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Bodies of deceased dispatched to native areas:

11 persons including 9 from Punjab gunned down in two firing incidents in Noshki

CM Balochistan strongly condemns Noshki firing incident; Says assassination of passengers inhumane act, unforgiveable; vows not to spare terrorists involved

Independent Report

OUETTA: At least 11 persons including nine from different cities of Punjab were shot dead and three others got injured by unmown armed assailants in two different incidents of firing took place on the main highway in Noshki on late

Friday night.

According to the reports reaching here, nine persons were gunned down by armed assailants after making their identification from a passenger coach on

way to Taftan from Quetta.

The armed assailants took them with them from the passenger coach. Later, their bullet-ridden bodies of the ill-fated persons were found from nearby hilly

The deceased belonged to Mandi Bahauddin, Wazirabad and Gujranwala areas of Punjab. Afterwards, their bodies were shifted to Civil hospital Noshki from the spot.

Later, their bodies were taken to Quetta by ambu-

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, IGFC and

MPAs offering Fateha for the departed souls of passengers gunned in Noshki

and long life of His Maj-

esty King Salman bin Abdul

Aziz as well as for the

Crown Prince and Prime

Minister His Royal High-

ness Prince Mohammed bin

Pakistan attached utmost

importance to its strong fra-

ternal ties with Saudi

Arabia that were rooted in

common faith, shared val-

ues and culture. Extending

his best wishes to the Sec-

retary General for the suc-

cess of his ongoing visit, the

Prime Minister assured him

of Pakistan's continued

support and partnership

with the Muslim World

Muslim World League

praised the Prime Minister

for his commitment and ef-

forts to further strengthen

ties between Pakistan and

Secretary General of

He underscored that

Salman bin Abdul Aziz.

lances where they were kept in the mortuary of Civil sandeman hospital.

After legal formalities, the bodies were shifted to the Police line for funeral prayer. The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, members of the provincial assembly, Inspector General of Frontier Corps, Additional IGP, Jawad Dogar and other high ups participated in the funeral prayer.

They also offered fateha for the departed

souls after the funeral prayer. After the funeral prayer, the bodies of assassinated people were transported to their native areas from the police line.

Meanwhile, two other persons were killed and three others injured in the firing incident took place at the same spot in Noshki. The reports suggested that the armed assailants resorted to open fire on the vehicle passing through

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of Muslim World League Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

Tehreek Tahafuz Aayeen-e-Pakistan gets underway from Balochistan:

Opposition parties' alliance leadership pledges to continue struggle till full supremacy of law & constitution

Six-parties alliance leaders vow to make Pakistan best country of the world with support of people and collective wisdom; urges masses to join movement aimed at ensuring protection of constitution and supremacy of parliament in country; Mehmood Khan Achakzai calls for withdrawing cases against PTI Quaid and other political prisoners; Umar Ayub announces to hold public meetings all over country and meet all segments of society; Sardar Akhtar Mengal says our struggle would remain continued till supremacy of constitution

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Tehreek Tahafuz Aayeen-e-Pakistan (movement of protection of constitution of Pakistan) got underway from Balochistan with the maiden public meeting held under the auspices of six parties alliance of the Op-position at Pishin on

The public meeting organized at the Taj Lala football stadium was presided Muslameen, Allama Raja

Independent Report

QUETTA: While strongly

condemning the assassina-

tion of nine persons from

He was speaking to the

media persons after the fu-

neral prayer of deceased at

the Police Line Quetta on

Saturday evening.
The Chief Minister

said that he said that ter-

rorists are terrorists,

whether they are Balochs

or otherwise. They would

be called as terrorists, not

Baloch, he added. He said

the inquiry of the Noshki

gory incident is being con-

ducted and those involved

over by the Chairman of Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and President of the movement, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and participated by the secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Umar Ayub Khan, President Balochistan National Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Head of the Summi

Tehreek Council, Sahibzada Raza, Head of Wahdat-e-

Ashamed as Baloch on such type of manslaughter:

Security plan to be revisited,

passengers to be protected

at highways, asserts CM

Nasir Abbas, PTI leader, Sher Afzal Marwat, senior leader of JI Balochistan, Dr. Attaur Rehman besides other provincial leaders of the opposition parties.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PkMAP and other leaders urged all segments of the society to join the movement aimed at protection of constitution of the country and su-premacy of law besides ensuring rights of the people of country.

They stressed the need that all institutions of the country including Pak army have to abide by their oath and ensure supremacy of law and constitution.

The leadership of the six-parties alliance also pledged to make Pakistan best country of the world with support of the people and collective wisdom. The Chairman PkMAP

asked the people who believe in supremacy of constitution and to join in the

movement. He stressed that "let make Pakistan a democratic country together." He said that we

He stressed that every

PM, SG Muslim World League discuss matters related to Muslim Ummah

ISLAMABAD (APP): conveyed his best wishes Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin and prayers for the health Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

last night

The Prime Minister welcomed Dr. Al-Issa and thanked him for visiting Pakistan on the occasion of Eid ul Fitr. He appreciated the valuable contributions and services of Dr. Al-Issa for promoting the true image of Islam around the world. He also acknowledged the critical role of Muslim World League in developing unity among the Muslim Ummah, advocating for Muslim causes around the world and in spreading the message of peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony.

The Prime Minister

President condemns killing of passengers in Noshki ISLAMABAD (APP):

resident Asif Ali Zardar Saturday strongly condemned the merciless killing of passengers in Noshki In a statement, he ex-

pressed grief and sorrow over the barbaric killing of passengers by the terrorists. Those who targeted the innocent citizens could not be well wishers of the nation, he said adding that the

whole nation rejected the

heinous designs of the ter-

The President said the security forces with the support of the nation were determined to completely eradicate terrorists.

He expressed sympathy with the heirs of those who lost their lives.

He prayed for the departed souls and for patience to the bereaved fami-

Pakistan repays \$1b in Eurobonds

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has repaid \$1 billion in Eurobonds as a scheduled payment ahead of seeking a long-term bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The bond, launched in 2014 and repaid on Friday, was maturing this month.

"The payment was made to the agent bank for onward distribution to the bond holders," the State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement.

Pakistan has been struggling with a balance of payments crisis, record inflation and steep currency devaluation since an IMF standby arrangement averted a sovereign de-

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb is due to leave on Sunday for Washington to attend the IMF-World Bank spring meeting, where he will start negotiations for Pakistan's 24th long-term IMF bail-

Punjab in Noshki, the Chief venge of the blood of mar-Minister Balochistan, Mir tvrs of Noshki. Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has He said that the secustated that he is ashamed rity plan would also be reas Baloch on such type of visited ensuring protection manslaughter occurred in

of the people in the province particularly on the national highways. While the check posts of FC, Police and Levies force would be established once again, he added. Moreover, the joint patrolling of the law enforcement agencies would also be done.

In this regard, safety of pas-sengers would be ensured at the national highways,

adding he assured.
The Chief Minister

also announced to take re-

He also announced to give political ownership to the security forces so as to up their morale.

However, there would be no dialogue with those involved in the killing of innocent people in the

in it would be taken to task. He said that every Paprovince, he asserted. kistani would be protected. Heavy rainfall in Balochistan,

Punjab, KP claims 23 lives

Independent Report QUETTA: Heavy rainfall has killed twenty three people including two children in Balochistan, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Rainfall lashed parts of Balochistan, including Quetta, Chaman Chagai, Nushki, Dera Bugti, Sorab, Kohlu, and Khuzdar.

Heavy rainfall also lashed southern Punjab, including Multan, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Mohmand, and Kohat districts also received downpours.

Low-lying areas in Quetta flooded after heavy rainfall. Rainfall was also reported in Mastung, Kalat. Nushki, Pishin, Kharan,

Qila Abdullah, and Kachhi. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan reported that two children died in a thunderbolt in Sorab district.

Rainfall with thunderstorms in Upper and Lower Chitral demolished two houses, while landslides and flash floods suspended vehicular traffic at Chitral, Garam Chashma, upper Chitral, and Torkho road.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed all civic agencies to keep rain drains and drainage system

He also directed the Disaster Management Authority to coordinate with all civic agencies.

FBR decides to block mobile phone sim cards of 18 lac non filers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) while starting to implement the IMF conditionality has decided to block mobile phone sim cards of 18 lac non filers across the country.
Sources said chairman

FBR has given approval to block sim cards of non fil-

FBR has sent rules to respective officers.

FBR has directed field formations to submit data of those who have not filed income tax return in 2023. The chief commissioners have been directed to compile final list of non filers and send it to FBR.

As per sources action will be taken against 18 lac non filers and tax defaulter in the country.

FBR is empowered to block sim cards of mobiles of non filers besides disconnecting electricity supply to them.

Flooding at Hanna Urak reported

QUETTĀ (APP): Flooding has been reported form Hanna Urak area, District Quetta, following the torrential rains. According to officials,

high flow of water has been reported from Urak area as several vehicles are stuck in the affected PDMA Balochistan

swiftly responded and dispatched two Rescue Teams along with life saving equipment to safely evacuate stranded people. One V Loader is also

deployed to divert the flow of water and to recover the main Hanna

want such Pakistan where the rights of all nationalities are protected and there is their hold on their resources

institution of the country would have to follow the constitution and abide by

He said that we have to Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with mediamen

PM reaffirms commitment to wipe out menace of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ministér Prime Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif has strongly condemned the tragic incident of killing of bus passengers on national highway in Nushki district of

Balochistan. Commiserating with

the bereaved families, he prayed for the departed souls. The prime minister said, "We stand with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. He said the perpetrators of this incident of of Balochistan.

terrorism and their facilitators will be punished. He sought report into the incident.

The prime minister reaffirmed the commitment to wipe out menace of terrorism from the country. Federal Interior Minis-

ter Mohsin Naqvi and Punjab Chiegf Minister Maryam Nawaz have condemned the tragic incident of killing of bus passengers after kidnaping on national highway in Nushki district

Two soldiers embraced martyrdom, terrorists' ring leader killed in Buner IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two valiant soldiers of the Pakistan Army on Saturday embraced martyrdom while killing the terrorists' ring leader Saleem alias Rabbani during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in Buner District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the terrorists' ring leader Rabbani was a high value target who was killed during the conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange while two other terrorists were injured. However, during the operation, two brave sons of the soil, Lance Havildar Mudassar Mehmood (age 36 years; resident of district Rawalpindi) and Lance Naik Haseeb Javed (age 27 years; resident of district Poonch, AJ&K), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom). Terrorist Saleem alias Rabbani remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as extortion and target killings of innocent civilians, it said.

He was highly wanted by Law enforcement agencies and the Government had fixed a head money of Rs 5



PISHIN: Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai, PTI leader Umar Ayub Khan, President BNP Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, Sher Afzal Marwat, leader of Sunni Ulema Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza and leader of MMWM Allama Raja Nasir addressing a public gathering organized opposition alliance



Persons are holding protest demonstration for recovery of their missing loved one

CM visits pays surprise visit to PDMA; gets briefing about ongoing rescue operation in rain & flood hit areas

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid surprise visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) here on Saturday night.

During the surprise visit, the Chief Minister was briefed by the PDMA high ups about the relief activities continued in different rain and flood affected areas of the prov-The spokesman of

PDMA said that the leaves

of all officers and staff of

cancelled on directives of

Moreover, heavy ma-

the Authority have been gaged to drain out the rain

the Chief Minister. He informed that the relief activities are continued in different areas affected due to the heavy

He said that the flood situation is being faced in Manzaki area of Pishin. The people are being rescued and shifted from Manzaki area, it was in-

chinery and staff is present in the affected area.

Similarly, the flood water is passing from the Hanna-Urak area where heavy machinery is en-



carrying coffin of a passenger gunned down in Noshki

Match officials announced for Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series

PESHAWAR (APP): Paki- he will move ahead of Sri sus New Zealand fiveset to be played from April 18 to 27 in Rawalpindi and

Andy Pycroft, a member of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control team that includes five umpires, namely Ahsan Raza (elite panelist), Aleem Dar, Asif Yaqoob, Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (all from the ICC's international panel), who will share umpiring responsibilities.

Pycroft, a former Zimbabwe Test batter, has to date refereed in 144 T20Is. When he will stand in the

stan Cricket Board Satur- Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle day announced match offi- in second place in the list cials for the Pakistan ver- of match referees to officiate in most T20Is. The list match T20I series, which is set to be played from April Zealand's Jeff Crowe

(175).

The Pindi Stadium will stage the opening three T20Is on April 18, 20 and 21 before action will move to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium where the last two matches will be played on

April 25 and 27 Umpire and match referee appointments:

18 April – First T20I. Ahsan Raza and Aleem Dar (on-field umpires), Faisal Afridi (third umpire),

Rashid Riaz (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match

Pakistan, Chinese firm sign

MoU of \$200m to convert

thermal plant into solar power

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has signed a two hundred million MOU with a

The project will upgrade an existing thermal power plant to a 300 MW solar power

The project will generate 400 million units of electricity per year at a significantly

It is estimated to save forty four million dollars annually due to reduction in

lower cost, reducing the cost from forty five rupees to fourteen rupees per unit.

Chinese firm to convert a thermal plant to solar power.

plant through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The project will eliminate the need for Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO).

20 April – Second T20I.

Asif Yaqoob and Aleem Dar (on-field umpires), Ahsan Raza (third umpire), Faisal Afridi (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match ref-

eree)
21 April – Third T20I Ahzan Raza and Asif Yaqoob (on-field umpires), Rashid Riaz (third umpire), Aleem Dar (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match ref-

25 April – Fourth T20I. Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires), Asif Yaqoob (third umpire) Ahsan Raza (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match

referee)
27 April – Rashid Riaz
and Faisal Afridi (on-field umpires), Aleem Dar (third umpire), Asif Yaqoob (fourth umpire); Andy

motion of sports and for this good talented players who himself use to play squash as U-11, U13 and U15 levels. would be encouraged, both financially and morally.

11 persons including 9 from Punjab...

CM KP greets squash

players for winning medals

in Junior Australian Open

Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin
Gandapur Saturday congratulated the best performance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa players in Australian Junior Squash Championship-2024.

In a message of felicitations, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief

Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur

congratulated the players, both boys and girls from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who

showed excellent perfor-

mance in the Australian Jun-ior Squash Championship-2024. Mahnoor Ali, Mehwish Ali, Fawad Khan,

Yahya Khan and Ibrahim Zeb

deserve congratulations for

their outstanding performance in the Championship,

said the chief minister KP,

there at the time. The deceased and inplay its role at every cost. jured are stated to be locals

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has strongly condemned the incident of firing in Noshki terrorism incident and that claimed lives of nine innocent persons, and adding vowed that the terrorists involved in the gruesome act

would not be spared at all. In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the assassination of passengers is inhumane and unforgivable.

