeal of right-wing politics in our times. But alongside the emergent student movement in the US, a not insignificant number of governments have also called out Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians, and in some cases, like Iran, openly defied the so-called liberal world order. Much, however, remains to be done, because domestically Iran and others opposing Israel and its imperialist patron are not pro-people havens to be championed.

In Pakistan too, young people are increasingly politicised about the entrenched military-industrial-media complex and mainstream parties that meekly take on and then are deposed from

If nothing else, the Feb 8 poll suggests that one can protest via the ballot, and there appears every chance that this is what ordinary Americans opposed to Washington's support for Israel will do in the US presidential elections. The problem is that defeat for Genocide Joe would bring another staunch friend of Zionism, Donald Trump, back to power. To truly make the present one a Vietnam moment, the world's oppressed will need to break this and many other similar vicious cycles.

-- Courtesy Dawn

A timeless classic

Sved Fahim

To be generally agreed upon as a classic, works should meet some common high standards for quality, appeal, longevity, and influence. Such a work must be of high artistic quality, at least for the time in which it was written. It should not only represent that era but also should stand the test of time. It should have universal appeal, spark intellectual debates, shape societal attitudes, and be able to inspire generations to relate to its message. While the Holy Quran is a religious scripture, let us examine how at the same time it is a timeless 'classic'

Every time one reads the Quran intending to understand its message, one can expect to discover a new perspective from the same text that had previously alluded to a different meaning. This is, in essence, due to the maturity of thought and experience of the individual reading the Quran — the evolution of the mindset between the two instances of reading the same text on two different occasions. However, how one benefits from it is left to the reader, or maybe a more apt term should be the 'discoverer' of its mes-

The Quran is a grand sum of stories of the past, rumblings of the present, prophecies of the future, rhetorical questions aimed at unbelievers, answers to the ridiculing questions of the disbelievers, description of nature and super-nature, a teaser for what is yet to be discovered, explanation of what is observed but not understood, decrees for

the Quran an ideal catalyst to spark intellectual debates and keep it rel-

evant 15 centuries later. The Quran may show you multiple messages on the same page. A busy person may open it randomly to recite just one bit at a given time for blessings. They may come across an anecdote, a warning, a supplication, or a proclamation within that one page. This is one way of ensuring that the reader gets the maximum benefit from even short spurts of reading the text, instead of just learning about one topic. One can always find all verses on a particular topic, which have been assembled and published widely.

Alternatively, one can look up a word or a topic in any modern Quran app if that is the intention. This is, in fact, a higher degree of reading the Quran, a sort of consulting the book. And this is where one really starts discovering the scheme and sophistication of the book.

One may find it perplexing when interrelated messages are found to be intertwined or, in other cases, scattered among various surahs and sections of the Quran. However, herein lies the beauty of the scheme of assembly. For a curious reader, this is the start of an exhausting yet exhilarating quest to figure out the puzzle. Often, one finds nuggets of wisdom on a course, and then the trail may seem to disappear. Finding the next clue is a challenge that keeps the reader returning to the book, deepening one's learning. And once the trail is found again, it brings the euphoria a newly forming commuand the urge to get to the nity, and a lot more. The next discovery. This

variety and intricacy of structure also fuels the subjects it covers make centuries-long appeal of the text, with each new generation unveiling new and improved nuances from the scripture.

The notion may appear elusive, though, if the reader does not even know what the text means. One may learn the Arabic phonics to be able to read the Quran judiciously. But how can one expect to feel a tug at their heart without even realising if the verse they just read was a qu--estion or an ans-w--er? It is hence imp-erative that the Quran should ideally be read alongside its translation if the person reading it is not a spea-ker of the Arabic language. A modern-day person reading the Quran may find the discourse on cosmology, meteorology, or anatomy simplified; but this was the state of humans when the glorious book was revealed. In fact, the permanent beauty of its verses is evident in the fact that human beings in all periods of history have found wisdom in them.

The superior linguistic quality of the Quran for its time of revelation is well established. Its enduring appeal, influence, and impact generation after generation are equally undeniable. Maybe, it is time we open the Quran to study it rather than giving a customary reading. Maybe, we will discover the hidden element whose very narration makes us sway back and forth with its soulful, yet un-decoded charm.

We have a classic in our hands, but its understanding is wrapped up in a silk ghilaf (cover), on the top shelf of the study cabinet. It is time we began to peruse its contents carefully to discover its meaning. --Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says: **Character building** imperative for promotion of tolerance

Independent Report FAISALABAD: Governor Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman has said that the teachers should concentrate on character building of their students as it is imperative nation in their practical life. to promote tolerance and brotherhood in society.

convocation on Friday, he said that the Islam has made education compulsory for every individual as it boosts the hidden abilities and capabilities of the people. without nations However, character building, the emphasized on promotion cation is not beneficial. of education
He said that the unfortunately education is not beneficial.

has no value and we must near past reduced education

economy by promoting our

He urged the students to focus on their study and they would have to lead the

He also advised them always follow Addressing the 4th truthfulness as it is the vocation of only key of success in this

> promoted education by establishing universities as he believed that Pakistan could only make progress through education. The developed always

generation to stabilize the technology has totally changed the global scenario. Hence, our scientists should accelerate their efforts to introduce create leadership ability as new inventions so that we could compete with rest of the world.

He said that the government has set its priority to eliminate corruption from every Government College Women University
Faisalabad (GCWUF) here Sharif during his tenure

Special be added to the special that the promoted education by special to the special that the promoted education by special that the promoted education by special that the promoted education by progress and prosperity. sphere of life as it was the He said that Nawaz root cause of crises and no corruption. Earlier. GCWUF Vice Chancellor





LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with organizers of the Lahore to Paris Rally.

Bilawal wants students to have access to all facilities: Zulfiqar Shah

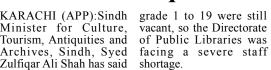
Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives, Sindh, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah has said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari wanted our libraries to be modern and convenience of the readers, more than 100 million equipped with the latest books, where students in e-library portal, from Sindh could have access to all facilities...

views while presiding over a meeting of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Sindh here

Friday.

DG Libraries Sindh Ejaz Sheikh while briefing the minister, said that there were currently 44 public libraries in all six divisions of Sindh and due to a large number of students and book readers, the libraries needed to be

expanded.



He briefed that for the books were available on the where readers can study their favorite books at any He expressed these time and from anywhere.

The provincial minister said, our intentions are good and firmed and I will soon visit all libraries to review public facilities and modern books. He warned that any kind of falsehood, wrong briefing, or excuse related to public interest would not be tolerated.

On this occasion, DG Libraries Sindh Ejaz Sheikh, Directors of Libraries Muhammad He said that due to no recruitment since 2013, Sarwar Channer, Bashir 419 out of 645 posts from Baloch, Shabbir Leghari.



LAHORE: Country Director World Food Program Coco Ushiyama meeting with Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzaib.

MoU was signed between Punjab Police, **KIPS education system**

Inspector General of Police (IĜP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that opportunities to the various academic tests children of police such as MDCAT and employees for higher others, under which the education in the best institutions is among top

He expressed while speaking at the MoU signing ceremony held at the Central Police Office, here on Friday. He said Punjab Police signed several MoUs with the renowned educational institutions in the last one year and scholarships worth Rs 850 million had been given to police personnel for the education expenses of their children.

