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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

President Ebrahim 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 sensitivty 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 crashed on Sunday while

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

TEHRAN (INP): Iranian 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 flying through a mountainous terrain amid heavy fog Kolivand, in an interview to in the Varzaqan region of 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 ill-fated 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 ter said during his visit.



Announces a day of mourning

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

strengthening of Pakistan-

Iran relations and regional

cooperation would always

Raisi's visit to Pakistan last

month helped further

strengthen bilateral rela-

tions. May Allah grant the

departed souls a hgh place

in paradise, the prime min-

Pakistan Reza Amiri

Moghadam thanked Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

and the Pakistani nation for

standing with his country

during the difficult time.

Iran's Ambassador to

He said President

be remembered.

ister prayed.

Prime

health.

King

Salman

Abdulaziz. His Majesty is

not only a sincere friend

of Pakistan but as the

Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques, a leader

and guide for the entire

Muslim Ummah," the

prime minister wrote on

stan join me in praying

to the Almighty for His

Majesty's complete re-

covery and swift return

to full health,"

added.

The people of Paki-

his X timeline.

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 minis-

He expressed his heart- tion as well as to the 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 nacountry in poor weather. World media is remem-

crashed in a mountainous

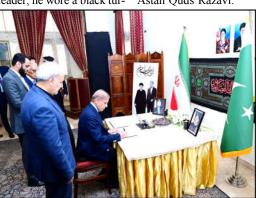
and forested area of the

bering 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 tions of political prisonyear and was touted as a ers. The late president potential successor to Aya-tollah 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 in 2014 for two under prominent scholars, including Khamenei.

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

him and other officials ban, which signified that he was a Sayyed – 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 execuwas 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 beyears, 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.

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

The Government in-

tended to ensure continu-

ous grant provision to

NPC, he said adding he will

meet the finance minister

and discuss the issue of an-

nual grant allocation for the

press club in the financial

budget. President Azhar

Jatoi said that the government

should solve the problems of

the press club on priority

basis. He said that journal-

ists were facing many chal-

Aun Shirazi said Media

Town Phase II was very

important for the journalis-

tic community of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

government advertisements

subject to timely payment

workers salary will be a

major step. Principal Infor-

mation Officer Mobasher

Hassan was also present in

the meeting. Besides, Presi-

dent NPC Azhar Jatoi, Act-

ing Secretary Aun Shirazi,

Secretary Finance Waqar

Abbasi also attended the meet-

ing. Members of the govern-

ing body of NPC were also

present in the meeting.

ISLAMABAD: National flag flies half mast at PM

office as Prime Minister announce a day of mourn-

ing in the country over the death of Iranian Presi-

dent Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash.

Shirazi said making

Acting Secretary NPC

lenges in the present era.

Tarar rules out unilateral legislation for establishment of Digital Media Authority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that the government had no intention of unilateral legislation regarding the establishment of Digital Media Authority in the country.

'All journalist organizations and press clubs will be taken into confidence on the matter", Attaullah Tarar said while talking to a delegation of National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad which met him here.

The minister assured the NPC delegation that health insurance scheme for journalists would be started soon. Attaullah Tarar said that necessary steps would be taken for the construction of the permanent building of the NPC and the improvement of the existing building. The minister assured that provision of annual grant for NPC will be ensured.

The government was well aware of the problems of the administration of the National Press Club regarding the improvement of the National Press Club, he re-

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 staility in the region.

Turkish FM

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

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the deep-rooted relations between the two countries, founded on a historic, cultural, and religious bonds.

DPM Ishaq Dar in Astana to attend SCO FMs' moot

ASTANA (APP): Deputy rime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday arrived here for the regular meeting of the Council of Foreign Minis-

ters of the Shanghai Coop-

eration Organization(SCO). At the airport, he was eceived by Director of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nursalimuly Yergalym, Pakistan's Ambassador in Astana, Nauman Bashir Bhatti and Pakistan's National Coordinator (SCO) Ambassador Marghoob Saleem

the sidelines, Deputy Prime Minister Dar will meet Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Jeenbek Kulubaev today wherein they will discuss the latest situation in Bishkek with a riew to ensure the wellbeing of Pakistani stu-

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

(APP): ISLAMABAD 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 to the country.

The prime minister, 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-

He emphasized to undertake 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.

While underscoring the special bonds of brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkive, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral relationship.

reaffirmed

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 de-

velopments, particularly the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza were also discussed in the meeting. Prime Minister Shehbaz

appreciated President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's staunch advocacy for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He stressed the urgency and importance of the realization of the two-state solution as the key to attainment of durable peace in the 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



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

PTI founder, others acquitted in Azadi March vandalism case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sessions court on Monday acquitted Paki-Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul and others in the Azadi March vandalism case.

