PTI leader arrested

GUJRANWALA (INP): PTI leader from Gujranwala Rizwan Mustafa Sian has been arrested from outside the anti-terrorism court in Gujranwala on Saturday. The detained PTI leader was accused of the May 9 vandalism and nominated in the police FIRs. A clash between police and lawyers on the occasion of arrest was also observed. Chaudhry Rizwan Mustafa Sian was PTI's candidate for PP-62 Gujranwala.

Frontier Post

Asad Toor gets bail F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Special judge central Islamabad on Saturday ordered to release You-Tuber and journalist Asad Toor. As per details, the special judge central judge Humayon Dilawar also approved the bail plea and directed Toor to submit surety bonds worth Rs 5,000. Moreover, the FIA special prosecutor told the court that he has no objection on the approval of the bail plea.

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Five soldiers among 2 officers embraced martyrdom

— Six terrorists killed in thwarting North Waziristan attack

RAWALPINDI: Five brave sons of the soil embraced martyrdom on Saturday, including two officers, while valiantly thwarting a terrorist attack on the security forces' post in North Waziristan District's Mir Ali area. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, in the early hours of March 16, a group of six terrorists attacked a security forces' post in general area Mir Ali of North Waziristan District.

As the Army troops foiled the initial attempt at intrusion, the terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the post, followed by multiple suicide bombing attacks, which led to the collapse of a portion of a building, resulting in the Shahadat, or five brave sons of the soil.

Havildar Sabir (resident of District our resolve," the ISPR said. Khyber), Naik Khurshid (resident of The ISPR, in its statement, reaf-District Lakki Marwat), Sepoy Nasir (resident of District Peshawar), Sepoy Raja (resident of District Kohat), and Sepoy Sajjad (resident of District

During the ensuing clearance operation, the Army troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Kashif effectively engaged and eliminated all six terrorists. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali (age: 39 years, resident of Karachi) and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar (age: 23 years, resident of District Talagang), having fought gallantly, paid the ulti-mate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

'Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other ter-









rity forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, and the sacrifices of The martyrs were identified as our brave soldiers further strengthen

firmed the commitment to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country saying such sacrifices of brave soldiers further strengthen their

Meanwhile, the funeral of the seven martyred soldiers who embraced martyrdom while gallantly thwarting the terrorists' attack on the military post including two officers were held at Bannu Cantt on Saturday.
President Asif Ali Zardari has

strongly condemned the terrorist attack on security forces' post in North Waziristan. In a message, he commiserated with the bereaved families of martyred soldiers and officers of Pak Army. He prayed for eternal peace of families. The President reaffirmed the security personnel including a lieuunflinching national resolve to extirt tenant colonel and captain.

country.

Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lieutenant Colonel Kashif and fellow soldiers. Chairman PPP said that the nurseries of terrorism must be destroyed by implementing the National Action Plan in letter and spirit. The killers of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army are the enemies of the nation and must not be par-

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended heartfelt condolences to the families of Lt. Col. Kashif Shaheed and other martyrs. The nation will never forget its brave sons. These enemies must be punished to give justice to the departed souls, the Chairman PPP conclud-

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam has condemned attack of terrorists in North Waziristan and the martyred and patience for their expressed grief over the killing of five



LAHORE: Speaker of Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

PTI dissociates itself from 'overseas protests F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: After backto-back protests led by overseas Pakistanis in the United States (US), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan dissociated with the ongoing protests overseas, clarifying that his party did not have any part in it in the recent demonstrations outside the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) headquarters.

"If overseas Pakistanis are making up something, then it would be their own decision," Barrister Gohar said Saturday while speaking to media outside Adiala Jail — Rawalpindi posthearing of 190m NCA scandal case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his

wife Bushra Bibi. Responding a question, the PTI chairman said that the party did not ask the IMF to stop disbursing financial aid to Pakistan; however, it admitted that the party urged the global lender's recall its commitments for free and fair elections and transparent allo-

cations of its funds. Ittehad Council (SIC), the politico made it clear that his party's merger with the party was "serious and best decision" in circumstances prevailing at that time when PTI lost its "bat" symbol and was looking for options to secure its reserved seats. "Not only reserved seats, we also wanted to get protection from our independent candidates as merging with a political party would also stop defections," said

He reiterated that PTI SIC merger was best decision taken after much deliberations. Gohar pinned hopes on the Supreme Court (SC) to provide justice to the Imran-led party that had been rejected for being eligible to get reserved seats for women and minorities.

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Saudi Prince reaffirms support for Pakistan E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Arabia Crown Mohammed bin Salman in a telephone call congratulated Prime Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on his re-election, the PM Office said in a statement on Saturday.

PM Sharif thanked the Saudi crown prince, also known as MBS, for the telephone call as well as the warm message of greetings he had sent after he had assumed office. The prime minister also conveyed his wishes and prayers for the health and well-being of Salman King Abdulaziz.

The crown prince together through thick and were distanced PM Sharif for his thin. He lauded Saudi meeting.

sentiments and said that Arabia for its unwavering both countries enjoyed Saudi close brotherly relations Pakistan. PM Sharif invited reaffirmed Saudi the crown prince to under-Arabia's support to Pakistan. PM Sharif said the people of Pakistan had great love and respect for the Saudi king as well as the crown prince. He also wished Ramazan to the Saudi leadership as well as the people and prayed that

> The prime minister said Pakistan was proud of its historic, deep-rooted and tries had always stood

> this holy month would

commitment and support to take an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience and said that the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.

Meanwhile, the Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Saturday.

bring peace and prosperity to Muslims all over the They congratulated each other on assuming their respective offices and expressed best wishes for fraternal ties with Saudi each other. Overall political Arabia and the two coun- situation of the country and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the

42 candidates submitted papers for Senate polls in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As many as tions of its funds.

After reports of internal 2024 in Khyber Aram Khon Sunt March After reports of internal conflicts in PTI over alliance with the Sunni Saturday. These elections Khurram Zeeshan, Attaul March 26. Candidates will be held on April 2, 2024 for seven general, two technocrats and scholars and two reserved seats for women.

According to the spokesman of provincial election commission, so far 10 candidates have submitted nomination papers for 2 Technocrat and Scholars seats. Among them, Azam Khan Swati, Muhammad Anwar Advocate, Waqar Ahmad Qazi, Dr. Hammad Mehmood Cheema, Khalid Masood, Fazal Hanan, Dilawar Khan, Qaizar Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri and Syed Irshad Hussain

submitted their nomination papers. Similarly, 25 candidates submitted papers for seven General seats, including Irfan Saleem, Muhammad

Haq, Masoodur Rehman, Shafqat Ayaz, Asif Rafiq, Mahmood Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, Muhammad Naseem, Sajjad Hussain, Taj Muhammad Afridi, Ahmad Mustafa, and Fida Muhammad.

Similarly, seven candidates have submitted their papers for two Women seats, including Mehwish Ali Khan, Ayesha Bano, Rubina Naz, Khalid, Shazia, Syeda Tahira Bukhari and Hamida Shahid. The aspirants had given deadline to submit their nomination papers from March 15 to 16 March, 6pm to the Provincial Election Commissioner.

The list of candidates would be released on March 17, scrutiny of papers would be held till

Talha Mehmood, Dilawar March 19 and appeals Khan, Faisal Javed, Mirza against acceptance and Muhammad Afridi, Azhar rejection of papers could be 42 candidates have been Qazi Mashwani, Niaz filed till March 21. The submitted their nomination Ahmad, Waqas Orkazai, decision on the appeals would be able to withdraw their nomination papers till March 27.

KP CM meets PTI founder at Adiala Jail F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minster Ali Amin Gandapur net with the founder of he PTI at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Saturday.

According to sources the meeting between Gandapur and the PTI founder lasted for 30 minutes, during which they discussed the country's current political situation. The meeting took place in the jail's conference room



IFTAR SECTION

Assorted Vegetable Pakora Vegetable Samosa Chicken Fried Wings Spring Rolls Chicken Bread Roll Assorted Sandwiches Vegetable Cutlets

BEVERAGES

Mint Margarita Rooh Afza

SALAD & CHATKHARA

Apple and Cabbage Salad OR Creamy Fruit Salad Russian Salad / Pasta Salad Roasted Potato Salad Italian Beef Salad Mexican Bean Salad Chana Chaat Fruit Chaat Dahi Bara

SAUCES

Tartar Sauce **Tamarind Sauce** Raita and Mint Sauce

PAKISTANI

Peas Pulao / Channa Mewa Pulao Chicken Makhni Handi Chicken Jalfrezi Lahori Fried Fish Kofta Curry Mixed Vegetables

BARBECUE

Beef Gola Kebab Chicken Reshmi Kebab Chicken Boti

CHINESE & CONTINENTAL

Penne Alfredo Pasta Tarragon Chicken Steak Chicken Almond Beef Chili Dry Chicken Chowmein Masala Fried Rice

DESSERT SECTION

Fruit Custard Badami Kheer Lab-e-Sheer Khurma **Bread Pudding**

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LAHORE: A large number of people breaking fast (Iftar) in the holy month of Ramazan ul

Gaza transformed into world's most oppressive prison: Siraj

conditions fair and transparent elec-

Sirajul Haq criticized the rule of law.

Islami's staunch oppositions, asserting Jamaat-e-

justice, and adherence to

genuine

LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat- world, the JI chief lament- additional e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq ed that Israel persists in imposed by international tions, good governance, has said that Gaza has relentless bombing cam-financial institutions. transformed into the paigns, even targeting world's most oppressive camps set up by humanithe ruling elite for perpet-prison, with the city ablaze tarian organizations in uating VIP culture and demned the increased inhabitants succumbing to silence of the rulers of 58 leges at the expense of the ment of ruling dynasties hunger and disease.

after the inauguration of a noting the global commution to burden mansses on Islami's commitment to fundraiser for Gaza here on nity's shared anguish for IMF conditions, inflation, establishing an Islamic Saturday, he said that over the people of Palestine and additional taxation. system and the past five months, 32,000 Palestinians, including 11,000 children, have in a 11,000 children, have fallen victim to Israeli bombings, with 38,000 ence of

ing on Pakistan to inter- Jamaat-e-Islami's commiting the nation to initiate a rights of Palestinians. complete boycott of Israeli Friday of Řamadan.

marking the sixth day of aid, which would only tions and protests, empha-Ramadan in the Arab exacerbate inflation due to sizing the imperative of from artillery fire and its Gaza. He criticized the maintaining their privi- polarization and empower-Islamic countries in the public, vowing Jamaat-e- following disputed elec-Talking to media person face of such atrocities,

He highlighted the pres-Al-Khidmat missing and 77,000 injured. Foundation's leadership in Sirajul Haq emphasized Egypt, engaged in relief that Palestinians are count- efforts, and reaffirmed vene and save Gaza, urg- ment to advocating for the

Regarding domestic products. In solidarity with affairs, he remarked that the Palestinian people, he all parties except Jamaatannounced that the entire e-Islami are currently part country will observe Al- of the government, urging Quds Day on the last the ruling factions to fulfill their electoral promis-He said that Hamas's es and alleviate the populeader had penned a letter lace's suffering. He called to the Prime Minister of for the initiation of meas-Pakistan, urging Islamabad to play a pivotal role in ending the conflict in Gaza, given its status as Islamabad to play a pivotal role in ending the conflict in Gaza, given its status as Islamabad to play a pivotal relief in gazanti ing relief from a governa key player in the Islamic ment tainted by electoral Despite today fraud and reliant on IMF

Punjab ministers advocate for transgender rights

Secondary Khawaja Imran Nazir, and and opportunities for a better Provincial Minister for life. He noted that this initia-Specialized Health Care, tive marks the first of its kind Khawaja Salman Rafique, institution in South Asia. underscored the significance of the newly established "Tahafuz Darsgah" for transgender individuals.

the facilities provided by gender children, providing Punjab Police in the "Tahafuz them with shelter and secu-Darsgah," the ministers rity, especially for those emphasized the importance rejected by their families. of creating a supportive enviand national development.

Highlighting the government's commitment, the for transgender children. ministers discussed plans to the national mainstream.

They emphasized that transgender supporting individuals not only breaks

ment of "Tahafuz Darsgah"

LAHORE (APP): Provincial for transgender children, Minister for Primary and emphasizing its role in pro-Healthcare, viding a secure environment

Meanwhile, Khawaja Salman Rafiq emphasized the importance of "Tahafuz Darsgah" in fulfilling the During their inspection of educational needs of trans-

The provincial ministers ronment for transgender indi- conducted a thorough viduals to ensure their mean- examination of the faciliingful participation in society ties, including classrooms, residential rooms, dining areas, and other amenities

They were accompanied establish separate wards in by senior police officers, hospitals for transgender including SSP Operations individuals and provide dig-Lahore Ali Raza and SSP nified employment opportu- Gulberg Shahrbanu Naqvi, nities to integrate them into who briefed them about the security arrangements for the "Tahafuz Darsgah" project.

The establishment of "Tahafuz Darsgah" represocietal barriers but also sents a significant step transforms them into pro- towards ensuring the rights ductive members of society. and well-being of transgen-Minister Khawaja Imran der individuals in Punjab, Nazir lauded the establish- setting an example for the region and beyond.

MCL carries out crackdown on illegal constructions

LAHORE (APP): The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) carried out a crackdown on illegal constructions and demolished various structures in the provincial capital on Saturday. A spokesperson for the MCL told the media that the Nishtar Zone squad, led by Metropolitan Officer Planning Chaudhry Saleem, demolished 4-kanal under-construction building of private school and 2-kanal commercial halls in Kamaha area. At Shahjamal Town, a 12-marla under-construction hall was demolished. Industrial hall on 4-kanal land was also demolished at Atta Bakhsh Road. Another industrial hall on 2-kanal land was demolished in the same locality.

CM Murad Ali Shah says provinces' share in NFC award can be increased KARACHI (PPI): Sindh Chief ties, therefore the upcoming NFC

not decreased as per the constitution.

This he said while speaking to the cussed at the NFC forum. media at the Election Commission of

in the upcoming NFC (National Finance Commission) Award, Murad federal government has reportedly federal and provincial governments cannot be negotiated or discussed.

Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Award should be made accordingtoday that provinces' share in the next ly," he said and added the federal view, but these issues would be dis-

According to Mr Shah, the nomination papers of PPP candidates submitted the nomination papers of for the Senate Election being held on nine candidates for the general seats, three each for women and tech-When asked about the IMF's con- nocrats, and two for minorities. He dition to reduce the provinces' share expressed hope that his party would win almost all the seats. He added that the PPP would release the final Ali Shah said that he has heard about list of its candidates after the scrutiny it too. However, he added that the of the nomination papers on Monday.

When the Chief Minister was informed the IMF that the matters asked about the trend of PPP winning constitutionally settled between the more votes in successive Senate Elections. He explained that, unlike the election of the Chief Minister and The chief minister said that the the Prime Minister, assembly mem- PTI lacks such loyalty in its ranks. He 10th NFC award was announced bers are not always bound to vote in added that PTI was not thinking before the passage of the 18th favour of their party. Sometimes, they Constitutional Amendment. "After may vote based on their personal the 18th amendment provinces preferences. In such cases, the party ters to the IMF and others against the have been given more responsibili- cannot disqualify those members.

To a question, the chief minister said that except for PPP no other party has filed nomination papers for NFC award can only be increased and government has its own point of the ladies, Technocrat and Minorities seats of the senate so far. "They may file as there was enough time, but we have filed," he said and added he was Pakistan where he went to submit Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has hopeful that his party would clinch maximum seats.

Replying to a question, Mr Shah said that good police officers were being posted to improve overall law & order in the province. "Yesterday we made a reshuffle at the SSP level and other officers would also be changed to improve law & order and governance," he said.

To a question, Murad Shah said that the PPP was a rich party in terms of loyal workers and among them, the party leadership has selected candidates for senate election, while the about the country but for their leader which was why they were writing letsovereignty of the country.

CM orders expediting Ramazan package

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Package" under any circumstance. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz,

Nigheban Relief Package" is ongoing.
The distribution process to 2.832 completed and its digital monitoring crackdowns against the profiteers. has also been undertaken.

Package report which was submitted to 23,000 profiteers have been appretue CM on Saturday, she directed to hended. A fine exceeding Rs62.2 milexpedite the distribution process to the lion has been imposed on profiteers needy families, adding that transparency should be maintained in the distri- and 4,858 people have been arrested. vision for promoting foreign investbution process of "Ramazan Nigheban

On the direction of CM, the camdigital monitoring of the "Ramazan paign against price hike has been accelerated across the province. It has been informed in the report issued by million families under the "Ramazan the Industries department that Price Nigheban Relief Package" has been Control Magistrates launched 1271

Random checking has been under-Assessing the Ramzan Nigheban taken at 773,000 sites in 15 days and The CM said, "we cannot let the

isfactory and she would not allow hoarding at any cost. CM welcomes PM's economic roadmap: Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz Sharif has commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for presenting a robust roadmap to steer Pakistan out of the prevailing economic crisis. In a statement on Saturday, the CM said that it is a hiswhile 1,682 FIRs have been registered toric and revolutionary initiative. His ment is commendable, she added.

poor people remain at the mercy of

profiteers" adding that the recent

trend in the reduction of prices is sat-



مندرجہ ذیل خالی آسامیوں کے لیے پاکستانی قومیت کے حاکل مرد وخوا مین متعلقہ کی اے ایف انفار میش اینڈ مصیش سینٹرزاور جاری ویب سائٹ www.joinpaf.gov.pk پر online کھر جیسٹھ رجسٹریشن کرسکتے ہیں۔									
ئمر 15ستمبر 2024	تغلیمی قابلیت اورتجر به	نبرشار آسامیان پے سکیل آسامیوں کی تعداد							
11-45 لا21	نرسنگ کونس آف پاکستان سے رجسٹر ڈ کوالیفا کڈا ہے ڈویژن نرس نیز اچھی صحت کی حامل ہوں۔	01 : 01 نیبر پختون نواه : 01 رسنگ سمرز (خواتین) 14 AFNS(L)							
18 تا 25 سال	ا شرمیڈیٹ بمعہ 20 الفاظ فی منٹ کمپیوٹر پڑنا کینگ سپیٹر اور کمپیوٹر پر کام کرنے کی مہارت رکھتا ہو۔	2. اپرڈویژن کارک (UDC) 13 میرٹ : 01 پنجاب : 01							
18 تا 25 سال	 نیشرک بمین بست استک یا کسی پیرامیڈ یکل سبٹریڈیٹس ڈیڈیٹ الومہ۔ نا) سابقہ ملازیٹن جنہوں نے کلاس/ گریڈیا السپے ٹریڈیا سبٹریڈکا احتجان پاس کیا ہو۔ 	01 : بنجاب : 01 نيبر پختون نواه : 01 ميڈ يکل اسشنٹ (Medical Asstt) مرد (اربن) : 01 مرد (Medical Asstt)							
25 تا 25 سال	میٹرک بمعیز سنگ کونسل آف پاکستان سے جاری شدہ زسٹگ سرٹی گیلیٹ ۔	01 : میلزس : 10 سنده(ارین) : 01 (Male Nurse)							
JL25 t 18	میٹرک سائنس _	03 : بنجاب : 01 پنجاب : 3 : 01 ليبارئري الميدون (Laboratory Attendant) .5 مير ت : 01 بيجاب : 03 .5 مير يختون خواه : 01 بلوچستان : 01 مرد							
30 تا 30 سال	مقامی اور الکلش زبان پڑھنے اور کلھنے کی قابلیت رکھتا ہو۔ HTV السّنس اور دوسال کا تجربر کھتا ہو۔ ائیر ہیڈ کو ارٹرز کے معیار کے مطابق ڈرائیز گلے ٹمیٹ پاس کرنا ضروری ہے۔ ایکس سروس مین صرف متعلقہ ٹریڈ (Same Trade) والے حضرات اپلائی کر تکتے ہیں۔	يوچشان : 06 فانا : 02 ازاد عمير : 02							
J レ30 t18	کھانا رکانے میں مہارت رکھتا ہو۔	باور پی باور پی میرث: 02 پنجاب : 10 تیم پختون خواه : 02 فاٹا : 11 میرث : 02 میرث : 01 سندھ(ارین) : 02 سندھ(رودل): 02 بلوچتان : 01 مرد							
J レ30 t18	متعاقه فیلڈ میں تجربہ کے حامل افراد۔	01 : منیر پختون نواه : 02 نیبر پختون نواه : 01 منیر پختون نواه : 01 مرد (دورل) : 01 مرد (Fire Fighter) مرد							
		سلیشر ساط س							

(۱) کسی بھی سرکاری ملازمت یا فوجی تربیت سے برطرف شدہ۔ (٢) اخلاقی جرائم کی بناء پرعدالت سے سزایافتہ۔

(٣) آرٹدفورسز، اپیل میڈیکل بورڈ، سینئرل میڈیکل بورڈ پاکسی بھی میڈیکل بورڈ سےمستر دشدہ۔ (٣) ایسے امیدواران جن کی تعلیمی استاد جعلی پائی جائیں اور معلومات کی فراہمی میں غلط بیانی کے مرتکب ہوں۔

(١) آن لائن رجسريش (٢) سليكش سينفر پركمپيونرا تز ذو بانت كامتحان سوائة را ئيور، باور چي اور فائير فائير فائير درائيور كامتعلقه فيلذ شر كمپيوفرا تز د نميت اياجايع اور متعلقه فيلذي ريكيكل نميك اور ايتر ميذكوار ثرزسليكن بورذ كروبروا تزويو

ئن كاطر بقيه كار

(٣) فائل سليك اير ميذكوار فرزيس مير ث رصوبائي كوشرى بنياد يركى جائيگى -(۴) منتخب امیدواران کامیڈیکل۔ (۵) کامیاب امیدواران کامیڈیکل۔ (۵) کامیاب امیدواران کوشرورت کےمطابق ملک کے کسی مجمع PAF میں پر تعینات کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

عمومي معلومات آر ٹیفورسز کے ریٹائرڈ ملازمین کو پندرہ سال یا جتنی سروس آر ٹیفورسز میں کی ہو (جوبھی کم ہو) کوعمر کی بالائی حدمیں رعایت دی جائے گی۔ معذورافراد کیلئے عمر کی بالائی حدمیں مزید دس سال کی رعایت دی جائے گ۔ » ایسے اُمیدواران جن کا تعلق شیرُ ول کاسٹ (بر همت) ،بلوچتان ،سند هرورل ،قبائل ،آزاد کشمیراورنا درن ایریاسے ہواُن کی عمر کی بالا کی عدمیں مزید تین سال کی رعایت دی جائے گی۔

تمام آساميوں كيليج عمر كى بالائى حدميں مزيديا فيج سال كى رعايت دى جائيگى _ تمام سرکاری اور نیم سرکاری ادارول میں کام کرنے والےخواہشمنداُ میدواران اور آریڈ فورسز کے ریٹائرڈ ملازمین رجسٹریشن کے وقت اپنے محكمه ي NOC اورجال چلن سرفيفيكيد جوكه موجوده بهذاف ذيبار شف يد و يتخط شده بوء لازما بمراه لا تين -﴾ ایسے سرکاری ملاز مین بشمول کنٹر یکٹ سرکاری ملاز مین جودوسال نگا تارسروس کر چکے ہوں،ان کی عمر کی بالائی حدمیں مزیدوس سال کی رعایت دی جائے گی اور وہ 55 سال کی عمر تک ایلائی کر سکتے ہیں۔

بی اے ایف حاضر سروت اور یٹائرڈیو نیفارم اسویلین حضرات کے بچے رجٹریشن کے وقت اپنے والد کے کوائف کا اندراج لازمی کروائیں بعد میں نون : وه امیدوارجن کے کاغذات ناممل موں اُن کوٹسیٹ میں بیٹھنے کی احازت نہیں دی حائے گی۔ ﴾ سنٹر میں موبائل فون لانے کی اجازت نہیں ہے۔

ال أميدواران اپني اصل اسناد بشول دفيلي مارکن شيف ، كمپيوز انزو قومي شاختي كارد (Smart Card)، دوميد دخي پاسپور ه سائز اتصاوير يست اكرون يسك بهي ايك زديك ترين PAF انفار هيشن ايند مليكش سينظر پر دجريشن كے لئے تشريف لائيں۔ رجمزيشن كے اوقات كار : مستج 8 بجے ہے دو پير 2 بج تنگ فيمين اور اور عدد دخي پاسپور ه ميان اور دوميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان اور دومين دخي پاسپور ه ميان اور دوميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان پي در ميان اور دوميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان اور دوميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان وروميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان وروميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان وروميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان اور در ميان اور دوميد دخي پاسپور ه ميان وروميد دخي پاسپور ميان ورومي پي درومي پي د

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ساكسستان السائر فنورس قوم كاسرماىية افتخاد



Peshawar City The Frontier Post

Governor, CM condemns terrorists attack

PESHAWAR (APP): The departed souls in eternal condolences to the fami- Gandapur. Governor Khyber Pakh- abode tunkhwa, Haji Ghulam and courage to family mem-Chief Minister Ali Amin bers to bear the loss with Khan Gandapur has con- fortitude. demned attack of terrorists in North Waziristan and nation pay tribute to those expressed grief over the who sacrificed their lives killing of five security per- while defending mothersonnel including a lieu- land adding their sacrifice

In a statement issued always be remembered. here Saturday, Governor offered condolence to its people stand with secufamily members of securi- rity forces in their valiant the injured personnel. personnel embraced martyrdom in designs of miscreants.

and

He said that whole attack tenant colonel and captain. would not go vain and

> He said that country and who struggle to foil nefarious

granting lies of the five personnel, who lost their lives in the

> He empathized with the terrorism. bereaved families and prayed for the highest ranks for the martyrs and patience for the survivors.