He said that an MoU had been signed with a children of serving private organization (KIPS deceased employees

education system) to facilitate children of police employees in best quality education in schools and better colleges and preparation of others, under which the children of police officers will be able to complete their educational journey in the best educational institutions without any problem. He said that according to the MoU, children of police force will get special discounts in schools, colleges, evening coaching, test preparation, key academy and various tests such as MDCAT, etc. Children of police martyrs will get free admission, 100pc discount in education expenses, 50pc discount in admission, and monthly tuition fees for children of serving and

11 dead, 1295 injured in road

accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eleven

people were killed and 1295 injured in 1236 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 564 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 731 victims with minor injuries that the 'Fitna' party was matchless in telling lies and using inappropriate were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 736 drivers, 51 underage drivers, 160 pedestrians, and 410 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 252 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 260 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 85 in Multan

JICA delegation visits WSSCA

with 79 victims.

ABBOTTABAD (APP): A delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) led by Mr Koji Nakashima on Friday visited the headquarters of the Water and Sanitation Company Services Abbottabad (WSSCA) to discuss potential collaboration initiatives.

delegation included members of JICA Yoshiako Yukota, Koki Hironobu Sawa, Nakayama and Naila Almas

FAISALABAD: Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman awarding degrees among the successful students during the 4th Convocation of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF). Governor KP says Research in health sector vital for healthy society,

rooting out diseases PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said that research in the health

for a healthy society and rooting out diseases. Addressing at the Global Conference on Health Research-2024 in Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) as special guest here Friday, he paid tribute to the management committee

(APP): Research in the field of country.

"I also advise the said in order to deal with global medical challenges in the world, modern research in the health sector has to be promoted.

Rehman Medical Institute has undoubtedly done a great job on research to improve the field of medicine in this region, Haji Ghulam Ali said and added that the RMI was a renowned institution of Khyber

participating in the of RMI for organizing the Pakhtunkhwa which was World Conference on popular all over the conference to come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. **Opponents must compete** with Punjab CM on basis

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that opponents should compete with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on the basis of performance of using instead

inappropriate language.

She said this while reacting to a statement of Barrister Saif here on Friday. Azma Bukhari said language. She said Barrister Saif must control his tongue, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could not digest the performance of the Punjab Chief Minister. She said, "The Punjab CM believes in taking practical steps and she is creating ease for the people of Punjab."

Azma said that the CM was taking steps for the welfare of the people without discrimination

CM's aide directs steps to prevent domestic violence against women

of performance: Azma

PESHAWAR Advisor to Pakhtunkhwa Ćhief Minister, Mashal Azam of domestic violence.CM's Yousafzai has directed the social welfare department report about the working to take steps to prevent of non-governmental women from domestic organizations and directed violence and shift the them to stop further shelter home of district cooperation with those Khyber to an appropriate place in Landikotal.

She issued these directives during her visit to the Directorate of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment here on Friday.She directed steps

(APP): to prevent domestic Khyber violence and provide free legal help to women victims advisor also sought a that are non-functional. She highlighted the

priorities of the government to help drug priorities the addicts and said that a grand operation would be started very soon for their rehabilitation.

LHC CJ meets **HCBA Multan** delegation

young medical students to

make a name for themselves

in research in the medical

field. I hope that this

conference will prove to be very useful for the improvement of the medical field," said Haji

welcomed the researchers

from Iraq, Iran, Somalia,

Qatar and other countries

Governor

Ghulam Ali.

The

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Multan, led by President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla, met Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan on Friday.

The delegation also included Secretary-General Syed Anees Mehdi and Senior Advocate Malik Masroor Haider Usman.

The delegation extended an invitation to the chief justice to visit the High Court Bar Association tan at the earliest. The leaders of the lawyers apprised the chief justice of the issues faced by the bar associations in the Multan division and discussed matters of mutual interest. They praised the initiatives taken by the chief justice for the convenience of lawvers and litigants and offered suggestions for the welfare of the bar associations. President of the High Court Bar Association Multan requested the chief justice to increase the number of judges at the LHC's Multan Bench, as the current shortage was causing a backlog of cases. He also suggested that lawyers from the Multan bar be considered appointment as judges in the LHC.



Kite Flying: From cultural festival to deadly sport

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing at the Global Conference

LAHORE (APP): Kite every year. With the flying is a celebration of the spring season (Basant) benevolent intervening period between the receding winter and the solace to hearts, kite-flying has turned into a scourge due to human deaths caused by the use of multilayered heavy string (foreign twine) coated in synthetic materials over the past decades.

(commonly known as fourth week of February

advent of February, a new life is breathed into the marks the world of nature and the impact on the physical world is perceptible in many ways. Be it the advancing summer. Once a mating of birds, sprouting of new vegetation in the mustard fields or human yearning for sport and festivity, the month of February liberate the spirit and kite flying is its expression. Kite flying, once

flying celebrated as a festive occasion, had all the Patang Bazi) is held ingredients of a festival between the second and with a family reunion, music, dance on drum beat

on Health Research-2024 in Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) Hayatabad.

old rivalries on kite battles and traditional food. It provided the human soul the occasion to welcome the warmth in nature and human relationships. Lahore, Gujranwala and were considered centers of kite while flying preparations started months in advance as people got hold of the best or 'manjha' (abrasive twine) and hordes of kites. The 'daur' or 'manjha' is a cotton thread coated with crushed

glass materials to make it slash other twine. kite-flying

night under lights on the roof-tops and continued till the next sunset. Paper kites of different hues and colors enveloped the horizon while the deafening music was in consonance with the heated emotions of the kite flyers.

The slaying of opponent's twine was celebrated with trumpets, flutes and 'dhol' while some fierce rivalries in kite flying battles ensued for

The streets had serious hustle and bustle as kite runners followed the tumbling kites.

at a courier office in Bahria Town, Rawalpindi. 32 grams heroin was

recovered from a parcel sent to UK at the courier office in Lahore. In another operation at a courier office in

Rawalpindi, 8 grams weed were recovered from a parcel sent from the UK.

22.8 kg hashish was recovered from Dera Ismail Khan. The spokesman said that in two operations in Islamabad, 34.8 kg hashish and 4 kg heroin were

What injustice this laborers work on May 01 and we enjoy holiday: LHC

week hearing of petitions seeking court's order for eradication of smog During the hearing of the case, Justice Shahid

Karim remarked it is bevond comprehension that these deputy commissioners (DCs) do what. If Deputy Commissioner (DC) of a district wants to do some thing then revolution will

The petitions came up for hearing before Justice Shahid Karim of LHC here Friday.
The counsel for LDA

requested that directives be issued to all DCs that procedure be evolved for destroying plastic The court remarked

LAHORE (Online): be taken from home now too. If DC of a district wants to do some thing then revolution will come. I don't understand these deputy commissioners do

He further remarked DC is very powerful. He should only come outside

and see what was going on. The court directed Judicial commission to take action and impose fine of Rs 1 lac for wasting water in housing societies for the sake of conservation of

The court also directed to start cleanliness awareness campaign with the children of schools.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked the home is not only that where we live but the entire country is our home. The children should start cleanliness campaign earlier they took the shopping bags from their homes. These bags should with their parents on the occasion of labor day on May 01.



Netherlands, Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

KP Health Minister launches anti-polio campaign targeting over 4.4 million children

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ali inaugurated the anti-polio vaccination campaign on Friday by administering polio drops to children in

Peshawar.

Over 4.423 million children will be vaccinated in the campaign, which will be carried out in two phases. The first phase runs from April 29 to May 3, covering 14 complete districts and eight partial districts for polio than 4.423 million children

receive polio drops. According to official figures, 21,000 polio teams and 33,000 security personnel have been deployed for the campaign. No polio cases have been reported this year, compared to four cases in 2023. The minister urged parents to protect their children from lifelong disability by vaccinating

He emphasized the involvement of community members, scholars, local dignitaries, political eradication. The second leaders, and paediatricians phase runs from May 2 to in the polio eradication May 6, targeting polio efforts. He also noted that eradication in five districts. in developed countries, During both phases, more people take their children to vaccination centres under the age of five will themselves.



