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Iranian President Raisi, FM killed in helicopter crash

Helicopter completely destroyed in crash; Funeral procession to take place today; Supreme Leader Khamenei confirms Mohammad Mokhber as interim president, declares five days of public mourning; Iran's military chief of staff Mohammad Bagheri ordered a probe into the cause of a helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi

ΓΕΗRAN (INP): Iranian President Èbrahim Raisi and the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian have died in a helicopter crash, the country's Mehr news

agency said on Monday. A senior Iranian official, requesting anonymity following the sensitivity of the development, told a foreign news agency: "President Raisi, the foreign minister and all the passengers in the

"all passengers of the helicopter" were "martyred".

The chopper that carried President Raisi and Iran's foreign minister ter. crashed on Sunday while flying through a mountainous terrain amid heavy fog in the Varzaqan region of the country's East

Azerbaijan province. According to Iranian



Governor Balochistan calls Iranian ambassador; expresses grief over death of President Raisi, others

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail telephoned Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghaddam and expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in the Helicopter crash. In his telephonic conversation with Iranian ambassador on Monday, the Governor Balochistan said that he is grieved over the martyrdom of President Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian FM and other personalities in helicopter crash.

The Governor said that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly Islamic countries. He paid rich tributes to the late President Raisi for making sincere efforts for strengthening the relations between the two countries

helicopter were killed in the state media, bad weather caused the crash and was Iran's Mehr news complicating rescue efforts agency also confirmed that in the country's northwestern region. Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Raisi was flying in a US-made Bell 212 helicop-

> Iran Red Crescent Society chief Pir-Hossein Kolivand, in an interview to semi-official Tasnim news agency, said: "No trace of survivors has been seen after the discovery of the site of the crashed helicopter."

He further revealed that rescue teams found the copter's crash site after hours of extensive search in a mountainous region" in Iran's East Azerbaijan prov-

President Raisi, FM Amirabdollahian and other high officials were returning to Iran after attending an inauguration ceremony of a dam on Iran's border with the Republic of Azerbaijan when the illfated chopper crashed Sunday afternoon.

Following the death of the Iranian President, the Islamic Republic's First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber is set to assume power after the the Supreme Leader's issues an approval, as per Article 131 Tran's Constitution.

Who was Ebrahim Raisi? From Qom to Tehran Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi, who represented conservative forces in the country, has died after a helicopter carrying



PM visits Iranian Embassy to condole deaths of President Raisi & FM in tragic incident

Great loss for Muslim Ummah: President Zardari condoles death of Iran's Ebrahim Raisi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad to condole the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a tragic incident on Sunday.
"I am deeply shocked

and saddened by the tragic news of the martyrdom of my brother, President of Iran, Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian, in a helicopter crash," the prime minister said during his visit

felt condolences to the bereaved families and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the time of sorrow and grief.

"Our sympathies and prayers are with the family members of the martyrs and the people of Iran." The prime minister

said Dr Seyed Ebrahim Raisi was a brilliant scholar and a visionary leader. "Today, Pakistan has lost a friend like Dr Raisi, a sincere brother with high quali-

PM Shehbaz said that his services to his own na-

He expressed his heart- tion as well as to the strengthening of Pakistan-

Iran relations and regional

cooperation would always

be remembered. He said President Raisi's visit to Pakistan last month helped further strengthen bilateral relations. May Allah grant the departed souls a hgh place in paradise, the prime min-

ister prayed. Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistani nation for standing with his country during the difficult time

PM prays for

good health of

Saudi King

Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif on Monday express-

ing concern over health of

Saudi King Salman Bin

Abdulaziz, prayed for his

complete recovery and good

grave concern about the

health of His Majesty King

Salman bin Abdulaziz. His

Majesty is not only a sin-

cere friend of Pakistan but

as the Custodian of the

Two Holy Mosques, a

leader and guide for the en-

tire Muslim Ummah," the

prime minister wrote on his

stan join me in praying to

the Almighty for His

Majesty's complete recov-

ery and swift return to full

CM issues orders

for assistance of

students stranded

in Kyrgyzstan

health," he added.

'The people of Paki-

X timeline.

"I have learnt with

LAMABAD (APP):Prime Minister

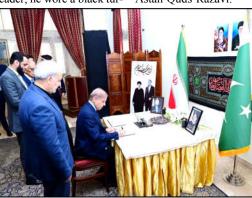
him and other officials crashed in a mountainous and forested area of the country in poor weather.

World media is remembering him in conflicting manners, with the Western outlets, especially those from the US, presenting him as ruthless leader. However, others have more

realistic approach. According to Al Jazeera, Raisi, 63, who previously served as a chief justice, appeared on track to run for re-election next year and was touted as a potential successor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 85year-old supreme leader of Iran. Born in Mashhad in north-eastern Iran, a religious hub for Shia Muslims, he underwent religious education and was trained at the seminary in Qom, studying under prominent scholars, including Khamenei.

Also like the supreme leader, he wore a black tur-

ban, which signified that he was a Savved – a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, a status with particular significance among Twelver Shia Muslims. Raisi racked up experience as a prosecutor in multiple jurisdictions before coming to Tehran in 1985. It was in the capital city that, according to human rights organisations, he was part of a committee of judges who oversaw executions of political prisoners. The late president was a long-time member of the Assembly of Experts, the body that is tasked with choosing a replacement for the supreme leader in the event of his death. He became attorney general in 2014 for two years, when he was appointed Khamenei to lead the Astan Quds Razavi.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recording condolence remarks in the visitor's book of the embassy in honor of the Iranian President.

Media persons ends boycott of coverage of BA session: CM constitutes committee for talks with media persons over issue of lockdown of QPC

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti formed a committee to hold talks with the protesting media persons on the issue of lockdown of Quetta Press Club.

The committee comprised the provincial Minister Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and members of provincial assembly, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Mir Zabid Reki.

Meanwhile, the government committee held talks with the media persons outside the provincial assem-

The members of committee condemned the incident of lockdown of Quetta press club by local administration. They said that there's an important role of media persons in highlighting the issues of Balochistan. They assured that the action would be taken against those respon-

Quetta Press Club. Afterwards, the media persons ended their protest and boycott of the proceedings of assembly.

sible for lockdown of the

Earlier, they had walked out of the media gallery of assembly as a mark of protest against the lockdown of press club.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Hakan Fidan, Turkish Foreign Minister during meeting held in Rawalpindi.

SLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Turkish FM calls on COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP) Turkish Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan paid a visit to Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir on Monday and commended the Pakistan Army's role in maintaining peace and stanility in the region.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest came under discussion, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited Turkish companies to further expand their investment portfolio in Pakistan, also urging them to consider relocating their industrial units

talking to Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who called on him here, said that the current level of bilateral trade was not commensurate with the existing poten-

dertake concerted efforts for achieving the bilateral trade target of US\$ 5 billion in the next three years as already agreed by the leadership of the two brotherly countries.

hood between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral relationship.

Pakistan's firm commitment to further expansion of bilateral cooperation, in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, technology and defence.