He said that the terrorists involved in the gory incident of terrorism in Noshki would be taken to task by chasing them. He also pledged to

eliminate all the terrorists from the province. He said that the terrorists would not find any space anywhere The Chief Minister

said that enemies of peace are the enemies of the coun-

He said that the objective behind the incidents of

He said that there's no more room for usurping rights of the people

started by the 6-parties He said that no one He said that the can stand in front of the people have been in the forefront to make the movement successful. He announced that

the Opposition alliance would hold public meetleader Raja Allama Nasir Abbas said that Pakistan try and would go to all is passing through very critical juncture. The segments of the society. He said that we have country would come out come out for jehad and of the prevailing crisis only when it is run in accordance with the constitution, he said.

stitution of the country unites us, so we have decided to protect it together. is ensured in the coun-

resolve to make the parliament stronger in the country.

He said that we are going to our movement from Pishin to the whole country. He said that Pakistan would progress only with supremacy of law and constitution.

The JI's leader, Dr. Attaur PkMAP's Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal and PTI's Sher Afzal Marwat also addressed the public meeting. A large number of workers of different opposition parties including PTI, PkMAP, BNP and others participated in the public meeting despite raining there.

Front Line Defenders raises concern over oppression faced by rights activists, journalists in IIOJK

Dublin (INP): Ireland- his family home. based human rights organization, the Front Line Defenders has raised concerns regarding the silencing and oppression faced by human rights defenders and journalists in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir especially since Modi regime illegally abrogated the territory's special sta-

Highlighting the continued detention of Kashmiri journalist Sajad Gul, the Front Line Defenders in a statement posted on its website said that despite the IIOJK High Court's order in November 2023 to quash Public Safety Act (PSA) charges against him, he remains incarcerated far from

These players made the name of the country and the

province bright at the inter-

the existing provincial government. The present pro-

vincial government will take

coordinated measures for the

promotion of sports in the province and would take

concrete measures to get rid

of those damaging the sports.

Talented youth will be fully

mentored in the field of

sports, the chief minister

said. He said that all possible

facilities would be provided

to the athletes for the pro-

terrorism is to sabotage the

peace of Balochistan. He

said that the state would

Minister expressed condo-

lence and sympathy with

the bereaved families of

those killed in the Noshki

prayed for the departed

Meanwhile, the Chief

It called upon Indian authorities to immediately release Sajad Gul and drop all criminal proceedings against him. It further urged the authorities to take adequate measures to ensure that human rights defenders in occupied Jammu and Kashmir can carry out their legitimate work without fear

Sajad Gul was initially arrested on 5 January 2022, after he posted a video of a family protesting against the killing of their family member in a so-called cordon and search operation in Srinagar.

of reprisals.

The Dublin-based HR organization said, "Since

January 2022, human rights defender and journalist from Kashmir Sajad Gul has been detained under the draconian Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA)", adding that in November 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed the PSA proceedings against him and ordered for his immediate re-

"Sajad Gul has reported on human rights issues in Indian administered Kashmir, including alleged fake encounters of civilians, forced demolition drives, and access to essential ser-

vices during COVID-19".

"On 15 January, Sajad
Gul was granted bail, but district".

was immediately arrested under the PSA to prevent his release and transferred to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, over 300 kilometers from his family. Five months later, he was arbitrarily transferred to Bareilly Jail in Uttar Pradesh, further complicating visits from his family due to the distance and financial constraints"

"Before his arrest, Sajad Gul faced false cases due to his reporting and endured consistent judicial harassment. In February 2021, he was charged with rioting, trespassing, and assault for reporting on a forced demolition drive in Bandipora



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with children visiting Governor House on 3rd day of Eid

Clarke frustrated at Lyon's county restrictions

SYDNE (INP): Nathan Lyon's first Test captain Michael Clarke has questioned Cricket Australia's decision to cap his County Championship stint with Lancashire at just seven games saying it "doesn't make sense" if he is just going to return to home to do

a pre-season given Australia do not play their next Test match until November 22. Lyon, 36, had initially signed with Lancashire to play the entire 2024 season across all three formats before a discussion with Australia's selectors saw that stint reduced to just the first half of the season and red-ball cricket only.

Lyon, who said he was "pretty disappointed" at the restrictions, and Lancashire were left further frustrated when the first game of the season was washed out, with Lyon bowling just two overs, leaving him available for just six more of the next eight under the guidelines set out by CA although the club were hopeful that would be adjusted. Clarke was critical of CA's decision to cap Lyon's stint in England, saying he could understand it if it were an allrounder or a fast bowler but not a spinner. "We've seen in his career he's a much better bowler the more he bowls," Clarke

said. "I'd rather see him play cricket than, what's he going to do, come home and do a pre-season? Rip a hamstring or a calf trying to do a 2km time trial? This doesn't make sense to me...what's the difference? He's playing seven games instead of nine games. I'd rather see Lyno keep playing and I'm sure he would like to keep bowling. That's what he does. It's what he does well.

Vacancy Announcement

The Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU) invites applications from suitable candidates for appointment against the following positions based at Quetta within the POST FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2022 - INTEGRATED FLOOD RESILIENT ADAPTATION PROJECT (IFRAP), World Bank funded Project. especially for Component III: Resilient Housing Reconstruction and Restoration. This initiative seeks to recruit dedicated professionals who will contribute to the project's success through their expertise and commitment.

Position	Basic Qualifications	Experience Required
Manager Disbursements & Accounts (Position-01)	Master's in Finance, Accounting or related field	At least 07 years of relevant experience, with a focus on disbursements and financial management
Disbursement Officers (Position-01)	Bachelor's in Finance, Accounting or related field	At least 05 years of experience in financia operations and disbursements.
Accounts Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's in Accounting or related field	At least 05 years of experience in accounting and financial reporting.
Engineers Regional-based (Divisions/District based) (Position-07)	Bachelor's in Civil Engineering or relevant engineering discipline	At least 05 years of experience in civil or structura engineering projects, preferably in housing reconstruction.
District Officer/Regional Coordinator Regional-based (Division/Districts) (Position-07)	Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Public Administration, or related field	At least 05 years of experience in district-leve project management and implementation.
Community Field Supervisors Regional-based positions (Division/District) (Position-07)	Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Community Development or related field	At least 05 years of experience Proven experience in community mobilization and field supervision.
IT Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in IT, Computer Science or related	At least 03 years of experience in IT support and network / MIS management.
Admin & HR Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, HR or related field	At least 05 years of Experience in office administration and human resource management, Supply chain Management/Procurement Management, Business Management or related Field.
Procurement Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management, Business Administration or related field	At least 05 years Experience in procurement processes and vendor management.
Program Associates (Position-03)	Bachelor's degree in Economics, Business Administration, IT, Project M a n a g e m e n t , Procurement Management or any relevant field	At least 03 years of experience in program support and coordination.
Program Assistants (Position-03)	Bachelor's degree in Economics, Business Administration, IT, Project M a n a g e m e n t , Procurement Management or any relevant field	At least 02 years of experience in administrative assistance or program support.

Eligible candidates may email their applications along with their CVs detailing their suitability for the role to proc.ifrap@gmail.com. Please ensure to clearly mention the position title in the subject line of your email within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement.

Only short listed candidates will be required to present their original documents for verification purposes etc.All rights are reserved for FPMU - IFRAP to cancel or change any or all positions/applications of this advertisement at

any stage without assigning any reason iv) No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the selection process at any stage.

Project Director HRU / FPMU

import bills, offering attractive returns to stakeholders. Silent over Zionist Crimes Israel's Terr The Killer Of Humanity Silent over **O Muslims Zionist Crimes** KISTAN MARKAZI MUSLIM LEAGUI WakeUp to Free **Aqsa From Zionists**

LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League shouting slogans during protest against Israel attack on Ghaza, in the Provincial Capital

Opposition parties' alliance leadership pledges to

alliance.

Continued from page 1

bring revolution in the country with power of the masses and it is our firm resolve to make the country democratically stronger.

He said that if all nationalities are given their due rights, no one could dismantle and destabilize the country.

He also said Pakistan is our country and we would not let anyone to impose war on it. He said that we have raised voice the oppressed people of the country.

Chairman PkMAP said that actually who breaks and violates the constitution is actually the traitor of country.

He said that we would oppose those who don't believe in supremacy of constitution.

In his speech, the President BNP Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that we reject the govern-ment formed through Form 47 in the country. He said that our

struggle would remain continued till supremacy of constitution and securing rights of the nationalities in coun-

He on the occasion gave credit of start of protest movement for supremacy and protection of the constitution to the Chairman PkMAP, Mehmood Khan Achakzai. He said

that the credit of start of to ensure supremacy of the movement for pro- law and constitution tection of constitution and this is why the to Chairman PkΜAΡ.

He said that our workers have faced the toughest martial laws in the country, and so we would do everything possible for achieving our goals.

He said that the peoples' mandate has been stolen by those ruling the country. He said that the right of use of franchise of the people has also been stolen. He alleged that those were declared successful in the general elections were not familiar to the people of their constituencies even. The people of their communities don't recognize those who were declared suc-

cessful in the elecctions, he charged. He said that the common men are facing worst financial conditions in the country. He also lashed out at the

the occasion, the central Secretary General of PTI, those declared success-

rulers for not resolving the issue of missing persons in the country. Earlier, speaking on

Umar Ayub said that there is a government of ful in the elections based on the Form 47. He said that we don't accept the regime of the Form 47 He said that we have

would take our rights at every cost through our movement. He said that the PTI Quaid Imran Khan would come out from the jail if the supremacy of law and constitution

movement has been

ings all over the coun-

Umar Ayub on the occasion criticized the provincial government and local administration for creating hurdles in way of the workers of different parties to

Pishin public meeting. The Sunni Council's leader Sahibzada Hamid Raza said that Pakistan is our country, but people are tortured for raising voice for their

He paid tributes to those who are facing tough conditions in the country. He said that the leadership of all provinces is present in the Pishin public meeting.

and violating democracy in Pakistan.

power of people. He said that the people had voted to PTI in February 8 elec-

The MWM's central

He said that the con-

He said that it is our

Rehman,

PM's Arabic touch to speech ATSC decides at Seerat Museum event receives huge applause

Prime Minister Shehbaz breaking of Seerat Museum on Saturday, which received a huge applause by the audience.

In Arabic language, PM Sharif warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary Secretary General of Muslim World League, Sheikh Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa highlighting the warm and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi

appreciated the young Sharif delivered the open- Hufaaz-e-Quran (those ing and closing notes of who learn the Holy Book his speech in Arabic lan- by heart) for the beautiful guage at the ground- recitation with a variety of

consonants.
The PM highlighted the warmth expressed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, wherein he termed Pakistan "close to his heart" and vowed extending support in trade and

From the establishment of Faisal Mosque to Seerat Museum, Saudi Arabia's love and affiliation

A high-level Saudi del-

egation will soon visit Pa-

Seerat Museum to positively serve in two ways; 1) To familiarize Pakistanis and the Muslims world over to learn about the way of life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), 2) To sensitize the non-Muslims about the false propaganda about the Prophet (PBUH):

Pakistan concluded his speech on the note of 'Long Live Pakistan-Saudi Arab Friendship'



Talal slams opposition rally in Pashin as political maneuvering, calls for focus on people's issues

kistan Muslim League -Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Senator Talal Chaudhry on Saturday criticized the recent opposition rally held in Pashin as a futile endeavor doomed from the

cases to 163,211 cases

which shows an increase.

in 2023

In a sharp rebuke, he condemned the rally as a mere ploy to seize power, devoid of any genuine concern for the people's issues.

Highlighting the absence of crucial discussions

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Posters carrying an appeal to the people of Jammu re-

gion in occupied Jammu and

Kashmir have emerged at

various places in the terri-

tory, urging them to wake up and foil BJP-RSS' evil

agenda of usurping their

rights. According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters pasted by the Jammu Dogra Liberation

Front have appeared at different places in the Jammu

region and on social media

platforms as a form of pro-

test against India's brutal

and anti-Jammu policies.

on pressing matters such as upon the people during its

Posters urge Jammu people

to foil Hindutva's nefarious

agenda of snatching their rights

The posters read, "Since August 2019, the BJP/RSS has stripped away our rights. We vehe

mently oppose all BJP/RSS agendas. Our rights, land,

and identity are being illegally seized". The posters further said the RSS/BJP's

policies in Jammu are seek-

ing to expel the Jammuites

from their land and settling

outsiders using so-called domicile certificates, thereby altering the demonstrates of the demonstrates of

graphic composition of the territory with the assis-

tance of Indian armed forces

and police.

terrorism in Nushki, floods, tenure continues unabated. He warned that the public the Palestinian issue, load has grown weary of the PTI's politics and will not be swayed by their tactics any longer. shedding, and inflation, Talal accused the opposition of prioritizing politi-cal gains over addressing Emphasizing the need for tangible solutions to the public's concerns. He lambasted the opposition's

address the populace's grievances rather than intactics, accusing them of deceiving the public with empty rhetoric and futile dulging in political theatrics, Talal condemned the derogatory sloganeering against a political leader Talal criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, alleging that the suffering inflicted during the opposition rally, deeming it regrettable and condemnable.

Could swapping beef for fish like sardines help prevent early death?

ISLAMABAD (Online): A new study says a global shift from red meat to forage fish consumption has the potential to dramati-cally decrease death rates from noncommunicable diseases. Forage fish such as herring, anchovies, and sar-dines are a rich source of omega-3s and other essential nutrients and are also more environmentally sustainable than red meat. However, experts question the feasibility of this dietary shift in low- and middle-income re-

ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam outside Lakeview Park in the Federal Capital. **Islamabad Police ensured** foolproof security

police officers and officials performed their duties on the third day of Eid and made the best security and traffic arrangements during Eid holidays, a police pub-

reviewed security arrangements for Eid holidays. Islamabad traffic police officers and officials ensured the traffic flow despite the pressure of traffic at parks

requested that citizens cooperate with traffic police officers. They further said that citizens should park their vehicles in designated parking areas.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, no untoward incident occurred due to effective patrolling and searching throughout the district. DIG Operations appreciated the police of-ficers and officials for performing their duties by staying away from their homes on Eid. He announced appreciation certificates and rewards to the traffic jams were not al- police officers and personlowed. A crackdown was also done against one-duties on Eid.

Kashmiris celebrate joyous 'Eid Millan' event in Canada

vibrant display of unity and cultural celebration, hundreds of Kashmiri families residing in Calgary, Canada, came together to participate in the post-Eid festivities titled 'Eid Millan' on Friday, said a message reaching and released to the mewas paid to key board

community celebrated the sanctified festival simultaneously with the observance of the Muslim sacred day, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan ul Mubarak. "Organized by the Chinar Kashmir Community (CKCF), a non-profit organization committed to community development and preserving Kashmiri identity, the event was a testament to the strong social and cultural connections within the diaspora community. Established in 2013, CKCF has been actively fostering community cohesion through various events, providing a platform for

tural exchange. With over 300 Kashmiri diaspora members

for all involved. On its 10th anniversary, CKCF acknowledges the dedication and hard work of its members, who have tirelessly contributed to the organization's growth and dia here on Saturday.