Affaris Ramesh Singh Aurora in a group photo with Canadian High Commissioner after meeting.

UAF to ink MoU with Ethiopian universities

FAISALABAD (APP): the field of education and Ambassador of Ethiopia research. A student Jemal Beker Abdula has exchange program was also stressed the need for joint agreed upon, he added. efforts for promotion of He said that UAF is agriculture sector and said recognized all over the that University of Memorandums Understanding (MoUs) with Ethiopian universities. He was addressing a

meeting held with UAF Vice Chancellor Dr. Igrar Ahmad Khan to discuss the area of academic and research cooperation. He said that UAF

world and its ongoing Agriculture Faisalabad educational and research (UAF) would soon ink programs are worth of mentioning. Hence, joint Us) efforts will be implemented through an agreement, he added. Vice Chancellor Dr. Igrar Ahmad Khan said that the University of Agriculture has established excellent relations with the universities of different

countries from all over the He said that UAF continent by benefiting would sign MoU with two from each other's agricultural universities of experiences to solve Ethiopia to benefit from agricultural problems and each other's experiences in improve agriculture.

ANF recovers 90 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): parcel booked for the UK Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 90 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said

spokesman here on Friday. He informed that 5.3 kg Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Lahore Airport.

Headquarters

22 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah at Islamabad Airport. 630 grams heroin was recovered from a recovered.

Intellectual Property Rights crucial in achieving SDG: Jam

Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan Friday emphasized the vital role of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights in driving innovation, creativity and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

minister reaffirmed the governments resolve to prioritize the development of a robust national Intellectual Property (IP) framework that fosters innovation and creativity for ensuring equitable access to the benefits of IP, especially marginalized

Addressing Seminar organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day 2024, the minister said that Pakistan was blessed with huge natural resources and need to channelize these resources and streamline the direction.

significance as we reflect strengthen fostering innovation, creativity and ultimately Development (SDGs), he added.

The theme of the awareness Building our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity as the event was also attended by the senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce, IPO and businessmen and academia. Jam Kamal said that

government will promote collaborations between government, industry, enhance academia, and civil society to drive innovation and entrepreneurship, with a strong emphasis on technologies and solutions support achievement of the SDGs.

The minister stressed the need to focus on leveraging IP as a strategic tool to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and said that the Ministry of Commerce was committed raising awareness

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid

Maqbool Siddiqui and Ms. Qurat ul Ain Vice President Federation of Pakistan

Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) exchanging the views on the gap

between industry and academia, skill development, manpower and other

for US beef, while Pakistan

appreciated US support

for facilitating market

access for its mangoes and

fresh dates.Both countries

commitment to removing

barriers for additional

agricultural products on a

protecting and enforcing

intellectual property (IP)

was also recognized, with

the US appreciating Pakistan's recent efforts to

Zafarullah Saanghi collected Rs 0.08 million

from 07 defaulters in South Circle; SE Muhammad

Hussain recovered Rs 0.28

million from 11 defaulters

in Nankana Circle; SE

Najamul Hassan recovered

defaulters in Sheikhupura

Circle; SE Jamshed Zaman

collected Rs 0.40 million

from 12 defaulters in Okara

Circle and SE Ahmed

recovered Rs 0.64 million

from 13 defaulters in Kasur

During the 207 days,

Chughtai

Shahzad

Circle.

from 64 defaulters in Eastern Circle; SE Shabbir the LESCO has recovered

Rs 0.64 million from 09

The importance of

Pak, US hold 7th TIFA

meeting to strengthen

trade and investment ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): intellectual property

meeting of the Pakistan- enforcement, labor rights,

United States (US) Trade good regulatory practices,

discussed ways to welcomed Pakistan's strengthen trade ties progress on market access

matters, including agriculture, digital trade, added.

LESCO collects over

Rs 4.36m from 189

defaulters in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): The from 47 defaulters in Lahore Electric Supply Central Circle; SE Company (LESCO) Zafarullah Saanghi

Lahore,

Framework (TIFA) was empowerment.

protection

Investment and women's economic

expressed

reciprocal basis.

The 7th Intersessional

held here on Friday and

between the two nations.

Ministry of Commerce

Muhammad Sauleh Ahmad

Faruqui leading the Pakistani delegation and Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR),

Brenden Lynch, heading

the US delegation, said a

During the meeting, both sides engaged in

constructive discussions on

a range of trade and

investment-related

recovered more than Rs

4.36 million from 189 dead defaulters in all the five

districts- Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara-on the 207th day of its recovery campaign. LESCO spokesman

told the media here Friday that on the 207th day, SE

(Superintending Engineer)

Nisar Sarwar has recovered

outstanding dues of Rs

0.65 million from 26 defaulters in Northern

Circle; SE Umar Bilal

recovered Rs 0.92 million

districts-

news release.

Federal Secretary

on the crucial role of ecosystem, particularly in Intellectual Property in relation to sustainable

The government was advancing the Sustainable also intended to invest in capacity-building initiatives to enhance event was IP and SDGs: understanding of IP Rights among entrepreneurs, for enabling them to leverage IP effectively for sustainable development,

> He said that the the country was passing through challenging time and stressed the need for bringing more innovation to competitiveness of local international markets and to enhance exports from

The minister lauded IPO-Pakistan and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the commemoration of this important day and expressed the commitment to promote IP Rights and

50pc cut in

subsidy of BRT

service likely:

CM's aide

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP CM on

Finance, Muzzamil Aslam

has hinted at 50 percent cut

in the subsidy of the Bus

Rapid Transit (BRT) and

rationalization of the fares

of the BRT service to the

extent to put no

unnecessary burden on its

views while presiding over

a TransPeshawar and

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Urban Mobility Authority

(KPUMA) here on Friday.

Besides, Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) KPUMA,

Dr Tariq Usman, Additional Secretary

Transport and Project

Director (Solarization)

Development Organization

(PEDO), other concerned

authorities also attended

Shipping

activity at

Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Three

ships namely, Seaspan

Beacon, SSL Brahmaputra

and Haj Muhammad scheduled to load/offload

Container and Cement, berthed at Container Terminal and Multi-

respectively during last 24

ship 'Doha' with Liquefied

Natural Gas also arrived at

outer-anchorage of the Port

Qasim during the same

were engaged at PQA

berths during the last 24 hours, out of them six

ships, SSL Brahmaputra,

Seaspan Beacon, Seacon

Yokohama, Asia Liberty.

Bateleur and Hansa Oslo

are expected to sail on

Meanwhile another

A total of nine ships

Terminal

Energy

He expressed these

commuters.

Provincial

the meeting.

Purpose

hours.

period.



on the occasion of "World IP Day Seminar 2024" organized by IPO-Pakistan in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce(ICCI).

Bridge the gap between academia and industry is our big mission: Khalid

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Ms. Qurat ul Ain Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), met Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Federal Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. She apprised the FM about gap between academia and industry, esearch and

government's dedication to revolutionizing education sector in Pakistan. By implementing comprehensive strategies and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders, the Ministry aims to create a brighter future for the nation's youth. He futher said that bridge the gap between academia and industry is our big mission. cooperation, tecnical industry is our big mission. education, and other issues
Federal Minister for in this case will be provide cutting-edge IT skills to the

youth, so that ensuring Education reiterated the their relevance in the everevolving job market. Minister Siddiqui futher said that the industry and universities should work together to solve the country's problems through research and cooperation. he said that people with technical education and technical experience are in demand all over the world. He said that the government is paying special attention to vocational education.