Regional and global developments, particularly the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza were also discussed in the meeting. Prime Minister Shehbaz

Independent Report appreciated President QUETTA: The Chief Min-Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ister Balochistan, Mir staunch advocacy for a per-Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has issued orders for assistance of the students belonging to the province stranded in

Kyrgyzstan. The Chief Minister ization of the two-state soannounced that the stulution as the key to attaindents of the province ment of durable peace in the would be brought by the flights of Pakistan International Airlines.

> He also announced that the provincial government would bear the expenses of return of the students from Kyrgyzstan.

He said that the Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and MPA Mir Zarin Khan Magsi would be the focal persons in the matter. Both the nominated fo-

cal persons would monitor

the measures to be taken

for return of the students from Kyrgyzstan Balochistan. The Chief Minister said that we are fully aware of the anxiety being suffered by the families of stu-

dents

stranded

Kyrgyzstan. Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Zarin Magsi said that the process of booking has been started for the students in PIA flights

BA adopts resolutions about installation of LPG plants & preparation of Health Dept.'s budget as per NFC Award

Independent Report Balochistan Assembly adopted resolutions about installation of LPG Plants in districts of the province, which are lacking the facility of natural gas.

The Provincial Assembly also adopted the resolution which demand steps for preparing the budget of Health department according to the NFC Award.

The resolutions were adopted in the sitting of Provincial Assembly held with Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in the chair on

The resolution regard-

LPG plants in the districts which are deprived of the facility of natural gas was presented by the Opposition member, Mir Asadullah Baloch in last sitting of provincial assembly.

The resolution was adopted after debate on it. Similarly, the resolution demanding steps for preparation of the Health department budget as per the allocations of NFC Award was tabled by the Opposition member, Khair Jan Baloch. It was pointed out that in the resolution that the Health sector is deteriorated for long in the province mainly because of short-



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti recording condolence remarks in the visitor's book during his visit to Iranian Consulate Quetta

CM along with Ministers, MPAs visit Iranian consulate; expresses grief & condolence over tragic mishap

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited the Iranian Consulate in Quetta on Monday afternoon, to personally express condolence to the Iranian diplomats deputed there over the death of President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in the Helicopter crash.

He was accompanied by the Provincial Ministers Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Khosa and Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Mir Barkat Rind and MPA,

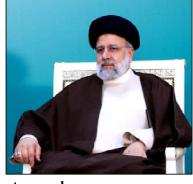
Mir Zabid Reki. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that every Pakistani is standing with the Iranian nation and government in

the time of trial. He said that the late President Raisi played vital role for strengthening the relations between Pakistan and Iran.

He expressed the belief that the mission of the late President would remain continued even after the big tragedy. He also said that the progress made by the Iranian President for bringing improvement in the relations between the two Asghar Rind and Mir countries would always be

Condolence

Daily Independent Group of Newspaper expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash and extended heartfelt condolences to the government of Iran, the families of the president, the foreign minister, and all others who lost their lives in the incident, as well as to the people of the brotherly nation of Iran over the martyrdom



of Iranian leadership in the helicopter crash.

people of Iran in this time of irreparable loss

President Raisi was a strong proponent of Pak-Iran partnership for regional development and was a great friend of Pakistan.

It a great loss not only for Iran but for the entire Muslim Ummah. The Islamic World had lost a remarkable leader who always supported the Muslim cause. Late President Raisi would be dearly missed and fondly re-

membered in Iran, Pakistan, and the Islamic World for his efforts to enhance relations with regional and Islamic countries. We pray to Allah Almighty to bless the departed souls with peace and grant patience and strength to their families and the

> **Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers**

PM urges Turkish firms to expand investment, relocate industries to Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP):

to the country. The prime minister,

He emphasized to un-

While underscoring the special bonds of brothermanent ceasefire in Gaza and lasting peace in the Middle East. He stressed the urgency and importance of the real-

Middle East. The prime minister also reiterated his invitation to President Erdogan to undertake an early official visit to Pakistan for co-chairing with him the 7th meeting of High Level Strategic Cooperation



QUETTA: Provincial Minister, Mir Zahoor Buledi along with MPA, Mir Shoaib Nosherani, Zahid Reki and others are negotiating with Members of Balochistan Union of Journalists during their protest against the locking of press club by the district administration and police, outside Balochistan Assembly in Quetta.

Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

Wheat price crash

What the government has done to Punjab's smallholder wheat growers by staying out of the market amid crashing prices is deplorable. The majority of farmers were forced to sell their crop to middlemen at throwaway prices.

When some protested against the government for leaving them in the lurch, they were beaten by the police and detained. Their plight was finally voiced by some lawmakers in the National Assembly recently, with PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari calling it 'economic murder' of the farmers. Last Thursday, lawmakers from both the treasury and the opposition raised the issue of the arrests of farmers. PPP's Shazia Marri urged the government to accept the demands of protesting growers, while calling for excesses against them to be brought to an end. PTI's Amir Dogar pointed out that it was for the first time in the country's history that the government had refused to purchase wheat from farmers.

The Pakistan Kissan Ittehad, a body representing small- to medium-sized farmers from across Punjab, claims that wheat farmers had lost Rs1.1tr due to a steep drop in grain prices as they were compelled to sell their harvest at around Rs3,000 per 40kg or even less, which is far below Rs3,900 promised by the government. Indeed, the government could not have purchased the entire tradable surplus of 10m tons this year. However, its presence in the market would have kept prices from

Punjab's farmers are going through difficult times, exacerbated by policy failure and the import of over 3.4m tons of wheat shortly before the bumper harvest on the direction of the caretaker government. The imports had facilitated traders to make quick bucks at the cost of both farmers and urban consumers who paid higher prices for lowquality imported wheat.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was quick to set up a probe committee to pin responsibility for the decision to import at a time when the country had adequate stocks from the last harvest and authorities were expecting a record wheat output on the back of a significant increase in the area under cultivation. Nonetheless, the media reports suggest, the terms of the inquiry were changed later and it was stopped from looking into the questionable role of the caretaker administration in allowing heavy imports for some inexplicable reasons. The committee's mandate is now limited to investigating imports during March.

It remains a mystery why the premier does not want to probe the role of caretakers in wheat imports despite the negative impact of the 'crisis' on the position of the ruling PML-N among farmers. So far, the formation of the probe committee appears to be an attempt to sweep the issue under the carpet, unless it is allowed to hold a thorough inquiry and pin responsibility for reckless imports.

Serving digitally

Abdullah Khalid

Pakistan's digital landscape is undergoing a seismic shift. From vibrant, swarming urban tech hubs to remote vilbile internet connectivis reshaping the nation. Yet, its potential to emremains largely untapped. While federal ments have embarked on ambitious digital initiatives, true transformaefforts to the grassroots level. This is where the power of pixels — building blocks of the digital world — can be bound to build stronger, more empowerment, responsive local government structures.

Pakistan's digital landscape is a canvas of opportunities, which boasts a vibrant ecosystem of start-ups, tech giants and a burgeoning freelance community. The mobile teledensity rate exceeds 70 per cent and internet usage is also witnessing a rapid rise in rural areas. As per the Pakistan Economic Survey 22-23, during July to March in FY2023, IT exports reached \$1.94 billion as compared to \$1.95bn in datasets. Undoubtedly, the previous year. The AI can help local gov-IT export contribution is ernments in FY24 and \$16bn by FY33. This growth offers a unique chance to en- ery. hance citizen-local government connections through e-governance, such as online tax and complaint systems, streamlining services, restricting bureaucracy and boosting efficiency.