The US and Canadamembers for their invaluable services over the past de-

> On this occasion, CKCF presented a special shield to acknowledge the services of the following board members: Akhtar Hussain Kayani, Altaf Khan, Anwar Hussain Kiani, Asif Mehmood, Asif Nazir, Imtiaz Nazir, Inzar Shah, Janat Hussain (Shero), Khalid Khan, Khalid Mehmood, Khalid Naeem, Muhammad Riaz Khan, Muhammad Zahid Khan, Sajjad Hussain, Sajjad Tabassum, Saqib Khan, Shahzad Nabi, Syed Abrar Shah, Talib Hussain Khan, and Tariq Mehmood. CKCF extends its gratitude to them on behalf of the community. Mr. Irfan Sabir, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and Mr. Happy Mann, Senior Advisor to the Leader of the UCP Community Outreach

1,173 bike riders fined, 290 bikes impounded for stunts during Eid holidays

ISLAMABAD: Senior Su-

(SSP) Traffic has appreciated the police personnel for performing duties on Eid-ul-Fitr in a responsible manner and awarded com-

large family of highly persistent, human-made chemicals that feature a carbon-fluorine backbone."

They date back nearly eight decades and are used in various water, stain, or grease-resistant consumer products. "PFAS influence a wide range of biological systems within the body and have a wide range of ad-

about the health effects of PFAS every day, but research has demonstrated associations of PFAS with higher cholesterol levels, small decreases in birth weight, pregnancy-induced hypertension, a reduced antibody response to vaccines, and even kidney and

arrangements during Eid **Independent Report** Senior police officers ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

lic relations officer said.

He said that the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Opera-tions, Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari himself and recreational places and

based Kashmiri diaspora cade. Foundation social interaction and cul-

gathering under one roof, the Eid Millan celebration

in Alberta.

clists for one wheeling and other stunts during Eid holi-**Independent Report**

perintendent of Police mendation certificates to

While reviewing the report, SSP Traffic said that such steps are being taken to provide safety to the citizens. He said that traffic violations may cause the



fore, Islamabad Capital Police is adopting measures and to take strict action against the violators. The SSP Traffic stressed upon the parents to play their role and to refrain their children from the dangerous game of one wheeling and racing otherwise Islamabad Capital Police has to take stern action against those who in-



Islamabad Police organises Eid feast for martyrs families, police officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police organised an Eid festival for paying tribute to the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty where the Families of all martyrs of Islamabad Capital Police were invited to the Police Lines

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Headquarters Hasan Raza Khan, along with senior police officers, officials and families of martyrs offered Eid-Ul-Fitr prayers at the Police Lines Headquarters Masjid, a public relations officer on Saturday said. A smart contingent of police presented the guard of honour to the families of the martyrs. The families of the martyrs visited the martyrs' memorial and recited Fatiha.

All senior police officers, including DIG Headquarters Hasan Raza Khan cel-

ebrated Eid with the families of martyrs and police officers and officials.

On this occasion, DIG Hassan said that 62 officers of the Islamabad Capital Police sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Islamabad Capital Police never forgot the sacrifices of it's martyrs.

He further said that, living nations never forget the sacrifices of their martyrs. The brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the peace of the country are the proud asset of the Islamabad Capital Police.

DIG Hassan and other senior police officers also distributed the gifts among the martyrs' families. On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, events were also organized for officers and officials at different police stations, where senior police officers participated and celebrated Eid with their subordinates.

for his courage in combat,

but Chaudhry also demon-

strated exceptional leader-

ship qualities, eventually

heading the esteemed Air

Fleet. In 1978, he assumed

the role of military attaché

at the Pakistani Embassy in

Britain, In 1979, Chaudhry

embarked on a deputation

to Iraq, where he imparted

invaluable training to Iraqi

Airmen. His contributions

were acknowledged with

Iraq's highest non-military

award. Following his retire-

ment from the Pakistan Air

Force in 1986, Chaudhry

transitioned into the educa-

tion sector, continuing to

serve his country in a dif-

Chaudhry succumbed to

lung cancer on April 13, 2012, in Lahore. His legacy

endures as a symbol of un-

wavering patriotism, self-

lessness, and dedication to

the defense of his home-

Tragically, Cecil

ferent capacity.

Homage paid to Pakistan Pilot Cecil Chaudhry on death anniversary

Homage were paid to valor, courage, and bravery of Pakistan Air Force Pilot Cecil Chaudhry on his 12th death anniversary observed on Saturday. Born on August 27, 1941, Chaudhry distinguished himself during the 1965 war, exhibiting exceptional spirit and prowess by shooting down three Indian

His remarkable endeavors earned him the Sitara-e-Jurat, a testament to his bravery on the battle-

Amidst the 1971 conflict, Chaudhry served at Sargodha Air Base. During a mission near the Indian border, his aircraft caught fire, leading him to eject with a parachute.

Despite sustaining four broken ribs, Chaudhry's unwavering dedication to his nation saw him participate in 14 additional air missions, earning him the Sitara-e-Basalat.

of cops

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Inspector General ters Hassan Raza Khan has lauded the performance of the police force on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Fitr as no untoward incident took place in the city due to effective policing and security arrangements, a public

relations officer said. He said, the DIG Headquarters was of the view that the residents were safe due to the sacrifices of the police force adding that good nations do not forget the services of their martyrs and the department was also with the personnel through thick and thin.

DIG Headquarters said that moments of Eid are very crucial for those who are far away from their near and dear ones at this

to remain away from their children, parents, brothers, sisters and relatives at this

DIG HQs lauds performance

occasion

"I can feel that it is very difficult for policemen

Kaspersky warns of security concerns due to growing deepfakes in AI age

ISLAMABAD (INP): is providing threat actors real image, however in a test Kaspersky research has with sophisticated new only 25% could actually Kaspersky research has found the availability of deepfake creation tools and services on darknet marketplaces. These services offer generative AI video creation for a variety of purposes, including fraud, blackmail, and stealing confidential data. According to estimates Kaspersky experts, prices per one minute of a deepfake video can be purchased for as little as \$300.

The widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies in recent years

with sophisticated new tools to perpetrate their at-tacks. One of these are distinguish a real image from an AI-generated one. This deepfakes which include generated human-like speech or photo and video replicas of people. Kaspersky warns that companies and consumers must be aware that deepfakes will likely become more of a concern in the future.

According to the recent Kaspersky Business Digitisation Survey, 51% of employees surveyed in the META region said they

puts organisations at risk given how employees are often the primary targets of phishing and other social engineering attacks.

example. cybercriminals can create a fake video of a CEO requesting a wire transfer or authorising a payment, which can be used to steal corporate funds. Compromising videos or images of individuals can be created, which can be used to extort could tell a deepfake from a money or information from



ISLAMABAD: Kids enjoying ride at Lakeview Park picnic point in the Fed-High seafood diets linked to exposure to 'forever

new study found concerning levels of toxic PFAS, or "forever chemicals," in sea-

PFAS are found in many foods, household, and personal products and are widely present in the environment. These humanmade substances are the focus of a growing body of research given their potential toxicity and associations with serious health issues.

The authors of the study do not suggest people stop eating seafood but urge more research into the effects of these chemicals in humans. Per- and polyfuoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a class of human-made chemicals that are considered "forever chemicals" because they remain in the environment for a long time.

Research into the effects of PFAS in humans is ongoing, as exposure to these chemicals has been associated with a range of serious health conditions.

Certain foods may contain forever chemicals, and depending where you live, your drinking water may contain PFAS. Forever chemicals are also found in some types of food pack-

Now, research shows the risk of PFAS exposure is even greater for people who consume a heavy-sea-

The study's authors do not suggest people

chemicals,' study finds ISLAMABAD (Online): A should avoid eating fish entirely, since seafood has many health benefits and PFAS are so ubiquitous in the environment, in general.

The study's findings were published April 12 in the journal Exposure and Seafood consumption

and PFAS exposure The researchers investigated the eating habits and PFAS exposure of people living in Portsmouth, NH, an area in which seafood

consumption is especially

popular. The study conted of two parts. The researchers conducted a survey of 1,829 NH residents in June 2021 to learn the types of seafood they were consuming and how much. Included in the survey was seafood consumption data from adults and children ages 2-11. Among the adults, 95% reported eating seafood within the last year, most

salmon, canned tuna Researchers also purchased and analyzed a "seafood basket" of the most commonly consumed types of seafood from a Portsmouth market for analysis and detected 26 types of PFAS compounds in the purchased foods.

often: shrimp, haddock,

For shrimp and lobster, concentrations of PFAS ranged from below the limit of detection to 1.74 and 3.30 ng/g, respec-

These findings suggest

that people who eat a lot of seafood could, therefore, consume additional PFAS

Other than their toxicity, much remains unknown about the effects of PFAS at this time. Still, the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) recommends reduc-

associated with PFAS?

What are the hazards

concentrations.

ing your exposure to PFAS as much as you can. The study's senior investigator, Megan Romano, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, explained to Medical News Today that PFAS are "a

verse health impacts, Romano said.

"We are learning more testicular cancer.



According to details, Islamabad Traffic Police constituted special squads to prevent one wheeling on main avenues of the city during Eid-ul-Fitr. Policemen in these squads performed duties in a responsible manner and issued violation tickets to 1,173 motorcyclists, impounded 290 bikes and registered seven Firs against motorcy-dulged in such practices.

Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

Sunday April 14, 2024

Where children count for less

Out of every 1000 children born in Pakistan, an estimated 63 will not reach their fifth birthday. On average, around 7000 infants and children die in Pakistan each day, with an estimated 150 losing their lives to congenital anomalies, more commonly known as birth defects. These are the fifth leading cause of death in Pakistan. New-born children appear to be at a particularly high risk with some health experts estimating that 2.5 million new-borns lose their lives every year in the country. They also say that a large chunk of these deaths can be avoided. If these children were born in a country with an adequate number of paediatric surgeons, many would indeed live to have children of their own someday. Pakistan needs at least 1250 such surgeons but is currently making do with approximately 170 at most. Astonishingly, despite the clear need to boost the number of paediatric surgeons, there is actually a shortage of opportunities and jobs in the public sector, where they are most needed, and only a few institutions offer programmes for paediatric surgery. As a result, not only is the country producing too few paediatric surgeons but among those it does, dozens end up going abroad in search of opportunities to ply their trade. Hence, the severe shortage.

Those paediatric surgeons who do remain predictably end up with overly high caseloads and are further encumbered by a shortage of key resources including essential surgical equipment, facilities, and support staff. Why would a country invest so little in training, retaining and facilitating a human resource that it so desperately needs? This is likely, in large part, down to the fact that the lives of the underprivileged count for little in Pakistan. Many of the country's enduring problems boil down to this simple maxim. The privileged are far less likely to ever require a paediatric surgeon, one of the blessings of being born in an environment with adequate food, shel- ing my visits to foreign ter, and other basic facilities, and those that do may well find that those that are available are within their means. However, for the majority of children who need elective surgeries, five-to-six month waiting periods are the norm. This often ends up being too late for many.

However, there is more to this tragic scenario than simple underspending on health, which needs to be at around 6.0 per cent of GDP but stands at around 1.4 per cent. This results in shortages and other inadequacies in almost every aspect of health from staff, doctors not up to the mark to and surgeons to equipment, clinics, medical education and hospitals. However, the young appear to be particularly underserved. Around a third of the country comprises children less than 15 years of age and yet we have only about 0.2 paediatric surgeons per every 100,000 people. There is likely no age group that can count on the state for less. From medical professionals and hospitals to schools of international piland textbooks, if you are young, Pakistani and without rich parents you need to find a way to get or get into these things with little to no help from the ones responsible for securing your fundamental rights. And if you cannot, well then of 2,500 years belongs good luck. You are going to need it.

Tech parks for growth

By Dr. Attaur Rehman

In today's fast-paced global economy, technology parks play a crucial role in fostering industrial development by providing an ecosystem conducive to innovation, collaboration and entrepre-

These designated areas are often referred to as research and technology parks or science parks. They can serve as catalysts for economic growth, driving technological advancements, attracting investment, and nurturing talent. By bringing together academia, industry, government, these parks facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange, leading to breakthrough discoveries and technological

They are often located within or near universities so that they have ready access to highly trained workers in various fields. In Pakistan, I was involved in establishing a technology park in the National University of Science and Technology in Islamabad as well as setting up several software technology parks in early 2001 in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar.

More recently, an excellent Facebook, Silicon Valley has technology park was established under my supervision within the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule (University of Applied Science and Engineering) in Haripur,

Technology parks play a crucial role in enhancing the competitiveness of industries by providing access to state-of-the-art infrastructure, specialized facilities, and cutting-edge equipment. Companies located within technology parks benefit from shared resources such as research laboratories, testfacilities, prototyping centres, enabling them to accelerate the

cialization of new products. Moreover, the clustering effect of technology parks encourages the formation of industry clusters, where companies operating in related sectors can collaborate, share best prac-

development and commer-

skilled talent. Silicon Valley, located in San Francisco, is arguably the most famous technology park globally and a symbol of innovation and entrepreneurship. Home to numer-

tices, and access a pool of

a rich history of fostering disruptive innovations that have transformed entire industries. The ecosystem of Silicon Valley is characterized by a dense concentration of venture capital firms, leading research universities such as Stanford and UC Berkeley, and a culture that celebrates risk-taking and failure as essential ingredients for success

Through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and access to capital, Silicon Valley has become synonymous with technological breakthroughs in computing, software development. biotechnology and beyond. The Zhongguancun Sci-

ence Park, often dubbed China's Silicon Valley, is another thriving technology hub located in Beijing's Haidian District. Established in the 1980s, Zhongguancun has grown into a dynamic ecosystem of innovation, fuelled by a convergence of research institutions, universities, and high-tech compa-

The park is home to leading Chinese tech firms such as Baidu, Lenovo, and Xiaomi, as well as numerous tech giants such as ous startups and venture Google, and capital

Zhongguancun's strategic focus on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and biotechnology has propelled China's technological advancement and global competitiveness

Another excellent example is Technopark, situ-

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. It is one of India's largest and most successful technology parks, specializing in software development and IT-enabled services. Established in the 1990s, Technopark has played a crucial role in positioning Kerala as a leading destination for IT outsourcing and technology innovation. The park's ecosystem encompasses a diverse range of companies, from multinational corporations to startups, as well as research and development centres and education institutions

The Hsinchu Science Park, located in northern Taiwan, is a leading technology park renowned for its semiconductor industry and innovation ecosystem. Established in the 1980s, the Hsinchu Science Park has played a pivotal role in Taiwan's economic de-

vancements in semiconductor manufacturing, integrated circuit design, and electronics. The park is home to major semiconductor companies such as TSMC, MediaTek, and United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), as well as research institutes

velopment, driving ad-

and startups. Hsinchu's collaborative environment, supported by government investment in infrastructure, research, and talent development, has fostered a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, propelling Taiwan to become a global leader in semiconductor technology

and high-tech manufacturing. Cyberjaya, situated in the state of Selangor, Malaysia, is the country's premier technology park and a key driver of its digital economy and innovation ecosystem. Established in the late 1990s, Cyberjaya has evolved into a dynamic hub for technology companies, research institutions, and startups, specializing in areas such as information technology, telecommunica-

tions, and digital services. The park's strategic location, supported by worldclass infrastructure and govtracted leading multinational corporations such as IBM, Huawei, and DHL, as well as homegrown startups and technology Cyberjaya's collaborative environment, facilitated by initiatives such as the Cyberiava Innovation Hub and the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC), has fostered entrepreneurship, talent development, and technological innovation, driving

Malaysia's digital transfor-

mation and economic

growth

ernment incentives, has at-

The Pardis Technology Park, located in Tehran, Iran, is the country's premier technology park and a key driver of its innovation ecosystem. Established in the early 2000s, Pardis serves as a hub for technology companies, startups, and research institutions, specializing in sectors such as ICT, nanotechnology, and renewable energy. The park's strategic location, supported by government incentives and infrastructure investment, has attracted leading Iranian and international companies. fostering collaboration, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship. —Courtesy

An endless wait for rights

By Afzal Ali Shigri

Last December, the Gilgit-Baltistan government made a significant decision to increase the subsidised price of wheat. The tradition of providing essential items at subsidised rates to this remote region can be traced back to the era of Dogra rule, persisting post-liberation. Subsidised rates essentially aimed at offsetting the added expenses incurred in transporting goods to GB, owing to its rugged terrain. The PPP in 1973 al-

lowed a subsidised rate of Rs42 for 100 kilograms of wheat while withdrawing minor subsidies on other items. To give additional relief to the locals, it abolished land revenue and begar (free manpower for visits of state functionaries). denotifying all the rules and regulations of the former Kashmir state.