SECP-IFSB workshop highlights Pak progress in Islamic Finance Dev.

SLAMABAD (APP): A principles, he pointed out that SECP has already building workshop on Islamic Capital Markets, jointly organized by the Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) concluded on Friday, highlighting Pakistan's significant

progress in developing the Islamic finance industry. The workshop has designed to enhance the capacity of the officials of regulatory and supervisory authorities, said a news

release issued here. commitment to support the continued development and expansion of the Islamic finance industry in Pakistan

Referring to the historic judgment of the Federal Shariat Court and government's commitment to transform the entire financial system in accordance with Shariah accelerated its efforts and achieved considerable progress by enabling Islamic finance in all regulated sectors.

The SECP revamped the Shariah governance framework and also issued guidelines for offering Islamic Financial Services that are enabling industry to achieve many firsts during the year. These include Shariah

certification of the first ever Shariah-compliant REIT schemes, dedicated asset management Chairman SECP Akif companies, Islamic income, funds, Islamic pension schemes, Islamic ETFs, an NBFC with buy-now paylater platform, a stock brokerage house, and a

> microfinance company. The regular issuance and listing of GoP Ijarah Sukuk through the stock market is another major breakthrough in the

Coca-Cola invests an additional \$22m in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP) Coca-Cola has invested \$22 million in the beverage sector, specifically in technology upgrades, capacity enhancement of its export potential, and employment for over half million professionals along its

is in addition to the \$1 billion invested in the country by the Coca-Cola System since 2008, said a news release issued here on Friday.To discuss future investments in Special Global Cola Company, met with the Secretary Punjab Board of Investment Ehsan Bhutta.

McLaughlin reassured the Punjab government of company's commitment to the nation's growth potential.

Secretary Bhutta

This new investment Economic Zones, Iain meeting at Agriculture province. Besides, 5,000 McLaughlin, President oduct Supply, The Coca

praised Coca-Cola as an



FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Beker Abdullah posing for a group photograph along with President of Chamber of Commerce Dr Khuram Tariq during his visit at Chamber, in the city.

FBR's data protection efforts commended by **OECD** assessment team

ISLAMABAD (APP): An assessment team of the Inland Revenue Authority assessment team of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

global forum on transparency and exchange global of information for tax purposes appreciated the efforts of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)

in upholding international commitments made for protection of exchanged data.

The assessment team of the OECD global forum on Transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes visited Pakistan from 23rd to 25th April, 2024 for onsite assessment of Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) confidentiality and data safeguards, said a news release her on Friday .The delegation comprised of Tax Policy Advisor OECD Gudrun Jenny Jonsdottir, Technical Advisor Information Security Management maintaining OECD Jasmina Trajkovski

of Singapore Toh Ginn Shyong and Section Head Information Systems Department Mauritius Revenue Authority Ashwin Luckoo.

The assessment team

held details meeting with FBR officials, led by Ms Aisha Farooq, Director General (International Taxes) which was also attended by officials of PRAL and IT Wing of FBR.

Aisha welcomed the delegation and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to exchange of information for mutual benefit as well as ensuring confidentiality and safeguard of exchanged

Three-day sessions were attended by the concerned officers for input and discussion of policies and Information Security Framework in place by FBR for data confidentiality

PSX gains 771 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday gained 771.35 points, a positive change of 1.07 percent, closing at 72,742.75 points against 71,971.40 points the previous trading day. total

A total of 541,144,650 shares valuing Rs 22.589 billion were traded during the day as compared to 798,527,177 shares valuing Rs 27.542 billion the last day.

Some 375 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 175 of them recorded gains and 175 sustained losses, whereas the prices of 25 remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Askari Bank Limited with 39,174,000 shares at Rs 25.16 per share, K-Electric Limited with 31,235,856 shares at Rs 4.58 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 30,155,361 shares at

Rs 1.33 per share. Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 131.74 per share price, closing at Rs 7,822.61.

Meeting held to streamline trade between Pak-Afghan, **Central Asian Republics**

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of stakeholders was held with Director Haq Sarhadi said APTTA Transit Directorate of 2010 has several lacunas as Γransit Trade, Arbab a result of which 70 percent Qaiser to discuss measures of transit trade has been for streamlining trade shifted from Karachi port between Pakistan- to Bandar Abbas in Iran. Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs).

The businessmen delegation was headed by President Frontier Custom Agents (FCAA), Association (FCAA), Zia-ul-Haq Sharhadi, said a press release issued here on Others who attended

the meeting included Additional Director, Dr. Wajid Ali, Deputy Director Transit Torkhem, Ms. Maliaka Ahmad, Vice President Frontier Custom Agents Association, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, Central Chairman All Pakistan Agents Farooq Custom Association, Ahmad, former SVP SCCI. Engr Manzoor Elahi and others.

to Bandar Abbas in Iran.

He also demanded revival of Goods in Transit to Afghanistan (GITA) service through lose cargo via train between Peshawar to Karachi and from Karachi to Chaman.

For this purpose, he continued, the SRO 121 be repealed for allowing GITA services through containers and lose cargo as well.

The documentation (DG) of all this cargo under GITA should be held under WeBOC at Azhakhel dry port so that custom clearing and forwarding agents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should also benefit from this trade.

Zia Sarhadi said in October 2023, Ministry of Commerce through issuing SRO 1380 imposed a ban.



LAHORE: A vendor arranges bundles of tobacco at his shop near to attract customers at Garhi Shahu.

'Transforming Punjab Agri plan to help develop farm sector on modern lines: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani has said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's, 'Transforming Punjab Agriculture' plan worth over Rs. 400 billion will be an important milestone for the farm sector development and farmers' prosperity.

He said this while presiding over a high-level House on Friday. The super seeders and 2,000 Commercial meeting reviewed the time-rice shredders would be line of the plan.

Kirmani said that all the arrangements for providing interest-free loans of Rs. 300 billion to the farmers were in the 80 billion. Rs 2 billion final stages of completion. The loan scheme was reorganization of the

cooperation of Agriculture department and Bank of Punjab. He further said that under this flagship program, 500,000 farmers would be provided interestfree loans. To ensure the transparency of this scheme, Punjab Kissan card was being issued soon. Agriculture Minister said that 7,000 tube wells would be transferred to solar system across rovided to the fai 60% subsidy.

In Punjab, 7,300 water courses would be improved at a cost of Rs would be utilized on the

Machinery equipment assembling grew by 70.98% in 08 months

in the country during the first 08 months of the under review, 32,211

the last year.

compared according to the against the 241 units Quantum Index of Large Scale Manufacturing period of last year.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Industries released by Manufacturing of the Pakistan Bureau of machinery and equipment Statistics.

current financial year grew tractors were locally by 70.98 per cent as assembled as against the compared to the assembling of 19,108 manufacturing of the tractors of the same period corresponding period of last year.

However. During the period from July-February, 2023-24 tractors assembling grew by 68.57 per cent as grew by 68.57 per cent as grew by 68.57 per cent as grew went down by 52.50 per cent as grew by 68.57 per cent as grew by 68.57 per cent as grew went down by 52.50 per cent as grew by 68.57 per ce the 53.11 per cent as about 113 assembling of the same units of heavy machinery last year, were locally assembled as



demonstration for release of Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, at Karachi press club.

SCCI for simplifying procedure to enhance arms, ammunition export

PESHAWAR President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq has stressed simplifying procedures and processing systems to enhance business and export of arms and ammunition from Pakistan.

He was talking to Deputy Director General Defense Export Production Organization (DEPO) Commodore Aitizaz Khalid here at SSCI on

(APP): Friday. He also demanded state-of-the-art laboratory for checking the quality and standard of the arms and ammunition.

