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Pakistan urges OIC states to get united for ceasefire in Gaza

Deputy PM voices Pakistan's deep concern over Israeli brutal military onslaught against Palestinians; Reiterates need for peace talks to resume, condemns India's anti-Pakistan rhetoric and Islamophobic narratives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed Pakistan's deep concern over Israel's ongoing brutal military onslaught against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank.

In the backdrop of the genocide of Palestinians and atrocities of Israeli forces, he urged the OIC Member States to work together for an immediate and uncondi-

Addressing the 15th
Organization of Islamic
Cooperation (OIC) Summit
Conference in Particular in the Islamic Conference in Particular in the Islamic Conference in Particular in Islamic Conference in Particular in Islamic Conference in Particular in Islamic Conference in Islamic Confere Conference in Banjul, the capital of The Gambia, he also expressed Pakistan's support for Palestine's admission as a full member of peace process for realization of the two-State solution and establishment of a

tional ceasefire and uninter- viable, contiguous and sovrupted humanitarian assis- ereign State of Palestine on tance to the besieged Pales-tinians. the basis of pre-1967 bor-ders, with Al-Quds Al-

Highlighting Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kash-mir (IIOJK), especially after India's illegal and unithe UN, resumption of the lateral actions of 5 August 2019, the deputy prime

Continued on page 2



Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan receiving a high-level Saudi business delegation upon its arrival.

PML-N invites PPP to join coalition Govt ISLAMABAD (INP): The The PML-N repeatedly in-

PML-N has again con-vited the PPP to be the part tacted the People's Party to of the government scores of join the coalition government. According to media reports, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has contacted via mutual friends inviting the PPP to join the

The PPP sources said that the PML-N has requested the party to join the government prior to the next budget. "The challenges faced by the country could not be tackled by a single political party," PML-N said. "We want to guide the country out of the crises by joining hands with the PPP," ruling party said in its message.

"The PML-N intends to present the budget along with the People's Party' sources said. The ruling party has also asked the PPP to submit its budget proposals as partner in the

According to party sources, the PPP didn't yet convey its answer to those who brought the message.

times," PPP sources earlier

"The PML-N also invited the PPP earlier at the oath taking of Aseefa Bhutto as MNA," party sources said. The party has been invited to join the federal as well as Punjab government as an ally.

"The PPP didn't respond to the government over the offer, neither the party held consultations over the issue," sources said. Sources said that the PPP leadership has been under pressure to join the government. The party's parliamentarians from Sindh backing to join the government.

However, a senior party leader from Sindh has vehemently opposed the offer and communicated the opinion to the party's leadership. The People's Party's Punjab leadership opined to join the government in Punjab instead of the Centre.

CM Balochistan lauds successful operations

QUETTA Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Sunday expressed his satisfaction over the successful op-

against miscreants

eration against miscreants in the Quetta and Kachi districts of the province. The district administration, police, Levis and took timely action against the outlaws, Balochistan Chief

Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti adding that the timely operation of the law enforcement agencies against elements hostile to peace is a manifestation of the professional performance of the force. The CM, expressing

zero tolerance to the elements opposed to peace. said the elements that undermine peace will be dealt with strictly. Protection of life and property of the people is the constitutional responsibility of the government and the state knows well how to play its role in dealing with violent incidents and restoring peace, he remarked.

Jamali calls for providing conducive environment to midwives in remote areas

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali has underlined the need to provide conducive working environment to the midwives in remote areas of the province.

The Minister said that the role of midwives is very important in provision of healthcare facilities in the remote areas so we should ensure conducive environment to them so that they may serve in the remote areas befittingly. Sardarzada Faisal Jamali

was addressing a ceremony held in connection with the monthly stipends.

Midwife Day under aus-MNCH Programme here at a local hotel on Sunday.

The Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan and other concerned high ups were present in the ceremony. Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Minister Health said that basic objective behind observance of the day is to recognize the services of midwives and provide them identity in the

need to provide jobs to the midwives on contract basis besides giving them

QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali

addressing a ceremony held in connection with International Midwife Day

He said that it would also be our utmost endeavour to provide desired kits to them so that they perform their duties well

He noted with contentment that there is marked reduction in maternal mortality rate because of the trained midwives who join the profession.

The Secretary Health Abdullah Khan appreciated performance of the MNCH Programme and said that there is key role of commu-He also stressed the nity midwiferies in the far flung areas of the province. As a result, mothers are getting better healthcare facilities, he added.

operation to achieve shared objectives.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference in Banjul, The Gambia, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's firm support to

Around 99 percent target of polio immunization achieved as drive comes to an end

Independent Report

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication Balochistan sources informed that the sevenday anti-polio campaign launched in 30 districts of the province was concluded on Sunday with the aggregate

districts of Balochistan on Monday last.

The EOC sources said that more than 10,000 teams

PAKISTAN

President to

arrive in Quetta

on two-day

visit today

QUETTA (INP): President

Asif Ali Zardari will arrive

in Quetta on his maiden after becoming the president tomorrow Monday.

As per details, the president is scheduled to

meet the chief minister, gov-

ernor of Balochistan and

other political and tribal

leaders. President Zardari

will also participate in the

oath taking ceremony of

governor Balochistan and a

high level meeting during his

PM felicitates

Sadiq Khan on

his re-election as

Mayor of London

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister

Sharif on Sunday congratu-

lated Sadiq Khan on his election as Mayor of Lon-

don for the third consecu-

The prime minister of-fered his heartiest felicita-

tion to the newly elected

Mayor Sadiq Khan 'on his

hat trick'. PM Office Me-

dia Wing said in a press re-

ish Pakistani, he not only

raised the head of his par-

ents high but also made ev-

ery Pakistani to rejoice his

victory with pride, he further observed.

CM grieved over

death of Dr. Abdul

Hakim Rind

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of father

of the senior leader of PPP

from Mand, Kech, Mir Fida

Hakeem Rind, Waja Dr.

ment issued here on Sun-

day, the Chief Minister said

that the late Dr Abdul

Hakim Rind was a very af-

fectionate, human friendly

and well mannered person.

lence with Mir Fida Hakim

Rind and other bereaved

Two banned TTP

terrorists killed

in Rawalpindi

CTD encounter

RAWALPINDI (INP):

Department (CTD) in

the spokesman CTD, dur-

ing the firing, the two most

wanted terrorists were

phin Force was martyred,

The slain terrorists

said spokesman CTD.

were identified

Naseebullah

Ehsanullah

family members.

He expressed condo-

In a condolence state-

Abdul Hakim Kind.

As a hard-working Brit-

lease issued here.

Shehbaz

visit to Quetta.

Muhammad

tive term.

BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar addressing 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference.

Pak-Saudi investment conference to be held today Saudi trade delegation arrives Pakistan for mutual investment cooperation

50-member delegation aims to explore various avenues of trade and investment between the two countries

50-member high-level Saudi trade delegation led by the Assistant Investment Minister of Saudi Arabia, Ibrahim Almubarak, arrived here on Sunday with the aim of exploring various avenues of trade and investment to further strengthen and promote bilateral relations between the two coun-

Upon their arrival at Noor Khan Air Base, the Saudi dignitaries were welcomed by Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Petroleum Minister Musadik Masood Malik, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan highlighted that the three-day visit of the Saudi delegation geared towards enhancing trade relations between in-

ISLAMABAD (APP): A vestors from both countries and identifying trade and investment opportunities across various sectors of Pakistan's economy.

He said that the Ministry had selected numerous Pakistani companies in relevant sectors for Businessto-Business (B2B) meetings with their Saudi counterparts, adding that leading Pakistani companies would collaborate with 30 Saudi companies across different sectors.

The B2B meetings will specifically target sectors such as agriculture, mining, human resources, energy, chemicals and maritime. Moreover, discussions will extend to investment prospects in other sectors including refinery, IT, religious tourism, telecom, aviation, construction, wa-

ter and power generation, Continued on page 2



BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Zheng Jianbang, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic **Summit Conference.**

Deputy PM, VC Zheng express determination to complete CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Zheng Jianbang on Sunday expressed their determination to complete all China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and further upgrade this co-

China's core issues and underscored the importance of enhanced mutually productive ties through close economic collaboration and cooperation. Vice Chairman Zheng Jianbang reaffirmed China's support Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial in-tegrity and development, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release

"The two sides reaf-firmed the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on deepening exchanges between the Parliament of Pakistan and the National People's Congress of China," it was added.

Two terrorists of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Talban Pakistan (TTP) were killed in firefighting with officials of the Counter Rawalpindi. According to

QUETTA: Around 99 percent target of the polio immunization has been achieved as the seven-day special anti-

polio campaign came to an end on Sunday. killed by their own accomplices. Both terrorists were involved in the attack on Dolphin Force in Drawlpindi as a result of which a young cop of Dol-

target of 99 percent achieved. The campaign was launched in 30 out of total 36

including mobile, fixed sites and transit point teams were constituted to vaccinate the children below five years of age and thus achieve the due target.

Jaffar Mandokhail to take oath as 24th Governor of **Balochistan today**

New nominated Governor vows to strengthen and support coalition government, take measures for improving relations between province and federation further

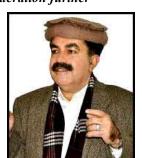
Independent Report

OUETTA: The senior politician and provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail is due to take oath as 24th Governor Balochistan today (Monday) morning.
According to the

sources of Governor House, the graceful oath taking ceremony of Governor Balochistan is scheduled to be held at 11:00 AM today (Monday) at the Governor The Chief Justice High

Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar will administer oath Sheikh Jaffar Mandokahil.

The Chief Minister. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti,



provincial ministers, parliamentarians, political personalities, tribal elders, Chief Secretary, administrative secretaries of provincial government departments would participate in the oath taking ceremony.

It may be mentioned here that the PML-N leadership had nominated Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail as new Gov-

Continued on page 2



Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed during his visit to under construction District Headquarters Hospital Sohbarpur

Aimal Wali elected ANP's Central President; Asfandyar as Leader of Movement

PESHAWAR (APP): Senator Aimal Wali Khan was unanimously elected as the Central President of Awami National Party while party chief Asfandyar Wali Khan as the Leader of the Party's Movement in intra-party elections followed by the Party's Central Council meeting, presided over by Chairman Central Election Commission Mian Iftikhar

Hussain here Sunday. Former Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti suggested the name of Senator Aimal Wali Khan for the presidency and all members

proved it. Senator Daud Khan will be the Central Senior Vice President while Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan will be the Secretary Gen-

of the Central Council ap-

Jawad Khattak will be the Vice President while Ifat Kalsoom will be the Lady Vice President for Islamabad. Pervez Khan (Swabi)

from Pakhtunkhwa will be the Vice President while Dr. Noorjahan will be lady Vice President Faridullah Damar will

be the Vice President while Salmi Kakar will be the female Vice President for Balochistan

Syed Attaullah Shah will be the Vice President from Punjab while Oudsia Shaheen Advocate will be the lady Vice president.

Anwar Zeib Khan will be the vice president for Sindh while Shazia Razaq Marwat will be the Vice President.

Continued on page 2



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Federal Minister for Communication Abdul Aleem Khan at CM Secretariat.

HRCP expresses concern over journalist's killing in Balochistan

man Rights Commission of Pakistan Balochistan Chapter on Sunday expressed conover ournalist's killing in Balochistan. A statement issued

QUETTA (APP): The Hu-

here said HRCP is appalled by the apparent targeted killing of Khuzdar Press Club president Muhammad Siddique Mengal in a car bomb attack that had left two others dead and several injured ironically enough on World Press Freedom

In a province where journalists already work under immense

pressure and at risk to themselves, this attack is bound to have a chilling effect on the media, with many working journalists having migrated from Khuzdar out of fear, according to accounts shared with HRCP

HRCP statement further urged that the attackers must be brought to book swiftly Balochistan must

also urgently enact laws protecting journalists' safety and establish a safety commission to ensure that perpetrators of such attacks are held to account, it main-

Independent

Naqvi announces \$100,000 cash prize for each player if team wins T20 World Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday announced that each player of the national team would receive \$100,000, approximately Rs28 million, if the Green Shirts win the upcoming T20 World Cup, to be jointly held in the US and West Indies from June 1-29.

According to the cricket board, Naqvi made the remarks as he reached Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, where the Babar Azam-led Pakistan squad started the national camp on Saturday.

In a post on social media platform X, the PCB said Naqvi met both players and officials during his

"The PCB chairman stayed with the players for two hours," the board said, adding that Naqvi also held a detailed discussion with the players on strategy.

According to the PCB, Nagvi announced that each player would be awarded \$100,000 for winning the T20 World Cup. Naqvi also said that the prize money held no importance com-

Nawaz, held in Peshawar.

sized that the objective of

these discussions was to

identify investment oppor-

tunities that would gener-

ate employment and boost

exports between the two

countries. He also noted

that local companies would

present their business and

their Saudi counterparts.

optimism that several com-

panies would be able to fi-

nalize business and invest-

ment deals during the B2B

session, fostering greater

economic cooperation be-

tween Saudi Arabia and Pa-

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia in-

vestment conference will

begin here Monday to pro-

mote bilateral trade and in-

vestment, besides fostering

a new era of growth and

prosperity for the people

business delegation from

the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia (KSA) is also visit-

ing Pakistan from May 5

to explore investment op-

portunities in different sec-

tors as well as to forge

strong bonds with local en-

trepreneurs. Some 30 Saudi

companies representing

different economic sectors,

including information tech-

nology, telecoms, energy,

aviation, construction,

mining exploration, agricul-

ture and human resource de-

velopment would be part

of the delegation, which

would be led by the Assis-

tant Minister of Invest-

ment, a Ministry of Com-

merce official said on Sun-

lected a large number of Pa-

kistani companies in the

The ministry had se-

A 50-member high-level

of both the countries.

Meanwhile two day

investment proposals to

The minister expressed

Saudi trade delegation arrives....

Continued from page 1 respective sectors whose

The minister emphaness-to-business meetings

officials would have busi-

with their Saudi counter-

parts, and would hopefully

enter into business and in-

He said that Saudi

vestment deals, he added.

Arabia was an oil-based

economy with strong gov-

ernment controls over ma-

jor economic activities,

however, it was now under-

going a transformation to

reduce oil dependence, di-

versify income sources and

enhance competitiveness

major exports of the King-

dom included mineral fuels

mineral oils, plastics and

organic chemicals, whereas

it was importing machinery,

vehicles, and agricultural

during the first half of the

current financial year, bilat-

eral trade between Pakistan

and Saudi Arabia was re-

corded at \$2,482.37 mil-

lion, with Pakistan's ex-

ports of \$262.58 million

and Saudi exports of \$2.219

billion. He said Pakistan's

major to the KSA consisted

of rice, meat of bovine ani-

mals, fruits and vegetables,

and tents and camping

goods, whereas imports

were petroleum products,

and polymers of propylene

stan and the Gulf Coopera-

tion Council (GCC) had

agreed on a Free-Trade

Agreement. Pakistan, he

added, was also planning to

organize a Single Country

Exhibition and Lifestyle

would welcome and fully

facilitate investments and

partnerships from Saudi

Arabia in IT, minerals, tex-

tiles, food security, engi-

He said that Pakistan

Show in Saudi Arabia.