Government initiatives, such as Digital Pakistan, Digital Punjab and digitalisation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aim to streamline public bat corruption, along services and foster digital inclusivity across veillance systems, public sectors. These which enhance public programmes are laying safety by monitoring the groundwork for a sensitive areas

digitally connected ecosystem where information in local tion flows seamlessly, governance, Pakistan empowering citizens to must formulate compreparticipate actively in hensive policies and

service delivery, citizen and provincial govern- engagement and governance through improved transparency and accountability, loresources and technology to serve effectively. Digitalisation, supported by necessary legislative and financial can modernise services, facilitate citizen feedback and promote accountability, ensuring that every community benefits equally from digital ad-

> perior access and digital literacy. Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming governance globally and that is why achieving a pixelperfect future should feature prominently on our wish list. Let's imagine Pakistan leveraging AI to analyse large requirements and optimise service deliv-

vancements through su-

Personalised citizen experiences via AIvirtual assistants can make personalised information and support available to citizens. More importantly, AIdriven fraud detection systems can help local governments identify and prevent misuse of public funds and comwith AI-powered surTo maximise digital

local decision-making. regulatory frameworks,
The true impact of which facilitate lages buzzing with mo- digital transformation in interoperability and Pakistan hinges on its consistency in digital ity, a digital revolution implementation at the initiatives. It is crucial grassroots level by lo- to foster collaboration cal governments. While across government levpower local governance digitalising local gover- els, secure data privacy nance can revolutionise and engage with the private sector and civil society for innovative solutions. Moreover, an inclusive digital infrastructure across all artion lies in taking these cal bodies often lack the eas provides equal access to digital services and opportunities.

Pakistan can learn from global leaders in digital governance to accelerate its transformational journey. Estonia has a highly digitised government with almost all services accessible online and Singapore, with its "Smart Nation" initiative, leverages AI and data analytics for efficient urban manage-

country's Our digital revolution centres on a collaborative, inclusive, localised approach local governments, empowered with resources, and knowledge necessary to navigate the digital IT export contribution is projected to reach \$3bn trends, predict resource way for sustainable and equitable development. As the nation charts the course for a modern digital future, prioritising local goverpowered chatbots and nance has to be seen as a strategic imperative because it promises a resilient, connected and

empowered nation. This is not just about pixels and servers. It is about building a future where every citizen feels heard, empowered and actively involved in shaping communities. Let us embrace this path and create a future where local governance is able to serve every citizen.

Land of opportunity

Zarrar Khuhro

story like Dubai Un- kistani tax authorities works only confirm what we already know to be true which, in this case, is that Pakistan is a poor country with some very rich people.

ten than not, those ones who tend to control the levers of power, will certainly go after often using them like tax evaders. the lever of a slot maantee of a massive pay-

data on record Pakistanis own about \$12.5 billion worth of properties in Dubai, al-though former FBR Shabbar chairman Zaidi thinks the actual value is closer to, or possibly in excess of \$20bn. Now, this may when it comes, usually not be a huge sum by tends to target politiglobal standards but given the perpetual penury of Pakistan, it's pretty darn staggering.

Also bear in mind that there are a lot of prominent and not-sowho happen to be a clearly resident or partially resident in Dubai but do not show up on this list, leading one to believe that the properties they 'own' are the names of their relatives.

That said, some improperty in Dubai or anywhere else in the world is not an illegal act or — in and of itself — evidence of any kind of financial fraud

the uncovered data. Certainly, many of themselves at the re-First: it's not necessary these properties have ceiving end of the authat every investigative been declared with Pa- thorities' ire — seleclocked can or will, in and are above board, this part of our ruling and of itself, cause the but at the very least we elite is usually beyond government to fall or must expect the FBR to any sort of reproach or

the prevailing order to inquire as to whether accountability. be unsettled. Somethat is so for all the But despite times, such journalistic names listed in the hoopla and handleaks. Thus far, we have been promised will remain a safe haven that this will indeed not just for one's happen with the FBR wealth but also for chairman promising one's self; after all that if he has access to And that, more of- the data as well as in- if the heat gets turned formation on residence on here at home as it people are the very status, and if the politi- so often does? cal will is present, he

chine in Las Vegas, ex- of ifs and buts it would truly a land of opporcept with a near-guar- certainly be a more tunity where one can worthwhile use of the rise from the humblest FBR's time than trying All told, as per the to block the SIMs of non-filers. If nothing else, such data can all by dint of hard work. prove to be the starting point for a deeper investigation in Pakistan, provided anyone

has the will to do so. the rub: accountability, cians and that too, those politicians it happened to be convehave seen that an a prime minster Anwar so clearly is. knocked out by using Then of cour Black's Law Dictionary as a cudgel.

We have seen a watch prove sufficient to imprison another not in their names or former PM when the who is also listed as need arose, and at the the owner of nine same time we have seen much larger portant disclaimers are crimes go ignored and necessary: owning unpunished (or even listed as a driver but rewarded) when it is who apparently drives expedient to do so. An investigation,

if one were to take Dubai. place, must then also who have reported on our civilian rulers do ousy.

investment in Pakistan was

Swedish tech companies to

Ambassador of Sweden

Henrik Persson, who called

on her. Director General

International Coordination

Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi

also attended the meeting.

matters of mutual interest

and boosting cooperation in the IT and

They discussed

She was talking to

invest in the country.

conducive and urged the relations.

now and then find tive as that may be -

But despite all the wringing, Dubai is and where better to flee to

Another thing that the leaks prove is that contrary to popular While that's a lot opinion — Pakistan is of backgrounds to be able to acquire pricey foreign properties, and

There's no better example of this than former SSP Rao Anwar himself who, despite having a salary of And therein lies some Rs95,000, has managed to provide his wife with some five properties (unless of course she has the resources to acquire them herself) with two nient to target. In the of those properties not-so-distant past we jointly owned by their son. One must, of Iqama or an unpaid sal- course, appreciate a prominent Pakistanis ary is enough to have family man, as Mr

Then of course there's Dr Mukhtar Hamid Shah, a highly successful specialising in illegal kidney transplants, Dubai properties. Then there's Hamid Samoo, whose profession is so darn well that he can afford a property in

Now, some may acinclude those former cuse these worthies of or wrongdoing as has military personnel who having gained their been repeatedly stated have such properties wealth illegally but I by all the publications as well because while feel that's just jeal-

business-to-business

branding of Pakistan in the

Swedish ICT market," she

Swedish and Pakistan's

tech companies could

that the collaboration in

BPO (Business Process

Outsourcing) sector would

Shaza further said

maintained.

roadshows.