The federal government provides funding for subsidies, and as the population increased, so did the financial impact. To alleviate some of this burden, the federal government periodically adjusted the subsidised rates of wheat. At the initially fixed rate of Rs42 for 100 kg in 1973,

the first increase occurred and Chilas—joined in large in 1976, when the price was raised to Rs50. Subsequently, it was fixed at Rs250 in 1980. Over the years, prices increased eight times, reaching the last revision from Rs2.000 to Rs3,600 per 100 kg in 2023. This substantial hike. amidst rising monthly prices of essential items and the withdrawal of health insurance card benefits, sparked widespread discontent. Against this substantial increase in the subsidised price, there were continuous protests, but the government remained un-

yielding, dismissing smaller

protests.

The Awami Action Committee (AAC), a proactive common platform. initiated protests in Baltistan. It evolved into a massive sit-in that paralysed Skardu and Gilgit, the main commercial areas. The GB government, perhaps underestimating the determination of the locals, assumed the protest would dissipate in the harsh cold. However, as news spread to the other valleys, people from every small town converged on Skardu, stretching out to Gilgit town, as residents from the rest of the region — namely Gilgit

numbers and reached Gilgit city, where the sit-in that was started in Skardu continued.

The single-point protest evolved into a 15-point charter of demands, comprehensively addressing the deprivations faced by this strategically vital yet neglected region. The most important demand centred on securing constitutional rights for the locals, as all other points flow from this fundamental question that the government of Pakistan tethered to the Kashmir dispute. Labelling this region as disputed, it governed the region directly, instead of through elected representatives of the area

In the unforgiving winter, the sit-in persisted for over 30 days, forcing the government to ultimately withdraw the wheat price increase. The crowd dispersed peacefully with the resolve to restart the protests if the other demands were not considered seriously and resolved in consultation with all stakeholders. Fortunately, the demand for a reduction in subsidised wheat prices was led by the peaceful AAC platform. In such vocal and desperate situations.

large crowds, if led astray, can turn violent with tragic consequences. One can note food shortages and high prices before the French Revolution in 1789 in this

After GB's liberation, its simple and trusting locals witnessed Pakistani officials taking charge, raised the flag and presumed integration with Pakistan. Unbeknownst to them, the infamous Karachi Agreement of 1949 had transpired, wherein the Kashmiri leadership, deeming the area a financial burden, handed over its administration to Pakistan without securing any guarantees for the rights of the people, and sealing their fate in a constitutional limbo that

continues to this day Due to continued demands of the local population and litigation, the most significant change occurred in 2009, when the PPP introduced an order, influenced by a Supreme Court judgement, aimed at granting GB full provincial status with an elected legislative assembly. However, in response to the strong demand for full constitutional rights, in the guise of an improvement of this order, the PML-N government issued a revised 2018 order that effectively rolled back the limited empowerment granted in 2009.

During a hearing of a petition on the subject, a full pench of the Supreme Court mandated the reversal of this law and instructed the implementation of the 2019 draft governance order, developed by the government under the court's guidance, within 15 days. Unfortunately, the execution of this order faced obstacles from the PTI government, which filed a revision petition on flimsy grounds that remains pending. Consequently, the region continues to be governed by the discarded and flawed 2018 order, delaying the realisation of the intended constitutional rights.

A glimmer of hope emerged when a bill by the Balochistan Awami Party was introduced in parliament to amend the Constitution to grant provisional provincial status to the region. The draft amendment was forwarded to the regional government, led by the PTI. Despite two existing resolutions advocating provincial status, the regional government formed a committee which was nothing more than a ploy to undermine the proposal

GB residents are increasingly growing disillusioned. The wheat subsidy issue acted as a trigger for a broader, more fundamental 15-point charter of demands, representing profound dissatisfaction. Although the temporary resolution of the wheat price problem provided some respite, it also laid bare the depth of the public sentiment. Encouraged by the community's reaction and the multitude of ongoing challenges impacting their daily existence, local leaders are preparing to mobilise post-Eid. These demonstrations, combined with the toxic political climate on the national stage, runs the risk of sparking extensive unrest. The region's undefined status poses a grave threat, potentially compromising crucial infrastructura projects like the CPEC. This negligence not only imperils GB but also undermines the stability of the federation. It is imperative to heed the lessons of history, where the spark of bread riots in France ignited a revolution. It's time for a resolute departure from outdated policies and a commitment to address the long-stand-

A new game changer

By Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

have finally introduced the Gandhara Corridor Bill in the National Assembly after much homework. Durcountries, I study how these societies live. After a comprehensive comparison with my beloved country, I have come to the conclusion that God Almighty has blessed Pakistan with all kinds of resources and four seasons. Unfortunately, nobody else but we ourselves are responsible for the failures we are facing nowadays.

First, our country's economy is weak, and the main reason for this is that we are not utilizing our resources properly. Second, our hostile policies are not acceptable in today's modern world; our diplomatic relations are promote people-to-people contacts. Third, the most important factor is the vital need to develop tolerance, patience and brotherhood in our society without any kind of bias and discrimina-

Undoubtedly, God Almighty has blessed Pakistan with such priceless treasures in the form of archaeology and heritage that the systematic arrival grims can lead to a significant increase in foreign exchange, highlight a positive image in the international community, and promote interfaith harmony in our society.

ancient Gandhara civilization to the northern part of present-day Pakistan. It

reflects the glorious past of Buddhism in our region. Once, the area that is now the federal capital of Pakistan, Islamabad, used

to be a significant part of the great Gandhara in ancient times. The key objective of the Gandhara Corridor Bill presented by me is that Pakistan should establish a tourism corridor with Buddhist-maiority countries in the region, including Nepal, China, Thailand,

Japan, Sri Lanka, Viet-Cambodia, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mongolia. These are the countries that are considered close to Pakistan on the diplomatic front, and the citizens of most of the countries have the facility of visa-on-arrival in Pakistan.

If only 0.1 per cent of the world's Buddhist population (about 500,000 pilgrims) lands at Islamabad International Airport for annual pilgrimage to Gandhara sites in Pakistan, our country's foreign exchange will increase by \$1.7 billion in one year, which will gradually exceed \$6 billion dollars in two vears. In the next phase, facilities should also be created for the pilgrims of Jainism, Hinduism and other religions who are interested in

Under the Gandhara Corridor Bill, a topinstitutional mechanism should be devised whose head must be nominated by the prime minister. Under the proposed corridor, a commercial series of Gandhara exhibitions will be started in different countries. The income generated through the venture

will be mutually shared

between Pakistan and

Gandhara.

Different initiatives

would be taken for the promotion of the . Gandhara civilization in universities and higher education institutions across the country, and scholarships would be provided to talented students seeking career opportunities abroad. Similarly, in order

to curb extremism in society, media representatives will be ensured training opportunities in Buddhist countries under the Gandhara Fellowship. I believe that religious harmony and tolerance were once the prominent hallmarks of the Gandhara period. That is why Gandhara should not be limited to ruins or archaeology, as the Gandhara civilization is actually based on tolerance, harmony and brotherhood among different faiths, communities and classes of

society. I would like to assure that the proposed establishment of the Gandhara corridor at the federal level is not at all any conspiracy to take over Gandhara sites in different parts of Pakistan but to facilitate the provinces under the 18th Amendment while simultaneously respecting provincial autonomy.

In my view, the Gandhara corridor will not only prove to be a game changer for the country's devel-opment and prosperity but also result in remarkable achievements on the diplomatic front.

I hope that all stakeholders will support the Gandhara Corridor Bill introduced by me for the national interest of Pakistan. – Courtesy

Climate governance revisited

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh Climate governance in Pakistan is flawed. It is ineffective and unresponsive to climate threats. Its ability to deliver climate actions to communities across the provinces is limited. In its present shape, it cannot help turn around the economy in various sectors. The Supreme Court's recent suo motu notice and the constitution of an interministerial committee by the prime minister have rekindled hopes that some institutional ills - fragmented legislations, unclear institutional mandates, and archaic rules and regulations

— may be rectified. After the Paris Agreement was signed, the Nawaz Sharif government passed the Climate Change Act, 2017, primarily to enable the implementation of the global climate agreement through the creation of three interrelated institutions: the Climate Change Council (CCC), the Climate Change Authority (CCA), and the Climate Change Fund (CCF).

Zahid Hamid, the minister concerned at the time, championed the Act, but it was never implemented on account of two factors causing unease: a) it would undermine the 18th Amendment and provincial powers would be recentralised by the federal government; b) since almost all functions of the climate ministry were assigned to the CCA, there were fears that it faced the prospects of dissolution. . The Âct has since languished in a bureaucratic maze. Neither the Supreme Court nor the government can move forward meaningfully without addressing these lingering apprehensions.

Successive governments have sidestepped these misgivings. Parliamentary interest, let alone oversight, has remained weak, and momentum on the initial intent has been lost. Imran Khan's government did not set up the CCA or CCF. Led by Malik Amin Aslam, his maverick

climate adviser, the CCC was created but its meeting couldn't be convened. The provinces were alienated as the documents approved during the period, including the national climate change policy and the Nationally Determined Contributions, were approved by the cabinet committee on climate change instead of the mandated CCC or the well-established policy forums where the provinces are represented — CDWP, ECNEC, and NEC.

twice, first under the Shehbaz Sharif-led PDM government and then Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's interim government. For that, the credit must go to their dynamic climate ministers, Senator Sherry Rehman and Ahmad Irfan Aslam. However, neither could prioritise the creation of the CCA or that of the proposed CCF. Hence, the present government has inherited the doubts regarding the Act and the CCA's future role vis-àvis the provinces.

The CCC has since met

The CCA, if established without revisiting its role, will violate the principles of good governance as it combines regulatory and policy functions. The only organic link between the climate division and the ministry is the person of the secretary, who will also serve as secretary of the proposed authority. But he will not formally be part of any federal forum where the provinces are also represented. The CCA will manage the proposed CCF by allocating funds and monitoring the implementation of adaptation and mitigation projects, otherwise provincial subjects. The Act has not specified its guiding principles for this function. Should we have one mega fund or create multiple special purpose vehicles to address specific needs at different fiers of governance? Why do we need it at the federal level if all climate action will be in the provinces?

The fund is based on the assumption that there will

be sufficient donations, endowments, grants, and gifts. Except for charging a processing fee, there is no mention of any national or provincial equity, not even of 0.5 per cent of GDP that could have served as a credible source of replenishment. Will the existence of a legal entity enable the flow of international climate finance? Several funds and mechanisms already exist in the country to enable international financial flows. What is lacking is clarity of purpose, autonomy, and firewalling from governmen-

ing grievances of the

people.—Courtesy Dawn

tal controls. Further, international climate finance has also evolved into specialised functions often involving the State Bank, the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, commercial banks, insurance companies and the private sector for such instruments as green bonds, debt swaps, hybrid financing, and derisking financing. For all this, the country will need to develop its national climate finance strategy before the structure of the fund is determined.

The complexity, in fact, runs deeper. The Climate Act does not supersede the Pakistan Environment Protection Act. Pepa continues to govern the Environment Protection Agency at the climate ministry, while all the four provinces have essentially copy-pasted Pepa in their provincial contexts. All provinces, except Sindh, have also adopted 14 multilateral environmental agreements mentioned in Pepa. Compared to 1997 when Pepa was adopted, Pakistan has signed several more multilateral environmental agreements, including those specifically dealing with external trade and emerging trade-related environmental barriers under the WTO. But the Act has neither updated the list, nor removed the confusion about who would be responsible for the MEAs. -Courtesy Dawn



MURREE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chairing a special meeting to review the overall law and order situation of the province.

CM Punjab approves special audit system to detect corruption and nonprofessional behavior in the police department

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved a special audit system to detect corruption and nonprofessional behavior in the police department. She directed to establish a special police unit to counter cybercrimes. The chief minister has further conversed the adoption of a precial court professional special police unit to counter cybercrimes. The chief minister has further approved the adoption of a precial court professional special approved the adoption of a special court-martial system of punishment for police officials found involved in conniving with the corrupt mafias and criminals.

The decisions were taken during a special meeting to review overall law and order in the province which was held in Murree here today with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in the chair.

Inspector General of Police comprehensively briefed the meeting on the overall current law and order situation across the province. During the meeting matters pertaining to improve professional policing also came under the discussion. Various proposals and recommendations were

provision of registering complaints on CM Punjab dashboard where citizens would report the bribery if demanded by any police officials. Approval was accorded to set up a 'Special Unit' in the police department to curb organized and cybercrime. The police will be given necessary IT training for a smooth and speedy response to the

During the meeting the proposal to establish border security forces to prevent smuggling was also considered. The decision has been taken in principle to establish a functional specialized police force for each crime, giving a more precise and particular investigation system

Flood water swept away roads in Chitral due to heavy rains

Heavy rain hit hard resulting roads swept away by closing all traffic between Chitral and Peshawar wherein a house was affected in Chitral city and a girl child was injured and was shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Deputy Commissioner Chitral Muhammad Imran told media men here on Saturday. He stated that heavy machinery was working on the opening of roads be-sides a high alert has been issued to those living close to nullhas and stream due to heavy rain. The DC said that officials of the district administration have been on high alert along with NHA's and PDMA staff. A house was affected by heavy rains in Chitral city, a girl was injured, he confirmed.