The Chief Minister also conveyed his best wishes for the speedy recovery of

Security forces' personnel exhibited bravery in vowed that the sacrifices Expressing his grief, the confronting the terrorists, of the security forces for Governor also Chief Minister Ali Amin sacrificing their lives for the nation's peace would prayed for eternal peace of Khan Gandapur extended the nation, said Ali Amin not go in vain.

He hailed the sacrifices including a Lieutenant made by the security Colonel and a Captain, forces, emphasizing the nation's solidarity with them in the fight against

> Asserting that such cowardly acts will not deter the morale of the security forces, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring peace and security in the country.

Ali Amin Gandapur



13 candidates submitted papers for Senate election from KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A Syed Irshad Hussain have Provincial total of 13 candidates have submitted their papers for Commission said. Scrutiny submitted papers from the Senate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pro-seats, vincial Election Comm- Election Commission said. ission said here Saturday.

has submitted nomination Faisal Javed, Mirza papers for the seat of tech-Muhammad Afridi and nocrat in Senate elections, Azhar Qazi Mashwani have Election Commission said. Provincial Commission said. Mehwish Ali Khan has submitted Provincial papers for the women's Commission said. Provincial Commission said.

Likewise, Ayesha Bano also submitted her papers submitted

Technocrat the Provincial

Qazi Anwar advocate Mehmood, Dilawar Khan, Election also submitted papers for general

> nomination and 2 reserved seats for Commission said.

for Senate elections along papers will be published on with Azam Khan Swati and tomorrow (Sunday), the Irshad Hussain submitted nomination papers.

of nomination papers will be done by March 19 and appeals against acceptance Irfan Saleem, Talha and rejection of papers can be filed till March 21 and appeals will be decided by March 25. Provincial

seats, the submitted nonning.

Election papers for 2 Technocrat from Khyber from seat, Waqar Ahmed Qazi, Elections for 7 general, 2 Pakhtunkhwa. Among Khalid Masood have also technocrats and scholars them, Azam Khan Swati, Qazi Mohammad Anwar Technocrat, women will be held on Advocate, Waqar Ahmed Election April 2, Provincial Election Qazi, Dr. Hammad Mehmood Cheema, Khalid The list of those who Masood, Fazal Hanan, nomination Dilawar Khan and Syed

So far 8 candidates have

submitted their papers for 7 general seats, including Irfan Saleem, Muhammad Talha Mehmood, Dilawar Khan, Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Azhar Qazi Mashwani, Niaz Ahmed, Waqas Orkazai, Fazl Hanan, Asif Iqbal, Azam Khan Swati, Murad Saeed, Faizur Rehman, Khurram Zeeshan, Ataul

Khyber Haq and Fida Muhammad. Likewise, for 2 seats of women, 4 candidates have submitted their papers so far, including Mehwish Ali Khan, Asha Bano, Rubina Naz and Syeda Tahira Bukhari. The papers can be submitted till 6 pm today (Saturday), the Provincial

4 officers including Adl. Sec. reshuffled

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued transfer and posting orders of four bureaucrats including Additional Secretary Chief Minister Secretariat.

According to KP Establ ishment Department, Additional Secretary CM Secretariat, Muhammad Saleh has been posted as Director HRM/ Finance KP Public Procurement Regulatory Authority while Deputy Secretary Local Government, Naseer Ahmad have been transferred to CM Secretariat. Arif Ullah of Industries

Department has been posted as PSO to KP CM replacing Imran Anwar who has directed to report at Establishment Division.

EPI KP takes action

PESHAWAR (APP): The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday embarked on a robust vaccination campaign to contain the outbreak of measles in various regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

From 1st January to March, 2014, EPI has successfully vaccinated 26,725 children in response of outbreak in different areas of be province.

Moreover, an additional 200,000 children received their measles vaccinations during the Intensified Outreach Activity conducted from February 12 to 24,

Despite these efforts. challenges persist, particularly regarding the lack of isolation wards in major teaching hospitals Peshawar.

This deficiency has accelerated the spread of measles among children, necessitating urgent action to address this critical gap.

EPI Khyber The Pakhtunkhwa reports a total of 3,538 suspected cases of measles, out of which 1,236 cases have been confirmed. Tragically, there have been six confirmed deaths attributed to measles across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa thus far. The most affected age group comprises children under 5

and above 2 years old. Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan, Director of EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts with FDI and partner organizations to vaccinate every child in the province against 12 dangerous diseases, including measles.

Appointment of low grade inspectors banned PESHAWAR (APP): The nation halls, it has recom- duty as recreation and per-

decision to ban appointment of examination inspectors to the officers of Grade-17 and less than Grade-18 scale in Department of Education. Serious reservations of

the education department have come to light on the appointment of low-scale officers as inspectors, the letter issued by the Secretary BISE to all Educational Institutions, said. Some officers consider the duty of said inspection as entertainment and earning, said the letter.

Officers pay duty as per their convenience or only to get financial benefits, the letters said. If some officers are appointed in examination, examination duty is an integral part of official duty under the instructions and orders of the controlling authority headed by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Refusal to do so is liable to disciplinary action under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa E&D Rules 2011 would be taken.

Grade 18 and above will be posted for male examination halls while females of grade 17 and above will

the mended. The recommendations in this connection has been sent for examination duty will be personally signed with the name board examinations of the and stamp of the office of the head of the institution. Education Department has directed all the heads of

> sent to them. endeavor of the BISE to discourage malpractices and cheating in the examinations, which not only bring a bad name to the Board, Educational Institutions but also cause irreparable damage to the nation.

In order to check such practices, it is essential to bring forward, efficient, hardworking and dedicated officers to work as inspectors during the conduct of examinations. The BISE also sorted

the help of all the affiliated educational institutions to eradicate the said evils and creating a clean environment in the examinations, thus giving the legitimate rights to the deserving students, who would be above to lead the country honestly and efficiently in future, the letter says.

It is painful to say that

form it as their convenience or for getting monetary benefits only by disregarding its very basis noble aim.

Moreover, some of the officers, if appointed in the examination centers against their choice, refuse to eleventh hour, which schools to follow the letter creates a lot of problems for the Board although the It has always been the examination duty is compulsory part of the official duty under the directives of the orders of the Controlling Authority (Chief Minister) and refusal of the same is liable to disciolinary action under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa E&D Rules 2011.

Furthermore, it also forces the board to see the services of available officers, irrespective of their Character or attitude.

In view of the above the Board has requested to recommend the names of dedicated and efficient officers of Grade-18 and above (Male) and Grade-17 and above (female) for the examination duty. The recommendation is mandatory to sign by the Head of the Institutions, with Office Stamp and Name. The recommendations should reach by name to the Secretary be posted in female exami- some officers treat the said Board up to Mar 31, 2024.

Call for protecting Shisham from dieback disease in KP

Shisham-an tree- is gradually vanishing come your financial conappearantly due to dieback khwa, and the environmen- mer of Mohib Banda in need for advanced research talking to APP. studies to save the economfrom possible extinction.

that Shisham has been dren. tricts where infestation rate him," he said. was high compare to other "I started districts of the province.

since it was first reported in an advanced research studrequired for eradication of Katlang-Swabi, the species at young age.

nent pathologist of Pakistan pointed to see the dry in his book 'Pathology of trees volume-II' had disclosed that dieback in Shisham was found in early 1900 in the subcontinent.

He observed various fungi including Ganoderma lucidum in Khanewal plantation in Punjab, which ultimately lead to dieback in

The multi purposes Shisham, which was introduced in Changa Manga in 1866 to produce coal for the railways, was a great source of earning for the farmers and middle class due to its wide-range uses and benefits.

(APP): planted Shisham with an indigenous advice that sissoo will overstraints in future," said disease in Khyber Pakhtun- Kamal Ahmed (30), a for-

"Last year endangered by the dieback Shisham trees in my farmalso called cancer at Pesh- land were attacked apparawar, Charsadda, Mardan, ently by the disease which Nowshera and Swabi dis- was a great financial loss to

Dilbergia sissoo, he said attacked by the disease at Shisham is under increas- the maturing stage, result- as compared to draught hit ged tribal districts would them" said another former 1998 in these areas and that Riazul Haq of the same village. A visitor who travels ies and investigations were in upper Swat canal linking dieback that often attack canal in Dargai Malakand Harichand Dr A. H. Khan, an emi- Charsadda, would be disap-

is also reported in India, Nepal and Bangladesh," said Dr Mumtaz Malik, former Secretary Environment and talists have stressed the Nowshera district while Forests KP.

He said from generation Shisham from its natural would be planted in central ically beneficial specie to generation they were habitats of hilly areas to southern region 1 including planting the specie and sell- draught hit plain areas has Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Gulzar Rehman, former ing them for dowry of sis- left it at the mercy of the Charsadda and southern Conservator of Forests said ters or education of chil- deadly disease," he said. He said that root injuries to Shisham during cleaning

of water channels in these districts was one of the reason of high infestation rate. Dr Mumtaz Malik said replacing Shisham with Mulberry and impact on Shisham in hilly and Dir districts. Botanically known as Poplar as it was often areas like Mirpur in the

ing threat of disappearing ing great financial losses to areas of Mardan, Swabi and Charsadda since it was reported in 1998. Khyber Pakthunkhwa Forest Department officials Forest Institute has already started research on dieback

> disease. The said formers and students were being

involved besides national tional problem as the disease building departments to plant maximum Shisham plants in southern districts of Khyber Pakthunkhwa. According to KP Forest

Department, five million stretching of saplings including Shisham districts of Khyber Pakthunkhwa during ongo-

ing spring season. About 3.806 million saplings would be sown in Malakand Forest Region III Swat including Shangla, the dieback had made little Buner, Malakand, Chitral

The barren lands and Azad Jammu and Kashmir rugged mountains of meralso be utilized to achieve the set afforestration targets with cooperation of relevant departments.

Tribal people are being told APP that Pakistan encouraged to approach divisional forest officers offices in their respective for obtaining districts plants including Shisham for afforestation.



"My late father had meeting with Advisor to CM Syed Fakhar Jahan.

Minister visits Sifwat Ghayur Children Hospital

Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah made a sur-

prise visit to Sifwat Ghayur Children Hospital located in the Hajji Camp on Saturday and issued directives to the hospital administration that no patient or attendant should face any inconvenience in access to

health services. During visit, he toured various departments of the hospital where the staff briefed him on their respective areas and informed him about the facilities avail-

(APP): able at the hospital. Minister Shah personal-

ly went to the OPD counter, interacted with patients and their attendants, and listened to their complaints regarding the hospital. Minister Shah inspected

the cleanliness standards both inside and outside the wards of the hospital. During his statement issued on this occasion, he mentioned that the shortage of specialised hospitals in proportion to the population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is promising immediate action affecting health services in on such complaints.

He said that the Khyber Institute of Child Health Care, a federally funded project, has now become partially operational.

He expressed his desire to fully activate it at the earliest by taking this matter to the federal government.

He appealed to the public to lodge complaints regarding any hospital or health centre on their Facebook page or the official page of the Health Department,

Over 1,500 unregistered religious schools operating

of Khyber province Pakhtunkhwa, a notable number of religious schools are operating without offi-cial registration as per official documents.

religious schools, more than 1,500 are unregistered. Mardan district has the

these institutions, hosting 602 religious schools. However, it is alarming

to note that 181 of these schools in Mardan are not registered, and 283 are not Out of the total 6,482 affiliated with any school board. The majority of the reli-

gious schools, numbering

PESHAWAR (INP): In the highest concentration of 5,362, are affiliated with Arabia.

These schools are home to a large number of students, both local and for-

The local student population exceeds 702,000, while the number of foreign students is 6,596.

Crafting tradition: Artistry of wooden products attract customers

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has serving a rich cultural her-the richest tapestry of cenitage that has been passed turies-old crafting tradition down through many generof the artistry of wooden ations. products that attracts cuspiece tells a story of expert-

ise and resilience. taking beauty of the region, daily needs, and it is our skilled craftsmen continue duty to carry forward this to carve, shape, and create tradition. It is not just a job masterpieces that not only for us rather a connection to serve practical purposes but our roots.' it also embody the essence of KP's cultural identity.

The artisan breathes life tomers from across the into wood, turning it into country and abroad. From functional works of art, intricately carved furniture said Muhammad Shahbaz, to daily-use items like a third-generation woodwindows, beds, worker from Swat while showcase every reflecting on the significance of the craft industry in the region. "Our ances-Nestled amid the breath- tors relied on wood for their

While honoring the tradition, the craftsmen in KP In the bustling markets are not afraid to embrace valleys of Swat, the legacy of traditional techniques manship of wooden craftsmanship is with contemporary aesthetevident. The skilled artisans ics has given rise to a development, marketing, try has accommodated tives, and the need for con- wood into enduring treas- province, adding that due to promote the industrial secare not merely creating unique style that appeals to and establishing export nearly 15 employees where tinuous

carved doors with a modern province as a hub for hightwist, KP's wooden products seamlessly blend the old and the new.

scended enthusiasts and connoising the exceptional crafts- ers and retailers from piece. The intricate detail- opened up new avenues, of KP's wooden products to evolve and adapt to conmake them coveted items in temporary tastes. the global market.

provincial government of Association KP while talk-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has ing to the news agency said actively supported and pro- that there were more than of Peshawar and the serene modern designs. The fusion moted the wooden crafts- seven hundred small wood-

quality wooden products. International exhibitions industry.

and trade fairs have become

wooden products has tran- the unique blend of tradiborders, with tion and innovation in KP's wooden products. seurs worldwide recogniz- Collaborations with designmanship embedded in each around the world have ing and timeless elegance allowing the age-old craft

Feroz In recent years, the President Dealer Furniture Initiatives aimed at skill Peshawar city. Every indus-

(APP): products; they are also pre- both local and international channels have not only they make office and home. However, the resilience resonating through the wood manufacturing indusbuyers. From minimalist empowered local artisans furniture. Speaking about ingrained in the cultural wooden decor to intricately but have also positioned the the present condition, he fabric of KP ensures that said the power shutdown these challenges are met has badly affected the with adaptability and cre-

> As the world increasingeco-friendly practices, KP's Pakhtunkhwa embraced reclaimed wood and envi- and ronmentally techniques reflect a com- made wooden piece. mitment to preserve both natural resources that make these creations possible.

Despite the success, the wooden industry faces challenges such as changing market mass-produced

ativity. The demand for KP's platforms for showcasing ly values sustainable and craftsmanship in Khyber wooden craftsmen have promising. As the industry responsible continues to evolve, there is sourcing and production a growing appreciation for tion. He said that he was a methods. The use of the authenticity, quality, small boy who started unique character conscious embedded in each hand-

> The interplay between cultural heritage and the tradition and modernity, coupled with a commitment to sustainability, positions KP's wooden products as craftsmanship timeless artifacts that transcend generations.

In the heart of Khyber innovation. ures, the tradition lives on, ongoing wave of inflation, tor in the province.

craftsmanship that connects the past with the present and future. Shamsul Qamar, a resi-

dent of Tehkal Peshawar The future of wooden who had worked in a wooden products manufacturing factory during the last 50 years said that his business was down now due to inflation. He said that he was a working in a wooden manufacturing factory.

Qamar informed that they bring Kikar and Shisham wood from southern districts for decorated ures to provide the availpieces while the wood of Chir, Partal, Dyar and Ghuz ists. He said that the provinthey bring from Swat and Dir for making doors and windows. He said that there industry. en industries only in trends, competition from Pakhtunkhwa, where the were more than five thou- support of the federal govalterna- hands of artisans shape sand industries in the ernment in this regard to

tries were rapidly shutting down

Muhammad Rasool, a resident of Waziristan, and Iftikhar Khan, a resident of Mardan while buying some wooden products in Board Bazar said that instead of new products they opt for used products to afford the prices.

When contacted Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Industries Abdul Karim Khan, he said that the provincial government was taking all possible measable resources to industrialcial government is working for solarization of wooden industries. He also sought



District Courts Buner disposed 8097 pleas F.P. Report

BUNER: District and Session courts Buner has disposed of as many as 8094 cases out of 8444 cases during 2023. This was published by competent authority on directive by District and Session Judge Buner Wali, on Sumera Saturday. According to details, as many as 5102 criminal cases and 3342 civil cases were registered in the district courts of D&SJ, ADJs, SCJs and CJs including Khadukhel Buner. The details shared with this scribe revealed in the court of district & session judge total 757 cases were registered out of them 753 disposed of. Additional District and Session Judge (AD&SJ)-I disposed of 960 cases while 899 new cases were filed before the court. AD&SJ-II disposed-off 608 cases while 688 pleas freshly filed in the court of law. Moreover, Senior Civil Judge Judicial disposed of 1191 cases out of 1200 new filed cases. SCJ Admin disposed of 77 cases out of 77 pleas. SCJ Family disposed of 430 pleas while 417 new cases were filed before the court during 2023. The court of Civil Judge-1 disposes 517 petitions while 522 cases filed in last year. The court of CJ-II disposed-of 471 cases while 482 new applications were in 2023. The court of CJ-IV disposed-of 402 while 403 pleas filed and CJ-IV disposed-of 463 out of 506. The court of CJ-VI decided 1717 petitions out of 1752 during 2023, however, court of CJ-VII disposed of 334 out of 444 cases and CJ Totalai disposed of 699 while 683 pleas were filed

Robber killed in police encounter

during 2023.

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): A robber was lled, arms and looted valuables recovered after exchange of fire police here. According to details, a police team approached a two member gang of robbers present in Kot Sabzal police station jurisdiction to commit a robbery. Upon sight of police, the robber started firing and attempted to flee from the scene. In retaliatory firing of police, one robber was killed while another managed to escape Arms and looted valuables were recovered possession of from killed robber wanted by police in various cases of robberies and other crimes.

Boy found dead from house

HYDERABAD (INP) Sindh Police claimed to have found the body of a young boy in a house located in the Latifabad area Hyderabad on Saturday. According to police officials, the boy has been identified as Abdul Rehman and hails from Tharparkar, also known as Thar, district in Sindh. The police spokesperson stated that the postmortem of the body is underway to identify the cause of death, meanwhile, the investigation into the case has been launched. Back in 2020, a morose development occurred in the ill-fated Abdul Hakeem town Khanewal district, neighbors recovered the bodies of three siblings from a house after "daylong silence". Police confirmed the three deceased were siblings after the neighbors called upon them having found the dead bodies. According to the details reported so far, the parents of the deceased three siblings had had a domestic fight the previous day following which the mother rushed to her

maternal home leaving

the kids behind.

Students flay govt's attitude toward Higher Education

F.P. Report

Provincial government could not appoint Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor in included open-angle glau-Abdul Wali University Mardan. Due to coma, normal-tension glauwhich the future of students has been put at stake. According to the details, the degrees of 4 thousand students are waiting for the signature of the Vice Chancellor.

These degrees have been delayed for four months due to which thousands of students at home and abroad More were deprived of higher education. The administrative affairs of the university have been badly affected.

According to sources, there are clear orders in the statutes of the university for the pro-vice chancellor, but despite this, it is not being implemented and due to the lack of stationery, there is a fear of postponement of the exams. Despite of being prominent university of a province, the Dean of Life Sciences and the Dean of Numerical Sciences could not be appointed in it and the students are facing serious difficulties in research. Ensure the appointment of Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and others otherwise the protest against the higher education department `HED` route will be taken.

Awareness walk held at **MMC:** An awareness walk held for people about Glaucoma disease to eliminate the blindness and sensitize the people about the need of having regular eye The checkups.

Ophthalmology Unit of MMC hospital has organized the awareness walk in connection with the World Glaucoma Week. March 12 to 18 is designated as focus the global attention Hameed, on the issue of eye health.

Addressing the participants, In-charge Eye Ward MMC Prof Dr Muhammad Glaucoma is group of eye the walk.

disorders that lead to pro gressive damage to the optic nerve (retina) and causes vision loss. He said the eye disorders group Khan coma, acute-closure glau-

> coma and glaucoma in children and pigmentary glaucoma. He said Glaucoma is a common eye condition where the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, gets damaged. Glaucoma can lead to loss of vision if not diagnosed and treated early. Professor Muhammad Tariq said

open-angle glaucoma symptoms includes patchy blind spot in side vision, difficulty in seeing things in central vision, acute-closure glaucoma symptoms are severe headache, severe eye pain, vomiting, blurred vision, eye redness, normal-tension glaucoma symptoms comprises of blurred vision, loss of side vision, symptom of glaucoma in children included dull or cloudy eyes, increased blinking, tear without crying, blurred vision, worsening of near-sightedness, headache while pigmentary glauco ma symptoms comprises halos around lights, blurred vision with exercise and gradual loss of side vision. Assist Prof Dr Bilal said

risk factors of the disease included family history, diabetes, migraines, high blood pressure, sickle cell anemia, injury or certain types of surgery, extreme nearsightedness or farsightedness, taking corticosteroid, particularly eye drops for long time etc. He said the disorder can be avoided by getting regular examinations, getting know about family eye health history, wearing protection and taking prescribed eye drops regularly World Glaucoma Week to Medical Director Prof Imad Prof

Muhammad Tariq, In-charge Eye Ward Assist Professor Dr Bilal, Prof Dr Muhammad Fazil, others (Senior doctors, nurses, students Ophthalmologists) said that and others participated in

Reforms introduced in BISE Mardan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Board Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan chairman Farid Ahmed Khattak has said that revolutionary reforms are being introduced for the convenience of students along with taking the class 9 computer science exams online, the practical mode is also being changed to prepare the students to face the challenges of today.

He was addressing a high-level meeting in the conference hall of the board in which Secretary Inam Khan Toru, Controller of Director of Research Hazrat Ali, PEN President SM Ilyas, General Secretary Sohail Iqbal, DEOs Female of Mardan, Nowshera and Swabi and members of the Board of Governors attend-

The chairman said that this year 155,000 students will participate in the matriculation exams, for which more than 600 examination the world.

centers are being established in the districts of Swabi Mardan and Nowshera, in which 335 for boys and 225 for girls and 40 joint centers have been established. He said that the Mardan Board has the honor of conducting the online examination while this time the percentage as well as the grade wil be recorded in the DMC. There will be a complete

ban on mobile phones in the examination centers and the installation of cameras. Washroom, furniture and other facilities for students will be ensured. He said that the duties of 5000 teachers will be assigned in the Examinations Ishrat Ali, exams for which 6000 online applications have been received so far. A board has been formed in which the examination results of all institutions grade-wise and student-wise will be entered separately along with other details and the results of the students of educational institutions affiliated to Mardan Board can be seen on one click sitting in any corner of

FC provides free eye care facility to tribesmen F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Frontier Corps (FC) North is dedicated to ensuring security and well-being in Khyber, district, working closely with local communities to address their needs and concerns. For the purpose, FC North, in collaboration with Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital, successfully organized a two-day Free Eye Camp in Landi Kotal Khyber District.