"We also want

Commerce News

Rana Tanveer says: **Economic revival top** priority of PML-N govt

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister of Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Monday that economic revival was the mission and top priority of the Muslim (Nawaz) government. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of a special economic zone improve the economic being utilized to increase (SEZ) at Rachana condition of the country," exports of agriculture and (SEZ) at Rachana In d u s t r i a l Park, Sheikhupura, he added that Pakistan had now been on the path to development due to the best economic policies, asserting that private that Rachna Industrial Park sector also had to play its and other special economic vowed to develop this vital role for development of the economy. Chaos and important milestones for politics of altercation had always harmed the country.

hatred but in the practical a game changer project to he maintained.

said, "I am happy to inaugurate the Special Economic Zone in Rachana Industrial Park." He hoped economic development. The SEZs have

The PML-N government does not believe in the around the world and led politics of anarchy and nations to prosperity. "Our success lies in the positive measures and not in mere impact on economic hollow slogans. "We have growth and sustainability, strengthened the country and the society," he economically. We have remarked. Rana Tanveer economically. We have founded the CPEC that is Hussain said that all possible resources were industrial sectors. Increased The federal minister industrial production leads to more foreign exchange income of a country. The development of a country is hinged on industrial development, he said and sector by taking measures attract foreign investments and increase

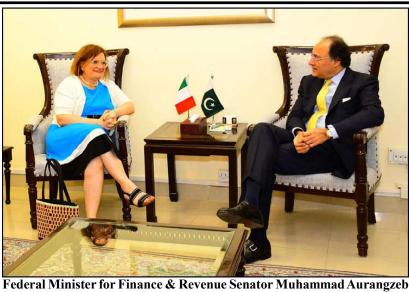
Shipping

export capacity.

morning.

Cargo volume of 144,554 tonnes. comprising 126,123 tonnes imports cargo and 18,431 tonnes export cargo carried in 4,099 Containers (3,202 TEUs Imports and 897 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Oasim.



was called on by Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H.E. Ms. Marilina Armellin

Italian Ambassador meets Finance Minister, discusses bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Marilina Armellin Monday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator, Muhammad Aurangzeb, to discuss the cooperation and longstanding relations

The minister welcomed the ambassador and highlighted the significant improvements in Pakistan's economic landscape, said a news release here.

The imports of the overall

petroleum group decreased

by 1.53 percent during the

first ten months of the

current fiscal year (2023-

24) as compared to the

corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan

Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

the petroleum group during July-April (2023-24) stood at \$13,761.071 million, as

against the imports of

\$13.974.609 million during

the same period of last

year, according to PBS

The total imports of

reported.

M u h a m m a d mission for a new program government's achievements, decreasing current account deficit, globalization of

currency, the stock market reaching an all-time high and the successful between the two countries. completion of the ninemonth Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He further mentioned that the ministry was currently in engagement with the IMF

commodities, the import

of petroleum products

declined by 14.09 percent, from \$6,149.116 million last year to \$5,283.001

million during the time

of petroleum crude increased by 10.40

increased by 10.40 percent, from \$4,137.725 million to \$4,567.954;

natural gas liquefied by

4.56 percent, from \$3,110.837 to \$3,252.812 whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquidisting.

petroleum gas liquefied went up by 13.96 percent.

However, the imports

period under review.

POL import bill

decreases by 1.53%

ISLAMABAD (APP): data. Among petroleum

Aurangzeb discussed the on longer term basis. The minister also outlined the government's strategic initiatives aimed at broadening the tax base by targeting previously untaxed and under-taxed segments. Additionally, he reiterated the government's commitment to privatize various State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), starting with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) also followed by major airports.

Gold rates up by Rs 2,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 2,300 and was sold at Rs 250,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 248,100 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,972 to despite consistent growth Rs 214,678 from Rs 212,706 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 196,788 from Rs 194,980, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association

telecommunication filed. strengthen Shaza Fatima said that relations of the two the present government countries.

Shaza invites Swedish

tech companies to

invest in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): was fully focused upon the Minister of State for IT and telecommunication

Information Technology sector. She noted that the and Telecommunication IT exports of Pakistan were

Shaza Fatima Khawaja on increasing, saying it

Monday said that wanted to increase its IT environment for foreign exports to Sweden, and

PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Siraj ul Haq calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at

Jazz sees over Growth in 1Q24

in Pakistan rupees terms.

footprint said a news release. Since its inception, the telco has invested USD 10.6 billion in Pakistan, with the most recent investment of over Rs 5.3 billion in 1Q24 showing its focus on strengthening its digital presence and transitioning into a tech-focused company. Describing the development as the first sign of Pakistan's recovering economic climate in a recent post on X, Jazz CEO Aamir

Governor's House. 19% USD Revenue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz has reported a notable 19.2% revenue increase in USD for the first quarter of 2024, marking a significant reversal from eight consecutive quarters

With nearly 72 million cellular subscribers including 46 million 4G users and 67 million digital monthly active users (MAUs), Jazz holds a nationwide

Îbrahim emphasized that to sustain this growth.

Businessmen & industrialists of Pakistan & USA making efforts to increase the volume of trade **Independent Report**

meeting of the Pakistan USA Business Council 2024-25 was held at the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Planning Commissioner KARACHI: The first and Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Director Imran Niazi was the guest of the event.
While on this occasion, Senior Vice

President FPCCI Saqib In which top business Fayaz Magon also of graced the meeting with



roadmap of council

County Government abroad.

Pakistan and America his valued suggestions participated to set a and on behalf of roadmap of council FPCCI he expressed goals & objectives.

The meeting was chaired by Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, Chairman of FPCCI the Expressed his full support for the commitment to ensure close liaison between the FPCCI Chamber the FPCCI Chamber and the Trade USA-PAK Business and the Trade Council. The Gwinnett Missions of Pakistan

activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI (APP): Three

ships, Tucapel, Maersk Durban and OM carrying Container and LPG berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on

Meanwhile another containers ship 'MSC Mumbai-VIII' also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today A total of ten ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Tucapel and Pan Ivy left the port on today morning, while four more ships, Maersk Durban, Rigel, Hafnia Excel and OM are expected to sail on



Tuesday May 21, 2024

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Faisal Karim Kundi addresses to Peshawar Division representatives delegation at Governor's House, Peshawar.

Punjab on way to progress: Minister

(APP): the province. He said Minister for Local Government Punjab Zeeshan Rafique has said under the leadership of this while addressing a public gathering on the Old Daska, here on

He said the local government department was going to implement the largest and most comprehensive solid waste environment to people of drainage.

garbage dumps would not be seen any where, while energy and reusable materials would be Punjab chief minister, the recycled from garbage province has been put on which will clean the the path to development environment as well. "We and progress. He stated will not deviate from the promises made in the public gathering on the election and we will inauguration of Road in reconstruct Daska", he added. The minister said the PC-1 for construction of five new roads in Daska were ready and work on these projects will be started in a few weeks while the construction of and sanitation system to sewerage Naullah will clean resolve problem of

Seminar held to increase employment provision for women

SIALKOT (APP): Women Development Punjab Secretary Sumaira Samad has said the dream of social and economic development can not be materialized without making women economically independent. "Our women are courageous and high spirited who are making full use of their talents in every field of life. There is a need to provide equal opportunities for women in the society and it is the joint employment for women and

obstacles in this regard, she added She was addressing a seminar organized in collaboration with South Asia Partnership Pakistan, GIZ and Siddhar Society in connection with the ongoing declaration to increase employment provision for women and disabled persons in the textile sector. Director General Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Punjab Amina Muneer said that there was an ample scope for dignified responsibility of the state disabled persons in the and the society to remove textile industry in Punjab.