Speaking on the occasion, Aitizaz Khalid apprised participants about the main objectives and functions of DEPO and invited President SCCI to participate in the upcoming International Defense Exhibition and Seminar 2024 (IDEAS-2024) in Karachi



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Leader; Dr. Farooq Sattar take keen interest in furniture during the Pakistan Interior Furniture Expo 2024 held at Expo Centre in Karachi.

Xi tells Blinken US and China should be 'partners, not rivals'

Monitoring Desk dent Xi Jinping on Friday told top US diplomat Antony Blinken that the world's two biggest economies should be "partners, not rivals", but that there were a "number of issues" to be resolved in their relations. Blinken, in China for the second time in less than a year, met leading Chinese politicians in Beijing. US officials said he would directly raise crucial areas of difference including Russia,

Meeting Blinken in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said the two countries had "made some positive progress" since he met with US President Joe support for Russia.

Biden last year, according to state broadcaster CCTV. "The two countries should be partners, not ri-

vals," Xi said. "There are still a number of issues that need to be resolved, and there is still room for further efforts," the Chinese leader added. "We hope the US can also take a positive view of China's development," he added. 'When this fundamental problem is solved [...] relations can truly stabilise, get better, and move forward. Earlier, China's for-

eign minister Wang Yi warned Blinken that US pressure could trigger a 'downward spiral", as the visiting diplomat raised concerns on issues including

AUSTIN: Law enforcement personnel detain a pro-Palestinian protester at

'Today, UCLA joins

students across the coun-

try in demanding that our

universities divest from the

companies which profit off

of the occupation, apartheid and genocide in Pales-

tine." More than 200 pro-

fresh rally was scheduled

video from Emory College

in Atlanta showed police

wrestling with protestors

on neatly manicured lawns.

The spreading protests be-

gan at Columbia University in New York, where a mid-

night deadline was ap-

proaching for students to

remove an encampment

pledges. "It is now our re-

sponsibility to turn these

commitments into real de-

liveries of weapons and am-

munition – and to do so quickly," he said.

a swipe at China, accusing

Beijing of "propping up

Russia's war economy" by

sharing high-end technol-

ogy that can be used to pro-

duce missiles, tanks, and

aircraft. "China says it

wants good relations with the

West. At the same time.

Beijing continues to fuel the

largest armed conflict in Eu-

rope since World War Two,'

he said, warning that "they

traditionally enjoyed close

economic ties, with German

companies investing huge

sums in China and export

ing goods in massive quan-

tities to the world's num-

ber two economy

Berlin and Beijing have

cannot have it both ways"

Stoltenberg also took

Photographs and

for midday.

NATO chief Stoltenberg says

it's 'not too late for Ukraine

to prevail' against Russia

UCLA protest.

the question of self-ruled Taiwan was the "first red line" that must not be crossed in China-US relations. Blinken described his talks with Wang at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse — which lasted more than five and a half hours — as "extensive and constructive". The top US diplomat will speak to journalists later on Friday at the US embassy in Beijing.

China has been infuriated by Biden's pressure on the economic front which is unlikely to ease during an election year including a sweeping ban on semiconductor exports and efforts to wrest blockbuster video app TikTok away from its Chinese owners.



Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Israel intensifies Rafah airstrikes before ground assault

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: As Israel stepped up airstrikes on Rafah and planned to launch an all-out ground assault despite allies' warnings this could cause mass casualties, Pales-tinian authorities on Thursday asked the United Nations to conduct a probe into mass graves at Gaza

Medics in the besieged Palestinian enclave reported five Israeli airstrikes on Rafah early on Thursday that hit at least three houses, killing at least six people including a said on Thursday.

local journalist. In the seventh month of a devastating air and ground war against Hamas, Israeli forces also resumed bombarding northern and central areas of the Gaza Strip, as well as east of Khan Yunis in the south.

Israeli warplanes had hammered the north for a second day on Wednesday, shattering weeks of comparative calm there. The war, now in its seventh month, has killed at least 34,305 Palestinians, Gaza health authorities

Gaza baby saved from dead mother's womb dies

Monitoring Desk

RAFAH: A baby girl who was delivered from her dying mother's womb in a Gaza hospital following an Israeli airstrike has herself died after just a few days of life, the doctor who was caring for her said on Friday. The baby had been

named Rouh, meaning Soul. Her mother, Sabreen Al-Sakani, was seriously injured when the Israeli strike hit the family home in Rafah, the southernmost city in the besieged Gaza Strip, on Saturday night. Her husband Shukri and their three-year-old daughter Malak were killed. Sabreen, who was 30weeks pregnant, was rushed to the Emirati hospital in Rafah. She died of

her wounds but doctors

were able to save the baby,

delivering her by Caesarean

However, the baby suffered respiratory problems and a weak immune system, said Doctor Mohammad Salama, head of the emergency neo-natal unit at Emirati Hospital, who had been caring

Fire at Brazil guesthouse leaves at least 10 dead, 11 injured

Monitoring Desk SAO PAULO: At least 10 people died and 11 were injured in the early hours of Friday morning in a major fire at a guesthouse in Brazil's southern city of Porto Alegre, said the Rio Grande do Sul state fire department, which is still searching for the missing.

The firefighters said they were called at around 2 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Friday and extinguished the fire within two hours, according to the fire ser-

Pope will attend G7 summit to discuss AI, Italy says **Monitoring Desk**

ROME: Pope Francis will attend this year's Group of Seven (G7) leaders' summit to discuss the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday.

The meeting is being held in the southern Italian region of Puglia from June 13 to 15 and draws together the leaders of the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Japan, as well as a few specially invited

Ukraine's Zelenskiy calls for air defense systems as allies meet **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: Ukrai-nian President Volodymyr Zelenskiv on Friday called for additional air defense systems to be sent to Kyiv to help protect against Russian strikes, adding that a pause in US funding had helped Moscow seize the initiative. "This year, Russian jets (have) already used more than 9,000 guided aerial bombs against Ükraine and we need the ability to shoot down the air combat aircraft so that they do not approach our positions and borders," Zelenskiy said at the start of a virtual meeting led by the United States on helping arm Ukraine.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the meeting would focus on Ukraine's air defense capabilities. The meeting comes days after Congress tions against Russ emerged from a half-year of in the near term.

deadlock to approve a \$61 billion aid package for Ukraine. President Joe Biden's administration quickly announced \$1 billion in artillery, air defenses and other hardware would soon be heading to Ukrainian front lines. "While we were waiting for a decision on the American support, the Russian army managed to seize the initiative on the battlefield," Zelenskiy said. "We can still now, not

only stabilize the front, but also move forward achieving our Ukrainian goals in the war," he added. The United States hopes its new deliveries of weaponry will help Ukraine rêbuild defenses and refit its forces as it recovers from a gap in US assistance, but it does not expect Kyiv to launch large-scale offensive operations against Russian forces

Shoigu says Russia and allies should step up military exercises in Asia

Monitoring Desk

ASTANA: Russia and its allies in Asia should expand joint military exercises as they face a direct threat from attempts by the United States to expand its security influence in the region, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Friday.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a security grouping that includes Russia, India, China, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

'I believe that everyone present shares the opinion that the deployment of military infrastructure in the region by the United States and its allies is unacceptable," Shoigu said. "Such intentions must be regarded as a direct threat to stability in the SCO space.

SCO member states over Taiwan.

should expand the scope and geography of their military exercises, he told the meeting in the Kazakh capital Astana. His speech highlighted Russia's intention to strengthen military ties with partners in Asia and resist any erosion of its influence there despite the intense demands on its army of the war it has been fighting for more than two years in Ukraine. At home, Shoigu's

position is under greaterthan-usual scrutiny after the arrest of one of his deputies this week in a bribery scandal, a development that threatens to weaken him politically.