Recognizing the scarcity of health facilities in the area, this initiative aimed to address the pressing need for eye care services among the local population. During the camp, a team of expert doctors and nursing staff provided free eye screenings and vision tests to 1021 patients.

Additionally, free spectacles and medicines were distributed to deserving individuals, ensuring accessibility to essential care resources. Furthermore, 190 patients identified for further treatment were referred to Al-Eye Trust Rawalpindi. Among them, over 20 patients will receive free eye operations, demonstrating the commitment of both organizations to comprehensive eye health services. The community expressed profound gratitude to the senior officials of Frontier Corps North for their dedication to improving healthcare

5 outlaws arrested F.P. Report

accessibility in the area.

D I KHAN: The Dera police claimed to have arrested two absconders, drug peddler and foiled an arms smuggling attempt, recovered illegal weapons in the limits of Cantt, Paroa, and Dera Town police station.

According to a police spokesman, the district police, following the directions of District Police (DPO) Officer Mehmood, were making all out efforts to end all types of

In continuation of actions against criminal elements, a team of Paroa Police station led by SDPO Paroa Circle Anwar Khattak along with Station House Officer (SHO) Sibtain Hussain traced a murder case and arrested absconder Mehboob son of Ahmad, a resident of Sarra-Gara recovering a 12-bore gun along with the cartridge.

In another action, the same police arrested an accused of a physical abuse case named Rizwan son of Nemat Ullah. Similarly team of Dera Town Police Station led by SDPO Saddar Circle Muhammad Imran Khattak along with SHO Khalid Javed and Incharge of Khhutti police check post Muhammd Idrees foiled an arms smuggling attempt after recovering a cache of

arms. During snap checking the police team stopped a white Double-Cabin coloured vehicle bearing registration number (KX-1525) for checking. The two persons travelling in the said vehicle introduced themselves as Abdul Malik son of Abdullah resident of Quetta and Mehrab Khan son of Qubad Khan resident of

Communication, roads reopens after 10 days of snowfall in Chitral

CHITRAL: Due to the recent heavy snow, the road of Hearth, Karimabad, Susom, etc., had been closed for all traffic on March 2, causing thousands of people living there plunged in difficulties. Village Council Chairman Sher Faraz Khan said while talking about the difficulties facing by closing of road, that the shopkeepers here have stock maximum of three days, but the road was closed for ten days, with snowfall and falling avalanches, and land sliding at different places.

The rocks and large stones were fallen. Since there is no hospital in the area, we were forced to put our patients on the shoulders to carry them to hospital. Chairman Sher Faraz Khan said that when the problems of the people started to increase, I reached Chitral from here by feet and brought in to the notice of Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral. Executive Engineer of C&W Tariq Murtaza was instructed that the route be opened immediately.

On behalf of XEN Tariq Murtaza, SDO Muhammad Adnan immediately directed the contractor Taj Rasool and his machinery were mobilized in the valley, a bulldozer and a was removing land sliding and debris fallen from the mountains and the road was opened for all kinds of traffic. He is still scared when traveling on this road and people have a lot of difficulties because this road is very narrow and on the other hand there is no protection or retaining wall towards the river on the bank of it. it is very difficult to avoid falling down thousands of feet down ravine.

road for traffic. She added that there



the way when they are carrying to the hospital during maternity (delivery).

Fateh -ur -Rehman is also a resident of this area. He also highlighted his difficulties due to the closure of the route. He said that 680 families are living in hearth cluster and there was a severe food shortage and drinking water. If the route did not open in a timely manner, we could probably have been suffering from starvation. Responding to a question, he said that Saleem Khan, a resident of this Tehsil, had been a provincial minister for five years and member of the provincial assembly for five years but he did nothing for us.

thanked the XEN and SDO of Communication &Works Wasima Bibi, a female councilor Department, who, in a timely manner, in the area, said that the C&W staff cleaned the snow from the road and were facing very difficult to open the opened it for traffic. They said that there was a kidney patient who had to is no hospital in the entire valley and be taken to the hospital for dialysis on kind of d that maternal children often die on daily basis, but due to the recent he added.

snowfall, when the route was closed, we could not take her to the hospital on time and she continued to suffer at

A spokesman for the C&W department said that during the recent snowfall, they opened roads of Barinus Gol, Prait Valley, Pasti, Mori Lasht, Golain, Kujo Bala, Kuju Paine, Abdul Wali Khan Bai Pass Road, Hospital Road, DC Office road, Mughalandeh, Hoon Faizabad, Dom Shogur, Bakar Abad, Dolomos, Lingland School Road, Singor, Dinin and Gahtak roads were cleared from snow and opened for traffic. A C&W department official said on Mirza Wali and the people here condition of anonymity that they had severe shortage of fund and last year's Maintenance and repair fund were also not yet received. If the government provides them sufficient budget as per their requirement, the people of Chitral will not face any kind of difficulty in communication

Community policing key maintaining law & order: DPO

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: In a special meeting held under the chairmanship of District Police Officer Kohat Muhammad were taken regarding law and order and crime prevention. In the meeting, emphasis was placed on complete eradication of mafia, interest, under- crimes are detected. play, drugs, gambling, car, bike lifting and organized criminal groups.

In the meeting, it was directed to also directed to take practical steps to involved in the heinous crime. promote proactive and community

Offenders and anti-social elements involved in criminal activities. During the meeting, DPO emphasized to show good manners with general public and the complainants coming to through usury and underplay will be Umar Khan, important decisions the police stations. Addressing the meeting, DPO Muhammad Umar Khan said that investigation is the backbone of policing through which DPO made it clear that organized

criminal groups involved in possession mafia, usury, underplay, car, bike adopt an effective strategy for count- lifting, drug selling and gambling grated through teamwork. He made it er crimes and to speed up the meas-ures to maintain the law and order sit-criminate actions against them. air firing in any area while in the uation. During the meeting, the crime Protecting the young generation, presence of the police is not acceptrate of the entire district and the counespecially students, from deadly able. Timely registration of FIR termeasures were compared. It was drugs like ice, target the elements should be ensured in every case by

guise of personal security, the bully- for the protection of life and property DPO Kohat also directed to speed ing of armed groups spreading fear of the people. Make it possible to proup the targeted operations in order to and panic among the people will not vide the best services to citizens in better deal with wanted Proclaimed be tolerated under any circumstances, police related matters.

The leaders of the land mafia who illegally occupy the lands of others will be made a lesson. The elements that make people's lives miserable severely crushed. The DPO urged the police officers to activate human intelligence including snap checking, special blockades, search and strike operations.

In order to maintain the peace and order situation, the coordination with each other should be made more intesorting out the pending inquiries. Al DPO bluntly warned that under the available resources should be utilized

47 stores, 13 franchises to facilitate public in Ramazan

LOWER DIR: A total of 47 stores, 13 franchises and four mobile teams have to deserving citizens under the Prime Minister relief package programme during the month of Ramazan.

In this connection the divisional (USC) Dir division Muhammad Riaz, the PML-N losing candidate for NA 6 Haji Rohullah Khan and Muhammad Zaman on Friday visited various utiliand flour etc. ty stores. The USC regional manager briefed the PML-N local leaders about the relief packages under the prime area on the directives of Prime minister scheme. The PML-N leaders distributed wheat flour, ghee and other edibles among the deserving citizens on the occasion.

Talking to local journalists the affiliation. USC regional manager said that relief

ole from 47 stores and 13 franchises in the Dir division. He said that there Ihsan along with assistant food conwas no shortage. He said the prime troller Riaz Ahmad and inspector been tasked to provide relief packages minister had announced a Rs 12 billion relief package in the month of Ramazan under which the residents Baba and checked prices, weight and would be provided with subsidized food items. The official said that resimanager of Utility Store Corporation dents up to 60 score in the Benazir Income Support Programme could get the Ramazan relief package which consisted of rice, dates, pulses, sugar

> sale points had been established in the Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif. He said the PML-N would provide every possible relief to poor segments of society irrespective of their party

Shopkeepers charged for viola-

packages were being supplied to peo- tion of official price list: The Lower Dir district food controller Kashif Shabir Ahmad raided different markets at Talash, Timergara and Zawal quality of edibles, meat, bakery, vegetable and fruit.

The officials registered FIRs against the shopkeepers for violating the food act while three butchers were fined Rs 200,00 each on the spot. The officials also took actions against The PML-N leaders said that two another butcher in the Mian Banda area of Timergara for overcharging commuters.

Also, the assistant commissioner Adenzai Muhammad Daud Saleemi issued non-bailable arrest warrants of 8 butchers on overcharging consumers at Gulabad, Ouch and Tazagram areas.

PM and KP CM shaking hands

Muhammad Fazalur Rahman

Prime Minister of Pa-Muhammad . kistan, Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, is being seen as a significant step towards better cooperation between the federal and provincial governments across the country. In the current state of affairs, fostering if the working relations between strong working relations Chief Minister Ali Amin and the between the federal and federal government remain corprovincial governments is deemed crucial.

Initially, there were speculations that due to the ideological differences between the Pakistan Pakhtunkhwa. Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led gov-Khyber ernment in Pakhtunkhwa and the attitude of Ali Amin Gandapur, the federal government would not extend cooperation to Pakhtunkhwa, and neither would the Chief Minister of Khyber the province. He treated Ali

alyses have been debunked. province from the federal govissues. The foremost priority in in it will be fulfilled. Ali Amin Whether it's during the ernment. It can also be inferred all our joint efforts will be the Gandapur stated that our

Minister Nawaz Sharif, both Prime Minister's House indicates Shahbaz Sharif, and Chief governments have provided serious discussions on all current Pakhtunkhwa, especially in commitment terms of development projects. addressing them. When we look towards develop-Chief Minister Ali Amin and the eral government but also benefit residents of Khyber

In the meeting, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, warmly welcomed the Chief Minister of Khyber Khyber assured him of full cooperation country progresses. from the federal government for

influenced by Maulana Fazlur responsibilities and emphasized Rahman's recommendations, but focusing on fulfilling his duties rather than emotions, thus proving positive sentiments towards ing himself as the best Chief working with the federal govern-Minister dial and continue to improve, it will not only strengthen the fed-statement issued by the Prime assured that they won't demand Minister's House, Muhammad anything from the federal gov-Shahbaz Sharif, upon the arrival of the Chief Minister of Khyber but they will definitely discuss

and expressed his gratitude, say-

ing, "All four provinces are units

"Considering the current eco-deliver on their promises. nomic situation of the country, Pakhtunkhwa be able to improve Amin Gandapur with utmost all legitimate demands of relations with the federal gov- respect, similar to his younger Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be resolution of the country's ernment. However, after the brother, and assured him of every fulfilled. He said, "We need to issues. This country is ours, and

his brother, former Prime cers during the meeting at the working collaboratively with all provinces, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to strengthen ample facilities to Khyber issues of the province and the relations and address the councontinue try's issues.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Ali Amin Gandapur also Gandapur also discussed various ment projects, there is a long list expressed his commitment to his important issues related to the province with Prime Minister Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif, reflect-Khyber ment for the resolution of ernment that it cannot deliver, Pakhtunkhwa, welcomed him the rights of the province and the resolution of people's issues because the people have entrustof the federation; when all four ed them with a mandate, and Pakhtunkhwa and provinces work together, the they expect them to work for the development of the province and

They have to work not only for the province but also for the meeting, these speculations and possible assistance for the sit together and resolve all whatever role our province plays discussed the province's respon- of the province.

tenures of Prime Minister that the presence of top federal welfare of the people." The fed-province is contributing to the individuals without evidence, THE meeting between Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif or officials and high-ranking offi- eral government is confident in supply of oil, gas, and electricity to the country, and we are pleased that the resources of our province are being utilized for the betterment of the country and will continue to be used in the future as well. Chief Minister also mentioned that a meeting of party leaders with Chairman Imran Khan was also held, which was essential for consultation on Senate elections

> country's political problems. In response to a question, Ali Amin Gandapur said that the security issues of the province are not just the province's but the country's issues, so there is a need to work together to address these issues. During the discussion, Federal Minister for the officials of the Treasury Planning, Asad Umar, men- Department to sit with the tioned that the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister took place in a pleasant

and other political matters, and

if political consultations lead to

the resolution of political issues,

it will lead to the solution of the

sibilities, load shedding of electricity in the province, arrests of and other important matters with the Prime Minister.

In terms of fulfilling the province's responsibilities, the Prime Minister has directed the officials of the Treasury Department to sit with the provincial government to resolve matters. He also directed the formation of a future team, which will work on other issues of the province. Asad Umar further mentioned that the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister was held in a pleasant atmosphere.

The Chief Minister discussed the province's responsibilities, load shedding of electricity in the province, arrests of individuals without evidence, and other important matters with the Prime Minister. In terms of fulfilling the province's responsibilities. the Prime Minister has directed provincial government to resolve matters. He also directed the formation of a future team, atmosphere. The Chief Minister which will work on other issues



Former prime minister says Poland needed spyware

minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski told a parliamentary committee he believes Poland needed advanced spyware but that, despite ed in how or against whom it was used.

Kaczynski testified before the committee in a televised session about the purchase and allegedly illegal use of advanced spyware by a government headed by his Law and Justice party, which was that term he was deputy prime minister for national security.

"As far as Pegasus (spyware) goes, I was aware that it's a tool for breaking into communication devices, and that Poland needs it, and that other countries also have it," Kaczynski said. But he stressed that he was "not directly interested in the operational activity of the (security) services." However, he later said the "use of Pegasus was in accordance with the law, there were no shortcomings, and in 99% it was used against criminals.

Most of the time Kaczynski avoided directly answering questions, saying he did not remember the facts or digressing to praise the Law and Justice government. The questioning went on for many hours. The Israel-based NSO Group's Pegasus spyware was used to spy on mobile devices belonging to opponents of the party, according to findings by the University of Toronto's nonprofit Citizen Lab. Recent details suggest it was also used to eavesdrop on some key members of Kaczynski's right-wing party.

The revelations, first reported by The Associated Press in 2021, shocked Poland and added to the European Union's concerns that the Law and Justice government was undermining the rule of law. They also hurt the credentials of Kaczynski's populist party. The Polish hacks are conhave to give evidence, saying that he has

Kaczynski refused to repeat the portion of the witness oath that promises "the whole truth," causing a delay as the comhis leadership position, he wasn't interest- mittee debated whether he had been properly sworn in. When the proceedings continued, Kaczynski attacked his political rivals, the current government, saying that the commission's probe was a "political undertaking" aimed at proving an "illusionary notion that there was dictatorship in power from 2015 to 2023. For part of in Poland" during his party's term in

Kaczynski, 74, was prime minister in 2006-2007, but continued to play a key role in Poland's politics after leaving the job, especially when his party ruled again in 2015-2023. He was considered Poland's most powerful politician during the period the spyware was used. In January 2022, Kaczynski acknowledged that the country bought advanced spyware from the NSO Group, but denied that it was being used to target his political opponents.

Current Prime Minister Donald Tusk has said the previous government used Pegasus illegally and targeted a "very long" list of victims. Poland's license for the use of Pegasus was discontinued in 2022, following the reports that the government used it against political opponents. President Andrzej Duda, who is a Law and Justice ally, has shown little interest in clarifying the serious allegations around the use of spyware.

Pegasus gives operators complete access to targeted mobile device, allowing them to extract passwords and to activate the microphone and camera for real-time eavesdropping. Law and Justice lost power in December following an electoral defeat The new parliament dominated by a pro-EU coalition has set up the special committee to dig into the previous government's use of the spyware. The committee is also to quessidered particularly egregious because tion other members of the Law and Justice they occurred in a EU member country. As the hearing began, Kaczynski sought to number of cases of Pegasus abuse have been avoid testifying and argued he should not revealed since 2015, showing the NSO Group spyware was employed to eavesdrop only marginal knowledge of how the on journalists, politicians, diplomats, Pegasus spyware was used but that what lawyers and human rights activists from the

US probes Boeing flight found with lost external panel

SAN FRANCISCO: The Pilots were forced to make Federal Aviation Admin- an emergency landing. istration (FAA) is investi- There were 174 passengers Airlines Boeing 737-800 some people reported minor lost an external panel before injuries. US landing safely in the US immediately state of Oregon, the latest in investigations into the coma series of recent incidents pany's safety and quality involving aircraft manufac- standards in its production tured by the company. process. The FAA grounded deliveries per year in the last Plight 433 from San Boeing 737 Max 9 jetliners, Francisco landed safely at affecting 171 planes world
The 737 Max aircraft was growth," said Chow, who is Valley International Airport in Oregon, but a in Boeing's manufacturing revealed a missing panel, dling and storage, and prod-

the FAA said. Medford airport paused audit of the company. operations to check the runway and airfield for debris Transportation Safety Board but none was found, accord- and the US Department of ing to the facility's director, Justice also launched sepa-Amber Judd. The missing rate investigations into panel was on the underside Boeing. A United Airlines of the plane, where the wing spokesperson said no emermeets the body and just next to the landing gear, United said. There were 139 passengers and six crew members on board the 25-yearold aircraft. No injuries

were reported. January when a panel that duct an investigation to betplugged a space left for an ter understand how this extra emergency door blew damage occurred." out midair on an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 Max 9 flight in April 1998, accordflight shortly after takeoff ing to the FAA. It is a 737-from Portland, Oregon. 824, part of the 737-800

United and six crew on board and regulators launched wide and said it had identi-Medford fied "non-compliance issues inspection process control, parts han-

uct control" following an

National The gency was declared because there was no indication of the damage during the flight. "We'll conduct a thorough examination of the plane and perform all the needed repairs before it Boeing has come under returns to service," the airscrutiny since line said. "We'll also con-

The plane made its first

series that was a precursor to the Max. There was no immediate comment from Boeing. The aircraft manufacturer shuffled its leadership following the Alaska Airlines incident but faces a widening gap in market share with rival Airbus following fewer orders and its mistakes will decide

grounded for 20 months between 2019 and 2020 after two fatal crashes killed 350 people. On March 4, an engine fire forced a United Airlinesoperated Boeing 737 bound for Florida to make an emergency landing in Houston. Texas, shortly after takeoff United said the engine ingested some plastic bubble wrap that was on the airfield prior to departure. Two days later, fumes in the cabin of a Boeing 737-800 forced an emergency landing in Portland.

Last week, a tyre fell off a Boeing 777-200 after takeoff in San Francisco, destroying a car. The plane was bound for Japan but diverted to Los Angeles, where it landed safely. A day later, a United Airlines operated Boeing 737 Max rolled onto the grass and off the runway in Houston. -

Hong Kong jails 12 for storming legislature

International

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong court has sentenced 12 people to jail terms ranging from more than four years to nearly seven years after they stormed the city's legislature during the pro-democracy protests.

Hundreds of protesters broke into the Legislative Council building on July 1 that year, daubing graffiti in the chamber and defacing a government emblem amid rising public anger over a proposed extradition bill that many feared would allow authorities to send people to mainland China for trial. On Saturday District Court Judge Li Chi-ho sentenced the defendants including actor Gregory Wong after they were previously found guilty of rioting. Wong who is 45, was jailed for six years and two months after pleading not guilty.

Political activists Ventus Lau and Owen Chow, who had pleaded guilty, were given terms of 54 months and 20 days, and 61 months and 15 days, respectively Althea Suen, the 27-yearold former president of the University of Hong Kong's student union, who had also pleaded guilty, was sentenced to four years and nine months.

Two former reporters who were charged alongside the 12, but not convicted of rioting, were fined for "entering or staying in the Legislative Council chamber". Li described the incident as a "serious" blow to the city's rule of law. The activists defended their actions ahead of sentencing. "The actual crime committed by the protesters ... is the pursuit of democracy, freedom of thought and free will," Suen told

the court. Chow, meanwhile, said the riot was "the language of the unheard", citing civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. He said the government's refusal to withdraw the extradition bill after a march opposing it drew one million people was the immediate cause of the incident. "How a politiand whether it can rectify charged with conspiracy to commit subversion in a separate ongoing national

security trial. Relatives and supporters cried and shouted care!" and "Hang in there!" as the defendants were led away from the dock Rioting carries a maximum sentence of seven years in Hong Kong's District Court. More than 10,200 people were arrested in connection with the 2019 protests, of whom 2,937 have been charged with offences including rioting unlawful assembly and criminal damage, accordng to police figures.

Beijing imposed sweeping national security law on Hong Kong in the middle of 2020 that critics say has criminalised dissent. The Chinese and Hong Kong governments say they have restored calm and stability. — Aljazeera

Women bus drivers, a first for Uzbekistan

atova "cried with joy" after Uzbekistan, a predominantly Muslim former Soviet republic, lifted a ban last month on women working as bus drivers. "I was waiting a long time," said the 49-year-old, who used to work in public transport maintenance in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent. Shermatova now drives the number 51, an electric bus, around Tashkent the biggest city in Central Asia with a population of three million.

She said her husband, also a bus driver, was concerned at first but has given her "full support" although he "tells me every day to be careful". Seeing a woman bus driver is an unusual sight in Uzbekistan -- a highly patriarchal country of around 35 million people. "At first, a lot of people looked at me in shock. Some men asked me if it wasn't too difficult for me. Others stayed silent but looked disapproving," she said.

lot more encouragement and congratulations." Before she started driving the 51, Shermatova trained for several days with her 69-year-old colleague, Makhmud Mislimov. "It's a very good thing that women are allowed to drive buses, particularly since the vehicles are now more practical and less heavy than in Soviet times," said Mislimov. He said women used to drive buses in the Soviet era under certain conditions.

Across Central Asia, independence

"But I'm not worried. I receive a trucks of more than 2.5 tonnes and vehicles carrying more than 14 people," said transport ministry spokesman Nodir Khudoiberdiyev.

"The government lifted these restrictions to allow women to work." The reform is in line with the gradual liberalisation seen under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who has been in charge of a tightly controlled regime with no real political opposition since 2016. In another important reform, the Uzbek parliament has voted through a law imposing a 40-percent quota of female from the Soviet Union in 1991 led to candidates in parliamentary elections. It a much more conservative attitude to is an attempt to balance out a political the role of women in society. There scene in which women are largely had been greater equality between the absent except for the powerful Saida

was forbidden for women to drive tackling inequality, there was little trucks of more than 2.5 tonnes and change in the daily lives of most women. But that may be changing. Nargiza Gadoyeva, Uzbekistan's only other female bus driver, said she jumped at the chance of a new role. "At the beginning I was anxious. My children were opposed to me driving a bus. But I persevered," said the 57-year-old former driving instructor, who wears a Muslim headscarf. She said the initial concern has been outweighed by the numerous congratulations she has received. "I think my case will motivate other women to drive. I want to be an example for Uzbek women, to show that we are capable of many things," Gadoyeva said. "You have to sexes under Communism. Women in Mirziyoyeva, the president's daughter. believe in yourself and your own Central Aisa are still barred from The United Nations noted in a strength. The main thing is to be many professions, including the raw report in 2020 that, while the Uzbek patient and confident. Then every-materials sector. "In Uzbekistan, it government was taking steps towards thing else will come."



'Overthrow the system': Haiti gang leader Cherizier seeks revolution

PORT-AU-PRINCE: A powerful Haitian gang leader has rejected from the United Nations, US and attempts by foreign nations for an other countries - has been at the cenelectoral road map and a path to tre of a new surge in unrest in Portpeace as the country plunges deeper au-Prince as he called for Henry's into violent chaos and armed groups resignation. In early March, Cherizier control most of the capital following the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

Regional leaders of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) held an emergency summit last week to discuss a framework for a political transition, which the United States had urged to be "expedited" as gangs wrought chaos in the capital, Port-au-Prince, amid repeatedly postponed elections. "We're not going to recognise the decisions that CARICOM takes," Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier, a former police officer whose gang rules vast swaths of Port-au-Prince, told Al Jazeera.