SHO sustains **bullet** injuries in exchange of fire with dacoits

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A station house officer (SHO) received bullet injuries following an exchange of fire between a police team and unknown dacoits held here in the limits of Yarik police station late Sunday night. According to a police spokesman, the Yarik police station received information about a bikesnatching incident. In a quick response, a police team led by Yarik police station SHO Khubab Wali rushed to the site immediately.

ANF recovers 43 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover 43 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 121 Ice-filled capsules and 13 heroinfilled capsules were recovered from a Dohabound passenger arrested Peshawar Airport. In two operations at a courier office in Rawalpindi, 470 intoxicated tablets were

recovered from two parcels

booked for England.20 kg

Ketamine was recovered

from three suspects held in

Sohrab Goth Karachi.

MNA Iqbal Channar inaugurates Clinic on Wheels in Islamia Colony

BAHAWALPUR (APP): MNA Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar on Monday said that under the Punjab Chief Minister's healthcare vision, residents of the city's slums should be provided with healthcare facilities at their doorsteps under the Clinic on Wheels program.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the Punjab CM's Clinic on Wheels program in Islamia Colony. CEO Health Dr. Syed Tanvir Shah, DHO Dr. Zeeshan Rauf, District Coordinator Dr. Khalid Mahmood Arain, relevant the Punjab government's officers, and local residents Clinic on Wheels program.

were present on the occasion. MNA Malik Iqbal

Channar said that the Clinic on Wheels program is a revolutionary initiative by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He added that the program is providing people with healthcare facilities at their doorsteps. He further stated that doctors and paramedical staff are playing a key role in providing healthcare facilities to the people of the area. He urged the residents of the area to benefit from

Admissions for fall 2024 semester open at IUB

The admission campaign for fall admission 2024 has started in all campuses of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) Dr. Mincluding Bahawalpur, new Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan and Liaquatpur.

Dean Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce, Director Academic and Chairman Admission Committee there Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal has the Islamia University of other universities of Bahawalpur is among the South Punjab.

BAHAWALPUR (APP): top 10 universities of The admission campaign Pakistan and 1000 best universities in the world. Under the direction of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, many

educational

programs have been started at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in line with the needs of domestic and foreign markets. Among them, are educational programs said in his message that which are not taught in

PID Peshawar holds seminar for KP journalists on countering fake news

propaganda, fake news and

disinformation, which is

spreading fast on social and

digital media before verified by the journalists. PPC President,

Arshid Aziz Malik said

that journalism was a sacred profession and 4th

pillar of the state and

credible news and accurate

information is the right of

(PID) Peshawar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday organized a two-day workshop for journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on countering of fake news and disinformation in present era of social and digital media.

The seminar titled truth in the digital era: strategies for countering fake news in Pakistan" held here at a local hotel. The seminar was addressed besides others by President Peshawar Press Club (PPC), Arshad Aziz Malik, senior journalists Asif Nisar Gayasi and Maeraj Farooq. On the first day of

CM KP condoles

death of Iran's

President in

helicopter crash

PESHAWAR (APP): The

Chief Minister of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali

Amin Khan Monday

expressed shock and

sorrow over the death of

Ebrahim Raisi, President of

the Islamic Republic of

condolences to the bereaved families of the

Iranian president, the foreign minister, and others

who died in the helicopter

grants the martyrs a high

place in Jannat al-Firdous

and gives patience to their

families and the Iranian

nation for this tragedy. The

CM said the government

and people of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa stand with

them in this difficult time

The CM extended his

and share their sorrow.

this difficult time.

He prayed that Allah

He extended his

people of Pakistan. He said that fake news workshop,

and misinformation have posed serious threats to society in the present era of digitalization and great responsibility rests on media outlets, journalists

PESHAWAR (APP): Press participants were engaged and editors to ensure that Information Department in brainstorming and an the provided information extensive interactive was true before its session to combat publication or airing on TV challenges of negative channels.

The speakers highly preciated the endeavours of PID Peshawar, Ministry Information and Broadcasting conducting such an important workshop on key topic for journalists of KP. Enlightening the participants on the importance of countering fake news and negative propaganda, journalist, Asif Nisar Ghayasi said that journalists are eyes and ears of society and for the sake of honour

and prestige of reporters and anchors should ensure that their filed stories



KARACHI: Residents of Jehangir Road, Jamshed Road, Martin Quarter are protesting outside the office of K Electric at Tipu Sultan.

Irshad for provision of healthcare facilities to masses without interruption

Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care, South Punjab, Rashid Irshad Hussain on Monday urged upon all officers and staff to dedicate their full energy to provide comprehensive medical facilities to the people.

condolences to the There should be no bereaved families and the interruption or hindrance in Iranian people over the the provision of public precious loss of lives in the health services. He made crash and prayed for their these remarks while comfort and patience in addressing the introductory meeting after his Punjab should be carried out.

Punjab. During the meeting, he was briefed in length about the department's procedures and other matters. He emphasized that all available resources, workforce, and

capabilities should be utilized to ensure the provision of medical facilities at the doorstep of the people. The special secretary stated that effective and continuous monitoring of the service delivery at all hospitals and health centers in South

International News

Israeli strike on Nuseirat refugee camp kills 31

RAFAH: An Israeli strike killed 31 more Palestinians and wounded 20 others in a home in the central Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza on Sunday, the Palestinian civil defence agency said, as US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan visited Israel for talks on the conflict.

Witness Yasser Abu Oula said an entire residential complex "was destroyed" and "there are still bodies under the rubble". Israel has bombed northern and central areas of the coastal territory, sparking US warnings that it could become mired in a lengthy counterinsurgency campaign. Also, Israeli troops have moved in on the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah, where the US says 800,000 civilians have been recently displaced.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu every sense of the word,"

Monitoring Desk

KHARKIV: Ukraine said

Russian shelling targeted ci-

vilians in two cities in the

northeastern region of

Kharkiv on Saturday while

President Volodymyr

Zelenskiy reported suc-

cesses by troops fighting a

renews Russian assault

there. Ukrainian prosecu-

tors said they were investi-

gating as a potential war

crime a Russian air strike

on a residential area of the

who has vowed to keep intense opposition and calls to announce a plan for Gaza's post-war governance - from top ally Washington and from mass street protests, and now also from members of his war cabinet. Centrist politician Benny Gantz threatened him to quit the hardright coalition unless Netan-yahu approves a post-war "action plan" by

Since the escalation in Israeli strikes on Gaza, at least 35,456 Pales-tinians have been killed in Gaza. Israel has imposed a siege on the long-blockaded Gaza Strip, depriving its 2.4 million people of normal access to food, water, medicines and fuel, the suffering eased only by sporadic aid shipments. We are living through a humanitarian catastrophe in

People attend a protest outside the High Court on

the day of an extradition hearing of WikiLeaks

Ukraine says Russian

shelling targets civilians

in Kharkiv region

which six civilians were

wounded, including a 13-

year-old girl, 16-year-old

male and an eight-year-old.