Judicial Magistrate Mureed Abbas Khan conducted Monday's hearing and announced the reserved verdict.

In 2022, vandalism cases were registered by the Karachi Company police against PTI founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul, former PTI leader Asad Umar, Faisal Javed, Ali Nawaz Awan and Saifullah Niazi in connection with Azadi March. During the proceed-

ings, Naeem Panjotha, the counsel for the PTI, argued before the judge that the FIR had been filed by an unauthorised person, adding that if the basis of an FIR was wrong, how the case could proceed.

The lawyer contended that the authority to file the case rested only with the person who imposed Section 144. He argued that no video evidence could be presented against Imran Khan in the instant case.

The counsel maintained that FIRs were registered against peaceful protesters and 19 cases of the same nature were registered against Khan in different police stations.

PM prays for All institutions should work good health of within their constitutional Saudi King domains: Azam Tarar Salman

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Minister for Law and Jus-Muhammad Shehbaz tice Senator Azam Nazeer Sharif on Monday ex-Tarar on Monday said that pressing concern over health of Saudi King all the institutions should work within their constitu-Salman Bin Abdulaziz, tional domains. Addressing prayed for his complete a press conference, the minrecovery and good ister said that the government was ready to provide "I have learnt with full assistance to the police grave concern about the health of His Majesty for the recovery of the

> The Defence Ministry had told the court through the additional attorney general that Ahmed Farhad was not in the custody of any institution, he added. The minister said that if rights of anyone were violated he could approach the court which could sought a reply

missing poet Ahmed

from the respondents. Then the police were responsible to investigate the matter after registering dia.

a case, he added. Azam Tarar said that self-accountability was essential for a conducive environment in the country, which was at present at a critical juncture due to economic and security challenges. No one take a risk to

invest in the country with poor law and order situation, he added. He said that the government was addressing the long standing issue of missing persons with the consultation of all stakeholders. The minister said that

the government had constituted a committee with representation from the Pakistan Peoples Party. Muttahida Oaumi Movement (MQM) and other parties to chalk out recommendations for setting up an authority for social me-

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.

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 remembered 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 people of Iran in this time of irreparable loss

> **Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers**

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

Acting President for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia

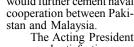
ISLAMABAD (APP): would further cement naval Acting President Syed cooperation between Paki-Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday called for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly

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.

He expressed the hope that training and exchange programmes be-



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 Partner of ASEAN.

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

vestiture ceremony.
Admiral Tan Sri 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

LHC gives Punjab govt ultimatum for judges' appointment

the Punjab government regarding the appointment

of judges. Chief Shehzad Ahmed Khan the timeline for the next presided over a hearing on the Punjab government's petition to transfer cases the absence of immediate from LHC's anti-terrorism action. court 1 Rawalpindi to another court.

During sulted with Punjab after completing its Chief Minister on the task.

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued an ultimatum to it had been prioritized for the upcoming cabinet ses-

> However, Chief Jus-Justice tice Khan inquired about cabinet session expressing dissatisfaction with

The Chief Justice ruled that either a spe- Hossein Amir Abdollahian cial cabinet meeting ings, the advocate general should have been called Punjab informed the or the government comcourt that a government committee had conpared before the court



ISLAMABAD: Iranian National Flag flies at half mast at the Iranian Embassy in the Federal Capital, in honour of Iranian president Dr Sved Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash.

Significant honor for Islamia College:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abrar selected to lecture at International **Physics Conference**

By M. Ilyas PESHAWAR- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abrar, the former registrar

of Islamia College University, Peshawar, has been selected to lecture at the Department of Physics during the second international conference on emerging trends in physics.

The conference, with a theme focused on Energy Storage Devices, was hosted by Islamia College University in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. This prestigious event was organized in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, UK, and Íslamia University, Bahawalpur, Paki-

Among the notable participants were Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abrar, Prof. Alan Drew from the UK, Prof. David Dunstan, and Prof. Elizabeth. The collabouniversities underof international academic partnerships.

Dr. Muhammad conference.

PhD from Queen Mary University of London under the joint supervision of Prof. David Dunstan, was invited as a guest speaker.