The official said Paki-

and ethylene.

The official said that

products.

Currently, he said, the

under the Vision 2030.

pared to lifting the trophy, team would raise the Paki-

The PCB chief also encourage players to "play without any pressure" and to "compete vigorously". "The victory will be for you and the defeat will be for

"Don't care about anyone. Only play for Pakistan. Demonstrate teamwork on the field [and] God willing, victory will be yours," he said.

Naqvi further said that all the players were united while also expressing the hope that fast-bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi would deliver a great performance in the tournament.

'The country has a lot of expectations from you. the T20 World Cup," Imad You have to fulfil them," he told the players.

During his visit, the PCB chairman also handed out special shirts to players for achieving milestones. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohamad Rizwan was awarded a shirt for completing 3,000 T20 runs while pacer Naseem Shah was awarded a shirt for taking 100 T20 wickets.

Naqvi also hosted a expressing the hope that the lunch for the players and officials at a local hotel later in the day, the PCB said.

Pakistan are scheduled to leave for the T20 tours to Ireland and England later this month. The twin tour will prepare the Green Shirts for the all-important T20 World Cup. On Saturday, all

rounder Imad Wasim said his main focus was to handle pressure inside the ground while emphasising that winning the T20 World Cup was the primary target of the team.

bowler "[Fast Mohammad Amir and have returned to international cricket [by coming out of retirement] with one clear goal and that is to win said while taking to reporters at the Gaddafi Stadium.

"Reaching the final or even semi-final is a massive achievement, no doubt. But unfortunately, the losing finalist team is not remembered, only the champion side is kept in mind.

"I firmly believe that if we combine well and play to our full potential, no team can beat us," he said.

Jaffar

Mandokhail...

around 14 months.

nor on March 3, 2023.

nomination as the Gov-

strengthen the coalition government in the prov-

He also vowed to

play effective role for

improving relations be-

tween the federation

and province further.

ernor.

Meanwhile, speak-

leader.



BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar called on the President of the Republic of the Gambia, Adama Barrow, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference.

Pakistan beat South Korea in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sunday thrashed South Korea by 4-0 in the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, getting their second consecutive victory in the tournament. Arshad Liaquat, Ghazanfar Ali, Hanan Shahid and

Arshad Liaquai, Ghazanjar Au, Hanan Snama ana Sufiyan Ali scored one goal each for the Green Shirts. Pakistan defeated hosts Malaysia 5-4 in their first match. The national team will play their third match against Japan on May 7. The team's fourth match will be against Canada on May 8 and New Zealand on May 10.

Rana Mashhood, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, expressed happiness over the team's second victory, stating that when the team selection and decisions are made on merit, such results occur. He expressed confidence that the national team

would continue to perform better in the upcoming

Army, HEC, Navy, KRL qualify for National Challenge Cup quarterfinals

kistan Army and HEC from Group A, KRL and the Pakistan Navy from Group B have advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2023 National Challenge Cup (NCC) at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex here Sunday.

Four matches were layed on the fifth day of he National Challenge Cup

(NCC) 2023 final round. In the first match, the Pakistan Army emerged tri-umphant against NIMSO

Anees's two goals and Hassan's one. In the second match, Pakistan Navy secured a 3-0 victory over SA Farms. Nauman, Farhanullah and Naveed contributed with one goal each. In the third match, HEC beat PACA with 1-0. The only goal of the match was scored by Haleem. In the fourth match, KRL edged past Masha United with a scoreline of 4-0. Shahzaib, Najeebullah,

Pakistan urges OIC...

Continued from page 1 PESHAWAR: Punjab Health Minister, Imran Nazir Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali are distributing relief food packages among flood-affected people during

minister and foreign minister urged the OIC to implerelief goods distribution ceremony donated by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam ment its Action Plan on Jammu and Kashmir; demand that India ends all human rights violations; release Hurriyat leaders; and reverse its illegal demo-Continued from page 1 graphic and other unilateral

ernor Balochistan. He appreciated the The PML-N central OIC for its principled sup-Mian port for the Kashmir cause Muhammad Nawaz and requested the OIC Sharif had conveyed member countries to use him his nomination their influence for urgent about Governor. His predecessor Malik Abdul Wali Khan resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per relevant UN Security Council Kakar served as the and the OIC resolutions. Governor Balochistan

Condemning the rising trend of Islamophobia and Malik Abdul Wali discrimination against Kakar had been ap-Muslims in various parts of pointed as 23rd Goverthe world, the deputy prime minister and foreign ing to the media persons minister urged the OIC to here the other day, the newly nominated Govformulate a joint strategy to work with global social media platforms to harmoernor said that he is nize their application of thankful to the leadercontent regulation policies ship of PML-N on his for blasphemous, anti-Islamic and Islamophobic

content. He also said that it He appreciated OIC's would be his utmost enappointment of a Special deavour to support and

Envoy on Islamophobia. Dar also strongly condemned the surge in anti-Pakistan rhetoric and

Waheed and Ali Agha scored

a piece for KRL.

Islamophobic narratives by India's political leaders during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections which threatened the regional stability. He highlighted that Pa-

ternally sponsored terrorism from across its borders despite contributing the most to the fight against terrorism. The deputy prime min-

ister and foreign minister underscored that the OIC could play an important role in global economic growth.

He urged the OIC to work collectively to address the existential threat of climate change, which caused catastrophic floods in Pakistan in 2022.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also expressed Pakistan's support to revitalize the UN system and reform the UN Security Council - to make it more representative, democratic, and effective for international peace and security.

Aimal Wali elected ANP's

Continued from page 1

Qureshi will be the vice president while Madam Abida Khan will be the vice president for Saraiki Unit.

He said that the maior issues being con-Additional General Secrefronted by the province tary, Aurangzeb Khan will are education and law and order, and as such he would play his part to address them.

To a query, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has the capability to run the province in better manner, and it would be his endeavour

support strengthen the coalition government after assuming the office of Governor.

For Saraiki Unit, Dr.

Muhammad Nadeem Secretary Maulana Khanzeb will Ubaidullah Abid will be

be Deputy General Secretary while Javed Kakar will be Additional Deputy Gen-Wagma Bazai have been eral Secretary. Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan has been

elected as the Central Finance Secretary while Engineer Ehsanullah has been elected as the Spokesper-Sardar Hussain Babak

will be the Foreign Affairs Secretary while Khadim Hussain will be the Culture Hussain Ahmed (Khan

Nawab) Pakhtunkhwa will be the Joint Secretary while Shagufta Malik will be lady Joint Secretary. From Balochistan,

Mohammad Anwar Khan

will be the joint secretary while Shahina Kakar will be the woman Joint Secretary. Bahadar Khan will be the Joint Secretary from Punjab while Hudeba Rafique will be lady Joint

Secretary Hanif Shah Agha will be the Joint Secretary while Arooj Ghafoor will be lady Joint Secretary for Sindh.

Qazi Izhar will be the Joint Secretary from Federal Capital Islamabad while Saima Bashir will be lady Joint Secretary

Muhammad Akram Khan will be the Joint Secretary while Nosheen Khan Khatun will be lady Joint

be the Central Secretary for Ulema while Dr. Waqar Ahmed will be the Secretary for Teachers Affairs. Azeem Khan Bilour and

elected as Central Secretary Youth Affairs. Saifullah Fazal will be Secretary Social Media while Amarjit Malhotra will be Secretary Minority Af-

Khushdil Khan Advocate has been elected as the Central Secretary for Human Rights. Muhammad Farooq Bangash will be the Labour Secretary while Sardar Rashid Khan Nasir will be the Secretary for

Student Affairs. Sangin Khan Advocate has been elected as the Central Secretary for Law Affairs, Dr. Shaukat Jamal Amirzada will be the Central Secretary for the welfare of doctors. Engineer Zard Ali Khan

has been elected Secretary for Engineer Affairs, Dr Mehrib Moeez Awan will be the Secretary for Transgender Rights, Malik Fagir Ali has been elected

as the central salar. The central council has unanimously approved the new cabinet. Members and officials from across the country participated in the council meeting

Deputy PM, Gambian President underline reinvigorating bilateral ties, coop. between two countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and President of the Republic of The Gambia Adama Barrow on Sunday underscored the importance of reinvigorating the bilateral relations and enhanced cooperation in diverse areas like trade, agriculture, education and tour-

The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the side-

sity Lahore team for win-

her arrival in the ceremony.

lines of the 15th OIC Isbeing held in Banjul, The Gambia, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar congratulated President Barrow on the successful holding of the 15th OIC Summit and appreciated the fact that The Gambia had highlighted the critical issue of Islamophobia through the platform of the OIC sues.

Pakistan would offer training programmes for diplomats and military personnel from The Gambia, it was added.

President Barrow expressed his deep appreciation for the high-level participation by Pakistan at the 15th OIC Summit.

He said that as chair of the summit, The Gambia hoped to engage with the Ummah on different is-

CM Punjab attends closing ceremony of CM Pink Games 2024

Independent Report She thanked the players by LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif participated in the first Chief Minister Pink Games closing ceremony being held at a gymnasium and presented a trophy to the Lahore College for Women University winning team. The Chief Minister distributed prizes among the successful teams. She also awarded cash prize cheques among 321 winning teams. LCWU teams won the athletics and basketball competition. She expressed her rejoice over their victory. The Punjab University team won archery, badminton, table tennis and cricket competitions. She congratulated the Superior Univer-

ning final match of the hockey competition. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif also teams for winning second and third positions. The players accorded a warm reception to CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif by raising welcome slogans on

waving her hand and greeted them. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reached near the players and mingled among them. She held the hand of a little girl and asked her to sit beside her. She also had photographs with the players. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif while addressing the closing ceremony invited a young player to come on the stage and embraced her for presenting her flowers. The young player

could not hold her tears out of happiness. The CM also witnessed highlights of the first Chief Minister Pink Games 2024 competitions. Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar thanked CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif in his address. The winner player of the tournament Amtul Rehman in awarded prizes among the his address paid tribute the services of CM Maryam cilities for females so that they Nawaz Sharif rendered for will not have to come to Lahore sports. Later, CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif while addressing CM Pink Games closing ceremony said, "I

you. When I saw you playing, you were playing in a highly professional manner. I received such a huge amount of love from the players which I could never imagine. I have become Chief Minister for you people. I am highly pleased to witness your talent. I am convinced that all these daughters could earn name and fame for their country across the globe." CM said, "A daughter presented me a flower. I asked her did you remember presenting a flower to me, she replied that she had only a small amount for buying a flower. My daughters, I am standing beside you. We have appointed a young and a talented Sports Minister I have directed the Sports Minister to extend the scope of Pink

Games across Punjab. We would provide yms, grounds and other fafor participating in any sport activity. I have not been invited in the closing ceremony but I came here through metro love you, I am proud of bus to meet with daughters.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Pensioners Welfare Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Lahore press club.

Notice of Tender DW&CE/6002-Advt/141/E-6, 30 May 2024 The office of DW&CE (PAF) Chaklala invites sealed tenders for the following Emergency Work in

light of PPRARule 42-c (v) of 2004:-

a. Provision of Certain Facilities

Costing Approximately Rs 43.000 Million

03. The contractors are required to submit their applications for issuance of tender documents along with their complete credentials as shown at (Serial 9). The applications shall be scrutinized and the tender documents will only be issued to the firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field and satisfy other special conditions required for the job and area. Tenders will only be issued to the scrutinized contractors. The tender must be received in the office of Accepting Officer by 1130 Hrs on 20 May, 2024 and will be opened at 1200 Hrs on the same date.

NOTE: Contractors shall provide certificate that they are not involved in any type of litigation with Government Department in the Court of Law and that no special report of Directorate of Inspection and Evaluation (E-in-C's Branch GHQ) is outstanding against them.

- All contractors will certify in writing that they are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and will submit a copy of their registration. Contractors not registered with PEC are ineligible to apply.
- Contractor born on approved List of MES in categories 'A' and 'B' and also having experience of this type should only apply.
- Contractors who desire may be present at the time of opening of tenders.
- The Accepting Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the tender. Rejected tenders will be dealt with as per Para 33(1) of PPRARules.
- The interested parties can contact CMES (PAF) Samungli / authorized representative for further

| | details from 0715 to 1335 hours on all working days. | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------|----------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 09 SI No | Name of Works Executed during the Last 2 Years and in Hand | Agency | Amount of Work | Allowed (Months) | Date of Commencement ID (I) No.6643/23 | | Percentage Progress of Work in Hand | Departmental Performance Report on each Work by the Engineer in Charge | |



QUETTA: Traffic police car lifter lifts vehicle that parked in no parking area caused obstacle in smooth flow of traffic jam, at Double road in Quetta.

sify their efforts to license

carried out in two phases.

In the first phase, the focus

will be on raising awareness

about the necessity and

benefits of obtaining a food

license. The second phase

will involve taking action

against businesses that fail

to comply with licensing

IFA's ongoing efforts re-

flected a broader commit-

ment to public health and

consumer safety. Through

increased inspections,

hefty fines, and proactive

awareness campaigns, the

authority aimed to create a

safer environment for con-

sumers and hold businesses

accountable for their prod-

ucts. The authority's mea-

sures were part of a larger

strategy to clamp down on

unsafe food practices and

promote higher food qual-

ity standards in the region,

Dr Tahira said the

The initiative will be

food-related businesses.

IFA carries out 1158

inspections; imposes fines

over Rs 3.5 mln in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- directed the team to inten-

rector Islamabad Food Au-

thority (IFA) Irfan Nawaz

Memon hás chaired a

monthly performance re-

view meeting in a bid to

ensure food safety to citi-

zen of the Federal Capital.

Deputy Director Opera-

tion of IFA, Dr. Tahira

Saddique briefed the at-

tendees on the authority's

activities over the past

month, revealing significant

strides in the fight against

1,158 inspections over the

last 30 days, resulting in

fines totaling Rs 3,546,000.

These fines were imposed

on businesses found selling

harmful food products or

low-quality items. Addi-

tionally, more than 4,944

liters of hazardous health

oils and other unsafe items

were destroyed during vari-

stressed the importance of

ensuring food safety and

Director Memon

The IFA carried out

unsafe food.

ous raids.

During the meeting,

Religious scholars, leaders unify behind 'Code of Conduct for Pilgrims'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Religious scholars and leaders Guidance on personal hyfrom diverse schools of thought across the nation on Sunday endorsed the 'Code of Conduct for Pilgrims', issued jointly by the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP).