Moscow denies deliber-

ately targeting civilians but

thousands have been killed

and injured since its Febru-

ary 2022 invasion of

Ukraine. About 70 km (45

miles) to the northeast in

Vovchansk, a city just 5 km

(three miles) from the Rus-

founder Julian Assange, in London, Britain.

said Rafah resident Rinad Joudeh, 41, decrying "destruction, fear and terror" nearly two weeks into the Israeli incursion into the city. The head of the UN

agency helping Palesti-nians said that "despite all the calls by the international community not to launch an offensive in Rafah, in reality an offensive started on May 6" Since then, "we have

again about half of the population of Gaza being on the road forced to flee' for safety once more, though "we keep saying there is absolutely nowhere to go," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini told reporters in Amman.

Warning of famine in the besieged territory, UN's humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said on Sunday the stranglehold on aid reaching Gaza threatens an "apocalyptic" outcome.

Taiwan ramps up island patrols ahead of inauguration

Monitoring Desk KINMEN: Taiwan's coast guard ramped up patrols over the weekend around outlying islands that have seen increased presence of Chinese vessels, the agency said on Sunday, the day before Lai Chingte's inauguration as Taiwan's new president. China has also in recent months deployed coast guard ships around Kinmen, an outlying island administered by Taipei located just five kilometres (three miles) from the Chinese city of

Xiamen. Taipei's Guard Adminis-tra-tion said it had sent personnel to "patrol all hours of the day and night" around Taiwan's three major outlying islands: Kinmen, Matsu and Penghu. "In order to ensure the security of the sea area and border safety during the inauguration ceremony.



Volunteers prepare food for displaced Palestinians in Rafah, in the southern

Russia says Ukraine makes 60-drone attack on Russia, oil refinery halted

Monitoring Desk Crimea and attacked Russian regions with at least 60 drones in a major attack that forced one oil refinery in southern Russia to half operations, Russian officials said on Sunday.

Russian air defences shot down nine ATACMS missiles over Crimea along with 57 drones over Russia's Krasnodar region and three drones over

Belgorod region, the de-MOSCOW: Ukraine fired fence ministry said. Local nine US ATACMS at officials said six drones crashed onto the territory of an oil refinery in Slavyansk in Russia's southern Krasnodar region. Interfax news agency said the refinery halted work after the attack. TASS quoted an official at the refinery as saying the charges carried by the Ukrainian-launched drones were bigger than previous attacks and that they included steel balls.

India begins voting in fifth phase as Mumbai, Gandhi family boroughs head to polls

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India began voting in the fifth phase of its mammoth general elections on Monday, with seats in the financial capital Mumbai and the opposition's Gandhi

of the seven-phase vote.
The world's largest election began on April 19 and will conclude on June 1, with votes set to be counted on June 4.

family bastions set to be

sealed in the last few legs

Monday's phase features the smallest number of seats being contested, with 89.5 million voters set to choose representatives for 49 seats. Several high-profile candidates are in the fray on Monday - including defence minister Rainath Singh from Lucknow and trade minister Piyush Goyal from Mumbai — cities which have suffered from a dismal voter turnout in the

DR Congo thwarts Kinshasa 'coup attempt', says army **Monitoring Desk**

KINSHASA: The DR Congo military on Sunday thwarted an attempted coup near the offices of President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa involving "foreigners and Congolese", the army spokesperson said.

The coup bid took place in the early hours of the morning outside the residence of economy minister Vital Kamerhe, in the Gombe area in the north of the capital, near the Palais de la Nation which houses the president's offices. "An attempted coup d'etat has been stopped by the defence and security forces."

Russia says it took full control of Bilohorivka in eastern Ukraine **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: The Russian military said on Monday it had taken full control of the settlement of Bilohorivka in Ukraine's Luhansk region and had taken up better positions in the area.

The Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement its forces had also been involved in fierce clashes in Ukraine's Kharkiv region near Vovchansk

Russia stresses strong ties with Iran

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin phoned Iran's new interim president on Monday as Moscow made clear its desire to preserve and build on its deepening relationship with Tehran despite the sudden death of President Ebrahim Raisi. The Kremlin said Putin expressed his condolences to interim president Mohammad Mokhber and the whole Iranian people over Raisi's death in a helicopter crash, describing Raisi as a "reliable partner who made an invaluable personal contribution" to bilateral relations.

"Both emphasised their mutual desire to further consistently strengthen comprehensive Russian-Iranian interaction for the benefit of said in its readout of the website.

State news agency RIA quoted Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Russia's Security Council, as saying Moscow could assist Iran in its investigation of the crash.

Since the state of the war in Ukraine, Russia has moved to strengthen its political, trade and military ties with Iran in a deepening relationship that the United States and Israel view with concern. In January, Russia's Foreign Ministry said a new interstate treaty reflecting the "unprecedented upswing" in Russia-Iran ties was in the final stages of being agreed, and Putin and Raisi were expected to sign it soon.

Putin held five hours of talks with Raisi in the Kremlin in December and had spoken to him by the peoples of the two countries," the Kremlin according to the Kremlin phone in March and April,

Biden reaches out to Gaza protesters in speech at Martin Luther King's college

on Sunday at the former university of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr that he heard their voices over the protests against the war in Gaza that have roiled US cam-

Biden during the graduation ceremony at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, the president added that he was working around the clock for an immediate ceasefire and lasting regional peace. "This is one of the hardest, most complicated problems in the world. There's nothing easy about it," said Biden, who wore a maroon and black gown in the colors of the historically Black university. "I know it angers and frustrates many of you, including my family, but most of all. I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well."

ATLANTA: President Joe Biden told students on Sunday at the Company at the Compan US campuses, have caused political troubles for Biden in an election year in which he is set for a rematch with Republican former president Donald Trump.

"I support peaceful, non-violent protest. Your As one student voices should be heard, stood with his back to and I promise you I hear and I promise you I hear them," Biden told the cer-

emony.

Biden said he wanted an "immediate ceasefire to stop the fighting, bring the hostages home'

The 81-year-old Democrat added that he was pushing for a "lasting, durable peace" in the wider Middle East that would lead to an independent Palestinian state, which he called the "only

solution. Biden had earlier applauded as the college's valedictorian, DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher, also called for an immediate ceasefire in his own speech

CM concerned about delay in dev. projects of provincial assembly; directs to expedite work

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed concern about delay in development projects of the provincial assembly and directed to the concerned high ups to expedite work on these projects. The Chief Minister also directed to complete all the ongoing development projects of provincial assembly within next

He issued these directives during visit of the development projects and a review meeting about these projects in the provincial assembly on Monday. Also present in the meeting were the Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola, provincial ministers, Chief Secretary, Shakeel

concerned high ups.
The senior officers of Planning and Development, Finance, Communication and Works and Secretary Provincial Assembly briefed the Chief Minister about the progress of difdevelopment ferent projects of the assembly. The Chief Minister

directed to appoint a Project Director for effective coordination among different departments engaged in execution of the development projects in provin-

cial assembly.