In his speech, he accused the US-led QUAD and AUKUS blocs of trying to reshape the security structure in the Pacific to suit themselves, and said that increasing pressure was being exerted on China

UK slaps fresh sanctions on Iran after Israel attack

Monitoring Desk ONDON: The UK on Thursday joined the United States and Canada in announcing a fresh set of sanctions against Iran's drone and missile industries after its recent attack on Israel.

Tehran launched its first direct military assault on Israeli territory nearly two weeks after an April 1 air strike—widely blamed on Israel—that killed seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Damascus.

Iran's large-scale attack involved more than 300 drones and missiles, most of which were shot down by Israel and its allies including Washington and London, causing little

The United States and Britain announced widespread sanctions on Iran last week, targeting individuals and companies involved in the Iranian drone

ment Office said the latest sanctions would target two individuals and four companies closely involved in Iran's network of drone

production. Trade against Iran would also be expanded by introducing new bans on the export of components used in its produce of drones and missiles, it added.

'The Iranian regime's dangerous attack on Israel risked thousands of civilian casualties and wider escalation in the region," Foreign Secretary David Cameron said in a statement, "Alongside our partners we will continue to tighten the net on Iran's ability to develop and export these deadly weap-

The UK already has over 400 sanctions imposed on Iran, including designations against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in its entirety and The Foreign Commany of those responsi monwealth and Developfor the attack on Israel. many of those responsible

Bangladesh children sweat at home as heatwave shuts schools

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Classes are can-

celled across Bangladesh due to searing heat, but high school student Mohua Akter Nur found the soaring temperatures at home left her in no state for homework.

Millions of pupils were told to stay home this week as the South Asian nation swelters through one of its worst heatwaves on record, with temperatures 4-5 degrees Celsius (7.2-9 degrees Fahrenheit) above the long-term average. Few schools in the

capital Dhaka have air condifioning, and trying to conduct classes would have been futile. But the government's decision to shutter schools was no relief to 13-year-old Nur.

Her cramped oneroom home in the megacity, shared with her younger brother and parents, feels almost as suffocating as the streets outside.

The heat is intolerable. Our school is shut, but I can't study at home. The electric fan does not cool us," she told AFP. When the power went out for an hour or two, it

felt terrible."

Nur's mother Rumana Islam was laying down in a corner of their home after a sleepless night, coated in sweat after cooking for her family. "Last year was hot, but this year is too hotmore than ever. Just unbearable," she said.

'In villages, you can step out and cool yourself under the shade of trees. "There is some breeze coming from the farmland. But here in Dhaka, all you can do is sit at home. Temperatures across

the country have reached more than 42C (108F) in the past week. The heat prompted thousands of Bangladeshis to gather in city mosques and rural fields, praying for relief from the scorching heat that forecasters expect to continue through the weekend.

Bangladesh authorities expect to reopen schools from April 28, before temperatures are expected to recede. Extensive scientific research has found climate change is causing heat waves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

the University of Texas in Austin. **Pro-Palestinian US** campus protests grow as police start crackdown

Monitoring Desk LOS ANGELES: Pro-Palestinian protests spread to more college campuses in the United States on Thursday as authorities appeared to be running out of patience and police carried out large-scale arrests

Students at some of the testers were arrested on country's most prestigious Wednesday and early universities have staged oc- Thursday at universities in cupations over the growing human toll of Israel's aggres-Austin, Texas, where a sion in Gaza. Sit-ins and boisterous demonstrations, including a new one that sprung up at the University of California, Los Angeles, are calling for colleges to sever ties with Israel and with companies they say profit from the

"For 201 days, the world has watched in si-lence as Israel has murdered over 30,000 Palestinians. said a message posted that has become the online by organisers of the epicentre of the movement.

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: NATO chief Jens

Stoltenberg said Thursday

it was "not too late for

Ukraine to prevail" against

Russia as long as its allies

fulfil promises to deliver

NATO allies have not pro-

vided the support we have promised," he said in a

speech on a visit to Berlin.

for Ukraine to prevail, be-

cause more support is on

the way." Ukraine has suf-

fered setbacks on the battle-

field against Russia's forces

due to ammunition and

that the US Congress had

finally approved a bill to

provide billions of dollars

in support for Ukraine, and

other countries including

Britain, Germany and the

Netherlands had made new

But Stoltenberg noted

weapons shortages.

"In recent months,

"But it is not too late

more weapons.

Egyptian delegation in Israel for talks on Gaza hostages

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: An Egyptian delegation met Israeli counterparts on Friday. looking for a way to restart talks to end the war in Gaza and return the remaining Israeli hostages, an official briefed on the meetings

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel had no ew proposals to make a though it was willing to consider a limited truce in which 33 hostages would be released by the Islamist movement Hamas, instead of the 40 previously under discussion.

"There are no current hostage talks between Israel and Hamas, nor is there a new Israeli offer in that regard," the official said. What there is, is an attempt by Egypt to restart the talks with an Egyptian proposal that would entail the release of 33 hostages women, elderly and infirm.'

China passes tariff law amid tensions with trading partners

Monitoring Desk

cess industrial capacity.
The Tariff Law, approved by China's top legislature after three rounds of deliberations going back to 2022, signals to China's biggest trade partners its ability to hit back should they impose tariffs on exports of the world's No.2

It is the latest addition o Beijing's arsenal of trade defence instruments as it maintains an uneasy truce with Washington following a trade war that began while Donald Trump was U.S. president

BEIJING: China passed a law on Friday strengthening its trade defence capabilities as the United States and the European Union take aim at Beijing over ex-



Demonstrators clash with police as they protest against the introduction of a tourist fee for day trippers to Venice.

Darrang district of Assam state. **Indian election resumes** as heatwave hits voters

Monitoring Desk DARRANG: India's sixweek election juggernaut resumed on Friday with millions of people lining up outside polling stations in

orching heatwave. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely expected to win a third term in the election, which con-

round of voting last week dropped nearly four points to 66 per cent from the last election in 2019, with speculation in Indian media outlets that higher-than-average temperatures were to

re-opened to urge those voting to turn out in "record numbers" despite

The second round of

Voters stand in a queue to cast their ballot outside a polling station during the

second phase of voting for the India's general election at Gashbari village in

the heat 'A high voter turnout strengthens our demoche wrote on social parts of the country hit by media platform X. ' vote is your voice!"

the poll — conducted in phases to ease the immense logistical burden of staging cludes in early June. an election in the world's But turnout in the first most populous country includes districts that have this week seen temperatures above 40 degrees Cel-

Modi took to social

India's weather bureau said on Thursday that severe heatwave conditions would continue in several nedia shortly before polls states through the weekend.

DR Congo accuses Apple of using 'blood minerals' from war-torn east

Monitoring Desk PARIS: The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has accused Apple of using "illegally exploited" minerals extracted from the country's embattled east in its products, lawyers representing the African country said on Thursday. The DRC's lawvers have sent Apple a formal cease and desist notice. effectively warning the tech giant it could face legal action if the alleged practice

continues The Paris-based lawyers for the DRC accused Apple of purchasing miner-

als smuggled from the DRC into neighbouring Rwanda, where they are laundered and "integrated into the global supply chain". Contacted by AFP, Apple pointed to statements from its 2023 annual corporate report regarding the alleged use of so-called conflict minerals that are crucial for a wide range of hightech products, "Based on our due diligence efforts... we found no reasonable basis for concluding that any of the smelters or refiners of 3TG (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold) determined to be in our

supply chain as of Decem-

Tabloid publisher says he killed stories to hide Trump's affairs

Venice launches

five-euro entry fee

Monitoring Desk

VENICE: Venice launched

a new scheme on Thurs-

day to charge day-trip-

pers for entering the his-

toric Italian city, a world

first intended to ease the

pressure of mass tourism

opposed.

crowds.