The injured girl was

shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Chitral and doctors said that she is out of danger. There was a confirmed report that tourists' vehicles were affected by floods in Chamarkhan Nala, and the route was restored, the Deputy Commissioner said.

He disclosed that in Lower Chitral's Belpok village, Chitral Garam Chashma road was closed due to flood relay and the traffic was also affected. Due to rain, the Chitral to Peshawar road is closed for all types of traffic due to flooding in rivers and canals and tourists and local peoples have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel.

Deputy Commis-sioner Chitral said that rain continues in Lower Chitral district and suburbs till now. In the light of the or-

ders of Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral Muhammad Imran Khan, line departments are on alert. Traffic flow is affected at various places due to increase in flood water level and landslides in Nullas. The machinery of the TMA department and NHA are busy cleaning various drains. The machin-

ery of the NHA department

is engaged in the clearance

operation at the location of

heavy floods, Muhammad

Imran Khan said. Tourists are advised to travel after obtaining complete information about the access roads, he said. Avoid unnecessary travel in inclement weather until routes are fully cleared and if any untoward incident report an emergency to DC control room on the following Tele phone No. 0943412519.

Child drowned in swimming pool of family park

By Tanveer Ahmed
MIRPUR MATHELO: A
child who was bathing in
the swimming pool of the family park with his friends drowned. Deputy Commissioner Ghotki took notice of the news of the child who allegedly drowned. Report sought from Assistant Commissioner Mirpur

According to details, on the day of Eid, a 12-year-old boy Zahid Ali Channa, a resident of Soumra Colony, Mirpur Mathelo, the swimming pool of Mirpur Mathelo. Taking notice by Syed Muhammad Ali DC Ghotki of the news, the Assistant Commissioner of Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali has asked for a report, so that action can be taken against those guilty of neg-

Ratta area of the city.

Alhamra Eid

gala continues

LAHORE (APP): The

Alhamra Arts Center, The

ligence. He has recommended to SSP Ghotki that a transparent investigation of the tragic incident should be conducted so that the facts can be practical picture of sacrifice brought out.

from the venue.

The CM was in-Khuda Bux to observe the death anniversary of formed that separate entry Shaheed Zulfikar Ali and exit points have been The meeting was held designated for parking at the CM House and was attended by Sharjeel around the Mazar com-Furthermore, Mr Shah instructed the District Mayor Karachi Murtaza Larkana administration to liaise with HESCO to enlice Ghulam Nabi Memon, sure uninterrupted power supply during the public meeting. Additionally, and Chief Metrologist Sarfraz Khan. Minister Home Zia Lanjar, Minister standby generators must be Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro,

ZA Bhutto's mazar

CM directs Larkana

administration to install

56 walk-through gates

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed

Murad Ali Shah while pre-

siding over a meeting of the

Mazar Committee, in-

structed the police and the

administration to make ad-

equate arrangements for the

security and traffic manage-

ment of the public gather-

ing that is scheduled to be

held on April 14 at Garhi

Memon, Nasir Shah,

Wahab, Chief Secretary

Asif Hyder Shah, IG Po-

Commissioner Larkana

administration of Larkana

to increase the number of

walk-through gates from 40

to 56 at the Mazar, ensur-

ing easy access for the pub-

lic attending the meeting.

He also emphasized the

need for appropriate traf-

fic arrangements for the

easy flow of people to and

arranged to ensure backup power. The IG briefed the Mustafa Phul and Khair CM about the security ar-Mohammad Shaikh of PPP rangements and traffic manattended the meeting agement measures in place.

Israel's oppression upon Palestinians worst act of

Muhammad Hussain Mehnti, the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh on Saturday said that Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people is their worst act

of open hostility. Al-Aqsa Mosque will be based on the sacrifices made by more than 33,000 Palestinian martyrs. He expressed his views while addressing at a Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas Eid-Milan celebration on behalf of the people of "Gaza" in a straightforward yet respectful ceremony.

The martyrdoms of the leaders, including the sons and grandsons of the leaders of the freedom of Palestine and Aqsa, are a

RAWALPINDI: Fire fighters extinguishing an inferno erupted in Dhoke

arrested two outlaws

open hostility: JI Sindh for Palestine and Aqsa, he added. In his speech, Muhammad Hussain Mehnti went on to say that Ramadan is a time for belargest city in the province, lievers. It's a really wonderful present. Through the blessing of this holy month, the believer becomes worthy of its joy, intimacy, and heaven by means of fasting, charity, remembering. reciting the Qur'an, and prayer. Zafar Ahmed Khan, the town chairman of Karachi Model Town, Haji Noor Elahi, and Muhammad Akram Sheikh spoke at the ceremony as well. At Eid marketplaces, Eidgahs, and

other locations of Eid prayer

on the occasion of Eid-ul-

Fitr, Haji Noor Elahi Mughal

and other officials under

Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas

received a cheque.



religious rituals in Pakistan.

for welfare of people in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Food Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Zahir Shah Toru has said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, our government in the province is working on projects with far-reaching results for the

welfare of the people.

He said that health cards have been restored besides the provision of cash assistance worth billions of rupees to the poor citizens during Ramadan. He was interacting with the local elders, party workers and people who came to greet him on Eid-ul-Fitr at his residence and interact-

ing with the media. Zahir Shah Toru said that Mardan is the second

the development of which is the top priority of the

He said he had already talked to the Chief Minister and Health Minister to provide funds for the completion of the ongoing projects of DHQ Hospital and Benazir Children Hospital in Mardan and the required funds will be provided soon and by June this year these projects will be

completed. He said that they are working on many projects for the development of Mardan, the fruits of which

will benefit the people here. In response to a question, Zahir Shah Toru said that there are specific situations regarding the secu-

context of which a meeting

was held with Corps Commander Peshawar.

He said that being a responsible government, it is necessary to communicate with the security agencies to be aware of the security situation so that necessary measures can be taken to protect the public.

The provincial food minister mentioned the steps taken by the food department to control prices and prevent artificial inflation during Ramazan and said that the food department and administrative officers' throughout the province had worked hard to provide food items at reasonable prices to the people. He himself directly supervised these initiatives rity of our province, in the which yielded positive re-

sults, he concluded

Secretary health inspects vaccination Intl to republish report on process

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Secretary Health, Mehmood Aslam Wazir visited various designated polio vaccination spots during Eid and inspected the ongoing inoculation pro-

He visited various toll plazas and check posts to witness the vaccination process of children. He also listened to the problems of polio workers and assured

them of cooperation. Stressing upon workers to realize their responsibilities in the national cause of polio eradication he directed them to be vigilant to inoculate children who missed vaccination due to travelling from one place to another.

Armed men killed youngster

By Tanveer Ahmed

MIRPUR MATHELO: Armed men shot and killed a young man, according to details, armed men shot and killed a young Wazeer Ahmed Boohar in the Village of Muhammad Azim Boohar last midnight. After arriving at the spot, the body was transferred to DHQ Hospital from where it was handed over to the heirs after necessary procedures, Mirpur Mathelo Police have arrested four people of Boohar community on the basis of suspiPak corruption perception

PHC orders Transparency

PESHAWAR (INP): The Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court
Peshawar High Court
PHC has directed (PHC) has delivered the final verdict regarding the tional to disclose the percase involving the Transparency International report, which had labeled the judiciary as the 3rd most corrupt institution.

In a comprehensive 31-page judgment, the Chief Justice has ruled that Transparency International must republish its 2023 annual report on Pakistan, including all relevant facts and unpublished data.

According to the writto submit the revised report speech.

Transparency Internacentage of public opinion and make public all the rejected forms during the survey to eliminate any ambiguities.
The court emphasized

that Transparency International must provide clarification on the National Corruption Perception Survey Report of 2023. It further clarified that

the decision to republish the revised report should ten verdict, Transparency not be construed as a re-International was required striction on freedom of

32 people die in traffic accidents during Eid days across Punjab

many as 32 people died in traffic accidents during the last three days of Eid-ul-Fitr across the province.

According to a spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Punjab, exactly 6294 accidents including 603 accidents of motorbikes, 304 rickshaws and 704 accidents of cars were reported across Punjab during the last three days. 5609 men and 1735 women were victims of said period, the spokesman added.

The highest number of said.

MULTAN (APP): As 1082 accidents took place in the provincial capital.

3478 seriously injured people were hospitalized while first aid was given to 3834 people on the spot.

1082 accidents were reported in Lahore, 405 in Faisalabad, 382 in Multan and 347 in Gujranwala.

Secretary Emergency Services Dr Rizwan Naseer said that thousands of motorcycle accidents during the three days of Eid were very dangerous. Parents, accidents during above teachers, civil society and all stakeholders have to work on a war footing, he



HYDERABAD: Children are enjoying camel and horse rides at Fun Land with their families as they are spending Eid holidays, at Rani Bagh in Hyderabad.

press conference at Tandojam. **Punjab CM believes** in taking practical steps: Azma Bukhari

HYDERABAD: Sindh Excise and Taxation, Trans-

port Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Saturday that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz believed in taking practical measures instead of making hollow slogans. In a statement issued here, she said that in just one month, the CM bought a plane to launch as an air ambulance, as per her promise. She said that Maryam Nawaz had announced launching air ambulance service during her maiden speech after being elected as the Punjab CM. Performance of the Punjab government was 'Panag visible on ground not on Khana'

social media, she said and added that opponents of Maryam Nawaz had no potential to compete with her. She said that the PML-N had always fulfilled promises made with the

Azma Bukhari said, "Maryam Nawaz is first women chief minister and till now more than two dozens of programmes have started in Punjab." She said that it was unfortunate that those who had promised to give 10 million jobs and five million houses gave nothing to people except 'Panagah and Langar

One person killed, two other injured in rain related incidents: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): The for traffic due to rain in Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Saturday released a report on the loss of lives and properties due to rain in the last 24 hours and confirmed that one person was killed and two injured due to rain since last

A spokesman of the PDMA said that due to the rain, 1 house was completely damaged while 4 houses were partially damaged. The loss of life and property took place in Chitral Lower, the PDMA official release said.

Many roads are closed

Chitral district and instructed the district administration to ensure the availability of small and big missionaries to open the closed highways, the official said. The official of PDMA said that the PDMA relief workers and other related organizations are being engaged in relief operations while PDMA is in touch with all concerned institutions.

The emergency opera-tion center of PDMA is fully functional and the people should report any untoward incident in 1700, the spokesperson said.

Minister directs necessary measures after rainfall

LAHORE (APP): Punjab the need for machinery to Local Government and Community Development (LG&CD) Minister Zeeshan Rafique has directed the municipal administrators across Punjab to ensure all necessary arrangements put in place in light of recent rainfall in the province

The minister emphasized the importance of precautionary measures, advising that the alerts regarding rainfall from the Provincial Disaster Man-Authority agement (PDMA) Punjab should be taken into consideration.

LG&CD Minister Zeeshan Rafique stressed

be prepared for the drainage of rainwater, especially in low-lying areas, and for a proactive review of the sewage systems to prevent any blockages. Despite the ongoing holidays, he insisted that the citizens should not face any inconvenience due to the rains.

Furthermore, he instructed the Secretary LG&CD and CEOs of waste management companies to maintain coordination with the local government department and other relevant departments, including the PDMA, to take joint actions and avoid any emergency situations.

17 dacoits arrested, looted items and weapons recovered

Mall, is alive with the spirit of Eid-ul-Fitir, treating visi-FAISALABAD (APP): tors to a three-day celebra-The police have claimed to tion filled with joy and enarrest 17 dacoits from varitertainment. According to a ous parts of Faisalabad spokesperson here Saturduring Eid holidays and reday, families and children covered looted items and flocked to the center to enillicit weapons from their joy the festivities. Among possession. Police spokesthe highlights were the man said here on Saturday heartwarming distribution that ASI Sajjad Ahmad Inof Eid gifts to children, addcharge police post Lorry Adda conducted raid near ing to the festive cheer. Alhamra Executive Darbar Noor Shah Wali and Director Tariq Ali Basra arrested two dacoits emphasized the significance namely—Ali Raza and Abdullah along with a s n a t c h e d

of the festivities in fostering a deeper connection to Pakistan's rich cultural herimotorcycle, mobile phones tage, especially among the and illegal weapons. younger generation. He Similarly, Kotwali pothanked the talented artists lice nabbed two dacoits and enthusiastic partici-Ahmad, etc from PTCL pants whose contributions road and recovered looted made the event a resoundcash, illicit pistols, mobile phones and other items ing success. Renowned artist Haseeb Pasha, also from their possession. known as Hamun Judghar, Meanwhile, Ghulam commended the Alhamra Muhammad Abad police conducted raid in Chak administration for creating a memorable celebration No.217-RB Achkera and that brings the community

together through the arts.

namely—Mehmood, etc. who were wanted to the police in a number of dacoity,robbery and other cases. Millat Town police also nabbed four dacoits namely—Ali Muzammil,etc from Jhumra road and recovered two snatched motorcycles, cash, mobile phone and illegal weapons from their possession.

The spokesman further said that ASI Mohsin Igbal of Khurarianwala on a tip-off conducted raid in Chak No.103-RB and arrested two criminals namely Shahzad,etc who were wanted to the police in a dozen cases of dacoity,robbery,theft, etc.

Chak Jhumra police also nabbed three dacoits including Tahir, Shahjahan and Muneeb from Chak No.188-RB Nallaywala and recovered two looted motorcycles, cash, mobile phones and illegal guns from their possession.

Inflation results in business decline during Eid: Atiq Mir

in Karachi have termed the Eid-ul-Fitr season of 2024 as the most disappointing year in the city's 75-year history, blaming the rocketry inflation for a significant decline in their busi-

Chairman of the All Karachi Tajir Ittehad Atiq Mir said that despite the bustling market activity, the level of shopping remained limited to a mere 40 percent of what was antici-

He said that Eid-ul-

KARACHI (INP): Traders Fitr season 2024 remained more 'disappointing' for the traders as compared to the previous year.

Atiq Mir highlighted that Karachi, being the largest city in the country, witnessed immense difficulty for millions of people in purchasing new clothes for the festive occasion.
The All Karachi Tajir

Ittehad chairman revealed that city traders were able to conduct business worth Rs 15 to 18 with a significant decrease from the previous year's business of

KARACHI: People purchasing spices from Jodia Bazaar in the Provincial

Equity markets took

the recalibration of expec-

tations of interest rate cuts

in their stride as the data

showing the US economy

in strong health raised

hopes that companies will

markets had priced in six

interest cuts by the Fed in

2024, but now expect only

JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup

all reported better-than-ex-

pected earnings results for

the first quarter. But shares

in JPMorgan Chase, which

have risen strongly this year,

sank 6.5 percent, while the

other two banks retreated

Frankfurt edged lower,

London stocks fizzed

second straight month in

February, further fueling

recovery hopes after slid-

ing into a shallow recession

in the second half of last

year. Dimming hopes for

US rate cuts continued to

support the dollar, which

surged to another 34-year

spotlight after they said

they were ready to inter-

vene in markets to support

While Paris and

Oil prices surged more higher on data showing the that it imported wheat un-

At the start of the year

report strong earnings.