He noted with concern that the cost of development projects is increasing due to unnecessary delay. He directed to expedite pace of work after removing obstacles in the de-

velopment work. Earlier, he visited difdevelopment projects and inspected the



RAWALPINDI: General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Australian Defence Chief calls on Chairman Joint **Chiefs of Staff Committee**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Defence Forces Australia, General Angus J. Campbell is on official visit to Pakistan for 13th Round of Pakistan - Australia, Defence and Security Talks and 10th Round of 1.5 Track Security Dialogue, called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza here at Joint Staff

Headquarters on Monday. During the meeting, the two senior military leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions on defence and security cooperation, regional dynamics, and global security challenges, an Inter Services Public

Relations (ISPR) news re-

Both sides reiterated the resolve to further strengthen and enhance security and defence cooperation between the two countries. The Australian dignitaries remained appreciative of the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements in figh against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, General Angus J. Campbell, was presented "Guard of Honour" by a smartly turned-out tri-



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

Attaullah Tarar receives 170 more students at Lahore Airport

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has assured that all possible measures would be taken to facilitate the stu-Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Talking to the media at Allama Iqbal International Airport, where he welcomed 170 Pakistani students arriving on a special flight from Bishkek on Monday, the minister highlighted the government's proactive efforts. He noted that this was the fourth flight from the Kyrgyz local airline Aero Nomad, bringing the total number of returning students to 540.

The minister highlighted the government's unwavering focus on the well-being of returning students. He expressed gratitude that no Pakistani student was harmed in the recent attacks in Bishkek.

Attaullah Tarar acknowledged the alarming situation in Bishkek, which caused significant distress

Shehbaz Sharif was in constant contact with the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan and took immediate action to address dents returning from the students' concerns. The government is committed to ensuring the safety and education of Pakistani students, with plans to send them back once the situation stabilizes so they can complete their degrees, he added. He emphasized that, following the Prime Minister's special directive, ministers were present at airports to welcome the returning students, ensuring they did not feel alone.

stated that Prime Minister

Attaullah thanked Allah Almighty that no Pakistani lives were lost in the incident. He also called for responsible handling of the situation. He mentioned that a special flight is scheduled to bring back injured students. Earlier, at the airport, he greeted the arriving students with flowers and reassured their families that the government would prioritize reamong the students. He solving the students' issues.



QUETTA: Director General Balochistan NADRA Muhammad Kashif Iqbal listening problems of people at NRC Dasht



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with a delegation of Quetta

Pakistan, Turkiye target \$5b bilateral trade; call for permanent Gaza ceasefire

SLAMABAD (APP): Pa- manifested by elaborate inistan and Turkiye on Monday, vowing to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in multiple spheres, agreed to take the annual bilateral trade from existing \$1 billion to

In a joint press stakeout following their "extensive" delegation-level talks, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the media that they had reviewed bilateral cooperation including trade, investment, connectivity and de-

his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said the bilateral cooperation in all areas, was improving and measures were being taken to take the trade volume to \$5 billion.

Terming Pakistan and Turkiye "two countries and one nation," Dar said the strategic and comprehensive bilateral relations were

Ziaullah visits Iranian **Consulate**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove visited the Iranian Consulate here on Monday.

During the visit, the Provincial Minister condoled death of Iranian President Enrahim Raisi and his companions with the Deputy Consul General Syed Mehdi and other staff of Iranian Consulate and offered fateha for their de-

Also present on the occasion were the Member Provincial Asse, Mir Zabid Reki and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Minister for Home said that we are standing with Iranian people in the time of grief and trial.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the late Iranian President was the big supporter of unity of Muslim Jmmah.

Ghazala Gola expresses grief over martyrdom of Iranian **President**

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola on Monday expressed deep sorrow and grief over martyrdom of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister and others in a helicopter crash.

He said that loss caused by the helicopter accident was not only saddened for Iranian people but also for the people of Pakistan and the Muslim

The deputy speaker said that the manner in which the Iranian President had represented the Muslim Ummah around the world was commendable.

Pedestrian crossing at **Torkham Border** resumes

PESHAWAR (APP): The Torkham border between Pakistan and Afghanistan has reopened for pedestrian crossing after a three-day closure, said immigration

officials on Monday.

The officials said pedestrian crossing at Torkham Border has reopened after three days of closure. The border remained closed only for pedestrian crossing due to shifting of Immigration Section to a new building that required a period of three days. The officials said that all the necessary machinery has now been shifted to the new building.

stitutional mechanisms and high-level exchanges and visits at the level of political leadership.

He said both sides also discussed the Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) scheduled to take place in Islamabad in the near future to carry out a comprehensive review of cooperation including a holistic review of the strategic economic frame-

The deputy prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkiye had a history of defense cooperation and that both countries always supported each other on core issues, also during national calamities and disas-

Highlighting bilateral cooperation Islamophobia, he told the

media that consequent to their joint efforts, the OIC, in its recent summit, agreed to appoint Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr the departed souls and Mehmet Pacaci as secreprayer for patience for the tary-general's special envoy on Islamophobia.

Dar also Ishaq thanked Turkiye for its continuous support on the issue of Kashmir and reiterated Pakistan's support for the legitimate struggle of the people of the Turkish Republic of Northern

Discussing the Gaza situation, both leaders agreed on an immediate need for a permanent ceasefire and the establishment of an independent Palestine state to achieve lasting peace in the Middle

Mentioning the tragic helicopter crash in Iran killing President Ebrahim Raisi along with the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and others, Ishaq Dar called it a 'very sad day" for Muslim Ummah. He said the delegation-level talks started with



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during call-on with Chief of Roval Malaysian Navy Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Bin Ayob at Naval Headquarters.

LHC gives Punjab govt ultimatum for judges' appointment

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued an ultimatum to the Punjab government regarding the appointment of

Chief Justice Shehzad Ahmed Khan presided over a hearing on the Punjab government's petition to transfer cases from LHC's anti-terrorism court 1 Rawalpindi to another

During the proceedings, the advocate general Punjab informed the court that a government committee had consulted with Punjab Chief Minister on the matter of judges' appointment, assuring that it had been prioritized for the upcoming cabinet session

MAKKAH

MUKARRAMA (APP):

:Minister for Religious Af-

fairs and Interfaith Har-

mony, Chaudhry Salik, on

Monday voiced his con-

tentment over the efficient

operations in place for Pa-

kistani pilgrims in Saudi

Arabia that promised a jour-

ney of spiritual enrichment

facilities, including the Pa-

kistan Hajj Medical Mission (PHMM), Hujjaj resi-

dential buildings, catering

companies' kitchens pro-

viding three meals a day and

transport arrangements, I

felt relieved to see that all

operational preparedness

and ongoing services are up

to the mark," he said while

talking to media during his

Mission team and the Min-

istry of Religious Affairs,

he said, drawing on past

The Pakistan Hajj

visit to the PHMM.