"I'm going to say to the traditional politicians that are sitting down with CARICOM, since they went with their families abroad, we who stayed in Haiti have to take the decisions,' Cherizier said, flanked by gang members wearing face masks, adding that he rejected plans for a transitional council made up of the country's political parties. "It's not just people with guns who've damaged the country but the politicians too," he added.

The United States and Caribbean nations have been pushing for the proposed council to appoint a new interim prime minister and lay a road map for elections. Cherizier and his G9 Family and Allies gang alliance have been major contributors to years of escalating violence and political instability in Port-au-Prince. They have blockaded fuel terminals, clashed with rival gangs and used under their control, forcing thousands of Haitians to flee their homes.

Cherizier – who is under sanctions warned that Haiti faced the prospect of "civil war" if Henry did not step

There have been widespread loot-

assassination of President Jovenel Moise, as a long overdue step. The prime minister was supposed to step down in February. He was effectively locked out of the country since the unrest spiralled, landing in Puerto Rico after being denied entry to the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

The poorest country in the Western



following the resignation last week of the 74-year-old Henry – and no plan in place for what comes next. The US, which denied pressuring Henry to step aside, called for a "political transition". The Guatemalan and Salvadoran consulates were ransacked in Port-au-Prince along with hospitals as Henry's office extended an overnight curfew to Sunday.

Haitian civil society leaders welviolence to cement their grip on areas comed the resignation of Henry, an

ing and pitched street battles in Haiti hemisphere has, for years, been saddled with corrupt leaders, and plagued by failed state institutions and violence wrought by rival armed groups. While some political groups are putting their names forward for the council, seeing it as a way out of Haiti's current power vacuum, Cherizier said he wants a revolution.

"Now our fight will enter another phase - to overthrow the whole system, the system that is five percent of people who control 95 percent of the unelected leader who was named for the post in 2021 shortly before the — Aljazeera.

Why are one-fifth of the world's migratory species facing extinction?

NEW YORK (AP): The flocks of species listed by the UN. The UN birds that fill the skies during their report says the trajectory of fish populong migrations and the herds of animals that make their way across vast expanses of land are dwindling in species it monitors are threatened with numbers as they navigate through regions that are becoming increasing-

ly uninhabitable for them. About 44 percent of migratory species across the world are in decline while one in five faces the threat of all-out extinction, according to a new report from the United Nations. It is ered with bony plates. They migrate based on data collected by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These species face shifting landscapes due to urbanisation, farming and climate change among several other challenges.

Here is what you need to know about their decline, what it means for the environment and whether these atrecognises 1,189 animal species in its with protective measures. These creatures fall into one of two categories: endangered species to be placed under strict protection or those with an "unfavourable status" that could benefit significantly from international conservation and management agreements. The convention has helped certain species, such as Central Asia's saiga antelope, which was under

About 14 percent of migratory birds around the world are threatened, which amounts to 134 of the 960

lations is also particularly concerning. Ninety-seven percent of the 58 fish extinction. They include several species of sturgeon, shark, ray and sawfish. Sturgeon, for instance, are commonly found in the rivers of southern Russia and Ukraine and in the freshwaters of North America. These fish have elongated bodies covfrom the sea into rivers or freshwater lakes to breed in the early summer.

The report also notes a 95 percent drop in the numbers of European eel since the 1980s, which it says has been due to a range of factors, including barriers to migration and overfishing during the early stages of their life. An additional 399 species that are risk species can be saved. The UN not currently listed in the CMS are also threatened or are at risk of com-Convention on Migratory Species ing under threat, which means they (CMS), which aims to provide them could also benefit from protective measures, the UN says.

Some examples include the Indus River dolphin and albatross. Reindeer are also considered vulnerable. Albatrosses are located across the southern hemisphere while reindeer are primarily in North America and Russia. Migratory birds have experienced significant declines across certain regions, particularly those using threat from habitat loss and poaching. the Afro-Palearctic migratory route. These birds typically travel southwards across Africa from Europe and

gered migratory birds include the Amsterdam Island albatross and Balearic shearwater, which breeds in Spain's Balearic Islands and other parts of the Mediterranean, according to Environment for the Americas, which coordinates World Migratory Bird Day. Bachmann's warbler has not been sighted since 1988 but may still exist in habitats that have yet to be surveyed. It lives in the Midwest and Southeast of the United States and spends winters in Florida and Cuba. The decline of migratory species cannot be pinned down to one single factor but stems from a combination, including loss of natural habitat and overexploitation. These issues affect many species across a range of geo-

graphical areas.
"Migratory species are particularly vulnerable to the pressures that we're putting on the environment at the moment because they're not just restricted to one particular location but move around and in many cases move incredible distances as well," says James Pearce-Higgins, director of science at the British Trust for Ornithology. According to the UN report, 58 percent of monitored lands are under unsustainable pressure, and three-quarters of CMS-listed species are affected by habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation.

Habitat loss happens when land becomes urbanised, transformed for tion. It can also happen when habit- sustained

Some of the most critically endanable land is broken down into smaller, according to the UN report. isolated patches. Farming is a primary driver of this sort of fragmentation. Agricultural and industrial activity also release dangerous chemicals into habitats. Persistent organic pollutants have been found in migratory species such as the common tern in the Great Lakes region of the US despite increased regulation.

Overhunting and -fishing was found to be the leading cause of declines in migratory species studied by the UN. This involves illegal hunting or fishing, overfishing and the incidental capture of non-target species. Seven in 10 CMS-listed species are also affected by overhunting, according to the UN. Every year, 11 million to 36 million birds are estimated to be illegally killed or removed from the Mediterranean region alone.

In the East Asian-Australasian flyway of migratory birds, illegal trapping has caused the yellow-breasted bunting to go from "superabundant" to "critically endangered" through a population decline of 84 to 95 percent. In the case of fish, a 2018 study by the Food Agricultural and Organization found the Mediterranean Sea was the most overfished in the world with 62 percent of its fish stocks overfished and at severe risk of depletion. Whale sharks are largely depleted owing to overexploitation and collisions with vessels but have a efforts, conservation

Climate change is the second most significant factor contributing to the decline of migratory species, the UN report says. The changes in temperature, precipitation and weather patterns that it brings can affect the suitability of breeding and stopover sites along migration routes. "Particularly, we see the effects of rising temperatures at medium and high latitudes, but in the tropics, it's particularly changes in rainfall patterns that can be a significant issue," Pearce-Higgins

Such changes to the natural landscape mean that species may no longer be able to follow their usual migratory patterns. This could translate to the direct mortality of species or less breeding. Environmental changes and habitat loss in the Yellow Sea between China and Korea in the Western Pacific have particularly affected water birds, such as shorebirds or waders, which would normally stop there to rest and refuel during their migrations. Pearce-Higgins says migratory bird populations in Africa have fluctuate in response to rainfall patterns. In the Sahel region, wet winters positively influence bird populations by providing more food, but during droughts, fewer birds return to the

Even wind turbines, although a well-meaning effort to combat global warming, can pose a threat as birds blades. Large-scale development of

wind farms has been flagged as a point of concern in parts of the Middle East and Africa, where these turbines can cause deaths among migrating vultures and other soaring birds, according to Pearce-Higgins. He adds that these installations are necessary for climate change mitigation and can be made safer, for example, by making sure wind farms are not built along known migratory routes for birds and do not fall in areas that need to be conserved or host vulnerable species. Shutdowns of a few minutes to an hour can also be implemented when a flock of birds is approaching.

The building of infrastructure such as roads, railways and dams can also obstruct migratory species from freely moving along their migratory routes. Obstacles that come with industrial development, such as shipping traffic and noise, can also disturb migratory patterns. The rate at which animals decline and respond to any of these landscape changes differs by species. Seabirds, for instance, are very long-lived and have responded to warming sea levels at a more gradual than catastrophic rate, Pearce-Higgins says.

Migratory patterns are mainly monitored by attaching a tag to an animal's body. Some tags allow data to be transmitted to a computer that researchers can use to monitor them in real time. Non-transmitting tags require animals to be recaptured, so human use or degraded through pollu- high potential for recovery if there are are killed or injured in their rotating the tag can be removed and its data downloaded.

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International Day to combat Islamophobia

AKISTAN, the Muslim Ummah, and nations around the world solemnly observed the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia' on March 15th with religious zeal and remorse. The civilized nations unequivocally denounced Islamophobia as a manifestation of fear, prejudice, and hatred against Muslims, stressing the urgent need for its swift and complete eradication. Although, Islam's core message of safety and peace for all humanity, Islamophobia continuously fosters interfaith animosity and erodes understanding between civilizations. The escalating tide of Islamophobia in the Western world, not only precipitates a clash between civilizations but also poses a grave threat to global peace.

Hate speech and racial crimes have increased in recent years after the rise of Nationalism and far-right politics in nations around the globe. Far-right politicians and religious clerics use hate speech and racism to boost their politics and improve public ratings in their countries. Islamophobia is a manifestation of hate speech and religiously motivated crimes against Muslims due to their beliefs, religious attire, physical appearance, culture, and traditions had been shaped into a grave challenge world-

Historically, there has been a sharp uptick in Islamophobic incidents in so-called Western democracies wherein incidents of hate crimes, religious bigotry, and desecration of the holy Quran and Islamic verses become customary in certain nations in Europe and North America. Similarly, Muslims are continuously subject to violence and discrimination in Hindu-majority India, and Buddhist-ruled Myanmar where the Modi-led BJP regime fostered Hindu extremism and the Buddhist military weighed war against innocent Rohangyas respectively. There is an endless series of anti-Muslim riots including the profanation of poise personality, desecration of the Holy Quran, and physical attacks on Mosques, Muslims, and their properties across India in recent years under the BJP regime. Ironically, Western leaders and advocates for human rights display extreme religious bigotry and link such grave crimes with freedom of expression and civil liberties. Whereas, the world's so-called largest democracy is blatantly involved in the ethnic cleansing of over 220 million Muslims in its country to transform itself into a pure Hindu state.

Previously, several Muslim nations through the platform of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) have raised the issue of Islamophobia at the United Nations. The global forum not only condemned Islamophobia designating March 15 as an international Day to combat Islamophobia to create awareness against hateful acts, racism, and religious bigotry against Islam and Muslims in the world. Despite, acknowledgment of the seriousness and scope of the issue at the UN, the Islamophobic incidents in European nations and other countries particularly India, are still happening in different parts of the world. Presently, Muslims residing in non-Muslim nations, particularly in India, Myanmar, and several Western nations feel insecure and deprived of their basic rights and religious freedoms while those provocative actions hurt over 1.5 billion Muslims across

According to international law, States are duty-bound to prohibit any advocacy of religious hatred, leading to Islamophobic incidents in the West during the past few years calls into serious question the legal framework that permits such hate-driven actions in those nations. The international community and national governments across the world must undertake credible and concrete measures to prevent the rising incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Muslim hatred. At the same time, the United Nations as a guarantor of global peace must ensure that member states sufficiently employ their decisions and that no state, individual, or specific group violates global rules, or UN decisions and attacks other religions, groups, or communities in any garb. The Muslim countries also take up the case at the state level with the concerned nations and launch a fresh campaign at the UN to approve Islamophobic acts as prosecutable crimes so the wrongdoers resist discrimination against Muslims due to the fear of reprisal and punishment.

Evil of drug addiction

ENIOR Minister and Provincial Minister for Excise & Taxation, Transport & Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has directed action against the drugs mafia under the zero-tolerance policy and issued strict orders to crack down on the sale of all drugs, including crystal, heroin, ice, hashish, and raw liquor in the province. The Minister emphasized the need to operate under a zero-tolerance policy against all types of drugs and highlighted that officers are required to report on their performance daily.

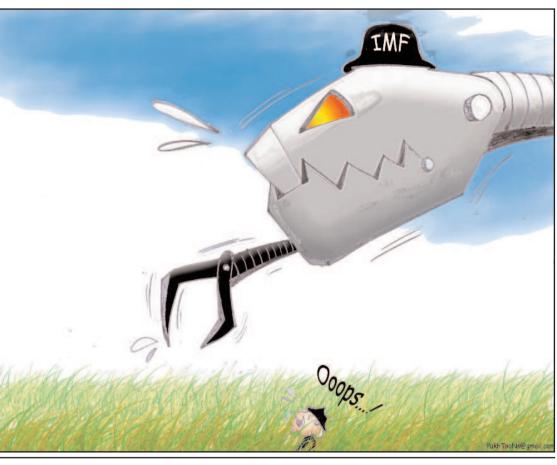
The use of drugs is growing at an alarming level in Pakistan, with 6.7 million users and over 4 million addicts, marking the country as one of the highest numbers for any country in the world. The issue of drug addiction casts a shadow over the societal fabric of Pakistan. The current survey (2022-24) will provide scientific data on the current situation of drug use in Pakistan. It includes a household survey and a high-risk drug use study covering major districts in each province. The broader goal of this nationwide practice

is to introduce effective prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs in the country.

Historically, successive governments and society failed to curb drug smuggling and the use of narcotics during the Afghan war, and no proper writ of the law in former Erstwhile FATA played a role in the spread of this evil in our society. Currently, Pakistan's Ministry of Narcotics Control in collaboration with the US Department of State, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). and the UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) jointly working to curb the excessive use of drugs and access the scope of risk associated with drug abuse in the country, Whilst Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) along with other regional LEAs are actively combating drug cartels in AfPak region. Our country also has insufficient rehabilitation facilities for post-addiction treatment of drug users which made the worst situation in the society with thousands of young addicts living a miserable life on the streets and roads in the country There is an urgent need for a comprehensive approach to education, policy changes, global collaboration, public engagement, and early intervention by the authorities to effectively control drug abuse to promote a healthier life and conducive environment in our society.

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The never-ending war on truth

Tafi Mhaka

N March 9, 2015, five men driving a white truck with a bershop in Zimbabwean seen ever since.

called Zimbabweans to demonstrate against the tough and tion. This speaks volumes deteriorating socioeconom- about Harare's unrelenting ic conditions in their coun- contempt for the truth, and try. And he had called on war on those who dare to then-President Mugabe to resign. His forced disappearance was not an extraordinary event in a country where journalists were (and still are) rou- kill journalism in the small tinely harassed and southern African country. detained by authorities for To some extent, they have publishing stories deemed to be "politically sensitive" or damaging to those in the positions of power. Sixteen forced to abandon its years earlier, in January investigations into the Mark Chavunduka and Ray after subtle threats from mourn for Leqhashasha, and their heads were sub- to this day. Regrettably, merged in drums of water. Zimbabwe is not an outlier. When they eventually This proclivity to threaten appeared in court, they or kill the messenger to both had burn marks on conceal their bodies. Their alleged appears to be endemic crime was to publish a across Africa and around story about 23 army offi- the globe. Joao Chamusse cers being arrested for plot- a veteran Mozambican ting a coup against journalist, and the co-President Mugabe. In owner and editor of online 2008, Jestina Mukoko, a newspaper Ponto por Ponto prominent former TV journalist, who also runs an backyard of his house in NGO, was abducted from KaTembe, Maputo City, on her home in the middle of December 14, 2023. His the night, detained incom- neighbours said they heard municado for days and tor- him scream for help before tured by alleged state falling silent. His horrenagents, for her alleged involvement in planning back of a wave of intimidaanti-government protests. tion against journalists and She thankfully survived media outlets in the run-up her horrific ordeal, and returned to her family and tion. advocacy work.

But Dzamara has not Maseru, sary of his disappearance, times seemingly never-ending his death appears related to and condemnation are of

war on journalists, and his endeavours to expose concealed number plate truth. Despite efforts by the truth and hold governabducted Itai Dzamara, a civil society and the main ment officials accountable Zimbabwean journalist opposition party, the state for their actions. It would and activist, from a bar- appears extremely relucthe tant to solve Dzamara's capital case and finally deliver jus-Harare. Within seconds, tice to his long-suffering he was bundled into the family. Mugabe has been unmarked car and driven out of power since 2017, Gaza. At to an unknown location. and Zimbabwe is suppos-Dzamara has not been edly a changed country, but to date, the Zimbabwean Eight days before his government has not even enforced disappearance, he bothered to launch a highon level investigation into Dzamara's violent abduc-Robert speak truth to power. disappeared Whoever Dzamara clearly intended to instil a great deal of fear in media practitioners and

succeeded. As recently as this February, a local paper, NewsHawks,

bitter truths was found dead in the dous murder came on the

returned home to his wife was a prominent reporter always fill with messages and two young children. for Ts'enolo FM radio sta- honouring their lives and Every year on the annivertion, was shot at least 13 a c h i e v e m e n t s. by Zimbabweans take to assailants as he left the stu- international institutions we can to make sure we do social media to remember dio after a show in May issue statements, and vow not lose any other brave him and to vent their frus- 2023. Joki was highly criti- to hold those responsible to truth tellers to senseless trations about Zimbabwe's cal of state officials, and account. Words of empathy state violence.

be amiss to speak of the Community (SADC) have war on truth tellers without to stop paying lip service to paying homage to the press freedom and demand Palestinian journalists killed in Israel's war on least 88 Palestinian media workers immediate action to pre have been killed as they braved shelling to expose Israel's genocidal violence. Israel's war on journalists who expose the injustice of its occupation and its abuse move to harmonise nationof Palestinians did not al media regulations and

either. Shireen Abu Akleh, journalist and corresponraid in the Jenin refugee camp. And Israel had killed dozens of media workers before her.

That is International I despair at the loss of Court (ICC) must investi-Abu Akleh, and all the gate and prosecute the other brave, admirable Israeli officials who have Palestinian journalists who paved the way for the earlier, in January investigations into the had been silenced by deaths of 88 Palestinian two journalists, Zimbabwe National Army Israeli bombs and bullets. I journalists. In December Choto, who worked for the senior army officials. Chamusse and all the oth- Borders (RSF) filed its sec-Standard newspaper, were Journalists who dare to ers who have been slain for ond complaint with the forcibly disappeared for 10 investigate military and exposing corruption or ICC for alleged war crimes days. While under illegal government corruption in speaking truth to power. committed by the Israeli detention, they suffered Zimbabwe still expect to My heart bleeds for the army against Palestinian electric shocks to their be harassed, unlawfully family of Dzamara, and journalists. The RSF has hands, feet, and genitals arrested, tortured or worse those of other "disap- concluded that Israel has peared" journalists across the globe, who will likely Palestinian journalists to never learn what actually happened to their loved ones. I feel the deepest pain, however, for those and disinformation are journalists who I fear will commonplace, millions of meet similar fates in the lives would be placed in coming months and years. Indeed, in the absence of the work of fearless and strong legal repercussions, there is every chance that other journalists will go Mnangagwa believe they missing or be killed by are beyond reproach, the people "unknown" Zimbabwe. The same is scare commodity. Nothing true for those working in will bring Lesotho, Mozambique and Leqhashasha, Chamusse or elsewhere. And we know Israeli bombs continue to fall on Palestinian journalhome, either. ists as I write these lines. When a journalist is killed to this year's general elec- or disappeared, people are quick to express sympathy In Lesotho's capital and voice condemnation. ending, global war on the Ralikonelo Following such news, our truth and truth tellers. Let's been as lucky. He has never "Leqhashasha" Joki, who social media timelines honour their lives by stand-

course commendable, but what is needed above all is simple: justice. In the case of Zimbabwe, the African Union and the Southern African Development answers from President Emmerson Mnangagwa And they should take vent the repeat of this atrocity. To this end, all relevant

begin with this latest war, ensure member states do not enact laws that impede Palestinian-American fundamental freedoms. For a long time, unrepentant dent for Al Jazeera, was rogue states have subjected shot dead in May 2022 independent-minded and while reporting on an Israel principled journalists to state-orchestrated repression, violence and murder. deaths of 88 Palestinian 2023, Reporters Without been deliberately targeting silence truth about its genocidal actions. In an age where misinformation constant jeopardy without principled truth tellers. In a time where autocrats like in truth cannot become a Abu Akleh. I do not believe Dzamara will ever return

But they will forever remain our unsung heroes, like all the others who lost their lives in this nevering up for journalism and bringing their killers to justice. Let's honour their unknown Governments, NGOs, and lives by doing everything

It's time for Kamala Harris to shine

Julian Zelizer

Kamala Harris vismarking the first time that taken to the stump to speak a US president or vice directly about a number of president has publicly visother contentious issues, ited an abortion provider. including the Israel-Hamas After Democrats spent years trying to sidestep level of fervor and directthis issue for fear of alien- ness that doesn't always ating Catholic voters, the come naturally to the presi-Biden administration is dent. Her voice will be espenow a staunch defender of cially important given that reproductive rights fol- the Biden reelection team Court's Dobbs decision in the preisdent's energy and 2022, which overturned focus on the most important Roe v. Wade and the right events. to abortion nationwide. The stop in Minnesota Reproductive Freedoms" The event marks a turn-

saddled her with some of the administration faced (such members of Harris' inner circle claimed she had been sidelined by the president. Meanwhile, Republicans, along with much of the press, pilloried her for makpublic statements likened to "word salad," and seized on the dysfunction among her staff. Last year, NBC found 49% of voters had a negative view of Harris, compared to a 32% who had a positive view of her. The net-negative 17 rating was the lowest for a vice president in the history of regional bodies and the the poll. Now, as the election heats up, Biden seems to see that Harris could be African Union should pivotal to his reelection campaign. Although vice presidents have not typically determined the outcome of elections, in this particular case Harris' performance in the coming months will be essential. That, of course, is due to ongoing concerns about Biden's age (at 81, he's the oldest president ever) and whether he will be able to govern effectively for a second term - an issue that has been consistently registering in the polls. There is every reason to believe the election will be extraordinarily close, coming down to slivers of the electorate in just a handful al leader - the better the odds will be that Democrats may enjoy another four years of power in the White House. At a time when supamong some key constituencies, including young and Black voters, the vice president will be on the campaign trail trying to conhas also been spending time behind the scenes, trying to break out of Biden's campaign bubble to find out what problems need to be Democrats excited about

> one pillar of this strategy. Few issues have been more energizing to suburban women than the Dobbs decision, which has led to a draconian rollback of reproductive services in many red states. If anyone thought that there were limits to how

President passed a law aiming to provide criminal immunity to ited a Planned providers and patients for clinic in the destruction of or damage Thursday, to embryos.) Harris has War and voting rights with a Supreme seems to want to preserve

Harris will also be important in taking on the more marks part of the vice traditional role of a battering president's "Fight for ram against the opposition. Historically, presidents running for reelection have counted on the vice presiing point in the relationship dent to go after the other between President Joe ticket. Because they are not Biden and his vice presiat the center of the contest, dent. Until recently, Biden there is more room for VPs has not done much to bolster to fully embrace the hardhis controversial partner. He ball partisan tactics necessary to win without feeling thorniest issues that the the countervailing pressure of appearing dignified and as immigration), and many civil. (Donald Trump, of course, had no problem doing the attacking himself when he ran for president in 2016 and 2020). It is also vital that Harris showcases her capacity to govern. For various reasons, ranging from her race and gender to the conservative media machine, Harris has been painted as a "bad" vice president who could never lead the country herself. But others who have worked with her have a very different perspective; Harris is widely considered to be a highly intelligent politician with the ability to grasp and analyze complex public policy conundrums. She has been extremely important in tackling a number of key public issues, such as abortion. And for all the bad press she has gotten on immigration, she has led the Central America Forward project, which has raised over \$4 billion in private sector commitments to help create economic opportunities to address one of the root causes of migration. She has also worked on the issue of voting rights and become more involved in foreign policy, as was evident in her recent meeting with Israel's Benny Gantz, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's of swing states. The more major rival for power. For that Harris can start to shine Biden to win, he needs a - and the more she can con- strong vice president by his vince the public that she has side. This is no ordinary what it takes to be a nation- election and the stakes wil be enormously consequential, not just for the direction of public policy but for the health of our democracy. While the polls are unlikely port for Biden is shaky to move much with two presidential candidates who have been in the public eye for decades, there might be more room to start bolstering the vice president's nect with these voters. She standing given that she remains something of a mystery to most of the electorate.