Middle East tensions

weigh on markets

NEW YORK (AFP/APP):

Wall Street stocks tumbled

on Saturday despite solid

bank earnings as oil and gold

prices shot up amid wor-

ries about a potential wid-

ening of conflict in the Middle East.

entire session in the red, the

Dow Jones Industrial Av-

erage finished down 1.2

percent, or 475 points, at 37,983.24.

"Heightened geopo-litical uncertainty in front

of a weekend contributed to today's sell-off," said

worries about an imminent

attack on Israel by Iran to

retaliate for a strike in Dam-

ascus—a possibility also

raised by President Joe

Biden, who urged Iran

peaks before easing some-

from its status as a haven

investment, breaking the

set to focus on the start Fri-

day of the corporate earn-

week largely killed off the

possibility that the US

Federal Reserve could be-

gin cutting interest rates in their currency

\$2,400 per ounce level.

Gold also benefitted

Investor attention was

against the move.

Market watchers cited

Briefing.com.

After spending the

more than Rs 20 billion. 'Warehouses are reported to have accumulated 0 percent of the stock for sale on Eid-ul-Fitr," Atiq

Mir added.

He said that 90 percent of buyers were interested in buying cheap goods. He was of the view that 80 percent of purchases were made for women's and children's clothes and shoes.
Atiq Mir said that the

purchasing power of buyers has been severely impacted by the alarming in-

Kissan Ittehad

urges govt to

buy maximum

wheat from

farmers

MUZAFFARGARH

(APP): Pakistan Kissan

Ittehad demanded the

Punjab government to en-

sure the timely and maxi-

mum purchase of wheat

here, the provincial coordi-

nator All Pakistan Kissan

Ittehad, Amjid Ali Amjid

stated that the peasants

were frustrated as there was

no one to buy wheat in the

market. Apart from this, he

said that it has also become

very difficult to save wheat

of inputs increased mani-

taker government stating

necessarily when the local wheat crop was about to

emerge in the markets. He

appealed to the government

to ensure the buying of

maximum crops from the

farmers so that they could

be able to focus on the next

Wheat drive

receiving of

applications for

gunny bags begins

SARGODHA (APP): Re-

ceiving of applications for

gunny bags through the

Punjab Information Technology board (PITB) App

started today for the wheat

procurement drive 2024-25

Food Muhammad Shahid

informed APP here on Sat-

urday said that wheat grow

Deputy Director

cotton crop.

He said that the prices

He criticized the care-

from recent rainy spells.

In a statement issued

from the farmers.

flation rates, causing a significant decline in sales.

'The relentless inflation has taken a toll on the happiness of the people, casting a shadow over the festive season. Both big and small markets in Karachi kept eagerly awaiting buyers, hoping for a muchneeded boost in business," he added. "As a result of these economic hardships, businessmen are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their business and household expenses," Atiq Mir said



Chinese firm to convert Pakistani thermal plant to

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Northern Power Generation Company Limited (NPGCL) has signed a Memorandum of Under-standing (MoU) with Chinese firm Ningbo Green Light Energy Pvt Ltd (NGLEL) to convert an existing thermal power plant to a 300-megawatt solar power plant.

(SIFC) and it will upgrade

an existing thermal power plant to a solar power fa-

pected to annually generate 400 million units of electricity at a significantly reduced cost. The cost per unit is anticipated to drop from 45 rupees to as low as 14 rupees. By utilizing the land,

assets, and infrastructure of

tion Company (GENCO-III), this project not only promises economic benefits Supply but also strengthens SIFC's (FÉSCO) campaign towards renew-

able energy adoption. Furthermore, the project will eliminate the need for heavy fuel oil (HFO) as an energy source. Stakeholders are expected to benefit from this project with an estimated annual savings of \$44 million due to reduced expenditure on energy bills.

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Poultry meat price has gone out of reach of common people as it jumped to Rs 720 per kilogram in Bahawalpur here on Saturday. APP learnt that poultry meat was sold out at Rs 720 per kilogram here on Saturday which was sold out at Rs 619 per kilogram before Eid-ul-Fitr. "Poultry suppliers have been continuing increasing poultry price in Bahawalpur on daily basis," said Qureshi, a retailer, adding that poultry suppliers had been controlling and fixing poultry

supply ensured during Eid holidays FAISALABAD (APP): in the region. He said that trans-

Uninterrupted power

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Company Engineer Muhammad Amir said that FESCO had successfully provided an uninterrupted power supply to its consumers across its region.

In a statement here on Saturday, he said that FESCO had constituted special teams in addition to establishing a monitoring desk in the headquarters for ensuring the electricity supply round the clock. He said that high-rank-

ing officers of the company remained present in their offices to monitor the field work in addition to ensuring immediately restoration of electricity supply if any defect surfaced at any place

former-mounted trolleys were also provided to operation staff along with other gadgets and material for their immediate replacement in case of emergency. The FESCO field staff remained active round

the clock during Eid holidays and they responded promptly after receiving public complaints about electricity disruptions. The FESCO Monitoring Cell also received public complaints through its official Facebook page and took immediate action for their redress. About 50 feeders faced tripping due to rain on Marru (the third day after Eid) but FESCO engineers and field staff ac-

celerated their efforts and successfully restored

LAHORE: People are buying sweet at a shop in the

AC imposed fines on transporters for over charges in fares

LARKANA (APP): Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Darya Khan Qureshi along with Secretary Regional Transport Authority Aijaz Ahmed Surhayo has visited the coach, bus and van stands at PTS, Qamber Sheikh Zaid Roads where they inspected over charges in fares from travellers who are going different cities from larkana after Eid-ul- sis

After inspecting they found out the extra fares charging for different cities. They strictly instructed them to avoid charging the extra fares, otherwise strict action will be taken against them and the route permit licenses along with the challan will be revoked.

On this occasion, the Assistant Commissioner collected additional fares of thousands of rupees from

transporters, drivers and calendars for charging extra fares from passengers who traveling from Larkana to Karachi and other cities. In this regard, Assis-

tant Commissioner Larkana Raja Darya Khan Qureshi said that after Eid-ul-Fitr, many passengers go to Karachi and other big and small cities on a daily ba-On this occasion, he

warned the transporters keep avoid fares pricing charges, otherwise I will imposed fines every transporters and cancelled their route permit licenses. He refunded thousands rupees to the passengers.
He said that If the pas-

sengers are taking extra fares, they should inform us in time, such complaints will be dealt with in a timely manner

solar energy, agreement signed

The project is facilitated by the Special Initiative Facilitation Council

MULTAN (APP): Paki-

stan Business Forum (PBF)

has expressed satisfaction

over the current economic

ter a meeting of the Execu-

tive Council of PBF, Presi-

dent PBF Khawaja Mehboobur Rahman, Chair-

man PBF South Punjab

Malik Talat Sohail and Vice

President Chaudhry Ahmad

expressed that two years

ago, there was a situation

of uncertainty regarding the

economy. They said that anyone who had not stud-

ied the devastation of the

Sri Lankan economy was

also afraid of Sri Lanka's

default as a sign of fear, said

a press release issued here

on Saturday. Such was the

uncertainty of the currency

that calls for a minimum

dollar value of Rs 350 and Pakistan.

In a media briefing af-

situation of the country.

PBF satisfies over

current economic

situation

The channel reported that this initiative is ex-

Northern Power Genera-

as high as Rs 400 were com-

was clear satisfaction that

Pakistan is not in the dire

situation of bankruptcy.

The stability of the Paki-

stani currency is evident, its

continuous high flight has

stopped. Importer's barrier

to open LCs is over. Dollar

is Rs 278 in interbank. The

stock exchange index is at

an all-time high. The staff

level negotiations with the

IMF have already been

successful and there is no

obstacle for several months

like in the recent past. Prime

Minister Mian Shahbaz

Sharif's visit to Saudi

Arabia Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman re-

iterated his goodwill to-

wards Pakistan and five bil-

lion dollar investment in

'Now, at least, there

mon, they told.

Poultry price jumps to Rs 720 per kg in Bahawalpur

He said that retailers dealing with business of sale of poultry meat used to receive message on their mobile phone from poultry suppliers about latest rate of poultry on daily basis.



Arabia. Shell plc and Armco are currently negotiating a price for the acquisition of Pavilion Energy, a Singapore-based company. According to the source, the deal could reportedly fetch more than \$2 billion IMF chief sees inflation dropping further in 2024, not yet fully defeated

SHAYBAH: General view of Aramco's oil field in the Empty Quarter, Saudi

Punjab govt introduces Bardana App for wheat procurement MUZAFFARGARH verification by PITB and

ings season after economic high above 153 yen, put-

data released earlier this ting Japanese officials in the

han two percent at session UK economy grew for a

(APP): Deputy Commissioner Mian Usman Ali Saturday said that the Punjab government introduced 'Bardana App' for wheat procurement

Farmers can submit their applications for wheat procurement through the App from today, he said. The DC said that there was no fixed target for wheat procurement this year and all centers would purchase wheat according to their needs. Applications for wheat procurement will be received through PITB Bardana App from April 13 to 17, he said. The DC said that Food Department had established eight wheat procurement centers in Muzaffargarh and 9 in Kot Addu. Taking on the occasion, District Food Controller (DFC) Raheel Ashraf said that farmers would receive a confirmation mes-

at 6 acres, he told.

The DFC said accord-

Punjab Land Record Authority. Farmers will receive a message about the issuance of gu and the date of wheat collection through the App, he said and added. Bardana (gunny bags) will be issued from April 19, 2024, on first-come, firstserved basis. Wheat procurement will start on April 22. All arrangements have been completed at the district level for wheat procurement. Wheat will be purchased from farmers at a fixed price of Rs 3900 per 40 kg. In addition to the wheat price, farmers will be paid Rs 30 per 100 kg as delivery charges. To protect small farmers, the eligibility for Bardana has been set

ing to the policy, flour mills,

ers could register themselves through the App for getting gunny bags (Bardana). He said that the growers could submit applications through their android phones or visit nearby food centres for guidance. The gunny bags applications could be submitted through the App till April 17. The data of registered growers would be sent to revenue department for verification after registration, he added. The gunny bags distribution process has been started for growers who get themselves registered through this process only from April 19. The applicants would receive messages on their mo-

bile phones. He stated that private sector and seed six bags of 100 kg or 12 gunny companies have also been bags of 50 kg per acre would allowed to purchase wheat be given to farmers having up sage of gunny bags after at the fixed rates. to six acre land

LAHORE: Workers repair thresher machines before harvesting wheat in Jallo village of the Provincial Capital.

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Inflation is easing faster than expected but has not been fully defeated, International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday, urging central bankers to carefully calibrate their decisions on cutting interest rates to incoming data. Georgieva said head-

line inflation for advanced economies was 2.3 percent in the final quarter of 2023, down from 9.5 percent just 18 months ago, and the downward trend was expected to continue in 2024. That would create the

conditions for central banks in major advanced economies to begin cutting rates in the second half of the year, although the pace and timing would vary, she told an event hosted by the Atlantic Council think tank.

"On this final stretch, it is doubly important that central banks uphold their independence," Georgieva said, urging policymakers to resist calls for early rate

necessary."Premature easing could see new inflation surprises that may even necessitate a further bout of monetary tightening. On the other side, delaying too long could pour cold water on economic activity," she

Georgieva said next Outlook would show that

global growth is marginally stronger given robust activity in the United States and in many emerging market economies, but gave no specific new forecasts.

She said the global economy's resilience was being helped by strong labor markets and an expanding labor force, strong household consumption and an easing of supply chain issues, but said there were still "plenty of things to worry about.

'The global environment has become more challenging. Geopolitical tensions increase the risks of fragmentation ... and, as we learned over the past few years, we operate in a world in which we must expect the unexpected," Georgieva told an event hosted by the Atlantic Council think

She said global activity was weak by historical standards and prospects for growth had been slowing since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. The global output loss since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 was \$3 3 trillion, disproportionately hitting the most vulnerable countries

Georgieva said the U.S. had seen the strongest rebound among advanced economies, helped by rising productivity growth. Euro area activity was reweek's World Economic covering more gradually, given the lingering impact

of high energy prices and weaker productivity growth

Among emerging market economies, countries like Indonesia and India were faring better, but lowincome countries had seen the most severe scarring. Given a significant and

broad-based slowdown in productivity growth, the ÎMF's five-year outlook for global growth was just above 3 percent, well below its historical average of 3.8 percent, she said. 'Without a course cor-

rection, we are ... heading for 'the Tepid Twenties' - a sluggish and disappointing decade," Georgieva said, urging continued vigilance to restore price stability, rebuild fiscal buffers and jumpstart growth. She said foundational

reforms, such as strengthening governance, cutting red tape, increasing female labor market participation and improving access to capital could lift output by 8 percent in four years, she Even more was pos-

sible with policies to encourage economic transformation, speeding up the green and digital transition, which could offer huge opportunities for investment. jobs and growth, she said. Artificial intelligence

offered huge potential benefits but also risks, with a recent IMF study showing that AI could affect up to

40 percent of jobs across the world and 60 percent in advanced economies, Georgieva said. US interest rates

IMF chief said higher US interest rates were not great news for the rest of the world and could become a worry if they continued for a long time, but she thought the US Federal Reserve was acting prudently.

Georgieva said the U. government could also look at taking other measures to ensure that the U.S. economy was not overheating, but gave no details. "Higher interest rates

for the rest of the world is not great news. Higher interest rates make the US more attractive so financial flows come here and that leaves the rest of the world somewhat struggling," she said.

Higher rates also drove the value of the dollar higher, which meant other countries' currencies were weaker."If it continues for a long time, it could become a bit of a worry in terms of financial stability," she said. Consumer level inflation data for March released on Wednesday was unexpectedly strong, casting further doubt on the Fed's current forecast of rate cuts at some point later this year.

The unfavorable price pressure data comes as other reports also pointed to sturdier inflation over the

start of the year, challenging the Fed's most recent projections that penciled in three rate cuts this year. Minutes from the US

Federal Reserve showed officials worried that progress on inflation may have stalled, and a longer period of tight monetary policy would be needed to tame it in the world's largest economy. Investors who had

earlier expected a rate cut in June now see September as a likelier timing for the easing cycle to begin, following a third consecutive stronger-than-forecast reading on consumer inflation. Georgieva said the US

economy had been successful because it was more innovative, opening space for entrepreneurship at a time of accelerating technological change. The US labor market had also held up well, with labor supply boosted by immigration, which in turn helped keep wage growth under control, she said.