According to a state-ment, this unified stance displaying patience and tol-erance, and refraining from reflects a significant step towards ensuring a safe and spiritually enriching pilgrimage experience for Pa-

kistani Muslims. The Code of Conduct, meticulously crafted by the PUC and HOAP, encompasses various aspects of conduct, etiquette, and safety measures to be observed by pilgrims embarking on the sacred journey of Hajj. It emphasizes the importance of adhering to Islamic principles, maintaining discipline, and fostering a spirit of unity and brotherhood among pil-

Key provisions of the PUC Chairman Hafiz gious practices.

guidance on personal hygiene, respect for fellow pilgrims, adherence to designated routes and timings, and compliance with the instructions of authorities and organizers.

upholding ethical standards. nish the sanctity of the pil-

this Code of Conduct by religious scholars and leadtive commitment of Pakistan's religious community to promote harmony, respect, and reverence during the sacred pilgrimage. It reflects a shared understanding of the importance of ensuring a safe and spiritually fulfilling experience for all pilgrims, regardless of ership of Pakistan's relitheir sect or school of thought.

Mahmood Ashrafi and HOAP President Jamal Khan Tarakai, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support and endorsement from religious scholars and leaders. They Moreover, it under- emphasized the significance scores the significance of of collaboration and unity among different religious groups in upholding the values of Islam and faciliany behavior that may tar- tating the performance of

religious obligations. age. They said the en-The endorsement of dorsement of the Code of Conduct by religious scholars and leaders is expected ers underscores the collecto have a profound impact on the behavior and mindset of Pakistani pilgrims, guiding them towards a Hajj experience characterized by piety, humility, and devo-

They said it also serves as a testament to the collective wisdom and leadgious community in fostering a culture of responsibil-In a joint statement, ity and reverence in reli-



ISLAMABAD: CEO of a local Hotel, Aziz Boolani inaugurating The International Food Festival - Taste the World jointly organized by IFWA (Islamabad Foreign Women's Association), the Head of Missions' Spouses (HOMS) Group with the participation of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association (PFOWA) at local hotel in Federal Capital.

PRs directs all DSs for accelerating efforts to retrieve occupied land

kistan Railways has issued ments, he added. directives to all Divisional Superintendents (DS) for vided by the official, around accelerating efforts to re- 769 acres were commercial trieve around 13,972 acres in all the provinces, 3,309 of land illegally occupied by private individuals and different government departments across the country.

According to an official of the ministry, about 5,809 acres land of Railways was occupied in Punjab, 1,181 acres are under encroachment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,948 acres in Sindh and 1,034 acres land occupied

in Balochistan. The category of land under illegal occupations in-

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- ous persons or depart-As per details pro-

residential, 5,512 acres agricultural and 4382 were under encroachment of various persons or departments.

He said that the department had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations that were using it for residential, commercial and ag-

from the city. cluded commercial, residen- riculture purposes for detial, agricultural, and vari- cades.

20 buses to be started for female students, teachers of ICT Schools

ISLAMABAD (INP): The ral areas of the federal capi-Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to solve the problem of transportation for female students and women teachers of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Schools, has taken an important decision of launching new

As per initiative, as many as 20 buses of federal educational institutions will be prepared and put on the roads with the support of the district administra-

The female students and teachers of public and private educational institutions will be able to travel for free in these buses operated in the urban and ru- unusability.

tal with the support of the district administration.

These new buses will be painted pink and will be reserved for women and The Ministry of Fed-

eral Education has taken this step in view of the increasing dropout rate of girls from schools due to inadequate transport facilities, said the Secretary of Education while talking to Me-

He went on to say that in the internal audit, it was found that thirty per cent of the total 385 buses of federal educational institutions have been parked due to

Impersonator arrested; wireless set and uniform recovered

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Secretariat police ator and recovered a wire-

less set, uniform and MP5 rifle magazine from his possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, follownspector General of Police

ing the special directions of (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime

Following these directions, the Secretariat police team arrested an impersonator. Police team also recovered wireless sets, uniform and one MP5 rifle magazine from his possession.

10 injured in road accident near Kot Radha Kishan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A devastating road accident occurred in Kot Radha Kishan when a bus carrying factory workers plunged into a ditch, leaving at least 10 people injured on Sunday.

According to rescue officials, the incident took place on Zafar Pathak. vhere the bus veered off the road and fell into a

Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to nearby hospital, said a private news chan-

ISLAMABAD: Civil Society hold a Sit-in protest at D-Chowk in the Federal Mushaal lauds COAS

for unwavering support for Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri Muhammad Yasin Malik, has hailed the Pakistan Army Chief General Asim

Munir's unwavering support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their struggle for right to self-determina-Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a statement in Islamabad said that the army chief's remarks on

Kashmir that Pakistan

would continue to provide

"moral, political and diplo-

matic support to Kashmir

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

to details, following the

special directives of Inspec-

tor General of Police (IGP)

Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir

Rizvi, the SSP Traffic

Muhammad Sarfraz Virk orders officials to

maintain smooth flow of

traffic on roads, a public

Traffic conducted a meeting

He said that, SSP

relations officer said.

a new impetus to the ongoing Kashmiri freedom

The Hurriyat leader went on to say that the Pakistani army chief's assertion was a reminder to the brave Kashmiri freedom fighters that they were not alone in their just fight, as entire Pakistan was firmly standing by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their pursuit for freedom to break the shackles of Indian sla-

Mushaal stated that General Munir rightly highlighted that the international community's silence about the reign of terror unleashed by Indian forces in IIOJK could not brothers was a source of suppress the voice of freeinspiration, as it would give dom.

SSP Traffic orders to maintain

smooth flow of traffic on roads

ters, which was attended by

all branches incharge and

measures to improve the

traffic system in the federal

capital and take special ini-

tiatives to keep citizens

ensure road discipline, en-

force traffic laws, and

SSP Traffic discussed

He reviewed steps to

strengthen legal actions cate citizens on road safety

other senior officers.

safe from accidents.

She continued that the Pakistan army chief's remarks was a clear-cut and unequivocal message to India that Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory whose final status was to be decided as per the UN agreed formula and aspirations of

Shaheed Sehrai was the chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir who achieved martyrdom on 5th May, 2021 while he

the officials to further en-

hance the capability of

Islamabad Traffic Police

He emphasized the

and provide maximum fa-

need to enforce traffic laws

with diligence and sincerity

and take strict action

against negligence and mis-

Education Wing will edu-

and traffic laws on various

Jacobabad

highways, he added.

conduct. The Traffic Police

cilities to the citizens.

Meanwhile Mushaal paid rich tributes to veteran Kashmiri pro-freedom political leader Shaheed Muhammad Ashraf Sehraie on his 3rd martyrdom an-

the people of the scenic

ISLAMABAD: The house wives on their way to home carrying dry wood on their heads to light the stove in the Golra area of Federal Capital. **Asas School hosts**

expo showcasing its projects, art exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asas International School F-8 Campus on Sunday successfully hosted its Annual Asas Expo, presenting a comprehensive showcase of projects and services aimed at empowering students and supporting the community. The Expo featured a diverse range of initiatives offered by Asas, including free consultation and screening services pro-

press release. The attendees had access in consultations and checkups by medical professionals from the Asas Medical & Rehabilitation Complex. Career counseling sessions were also available,

courtesy of Asas Interna-

tional Consultants, providing invaluable guidance to the students as they navigate their future paths.

In addition to its focus on educational and community services, the Expo celebrated the artistic talents of students through captivating art exhibitions. These exhibitions showcased works from both the school's students and those participating in the incluvided by the Asas Inclusive sive education program. Education Group, said a The Live Art Corner provided an interactive and engaging experience for attendees, enhancing the vibrant atmosphere of the event. During the Expo, Branch Head Asima Mubashar Syed had the privilege of meeting with

Chilam Josh festival to commence from May 13

ISLAMABAD (APP): The four-day Chilam Josh festival would be held in three Kalash valleys, including Bumburet, Birir and Rumbur from May 13 to 17 to entertain the tourists from various parts of the country. The annual festival comprises traditional events including dances of Kalash girls and boys to the beats of traditional drums and will be attended by a large number of tourists, including foreigners from all over the world, said a news release issued here on Sun-

The Chilam Josh festival will start with 'Milkday,' in which Kalash milk that had been saved for

sion. The celebrations will highlight their rich cultural, plethora of colors and the underlying message of hap-

the parental community.

During the festival, the Kalash people will seek the blessings of their God and pray for the safety of their herds and crops of the community. Women usually dress up in traditional clothes of vibrant colors gold and silver jewelry, and elaborate headgear, while men wear traditional shalwar kameez with a woolen waistcoat. Kalash women and men dance and sing in a circle to the rhyth-

Kalashi festivals are people offer libations of famous throughout the world and celebrated in dif-10 days prior to the occa- ferent months of the year.

mical chant of drum beats.

Security officials briefed for effective duty

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special directives of the In-

The SSP Security Division directed the officers on patrolling duty about being alert during patrolling spector General of Police and keeping a watchful eye (ÎGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali on suspicious persons,



Nasir Rizvi, a special briefing was held for the officers deployed on night duty at High Security Zone regarding the better performance of their duties, a public relations officer said.

He said that, senior officers briefed the security officials to maintain the law and order and prevent any untoward incident. Moreover, officers were briefed regarding duty in view of the current situation.

strict orders were issued regarding proper uniforms and discipline.

He further directed the officers to be ready all the time and perform their duties in an effective manner. Islamabad Police is

utilizing all available resources in order to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital and the protection of life and property of citizens is among the top priorities.

at Traffic Police Headquar-**Education ministry to** establish 16 latest IT labs in federal capital

against violators.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has decided to establish 16 state-of-the-art IT labs in the federal capital to provide the youth with the latest skills and increase employment opportunities for them. According to an announcement by the Education Ministry, these IT labs will be built in 16 federal government degree colleges located in different areas of

Islamabad. As per details, in these IT laboratories, students will be offered six-month courses in blockchain, data science, AI and game development.

In the first phase, about 1000 students will be offered courses, which are being introduced keeping in view the market demand.

designed by NAVTTC in collaboration with renowned universities like NUST, National Skills University, COMSATS and NUML. These courses will start in the second week of May 2024" the Ministry said. The ministry further informed that as many as 3600 students have registered for these courses so

It has been decided by the Ministry of Federal Education to prepare these labs under the direction of the Prime Minister of Pa-It is worth mentioning

here that Providing employment opportunities to the youth is included in the agenda of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

remains hottest district with mercury at 42° Celsius "These courses are

ISLAMABAD (INP) Temperatures have soared in various parts of Sindh and Punjab provinces as 42° Celsius temperature recorded in Jacobabad district. Maximum temperature recorded 41° Celsius in Larkana and Nawabshah districts and 40° Celsius in Sukkur in Sindh today, according to the Met Office.

The mercury increased to 39° Celsius in Rahim Yar Khan and 38° Celsius in Lahore. Faisalabad, Kasur and Multan in Punjab. Global temperatures hit record highs last year and the UN's World Meteorological Organization said Asia was warming at a particularly rapid pace, with the impact of heatwaves in the region becoming more severe.

Pilgrims excited to embark on sacred Hajj journey

ISLAMABAD (APP): :As From streamlined transporthe countdown begins, the excitement soars as Hajj pilgrims prepare to embark on their sacred journey with the Ministry of Religious Affairs' meticulous able journey for all. This arrangements to ensure hassle-free travel and a memorable spiritual expe-Secretary Ministry of

rience for them. Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Dr. Syed Ata-ur-Rehman, in a recent interaction with the media highlighting key feature services for the pilgrims said, "this year's Hajj pilgrimage marks a significant milestone as we introduce a range of initiatives and extended facilities aimed at enhancing the overall experience for our pilgrims.

tation arrangements to improved accommodation and expanded support services, we are committed to ensur-

ing a seamless and comfortyear's Hajj promises to be a truly transformative and memorable experience for our pilgrims, offering them the opportunity to deepen their spirituality and connection with Allah in unprecedented ways. With approximately

179,210 pilgrims slated to embark on this spiritual voyage under both governmental and private schemes, the month-long pre-Hajj flight operation is slated to take off on May 9th, ferrying pilgrims to the revered destinations of Makkah al-

Mukarramah and Madinah Al-Munawarah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia In a bid to ensure a

hassle-free journey, direct flights will operate from eight major cities, including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Sialkot, and Sukkur, to Jeddah and Madinah. Moreover, the innovative Road to Makkah project, available at select airports, will expedite the Saudi immigration process, sparing pilgrims from long queues upon arrival.

To enhance the pilgrims' experience, the government has introduced various initiatives such as discounted long and short packages, complimentary uniform baggage with QR

like Abayas for females and Ahraam belts for males. Additionally, a complimentary Hajj SIM card with data and minutes ensures connectivity throughout the journey.

Innovations like the mandatory Hujjaj App, designed to educate, track, and assist pilgrims in performing Hajj rituals, underscore the ministry's commitment to facilitating a seamless pilgrimage experience. Stringent measures have been implemented to safeguard pilgrims' financial interests, while upgraded accommodations and medical facilities await them in Saudi Arabia, ensuring comfort and security during their stay there.

The high demand for the pilgrimage is evident, with pilgrims opting for both long and short packages, and a total of 260 flights allocated to accommodate their travel needs. Automation plays a significant role, with apps like Pak Hajj streamlining information access and complaint management, ensuring a smooth and efficient opera-

An intending pilgrim Rizwan Arif, eagerly anticipating the journey, remarked, "This opportunity bestowed upon us by Allah Almighty fills my heart with gratitude. The arrangements made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs reflect their commitment to ensuring a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for us. I am eagerly awaiting the transformative journey that lies ahead, seeking to gain maximum spiritual benefits from this blessed opportunity.

Another intending pil-

grim Bilal Ahmed has expressed similar sentiments. stating, "The anticipation for this sacred journey is overwhelming, knowing that Allah has chosen us for this blessed pilgrimage. The arrangements made by the relevant authorities have instilled confidence in us, ensuring that our focus remains solely on the spiritual aspects of Hajj. I look forward to seeking closeness to the Almighty, embracing every moment of

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Monday May 06, 2024

Hasty transition

Out of nowhere, the government has launched a new cybercrime authority: the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency. This move to replace the FIA's cybercrime wing raises substantial concerns about the motive behind it.

The NCCIA is mandated to handle offences under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, which, activists allege, was used routinely by the FIA to silence dissent. Of course, conversely, bad actors use social media to spread disinformation and misinformation, necessitating oversight.

But at a time when digital rights and privacy remain key issues for the state to address, the authorities have opted to forgo any meaningful dialogue with digital rights groups, the IT sector, or even the public. Such an opaque approach fosters distrust and scepticism towards the government's intentions. It has neither presented a clear rationale nor demonstrated the deficiencies within the existing framework that necessitated this move.