Biden has sometimes made the mistake of treataddressed, and how to get ing Harris like any other vice president - someone backing the president again. to be contained and kept Stopping in Minnesota is off center stage. But the president can't afford to do that for various reasons: his age, the closeness of the election and the inevitable all-out assault from Trump, who doesn't believe that there are any limitations when it comes to political warfare. Today, far states would go, the in a high-profile mission, Alabama Supreme Court's the vice president had the decision undermining in opportunity to start show-vitro fertilization (IVF) has ing the Democratic Party been another wakeup call. what she can bring to the (Following swift backlash, table to help them win in the state legislature then November.

80 years later, deportation of Chechen and Ingush peoples shapes north Caucasus **Harold Chambers**

EB. 23 marks the homelands until 1957. But even then, not everyone the Soviet Operathe deportation of the dissolution the NKVD and military established. to round up the residents of the Checheno-Ingush **Autonomous Soviet Soc**they whom accused of collaborating independence, invading the

German army. At gunpoint, they were loaded onto cattle cars and shipped to Central Asia. If the operation did not go to plan in a village, the residents were killed on the latest tragic act in a censpot. In Khaibakh, vil- turies-long history of recognized the deportalagers were burned alive in Russia's violent oppression a barn because impenetra- of Chechnya. However, its ble snow made their depor- recency, coupled with tation impossible. Altogether, roughly one- tary third of the Chechen and Chechnya in 1992, demon-

the Soviet Opera- could. The deportations and the international com- Ossetia's Prigorodnyy disof Lavrenty Beria ordered returned to it when re-

tinue to make waves today ialist Republic (ASSR), through the legacy of falsely Chechnya's struggles for leader Ramzan Kadyrov's attempts to increase his Thus, it could not intervene power in the North or engage with Chechnya Caucasus. The genocidal deportations were but the It was not until 2004 that Yeltsin's initial failed miliexcursion into Ingush population perished strated the Chechens' need

tion Chechevitsa (Lentil): were accompanied by the munity intervened, lent trict the themselves to the Chechen deportations played a significant role in Chechnya's

The historical ripples international appeals for regime promoted a hashtag from the deportations con-recognition. These appeals marking "100 years of fell on deaf ears. From Chechen statehood." Chechnya's declared indereality, this was celebrating pendence to the Second the Chechen War, Europe Checheno-Ingush ASSR, Kremlin's historical revi- maintained that Russia's exhibiting Kadyrov's aspisionism, and Chechen invasion of the republic rations. The Chechen govwas an internal conflict. without Russia's approval. the European Parliament tions as a genocide. The deportations, and

later independence of Chechnya, mean that facto annexation. Kadyrov does not control all of the lands that belonged to the Chechenoduring Operation Lentil. for their own state. At the Ingush ASSR. In addition The deported were not same time, events in the to no longer being united allowed to return to their Balkans, in which the West with Ingushetia, North Dagestan's Novolakskyy lands in the future. He has

Dagestan's and Chechen and Ingush peo- Checheno-Ingush ASSR, argument for recognized former regions of the ples. Josef Stalin and and not all districts were statehood. As such, the ASSR, to which Chechnya believes it is entitled.

Last year, the Kadyrov creation of ernor has frequently staked claims on Ingushetia. A secret land swap deal in 2018 disproportionately favored Chechnya, and led to mass protests in the neighboring republic. In 2021, Kadyrov attempted to take more land from Ingushetia, this time by de

When Ingush people objected, threatened to take all of Ingushetia by force. Interethnic tensions have flared periodically in will not seek to retake the to rebuild Chechnya's for-

for Kadyrov to intervene on behalf of his ethnic kin. While Dagestani officials Novolakskyy district are attempted to silence the longstanding territorial disputes, Chechen officials ethnic cleansing and to are continuing to serve as vocal advocates for the local population. Kadyrov has also provided humanitarian assistance to residents in regions of Dagestan he seeks to claim. While these actions are not explicit attempts to seize the region, they supplant Dagestani authority, sending a message that it is the and their continued oppres-Kadyrov regime who works for the people - this is merely posturing and does not reflect the true attitudes of local residents. Kadyrov has also tried the same strategy as in Ingushetia, but negotiations to change the borders were Attempts to annex territory also failed. These failures

do not mean that Kadyrov

district, creating a premise demonstrated perseverance on this matter. While the lessons from the deportation of the Chechens and Ingush 80 years ago would logically be not to commit stop committing violence against civilians, these have clearly been lost on Russia's leaders. Putin's strategy of wiping cities like Grozny off the map has been replicated in Syria and Ukraine. The installed Kadyrov regime remains responsible for the deaths of thousands of Chechens

Kadyrov will continue to utilize the memory of the deportations to extend his political power at any opportunity. As he has already demonstrated, an issue is only settled when he is satisfied. He does unsuccessful. not yet control what he wants, so, for now, he is biding his time until he sees his next opportunity

Stronger global monitoring for Japan's toxic water release

recently announced that International **Energy Agency Director General** visit Japan from Tuesday to Thursday. The invitation raises many questions because the Japanese government has been discharging the nuclear-contami-Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean by claiming it had got the "green light" to do so from the

Despite the opposition from neighboring countries and the international community as a its discharge plan, and has already released 23,000 tons of contamiplan for fiscal year 2024 includes the radioactive water, totaling about 54,600 tons. This decision has ignited a debate on the complex composition of the contaminated water, the limitations of the purification process, and the potential risks it poses to the marine environment and human health.

The nuclear-contaminated water contains more than 200 types of radioactive nuclides, all of which cannot be removed, as Japan's advanced liquid processing system (ALPS) is designed to remove only 62 types of these nuclides. Worse, the ALPS has not been effective in removing even those 62 types of Additionally, the associated nuclides from the radioactive costs of addressing secondary

treated by the ALPS still does not meet the discharge standards, as it retains radioactive nuclides such as carbon-14, iodine-129, cesium-137 and strontium-90. This raises concerns about the safety of discharging the nuclear-contaminated water potential impact on marine ecosystems and human health.

ed water into the ocean, Japan has ocean is not scientific. But the

Atomic radiation protection norms and the discharging the contaminated crucial intergovernmental organi-London Dumping Rafael Grossi has been invited to Convention but also failed to fulfill its global obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment. Fukushima nuclear power plant. The potential impact of this decision extends beyond Japan's bor- release of the contaminated water ders, violating the principles of into the ocean is a "preparatory nated water from the damaged international cooperation and envi- step" for decommissioning, Japan ronmental protection, and affecting has not only revealed its simplistic

water into the ocean is necessary to zation managing nuclear affairs, clear space for the decommissioning work at the damaged

However, by claiming the

The decision to discharge the contaminated water into the ocean is not scientific. But the Japanese government water discharge into the ocean on whole, Japan has proceeded with claims that discharging the contaminated water into the ocean is necessary to nated water into the ocean. Japan's clear space for the decommissioning human rights. Institutions should releasing another seven rounds of work at the damaged Fukushima tive water from a comprehensive nuclear power plant.

> entific challenges. While it is comhuge amounts of resources by front-end operations to, for example, curb the use of underground water and facilitate the treatment of the contaminated water by the

crises and compensating the affect-About 70 percent of the water ed stakeholders have far exceeded initial estimates, highlighting the financial burden of this approach. For instance, Japan initially estimated the cost of discharging the radioactive water to be 3.4 billion yen (\$23 million). However, as of future. The decision to discharge mechanism for monitoring the By discharging the contaminat- the contaminated water into the developments.

the global community. Moreover, linear mindset but also prompted the discharge of the radioactive the international community to water presents economic and sci-question its real intentions, especially given the unknown timeline monly believed to be the least and feasibility of the decommisexpensive disposal method, Japan's sioning process. True, the disposal decision overlooks the need for of nuclear-contaminated water is intertwined with the decommissioning of the reactor and the postaccident cleanup, but a comprehensive systemic approach should be adopted to do so. The international community has responded to Japan's release of the contaminated water by advocating stricter monitoring and regulatory requirements. But the existing monitoring arrangements have limitations, including unreasonable dilution, lack of transparency, and insufficient international review and monitoring. To address these shortcomings, the IAEA should play its now, the related expenses have due role of reviewing Japan's into the ocean, especially given its exceeded 129 billion yen, with fur- actions and establishing a longther escalations expected in the term international cooperation

not only violated international Japanese government claims that nuclear-contaminated water is a

marine ecological protection. As a the IAEA should play a more proactive and constructive role in strictly supervising Japan's actions and establishing a global cooperation mechanism for monitoring the radioactive water. And some key criteria must be met to make this mechanism successful. To begin with, it is essential to define the objectives and primary principles of international monitoring cooperation, which is to minimize the negative impacts of the radioactive humans and the environment, with the primary principle being risk prevention in order to better protect he environment protection and view the discharge of the radioacand strategic perspective, and continuously review and evaluate the itability of the disposal method.

Also, to ensure the objectivity and fairness of the monitoring process and results, the participation of other countries, especially Japan's neighbors and the Pacific island nations, should be considered while appointing monitoring inspectors and other monitoring personnel, based on nationality, region, profession and other factors. Besides, the disposal of the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea and the post-accident cleanup are a long-term endeavor. Therefore, institutions should formulate detailed monitoring plans, including specific issues such as the types of isotopes to be monitored, the frequency and scope of the radioactive water release, reporting on the developments and other pertinent details, based on thorough discussions at experts' meetings. This will ensure the credibility and authoritative status of the international cooperation mechanism for monitoring the nuclear-contaminated water, The discharge of the Fukushima including its release into the

'Islamic resistance' weaponizes Arab states against their people

Baria Alamuddin

Central Command's leader Gen. Michael Kurilla warned senators last week that Tehran had "every proxy operationalized" across the region, creating "a convergence of crises" and "the most volatile situation in 50 years," with US forces and global shipping among the primary targets of these "resistance" factions.

When figures such as Hassan Nasrallah, Qais Al-Khazali and la," pursuing domination of the are probably some of the region's Abdulmalik Al-Houthi hold forth about the "Islamic resistance," who nomic domains. are they resisting? Certainly, Iraq's paramilitary Al-Hashd Al-Sha'abi encountered a real Israeli, far less fought one, so bragging about resisting "Zionist occupation" is nonsense. Despite the rhetoric and saber-rattling, nothing these militias have done has helped the people of Gaza one iota - but do they even care?

Entities such as Hezbollah, which once pretended to put national priorities first, have shed their redundant former identities and restyled themselves as part of a pan-regional "Islamic resistance" movement. Whether they escalate or scale back their military activities has become wholly a matter for hostile foreign power brokers, who would happily see Lebanon or Iraq burnt to a crisp for the greater glory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This vision was spelt out in an enlightening 2015 speech by prominent Hashd figure Al-Khazali, who described the 2014 these Iraqi and Syrian paramiliestablishment of the Hashd as an existential moment for Iraq, which he claimed had witnessed a transition from "resistance factions to a resistance state." He outlined his vision for how "resistance" would be consolidated at the state level. To a large degree, this has come to pass, as Hashd factions have entrenched themselves throughout thinking has come back to bite the Iraq's political system.

Rudolf from the

of Radicalisation has spoken their political muscle to double insightfully about how Hashd fac- their share of the state budget to tions labored to consolidate this vision for Iraq as a "resistance reaps about \$10 billion a year from state," along the lines of my own its monopolization of illegal taxabook on the subject, "Militia tion alone. When added to the bil-State." Rudolf argued that "the lions from oil smuggling, extortion architects of the resistance state in and control of various economic Iraq opt for an all-inclusive formusectors, the group's warlord leaders social, political, military and eco-

resistance states that trade with one security. In mid-2022 and the Houthis have scarcely ever another and align their higher interests with Tehran is a component of Iran's strategy for shielding itself from Western sanctions in perpetuity, while seeking to be the preeminent force in the region. Lebanese and Iraqi financial institutions in this transnational "resistance economy" can be cannibalized for laundering funds from narcotics, terrorism and sanctions evasion, without

meaningful repercussions. Meanwhile, these satellite states become ever more isolated from the surrounding Arab world, as these paramilitary forces have lobbied strenuously against any investments or diplomatic engagement from Gulf and Arab states that could ease the financially and morally bankrupt status of these resistance states." After Oct. 7, the Western world behaved as if the existence of these transnational proxies was a total surprise. But taries came together under the noses of Western diplomats, with their tacit agreement: notably after 2014, when the Hashd was perceived as a force that could be used to defeat Daesh, without the trouble and expense of putting Western forces on the ground. This deeply flawed strategic world.

International Centre for the Study quently doubled in size, exploiting nearly \$3 billion. The Hashd also clashes between Muqtada Al-Sadr's supporters and Hashd factions pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war.

As a proud Lebanese citizen, I witnessed this process first-hand, as Hezbollah trampled all over my country's inherent diversity, parasitically devouring the nation state and seeking to replace it with a weaponized theological tyranny. Lebanon has gone from being prosperous, diverse and rich in cultural and educational achievements to an economic basket case, from which those who can have already fled - and a hair trigger away from all-out war with Israel due to Hezbollah's clumsy and opportunistic exploitation of Palestinian cause. How are Christians, Sunnis, Druze and other denominations supposed to freely exercise their religious and cultural freedoms under such a 'wilayat al-faqih" theocracy? Likewise, in Sanaa, leaders of the Houthi minority sect have used Iranian weapons and support to dominate a shattered, nonfunctioning country. Gratuitous attacks against global shipping provoked a US-led bombing campaign, leaving Yemen more marginalized and friendless than ever.

This ambition to straitjacket these nations within an axis of resistance, in this morbid culture of to prevail. These Iraqi forces have subse- death, is actively opposed by sub-

stantial majorities of the population. The killing of entire Lebanese families in retaliatory Israeli airstrikes has not saved the lives of one woman or child in Gaza. Farmers want to be able to safely tend their land unmolested by unexploded cluster munitions or the debris of phosphorus bombs. Mothers do not want their children growing up in a war zone. Israel's occupation is illegal and inhuman, but the Arab territories that Iran has wealthiest figures. The Hashd's tried to forcibly monopolize are hijacking of the state constitutes a more than 100 times larger than This consolidation of a bloc of fundamental threat to national anything the most deranged Zionist extremists have ever sought to annex from Palestinians.

These self-styled Islamic resistance factions neither represent the humanist aspirations of the Islamic faith nor serve any cause of nationalist resistance. The only things these mafioso militants are resisting is their citizens' freedom, security and prosperity, while hijacking and weaponizing political institutions against their own citizens. The genuine resistance are grassroots mass movements that relentlessly take to the streets in Lebanon, Iraq and Iran itself, courageously seeking liberation from paramilitary brutality, theocratic tyranny and hostile foreign

the agendas. Only about 12 percent of Tehran residents voted in elections on March 1. So many people submitted blank or spoiled ballots that officials joked that numerous seats in parliament should be left vacant. If the ayatollahs are so despised in their own capital, why should we tolerate their preeminence elsewhere? This resistance to theological oppression is a resistance agenda we can all get behind. And given the absence of support for the ayatollahs and their agents anywhere in the region, it is one resistance campaign that is ultimately destined

Arab News

ASEAN cautious of walking into US trap

ALAYSIAN Minister Ibrahim alongside his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Melbourne during Australia-Association of Southeast Asian rule of law, peace and stability -(ASEAN) Summit news conference pushed back against criticism that has been levied against Malaysia and regional countries for giving 'additional focus' to Beijing, calling it as a "China-phobia" in

'We are (an) independent nation, we are fiercely independent. We do not want to be dictated by any force. So, once we remain to be an important friend to the United States or Europe and here in Australia, they should not preclude us from being friendly to one of our important neighbors, prea question interpreted as resistance to the US pressure in the world

Australian Parliament attempted to sides; Manila under Marcos has

prosperity by calling upon Canberra and others to join forces in the face of alleged threats to the Special represented ASEAN policy of safeguarding and promoting regional peace, security and stability; peacefully resolve all disputes meet with ambivalence since it through dialogue and fostering

economic growth. Relations between Beijing and Manila were relatively stable under the former Filipino president Rodrigo Duterte. But Marcos' rabble-rousing stance and Manila's provocative actions, military drills with America and Australia in the South China Sea), explicit intent to gang up alliances in support of the US-led efforts to stoke tensions in the strategic waterways threaten to cisely China," Anwar responded to challenge the long-established status quo that has helped to uphold peace and encouraged economic cooperation across Asia-Pacific. His remarks - just days after the Most ASEAN states want to main-

standing undermine regional peace and become more assertive in the South China Sea at the behest of the US, which seeks to cement alliances in Asia-Pacific and needs its former colony to stem the rise of China let it be at the cost of ASEAN's peace and prosperity.

The Philippines' effort would attempts to pull apart the ASEAN unity and also because most Southeast Asian countries have historically maintained a pacifist approach toward Beijing, stressing on a diplomatic solution to the territorial disputes and prioritizing economic growth through cooperation with the world's second largest econ-

Since assuming office, Marcos has almost doubled the number of its bases accessible to the US Beijing threaten ASEAN's goal of trap.

ensuring regional peace and pushing its growth. As Australia and the Philippines feature as major treaty allies in the US Indo-Pacific Strategy that aspires to "explore opportunities for the Quad to work with ASEAN" to trigger tensions in the region in the name of Free and Open Indo-Pacific and freedom of navigation, it naturally becomes a collective responsibility of all the countries in the region to increase engagement to protect the regional stability.

Southeast Asia, the world's "economic dark horse," has a vast economic potential especially with its vibrant and increasingly techsavvy young population and a combined gross domestic product of \$3.3 trillion as of 2021. Given several ASEAN states, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam agree with China-led community of a shared future and bilateral forces with military exercises trade continues to demonstrate a extending to joint air and sea robust growth, both Washington patrols over the SCS and close to and allies are struggling to align Taiwan. These actions as well as the regional countries against Philippine President Ferdinand tain good relations with Beijing Manila's plan to upgrade its SCS China and ASEAN remains very Marcos Jr. in his speech to the and Washington without taking outposts in addition to provoking careful of walking into the US

been a thorn in Kremlin's side

November 2022, esident Vladimir President Putin assembled a carefully screened group of mothers of conscripts and soldiers in the Kremlin. The scene of harmonious conviviality - where the women drank tea and listened with obsequious respect as Putin dominated the conversation - stands in sharp contrast to the pictures that had once made the mothers of Russian soldiers famous. From 1989 to about 1995, the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia was a force to be reckoned with. The Committee was

founded as one of the first independent grassroots organizations in the Soviet Union. Its emergence and quick growth were a response to the many abuses happening in the Soviet military, which had long been an open secret but found confirmation in the new glasnost style of revelatory journalism. Soon mothers all across the Union demanded farreaching rights from the allpowerful Soviet state and military. The committee was widely supported by the Soviet public, who were shocked by the catastrophically high rates of accidents and deaths in a non-combatant army caused by neglect or internal violence. The images that went around the world then were of angry mothers picketing outside garrison gates with signs denouncing the armed forces' lack of transparency and accountability. In 1995, the highly publicized March to Grozny was not only a rebuke to the Russian military authorities: by including Chechen mothers, it also became a sharp criticism of the war. And yet the two scenes are

intimately linked culturally and historically. The mere fact that Putin bothered to bring mothers to the Kremlin at all is a direct result of the political earthquake the Mother's Soldiers' Committee caused during perestroika and afterward. It was then that mothers became a force to which politicians and military commanders had to pay more than lip service. In turn, the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers could only rise in prominence during perestroika because it built on a very solid cult of motherhood developed over decades of Soviet history. During Stalin's pivot towards conservative values in the 1930s, mothers came to hold an esteemed position in the Soviet values system. While Marxist theory and revolutionary practice had disparaged the family as a structure and aimed to liberate women from their role as mothers and housekeepers, Stalin's drive towards Soviet consolidation saw the resurrection of these normative forces, albeit safely packaged as elements

of the new Soviet modernity. Stalinist mothers became guardians of Soviet families, which in turn would guarantee the socialist future. Rather than representing the bourgeois world order, Soviet and

Juliane Fürst

Soldiers' mothers have long

mothers would work in tannext generation of Soviet people, including the next generation of Soviet soldiers. The 1930s also saw a strong militarization of everyday life, and the lives of young people in particular. The iconography of the Great Patriotic War both underlined and sentimentalized the integral role of mothers in the Soviet military complex. Mothers were depicted both as grieving victims and fiery avengers, indicating that they were both models to their sons in their devotion to the cause as well as objects that needed to be defended. Mothers continued to play

a central role in military propaganda in the post-war years, with one moment achieving particularly valent status in literary and cinematrepresentations: the farewell of the conscript's mother at the gate to the barracks - the very barrack gates which would become their main protest site during perestroika. Officially, this moment symbolized a handover from the biological mother to the stately Motherland. In reality, these scenes started to acquire strong overtones of anxiety about violence and loss.

It still came as a surprise to the authorities, however, when the mothers turned the propaganda image on its head and started to put their sons' wellbeing above the demands of the state. Her Buddhist faith gave the Committee a pacifist face from the very beginning and attracted soldiers' mothers from other ethnic minorities. The movement also had a particularly strong branch in Ukraine, where the first demand was not to send Ukrainian conscripts outside the borders of the republic, since young Ukrainians often found themselves bullied

when posted in Russia. Under Kirbasova, the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers implicitly unequivocally aligned itself with the centrifugal powers that emerged in the republics of the Soviet Union. It expressed its solidarity with the mothers of Lithuania when civilians were killed during skirmishes in January 1991 and expressed support for the independence movements elsewhere. Its highest profile it reached with the domestic and foreign press as it went from one army checkpoint to another, demanding the right to reach Grozny. On the way, its participants, which included a number of Buddhist monks, met and embraced Chechen mothers who had lost children in the massacre of Samashki committed just days before by the Russian army. All of this true defenders of the seems not only impossible but unthinkable today. It preserved from Soviet times, would be akin to Russian mothers marching to Bucha

Ukrainian counterparts.

There are still Committees of Soldiers' Mothers in dem with the state to raise the Russia, but they do not act as a unified force, let alone take a pacifist stance beyond their very personal demands. These committees were beaten into submission many years ago. After revelations about injured Russian soldiers from Ukrainian battlefields arriving in St. Petersburg hospitals in 2014, the local branch was labeled a "foreign agent." There was conspicuous silence from the committees after the fullscale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. When Putin had to resort to mobilization to fuel his war of aggression, journalists sought out activists, but never came back with much of a story to write. The success of the Soldiers' Committees in the late 1980s and early 1990s was due not only because of their personal worries and grief but also because they were able to mobilize large sways of society into their shared pain.

This has not yet proved to be

defending their sons is still

Yet the spirit of women

the case in today's Russia.

alive, despite a massive propaganda campaign to bring back Soviet values, substituting motherhood with motherland. It is not the Committees that carry the torch anymore but younger women who know how to use social media effectively and who are fighting for their husbands rather than their sons. Already in 2022, the Council of Mothers and Wives, a grassroots organization from Samara, called Putin out over the fate of men who had disappeared after being sent to Ukraine. There have been protests by mothers and wives in several minority regions, including Bashkortostan and Dagestan. Most recently, the telegram channel "The Way Home" has transcended the digital sphere and organized protests on the 500th day of the full-scale war. Since then, Alexei Navalny has died in a prison in the Far North. His wife Yulia Navalnaya has publicly vowed to take up her late husband's cause and continue fighting for a better Russia. She is the latest in a line of women who have become visible on behalf of their husbands. Women, especially young women, have been a prominent force outbreak of the first Chechen in anti-war protests and War in 1994. Kirbasova actions. While Putin seems organized a march to Grozny to be able to keep down the in March and April of 1995, kind of protests that shook which was followed by the up the military in the late 1980s, he cannot prevent a gendered aspect from creeping into his struggle to keep power. He is heading a col-

The Moscow Times

lective of old men being

confronted by younger

women who are not afraid to

stare the regime in the face.