- but many residents are

Unesco World Heritage site

for the day have to buy a

five-euro (\$5.3) ticket, with

inspectors carrying out

spot checks at key entry

most beautiful cities on the

planet, Venice is one of the

world's top tourist destina-

tions — but is drowning

under the weight of the

Considered one of the

Visitors entering the

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker testified at Donald Trump's criminal trial on Thursday that he worked out a deal that would allow Trump to buy the silence of a former Playboy model who said she had an affair with him, but called it off.

Pecker, 72, said he signed an agreement with Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to assign the rights to former model Karen McDougal's story to a shell company that would hide the fact that Trump was paying for it.

Pakistan pushes for stopping Israeli war machine to end Palestinians' slaughter in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS (APP) - Pakistan has called on the United Nations and the world community to consider "further measures" against Israel to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to its "plausible genocide" of the Palestinian people in the besieged enclave. Speaking in the United Nations Security Council's ministerial-level debate on the Middle East situation, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, did not specify the measures but pointed out that Israel's war in Gaza has spread the conflict to adjacent regions and further escalation must be prevented. "Yet, unless Israel's war machine is stopped from further slaughter in Gaza, there is an everpresent danger that war and violence will spread and possibly engulf the entire

Middle East and beyond," bership, which, he said, is the Pakistani envoy said.

"Today," he went on to say that the 15-member Council has "three urgent responsibilities – to halt Israel's genocidal war in Gaza; to prevent the further spread and escalation peace process towards a two-State solution to establish durable peace and security in the Middle East.

Addressing the regional ramifications of the Gaza conflict, Ambassador Jadoon cautioned against the conflict's spread to neighbouring areas such as the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and

He urged all parties to exercise restraint to prevent further escalation. Ambassador Jadoon also underscored the timeliness of Palestine's re-submitted application for UN mem-

initiatives advocating for a two-State solution.

Expressing disappointment over the UN Security Council veto on Algeria's draft resolution for Palestine's full UN of war; and to revive the membership, he pointed to the overwhelming support signalling Palestine's rightful place in the international community

Ambassador Jadoon

reaffirmed Pakistan's unwasupport Palestine's quest for selfdetermination, emphasizing that UN membership is a crucial step towards rectifying historical injustices and fostering conditions for meaningful negotiations.' Pakistan', he said, was committed to a two-state settlement based on the 1967 borders, with Al-Ouds



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti being briefed by Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat regarding Circular Road

Pakistan has given its reaction on US listing about ballistic missile program: FO

Zahra Baloch has said Pakistan has given its reaction on US listing regarding ballistic missile program and we have informed US about our reservations

her weekly press briefing in FO here Friday.

the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi visited Pakistan this week. This was the first visit by an Iranian leader in seven years.

This visit provided an Chabahar. opportunity for the two sides to hold in-depth talks on all aspects of bilateral

DGPR Information Cell

Independent Report

QUETTA: To deal with the

disasters of severe and un-

expected climate change,

the world must decide on a

common and integrated plan

of action. Climate change

has had severe effects in

Pakistan. These views were

expressed by Senator

She said that to avoid

Samina Mumtaz Zehri in a

heavy rains and floods now

we have to be serious and

to avoid this natural calam-

ity floods we have to put

all kinds of political differ-

ences aside and make seri-

ous efforts to build dams

so that our future genera-

tions could be protected

from the effects of these

disasters and due to the ex-

pected severe climate

vere cold and hot seasons,

the expected heavy rains

and floods can be avoided,

In addition to the se-

changes in the future.

statement on Friday.

ISLAMABAD (Online): relations and regional and Foreign Office (FO) global developments. There situation in Gaza and on spokesperson Mumtaz was agreement to expand Jammu and Kashmir. The cooperation in economic, cultural and security dojoint border markets and economic free zones; and promote connectivity including mutually beneficial relationships between the ports of Gwadar and

She added as expressed in the Joint Statement, Pakistan and Iran

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. (Retd)

Saad bin Asad giving away laptop to an internee at

Climate change poses

severe threats to Pakistan,

Balochistan: Samina

Mumtaz Zehri said that cli-

mate change the major coun-

tries that caused these cata-

strophic changes should

help the countries affected

by these devastating

changes, especially Paki-stan in this difficult situa-

this year, like last year, Pa-

kistan is particularly af-

fected by the recent unex-

pected heavy rains and

flood situation in Pakistan,

structure of Balochistan

province has been severely

damaged, due to this situa-

tion, Balochistan was fac-

ing serious challenges of cli-

flood-affected areas, reha-

bilitation plans and future

strategies may be focus on

the consequences of cli-

mate change, potential losses should be minimized.

She said that in the

She said that the infra-

Due to climate change,

tion after the floods.

she said.

mate change.

leaders highlighted the need for dialogue and peaceful mains and to transform the means to resolve the Kash-Pakistan-Iran border into a mir dispute, in accordance border of peace, friendship and prosperity. In this contact will of the people. On She said this during text, the two sides will pro- Gaza, both sides expressed mote bilateral trade; fast support for a just, compretrack negotiations on Free hensive, and durable soluplaced persons.



QUETTA: The annual Hinglaj mata mela (festival) of the Hindu community began in Lasbela on Friday. The Hindu yatrees

from different parties of the including Balochistan are participat-

Necessary arrangements have been made to facilitate yayrees turning up there for performing Hindu religious rituals, stated the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Focal Person for Hinglaj Mata festival, Syed Yaseen Akhtar. A medical camp has been set up for three-day festival of Hinglaj mata where trained staff and doctors have been deputed.

from B-19 to B-20 grade in Agriculture

QUETTA (APP): Director of Agriculture Research Balochistan Abdul Rauf Khan Kakar has been promoted from B-19 to B-20 grade. According official notification issued here on Friday, the meeting was held on February 27, 2024 on the recommendations of the Provincial Selection Board-1 as Director (B-19) Agriculture Research Balochistan has been promoted to the post of (B-20) in Agriculture Depart-

ment (Research Wing).

of the Palestinian people, as well as the return of dis-She remarked Chairman, China International

Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui visited Pakistan from 21-25 April 2024. In Islamabad, he called on the

In a statement issued here, he said free veterinary camps will be organized in different Balochistan to provide vaccination, medicines to the livestock owners to protect the animals from infec-

Independent Report

ing in the festival.

Rauf promoted Research Dept



QUETTA: A view of accumulated rain water.

Independent Report

UETTA: The Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Department, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa has stated that it is our priority to put the C&W department on modern lines providing it mod-

ern technology.

He said that development and improvement of infrastructure and prosperity of the province depends on better performance of the C&W department.

The Provincial Minister was speaking on occasion of briefing on different ongoing projects of the C&W department here on

The Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti, Chief Engineer (Design) Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Project Directors and other concerned high

The Project Directors briefed the meeting about their respective projects. The Secretary said that it is topmost priority

ups were also present.

to complete the projects within stipulated time. The Minister also stressed the need to complete the development

projects well in time. He assured to resolve the issues of funding for the





WUHAN: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo with officials of Pakistan Navy and China shipyard during launching ceremony of 1st HANGOR Class submarine of Pakistan Navy at Shuangliu

Treasury benches call **Opposition in Senate to unite** for fighting national challenges

The members of the treasury benches on Friday called the Opposition members in the Ûpper House of the Parliament to unite for ighting national challenges

The Senate session started debate with the two-point agenda of tabling the copy of the President's address before both the Houses during the joint session on April 18th and the motion of thanks to extend the House's gratitude to the President for his address to the joint sitting of the Par-

The meeting of the Upper House of the Parliament commenced with the recitation of the verses of the sixth chapter of the Holy Quran "Al-An'am" in which the Almighty commanded the Holy Prophet

NUST grid station

Balochistan Minister for

Livestock and Dairy Devel-

opment Bakht Muhammad

Kakar on Friday ordered to

ensure maximum facilities

to the livestock sector in-

cluding provision of treat-

tious and non-infectious

diseases. Bakhat said be-

requirments, valuable for-

eign exchange can be

earned by exporting sur-

sides meeting

country's

areas

food

plus milk, meat and other made from it.

ment of animals.

QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr.

Shafqat Ali inaugurating 132 KV Educational City

Bakht orders to ensure

maximum facilities

products made from it.

He said that livestock

He said a special advi-

farmers are providing all

nossible facilities to achieve

the best production of milk

and meat and boost its pro-

sory campaign has also been launched for livestock farm-

ers so that they can benefit

from the advice of veteri-

nary doctors, livestock ex-

perts and contribute to eco-

nomic development and fi-

nancial stability, including increasing of meat and milk

meeting the country's food

requirments, valuable for-

eign exchange can be earned

by exporting surplus milk, meat and other products

Kakar said besides

production.

himself with those who create divisions within the religion and proclaim that he is blessed with following of the true religion, the right path of truth and the Lord will reward them who do associate others with Him.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the agenda second item of laying on the table of the House copy of the Address of the President made under clause (3) of Article 56 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the joint session of the Parliament. The Chairman Senate ruled the action against the agenda being late.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Senator Sherry Rehman while taking at the floor, extended her felicita-

holding the maiden proceedings after his charge in an exemplary manner. "President Zardari" suggestion should be wel

comed as he has invited all political parties while giving them the discretion to decide to turn a new page in the history of the nation by according unity for the national cause," she said. The PPPP Senator

underlined that her party had rendered sacrifices but never tainted the honour and prestige of the state. "PPP claims with honour that no witch hunting and political vindication done in any o its tenure," she added.

Senator Rehman que ried the Opposition benches, "Do we need to start our new parliamentary year with conflicts and

PTI founder's interim bail extended in Jinnah House attack case

AHORE (INP): An antiterrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan in three cases including Jinnah House attack case till May 3.
As per details, the

ATC duty judge Arshad Javed heard the interim bail pleas pertaining to attack on Jinnah House and three | built on important national others. The court also ordered to mark the attendance of former prime minister Imran Khan in the three cases via video linl from Adiala jail.

3 women among six shot dead in Shikarpur, **Kashmore**

SHIKARPUR KASHMORE (INP): Six people including three women were killed in two separate incidents of firing in Sindh cities, reported on Friday. In the first incident, armed men shot three people including two women to death and injured another over old enmity in village Darya Khan of Shikarpur District. According to police, the incident points to the ongoing rivalry between two groups of the Bhiu and Marfani clans.

To prevent further bloodshed, the police rushed to the crime scene where bodies of the victims were still lying.

Saad says Gandapur's threat to storm Islamabad a serious matter

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's threat to storm Islamabad is a very serious matter.

Saad Rafiq on social media website X (formerly Twitter) said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had been making attacks on the federal capital in the past to capture Islamabad.

"However, PTI got nothing and it resulted in creating chaos, hatred and economic destruction," he said. He said, "If the anarchists attack Islamabad to occupy it this time too, it will become impossible for them to return as rulers."
The PML-N leader

said the dirty politics of violence, arson and ransacking would not work now and fascist behavior would not be tolerated any

WB director, Ahsan discuss reforms in dev. projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): track project progress. World Bank's (WB) Global Ahsan Iqbal said Director for Governance Arturo Herrera Gutierrez on Friday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal and discussed reforms aimed at improving development During the meeting,

the minister apprised the WB official that the incumbent government was taking all possible steps to modernize the completion stages of development, utilizing modern technology and methods to ensure better results.

project details available online to ensure transparency, highlighting importance of effective monitoring and performance evaluation systems to attract more and more investment in the country. "A geographic information system has been established to

perts from all sectors had been invited to join the government's efforts to bring about positive change adding relevant experts were involved in the project review process. "This has resulted in significant progress towards achieving project goals and timelines."

Despite challenges in funding and resource allocation, the Planning minister said Pakistan had managed to save Rs 7 billion from 2013 to 2018 through effective monitoring and resource utilization.

Ahsan Iqbal said the Ahsan Iqbal said the government had made all granted autonomous status since 2013, allowing it to function as a think tank and prioritize development projects.

He said the development budget had been in-creased threefold since 2013, demonstrating the government's commitment to progress



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Senate continues discussion on **Presidential address**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate today commenced discussion on the Presidential address to the Joint Sitting of the Parlia-

Opening the discussion, Pakistan People's Party Senator Sherry Rehman said President Asif Ali Zardari's invitation for political reconciliation should be welcomed. She said there is a need

to do away with the politics of confrontation and turn a new page in politics in order to steer the country out of challenges.

Senator Khalil Tahir said consensus should be the participation of both issues. He said the politics of anarchy and chaos must come to an end. He said the focus should be on improving economy.

Senator Ali Zafar said the treasury and opposi-

tion benches should work together on legislation. He said there should be detailed discussion on any issue, tabled for legislation, before its passage by the

Jam Saifullah Khan paid tributes to the sacrifices of security forces in the war on terrorism. Senator Irfan ul Haque

Siddiqui said the opposition should sit with the government to take the country forward on the path of economic development. He said reconciliation cannot be achieved single

handedly, but it requires Irfan Siddiqui said it is the right of opposition to

pinpoint the shortcomings of the government but it should be done in accordance with democratic



QUETTA: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of Imran Khan and his wife, at Quetta press club.

Omar Ayub alleges raids on PTI workers homes in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): Op- here as well, asserting that position leader Omar Ayub no curfew is necessary in raised serious concerns in the National Assembly re- crore votes, PTI faces scrugarding alleged raids on opposition homes in Punjab, accusing Punjab IG Usman Anwar of corruption and criticizing the deteriorating state of the Punjab Police Force. Speaker ordered removal of remarks concerning IG, calling for a judicial into Bahawalnagar incident.

Expressing his dismay during the National Assembly session, Omar Ayub stated, "This is unacceptable." He highlighted the need for attention from Islamabad, emphasizing that rallies would be held ment hospitals.

the capital. With over three tiny under Form 47. "There is an illegal Interior Minister present," Omar Ayub claimed. He advocated for medical facilities for Bushra Bibi, expressing mistrust in government hospitals. "Bushra Bibi's rights are being violated," Omar Ayub declared, demanding her immediate release. He alleged mistreatment, stating she is confined to a small room and denied proper medical treatment, with suspicions raised over the authenticity of her medical tests conducted in govern-

Ghazala Gola describes win of Shahzaib Rind as victory of Pakistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has stated that the victory of Shahzaib Rind against

Indian player in karate combat fight was the movement of pride for Pakistan. Describing the victory of Shahzaib Rind in the

fight as victory of Pakistan. the Deputy Speaker said that the success Shahzaib

Ms. Ghazala Gola was speaking to Shahzaib Rind, who called on her in her chamber on Friday. During the meeting, Ms. Ghazala Gola praised

Shahzaib Rind on his excellent performance.

She said that the win

of Shahzaib Rind is the proud moment for Balochistan and Pakistan. She also said that

Shahzaib has earned good name for the country

OUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed by Secretary Qambar Dashti regarding