The reuse of the FIA's resources — personnel, assets, and existing cases — under a new banner raises a fundamental question: what exactly is the objective of the NCCIA that the FIA could not achieve? If the goal was to enhance capabilities or streamline operations, would it not have been more prudent to bolster the existing framework rather than dismantle it? The abruptness of ties led by exceptional the move suggests the new leaders". We are told that rulers are not behind it.

The move will likely create redundancies and confusion, diluting the focus from actual cybercrime threats to the procedural chaos of transitioning to a new agency. Also, such disruptions could hinder ongoing operations and complicate international cooperation under links nurtured by the FIA.

Furthermore, the NCCIA, with its broad and unclear mandate, could potentially lead to increased surveillance and data collection practices, encroaching upon the personal the first three years of his liberties of citizens under the presidency. It is only in guise of security.

It appears the PML-N government is working in the same the "enduring partnermanner as when Peca was being promulgated, when no input was taken. The situation has called into question the comed in Pakistan because regulatory environment for the internet in the coming years. Ostensibly, the aim is to exert greater control over social media and to gain more power to crack down on activists, dissidents and journalists critical of tered the tenor of the bistate policies.

The government owes the tacts have started. The public an explanation of the necessity and aims of the NCCIA. It must articulate how this new set-up will better serve the cybersecurity needs of the nation without compromising democratic freedoms. It is also crucial that further developments in this area involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Engaging with experts in digital rights, cybersecurity, the legal domain, and the public is essential to ensure that the agency's operations are balanced, effective, and respectful of the rights it is purportedly designed to protect. The urge to police social media must be resisted.

"PTI's Dilemma: Formulating the Narrative"

By Qamar Bashir Former Press Secretary

to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

The PTI, despite its unique circumstances, is facing numerous dilemmas. Its incarcerated leader has emerged as one of Pakistan's most popular and powerful figures, a testament to the overwhelming support the party received in the February 8, 2024 elections. This victory, however, sparked fear among undemocratic forces, both political and non-political, which allegedly stripped the party of its rightfully won seats, denying the party governments at the center and in the province of Punjab. Yet, this act only served to further empower PTI's charismatic leader, solidifying his position in the hearts of the nation.

At this critical juncture, PTI needs absolute clarity in its narratives to capitalize on its political gains and to stop disillusionment of its supporters. However, PTI's newly injecting divergent view-points lacking coherence on key issues raising many questions which need sensitive and delicate handling to steer the PTI ship out of troubled water.

These questions inter alia include: Why do the PTI refuse to hold talks with the politicians and want to negotiate with the establishment?. Does PTI violate the constitution when it declares the Establishment as the source of all powers?. If the Establishment agrees to talk, what would be the fate of the PTI anti establishment narrative?. Allegedly, PTI was brought to power by the establishment in 2018, what moral ground does it have to obiect to the other parties when they are using the same crutches to grab power?. When the PTI says that the army should confine itself to its constitutional role. what leverage is it inclined to use to do so?

The current narrative PTI declares all politicians, especially those belonging to PML(N) and PPP as thieves who have looted the national wealth, kept it in foreign countries, and once they are out of power, they would flee abroad. They tion. The narrative focuses judiciary from the shackles

have willfully kept the country and people poor and uneducated. They consider ruling over Pakistan as their birthright, therefore PTI will not talk to these politicians on any matter of national importance.

The pros of this narrative are that PTI as a party stands against corruption and aims to hold accountable those who have allegedly looted national wealth. Anti-establishment sentiments resonate with people who are disillusioned with traditional political parties and their perceived dynastic politics and corruption. It calls for change in the status quo and presents PTI as a party that represents a departure from traditional politics. The cones are equally

compelling. It is seen as a divisive rhetoric that is polarizing and may deepen divisions within Pakistani society, especially among supporters of other political parties who may feel unfairly targeted. By refusing to engage with other political parties, PTI may be limiting its ability to build consensus and work towards national development through political cooperaheavily on personal attacks and allegations against specific politicians, which may distract from addressing substantive policy issues.

Though choices with PTI leadership are very limited, it has to choose very carefully the right narrative aligned with the people's inspiration and hopes, and move towards national reconciliation to fast track growth and development of ne country. Therefore, the PTI

should engage all political parties in constructive and meaningful dialogue, with the goal of uniting political and democratic forces to regain their space in managing the national affairs, restore civilian supremacy and build firewalls against any outside interference in the civilian domain. This can only be achieved, if the PTI agrees to enter into negotiations with all political parties, and sign a charter for "Civilian Supremacy

The key to ending TI's woes lies in the independence and empowerment of the judiciary from top to bottom. The six high court judges' letter has provided PTI with a unique opportunity to liberate the

judiciary will become free, most of the cases against PTI leaders will be quashed in no time. Therefore it should support this momentum and include judicial reforms in the Charter of Civilian Supremacy to shield the judiciary from all kinds of outside interference whether

It should include parliamentary reforms to ensure that all bills, amendments and other business presented before the parliament are purely on merit and do not serve the vested inter-

political or non-political.

It includes reforms in the executive to ensure that all organs of the executive strictly follow the law of the

It should do away with the caretaker governments, and instead empower the Election Commission to conduct the election fairly, transparently and judicially. It should ensure that elected representatives, who are accountable to the people, have the ultimate authority in decision-making

Internally, PTI should articulate clear guidelines for its spokespersons on civilian-military relations to prevent conflicts and crises that

of the executive. Once the may arise from ambiguous or contested authority

Moreover, PTI should be extremely careful while injecting its opinion on all past, current and emerging matters. Instead of discussing the merits and demerits of the government's policies and initiatives, it should adopt a common narrative that since the current governments do not enjoy the mandate of the people therefore all its actions both positive and negative lack legitimacy, credibility and therefore are illegal, unconstitu-

tional and unlawful. Interestingly, the second tier leadership, on the average 30 years old, is a double-edged sword of sorts. Where they bring a youthful spirit in the party. they lack the political experience needed to navigate Pakistan's complex political landscape. However, the coming back in action by former President Dr. Arif Alvi, Mr. Fawad Hussain and Mr. Shibli Faraz and other such experienced and seasoned politicians, will provide a much needed maturity and acumen needed to create enabling conditions for the signing of the Charter of Civilian Su-

An opportunity being lost

Ghazi Salahuddin

Being a man of action in the lazy setting of Pakistan's politics, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would know that every challenge is an opportunity. The bigger the challenge, the bigger the opportunity. And the task he has at hand now is truly monumental. So, what does his response look

Before I come to that, let me dwell a bit on this theory of challenge and response that was defined by English historian Arnold Toynbee. This hypothesis by a philosopher of history explains why and how civilizations throughout history have grown and vanished

Toynbee concluded that, in the words of a text I have, civilizations "prospered by meeting challenges head-on with the help of innovative minoricivilizations began to fail when their leaders ceased country, in drawing rooms There is little doubt

no way out of our present serious political commen-

difficulties. I am tempted to quote Thomas Paine: "These are times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and

If these are sublime

thoughts, let me climb down to the level of the ridiculous. On Sunday last, on a holiday when all government offices are closed, the Cabinet Division issued a notification to announce the appointment of Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as the deputy prime minister "with immediate effect and until further orders". The appointment, of course, was made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who has

During this week, Ishaq Dar's elevation has been widely discussed in the media. In countless conversations across the and on coffee tables and street corners, people may have wondered about this that Pakistan is presently move. It seemed somein bad shape. There seems thing not so much for the

to deal with many great

challenges

tators as for the comedy in short supply. Yet, the thoughtful and engaging shows and the cartoons. Since this subject is

already dated for this column, I'll let it go. But that initial thought about the grim challenge that the prime minister has to respond to is important for the nation. Is it at all doable? Is the goal within the reach of Shehbaz Sharif or any other leader in this country? Is there a prescription somewhere to guide the leader of a country like Pakistan?

Moving ahead is something. Our story is that of lagging behind. In recent decades, our ranking in South Asia, across almost all social indicators. has gone down. These are societies very much like ours. This means that we have lessons to learn. On the face of it, it should be easy for us to follow in the footsteps of some specific countries.

happy country is unhappy in its own ways. Pakistan has its unique problems. What is not unique is the leadership it has – and I am not alluding here to the man who is in office at present. Those who pretend to know the solutions have never been

Ah, but every un-

country appears to be wandering in the wilder-

When I suggest that the present arrangement is not delivering, the point is that no radical moves have been made to create momentum for change. No revolutionary steps are in evidence to turn the tide of events. By and large, the impression is that this is business as usual. Sadly, this will not work. It does not work in revolutionary

Are these revolutionary times? An answer to this question would require a solemn investigation by social scientists and thinkers. We are aware of the attention that the present rulers are devoting to economic revival. This is necessary but economists and financial experts cannot set a country's ideological, intellectual and moral sense of direction.

Lahore to participate in the 5th Asma Jahangir and elucidations of an Conference when the news of Ishaq Dar's additional appointment was made public, allowing us a little diversion in the midst of some very

discussions. The entire weekend pulsated with excitement with the presence of so many renowned national and incurrent affairs and defenders of human rights.

Ever since her untimely death in February 2018, this country has desperately been in need of the wisdom and courage that Asma Jahangir possessed. She was an exceptional human being and her struggle for human rights is an inspiring chapter in our history.

One measure of Asma Jahangir's stature in the global narrative of democracy and human rights was the quality of participation and discourse in this conference on the theme: 'People's Mandate: Safeguarding Civil Rights in South Asia'. In terms of how it was conceived and designed, the conference be carefully examined by Incidentally, I was in was a very insightful those who are stuck in entire range of national

for me to sum up the sentations of the Asma proceedings of the conference. The idea is to Courtesy TheNews

Energy crises and the need

see it against the backdrop of what is happening in Pakistan and what options policymakers and rulers have to set things right. ternational observers of In other words, here was something for those in power to seriously look into and interact with in an intellectual context.

But the problem is that our rulers and our leaders do not listen to good advice and have no time for critics they know are selfless and sincere in their pursuit of social justice and progress. Consequently they remain surrounded by summer soldiers and sunshine patriots. We remember how Asma Jahangir was seen as an

To conclude with what I had begun, the ideas that were projected in the conference that was held in Lahore last weekend deserve to the existing quagmire of governance. I wonder if Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif can find time to go It is not possible over, quietly, some pre-

Inconsistent

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

After withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, the US appears to have downsized its relations with Pakistan. President Joe Biden did not make any contact with Pakistan's leadership for March this year that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received an unsigned letter from him underscoring ship" between the two nations and identifying areas where they could work together. Biden's letof the country's policy to maintain mutually beneficial ties with all major powers, including the US with which it has had sustained periods of close cooperation.

However, the letter has not fundamentally allateral relationship, though some official conacting undersecretary for political affairs visited Islamabad recently for talks on bilateral ties, including regional security issues. Our prime minister sent a short reply to Biden's letter, and the current US ambassador to Pakistan seems inclined to enhance bilateral ties.

plausible reasons for America's current disenchantment with Pakistan. First, political instability, the continuing economic crisis, and the worsening law and order situation have lowered Pakistan's relevance for the outside world, including the US. Second, after withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, the US lost interest in that country and Pakistan, though the resurgence of terrorist entities in Afghanistan, is becom-

ing a growing international concern. Third, the US is now focused on its rivalry with China, for which it has chosen India as its strategic partner. Fourth, the US seems to have concluded that Pakistan is in the Chinese camp even though Pakistan has consistently signalled its desire for strategic autonomy. Fifth, the allegation that the US had played a role in the April 2022 regime change persists, even though Donald Lu in his recent testimony before the Congressional subcommittee has denied

This is not the first

time that Pakistan and the US have been estranged. In fact, during the past seven decades, their relationship has oscillated between warm engagement and cold estrangement. When Pakistan started its life as an independent state in 1947, it had to build its statecraft from scratch, with the then Indian leaders determined to undo Pakistan. The US at that time appeared as the preferred source for muchneeded economic and military assistance. Experts from the US facilitated the green revolution and rapid industrial development. Pakistan soon became a role model for other developing countries. Pakistanis thought that they had found in the US an

enduring partner. But this assessment There could be five turned out to be incorrect. The bonhomie ended with the 1965 India-Pakistan war, when the US imposed sanctions on Pakistan. Later in 1971, the expectation that America's seventh fleet would help Pakistan was dashed. The two countries moved away from each other only to come closer a decade later when Soviet forces entered Afghanistan. Pakistan teamed up with the US and helped create nurseries for the Afghan jihad. However, as soon as the

Soviets left Afghanistan, America imposed sanctions on Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment.

The events of 9/11 once again brought the two closer, this time to fight a global war on terror. However, as the war in Afghanistan lingered on, a frustrated US decided to pull out its troops, partly holding Pakistan responsible because of its support for the Afghan Taliban. Ever since, the two countries have been dr--ifting away from each

A debate is on--going in Pakistan as to why US-Pak-istan ties resemble a roller-coaster ride and whether America is a reliable friend. The answer lies in a mismatch of expectations. For Pakistanis, a friend in need is a friend indeed. How-ever, for the US, as indeed for most powers, inter-state relationship is a function of the convergence of mutual interests.

An important question weighing on the minds of Pakistan's leadership ergy Crisis concerns how to find the right balance in our ties with the US and China, which are locked in an intensifying strategic competition. China is a great friend which has made significant investments in Pakistan, including CPEC. It has never embarrassed us or intervened in our internal affairs, and always supported us at international forums. The US is our largest trading partner, a long-standing source of investments, a favourite destination of Pakistani students and physicians, important to our IT com-

terrorism. That the government of Pakistan has decided to maintain relations with both the US and China predicated on our own national interests seems to be the right course of ac--- Courtesy Dawn

munity, and a military

partner in the fight against

for new distribution companies **By Czechangez** Khan Jadoon

Energy Crisis: A Global Prosperits. The world is fac-

energy crisis, with far- stability and conflicts in Smart Grid Technoloreaching quences for global prosperity and stability. The crisis is characterized by a mismatch between energy de- Infrastructure: Âging mand and supply, ex- infrastructure and inacerbated by climate adequate investment in ergy Efficiency: Prochange, geopolitical energy transmission mote energy-efficient tensions, and inad- and distribution net- practices and technoloequate infrastructure. works hinder the effi-The situation is dire, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) warning of a potential by 2025.

Causes of the En-

1. Rising Energy Demand: The ization, and industrialization have also contributed to the surge Energy scarcity and in energy consump-

Fossil Fuels: Fossil fu- migration. els, the primary source resources. As reserves dwindle, extraction

renewable energy sources has been

4. Geopolitical fuels. ing an unprecedented Tensions: Political inconse- energy-producing re- gies: Leverage adgions disrupt supply chains and exacerbate like blockchain, IoT, the crisis.