The administration's Inflation Reduction Act and earlier COVID aid had helped support growth, she said, adding that the International Monetary Fund saw some scope for the U.S. government to address lingering inflation and work toward a soft landing for the economy."So fasten your belts," she said. "At some point we will be landing.

No Security Council 'consensus' on Palestinian UN membership

(INP): Members of the UN Security Council failed to reach a consensus Thursday on a bid by Palestinians for full UN membership, meaning the longshot effort is now likely headed for a more formal council vote.

The Palestinians, who have had observer status at the world body since 2012, have lobbied for years to gain full membership, which would amount to recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Any request to become a UN member state must first pass through the Security Council—where Israel's ally the United States wields a veto—and then be endorsed by the General Assembly.

In light of Israel's offensive in Gaza, Palestinians revived a 2011 UN membership application last week, prompting the Security Council to launch a formal review process

NATIONS This included the ad hoc committee that failed to reach consensus Thursday and was composed of the council's member states.

During its closed-door meeting "there was no consensus," said Maltese Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, who holds the council's rotating presidency for April.

However, two-thirds of the members were in favour of full membership, she said, without specifying which countries.

While the ad hoc committee can only move forward by consensusloosely speaking, when everyone is in agreement any Security Council member may now put forth a resolution for vote on the

According to diplomatic sources, a vote could be held April 18, brought forth by Algeria which represents Arab nations on the Council.

Even if the matter were

of 15 votes, observers predict a veto from the United

Washington maintains the United Nations is not the place for hashing out Palestinian statehood, which it stresses should be the result of an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"All we ask for is to take our rightful place among the community of nations," Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour told reporters earlier this week.

The Gaza war began after Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack against Israel left 1,170 people dead, mostly civilians, according to Israeli fig-

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,545 people in Gaza mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.



KIGALI: Rwandans participats i na walk as part of commemorations for

services," he added.

formerly known as Twitter.

Flood water covered

enade and swirled around

houses and an high-rise

apartment blocks built

close to the river, an AFP

increase in the number of

Thousands flee flooding

in Russian Urals region

of Orenburg

gency services on Satur- the embankment prom-

ORENBURG, Russia Orenburg. (AFP/APP): Russian emer-

King Charles III 'horrified' by 'senseless' Sydney attack

LONDON (AFP/APP): Britain's King Charles III said Saturday that he and his wife Queen Camilla were "horsaturday into the line with the control of the cont Sydney that killed six shocking circumstances are

Australian police said multiple people were stabbed—including a ninemonth-old baby—by the unidentified assailant, who was tracked down and shot dead by a policewoman who is being hailed as a national hero.

The inci at the sprawling Westfield Bondi Junction mall complex, which was packed with thousands of Saturday afternoon shoppers.

"My wife and I were utterly shocked and horrified to hear of the tragic stabbing incident in Bondi,' Charles said in a statement released by Buckingham

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those who have been so brutally killed during such a senseless attack.

day said they had evacu-

ated thousands of people

from the Orenburg region

in the south of the Urals

as flood water continued to

tures have melted snow and

ice, and along with heavy

rain have caused a number

of major rivers that cross

Russia and Kazakhstan to

Orenburg, one of the worst

affected areas in Russia, the

Ural River breached its

banks, submerging streets

and residential areas and

water levels continued to

noon, the river level

reached almost 12 metres

(39 feet), more than 2.5

metres above the level con-

On Saturday after-

rise Saturday.

sidered critical

In the city of

overflow this month.

as Russia

Ukraine's comstill emerging, our thoughts are also with those who front had worsened signifiwere involved in the response, and we give thanks for the bravery of the first responders and emergency town of Avdiivka. King Charles III is the

monarch of Australia, which is part of Britain's Commonwealth. Earlier, his son and heir to the throne Prince William and his wife Catherine said they were "shocked and saddened" by the stab-Valery Zaluzhny.

bings.
"Our thoughts are with all those affected, including the loved ones of those lost and the heroic emergency responders who risked their own lives to save others. W & C," the Prince and Princess of Wales said in a post middle of February. on the social media site X,

Syrsky spoke of "a significant intensification of the enemy's offensive after the presidential elections in

The commander-inchief added decisions were being taken "to strengthen the most problematic de-

In the southern journalist saw. Almost 14,000 people Fast-rising tempera- have been evacuated from Orenburg and the surrounding region, according to authorities. Eldar Rakhmetov, an official from the Ministry of Emergency Situations involved in the evacuation said: "There has been an

> homes flooded since this morning and more areas are being evacuated. Local residents were using rubber dinghies to try to retrieve pets and belongings from flooded houses and some areas were left without power.

Valery, 64, a local factory worker, was one of The Ural River flows those evacuated Saturday through the centre of by a police truck.

Kviv savs eastern front 'deteriorated' claims village

KYIV, Ukraine (AFP) mander-in-chief Oleksandr Syrsky said Saturday the situation on the eastern cantly and Russia claimed the capture of a village near the occupied industrial

"The situation on the eastern front has deteriorated significantly in recent days," said Syrsky, who took over as commander-inchief in February after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky fired his popular predecessor,

Russia's defence ministry announced its troops had "liberated" the village of Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region, about 11 km (7 miles) west of the largely destroyed town of Avdiivka, captured by Russia in the

Ukraine has not confirmed this. Its army said Friday that it had repelled

attacks on the village. Russia" last month.

fence areas with electronic warfare and air defence"

Zaporizhzhia region, Russia accused Ukraine on Saturday of killing 10 by shelling the occupied town of Tokmak. The town fell to Russia at the start of the invasion Ukrainian authorities in Zaporizhzhia said Russia had struck the region more than 400 times over the last day, including from planes.

Ukraine has also said the situation around the eastern frontline city of Chasiv Yar is "difficult and tense" with the area under "constant fire". Chasiv Yar lies 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the town of Bakhmut, which was flattened by months of artillery fire before it was cap-

tured by Moscow las



A view of damages due to cyclone in Lozania

KHAN YUNIS: A view of buildings destroyed in Israeli attacks

Biden says expects Iran launch attack against Israel soon

WASHINGTON (INP): President Joe Biden has said he expects Iran to launch an attack against Israel "sooner than later" as Middle East tensions soar. Iran will respond to Israel's deadly attack on its embassy compound in Damascus, Syria, "sooner rather than later," according to US President Joe

Biden said he did not want to elaborate on what classified intelligence Washington had about

We are devoted to the defense of Israel. We will

SYDNEY (AFP/APP): Six

people were killed and sev-

eral others injured—includ-

ing a nine-month-old

baby—when a knife-wield-

ing attacker rampaged

through a busy Sydney

shopping centre on Satur-

multiple people were stabbed by the unidentified

assailant, who was tracked

down and shot dead by a

policewoman who is being

at the sprawling Westfield

Bondi Junction mall com-

plex, which was packed

with thousands of Saturday

The incident occurred

hailed as a national hero.

Australian police said

Six killed in Sydney

shopping centre attack

help defend Israel. And agency on Friday, speak-Iran will not succeed," he

When asked by a journalist what his message to Tehran would be, Biden replied: "Don't."

In view of Iran's possible imminent retaliatory strike against Israel, the US earlier announced that it was increasing its military presence in the Middle "We are moving addi-

tional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase forces," a US defense offisupport Israel. We will cial told German news

New South Wales po-

Police said the attacker

Webb played down

lice commissioner Karen

Webb said five women and

one man had died. A baby

was undergoing emergency

is believed to be a 40-year-

old man who was known

to law enforcement, but he

has not yet been formally

suggestions that the attack

could have been an act of

terrorism and said it is be-

lieved the attacker acted

son we believe it is, then..

it's not a terrorism incident.

"If it is in fact the per-

identified.

ing on condition of ano-

With the world on high alert, countries including France and India issued travel advisories warning their citizens to avoid Israel and Iran. The US embassy in Israel also issued a security warning for its employees in light of the situation. Iran is adjusting its strategies for a significant retaliatory attack while avoiding triggering a regional conflict that would prompt a response from Washington, Biden administration officials said Fri-

Sri Lanka frees hundreds of prisoners to mark New Year

COLOMBO (INP): Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe granted amnesty to nearly 800 convicts to mark the traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year on Saturday, his office said.

The amnesty of 779 inmates followed the re-lease of 1,000 prisoners to mark Christmas.

A prisons official told reporters that a recent spate of amnesties had eased congestion in the island country's still-overcrowded jails. As of Friday, there were just under 30.000 inmates in Sri Lankan prisons, which were designed to hold around 11,000 people.



GAZA: Palestinians reacts as smoke billows after Israeli bombing in the Firas market area

Vietnam tycoon sentenced to death in \$12.5bn fraud case

HANOI (INP): A court in Vietnam handed the death sentence on Thursday to real estate tycoon Truong My Lan for her role in a 304-trillion-dong (\$12.5billion) financial fraud, the country's biggest on record, state media said.

Her trial, begun on March 5 and ending earlier than planned, was one dramatic result of a campaign against corruption that the leader of the ruling Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, has pledged for

years to stamp out. Lan, the chairwoman of real estate developer Van Thinh Phat Holdings Group, was found guilty of embezzlement, bribery and violations of banking rules at the end of a trial in the business hub of Ho Chi Minh City, state media said.

'We will keep fighting

to see what we can do," a family member told foreign news agency, speaking on condition of anonymity. Before the verdict he had said Lan would appeal against the sentence.

Lan had pleaded notguilty to the embezzlement and bribery charges, Nguyen Huy Thiep, one of lawyers told Reuters

'Of course she will appeal the verdict," he added noting she was sentenced to death for the embezzlement charge and to 20 years each for the other two charges of bribery and violations of banking regula-

Vietnam imposes the death penalty mostly over violent offenses but also for economic crimes. Human rights groups say it has executed hundreds of convicts in recent years,

mainly by lethal injection.

Uniqlo-owner Fast Retailing said Thursday that it clocked profit growth of 6 for the second quarter. The Thanh Nien news-

paper said 84 defendants Brooklyn borough. in the case received sentences ranging from probation for three years to life imprisonment. Among them are Lan's husband, Eric Chu, a businessman from Hong Kong, who was sentenced to nine years in jail, and her niece who got

years claimed that he will be un-Lan started as a cosmetics trader at the central market in Ho Chi Minh City, helping out her mother, she told judges during the trial, according to state media. She later founded her

real estate company Van Thinh Phat in 1992, the Comic same year when she got married, according to state She was found guilty, with her accomplices of si-

phoning off more than 304 trillion dong from Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank (SCB), which she effectively controlled through dozens of proxies despite rules strictly limiting large shareholding in lenders, according to investigators.

'Face justice': New Yorkers ready for Trump criminal trial

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Donald Trump made his name and fortune in New York, but supporters of the former president are thin on the ground in the city that never sleeps ahead of his historic trial that opens Monday.

"He has to face justice, right?" said Valmir Do Carmo, 30, a babysitter, as he walked his dogs on Court Street in the city's

"He hasn't a lot of supporters in New York City though, but I'm confident, New York City... is very upfront, and I'm pretty sure justice is going to be Trump has repeatedly

able to get a fair trial in New York which leans Democratic in local and national elections, and because of the intense media scrutiny his cases have attracted.

Stephen Colbert, who shoots his late night TV show in the city, joked this week that Trump was seeking "an impartial jury who knew nothing about the events in America over the last nine years.

"Í don't know if he'll get a fair trial, but whatever happens, he caused it on himself. Because everything he does, he likes to put it on the news or TV," said carer Alberto Vasquez,

3 sons of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh 'killed in Israel strike' in Gaza

GAZA (INP): The leader of Hamas said on Wednesday Israel had killed three of his sons in an air strike in Gaza as the war in the Palestinian territory raged despite ongoing truce negotiations in Cairo.

Qatar-based Ismail Haniyeh said his three sons and "some of" his grand-children had been killed in the strike in an interview with Al Jazeera.

The strike came as talks in Cairo aimed at a ceasefire and a hostage release deal dragged on without signs of a breakthrough. Israel did not immediately comment on the strike.

The United States has been ramping up pressure on Israel to agree to a truce, increase the amount of aid it allows into the Gaza Strip and abandon plans to invade the southern city of Rafah.

US President Joe Biden labelled Israel's conduct of the war a "mistake" in an interview broadcast on Tuesday.

Wednesday marked the first day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan with Gazans gathering to pray amid the devastation of the sixmonth war.

Tens of thousands also flocked to Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound where one worshipper, nurse Rawan Abd, said: "It's the saddest Eid ever... you could see the sadness on people's faces. Israeli forces mean-

while kept up combat operations and air strikes in Gaza, a day after Prime Benjamin Minister Netanyahu vowed no letup in the campaign to destroy Hamas and bring

home the hostages. Israeli war cabinet estinian prisoners.

member Benny Gantz said on Wednesday that militarily "Hamas is defeated", but insisted that Israeli troops would nevertheless enter Rafah and return to Khan Yunis, from which they withdrew last week.

The army would have to fight for years to come "in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank and in the

Lebanon front", he added. More than 1.5 million civilians are sheltering from the war in Rafah, the last Gazan city yet to face an Israeli ground invasion.

The United States has repeatedly warned against an invasion, although it said on Tuesday it believed an invasion of Rafah was not

Biden, voicing his growing frustration with the hawkish Netanyahu, issued some of his sternest criticism yet of the war.

"I think what he's doing is a mistake," Biden told the US Spanish-language TV network Univision in an interview that aired on Tuesday night having been recorded last week. "I don't agree with his approach.

He urged Netanyahu to just call for a ceasefire, allow for the next six, eight weeks, total access to all food and medicine going

Talks, mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar, have been ongoing in Cairo since Sunday, with Hamas still considering the latest proposal. Hamas member and

spokesman in Doha Hossam Badran told reporters: "Hamas is studying the offer presented... It has not responded yet.'

A framework being circulated would halt fighting for six weeks and see the exchange of about 40 hostages for hundreds of Pal-

Former US ambassador who spied for Cuba sentenced to 15 years

MIAMI (INP): A former cember, said he had "re-US ambassador who pleaded guilty to spying for court on Friday to 15 years cance of his efforts.'

Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, was arrested in December for what US officials called "one of the highestreaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent.

Rocha pleaded not guilty in February to charges of conspiring to act as an agent of a foreign government but later accepted a plea deal with federal prosecutors.

Judge Beth Bloom, after a three-and-a-half hour hearing in Miami on Friday, told Rocha she would give him "the maximum penalty permitted by law.

In addition to the 15year sentence, Rocha was given a \$500,000 fine.

Rocha, a naturalized US citizen originally from Colombia, allegedly began aiding Havana as a covert agent of Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI) in 1981, and his espionage activities continued until his arrest, according to US authorities.