The optics are not in Putin's

favor. Indeed, the cult of the

mother and of women as the

Motherland, so carefully

might ultimately swing

against him.

Brexit revolt spreading across Europe

embracing

HE poor, dim-wit-ted French. They haven't "learnt the he will impress his own lessons of Brexit" according to the EU's former negotiator Michel Barnier. If, as seems likely, Marine Le Pen's from anything else, if you National Rally party are one of the French farmcomes out the big winner June's European Parliament elections, French voters will have shown nothing more that they don't understand how serious Brexit was. Alternatively, they will

have shown that they have understood it perfectly well, and that they know Commission's efforts to punish Britain for leaving have failed utterly. The bloc set out to try to inflict the worst possible deal it could on Britain in effort to threaten other possible recalcitrant member states pour encourager les autres, as Voltaire would have put it. And yet Britain has thrived, while the EU has ended up with growing lev-

states. Voters in Netherlands have already backed Geert Wilders, who wants an in-out referendum for his country, too. The Eurosceptic AfD is winning in Germany, while Giorgia Meloni, whose Eurosceptic policies have so far stopped short of leaving the union, is already Italian Prime

France, and indeed in other

Minister. Why does Barnier think **Ross Clark**

country's Eurosceptics by claiming that Britain has suffered more trade barriers since Brexit? Quite apart ers who recently blocked about being undercut by cheap imports it isn't fewer trade barriers you want, it's more. Among the products they set upon was wine being imported over the Pyrenees from Spain. On the other hand, if you are one of that rarefied breed, a European French free-trader, you won't be impressed by Barnier's comments either. He is really just confirming what we all knew already: that the EU is at its heart a protectionist organisation which wants to draw a barbed wire fence around its external borders. Why would Britain be suffering "trade problems" with the have a free trade deal, Monsieur Barnier?

els of Euroscepticism in The answer is simple: the EU is a master at creatbarriers designed to drive importers away by making be able to escape the look at what led to the outside the EU.

farmers' protests: petty rules which demand constant record-keeping of every last gramme of fertiliser applied to each field, rules demanding the precise measurements of every chicken cage. That is the sort of stuff which growing numbers of EU citizens are the autoroutes complaining rebelling against. That, and the EU's complete failure to deal with illegal migration, its flagrant corruption and its growing tendency to poke its nose into every single aspect of the governance of member states, such as trying to withhold handouts because the former Polish government wouldn't support gay marriage or abortion on demand.

Nor is it true that the UK has suffered economically since Brexit. Actually, economic growth in Britain since Brexit has been on a par with France and has been higher than in Germany. If we had a gov-EU when it is supposed to ernment which was actually prepared to seize the opportunities offered by Brexit to deregulate, rather than just mirroring what the EU is ing underhand non-tariff doing, we would be doing a good deal better. The French are not stupid, and their lives a bureaucratic nor are the Dutch, nightmare. As a member of Germans, Italians or anythe single market you might one else contemplating voting for a Eurosceptic party. bureaucracy of shlepping They can see it is untrue to your products from one claim that Brexit has been a member state to another, disaster, and they are con-But that's it as far as relief templating how their own from red tape goes. Just countries could prosper



Digitization of tax system: FBR signs agreement with Karandaaz Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (PPI): In Karandaaz Pakistan, an FBR will now be collabo- Hasan, CEO Karandaaz line with the vision of the impact investment platform rating with Karandaaz for Pakistan stated that the ini-Prime Minister of Pakistan that drives sustainable eco- realizing the digital trans- tiative is in line with to transform Federal Board nomic growth and strengthof Revenue (FBR) into a ens financial and social Digital Tax Administration, protection systems for FBR has entered into an inclusion will assist FBR in agreement with Karandaaz assessment of the business Pakistan for the Digi- needs, existing IT infratalization of Tax System. FBR has put consider- business processes to estabable focus towards automa- lish the context and scope

tion of its processes and for digitalizing the tax sysdigitalizing of the econo- tem of Pakistan using servmy. These initiatives reduce ice oriented and tax payer the cost of compliance of centric use cases. taxpayers, document the economy, expand the tax Malik Amjed base and lead FBR on a Tiwana, Chairman FBR, sustainable path to revenue stated that FBR has put

sive digital strategy for chain digitalization. realizing the digital trans-

structure and systems, and

At the signing ceremony, Zubair considerable focus towards FBR will be collaborat- automation of its processes ing with Karandaaz for and digitalizing the econodeveloping a comprehen- my including the supply

Multiple endeavours

Revenue who chaired a robust

meeting with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Karandaaz earlier in the when complete will put the day on the subject empha- taxpayer's natural systems sized the importance of at the centre and the tax facilitation of business and administration people-centric approach in resilient and agile. the design of these digital solutions.

He stated that the initiative holds a lot of potential which can only be realized through the use of best 2024. On behalf of FBR, human capital leading the assessment and design.

al consultants that have behalf of Karandaaz formation of FBR, its digi- have been undertaken to implemented tax digitaliza- Pakistan, the agreement talization initiatives and address the challenge of the tion solutions in similar was signed by Sharjeel implementation. undocumented economy contexts should be engaged Murtaza, Director Digital this agreement, and expanding the tax base. for this activity." Waqas ul Services.

formation of FBR, its digi- Karandaaz Pakistan's spontalization initiatives and sor Bill and Melinda Gates implementation. Foundation's Digital Public Muhammad Aurangzeb, the Infrastructure work stream Minister for Finance and and will help in building a ecosystem Pakistan Digital Stack.

Business

The transformation

The whole nation will benefit from the dividends of this digital transformation." The agreement was signed on March 15th, Ardsher Salim Tariq. (Reforms and Member Experienced internation- Modernization) and on



Japanese arch-rivals Nissan dom and Honda said Friday they approach," he told a joint percent of sales in 2022. were exploring a strategic news conference announcpartnership in electric vehi- ing a feasibility study of the cles to face up to a "once-partnership. in-a-century" upheaval in the car industry. Analysts motive software platforms, said the move was aimed at core components related to catching up with Chinese EVs, and complementary competitors who have products, the companies stolen a march in EVs said. Media reports said the while Japanese firms have partnership could include lost ground by focusing joint development of a more on hybrid vehicles.

only with the traditional car nt procurement of batteries. makers, but also with new players... with innovative Mibe said that there was a and the strength of Chinese products and new business models" as well as "over- formation in the automotive whelming price competi- industry" and amazing tiveness speed," said Nissan CEO Makoto Uchida.

competition as long as we nies have cultivated will

EU allocates 500m euros for ammunition production

BRUSSELS (APP): The European Commission on Friday announced the allocation of 500 million euros (about 544 million US dollars) to boost ammunition production as part of its support for the European defense industry.In a statement, the commission said this would allow the European defense industry to increase its ammunition production to two million shells a year by the end of 2025. Its annual production capacity for 155 mm shells reached 1 million per year in January.

To assist the European industry in increasing its ammunition production and readiness, the commission said it selected 31 projects in five areas: explosives, powder, shells, missiles and testing and reconditioning certification.

Lost & Found

I have lost my documents(B.Sc Electrical Engineering origional and Transcript 1) European of Lefky University Northern Cyprus, here at Bilal Coach Stand Buner on 23/10/2022.The finder please contact Abdur Rman S/O Bakht Razaq of Daggar Kalay tehsel Daggar district Contact no. 03305627250.Passport no. MQ9158882, St ID: 154311 ICCI,

Public Notice

Mr. Chaman Khan S/O Muhammad Afzal R/O Moh Badla Khel Tehsil Lahore district Swabi is the owner of Plot No -226 measuring 5 Marla located in sector D/ II zone 3, Regi Model Town Peshawar. He has been issued a duplicate ownership paper vide no 3D/II-226-5M/09 dated 02/11/2021. Now he intends to transfer the said plot, Therefore if any bank, department, firm or individual have any objection on this transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 15 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (transfer) , Regi Model Town Peshawar Cell No 03005875733

(AFP/APP): stick to conventional wisand traditional

The scope includes autocommon EV powertrain --We are not competing a so-called e-axle -- and joi-

> Honda CEO Toshihiro 'once-in-a-century trans-

"Our study criteria will be whether the synergy of the technologies and "We cannot win the knowledge that our compatry leaders by creating new industry," he said.

proved enduringly popular Chris Redl, an auto analyst in Japan, accounting for 40

But Japanese firms' focus on hybrids has left meeting appetite for purely electric vehicles.

Just 1.7 percent of cars sold in Japan in 2022 were electric -- compared to 15 and 5.3 percent in the United States.

EVs accounted for as much as 20 percent of new cars sold in China in 2022, auto firms helped the counbiggest exporter last year.

production capacity in strategic choices" China as sales decline,

value for the automotive are not at a high-enough Hybrids that combine it margins... so they are firms are aiming to deploy battery power and internal actually under pressure to self-driving taxis in Tokyo combustion engines have find a partnership," said from 2026.

in Japan.

"Éven though they were very fierce rivals historically, it makes more sense for them in the slow lane in Nissan to get together with the growing a Japanese company like Honda, rather than having these cultural wars with an partner alliance Renault" of France, he said.

Nissan and Renault were percent in western Europe in a major alliance but after years of tensions -- including Japan's arrest of Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn in 2018 -- the two companies are "rebalancing" now ties. When asked about Friday's announcement, a try overtake Japan as the Renault spokesperson said simply that under the terms of the current agreement Honda and Nissan are with Nissan, both partners even considering cutting are "free to make their own

in October Honda enable us to become indus- according to media reports. scrapped a tie-up aimed at "Both of the companies making "affordable" EVs with US giant General scale to create enough prof- Motors although the two

Wall Street stocks slide as rate cut hopes diminish

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Wall Street's main stock pulled back indices Friday after a slew of data week dampened while European equities held near recent highs.

Oil and cryptocurrency bitcoin fell on profit taking changed Friday and up hamp, an analyst at IGcom.

sharply for the week, holding just below the record and economic data have intraday highs touched Thursday.

The shares gained on the European fire Central Bank to start cutting interest rates this summer, even if the US Fed after making strong gains does not. "We're seeing conearlier in the week.Paris tinued rotation out of US

"Recent inflation prints added to the cautious outlook," he added.

But a potential ECB hopes for earlier rate cuts expectations that Europe's shift to earlier rate cuts from the Federal Reserve, stuttering growth might seems to have lit a fresh under European stocks, Beauchamp said.

Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone econodoes not. "We're seeing con- mist at Capital Economics, said the Norwegian and Swiss and Frankfurt ended little markets," said Chris Beauc- central banks could also cut rates in the coming weeks.

Budget 2024-25: Govt urged to start deliberations with traders

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has called upon the Government to immediately initiate deliberations with the business leaders in connection with the forthcoming budget 2024-25 to make it business-friendly. In a statement issued by Ahsan Zafar

Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge l /Alaqa Qazi Buner a Daggar. Suit No 501/1 Institution 2023. Date of hearing 3/4/2024.Gul Nawab Khan VS Amer Khan etc. Notice to No. 14. Azizur Rehman s/o Abdul Qadir resident of Balokhan Pir Baba Tehsel Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8 am dated 3/4/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte.

Given under my hand and

seal of this Court.

nds that the Government with the business leaders, ument to ease their prob-

Bakhtawari said that owing will pay heed to the issue

to the existing high infla- on a priority basis and for-

tion rate, the trade deficit is mulate long-term policies on the rise and the hard- in the best interest of the ships of the business com- business community and munity have multiplied. ultimately the common Hence the situation dema- man. President ICCI The should start deliberations added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a vision-

and incorporate their sug- ary leader and is well gestions in the budget doc- aware of the difficulties of the entrepreneurs as well as lems which in turn will the masses, so he will surebenefit the masses, he said. ly direct his economic team He expressed the hope to start consultations with that the sitting government the business leaders to as per its election manifesto achieve this cherished goal

Court Notice

In the court of Fasih Rehman civil judge III/illaqa Qazi kabal Swat. 106/1. Institution 16/7/2022. Next Hearing date.20/04/2024. Rasheed Ahmad etc. Muhammad sherin late. r/o koza bandai tehsil kabal district Swat VS Nisar khan etc.Notice to.11) Fazal subhan s/o Muhammad shah r/o Crawly UK.Whereas the above named cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 20/04/2024. at 8.30 am. Ex-parte proceeding will be

initiated against you

Court Notice

In the court of sidra jalal judge-III/judicial Magistrate II. matta swat. Case#.74/1. Institution 15/04/2022. Next Hearing date. 04/04/2024. Lal jan VS Alamzeb. Notice to defendant 2) Mst. Ajmeena 3) Mst. Khan zadgai d/o gul Haidar 4) Naseeb gul s/o tawas r/o kiga Rakba skhra tehsil matta swat. Whereas the above named cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 04/04/2024. at 8.00 am. Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you.

SHANGHAI (APP): The balance of loans in Shanghai, including all currencies, rose 7.3 percent year on year at the end of January to 11.37 trillion yuan (about 1.6 trillion US dollars), official data showed. Specifically, the balance

of loans in Chinese yuan stood at 10.79 trillion yuan, up 8.3 percent year on year, according to the People's Bank of China Shanghai Head Office. Outstanding foreign currency loans totaled 82.3 billion dollars, down 13.6% year on year.

ghai's deposits climbed 5.4 percent on a yearly basis to 20.4 trillion yuan at the end of January, the data also



MANILA (APP): Personal remittances from overseas Filipinos reached 3.15 billion US dollars in January, recording a year-on-year 2.7% increase, the Phili-

ppine central bank has said. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Friday night that cash remittances from the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Singapore contributed mainly to the increase in January.

Personal remittances remain a significant source foreign exchange inflows into Philippines. According to the Asian Development Bank, the Philippines is among the top 10 global recipients of remittances.

The BSP data showed that personal remittances from overseas Filipinos reached an all-time high of 37.2 billion US dollars in 2023, 3 percent higher than the amount recorded in 2022. The full-year 2023 remittances represented 8.5 percent and 7.7 percent of the country's gross domes-tic product and gross national income, respectively.

S&P affirms Saudia's A/A-1 rating

International rating agency S&P Global Ratings affirmed its foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings for Saudi Arabia at 'A/A-1' with Stable Outlook.

The agency indicated the affirmation was a result of the Kingdom's economic and social reform agenda in recent years. And is a direction that will improve the Kingdom's economic resilience and will continue to underpin the development of the non-oil sector and fiscal receipts.

Due to the acceleration in non-oil sector investment and robust consumption in the Kingdom, the agency forecasted GDP growth to average 3.3% in the medium term.

The agency expects strong growth in construction for Saudi Vision 2030 projects and in the service sector, supported by consumer demand and an expanding female workforce. S&P also projects fiscal deficits of around 2% of GDP over the 2024-2027 period.

The agency also praised that Saudi Arabia has embarked on a significant, rapid economic and social transformation program under the Saudi Vision

Balance of loans in Shanghai up

week. The balance of Shan-

attempt to get a majority.

for privatization LAHORE (PPI): Finance to bring forth. "We have Minister Muhammad Aur- already discussed with the

angzeb said today that the PIA has been first in the line for privatization, all other institutions will come later.

Muhammad Aurangzeb talking to media after filing his nomination papers for Senate election here said that it is not the government's job to do business, it has only to formulate policies. "Our agenda has only

been implementation and enforcement," he said. He Assembly, Senate, and the said, the private sector has four provincial assemblies. March.

FBR," he said. He said, feeling good to

get Pakistani citizenship. "I will keep staying here after the ministry," finance minister said. Earlier, the finance minister submitted his nomination papers for a Senate seat from Punjab.

Senate elections on 48 vacant seats will be held on April 02 in the National

ule on Thursday for elec-IMF to bring reforms in the tions on 48 vacant seats of the Senate.

According to the schedule, candidates can file their nomination papers till Saturday.

March 19th has been fixed for scrutiny of the nomination papers. A revised list of the candidates will be issued on March 26th while the candidates can withdraw their nomination papers by 27th

Pakistan textile exports rebound for third month

Pakistan's textile sector is showing signs of recovery, with exports rising for the third consecutive month in and liquidity issues stem-February. The positive ming from rising energy trend suggests a return of confidence from international buyers.

According to
Bureau Pakistan Statistics (PBS), textile measures to address them. exports reached \$1.4 billion in February, a 19.2% increase compared to the exporters with regionally same month last year. This competitive power rates follows similar growth in and expedite the issuance December and January.

However, despite recent gains, the overall remains mixed. Textile ous textile categories. achieving pre-pandemic exports during this period Ready-made garments, export levels.

comp red to the previous year, at \$11.14 billion. prices are cited as the main reasons for this lag.

acknowledged these chal-

of lenges and announced The finance ministry has promised to provide textile tile manufacturers. of pending sales tax refunds faces to improve cash flow.

are down slightly (0.65%) knitwear, and bedwear all saw significant increases in both value and volume. Similarly, exports of towels and cotton fabric also rose.

Interestingly, despite the overall decline in raw cotton imports, there was a The government has surge in imports of textile machinery (23%), indicating continued investment in either expansion or modernization projects by tex-

While the recent export growth is encouraging, Pakistan's textile sector still headwinds.

liquidity issues Looking deeper into the and production cost compicture for the first eight February export data, PBS petitiveness will be crucial months of the fiscal year reports growth across vari- for sustained recovery and

Rates of vegetables, fruits soar in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): The rates of vegetables and keepers and vendors have 240, green pepper 340, fruits soared as the wave of official rates issued by the capsicum 320, brinjal 160, inflation could not be reduced in Peshawar.

The price of vegetables, fruits and live chicken continues to increase and the people are worried about the Holy month of Ramadan.

"We are witnessing an increase in the rates of vegetables and fruits and are compelled to buy because of the Holy month of Ramadan," a housewife told APP during a visit to the vegetables and fruits markets.

concerned quarters of the cauliflower 120, okra 340 district administration but I do not know why they are not following the rate. The butchers are selling the meat as Rs. 1000 per kg while the official rate is 750 per kg, she added.

She said that the shop-

administration officials have tried their level best to control the prices according to the official price list but so far they have failed. Sales of onion 260, tomato 160, garlic 650 increased from the of and ginger 610 per kg rate of 280 per dozen.

rupees are being sold per kg. As far as the rates of the fruits in the market, the Apple 330, Pomegranate 510, Malta 340, Stoberry 510, Amardo 350 and banana 190 rupees per dozen sold.

However, the district The price of live chicken has been increased by Rs 10 per kg to Rs 425 per kg while the price of a dozen eggs will reach 310 rupees in the market, 30 rupees increased from the official

Tesla Germany staff to elect new council

FRANKFURT (Reuters): the union has taken issue up to 18%, improvements Tesla's (TSLA.O), opens new tab staff in Germany will elect a new works council next week, when the IG Metall union hopes to gain greater influence over pay and working conditions after it accused the the US carmaker of inadequate safety provisions.

A suspected arson attack caused production at the plant near Berlin to be halted for a week earlier this month, prompting Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk to visit this

The elections for the new works council, to be held on March 18-20, are aimed at filling 39 seats, according to IG Metall, the top German trade union which has put forward 106 candidates in an

That would enable it to elect the council's chaircontrol over areas where including pay increases of

with the carmaker, which in occupational health and is known for its critical stance towards unions. Among IG Metall demands is to hire new

employees, better planning of working hours, at least 20 days of freely available vacation, better health protection, more security, higher pay and shorter working hours.

'Too often, savings are made on accident protection for 'Tesla Speed'. That has to change," IG Metall district manager Dirk Schulze said in a statement.

In order to end the understaffing of shifts, temporary workers should be hired, the union

added. Michaela Schmitz, the plant's current works council head, told Reuters much had been achieved

safety and benefits, including bike sharing and free bus rides. "All of the aforemen-

tioned successes were achieved without the union or a collective bargaining agreement, quickly, easily and customised to Giga Berlin," she said, adding that meant there was no need for "external influences in the future" implying IG Metall.

In October, Tesla rejected IG Metall claims that health and safety provisions at its gigafactory near Berlin were inadequate, saying protecting workers was a top priority.

The company also last year raised salaries for the plant's 12,500 workers, which regional IG Metall head Dirk Schulze welin e-mailed comments that comed at the time, while still calling for better person and gain greater over the last two years, working conditions at the





Abrar, Shakeel fined for code of conduct breaches

KARACHI (PPI): Quetta Gladiators' Abrar Ahmed and Saud Shakeel have both been fined five per cent of their match fees for Level 1 breaches of HBL PSL's code of conduct during their side's HBL PSL 9 fixture against Islamabad United at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi on Friday night. Abrar was found to have violated Article 2.4 of the HBL PSL Code of Conduct, which reads as: "Disobeying an umpire's instruction during the match". The incident occurred in the 19th over of Islamabad United's batting, when, while fielding, Abrar rolled the ball all along the ground despite being instructed by the umpires not to do so. In a separate incident, in the same match, Saud was found to have violated Article 2.5 of the HBL PSL Code of Conduct, which reads as: "Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during a match". dismissing United's batter Salman Ali Agha in the 12th over, Saud went close to Salman and made remarks which could have provoked the batter. Both players pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the sanctions proposed by match referee Mohammad Javed. charges were imposed by on-field

Tariq Rafi wins Championship

umpires Ahsan Raza and

Chris Gaffaney.

KARACHI (PPI): Young and emerging tennis star Tariq Rafi won the Essity Tennis Championship in the Under-11 Category. Rafi advanced to the final and played against Qazi Ahyan, whom he defated by 4-0 and 4-1. Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, promibusinessman, Mashfique emphasized that good sports events and opportunities need to be eated to encourage physical sports activities amongst the youth. Pakistan's number one wheelchair tennis player, Fida Hussain, was awarded the appreciation sheild. In the closinf remarks, Karachi Tennis Association President Muhammad Khalid Rahmani thanked the sponsor for supporting the event and the game of Tennis.

Matthew announces

retirement SYDNEY (Agencies): Former Australian Test wicketkeeper Matthew Wade has called time on the red-ball game but will continue playing cricket's shorter formats. The 36-year-old made the announcement late Friday ahead of the Sheffield Shield final next week where his native Tasmania meet Western Australia in what will be his 166th and last first-class match. "I would like to thank my family, my wife Julia, and kids Winter, Goldie, and Duke, for the sacrifices have made throughout my career, as I travelled Australia and the world as a red-ball cricketer," Wade said in a statement. "There certainly isn't (an element of) 'I'm not playing well enough or I don't feel I can contribute enough', he said. "It's more the younger players have managed to shove me out the door." Matthew Wade, who played 36 Tests as both a wicketkeeper and specialist batter between 2012 and 2021, will continue to be available for one-day and Twenty20 cricket. Wade has scored a total of 1613 runs in Test cricket, including four centuries. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that the longform game provides, and although I will continue to play white ball cricket, wearing the Baggy Green while playing for my country remains a highlight of my career.'

Haider, Imad take Islamabad United to PSL 9 final as Peshawar Zalmi falter

Sports



Desk): Islamabad United

Wasim and Haider Ali, as at the same venue. they beat Peshawar Zalmi

Zalmi failed to defend qualified for the final of by five wickets on Saturday their total of 185-5 as HBL PSL for the first time night, at National Bank United batters overcame since 2018, on the back of a record seventh-wicket part- Eliminator Two. The final 50-4, and secured the berth

suit of the 186-run target met dire straits at 50-4. with adversity as Saim, fresh a fullish carrom ball that rattled his stumps.

In the fourth over, 95 required in nine overs.

Mehran knocked off Haider Ali joined Imad i Shadab Khan's off-stump to leave United 23-3. the middle and the duo took it upon themselves to stage the

lost three partners in the first four overs, teed off in the fifth as he hit Saim for 22 runs on the back of four boundaries and a six.