> cient supply of energy. Consequences of

the Energy Crisis

global energy shortage stability: Energy short- partners to share exages and price volatility impact economic risk. growth, inflation, and employment.

world's population is tal Degradation: Conprojected to reach 9.7 tinued reliance on fosbillion by 2050, lead-sil fuels accelerates ing to increased en- climate change, causergy demand. Eco- ing devastating natural nomic growth, urban- disasters and ecosystem destruction. 3. Social Unrest:

Change: The shift to are essential. New companies can:

1. Invest in Re-

slow, and the continued newable Energy: Foreliance on fossil fuels cus on renewable encontributes to green- ergy sources like solar, house gas emissions, wind, and hydroelec-Looming Threat to accelerating climate tric power to reduce dependence on fossil

> 2. Implement vanced technologies and AI to optimize en-5. Inadequate ergy transmission and distribution.

> > 3. Enhance Engies to reduce consumption.

4. Foster Global Cooperation: Collabo-1. Economic In- rate with international pertise, resources, and

5. Support Energy Storage: Develop 2. Environmen- and deploy energy storage solutions to ensure a stable and reliable energy supply. Conclusion

The energy crisis poses a significant threat to global prosperity and stability. To address this challenge, price hikes lead to so- new distribution comcial unrest, political in- panies must emerge, Depleting stability, and human focusing on renewable energy, smart grid Need for New technologies, energy of energy, are finite Distribution Compa- efficiency, global cooperation, and energy To address the storage. By working becomes more chal- energy crisis, innova- together, we can enlenging and expensive. tive and efficient dis-sure a sustainable en-3. Clim at e tribution companies ergy future and mitigate the far-reaching consequences of the energy crisis.

precious lives. The Chief Minister noted that these

accidents are not only

causing human loss but also

having a negative impact on

tourism in Gilgit Baltistan.

mention here that last year

in December, at least 10

people, including two

soldiers, lost their lives,

and 21 passengers received

injuries when unknown

attackers opened fire at

the Rawalpindi-bound

bus from nearby hills in

Chilas, causing the vehicle

to collide with a goods

truck. As per details,

Deputy Commissioner

Diamer Captain (Rtd)

Arif Ahmad stated that the

incident occurred in Chilas

district where unknown

assailants opened fire on a

passenger and the uncontrolled bus collided

with a truck.

MULTAN: Former PMLN MPA Shahzad Magbool

Bhutta announcing party decision to support PPP

It is pertinent to

GB CM urges PM to

deploy motorway

police on KKH

Minister (CM), Gulbar

Khan, has written a letter

to Prime Minister (PM)

Shehbaz Sharif, urging the

deployment of motorway

police on the Karakoram

deployment of motorway

police is essential for safe

travel on the Karakoram

Highway, which has witnessed several fatal

accidents in recent times.

Gulbar said that he has

ordered an investigation

into the recent accident near

Chilas and directed that

measures be taken to

prevent such incidents in

Highway has seen a surge

in traffic accidents,

resulting in the loss of

Karakoram

CM Gulbar Khan

that

Highway (KKH).

stressed

the future.

The

DC, SSP Ghotki inspect under construction Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge

By Tanveer Ahmed MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki, along with SSP Ghotki and SSP Special Branch visited the under construction Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge, took a detailed briefing about the construction Sumair Noor Channa and SSP Special Branch Mansoor Mughal visited the underconstruction Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge and reviewed the situation. Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali said that the construction of Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge is the first priority of the

distance between the two districts and will especially benefit the business people. He said that the construction work of the bridge has started with the full cooperation of the police and other law enforcement agencies, the district administration is trying to complete the construction work as soon as possible, all arrangements have been made in this regard. Speaking on this occasion, SSP Ghotki said that the law and order situation in the district is better, no one will be allowed to affect the

construction work of the bridge. Later, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP also Sindh Government's, this project will reduce the planted saplings near the under-construction bridge. 12 dead, 1324 injured

Independent Report LAHORE: At least twelve persons were killed and 1324 injured in 1194 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 600 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 724 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the

burden of Hospitals.

in 1194 RTCs in Punjab Furthermore, the analysis showed those 699 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 141 pedestrians, and 496 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. statistics show that 226 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 246 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Multan 82 in with 90 victims and at third Faisalabad with 76 RTCs and 90 victims.

Federal Minister for Kashmir affairs and Gilgit Baltistan along with States

and Frontier regions Engineer Amir Muqam taking oath from newly elected

Second, third phases of "Suthra

Punjab Program" being launched

collected from houses,

neighborhoods and markets

first phase of the "Suthra Punjab Program", the temporary collection and a new industry would

who would be responsible aspect by following no less than a challenge. To

environment can be made

(APP): cleaning and sanitation the Pakistan Muslim ister for system will be outsourced the Punjab at the tehsil level. Garbage government has started a

will first be shifted to the for the first time in 76 years

points, he added. Zeeshan be created by recycling Rafique said that digital garbage.

Rafique said that uigital monitoring of the new sanitation system will be done in rural and urban To recycle the To recycle th

garbage collected at the departments have the

village and ward level, the vaste will be processed 18,000 tons of waste, and

waste will be processed into energy and fertilizer at about 39,000 tons of waste, and about 39,000 tons of waste

10 recycling plants at the divisional level, while the environment every day.

remaining garbage will be Picking up and disposing

made safe from every of the remaining waste is

modern requirements in the ensure this, SAMA

landfill sites, so that the agreements are being signed

simultaneously: Minister

cabinet of the District Bar Association, Buner.

Provincial Minister for Local Government Punjab

Zeeshan Rafique has said

that after the success of the

second and third phases are

second phase, the provision of equal facilities

of municipal services in

rural and urban areas is

being ensured. At the tehsil

level, there will be a sentry

worker for 250 houses in

the rural and rural areas

for cleaning the streets,

removing garbage from

houses, cleaning the drains

He expressed these

simultaneously.

started

views at a press conference done in rural and urban

in Daska. He said in the areas. To recycle the



PESHAWAR: Delegation from different walks of life meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor

educational institutions

Incharge kidnapped

By Adeel Ahmed SHIKARPUR: Two more including a Polio Team Incharge of UC Sehwani were Kidnapped in two separate incidents from Shikarpur on Saturday night. According to initial reports reached here that one Polio Team Incharge named Khalid Ahmed son of Sibghatullah Bhayo was Kidnapped by some group of armed men from the jurisdiction of Naparkot police station and took them away forcibly on gun point towards katcha area of Rustam. Today on Sunday, the kidnappers had called the parents of kidnapped Polio Team Incharge Khalid Bhayo from

maintain peace in Karachi at any cost

that the PPP government

had previously restored

law and order in the city,

and they would do the

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has vowed to maintain peace in Karachi at any cost, saying that the city has already paid a heavy price of bloodshed.

'We have paid a heavy price for peace in Karachi by sacrificing citizens, political workers, police, rangers, and army personnel. Therefore, peace in the city is very important to us.

Ground, Lyari. The meeting was attended by Local Govt sacrifices the people of Lyari, including men, Minister Saeed Ghani, women, and children, made MNAs Nabil gabol, Qadir Patel, Senator Masroor Ahsan, MPA Asif Khan, and a large number of party workers, and people of Lyari. Murad Shah stated

same to tackle the street

to restore and strengthen democracy in the country. According to the CM, the people of Lyari are truly patriotic and politically aware. "They

The chief minister

KP people still await change: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that people of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are waiting for change for the last 10 years.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, she said that condition of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa schools and hospitals was very poor. Azma said instead of focusing on welfare of people, the KP government was afraid of performance of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, who was working very hard for betterment of people of the

have actively participated in various political movements, including men, women, and even their children," he said.

mentioned that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has instructed him to provide Layri's people with health, education.

Pakistan People's Party believes in freedom of expression: Shazia Mari

candidate in NA 148 by election.

SANGHAR :Member National Assembly of Pakistan and Pakistan People's Party central Information Secretary Shazia Mari has said that Pakistan Peoples Party believes in freedom

> of expression. She expressed these views while talking to media during her visit to Press Club Sanghar here on Sunday.

She said that Pakistan Peoples Party has always given sacrifices for the restoration and survival of

performance which will be continued in future and all promises would be fulfilled of democracy".

made with people because Pakistan People's Party was determined to serve

Shazia said that National Press Club has

always done positive and real journalism that is why she value it. She said that now a

days journalism have became more active and circulating fake news and blackmailing on media was common, however real journalists were those who were firmly determined to their cause. Meanwhile democracy and flogged in MNA Shazia Mari on the jails that is the reason roots occasion announced to of Pakistan Peoples Party inaugurate new building of lying in people. National Press Club She said that we have equipped with latest always delivered best facilities and holding a

Thar coal declared suitable for gasification, diesel, best for power generation: Nasir

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Minister for Energy Planning Hussain Shah has said that the South African experts have declared the Thar Coal very suitable for the gasification, diesel and best

for the power generation. While presides over a high-level meeting on the Sindh Coal Authority (SCA), in which a detailed review of a report received from South Africa regarding the coal sample of Thar Coal Block II conducted, a

communique said.

Shah said that a SCA delegation consisting of Development Syed Nasir expert officers would be sent to China to have a detailed look at the transfer of technology. The decision of the

previous meeting to make a policy of gasification at the provincial level was also considered in detail. It was decided in the

meeting that the Energy Minister Nasir Shah would contact the federal government regarding the policy of gas efficiency at the provincial level.



TARBELA: Chief Guest, Chief Engineer (TDP) Turesh Kumar viewing handmade stuff prepared by special children during ceremony on the occasion of Annual Day Function-2024 of Mashaal Initiative Institute of Special Education at Sobra City Colony.

Federal Ombudsman DIK office on top for resolving IRD cases

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Federal Ombudsman's Regional Office DI Khan has the Ombudsman office resolved 799 cases under plays a mediation role in Disputes mechanism during 2023, which is the highest figure

of any regional office in the

Officer of Federal Ombudsman (Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat) Regional Office DI Khan Imran Khan while talking to APP here on Monday.

started in April 2022, was a mechanism under which the Informal Resolution of resolving disputes even out of its jurisdiction. Moreover, he said, the regional office DI Khan

He informed that IRD

has disposed of about 4961 cases out of a total of 5391 It was stated by the registered complaints Senior Investigation received during last year with an 80 per cent success ratio. He also mentioned that the Complaints Collection Center, Wana which was established in December 2022.

crime challenge efficiently. In May 2015, a terrorist attack claimed the He was speaking at the condolence meeting of his mobile phone and Shaheed Akbar Nagori, the life of Akbar Nagori, a demanded for release of their younger brother of former dedicated political worker, accomplices (dacoits) who were arrested by Shikarpur. provincial minister Javed Murad Shah recalled the Nagori held at Kikri tragic incident. He also Minister for quality edu. in

run by Labour Dept **Independent Report** ESHAWAR: The Khyber akhtunkhwa Minister of Labour Department Fazal Shakoor Khan Sunday said that provision of quality education in educational institutions run by the labour department is the topmost priority of our

government. He urged the teachers work hard and focus on provision of quality education to laborer children studying in different schools of the labour department.

about various challenges and shortcomings faced by

He was addressing as a chief guest in a prize distribution ceremony organized by Rahamkar Welfare Social Foundation at Working Folks Grammar School Kaka Sahib district Nowshera, Earlier, the provincial minister visited different sections of the school while the school principal briefed the minister regarding school administration. minister was also informed



MUZAFFRABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat chanting slogans during protest against Indian Army at Azadi chowk in the city.

Sharjeel vows to put transport sector on its feet, says Red Line to have Pak 1st biogas buses KARACHI (INP): Senior Line project was delayed infrastructure of the buses

Stolen vehicle of **GB** Education Minister recovered RAWALPINDI (INP): The New Town police

with solid waste companies

revolutionary program like "Suthra Punjab Program"

station in Rawalpindi has successfully recovered the stolen official double cabin vehicle belonging to Ghulam Shahzad Agha, the Provincial Education Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from D Block Satellite Town in March, was retrieved by authorities, leading to the arrest of the perpetrators.

According to police, the accused individuals, identified as members of an organized car theft group, were apprehended by the police following a thorough investigation. operation also resulted in the recovery of six additional vehicles believed to have been stolen by the same group.

The diligent efforts of the police team involved tracing the inter-district gang of car thieves through a combination of CCTV footage analysis and human intelligence. Subsequent raids were conducted in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Landi Kotal. Charsadda, and Peshawar, leading to the apprehension of key

suspects Yasir and Tariq.

Sindh Minister for due to the utility services, Information, Transport & which were being shifted Mass Transit and Excise, and on the part of the provincial government Taxation and Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam there would not be even a Memon on Sunday completion. pledged to put the transport sector of the

Sindh province including Karachi on its feet to facilitate the general public. Talking to media persons during his visit to the BRT Red Line site, he said that the Sindh was a top priority of the government had started present government. work on Red Line BRT once again, He said that the government would not leave any stone unturned

delay of a single day in its The minister said that the BRT Red Line project was an important project of the PPP-led Sindh government. He said that the resolution to the problems of the people

He said that the Sindh government was seriously working on all projects and intended to complete them on time. Replying to a not in question, he said that the government.

university students for facing problems due to the project. He said that the PPP-led government performed practically instead of only paying lip service. Replying to another question, he said that some issues were being faced in the operation of People's Bus Service due to the load shedding of electricity by K-E and the power entity had been asked to resolve the matter.Replying to another question, he said that it did not mean that if PPP was

cost more than the buses.

He excused the



LAHORE: Students Organization showing solidarity with Palestine during a All-Pakistan Parties Conference held in Provincial Capital.

sewerage etc. human friendly, he across the province and in To ensure this, the maintained. He said that the next four months. and sewerage etc.

KARACHI: A large number of candidates lining up for the entry test for Sindh Services Commission jobs in NED University, in the Provincial Capital.

KP law minister announces Rs 2m for Aghosh to help orphans

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa Minister for
Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate on Sunday said that helping welfare organizations, especially those patronizing and helping the orphans and poorest of the society were area, staff and students of able for international award.

This he said while addressing the ceremony held at Aghosh Al-Khidmat Kohat Campus as chief guest. Central PTI Leader Shehryar Khan Afridi MNA, Members Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Shafi Jan and Shah Turab Khan, Aghosh Al-Khidmat

event. The ceremony beside others was also attended by the former MPA Muhammad Ali important religious, political and social figures of Kohat, elders of the the institution in large numbers.