His lecture on "Magnetic Junctions in Nanowires for Energy



Friendly mentally Magnetic Refrigera-

groundbreaking insights into the field of nanotechnology. Both collaborating universities expressed their pleasure in hosting Dr. Abrar, whose expertise significantly conration between the tributed to the discourse on advanced scores the importance energy storage solutions and sustainable technologies at the

Abrar, who earned his

AL- aware of the challenges MAKKAH MUKARRAMA (APP): :Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik, on Monday voiced his contentment over the efficient operations in place for Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi Arabia that promised a journey of spiritual enrichment

and ease during the Hajj. "After visiting various facilities, including the Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission (PHMM), Hujjaj residential buildings, catering companies' kitchens providing 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

visit to the PHMM. The Pakistan Hajj Mission team and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he said, drawing on past experiences were well

faced and took timely measures, resulting in meticulous preparations for the Pakistani Hujjaj. He praised the entire team for working with full devotion to serve the guests of Allah Almighty, extending all possible assistance to them round the clock. "I am proud of it. By the grace of Allah Almighty, the overall Hajj operation will be much

better than last year's. Answering a question, Minister Salik said he has visited the Rehlat Manafea Company, a service provider, to review arrangements for Pakistani Hujjaj during the five Hajj days in Mashair from 8-12 Zilhaj.

He commended the company for completing all arrangements for transport, accommodation and catering services in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalfa during the Hajj days. The minister stressed the need for further collaboration with the company to extend maximum facilitation to the guests of Allah Almighty at the holy land. Accordingly, the CEO

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister

Pakistan, Turkiye target \$5b bilateral

trade; call for permanent Gaza ceasefire

sador to Pakistan Dr the departed souls and

bereaved families.

each other.

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 \$3

billion from the current \$

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-

Chairman

PRCS expresses

condolence on

tragic loss of

Iranian leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Chairman Pakistan Red

Crescent Society, Sardar

Shahid Ahmed Laghari,

Monday expressed heart-

felt condolence to the

government and the

public of Iran following

the tragic helicopter crash

Fidan said the situa-

He said both sides de-

He said the delegation-

Mehmet Pacaci as secre-

tary-general's special en-

Ishaq Dar also thanked Turkiye for its

continuous support on the

issue of Kashmir and reit-

erated 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 establish-

ment of an independent

Palestine state to achieve

lasting peace in the Middle

helicopter crash in Iran kill-

ing President Ebrahim Raisi

along with the country's

Foreign Minister Hossein

Amir Abdollahian and oth-

ers, Ishaq Dar called it a

"very sad day" for Muslim

Ummah. He said the delega-

tion-level talks started with

condolence and Fateha for

placards against the bill

at their seats. The oppo-

posed by the opposition

to the defamation bill

were discussed in the

House. Opposition Leader Ahmed Khan

Bhachar argued in favour

of his amendment, stat-

ing that the Defamation Bill 2024 is a black law

and that they would not

support it. Mujtaba Shujaur

Rehman opposed sending the bill back to the

select committee, stating

that satisfactory discus-

sions had already taken

place in the committee

and there was no need

strongly protested against the defamation

bill, boycotted the as-

sembly session and chanted slogans outside

Ansari said that what

happened in the House

today was not a democratic

process and that the bill was

Lahore Press Club

Arshad

the Punjab Assembly.

President

Journalists also

for further review.

Amendments pro-

sition rejected the bill.

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral

Naveed Ashraf during call-on with Chief of Royal

Malaysian Navy Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman

Govt tables defamation bill

in Punjab Assembly amid

strong opposition protest

LAHORE (INP): The ceptable" and displayed

Bin Ayob at Naval Headquarters.

Punjab government on Monday tabled "The Punjab Defamation Bill

2024" in the Punjab As-

sembly amid strong

protests from the oppo-

sition and the journalist

community. The session of Punjab Assembly started after the delay of

more than two hours

with speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan in the chair. The

opposition and journal-

ists protested against the bill which aimed at pre-

venting the spread of

false, fabricated and fic-

titious news through

print, electronic and so-

cial media in the prov-

PML-N senior leader and

Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Mujtaba Shujaur

Rehman presented the

Led by Opposition Leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar, the oppo-

sition created an uproar

in the House, with mem-

bers chanting slogans against the bill. The op-

position shouted slogans

Minister Salik finds solace in

exceptional arrangements

for Pakistani Hujjaj

such as "Black law unac- not a democratic one.

bill in the House.

During the session,

Mentioning the tragic

voy on Islamophobia.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- manifested by elaborate in-

kistan and Turkiye on stitutional mechanisms and

Monday, vowing to high-level exchanges and strengthen bilateral and revisits at the level of politi-

gional cooperation in mul-

tiple spheres, agreed to take

the annual bilateral trade

from existing \$1 billion to

out following their "exten-

sive" delegation-level talks,

Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar

and Turkish Foreign Min-

ister Hakan Fidan told the

media that they had re-

viewed bilateral coopera-

tion including trade, invest-

ment, connectivity and de-

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.