"After visiting various

and ease during the Hajj.

ing dissatisfaction with the absence of immediate The Chief Justice ruled that either a special cabinet meeting should have been called or the government committee should

tice Khan inquired about the timeline for the next

cabinet session, express-

However, Chief Jus-

have appeared before the court after completing its In response, the advocate general assured that the matter would be resolved in the cabinet session sched-

uled for Friday. Expressing dismay over the absence of the government committee in court. Chief Justice Khan deemed

exceptional arrangements

for Pakistani Hujjaj

faced and took timely mea-

sures, resulting in meticu-

lous preparations for the

Pakistani Hujjaj. He praised

the entire team for working

with full devotion to serve

the guests of Allah Al-

mighty, extending all pos-

sible assistance to them

round the clock. "I am

proud of it. By the grace of

Allah Almighty, the overall

Hajj operation will be much

Minister Salik said he has

visited the Rehlat Manafea

Company, a service pro-

vider, to review arrange-

ments for Pakistani Hujjaj

during the five Hajj days in

Mashair from 8-12 Zilhaj.

company for completing all

arrangements for transport,

accommodation and cater-

ing services in Mina,

Arafat, and Muzdalfa dur-

ing the Hajj days.

He commended the

Answering a question,

better than last year's.'



OUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with Deputy Consul General of Iran Syed Minister Salik finds solace in

Acting President for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia

Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday called for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly

Pakistan and Malaysia, he said, enjoyed cordial cooperation at all international fora, which needed to be further strengthened. The Acting President

expressed these views while talking to the Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob, who along with his delegation called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also attended the During the meeting,

the Acting President urged the need to further explore avenues of cooperation in maritime sectors for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

In his remarks, Hakan

Fidan told the media that

Pakistan was a strategic

partner of Turkiye as there

had been an unshakeable

friendship and brotherhood

between the two people

who always supported

level talks identified the

ways to strengthen ties

and exploit the potential

besides the steps to take

the bilateral trade to \$5

billion from the current \$1

cided in principle to

broaden and strengthen ties

in trade, defense, invest-

ment, banking science and

technology and innovation.

tion in Afghanistan also

impacted Pakistan and they

expressed their common

desire for permanent peace

and stability in the coun-

Iranian

President

demise of Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi in a helicop-

that the news of the crash,

which also claimed the lives

of Iranian Foreign Minister

Hossein Amir Abdollahian

and other high ranking offi-

cials, was deeply heart-

wrenching and unfortunate,

shock at the news of sud-

den passing away of Presi-

dent Raisi, describing him

as a great friend of Pakistan.

PPP chief

congrats

Qasim Gilani

on winning

by-polls

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP) Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari Monday

congratulated Ali Qasim

Gilani on his historic vic-

tory in the NA-148 by-elec

tions. In a statement issued

here by the party secre-

tariat, he attributed Ali

Qasim Gilani's success to

the dedicated efforts of the

party workers in Multan.

48 reflects the people's

unwavering faith in the Pa-

kistan Peoples Party," he

that Ali Qasim Gilani will

be a strong representative

for the people of Multan in the National Assembly.

ration with the company to

extend maximum facilita-

tion to the guests of Allah

Almighty at the holy land.

has been invited to visit

Pakistan in August to ex-

plore increased cooperation

and collaboration in future

improve Hajj arrangements

with each passing year," he

said, praising the team, in-

cluding Pakistan Hajj Mis-

sion, Head of Medical Mis-

sion, Director Madina, Di-

rector Makkah, and Direc-

took round of different sec-

tions of the PHMM includ-

ing male and female wards

pharmacy, medicines stor-

age facility, OPD, surgical

ward, dental clinic, express-

ing satisfaction over the

preparedness of the medi-

cal mission to tackle any

Earlier, the minister

tor Mouavneen.

Hajj-related plans.

Accordingly, the CEO

"We are striving to

He expressed hope

'The victory in NA-

He expressed his

said a news release.

The Speaker remarked

ter crash.

Fidan said the situa-

He said both sides de-

He said the delegation-

He expressed the hope that training and exchange programmes between the two navies

ISLAMABAD (APP): would further cement naval cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

The Acting President expressed satisfaction over the regular conduct of bilateral naval exercises and training collaboration between Pakistan and Malaysia. He appreciated the Royal Malaysian Navy for regular participation in AMAN exercises and emphasised the need for continuity of the same in future. He stated that Pakistan was looking forward to the continued support of Malaysia for Pakistan's bid to become the Full Dialogue artner of ASEAN.

Earlier, the Acting President conferred the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon Admiral Tan Sri Ábdul Rahman bin Ayob during a special investiture ceremony.

Admiral Tan Šri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob is a close friend of Pakistan and has played a prominent role in promoting cooperation between the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Murad Baloch calls on Governor Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The honorary Consul General for Balochistan Mir Murad Baloch called on Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandukhel at Governor House here on Monday. A detailed discussion was also held on the overall situation of the region, ongoing development projects in the province and the steps taken by Germany to provide education, health and clean water for the people of Balochistan in the

meeting. that we need help and guidance of international organizations along with government institutions for the welfare of the people of the Balochistan.

The assistance provided by German govern-

health and clean water supply to the people in urban and rural areas in the province, modern medical equipment etc are commendable he said. He said that Germany was a developed country in the world in various fields and it could provide support and guidance in increasing the capacity of officials in government institutions and teaching modern skills to the new generation. Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandukhel said that various sectors Balochistan especiall mation technology, minerals,

livestock and education sector would be utilized to develop on modern lines. He said that with the support of giving scholarships to the students of Balochistan, we could develop the hidden abilities of ment in terms of education, our new generation.



QUETTA: Honorary Consul General Germany Murad Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Senator Mushahid says **Iranian President** 'vibrant voice for Kashmir, Palestine'

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed expressed deep grief and sorrow on Monday over the tragic death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in a helicopter crash.

The Senator hailed President Raisi as a "vibrant voice for Kashmir and Palestine" and termed his death as an irreplaceable loss. Speaking to a private news channel, Senator Hussain stated that he had

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Amirabdollahian, whom he met at a recent conference on Palestine in Tehran.

He praised the late

president and foreign minister for their support for Pakistan and their respect for the country's national Allama poet, . Muhammad Iqbal. Senator Hussain also highlighted President Raisi's achieve-

ments, particularly the normalization of ties with Saudi Arabia, and acknowla close friendship with President Raisi and Foreign edged his efforts as a true companion of Pakistan.

Abbasi says: Pakistan won't run smoothly without changes in system

said that the hybrid government have no place in con-

side the accountability court in Karachi, he said the country will not run smoothly without drastic changes in the system. He urged for handing powers to capable people for solution of the national prob-

He said no steps taken over breach of the consti-

KARACHI (INP): Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday tution. "We have to go back to 1947 if we revisit the past. "The government have no public mandate, setup has also come

Talking to media out- from the same route, earlier used by the PTI's founder to form his government, Shahid Khaqan said. He said political par-

ties used to form before elections to achieve specific targets. "We talk about people's problems, politial parties have adopted the route to win power," he

The minister stressed medical-related situation. experiences were well Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Akbar News Agency, Airport Road, Gwadar Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E.mail: <u>dailvindisb@gmail.com</u>. Quetta Office: Al Syed Building Jinnah road, Quetta, Phone 2842938 Fax: 2842941