The law minister maintained participating in a ceremony of this important welfare institution of his native district as chief guest was a matter of great honor and pride for him, for which he was personally grateful to its organizers

06

Escalating Tobacco Tax by 37% proposed by SPDC & WHO to save lives, boost revenue

ISLAMABAD (INP): An increase of 37% in Federal Excise Duty (FED) on Exci tobacco products has been proposed by the Social Policy Development Centre (SPDC) to reinforce the gains already achieved and to advance further in enhancing public health outcomes and revenue

"Pakistan can save as many as 265,000 lives, generate an additional revenue of Rs 37.7 billion and push 757,000 people

policy paper name Costs and Saving Lives" that aligns recommendation Organization (WHO) and

The SPDC proposal when government prepares to high tiers. The SPDC has outline its budgetary warned of negative effect agenda, in a bid prioritize on both the revenue and public health and economic public health efforts if the

Free Kids (CTFK).

targeted tobacco tax reforms. Pakistan has twotiered system of FED on Recovering Healthcare cigarettes. The country made significant strides and increased the FED on cigarettes in 2022-23 with substantial increase in Campaign for Tobbaco FED. The current FED share in retail prices is 48

it advocated to further adjust the FED in line with international standards, to take the tax share of retail prices towards 70 percent. The proposal seeks take the FED share to 54 percent or Rs 154 and percent and 68 percent 72.1 percent or Rs 452 for respectively for low and

economy and premium brands, respectively. The proposal was backed by the gains of previous tax adjustments.

Revenue (FBR) has

announced plan to automatically register

shopkeepers through its

own staff who remained

evaded to participate in the

rader-Friendly Scheme.

Media reports indicate that millions of

traders across the country

evade direct tax payments,

prompting the FBR to

Surveys will be

on-the-spot

goods to Afghanistan

over exporting of goods to

Afghanistan and Central

Asian Republics (CARs) in

Pak rupees along with

establishing a legal channel

to avoid complications and

inquiries by law enforcing

agencies in receiving

made at a meeting held at

Landikotal city of Khyber

District with President KP

Exporters Association,

the meeting included Coordinator Pak-Afghan

Commerce and Industry

(PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq

Sarhadi, Director PAJCCI

Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, General

Secretary KP Exporters,

Ashfaq Shinwari, SVP Haji Nisar Shinwari, VP Mujeeb

Shinwari, Secretary Legal

Haji Jabir in the chair.

Joint Chamber

The demand was

Others who attended

payments.

Affairs, Amir Afridi and

the meeting also demanded

to convert trade of 16 items

from PKR to US dollars

because State Bank of

Pakistan has well established set up for

payment of rebate in US

dollars and not in Pak

view that exporters are

exporting these 16 items to

Afghanistan and Central

Asia in Pak currency and

they are not given any

also expressed grave

complications in receiving

export proceeds declared in

PKR at the time of custom

dollar, government pays a

rebate and the same

practice should be adopted

in export through PKR,

they reiterated.

In export through US

Along with this they

rebate over this.

concern over

They were of the

The participants of

conduct field visits in scheme

FBR set plan to

register shopkeepers

The Federal Board of the registration process.

opportunity

tax net led many traders to

refrain from registration

altogether. Despite the

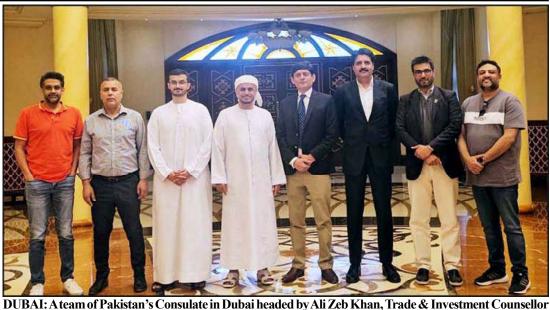
expiry of the registration

deadline for the FBR's

Trader Dost Scheme,

millions of traders remain

not maintained. Therefore,



received by H.E. Mohammed Khalifa Bin Dhaen Al Mheiri, Group Chairman Bin Dhaen Holding & Chairman of Jumeira University at Khalifa Bin Dhaen Majlis, Zabeel Dubai.

RAWALPINDI: Vice Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Mian Aslam addressing the protest sit-in organized to express solidarity with the farmers.

outside the SNGPL

premises on a repeated

recording high profits for

years, largely due to the

persistent efforts of its

iunior and middle

executives and engineers (

to VI), yet not a single

penny has been granted to

them from this windfall

profit. Such actions and

practices by the SNGPL

authorities have created a

sense of deprivation among

policies approved in the

HR Manual as well as

approved time to time like

as release of full CPI since

financial year 2020-21

disbursement of pending portion of 50% CPI for FY

2019-20 on immediate

basis; disbursement of

circulars no. F 4(3)R-4

2011-Revision dated: 26-Jul-2021, F.4(3)R-4/

the hardworking staff.

They underlined that

SNGPL executives and engineers demand removal of disparities in salaries

Independent Report ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The junior and middle executives and engineers of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited have even though the SNGPL demanded removal of has consistently been certain disparities in implementation of the policies approved in the HR Manual.

In a representation addressed to the SNGPL Managing Director dated April 20, 2024, the SNGPL junior and middle executives and engineers said that they had been the most deprived segments of the organization as they had been struggling hard to meet their daily needs Director to implement the owing to the company's ironic compensation

These executives and engineers have to work in hostile and challenging environments with limited resources sometimes in hazardous conditions like as frequent incidents of Disparity Allowance vide shootings, beatings, threats, harassment and legal court cases registered against them by high profile individuals or Sep-2022.

Power Looms Association demands special package for industry general public inside or

Association Looms demanded government to reduce prices of electricity in order o revive power looms industry.

Mepco

Chairman Haji Bashir Younis, Sanaullah Ansari others were also present.

Govt needs to minimize production cost, enhance exports: Anjum Nisar Intel. expo

Chairman Businessmen Panel and former President FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar has said that the government should promote industrialization and enhance exports through lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to solve liquidity crunch and relaxing import policy for industrial raw material.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that business community was facing tough challenges because of limited business; therefore, the should government formulate regional, provincial and central level task force besides chalking out sector wise regional policies which would help it to address the problems confronted by exporters.

Window Operation should order to introduce home be introduced for the made products.

ISLAMABAD (INP): replacing the lengthy Chairman Businessmen procedures that involve interaction

manufacturers with various agencies. The government agencies were harassing the textile industry every day. Social Security, EOBI and other taxes should be merged and deducted at the source. He asked the government to appreciate the role of industry for its potential to harvest maximum benefits, mass employment to the jobless

providing also marketing plan and hurdlefree policies as well as urgent decisions in favor of exports while taking on board major stakeholders. He called for concerted efforts for exploring new Mian Anjum Nisar markets both traditional suggested that One and non-traditional in

population of the country. sought government's attention for formulating aggressive

allover the world which with international buyers.



PESHAWAR (APP): All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of electricity, he said. Exporters Association has He demanded of the demanded of government to announce incentives

billing.
On this occasion, Pehlwan, Muhammad

PFC to take part in Riyadh

AHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a 3-day Riyadh international expo starting from May 21 to opportunities and find new global markets. PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq stated this in a meeting with a delegation of furniture manufacturers and led exporters Muhammad Araib here on Sunday. He said: "This fair attracts thousands of global exhibitors, investors,

showcase their products." He said PFC would exhibit its international quality products to capture their share in international market. It is an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals

initiate measures to address registration discrepancies. conducted nationwide to facilitate registration, with dedicated teams deployed

MULTAN (APP): Power

Thousands of the people are associated with the power looms industry and they are under immense stress due to the worst crisis in this sector.

Oandeel Ansari while chairing a meeting of the Association here Sunday. He stated that thousands They have requested the SNGPL Managing of extra-units were injected into electricity bills which ogravated the situation further. The power looms industry is unable to move forward due to high prices

government to introduce special package for the industry. He also called for action against employees of who were responsible for extra

Farhan Shani and many

importers, exporters and buyers from



NPO launches program for development of gemstone sector ISLAMABAD (APP): Lahore aimed to enhance

through its own staff SLAMABAD (INP): respective cities to oversee Organization (NPO) initiated a technical Traders were offered assistance program for the and skill development. gemstone sector in contribute to the country's collaboration with the economy through minimal Productivity tax payments under the Organization (APO) Trader-Friendly Scheme. Tokyo, Japan for the However, apprehensions development of sector. about being ensnared in the

Consultancy and workshops focused on gemstone identification, certification, cutting and polishing techniques with experts from the Gems and Institute, Thailand, said a press release issued here Sunday.

outside the tax net. In light of the lack of Sessions held in trader participation, the Peshawar, Gilgit, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and FBR has decided to take registration checks action against non-Specialized teams will registrants under the **SNGPL**

disconnects 12 connections of gas pilferers

Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) teams took action against twelve more gas pilferers and disconnected connections. According to the details, a customer was found using a household meter for a generator and hospital machinery at Amin Hospital Burewala, on which the task force team disconnected his meter. Likewise, five connections of consumers were removed in Burewala for being illegally installed seminar organized by the far away from the required distance.

National Productivity stakeholder capacity and foster economic growth through knowledge sharing

> involved professionals, associations and international experts, promoting collaboration and economic prosperity in the gems and jewelry

The experts shared knowledge and hands-on skills and practices for enhancing the capacity of the stakeholders, paving collaboration towards propelling sustained

The objective is to standards in gemstone products; provide comprehensive knowledge products; of cutting, polishing, designing and heating techniques; and enhance understanding of best practices and technological advances in gemstone value chains. Engage relevant associations such as PGJTEA, APCEA and PGMA, industry experts, business professionals involved in the sector with the international experts to learn latest techniques and processes thereby leading to overall productivity economic enhancement within the

FPCCI urges urgent action amidst Pakistan's economic situation

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Former Federal Minister and Acting patron in-chief of the Federation of Sunday outlined the severity of the country's economic challenges, citing uncontrollable electricity rates and the closure of industries not only in KPK but also in other parts of the country. He expressed these

views while addressing a Commerce and Industry Ikram Sheikh.

(ACCI) Industrialist Association. compared this situation Pakistan Chambers of with the progress being Commerce and Industry made by neighboring (FPCCI) S M Tanveer on country Afghanistan in promoting industry and

> He stressed the urgent need for action to address these issues, particularly emphasizing the untapped potential of the Hazara region's natural resources.

textiles to boost its

The seminar was seminar organized by the attended by the Abbottabad Chamber of President of FPCCI Atif



LAHORE: People are buying secondhand items in Sunday weekly bazaar at Shadman area, in the Provincial Capital.

Wheat Crisis: JI holds rally to support farmers

MULTAN (APP): Jamate-Islami (South Punjab) took out rally to express solidarity with farmers and stressed upon government to purchase wheat from farmers at the earliest.

The rally was led by Ameer Jamat-e-Islami south Punjab Rao Muhammad Zafar. The rally participants were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans in support of the peasants. Rao Muhammad Zafar while addressing the participants stated that Jamat-e-Islami

PED committed to collaborate with Kyrgyzstan: Meher

(APP): Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan Meher Kashif Younis said that Punjab (PED) was committed to fostering collaboration and support with Kyrgyzstan to enhance their higher educational disciplines, particularly in the realm of technical education, aligning with global standards.

Talking to the media, cooperation he said that a high-level Kyrgyzstan.

joint delegation of the consulate of Kyrgyzstan and Gold Ring Economic Forum (GREF) comprising Education Department the GREF Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Sikander Afzal, President Hasnain Reza Mirza and he himself had a fruitful and result-oriented meeting with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and worked out possibilities modalities of

cooperation

Excessive water, pesticide use dampens soil productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): WWF-Pakistan, with funding from the Laudes Foundation, launched the Regenerative Production Landscape Collaborative (RPLC) Pakistan to drive new business models and farming practices that holistically tackle current challenges faced by smallholder farmers and address the environmental issues resulting from

Supported by textile and food brands, RPLC will Pakistan implemented in the Jhang and Sahiwal districts of Punjab and Barkhan and Lasbela districts of Balochistan. The initiative offers a demonstrable

unsustainable practices.

that has already seen success in India, Brazil, and Tanzania.

will enhance collaborative supporting local farmers and communities to workshop, Chief Guest, becoming self-sufficient and Chairman Pakistan

Speaking at the launch event, the Director General, WWF-Pakistan, Hammad Naqi Khan shared that the initiative addresses the long-term challenges of unsustainable agricultural practices in Pakistan. Highlighting that agriculture faced major issues of excessive use of water, chemicals and pesticides impacting the crop and soil productivity, which is further aggravated by climate change, he noted that this has led to increasing vulnerabilities of local communities and smallholder farmers.

approach to landscapes challenges, this initiative regional

help farmers to develop climate resilience and improve the agricultural yield", he added. Addressing the workshop virtually, Head of the Fashion Programme at Laudes Foundation Anita Chester said that Laudes Foundation is incredibly pleased to see the RPLC launch in Pakistan supporting the local ecosystem towards sustainable and regenerative practices. She said, "We are confident in the leadership of WWF-Pakistan in driving the collaborative forward. fostering "To address these collaborations

and financially independent galvanising communities towards better practices enabling businesses to source responsibly".

cover globally, over a 1 million hectares, and over Pakistan specifically, this will cover over a 100,000 hectares and benefit over 50,000 farmers. The sustainable approach has already made significant strides in many regions, including India, Brazil, and Tanzania. fostering demonstrating
with scalability of
players, approach, she added. this

Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Ghulam Muhammad Ali said that the project will help smallholder farmers and crop growers to improve Today, she said that crop productivity and the RPLC is planned to income generation capacity. Furthermore, he noted that it will benefit them in that 300,000 farmers. In the use of fertilizers and pesticides will be significantly reduced through adaptation of practices.He added that key problems in crop productivity result from the extensive use of chemicals that harm the ecosystem and soil fertility.



CHINIOT: Farmers busy in threshing wheat crop in their field at Jhang

Russia accuses Nato of preparing for conflict

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Nato's fourmonth-long military exercises near Russia's borders, known as Steadfast Defender, are proof the alliance is preparing for a potential conflict with Russia, a spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry said on

The spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, dis-missed accusations by Nato this week that Russia is engaged in hybrid attacks on its member states, saying this was misleading "misinformation" aimed at distracting people from the alliance's activities. It was Nato that had waged a hybrid war with Russia by supporting Ukraine with arms. intelligence and finances, she said in a statement.

"Right now, Nato's largest exercise since the Cold War, Steadfast De-

fender, is taking place near Russia's borders. According through May. Russia sa to their scenario, coalition's actions against Russia are being practiced using all the instruments, including hybrid and conventional weapons," she said in a statement. We have to admit that Nato is seriously preparing for a 'potential conflict' with us." Relations between Russia and the West have been at their most hostile in decades following the start of Russia's military conflict in Ukraine in 2022

Announcing the start of the drills in January, Nato said 90,000 troops would take part, rehearsing how US troops could reinforce European allies in countries bordering Russia and on the alliance's eastern flank if a conflict were to flare up. The drills, Nato's largest exercise since the Cold War, are set to run shot down.

Russia said at the time the drills marked an "irrevocable return" of the alliance to Cold War schemes.