Turkiye "two countries and

one nation," Dar said the

strategic and comprehen-

Ayaz condoles

Iranian

President

Raisi's demise

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Speaker National Assem-

bly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Monday expressed pro-

found sorrow over the tragic

demise of Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi in a helicop-

that the news of the crash.

which also claimed the lives

of Iranian Foreign Minister

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

'The victory in NA-

party workers in Multan.

148 reflects the people's

unwavering faith in the Pa-

kistan Peoples Party," he

He expressed hope that Ali Qasim Gilani will

be a strong representative

for the people of Multan in

He expressed his

said a news release.

The Speaker remarked

Terming Pakistan and

his remarks,

In a joint press stake-

\$5 billion.

cal leadership.

He said both sides also

discussed the Pakistan-

Turkiye High-Level Stra-

tegic 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 stra-

tegic 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 na-

tional calamities and disas-

Islamophobia, he told the

media that consequent to

their joint efforts, the OIC,

in its recent summit, agreed

cooperation

sive bilateral relations were to appoint Turkish Ambas-

Highlighting bilateral

has been invited to visit Pakistan in August to explore increased cooperation and collaboration in future Hajj-related plans.

We are striving to improve Hajj arrangements with each passing year," he said, praising the team, including Pakistan Hajj Mission, Head of Medical Mission, Director Madina, Director Makkah, and Director Mouavneen

Earlier, the minister took round of different sections of the PHMM including male and female wards. pharmacy, medicines storage facility, OPD, surgical ward, dental clinic, expressing satisfaction over the preparedness of the medical mission to tackle any medical-related situation.

IHC to hear appeals regarding capital's elections separately

(IHC) on Monday in- vits then the court would structed the registrar office view this matter. He said to fix the appeals regarding that one who lying would elections results in three go jail, adding that the court constituencies of capital in separate days for hearing.

The court sought certified copies of form-45 along with the affidavits of the candidates and witnesses list on next date of hearing.

Justice Mehmood Jahangiri heard the appeals against the election results notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

During hearing, the court remarked that one party was claiming that they have complete form-45 and they are winner while the other side was also claiming the same.

Justice Jahangiri said

ISLAMABAD (APP): that let the certified copies come along with the affidawould send these documents for forensic.

He said that the respondents who didn't appear should be advertised on national newspapers, TV and radio.

He said that the re-

warning, warrants would be issued if they do not come on next date. The court would

turning officer has a final

record the statements on oath, he said. ECP's counsel said

that these evidences are recorded in the presence of all the candidates. The original Form 45 is given to the presiding officer, he



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**

people of the Islamic Re-

in which President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the governor of East Azerbaijan province, and several other esteemed officials and bodyguards were lost their lives

On behalf of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari extended his deepest sympathies and words of consolation to the people of Iran, the families of the deceased the Iranian government, and the Iranian Red Cres cent Society.

Psychological test of **Islamabad Police officers** conducted

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police conducted a psychological test of officials deputed at Special Protection Unit (SPÚ) to improve the performance and mental

This initiative seeks to enhance the aptitude of of ficials within the Islamabad Police. The test included a special psychological examination committee chaired by SSP Security Division, while SP CTD SP Headquarters, and psy chological experts were the members of the committee.

Police Officers from the Special Protection Unit (SPÚ) actively participated

RAWALPINDI (APP): Relations (ISPR) news release said.

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

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 fight 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 triservices contingent.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressed an important press conference.

Joint operation to reclaim ICT's public spaces

Deputy Commissioner Nawaz Memon on Monday chaired a high-level meeting for addressing the encroachments issues in the Federal Capital. According to the Spokesman of ICT's Administration, the meeting was attended by the of Enforcement from the in the meeting.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), the Admin-(DC) Islamabad Irfan istrator of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and the Director of the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA). Âdditionally, Assistant Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners were also present to discuss Deputy Director General the comprehensive strategy

IG order to conduct investigation on merit & transparency

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a meeting with senior police officers of the Operations Division at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the meeting was chaired by IG Islamabad, while SSP Operations, SSP Investigation, and SP Dolphin were also present on this occasion. During the meeting,

the IG Islamabad directed the officers to conduct investigations with merit and transparency, resolve cases promptly, and refer them to the relevant courts. He also gave directions

regarding crime control and effective patrolling, and issued special orders to strengthen the grip on criminal elements and eliminate He further said that,

special efforts against car and motorcycle theft and other crimes should be in-



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Sved Ali Nasir Rizvi, chairs meeting of senior police officers of the Operations Division at the Central Police Office Islamabad.