Khurram Shahzad landed another blow for Zalmi on the coffin for Zalmi as Imad the last ball of the sixth over hit a first-ball four followed nership between Imad will be played on 18 March in the HBL PSL 9 final, as he dismissed Guptill for

five boundaries and a soli-Islamabad United's purtary six, leaving United in

Azam Khan and Imad off his batting heroics, struck Wasim got together to put twice with the new ball; up a 41-run fifth-wicket Alex Hales chipped one partnership injecting stabilstraight to Mehran Mumtaz ity to United's innings. at cover while Salman Ali Luke Wood destroyed Agha was bamboozled with Azam's (22, 17b, 1x4, 1x6) stumps in the 11th over to leave United reeling with

Haider Ali joined Imad in upon themselves to stage the Martin Guptill, having rescue act. Haider got going with two boundaries against Aamir in the 13th over, while he bludgeoned Arif Yaqoob for a six in 15th over.

Aamir's 18th over, yielding 23, became the nail in by Haider hitting two towering sixes and a four. Haider six in the 19th over while Imad hit the winning runs. Imad (59 not out, 40b, 9x4s) and Haider (52 not out, 29b, 2x4s, 5x6s) added an unbeaten 98 for the seventh wicket, the highest in HBL HBL PSL history. Naseem fours and two sixes.

Saim bagged two wickets while Wood, Mumtaz and Khurram picked up on each.

Earlier, Peshawar Zalmi made the most of the opportunity to bat first as Shadab opted to field after fiery 72-run opening partnership after Saim he muscled Naseem Shah for a maximum in the first over.

In the following over,

Obed McCoy found himself on the receiving end as the belligerent southpaw pummeled him for a six over two boundaries off, taking 27 balls to do so. through cover and fine leg, respectively. Salman was employed to bowl the fourth over and gave away 13 runs. Then, Saim welcomed Faheem Ashraf in the sixth smashed Wood for his fifth over with three boundaries capping off the powerplay

with 59 on the board. Saim and Babar duo also

side to the final. For Zalmi, over and dismissed Babar per Shadab plucked a spectacular catch at mid-off.

Babar also breached the 550-run mark in HBL PSL 9 for the second time in the history of the tournament, a winning the toss. Babar feat that has only been Azam and Saim stitched a achieved by Mohammad Rizwan twice, and Fakhar

Zaman once. Mohammad Haris joined Saim in the middle and the pair contributed with a 59run second-wicket partnership. In the 10th over, Saim brought up his second HBL PSL 9 half-century in style fine leg and then followed it with a maximum over long-

> With Zalmi poised for a huge total after having notched 130-1 in 14 overs, Shadab brought his team back into the game with the vital scalp of Saim in the 15th over. Saim returned for 73 off 44, comprising six boundaries and four maximums.

In the following over, became just the third open- Naseem dismissed Haris ing pair, and the quickest, to who returned a crucial 40 score 1000 or more runs in off 25, on the back of three

Aaqib appointed as Sri Lanka's fast bowling coach

Desk): Sri Lanka Cricket Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib immense coach of the national team on Saturday.

Javed will assume the until the conclusion of the competitions, such as the League (PSL) franchise ICC T20 World Cup 2024, ICC Men's T20 World Lahore Qalandars since to be played in the West Cup," said Ashley De Silva, 2017. Qalandars won back-Indies and the USA.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of former Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib Javed as the national team's fastbowling coach," an SLC

(Monitoring Men's T20 World Cup." "We warmly welcome Australia during his tenure (SLC) appointed former Aaqib and believe that his as the head coach. international

Javed as the fast bowling experience, both in playing coach of Pakistan's Underand coaching, will help our bowlers come into good U19 World Cup in 2004. shape ahead of the upcom-CEO of SLC.

> previously served as the Javed. bowling coach for Pakistan, during their successful ICC T20 World Cup winning campaign in 2009.

completion of the ICC tus and qualifying for the team in 1992.

ICC World Cup 2015 in

Aaqib Javed was also the 19 team when they won the

He has been the head role immediately and work ing major international coach of the Pakistan Super EO of SLC. to-back PSL trophies in The right-handed pacer 2022 and 2023 under

Javed has represented Pakistan in 163 ODIs and 22 Test matches for Pakistan, bagging 236 statement said. He also oversaw the international wickets and "He will work with the national team until the (UAE) earning the ODI statury's World Cup-winning

Djokovic withdraws from Miami Open



MIAMI (Agencies): World number one Novak Djokovic withdrew from next week's ATP-WTA Miami Open on Saturday in the wake of his shock exit at Indian Wells.

36-year-old Serbian star said in a statement on social media he had opted to skip Miami for scheduling reasons. "Unfortunately I won't

be playing the @MiamiOpen this year," Djokovic announced on X, formerly Twitter.

"At this stage of my where they will lock horns career, I'm balancing my private and professiona schedule. I'm sorry that I won't experience some of the best and most passionate fans in the world.

"I'm looking fw competing in MI in future!"

The 24-time Grand Slam champion returned to play the early season US hardcourt swing at Indian Wells in California, only to suffer a shock third-round exit Monday to lowly ranked Italian Luca Nardi.

Djokovic said after that defeat he still planned to play in Miami despite the loss.

Djokovic's statement on Saturday gave no indi-cation of where he next expects to play.

KP making efforts to organize **KP** CPL

(APP): as per international stan- hold Advisor to Chief Minister dards as soon as possible. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jahan on the concerned League have will leave no stone unturned to organize successfully and now their are peaceful, hospitable and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cricket Premier League in the province this year.

Talking to a delegation of the management of Kashmir Premier League here, the advisor said that steps would also be taken to play Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the province.

He said that efforts would also be made to host international cricket matches in the province. He said that soon after assuming charge of his portfolio, he has issued instructions for completion of construction work at

Saturday expressed that he organized Sindh and whole world that the people

Kashmir Premier Leagues of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa delegation has met with the Advisor on Sports regarding the expected holding of Premier League in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

they gave briefing on the arrangements in this regard. The advisor was told them

that road shows will also be organized in Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia regarding the expected league.

Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium they are making efforts to available here.

Pakhtunkhwa It has a worth to mention League as soon as possible. here that the organizers of He said that they want to send a message to the a reflection of positive activities in the society.

He said that through these healthy activities they can present a positive During their meeting image of the province to the with the Advisor on Sports, world. He further said that the provision of sports' holding of KP Premier infrastructure and better League and essential environment to the players infrastructure and better is the top priority.

Sports advisor said that there is immense talent in our province and the government wants it to prevent it from wastage, introduce On this occasion, the new players and all the Sports Advisor said that facilities they need are

Imad comments on his int'l cricket comeback

KARACHI (Monitoring PSL," he added. Desk): Islamabad United's all-rounder Imad Wasim international debut in 2015, has commented on the possibility of him coming out of retirement in international cricket.

last year with a shocking also part of the Pakistan side retirement from international cricket, has kept the Champions Trophy in 2017. really slow, it was gripping door open for his comeback

Imad Wasim led and it went well," Imad to international cricket.

myself while playing for Pakistan and if my country needs me, I will be available. If not, I have no issues with that," Wasim told local media.

"Shaheen [Afridi] called

Wasim, who made his with Peshawar Zalmi. represented Pakistan in 66 T20Is and 55 ODIs before his retirement.

He scored 1,472 runs chasing 175. Wasim, who stunned the across formats with the help won the that

"I made a name for thumping 39-run victory mony. over Quetta Gladiators in Eliminator 1 of the Pakistan slow balls than arm balls Super League (PSL) season and mixed it up...worked 9 yesterday.

The left-arm spinner

claimed brilliant bowling figures of 3-19 to bowl the Gladiators for 139 while "I think what we saw in

cricket fans in November of six half-centuries and was the last few games, it was spinning, holding a bit, the thing I did well was to bowl Islamabad United to a said at the post-match cere-

"I tried to bowl more for me...we restricted them The victory marked the and took wickets which is end of Quetta Gladiators' the best thing, if you do one campaign while of these right, you will win me after I retired but I told Islamabad United pro-him that we will talk after gressed to Eliminator 2 important," he added.

Shiffrin extends record with 97th World Cup win



SAALBACH (AFP): Mikaela Shiffrin ended her campaign by claiming her 97th World Cup victory in the season-closing women's slalom at Saalbach on Saturday. The US ski great was placed second after the first run, trailing Anna Swenn-Larsson by 0.11sec.

But after Swenn-Larsson failed to nail her second run Shiffrin topped the podium intent on ending a season by 0.54s from Norway's marred by injury on a high Mina Fuerst Holtmann, note. The Colorado-born

who was placed only eighth at the midway point. Swenn-Larsson had to settle for third at 0.63s.

After landing her 60th World Cup slalom, Shiffrin, who turned 29 this week, was all smiles as she collected her favourite discipline's crystal globe trophy.

Shiffrin arrived at the World Cup finals in Austria

discipline's title for the eighth time. She is out of the running for the overall title which looks destined to go to Lara Gut-Behrami, who sat out

Saturday's slalom.

skier had returned from six

weeks on the sidelines to

win the slalom in Are last

weekend and, with it, the

Gut-Behrami is also targeting the giant slalom, super-G and downhill titles and if successful she will join Shiffrin, Lindsey Vonn and Tina Maze as the only women in history to secure four titles in a single season. Shiffrin meanwhile was just happy to be doing what she does best.

These days make me feel so invigorated, so alive. There's no pressure,

it's just a privilege for me. Still not fully recovered from her fall in Italy she is opting out of Sunday's giant slalom and next week's speed events.

Kane breaks 60-year record and Musiala dazzles in Bayern romp



a 60-year record for most goals in a minute goal before scoring one of debut season while Jamal Musiala his own, rising high to head in a scored twice as Bayern Munich won 5-2 at Darmstadt on Saturday.

With 31 goals in 26 league games since arriving from Spurs in the through the second half when he more pressure on Niko Kovac's summer, Kane overtook German legend Uwe Seeler, who scored 30 goals for Hamburg in 1963-64.

Musiala also had an assist in the win, which keeps Bayern's slim hopes of defending the Bundesliga title alive, moving them seven points behind Bayer Leverkusen, who play at Freiburg on Sunday
Darmstadt stunned Bayern after

28 minutes, Tim Skarke taking advantage of some sleepy defence from Eric Dier to score and give the home side hope of an incredible upset against the German champions.

Kane would however drag Bayern into the lead before half-

BERLIN (AFP): Harry Kane broke time, assisting Musiala's 36th-Joshua Kimmich chip in first-half stoppage time.
Musiala added another midway

collected a Thomas Mueller throw- Wolfsburg who have won just one in and danced through the box game in 15. before shooting between the goalkeeper's legs.

As he did last week, Serge Gnabry scored moments after coming off the bench to seal the win. Bayern's Mathys Tel and Darmstadt's Oscar Vilhelmsson

both scored in stoppage time. In the German capital, Union Berlin continued their impressive another valuable point and go 10 home record, beating Werder Bremen 2-1 thanks to a command-

ing performance from US midfield-

er Brenden Aaronson. Aaronson, who was surprisingly

left out of the US squad this week, had a hand in two goals in three second-half minutes to give Union the upper hand.
The 23-year-old laid on Yorbe

Vertessen's 50th-minute goal, before creating and scoring one of his own with some superb dribbling shortly after.

Mitchell Weiser pulled one back for the visitors but Union held on, recording their fifth win in seven home matches under coach Nenad Bjelica.

Augsburg came from a goal down to beat a 10-man Wolfsburg 3-1 away from home, their fourthstraight league win taking them to seventh on the table. Wolfsburg's Patrick Wimmer

scored after just nine minutes but was sent from the field in tears just before half-time for a last-man foul, with Augsburg's Arne Maier scoring from the ensuing free-kick. Kristijan Jakic scored a second-

half double to seal the win, piling Mainz won 2-0 at home against Bochum to keep their hopes of

avoiding relegation alive. Mainz moved past Cologne, who were thumped 5-1 by Leipzig on Friday, into 16th, the relegation playoff spot Promoted Heidenheim drew 1-1 Borussia home with

clear of the relegation spots in their first season in the top division. Later on Saturday, third-placed Stuttgart travel to neighbours

Moenchengladbach to collect

Indian Wells Sakkari beats Gauff to reach final against Iga Swiatek

(Agencies): Maria Sakkari beat US Open champion Coco Gauff in a rain-hit match to set up an Indian Wells final against world number one Iga Swiatek.

Greece's Sakkari let a 5-2 second-set lead slip but regrouped to beat third seed Gauff 6-4 6-7 (5-7) 6-2.

Rain held up play in California in the middle of the first set and again at the start of the second. Poland's Swiatek earlier needed just 65 minutes to beat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-2 6-1.

Sunday's final will be a rematch of the 2022 showpiece, which Swiatek won in straight sets. Swiatek is bidding for her second title of the year after winning the Qatar Open, while Sakkari is aiming for her first.

While Swiatek is yet to ing champion Carlos Alcaraz ate fans in the world.

WELLS drop a set in this year's tournament, Sakkari had to go the distance against American Gauff, missing three match points in the second set. Gauff dominated the resulting tie-break and broke in the first game of the third set before Sakkari regrouped.

The ninth seed immediately rescued the break and won four games in a row to take a 4-1 lead. Gauff served to stay in the match at 5-2 down but, despite saving another match point, was unable to hold off Sakkari.

"I don't want to disrespect Coco but it would've been amazing if this match was over an hour ago," Sakkari joked afterwards. "Coco is such an amazing opponent. I'm just so happy I'm in the final once again here."

plays Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner in the last four from 19:00 GMT, followed by last year's runnerup Daniil Medvedev against home hope Tommy Paul in the second semi-final. Elsewhere, world num-

ber one Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from the Miami Open, which starts on 20 March. The Serb, who was beaten in the third round at Indian Wells by Italian Luca Nardi, said he must be selective with the tournaments he plays.

'Unfortunately I won't be playing the Miami Open this year," Djokovic wrote on X. "At this stage of my career, I'm balancing my private and professional schedule. I'm sorry that I won't experience some of In the men's draw, defend- the best and most passion-



In brief

SSP visits police station

RAWALPINDI (APP) SSP Operations Flight Lieutenant (Rtd) Hafiz Kamran Asghar conducted a surprise visit to the Police Station in Taxila, emphasizing the importance of security, especially during Ramazan. During the inspection, he gave necessary instructions to the officers on duty. The SSP Asghar stressed the need for officers to remain vigilant and ensure prompt resolution of complaints. He highlighted the significance of maintaining alert security measures, particularly during Ramazan and emphasized the importance of daily checks and briefings for officers and personnel. In his address. SSP Asghar reiterated that crime prevention is the foremost responsibility of the police. He emphasized the importance of effective patrolling, snap-checking, and strict action against criminal elements. Additionally, he emphasized the timely registration of FIRs and conducting investigations impartially and based on merit in all cases.

Two held involved in motorcycle theft

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two members gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered 06 stolen motorcycle from their possession during crackdown here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, the New Town police held two members of a bikelifting gang who were identified as Shahzad and Salman. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and started investigation. SP Rawal Town Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of police team and stated that the accused would be presented in court with solid evidence and they cannot escape the law. He added that such elements would be dealt with iron hands. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have arrested eight outlaws during the crackdown. Police have also recovered drugs, weapons and liquor from their possession. Separate cases were registered against all of them and further investigation was underway.

8 dead, 1215 injured in road accidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least eight persons were killed and 1215 injured in 1122 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 522 people with serious injuries were shifted to hospitals, while 685 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams, thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed 636 drivers, 36 underage drivers, 170 pedestrians, and 409 passengers were among the victims. The statistics show that 265 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 295 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the followed Faisalabad 87 in with 89 victims and at third Multan with 70 accidents victims. According to the data 1024 motorbikes, 54 auto-rickshaws, 112 cars, 21 vans, 9 buses, 24 trucks and 72 other types of vehicles and carts were involved in the accidents.

Police bust two gangs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police have busted two gangs and arrested their four members, said a police spokesman. He informed that Taxila police netted accused namely Hamza and Noor Ahmed, members of Fayyaz alias Commando allegedly involved in bike lifting several cases. Police also recovered five stolen motorcycles and cash Rs 6,000 and weapons from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: US envoy Donald Blome calls on NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. -- APP Photo

Ayaz Sadiq, US Ambassador discuss strengthening bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, here on Saturday discussed strengthening bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation for mutual gains.

Pakistan's longstanding and

(APP): broad spectrum of issues tionship. concerning mutual interests, as per a news release.

stitute an important ele- significance of collective r mutual gains.

During the meeting, the beaker reiterated cooperation.

Statute all important clear significance of concerns and international peace and prosperity.

Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary efforts to promote regional and international peace and prosperity.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed

Ambassador congratulated Blome Ayaz Sadiq highlighted Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq that Pakistan's relations on his re-election. The with the United States con-Speaker underscored the

expressed gratitude for the broad-based relationship the need for regular visits Ambassador's kind remarks with the United States, and interactions between and affirmed Pakistan's based on principles of members of parliaments commitment to continued mutual respect and trust. from both countries to fur- collaboration with the US in The meeting focused on a ther strengthen the rela- all areas of mutual concern.

PUC escalates efforts to foster interfaith dialogue

Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad interfaith dialogue and upon

Islamophobia', he empha- Îslamic teachings. sized that Islamophobia er hindering interfaith har- milestone

United Nations, the Saudi international bodies to entities. champion initiatives

coexistence.

He stressed that Islam Tahir embodies peace, love, and need to clarify the distinc-Mehmood Ashrafi on tolerance, emphasizing tion between Jihad and Saturday said the council the teachings of Allah terrorism through diais set to escalate its efforts Almighty and the Prophet logue, particularly in the on a global scale to foster Muhammad (peace be aftermath of the 9/11 him). Addressing internation- non-Muslims against tions about Islam and al media in connection Islam, attributing it to Muslims in the Western with the 'International misinformation and hatred world. against The PUC. Combat propagated Recognizing

worldwide. Ashrafi highlighted the ny, culminating in an Ashrafi urged world pow- designation of March 15 upcoming international ers to accelerate initiatives as the 'International Day conference, to eradicate Islamophobia, to Combat Islamophobia, labeling it as a toxic barri- by the United Nations, a Islamabad after the holy collaborative through He called upon the efforts involving Pakistan, conference would be com-Arabia, Organization of Islamic Organization of Islamic the invitations will be ten-Cooperation, and other Cooperation, and other dered to Imam of Khana-

aimed at eradicating all urgency of addressing Azhar, forms of discrimination global anti-Muslim senti- Bishop of Canterbury and

(APP): of love, tolerance, and nation as a significant threat to world peace.

He underscored the Ashrafi attacks, which fueled lamented the incitement of widespread misconcep-

pledged to intensify its global endeavors for interposes a grave threat to Islamophobia as a crime, faith dialogue and harmothemed 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' achieved month of Ramazan.

He informed that the the prised all faith leaders as e-Kaba, Grand Imam of Ashrafi emphasized the Palestine, Sheikh Al-rgency of addressing Azhar, Pop Francis, while nurturing a culture ment, branding discrimi- many more.

Special squads making efforts to prevent one-wheeling

Special squads constitut- adding that the squads ed by City Traffic Police would operate particular-(CTP) are making all-out ly from 4 am to 7 am and efforts to prevent one- after Iftar to control one- being taken against the wheeling during Ramazan ul Mubarak, said City roads. Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan here Saturday.

He informed that more were deployed by forming crimination, he added. 6 special squads to prevent one-wheeling during Ramadan.

The squads would consist of seven DSPs/circle officers, six senior traffic wardens, 17 traffic war- was also checking the traffic as well as to predens and 25 traffic assis- mechanics who alter the vent one-wheeling.

highways where action role in controlling the would be taken against illegal activity. than 65 traffic officials one-wheelers without dis-

were being utilized to from fatal accidents. protect human lives and prevent Special monitoring cell lized to maintain flow of

RAWALPINDI (APP): tants, the CTO said, motorcycles for onewheeling, he said.

The effective and comprehensive action was wheeling on the city violators. The CTO urged the parents to keep a spe-Special pickets were cial eye on their children also set up for important and play their imperative

He said that a bike or vehicle should not be Taimoor Khan said that given to a youngster so all available resources that they could be safe The CTO said that all

one-wheeling. resources were being uti-

ANF recovers 150 kg drugs in 11 operations

Capital

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its crackdown against drug trafficking conducted 11 operations across the country and managed to recover 150 kg drugs besides arresting six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that 1.9 kg Ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at Lahore Airport. In another operation, 31,700 intoxicated tablets were recovered from a passenger going to Jeddah at

Islamabad Airport.
In third operation at Islamabad Airport, 84 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Dubai. ANF in an operation at Multan Airport recovered 93 Ice-filled capsules from a passenger going to Qatar while 950 grams Ice was recovered from a parcel being sent to Greece from GPO office in Lahore.

70 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for Sharjah at Karachi Airport. 75 kg heroin was recovered from Kuchlak Quetta and 55 kg hashish was recovered from operation, 2 kg heroin was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded Rawalpindi Division. up near Data Darbar Lahore. 1.5 kg Ice was the recovered from the possesnear Tariq Road Karachi.

In 11th operation, 690 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested from Bahria Town Rawalpindi.

Tarar condemns terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Federal for Information and Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar on Saturday strongly condemned terrorist attack in North Waziristan.

In a statement, the minister paid tributes to the officers and Jawans of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in the terrorist attack. Expressing condolences to the families of the martyred, he said the government stood with their families. Attacking security forces was a cowardly and reprehensible act

Ataullah Tarar said. The brave soldiers of Pakistan Army are sacrificongoing revenue recovery ing their lives for the security of the country, their campaign. sacrifices will always be remembered, he remarked.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to root out the scourge of terrorism from the soil. The government with the support of the masses will take every step to completely eliminate terrorism, he maintained.

Residents gather for suhoor, celebrating Ramazan with family

with the laughter and chatter of families and friends gathering for suhoor.

The city's diverse food points witnessed a bustling scene as residents indulged in a variety of delectable dishes, including the renowned nihari, barbecue, chicken karahi, and halwa puri, all emblematic of the that this month fosters.' Garrison city's rich culinary heritage.

their favorite food spots, eager to partake in the pre-dawn meal before hearts, and gathering for suhoor with the essence of community and combeginning their fast. Amongst the our loved ones amplifies the blessings throngs of people, the atmosphere was of this sacred month. It's a time for time of the year.

Ramadan, the streets of twin cities of residents expressed their delight in Rawalpindi and Islamabad echoed celebrating Ramazan with loved ones.

Talking to APP, Abdul Mateen, a local resident, commented, "There's together with family and friends for suhoor during Ramadan. It's not just about the food; it's about the bonds we share and the sense of community

Echoing Rahman's sentiments, Ayat As dawn broke, families flocked to Fatima, another attendee, remarked, "Ramadan holds a special place in our

ISLAMABAD (APP):In the spirit of filled with joy and camaraderie, as reflection, gratitude, and togetherness.' The tradition of communal suhoor holds deep significance for Pindi's residents, symbolizing unity, generosity, and the importance of shared something special about coming experiences. As the month progresses, the vibrant vibes of Ramazan are expected to continue, culminating in the joyous celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitr.

With the aroma of traditional delicacies lingering in the air and the sounds of laughter filling the streets, the twin cities embraces the spirit of Ramazan wholeheartedly, embodying passion that defines this auspicious

Sheikh, Gandapur discuss political affairs in Islamabad

the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in Ali Amin Gandapur had

Pakhtunkhwa House in He expressed confidence Islamabad, where Mr that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sheikh extended his con- would progress further as gratulations to Ali Amin compared Gandapur for becoming Chief Minister of KPK and invited him to attend the would work for the betterpublic gathering scheduled ment of the people, follow-

Sindh President Haleem Various political matters Minister Imran Khan. Adil Sheikh held a meeting were also discussed during

compared to other provinces and emphasised

initiated numerous projects The meeting took place for the welfare of the poor Khyber in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

that Ali Amin Gandapur

Mr Gandapur thanked with Ali Amin Gandapur, the meeting. the people of Karachi for the Chief Minister of Mr Sheikh stated that their support extended to the people of Karachi for Imran Khan. He alleged that the mandate given by the people of Sindh had been stolen, but assured that they would reclaim the stolen mandate.