The Russian defence ministry said on Saturday its air defence forces shot down four US-produced long-range missiles over the Crimea peninsular, weapons known as Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) that Washington has shipped to Ukraine in recent weeks. The ministry said later that Russian aircraft and air defence systems had downed a total of 15 ATACMS in the past

officials said Ukraine had attacked Crimea with ATACMS in an attempt to pierce Russian air defences of the annexed peninsula but that six had been

Colombia breaks

diplomatic ties

with Israel

Monitoring Desk

BOGOTA: Colombia has

become the latest Latin

American country to an-

nounce it will break diplo-

matic relations with Israel

over its military campaign

for the South American na-

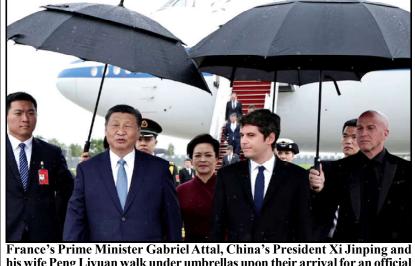
tion could be broader than

for other countries due to

longstanding bilateral agree-

ments over security mat-

But the repercussions



his wife Peng Liyuan walk under umbrellas upon their arrival for an official two-day state visit, at Orly airport, south of Paris.

China's Xi praises French ties as Macron prepares to talk trade

Monitoring Desk PARIS: President Xi Jinping lauded China's ties with France as an international model on Sunday as he arrived in Paris for a rare visit against a backdrop of mounting trade disputes with the EU. French President Emmanuel Macron is set to urge Xi to reduce trade imbalances and to use his influence with Russia over the war in Ukraine. China's President is due to meet Macron and European Commission chief Ursula

Xi, who was welcomed in Paris by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, said in a statement released on his arrival that ties between China and France were "a model for the international community of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between countries with different social systems". France is backing a European Union probe into Chinese electric vehicle exports, and in January, Beijing opened an investigation into mostly French-made imvon der Leyen on Monday. ports of brandy.

Russia hits Ukraine regions, Zelenskiy says Su-25 bomber downed

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russian attacks on Ukraine's Kharkiv and Dnipro regions and the Black Sea port city of Odesa killed at least two civilians, set a food factory ablaze and damaged other infrastructure, homes and commercial buildings on Saturday, regional officials said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Russia had used eight missiles of various kinds and nearly 70 guided aerial bombs against communities and frontline positions during the day, after Ukraine's air force cow says it has annexed.

downed 13 Shahed drones that targeted the Kharkiv and Dnipro regions overnight. Zelenskiy said Moscow had no desire for peace. "Russia can only be forced to leave Ukraine alone," he said in his nightly video address. A world peace summit taking place in Switzerland in June without Russia - "must

succeed", he said. He said Ukraine's 110th mechanised brigade brought down a Russian Su-25 fighter-bomber over the eastern Donetsk region, one of four areas of Ukraine Mos-

People are rescued by residents after the floods in Canoas, at the Rio Grande

the spoils, to what the pope thinks about chatbots, this is AI Weekly.

Labram said that the

US allegations include that an unnamed Washington-

based PR and lobbying firm

paid one of Forlit's companies 16 million pounds (\$20

million) "to gather intelli-

gence relating to the Argen-

did not immediately return

under an Interpol red no-

tice at London's Heathrow

Airport as he was trying to

board a flight to Israel, ac-

cording to the US authori-

Forlit and his lawyer

sages seeking comment.

Forlit was arrested

tinian debt crisis'

Israeli private eye arrested

in London over alleged

hacking for US firm

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: An Israeli private

investigator wanted by the

United States was arrested

in London over allegations

that he carried out a

cyberespionage campaign on

behalf of an unidentified

American PR firm, a London

court heard on Thursday. But

an initial attempt to extradite

Amit Forlit to the United

Sates was thrown out by a

judge at Westminster Mag-

istrates' Court on Thursday

yer representing the United

States, told the court Forlit

is accused of engaging in a

Amy Labram, a law-

on a legal technicality.

hack for hire scheme'

North Korea's UN ambassador says new sanctions monitoring groups will fail **Monitoring Desk**

SEOUL: Efforts led by the US and other Western countries to form new groups to monitor sanctions on North Korea will fail, the country's UN envoy said on Sunday, according to state media

Ambassador Kim Song made the comment in response to a joint statement the US and its allies issued this week calling to continue the work of a UN panel of experts monitoring longstanding sanctions against Pyongyang for its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Israeli police raid Al Jazeera after shutdown order

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israeli police raided a Jerusalem ĥotel room used by Al Jazeera as its de facto office on Sunday following a government decision to shut down the Oatari-owned TV station's local operations, an Israeli official and an Al Jazeera source told Reuters.

Video circulated online showed plainclothes officers dismantling camera equipment in

war reconstruction of Gaza would require an international effort unseen since the aftermath of World War II, estimating it could cost up to US\$40 billion. It came as Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh struck an optimistic tone over a pos-

Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: The United

Nations said that the post-

Gaza needs biggest

post-war reconstruction

effort since WWII: UN

sible truce and hostage release deal for Gaza, after weeks of largely stalled negotiations. There have been reports of sticking points between the militant group and Israel nearly seven months into the war that has devastated the Palestinian territory. But Haniyeh, head of the militant group's Qatarbased political bureau, said in calls to Egyptian and Qatari mediators that Hamas was studying the latest proposal with a "positive spirit".

Much of Gaza has been reduced to a grey landscape of rubble and the United Nations estimated the cost of reconstruction at between US\$30 billion and US\$40 billion.

"The scale of the destruction is huge and unprecedented... this is a mission that the global community has not dealt with since World War II," UN assistant secretary-general Abdallah al-Dardari told a briefing in the Jordanian capital Amman. The UN official said "72 per cent of all residential buildings have been completely or partially destroyed". Reconstruction is made more difficult by the presence of large quantities of unexploded ordnance in the debris that Gaza's Civil Defence agency says triggers "more than 10 explosions every week"

Brazil mounts frantic rescue effort as flooding kills 66

Monitoring Desk

RIO GRANDE DO SUL: Authorities in southern Brazil raced against the clock on Sunday to rescue people from raging floods and mudslides that have killed at least 66 and forced more than 80,000 to flee their homes.

Across Porto Alegre, the capital city of Rio Grande do Sul state, people stood on rooftops hoping to be rescued, while others in canoes or small boats navigated streets that had turned into rivers.

Civil defence officials said at least 101 people were missing in the latest in a string of catastrophic weather events in the South American giant.

Viewed from the air. Porto Alegre was completely flooded, with streets under water and the roofs of some houses barely visible people are now living in shelters.

According to the local municipality, the Guaiba River, which flows through the city of 1.4 million people, reached a record high level of 5.3 metres, well above the historic peak of 4.76 metres that had stood as a record since the devastating 1941 floods. Water was still advancing into economically important Porto Alegre and hundreds of other localities, with increasingly dramatic consequences. Rain was intermittent on Sunday morning, but was expected to continue for another day at least

as floodwaters kept rising. In addition to the tens of thousands forced from their homes, Brazil's civil defence agency said more than a million people lacked access to drinking water and it described the damage as incalculable. Some 15,000

Ukraine marks its third Easter at war under fire from Russian drones

Monitoring Desk tained by The Associated KYIV: As Ukraine marked its third Easter at war, Russia launched a barrage of drones concentrated in Ukraine's east and claimed its troops took control of a village they had been tar-

geting.

Ukraine's air force said Sunday that Russia had launched 24 Shahed drones, of which 23 had been shot down by air de-

Six people, including a child, were wounded in a drone strike in the eastern Kharkiv region, regional

Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Fires broke out when debris from drones that were shot down fell on buildings in the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region. No

casualties were reported. The Russian Ministry of Defense announced Sunday that its troops had taken control of the village of Ocheretyne, which has been in the crosshairs of Russian forces in the Donetsk region of eastern

Ukraine. Drone footage ob-

press showed the village battered by fighting. Not a single person is seen in the footage obtained late Friday, and no building in Ocheretyne appears to have been left untouched by the

fighting.
Officials in Kyiv urged residents to follow Orthodox Easter services online due to safety concerns. Serhiy Popko, head of the Kyiv city administration, warned that "even on such bright days of celebration, we can expect evil deeds from the aggressor."

In his Easter address, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Ukrainians to be "united in one common prayer.'

In a video filmed in front of Kyiv's Saint Sophia Cathedral, wearing a traditional Vyshyvanka embroidered shirt, Zelenskyy said that God 'has a chevron with the Ukrainian flag on his shoulder." With "such an ally, Zelenskyy said, "life will definitely win over death.'

Students in Ireland and Switzerland join Gaza protest wave

Monitoring Desk DUBLIN: Students at Trin-

ity College Dublin and Lausanne University in Switzerland have staged occupations to protest against Israel's war in Gaza, joining a wave of demonstrations sweeping US campuses.

In Dublin, students built an encampment on Friday that forced the university to restrict campus access on Saturday and close the Book of Kells exhibition, one of Ireland's top tourist attractions.

The camp was set up after the students' union said it had been fined 214,000 euros (\$230,000) by the university for losses caused by protests in recent months, not exclusively over Gaza. The protesters were demanding that Trinity cut academic ties with Israel and divest from companies with ties to Is-

Students' union president Laszlo Molnarfia posted a photograph of benches piled up at the entrance to the building housing the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript cre-

ated by Celtic monks in about 800 AD. Trinity College said it had restricted access to students, staff and residents to ensure safety, and that the exhibition would be closed on Saturday.

More than 34,600 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's sevenmonth-old assault on the Gaza Strip, say health officials in the Hamas-ruled enclave. The war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and abducting 252 others, of whom 133 are believed to remain in captivity in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

Pro-Palestinian protests have also been held at universities in Australia and

In Lausanne, around 100 students occupied a building to back demands including an end to scientific cooperation with Is-

"Palestinians have been dying for over 200 days, but we're not being heard," one protester told Swiss television on Saturday.



Palestinian children look up as they walk at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Gaza truce talks resume in Cairo without Israel

to blame India for murder of Sikh

separatist: New Delhi

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Talks resumed in Egypt on Saturday aimed at halting months of war in Gaza between Hamas and Israel that have triggered protests around the world.

Mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States sat down with a Hamas delegation to hear the group's response to a proposal that would halt fighting for 40 days and change hostages for Palestinian prisoners, according to details released by

Israel has yet to send a delegation to Cairo, with a top official telling AFP that it would do so only if there was "positive movement" on the proposed framework. "Tough and long negotiations are expected for an actual deal," the Israeli official cautioned. Previous negotia- and a ceasefire is Hamas, tions stalled in part on Blinken said.

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Canada's in-

vestigation into alleged In-

dian involvement in the kill-

ing of a Sikh separatist in

Vancouver last year is a

"political compulsion",

New Delhi's foreign minis-

ter said after three Indian

citizens were arrested over

Friday arrested the trio for

the murder of Hardeep

Singh Nijjar, saying they

were investigating their links

to the Indian government,

"if any".

The killing sent diplo-

matic relations between Ot-

tawa and New Delhi into a tail-

spin last autumn after Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau said

there were "credible allega-

tions" linking Indian intelli-

jected the allegations and

deemed them "absurd",

India vehemently re-

gence to the crime.

Canadian police on

the killing.

Hamas's demand for a lasting ceasefire and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's repeated vows to crush the group's remaining fighters in the southern city of Rafah, which is flooded with displaced civilians.

The prospect of an assault on Rafah has sparked deepening international concern.

The United Nations says more than 70 per cent ters. ings have been completely or partly destroyed, and rebuilding will require an effort unseen since the aftermath of World War II. Accepting a ceasefire deal with Israel should be a "nobrainer" for Hamas, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said late Friday "The reality in this moment is the only thing standing between the people of Gaza

ence in the country signifi-

cantly.

"It is their political
"Canada to

compulsion in Canada to blame India," The Press

Trust of India news agency

quoted external affairs min-

ister S. Jaishankar as say-

Thousands of people

ing on Saturday.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Wednesday described Israel's actions in Gaza as 'genocide" and announced his government would end diplomatic relations with Israel effective Thursday. But he did not address how his decision could affect Colombia's military, which uses Israeli-built warnlanes and machine guns to fight drug cartels and rebel groups, and a free trade agreement between both Canada has 'political compulsion' countries that went into ef-

fect in 2020.

in Gaza

India tries to put the ball in Canada's court **Monitoring Desk**

BHUBANESWAR: India will wait for Canadian police to share information on the three Indian men it has arrested and charged with the murder of a Sikh separatist leader last year, For-Minister Subrah-manyam

were killed in the 1980s during a separatist insur-Jaishan-kar said on Saturgency aimed at creating a day.

Sikh homeland known as Khalistan, which was put down by security forces. The movement has largely petered out within India, but in the Sikh diaspora — whose largest community is in Canada, Indian government.

with around 770,000 Jaishankar said he had people — it retains support among a vocal minority. New Delhi has sought to persuade Ottawa not to grant Sikh separatists visas or political legitimacy, Jaishankar said, since they

Canadian police charged the three on Friday

over the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar and said they were probing whether the suspects had links to the

> seen news of the arrests and said the suspects "apparently are Indians of some kind of gang background... we'll have to wait for the police to tell us." The trio, all Indian nationals, were arrested in the city of Friday, police said.



ago that suspended lessons as the country baked in temperatures that surged to well

over 40 degrees Centigrade. Bangladesh has wavered over reopening schools for some 33 million students amid pressure to prepare pupils for exams, even as the worst heatwave in seven decades sent temperatures as high as 43.8 C (110.84° Fahrenheit) last

week. Many people have died across the region, and experts warned the heat could exacerbate inequalities, widen a learning gap between developing and developed nations in the tropics. Bangladesh, which follows the Islamic work week from Sunday to Thursday, will hold classes on Saturdays until further notice, the education ministry said. **Education Minister**

Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury has said schools would open on Friday if needed to complete the curriculum.

Poland wants best ties with US no matter who's in power Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland wants

"the best possible relations with America, regardless of who is in power," Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said during a visit to Washington, according to a report Poland's PAP newswire on Sunday. "We will not make the mistakes of our predecessors by putting all our chips on one color," state-run PAP cited Sikorski as saying, in an apparent betting reference. Poland's former na-

tionalist government had

enjoyed a good relation-

ship with former U.S. President Donald Trump. **Netherlands** remembers World War Two dead amid tight security

Monitoring Desk AMSTERDAM: Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Prime Minister Mark Rutte ioined around 4,000 people on Saturday for the country's annual World War Two remembrance ceremony amid restricted public access and heightened security due to the war in Gaza

The ceremony on Amsterdam's central Dam square, with the traditional two minutes of silence at 8 pm (1800 GMT) to commemorate the victims of World War Two, passed smoothly despite fears that there might be protests.



People attend an Orthodox Easter service in the town of Kostiantynivka, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near a front line in Donetsk region, Ukraine.