General Attorney Merrick Garland, announcing Rocha's arrest in De- National Security Branch.

peatedly referred to the United States as 'the en-Cuba for over four decades emy" and "repeatedly was sentenced in federal bragged about the signifi-

Department in 1981 and rose through the ranks as a career diplomat, serving in posts in Havana, Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Washington. Rocha served on the

National Security Council from 1994 to 1995 in the administration of president Bill Clinton, and was the ambassador to Bolivia from 2000 to 2002 under Clinton and George W. Bush. He also served as an advisor to the US military command

responsible for Cuba. The criminal complaint against Rocha details how, over multiple meetings with an undercover FBI agent beginning in November 2022, he "behaved as a Cuban agent," praising the communist-ruled island's late leader Fidel Castro and "using the term 'we' to de-

scribe himself and Cuba. "Despite swearing an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, Rocha betrayed the US by secretly working as a Cuban agent for decades," said Larissa Knapp, executive assistant director of the FBI's

US troops head to region as fears grow of Gaza war's spread

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): Troop reinforcements from Israel's ally the United States headed to the region on Saturday, with fears of wider war growing more than six months into Israel's battle against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

After pulling forces from the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis one week ago, Israel's military said Saturday it was continuing to operate against militants in central Gaza. In central Gaza's main

city of Deir al-Balah, fire burned in the rubble of a destroyed mosque.

Israel's military "denanded that the whole area be evacuated" before it was 'wiped out in minutes", said Abdullah Baraka, a witness. The military said it had

struck more than 30 militant targets across the Palestinian territory over the previous day.

Airlines said they are avoiding Iranian airspace, nearly two weeks after a

Tehran's consular annex at its embassy in Damascus,

its arch foe Israel, destroyed

Violence involving Iranbacked groups around the Middle East, including in Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, has increased since Israeli forces began their retaliation against Hamas militants in Gaza for their October 7 attack on Israel. Tensions have also flared in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where settler attacks left at least one Palestinian dead and dozens injured, and a search continued for a missing Israeli teenager, sources from both sides said. As talks for a Gaza truce and hostage release dragged on, the region braced for the retaliation which Iran has vowed after the consular strike whose victims included two gen-

tional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US said a US defence forces.

"We are moving addistrike, which Iran blamed on official in Washington.

PM Shahbaz says

Seerat Museum to counter Islamophobia, spread teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW)

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Prime Minister Shehbaz among the new generation Sharif Saturday said the project of Seerat Museum would help counter the adeffects Islamophobia and would support in spreading

knowledge about the teachings and life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) among people living in Pa-kistan and abroad. He was speaking here as the chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Seerat Museum to be teachings of Prophet

and for creating awareness about his life and character.

The prime minister said in a heinous move, an ideological divide had been created in the world due to which some elements were making negative propaganda against Islam and the personality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

This negative attitude had created hate and divisions, he remarked adding the Seerat Museum would built for spreading the not only raise awareness about the life, character and

teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but would also educate people how to live their lives and manage relationships with other people. The museum would familiarize people outside the world about the life and character of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and nullify the negative propaganda, he noted.

He thanked His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz as well as the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz for extending their cooperation

for the project of Seerat Museum. He said people of Pakistan would not never forget adoration of leadership of Saudi Arabia whose landmarks where spread all over Pakistan. like the Faisal Mosque Islamabad capital. While talking about his recent visit to the two holy mosques in Makkah and Medina and offering of prayers there, he said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz warmly received his delegation and exhibited deep love and affection for Pakistan.

Prime

Muhammad

Sharif on Saturday lauded

the security forces for their

successful operation against terrorists in District Buner.

said that the valiant Jawans

of the Pakistan Army with

their professional capabil-

ity had sent the enemies of

along with the entire nation

paid tribute to the valorous

soldiers for their valiant act.

also expressed his deep

grief and sorrow over the

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday

paid homage to two soldiers

of the Pakistan Army who

were martyred in the op-

eration against terrorists in

Mudassar and Lance Naik

Haseeb bravely thwarted

the nefarious intentions of

the terrorists, said the min-

Naqvi expressed

Havaldar

Bunir district.

Martyr

ister in his message.

the country to hell.

The prime minister

He further said that he

The prime minister

PM praises security forces

for successful anti-terrorism

operation in Buner

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mudassar Mehmood and

shahadat of Lance Havildar its complete elimination.

Navi pays homage to

Army Jawans, martyred in

operation against terrorists

Minister

Shehbaz

Lance Naek Haseeb Javed.

PM Office Media Wing

ranks of the martyred and

for the bereaved families to

bear the losses with forti-

The unprecedented sacrifices of the sons of the

soil were a matter of great

pride for the whole nation,

he said, adding that the na-

tion was standing along

with its armed forces in the

resolve to continue fighting

the specter of terrorism till

condolences to the families

of the martyrs and said that

Havildar Mudassar and

Lance Naik Haseeb got the

high status of martyrdom

for the sake of peace of the

nation. Martyrs are the

pride of the nation, he said

adding that martyrs have

cultivated peace with their

precious blood. He said

that the nation is determined

in the war against terrorism

and such cowardly acts

cannot defeat the unwaver-

He also expressed the

fight against terrorism.

He prayed for the high

said in a press release.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes prizes among the winners of Annual Quran Kareem Hifz/Qirat Competition organized by the Muslim World League in Islamabad.



QUETTA: MPAs Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Mir Ubaidullah Gorgage, Mir Liaquat Lehri, Mir Samad Gorgage and Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Historic measures to improve the quality of life for people in AJK: PM Anwaar ul Haq

MIRPUR (APP): Prime and road infrastructure on this occasion. Mean-Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ch. Anwaar ul Haq said that his government has taken historic steps to improve the living standards of people throughout the territory.

Anwaar was talking to people during a visit to Barnala town in his native Bhimber district on Eid-ul-Fitr day, where he extended Eid greetings to the locals.

The Prime Minister asserted that a number of initiatives were taken to improve education, health,

across the state. Anwaar said that an

endowment fund worth ten billion has been set up to provide financial support to orphans, widows, the destitute, elderly women and men, transgender people, and divorcees. During his visit, Prime Minister Haq interacted with people hailing from different walks of life and greeted them on the sanctified Eid festival.

He was accompanied by senior minister Col. (Řtd) Waqar Ahmad Noor

while, Chairman District Council Chaudhry Muhammad Yusuf and other notables of the constituency called on the Prime Minister and discussed the issues of public interest related to the Bhimbher district.
Prime Minister

Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq also visited various places in his parent constituency, Bhimbar, to offer his condolences to the bereaved families over the demise of their loved ones

2400 Indian Sikhs arrive for Khalsa Janam-din, Vasakhi Mela celebrations

LAHORE (APP): A jubilant gathering of 2400 Indian Sikh pilgrims arrived kistan. They emphasized at the Wagah Border near here on Saturday, marking the sacred Sikh sites in the the commencement of festivities for Khalsa Janamdin and Vasakhi Mela 2024. Welcomed with warmth and hospitality, the pilgrims were greeted by prominent officials including PSGPC Pardhan Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora and Additional Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid Saleem, along with esteemed Sikh leaders such as Sardar Mampal Singh, Sardar Tara Singh, and Satwant Kaur.

Expressing gratitude towards the government of Pakistan and the Evacuee Trust Property Board, group leader Kulvant Singh and deputy party leader Gurdwaras.

the significance of visiting country, highlighting the fervent desire among Sikh communities to make this pilgrimage. Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid Saleem assured that all necessary arrangements for security, medical facilities, and other amenities had been meticulously organized under the guidance of board Chairman Arshad Farid Khan. The Gurudwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal was adorned with vibrant colors and decorations, symbolizing the spirit of the occasion. Similar preparations were completed at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and

PM grieved over loss of lives in accident near Lasbela

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday ex pressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the traffic accident happened to the pilgrims' vehicle near Lasbela.

The prime minister expressed his condolences to the families of those died in the accident. He prayed for the el-

evation of ranks of the departed souls in para-

The prime minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.

He directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible medical aid to the injured.



QUETTA: Commuters make their way to a road amid rain showers, in Quetta. Khur<u>shid Shah says</u>

Allauddin Marri condemns Noshki firing incident

Independent Report QUETTA: The former caretaker Chief Minister

Balochistan, Allauddin Marri has strongly condemned the incident of terrorism that claimed life of nine innocent persons from Punjab in Noshki.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, Allauddin Marri said that the incident of targeting innocent people by terrorists is their departed souls.

perform better if its given condemnable and inhumane act. 'tough time'

He said that it is unforgivable act to target and kill the innocent people without their fault. He stressed that those

involved in the incident must be taken to task. The former Chief Minister expressed sympa-

thy with the bereaved fami-

lies of those martyred in Noshki.

Ban imposed on plastic bags in Quetta, says **Commissioner**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Diversion, Muhammad Shafqaat has stated that ban

has been imposed on plas-

tic bags in Quetta. According to an official handout issued here, the Commissioner warned that the shopkeepers violating the ban would be arrested.

He mentioned that the decision has been taken in light of the bill approved in

To a question, he said all the issues of the Civil Hospital Sukkur would be resolved within three months and things would

> The PPP leader stressed that the farming sector had the potential to help the country take on its economic challenges. 'Pakistan's economic situation can only be improved if attention is paid to agri-

Ambassador Hashmi stresses upon commitments to reduce carbon emission the Himalayan and

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal Abrar Hashmi said that developing nations like Pakistan and Nepal bore the brunt of carbon emissions largely produced elsewhere in the world and urged the developed countries to fulfil emission reduction commitments.

"Pakistan has been active in international negotiations, advocating for measures like the Loss and Damage Fund. Collaboration with Nepal is crucial in leveraging scientific knowledge to mitigate these impacts," the ambassador said during an interview with Radio Nepal on Saturday. The ambassador said

that melting of glaciers in FIA arrests XEN of

LAHORE (Online): FIA has arrested one XEN of LESCO. It has been said that arrest has been made due to overbilling of consumers. The arrested XEN is charged with billing additional one crore 90 lac units to consumers and sent them additional electricity bill of Rs . 480 million.

LESCO

This led to cause loss of millions of rupees to national kitty.

PML-N-led

govt will

SUKKUR (INP): Dispel-

ling the impression that

Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) plans to play

friendly allies, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, a

central party leader and

Member National Assem-

bly (MNA) on Saturday

said Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N)-

led coalition government

would perform better un-

performance will improve

only when it's given tough

time," Shah said talking to

The government's

der pressure.

media in Sukkur.

Karakoram ranges presented serious risks like floods, droughts, and water shortages for both the nations and beyond. Pakistan, with its diverse zones and seasonal

changes, faced these challenges and had experienced devastating floods due to rapid glacier melt in recent years, he added. "Pakistan and Nepal, with negligible emissions

compared to our popula-

tions, need collective action

from major emitters. We must highlight this injustice on global platforms for effective climate policy," the ambassador stressed. To a question, Ambas-

sador Hasĥmi said that im-

tential of their relations. adding initiatives like reviving direct flights via national flag carriers and facilitating private airlines could en-

hance trade and tourism. He further said that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) progress had been significant, yet more needed to be done.

"Addressing developmental disparities and resolving internal issues are critical. Our shared history and civilizations provide a strong basis for revitalizing SAARC's role in regional cooperation," Radio Nepal quoted the ambassador as



QUETTA: A delegation of Joint Action Committee University of Balochistan greets Deputy Chairman Senate Saidal Khan Nassar

Akhunzada concerned about non-payment of salaries to **UoB** employees on Eid

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior political activist and head of Majlis Fikro Danish, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada has expressed concern over nonpayment of the salaries to the teachers and employees university

Balochistan even on the Eidul Fitr. In a statement issued here on Saturday, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada said that the poverty is rampant in the resource rich province of Balochistan which is evident from the fact that the employees of university and different other departments are deprived of the salaries.

He said that the

peoples party is once again in government, but is not paying attention towards the public issues

He said that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti could not form its cabinet despite passage of one month.

He said that a reform committee has been formed led by Chief Secretary. The senior bureaucrats have been included in the committee, but the issues would be resolved with utmost attention

As a result of the steps taken by the previous governments, the people of province are suffering a lot, he maintained.



Utmankhail visiting Teaching Hospital

PDMA heavy machinery reaches Pishin to mitigate flood impact

machinery dispatched by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has reached Pishin District to mitigate flood impact. "PDMA Balochistan's deployment of heavy machinery, including excavators, V loaders, and a grader, is a strategic effort aimed at mitigating

QUETTA (APP): Heavy Pishin, PDMA officials said on Saturday. By creating drainage systems, these machines will help divert floodwater, preventing further inundation and facilitating the recovery of affected areas. This proactive approach seeks to minimize the damage caused by floods and expedite the restoration of normal condiflood impacts in Killi tions for the local commu-Hameedabad, District nity, they added.

Over 63,000 parents refuse polio vaccine for children during national campaign

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's fight against polio faces a renewed challenge as a recent national anti-polio campaign encountered resistance from a significant number of parents. According to media reports, over 63,000 parents across Pakistan refused to vaccinate their children during the campaign with a significant majority from the province of Sindh. The breakdown of the refusal rates by province is as follows: 38,749 parents in Sindh declined the drops, followed by 20,392 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and 4,081 in Balochistan.



significant

of patients at Dialysis ward of Civil Hospital

ZAB 45th anniversary Jalsa to be held in Garhi Khuda Bux

other

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan People's Party would hold a public meeting on Sunday in Garhi Khudabakhsh on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, which will be attended by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Central and provincial leaders of PPP and address the workers of PPP.

On the occasion of the rally, security arrangements have been made extremely strict by preparing a stage on the ground in front of the martyrs' shrine in Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto and decorating it with party flags, panaflags and pictures of party leaders.

IG Sindh police Ghulam Nabi Memon reached Garhi Khudabakhsh late at night to review the security arrangements for the anniversary rally, where relevant officials including DIG Larkana range, SSP Larkana briefed him about the arrangements made for the

On this occasion, IG Sindh police directed DIG and SSP Larkana that security arrangements should be made foolproof on the occasion of Varsi Jalsi so that people coming from all over the country to participate in Varsi Jalsi and they do not face any kind of prob-

Meanwhile, under the chairmanship of DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab, a meeting was held in Shahada Police Hall SSP Larkana to review the arrangements regarding the security of martyr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's death anniversary in which SSPs and

ASPs on duty participated. In the meeting, DIBin-charge Larkana gave a briefing to DIG Larkana about the security arrangements made regarding the

PMA, Kakul's cadet wins Hodson's **Horse Merit** Award

KAKUL (INP): A cadet of Pakistan Military Academy (PMA), Kakul has achieved distinction at the UK's Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst by winning Hodson's Horse Merit Award, reported on Satur

PMA 148 Long Course's gentleman cadet (GC) Abdullah joined the Sandhurst in April 2022, and after showing outstanding performance graduated from the instituHamza

the provincial legislative assembly in 2023.
Moreover, implementation has been started on directives of the Chief Min-

ister, Commissioner said. He said that legal action would be taken against those violating the ban.



OUETTA: DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran, Abdul Khaliq Rind, Haii Arz Muhammad Bareech, Ghulam Dastagir and others congratulate Deputy Chairman Senate Saidal Khan Nassar