Muqam urges opposition to be constructive, not confrontational

eral Minister for SAFRON and Kashmir Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam on Sunday urged the opposition parties to adopt a constructive approach rather than wasting time on useless protests with confrontational tactics. He stated this during oath taking ceremony of newly elected body of Buner District Bar Council

The federal minister stated that these people got nothing from protests in the past and will never gain anything in the future, but only cause losses to the country. He said that what happened on May 9 was highly re-

Engr Amir Muqam urged the lawyers to be vigilant and to reject those who seek to exploit them for political interests. However, he emphasized that they should play a constructive role in the interests of the country.

He emphasized that public service entails more than protesting; it involves addressing public issues, which is the true responsibility of elected represen-

The federal minister stressed the need to abandon the blame game and instead, actively contribute to

mit Conference.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman and Hajj

Organisers Association of

Pakistan (HOAP) Patron-

Mehmood Ashrafi has un-

veiled a comprehensive

code of conduct in a bid to

ensure a smooth and hassle-

free pilgrimage experience

talk, emphasized the im-

portance of booking Hajj

journeys only through au-

thorized organizers, cau-

tioning against fraudulent

activities perpetrated by

unauthorized

He, in a recent press

for private Hajj pilgrims.

Hafiz

Tahir

groups

in-Chief,

Muhammad

He said that there was a clear indication of improvement in the economic tions and the government on the same page. He also noted that inflation was an issue being faced by every body. Engr Amir Muqam stated that overcoming inflation was a top priority for the government.

He highly praised the establishment of SIFC for its efforts in attracting in-

In response to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's accusations against the Federal government regarding resource allocation, he emphasized the equitable distribution facilitated by the National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

Earlier, the federal minister administered the oath to the newly elected body of the Bar Council Association. He congratulated the newly elected cabinet and expressed the hope that they would work for the welfare of the lawyers' community. Additionally, he announced a grant of Rs 2 million for the Bar Council Association and assured efforts for the provision of gas facilities and a motorway link road

BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad

Ishaq Dar held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Republic of

Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Sum-

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi says

Hajj without official permission

strictly forbidden under Islamic

and videos during Hajj ritu-



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali and Secretary Health Abdullah Khan visiting Bolan Medical Complex Hospital and Bolan Medical College.

Pakistan a country with future, to be next tech hub of region: Masood Khan

United States, Masood Khan has said that one should not underestimate Pakistan as it is a country with a future and moving fast to become the next tech hub of the region

He said, "There has been exponential growth in our tech industry in past few years. Our economy is being digitized and we have unleashed a series of reforms not only to facilitate businesses but also to make them hugely profitable." The Ambassador

went on to say, "We will succeed because of our national determination: the support from Pakistani diaspora and the backing from our friends like the United States.

This was remarked by Ambassador Masood Khan while talking to US busi-



series of interactions with business community and their leaders.

Los Angeles Area Chambers Ms. Maria S. Salinas, included Pepsi, Coco-Cola, General Electric, Abbot,

McDonald's. Pizza Hut, and Domino's Pizza. "They find our market rewarding," he ob-

ments in Pakistan," he the biggest chamber of

commerce in California. The Chamber has been a

attended by JI's foreign af-

fairs department director

Asif Luqman Qazi and

party's information secre-

mended the role played by

Iran on the Palestine issue.

lamic revolution in Iran

spearheaded by Imam

Khomeini and noted that

the founder of JI Sved

Maududi had established

initial contact with Iran's

former supreme leader af-

"The government should come out of the in-

ternational pressure on

Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipe-

line and complete the project on urgent basis," JI

ter the revolution.

Hafiz Naeem com-

He also lauded the Is-

tary Qaisar Sharif.

champion for the business community for 136 years now and has more than 1400 companies as members across 35 sectors.

Highlighting multi-billions Gulf investment in Pakistan, the Ambassador invited US business community to join hands with Gulf nations and form tri lateral partnership for fully reaping dividends being offered by Pak economy.

Inviting President LA Area Chambers of Commerce to visit Pakistan and also to encourage US business leaders, he observed that positive perception after their visit will build confidence.

The Ambassador also proposed sister city partnership between Los Angeles and Karachi to provide a framework for enhanced economic interactions

Deputy PM, **Turkish FM** discuss bilateral ties between two countries

on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference in Banjul, The Gambia, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a

'Expressing satisfacbilateral cooperation, with nomic, trade, and defense

PML-N to support PPP candidate Ali Qasim in NA 148 by-poll

Local leadership of PML-N including District President Bilal Butt, Ex MPA Shehzad Maqbool Bhutta and Chaudhary Abdul Waheed Aaraen while holding press conference here Sunday, stated that PML-N was supporting PPP candidate Syed Ali Qasim Gilani following in-

PPP Candidate Syed Ali Qasim Gillani thanked PML-N local leadership and stated that the support of PML-N had improved PPP position further. Gillani hinted that PPP and PML-N would contest by elections jointly. He also maintained that both PPP and PML-N had formed coalition government in the Centre and Punjab.

federal government has decided to keep at least one passport office open 24/7 in both Lahore and Karachi to provide ease to the people, Interior Minister Moĥsin Naqvi said on Sunday. "This will make it easier for everyone to access passport services any " he said in a social media post on X. With the implementation of this measure, individuals residing in Lahore and Karachi will have the flexibility to access passport services outside of regular business hours, accommodating diverse schedules and minimizing any inconvenience caused by time constraints.

redoubling efforts against Israel's genocide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary-General of the The summit is being held in light of the danger-Organization of Islamic Cooperation ous and unprecedented developments taking place in Hissein Ibrahim Taha has urged the member states the Palestinian cause, espeto redouble efforts to mocially the crimes of the brubilize the responsibility of tal Israeli military aggresthe international commusion against the Palestinian nity towards stopping the The OIC secretary aggression and genocide against the Palestinian general announced the espeople in Gaza and the tablishment of a media ob-

OIC SG calls for

He also called on the and highlight, within the OIC Member States to conmedia, the numbers of martinue to mobilize international support for the recognition of the State of Palestine and help it attain full membership in the United

West Bank, including Al-

Quds Al-Sharif.

He was addressing the 15th Islamic Summit Conference of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that commenced its deliberation in Banjul, the capital of The Gambia under the theme: 'Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development', a

tyrs, wounded, detainees, and various crimes of the Israeli occupation. The OIC is also concurrently working towards activating the Legal Observatory to document Israeli crimes, in line

with the decision of the

recent Arab-Islamic Sum-

servatory at the OIC Gen-

eral Secretariat to document

mit in Riyadh. Furthermore, the secretary general reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to addressing pressing political and humanitarian challenges facing the OIC Mem-



BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference.

Deputy PM Dar, Bayramov resolve to further deepen Pak-Azerbaijan cooperation

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov on Sunday exchanged views on bilateral relations and resolved to further deepen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy and people-to-

people contacts. In a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference in Banjul, the Gambia, the two sides also

deepening dialogue and engagement, especially at the political level, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. Deputy Prime Minister Dar congratulated Azerbaijan on winning the bid to host COP 29 in the city of Baku in November 2024 and expressed Pakistan's interest in enhanced cooperation and experience sharing in combating climate change. He also appreciated Azerbaijan's firm and principled position on the just cause of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

noted the importance of (IIOJ&K). Rana says: PTI founder working on foreign agenda to destabilise country

MANDI Saudi delegation, PTI has (INP): Federal Minister for always impeded the path of Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain has said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder is working on the foreign agenda to destabilise the country.

Speaking to media, the senior PML-N leader said the PTI founder staged a sit-in in 2014 to weaken the

dent or the arrival of the of farmers.

progress. Every conspiracy of the PTI founder against the country is failing," he added. 'The PTI founder has

launched an attack on the national institutions on please his foreign masters. said Rana Tanveer.

Talking about the wheat crisis, he urged the country's economy. wheat crisis, he urged the federal and Punjab governvisit of the Chinese Presi- ments to resolve the issue



QUETTA: Affected victims of Ashiana Builders and Developers Project are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club.

Shahzad Baig named among TIME's 2024 list of 100 most influential people in healthcare

NEW YORK (APP): Dr. cases since 2021 when he Shahzad Baig, the National Coordinator of Pakistan's Eradication Polio

Programme, has been featured among Time magazine's '100 Most Influential People in Health' list for his drive to eradicate polio eradication in the country. Time's annual list features pioneers, leaders and icons from around the world who have made an impact.

In Dr. Baig's profile, Jeffrey Kluger, Editor-at-Large of Time magazine, highlighted that under his leadership there has been a

assumed this post. "The goal is to bring

that number to zero by 2026,". "In 2019, polio disabled or killed 147 people in Pakistan; since Baig assumed the position, in 2021, case counts have plummeted, with only six children stricken in 2023.

'The goal is to bring that number to zero by 2026," he wrote. The magazine said that targeted attacks on polio workers from 2012-2016 had killed 200 personnel but Dr Baig had "declared that the days of extremists

LOS ANGLES (INP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the bankers and professionals Honeywell, Oracle, Honeywell, Microsoft, Dell, IBM, Catfrom Los Angeles during his

Talking to President

the Ambassador to US highlighted that Pakistan was already hosting some eighty American enterprises. mostly Fortune 500 that

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz

Naeemur Rehman on Sun-

day held a meeting with Ira-

nian ambassador Reza

Amiri-Moghaddam in

Palestine issue and matters

of mutual interest were dis-

cussed during the meeting.

congratulated Rehman on

assuming the office of JI emir and extended his warm

lauded the JI's intra-party

election and termed it truly

invitation to JI emir to visit

He also extended an

The meeting was also

Pak-Iran relations, the

The Iranian diplomat

ambassador

Islamabad

The

'We want US companies to scale up their invest-

LA Area chamber is

JI emir, Iranian envoy condemn Israeli atrocities in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan reviewed the state of bilateral relations on Sunday and emphasized the exceptional bilateral relations and the strong bonds of friendship between Pa-

kistan and Turkey.
The two leaders met

press release. tion with the positive momentum in bilateral relations, they reiterated their resolve to further deepen

sectors," it was added.

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) announced to support Pakistan People Party candidate Syed Ali Qasim Gilani for by elections in NA 148.

struction from the leader

At least one passport office to stay open **24/7** in both Lahore, Karachi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

through social media platnience fellow pilgrims. He forms. He urged intending stressed the importance of pilgrims to remain vigilant focusing on religious duties and avoid falling prey to and maintaining decorum such scams, which exploit for a seamless pilgrimage the religious sentiments of In addition, Ashrafi innocent people for monurged pilgrims to refrain Moreover, Ashrafi adfrom engaging in political

QUETTA: A view of the open sewerage nulla in front of shop may cause any mishap that need the attention of concerned authorities.

PKI announces protest march towards Lahore on May 10

stan Kissan Ittehad (PKI) announced to hold march from Multan to Lahore on March 10 to register their concerns and protest regarding the wheat issue. While holding press

conference here Sunday, Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Khalid Khokhar stated that the march would be attended by thousands of the peasants. He added that farmers would join protest march with their families, tractor trollies, and animals. The protest will continue till imposition of agriculture emergency in the province, he said.

About the agriculture emergency, he stated that government would have to announce start of wheat

tariff and decrease in Urea fertilizer prices. About recent wheat crisis, he alleged that decision was wheat import was based on corrupt practices. When a bumper stock

was available in the country, there was no need to import wheat, he added. He called for punishment to the persons involved in the mega scandal.

Khalid stated that the farmers were under immense tension due to lack of wheat purchase. Farmers are not in position to sow next important crops including cotton and rice, he said and added that Pakistan used to export material worth 31.5 billion dollars annually.

principles, legal regulations dressed the issue of unau- activities during the Hajj thorized pilgrimage by Pa-season, particularly at kistani diaspora in Saudi Haramain Sharifain and Arabia, emphasizing that other sacred sites in Saudi performing Hajj without Arabia. He underscored that official permission is such actions are not only strictly prohibited accord- contrary to Islamic teaching to Islamic principles ings and Shariah but also and the law of the land. He reflect poorly on Pakistan warned that individuals in the international commucaught without proper au- nity. Ashrafi also commended the government's thorization would face consequences, potentially tarnishing the reputation of of Army Staff General Syed nishing the reputation of the country. Highlighting Asim Munir, for their supanother concern, Ashrafi port in facilitating Hajj pildiscouraged pilgrims from grims. He acknowledged engaging in disruptive bethe army chief's initiatives havior, such as taking selfies to stabilize the exchange rate and safeguard the liveals, which could inconvelihoods of those dependent on Hajj-related industries.

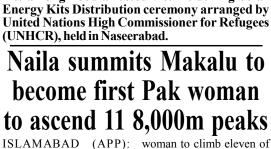
The code of conduct. grounded in the Holy Quran and the Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), underscores the necessity of undertaking Hajj with Halal

Naqvi pays tribute to martyred **Constable**

SLAMABAD (APP) ederal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday paid tribute to Constable Jsman Ghani, who was martyred by terrorists firing near Shan Khel Karuna in the limits of SMA police station in Tank. "Constable Usman Ghani earned high status of martyrdom" said the minister adding that Martyr Constable Usman Ghani laid down his precious life for the peace of the country. KPK Police is on the frontline in the war against terrorism, he said.

Bilawal greets Naila Kiani on scaling mount makalu

KARACHI (APP): The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended his warmest congratulations to Naila Kiani on her remarkable feat of scaling Mount Makalu, the fifth-highest peak in the world. Bilawal, in his message, said that it is a moment of immense pride for all Pakistanis as we celebrate Naila Kyani's historic accomplishment.



NASEERABAD: Volunteers are distributing solar

kits among flood affected victims during Solar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Naila Kiani has achieved another historic milestone when on Sunday successfully summitted Makalu, the 5th highest peak in the world at 8,485 meters.

According to information received here, Naila ascended the peak at approximately 8:50 am Pakistan time. This remarkable feat also makes her the first Pakistani woman to have summited this incredibly

difficult mountain. Naila in a statement thanked all the nation for the prayers and good wishes. She also thanked Sherpa Gelgen Dai from Imagine Nepal, who supported her every step of the way, making the achievement possible.

This latest success highlights Naila's exceptional endurance and deter-

Naila is a remarkable Pakistani woman, known for her achievements as a high-altitude mountaineer. She holds the distinction of being the first Pakistani

the world's highest peaks, all of which are above 8,000 meters. Notably, she achieved this feat in less than six months, making her one of only ten mountaineers worldwide and the sole Pakistani to have climbed multiple peaks (seven) over 8,000 meters in such a short timeframe. Additionally, Kiani holds the record as the fastest years. Beyond her mountaineering prowess, Kiani has

excelled in various fields. She is an aerospace engineer, having studied at the University of London, and has held a prominent position as an Associate Vice President at HSBC bank. She is also a competitive boxer and a dedicated mother of two toddlers. Despite her busy life, she continues to push boundaries by scaling some of the world's most challenging peaks. Kiani is a role model and a goodwill ambassador for several organizations supporting women's education and youth empower-



KARACHI: People enjoy bathing at the Sea View picnic point after the heat increases in the city.