Gandapur announced his participation in the PTI public gathering in Karachi on April 21 and urged the people to active-

Pakistan Day: Youth unite in declaration of love for nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a powerful display of patriotism and solidarity, the that adorn their nation, the "Our love for Pakistan knows no bounds," that adorn their nation, the declared Bilal Ahmed, a youth of Pakistan expressed their unwavering devotion to their country, emphasizing the profound bond of brotherhood and unity that unites them as one people.

Drawing upon the metaphor of a tree with numerous branches but anchored by a singular root, the youth have eloquently articulated their role as the foundation of Pakistan's strength and resilience. Despite the diversity of languages and cultures across the nation, their message remains consistent and resolute.

"We are the roots of Pakistan, the foundation upon which our nation stands," remarked Ayan Babar, a college student from Islamabad. and our unity is our power."

youth have celebrated the unity that binds them together as a cohesive whole. Through their collective efforts, they aspire to uphold the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for all.

Our differences are what make Pakistan beautiful," stated Sadia Ali, a young activist from Rawalpindi. "But it is our shared love for our country that truly defines us as one people." In their public declara-

tions, the youth have offered fervent prayers for have invoked divine blessexpressing a collective diversity is our strength, moon, and the stars - forev- towards a brighter and more er filled with pride and joy. prosperous future for all.

university student . "We pray for its eternal prosperity and stand united in our commitment to its future.

In a poignant expression of unity, the youth have resoundingly proclaimed a single sentiment that echoes from the depths of their souls: "Long Live Pakistan." This solemn declaration symbolizes their unwavering dedication to the long-lasting prosperity and unity of their beloved homeland.

As their voices unite in harmony, the youth of the prosperity and well-Pakistan stand as a testa-being of Pakistan. They ment to the enduring spirit of love, resilience, and ings upon their homeland, unity that defines their nation. Through their colhope to see its cherished lective efforts, they vow to symbols – the flag, the continue working tirelessly

Over 188,377 ration bags of under Ramazan Package distributed

RAWALPINDI Over 188,377 ration bags an area near Coastal have been distributed process of the ration bags. Highway Pasni. In 10th among the deserving people under the Negahban Ramazan Package

Chairing a meetin Divisional Coordination Committee, sion of an accused arrested | Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the citizens could register their complaints on helpline 080002345 regarding hoarding and Negahban

> He informed that 58,923 beneficiaries in Rawalpindi district, 56,954 in Attock, 28,122 in Jhelum, 41,015 in Chakwal and 3363 in ration packages at their get registered their stock to 96 Price Magis doorsteps. He directed the information in the Deputy poor performance.

Ramazan package.

(APP): authorities concerned to Commissioner's office with-

case of shortage of staff or from other districts of the division. A special campaign against hoarders was going on under the special direc-

tives of the Punjab government, Aamir Khattak said. Under the Anti-Hoarding Act, 2020, those found guilty of hoarding would be punished with imprison-

ment of up to three years and heavy fines, he warned. He said all the traders, shopkeepers, stockists and

accelerate the distribution in three days. Otherwise, their stock would be consid-The number of deserving ered as hoarding and confisfamilies in Rawalpindi is cated as per law, Engr. high, he said adding that in Aamir Khattak said.

The Commissioner stock, help should be taken informed that 308 violations were checked during 11,291 raids conducted in Rawalpindi Division during the last 24 hours.

Fines amounting to Rs 901,500 were imposed on the violators while six First Investigation (FIRs) were also lodged and five buildings were sealed, he said adding that 70 profiteers and hoarders were sent behind bars.

Engr. Aamir Khattak further informed that show Murree were provided the warehouse owners should cause notices were issued get registered their stock to 96 Price Magistrates on

DG directs authorities to speed up recovery campaign

Director General (DG), Rawalpindi Development Authority Rawalpindi, Kinza Murtaza here on Saturday directed the authorities of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi to speed up the

Chairing a meeting regarding WASA revenue recovery, the DG said that the recovery target of WASA should be revised immediately and set as per the new tariff. Managing Director,

WASA, Muhammad Asleem Ashraf, Chief Engineer, RDA, Anwar Baran, Deputy MD, Admin and Finance, Aamir Ashfaq Qureshi, Director Finance and Tahir Bashir, Revenue, Director Admin, Mohammad Umar Farooq and Deputy Directors Revenues and representative of Municipal Rawalpindi Corporation attended the meeting.

The MD WASA while briefing the DG said that total connections of WASA are 154,017 out of which 137,629 are domestic and 16,388 are commercial.

Over Rs 1044.572 million were recovered in the first eight months of the financial year 2023-2024, which is more than the target, he said adding, along with this, the crackdown against the defaulters was launched and it would continue to improve the recovery.

nections, the DG said and installments of the bills would not be allowed and the customers would have to pay their entire bill. Mobile SMS service should be introduced and the bill information should be provided to all the consumers through SMS, she added.

A letter should be written to the CPO Rawalpindi requesting the provision of police team. The police team would not only help in the recovery of WASA outstanding dues from the defaulters but would also be useful in RDA operations, she said. A Business Facilitation

Center to facilitate the businessmen had been set up in RDA in which the representatives of all the departments concerned are available. WASA should appoint its representative who would issue the WASA No Objection Certificate and collect the dues of WASA if any before transfer of any property. This step would help considerably increase the income

of WASA, she said. The DG further directed the authorities to conduct a survey within a week of all the tube wells installed in all the private housing schemes which are approved by RDA or established illegally. Monthly groundwater dues should be collected from

FIRs should also be them as per the gazette, she lodged against all the instructed. All possible defaulters and illegal conefforts would be made to make WASA self-sustainable instructed that in future and no negligence would be tolerated, she added.

21 gamblers arrested during raid

RAWALPINDI Police have arrested 21 gamblers and recovered Rs 3,500 and 16 mobile phones from their possession during crackdown here Saturday.

According to police spokesman, Rata Amral police conducted raid and arrested 19 accused identified as Inayat, Lal Khan, Ashfaq, Kashif, Javaid, Irfan, Âwais, Saeed, Mian, Shammroz, Jannis. Rizwan, Naeem, Gul Shazad, Bilal, Zishan, Rizwan, Amjad, Rafaqat, Waqas

Police have registered eparate cases against all of them and further invesigation was in progress.

and Jhangir.

SP Rawal Town commended police team and said that gambling is the root cause of other social

He made it clear that strict action would be taken against such elements without any discrimination. No one would be allowed to violate rule of law, he added.

Minister left for Uzbekistan

KABUL (Ariana News): Acting Minister of Haj and Religious Affairs Noor Muhammad Saqib left Kabul for Uzbekistan on Saturday. Leading a 10-member delegation of clerics, Saqib embarked on the tour at the invitation of Mufti Nuruddin Khaliq Nazar, chairman of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs said in a statement. The aim is strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in religious and educational activities of the two countries

The Frontier Post Ramazan 06, 1445 — Sunday, March 17, 2024

Ex-MP accuses Taliban

KABUL (Khaama Press): Shahpoor Hassanzai, a former member of the Afghan Parliament, claims the Taliban have unjustly imprisoned, harassed, abused, and humiliated him. Hassanzai states he cannot endure such misbehaviour and may leave Afghanistan again. This former Afghan Parliament member fled to Pakistan when the Taliban took over Kabul in August 2021. He returned to Afghanistan under Taliban control and now expresses regret over this return.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

IE reacts to resolution of European parliament poppies not

Emirate, response to the adoption of adopted a resolution with European Parliament, said abstentions, regarding what nds of the international that the world should they consider the preven-

Zabihullah Mujahid, the in Afghanistan. spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, called the European Parliament called death penalty in the country women and girls in various a necessity and added that fields in Afghanistan. other countries should not interfere in such matters.

Mujahid said: "The prin- Parliament, said: ciples that Islamic Sharia Afghanistan right now, deems necessary exist with- girls are robbed of their out a doubt, retribution is a dreams, women are caged Sharia ruling over the sys- in their houses and a genertem that must be implemented, and in this regard, the intervention of any keep talking about Afghaunacceptable.'

Earlier, representatives in of the European Parliament resolution by the 513 votes in favor and 24 respect Islamic values in tion of the death penalty and restrictions on women

In this resolution, the

Karin Melchior, a representative of the European Parliament said: "In Taliban rule. So, we must es transactional and silent." always denied.

Meanwhile, some political analysts believe that the Islamic Emirate should accept the legitimate demacommunity to progress in relations with regional and beyond the region countries.

"This is not beneficial until we come together and agree with ourselves and implementation of the for equal participation of find a solution to these challenges," Mohammad Aslam, a university scholar.

In more than two and a half years of the Islamic Emirate's rule, international institutions and various countries have continually expressed concern about ation is suffering under human rights violations, especially women's rights in the country; an issue that country and any direction is nistan. As the world watch- the Islamic Emirate has

ANSA aigns equipment purchase contracts

– to enhance lab standards



ratories with a company.

ty said the value of this the equipment to be more than Commerce 198 million Afghanis.

Mohammad Asif Qanet, equipment, quality in the ment and citizens' health, through the Nimroz port. central laboratories of this authority will be controlled, and the results of national standards will be obtained more transparently and quickly.

Mohammad Asif Qanet said: "This authority has always been thinking of expanding its laboratories and providing services according to international standards. Based on this contract, in addition to acquiring new devices. the new company also has the responsibility of installing and calibrating

them. Meanwhile,

Chamber of Commerce and Investment also said that the activation of more equipment is effective in standardizing the country's manufactured and imported goods.

'Our request from the Islamic Emirate is to bring | they

Chamber

Investment. Some traders also National

Afghanistan by the United

Nations Security Council,

Amnesty International has

welcomed the one-year

extension and urged the

head of UNAMA to focus

its objectives in the current

year on the rights of

women, girls, minorities,

and the humanitarian crisis

Amnesty International,

on its social media platform

X, stated on Friday, March

15th, in response to the

extension of UNAMA's

in Afghanistan.

Khan Jan Alokozay, a also be managed in a Officials of the authori- member of the board of standardized manner, of said Abdul Zohoor, an

economic analyst. This is while the Standards the technical deputy of the believe that standardiza- Authority announced the Standards tion in the country, in return of 61 oil tankers Authority, said that with addition to having a posi- two days ago after quality the activation of this tive impact on the environ- assurance, back to Iran

UNAMA urged to prioritize

women rights in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): Otunbayeva, the head of Nations Security Council

Following the extension of this body, to prioritize the extended UNAMA's mis-UNAMA's mission in rights of women, girls, sion in Afghanistan for

minorities, and address the

the emergency situation of

human rights in the country.

Amnesty International has

human rights situation in

The organization has

stated that UNAMA should

pressure to repeal restric-

tive laws against the rights

continue its robust and reg-

this country is vital.

Thousands will die if grown

KABUL (Ariana News): A Spanish newspaper has reported that the drastic drop in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has opened a gap for fentanyl in Europe. A report from the

European Monitoring Center warns of the risk that a possible lack of global supply will be replaced with "more harmful synthetic opiates, such as fentanyl derivatives or nitazenes," El Pais reported.

'We have no indication that there are synthetic opiates in Spain, but we are all watching with bated breath," said the government delegate for the National Plan on Drugs, Joan Villalbí.

"The Taliban (IEA) announced that they would ban opium cultivation. We didn't know if it would be for real or just for show. Now we have the first warnings that it could be happening," sayid Villalbí. The document also points out another risk that comes from the lack of drugs: an increase in "polysub-stances" among heroin

"It is a window of opportunity," admits Barcelona's chief invesigative commissioner Ramon Chacón.

They call it the chaos theory: if poppies are not grown in Kabul, thousands of people will die in Europe," he said, about the consequences that a hypothetical heroin shortwould have on European markets, with consumers who would move on to more dangerous alternatives. But he insisted that the data so far refute that this scenario is immediately looming over Europe.

KABUL (TOLOnews): other devices to the labother Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) announced that it has signed contracts for six projects to purchase and ards that have been contracted by the devices are more dards that have been contracted six projects to purchase dards that have been conequipment for the development of its central laboimprove the air," said norms and standards can under the cultivation of narcotics in 2022, a United Nations report said last year.

IEA has said that it seriously fighting against cultivation and trafficking in Afghanistan.

It has assured countries not to have concerns over the smuggling of drugs from Afghanistan, but help farmers with alterna-

another year by unanimous-

Based on this decision

In Afghanistan, there is a

dire humanitarian crisis hap-

pening right now. Alongside

this crisis, strict rules, par-

Women are not allowed to

go to school or work, which

prevents them from support-

the mandate of the United

Nations Assistance Mission

Muttaqi meets Pakistan Chargé d'Affaires



Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Obaidur Rahman Nizamani, the chargé d'affaires of the Pakistani that the new Pakistani governbassy in Kabul, and they ernment, with a positive discussed political and economic issues.

According to Zabihullah relations between the two Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, in Muttaqi in a meeting the meeting, the chargé d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy stated that the new government's outlook is focused on expanding relations with Afghanistan.

Mujahid also said that it Afghanistan's stability can relations in various fields, they are in conflict with meeting.

Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting initiatives and comprehensive regional progress.

Muttaqi also expressed policy, will take constructive steps to strengthen

Muttaqi in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador and special representative to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, emphasized the expansion of Kabul-Tehran relations.

"Now that a new govwas mentioned in the meet- ernment has come to power ing that positive engage- in Pakistan, Afghanistan ment of regional countries has also expressed its good Afghanistan is intentions and has also expanding, and that the wanted Afghanistan and comes

cooperate with each other. The issue of migrants was discussed, and good relahope during the meeting tions between the two countries can solve all the problems along the way, and this was emphasized

both sides,"

Islamic Emirate said. "Civil governments have come and made commitments but have not been able to act on them. Therefore, we are waiting for the military govern-ment, which holds the real

change

spokesperson for

Paigir, a political analyst. "Any government that

(TOLOnews): have a positive role towards especially in trade, and to each other, both Pakistan and Afghanistan will suffer. Therefore, as a good neighbor, and with Pakistan as a good neighbor, there should be positive relations with Afghanistan," Zakiullah Mohammadi, a

political analyst.
Previously, the chargé
d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul also discussed solving existing problems between the two countries during his visit to Kandahar with Mullah Shirin Akhund, the governor of Kandahar.

power in Pakistan, to The Durand Line issue, the Torkham crossing, and their strategy recent border clashes towards us," said Salami between the border guards of the Islamic Emirate and expanding, and that the wanted Afghanistan and comes to power in Pakistan were among the region has realized that Pakistan to expand their Afghanistan or Pakistan, if topics discussed in the

Kabul hosts medical final exam and police academy entrance test

KABUL (TOLOnews): The National final medical examination and the recruitment test for candidates aspiring to join the Police Academy in Kabul. Abdul Baqi Haqqani, the acting Head of the National Examination Authority, announced that close to 11,000 individuals from various provinces across the country participated in these significant exams.

Haqqani highlighted the enthusiasm of the youth, particularly noting their eagerness to contribute to service to society during the month of Ramadan.

"Our youth are showing great enthusiasm. We have nearly eleven thousand young individuals taking part in the exams, demonstrating their keen interest in serving the people," he remarked.

The Medical Council said that candidates need to achieve a sixty percent score in the medical exam to qualify for a practice license.

Jendullah Nabil, representing the Medical Council, detailed the exam's structure: "The exam comprises 160 questions, totaling 360 points, with each question carrying more than two or more points. A score of sixty percent, or 216 points, is required to pass.'

Meanwhile, the Police Academy said that around two thousand students are currently receiving training at the institution.

Naser Khan Sulemanzai, spokesperson for the academy, generate more employment and eduexplained the distinctive nature of the cational avenues for Afghan youth

A social expert Ali Danishyar says

women don't want to follow a legal

claim to the right of their inheritance

alization of unsavory customs and tra-

ditions in society has made women

unable to claim their heritage right, and

most of them skip their right to inheri-

He said from the traditional point of

Danishyar believed, the institution-

due to bad traditions and false beliefs.



includes providing students with a stipend, food, and clothing.

"The recruitment process here differs from civil universities, as practical issues are applied during their studies, and they are provided with a stipend, as well as food and clothing facilities the academy, at Sulemanzai noted.

Participants in both exams expressed hopes that the Islamic Emirate would enhance work and educational opportunities for the nation's youth, thereby reducing the inclination to seek opportunities abroad.

"We urge the Islamic Emirate to

ipant stated.

Another participant, Khairullah, called for a revival of the transparency and meritocracy that characterized past exams. The exams should recognize indi-

vidual talent, creativity, and abilities, ensuring fairness and justice in the evaluation process," he suggested. Of the nearly eleven thousand

exam participants, more than six thousand registered for the Police Academy, while the remaining four thousand were signed up for the final medical exam.

National Examination Authority has committed to maintaining transparency throughout the examination process, ensuring that academy's recruitment process, domestically, to discourage them the outcomes are free from undue which includes practical training, and from leaving the country," one partic-interference.

Violation of women's right to inheritance ongoing in Afghanistan

inheritance.

BAMYAN CITY (Pajhwok): Najiba, of agricultural land but after his 35, a resident of central Bamyan province, strongly criticised the deprivation of women of their right to inheritance and said after her father's death her brothers refused to give her shares in inherited property.

According to Islamic Shariah law men and women are entitled to the this issue. right of inheritance, but getting this right in some parts of Afghanistan, especially in Bamyan province is difficult. Women who have been deprived of their inheritance rights have urged justice, while local officials also acknowledged that heritage right is supported by Sharia and all should benefited from this right.

Najiba has lost her inheritance right in the property left over from her father, right now she lives in Zargaran village on the outskirts of Bamyan

She told Pajhwok Afghan News: according to my father's last words all our inherited property belonged to my brothers, me and my sister were deprived of the right to inheritance. My father left behind cash and tens of acres

demise, we two sisters now married given nothing from our inherited prop-She added, our father emphasized in his last words before his death to seek the satisfaction of the sister as especially after her marriage is considwell before the division of properties, ered completely disgraceful and but their brother paid no attention to

mission in Afghanistan, that of women and girls.

While grappling with economic problems, Najiba wanted her portion in the inherited property, but such demand is considered something against the customs and traditions of the community.

She believed asking for her right to the inheritance may damage the family ties between her and the families of her brothers.

Najiba is not the only one who has been denied the right to inheritance, Zahra is another resident of Bamyan City grappling with a similar issue, she says that only her brother has taken "We are six brothers and two sisters, over all the movable and immovable properties of their father and they denied the rights to inheritance.

She clarified that she discussed the issue several times with her brothers traditions have become a social custom but they denied giving her the right in that has prevented the provision of jus-

humanitarian crisis to tackle ly adopting a resolution.

stated that UNAMA's mon- in Afghanistan has been

itoring and reporting on the extended until March 17.

ular public reporting on ticularly for women, are

human rights and exert making life even harder.

Last night, the United ing their families.

According to Zahra, no woman in her village has had access to the right of her father's inheritance, and demanding inheritance by a woman, against the customs of the society.

One of the local elders Mohammad Hasan admitted that women has the same sort of rights in inheritance as men, but he never implemented his words and included the rights of his daughters in his last words.

He said: "It is true that my daughters are entitled to all my property like my sons, but I do not want my land to be given to someone else through my daughters.

He added, that his daughters, like his sons, have enjoyed all the privileges of life and there were no difference has been made between sons and daughters, but the division of inheritance to daughters is considered unusual in his opinion. But in the opinion of social experts,

some of the false beliefs and unsavory

view, the land has the honor and dignity of the paternal family, and the husbands of their daughters, who are considered strangers and are not of their blood, naturally cannot get access to their property through their wives.

Meanwhile ulema believed that before the advent of Islam all social rights of women were violated but in the Islam religion women and men are entitled to equal human rights and their status in the right to inheritance is ensured in the family system.

Nematullah Sadiqi, a religious scholar, told Pajhwok according to Islamic Sharia Law, women are entitled to three financial rights alimony,

tice and women's access to the right of dowry and inheritance.

According to Sadiqi, the dowry, alimony and jihad are the obligations of a man, the women are not obligated in these cases, in some cases the inheritance of the man may be more than the inheritance of the woman, which is considered justice in Islam.

He clarified that no one has the right to deprive a woman of her right of inheritance, where some of the families deprive their daughters of the right of inheritance because of the unpleasant customs of the community.

He added to ensure justice in society and make it possible for women to get access to their rights in inheritance it is necessary to prevent the spread of false beliefs and unsavory traditions in society by various means, and to give people the necessary awareness according to the instructions of the holy religion of Islam.

The local officials also said that the legal and Shariah issue which must be implemented especially for women.

The Hajj and religious affair director Maulvi Shamsullah Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan News that in accordance with the guidance of the Holy Quran and the sayings of the prophet all of the heirs (including women) are entitled to the right of inheritance.

Those who deprive women of their inheritance are not aware of the rules of Shariah Law.

He added, to spread awareness amongst residents of this Bamyan about heritage rights, a committee consisting of the Hajj and Religious Affairs Department, Appellant Court, Vice and Virtue Department and some religious scholars has recently been established.

The committee is tasked to spread awareness about public rights especialwomen's rights guaranteed by the Islamic Sharia Law.

He said if any of the women are deprived of their rights they could lodge complaints to judicial organs to get their problem addressed.

The government of Islamic Emirate right to have access to inheritance is a of Afghanistan (IEA) issued a decree and guided relevant judicial authorities to prevent forced marriages, prevent marriages in Baad and make it possible for women to get access to their right to

Hamas lashes out at Abbas's 'unilateral' PM designation

business figure as prime minister with a mandate to help reform the Palestinian Authority (PA) and rebuild Gaza.

comes after mounting pressure to overhaul the war was "delusional." the governing body of the occupied Palestinian territories and improve governance in the occupied West Bank where it is based. Hamas said the decision was taken without consulting it despite recently taking part in a meeting in Moscow also attended by Abbas' Fatah movement to end long-time divisions weakening Palestinian political aspirations.

'We express our rejection of continuing this approach that has inflicted and continues to inflict harm on our people and our national cause," Hamas said in a statement. "Making individual decisions and engaging in superficial and empty steps such as forming a new government without national consensus only reinforces a policy of unilateralism and deepens division." At a time of war with Israel, Palestinians needed a unified leadership preparing for free democratic elections involving all components of their society, it added.

In the West Bank, Fatah fired back at Hamas' criticism of Abbas, blaming it for what had befallen Gaza since it unilaterally carried out "the Oct. 7 adventure." "Has Hamas consulted the Palestinian leadership as it is negotiating with Israel now and offering the concessions, in a bid to secure guarantees of its leaders' personal safety in return?" said the Fatah statement. As president, Abbas remains by far the most powerful figure in the Palestinian Authority, but the appointment of a new government showed willingness to meet international demands for change in the administration.

Mustafa, who helped organize the reconstruction of Gaza following a previous conflict, was assigned to lead the relief and rebuilding of the area, which has been around 1.5 million people are crowded into shattered by more than five months of war, and reform Palestinian Authority institutions, according to the designation letter. He replaces former Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh who, along with his government, resigned in February.

Arab and international efforts have so plan for an operation in Rafah.

CAIRO (Reuters): The Islamist group far failed to reconcile Hamas and Fatah Hamas on Friday criticized the "unilateral" which makes up the backbone of the PA which makes up the backbone of the PA designation by Palestinian President since the Hamas 2007 take over of Gaza, a Mahmoud Abbas of an ally and leading move that reduced Abbas's authority to the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinians want both territories as the core of a future independent state. Hamas said any attempt Mohammad Mustafa's appointment to exclude it from the political scene after

In a recent warning, a security official told a Hamas-linked news website that attempts by clans or community leaders to cooperate with Israel's plans to administer Gaza would be seen as "treason" and met with an "iron fist." But the group denied media reports it killed some local clan leaders in recent days for meddling with aid distribution.

AFP adds: Senior figures from Hamas and Yemen's Houthi rebels held a rare meeting to discuss coordinating their actions against Israel, Palestinian factional sources told AFP on Friday. Hamas and the Houthis belong to the "axis of resistance," a collection of Iran-backed movements hostile to Israel and the United States that also includes Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi militias.

The Houthis have attacked Red Sea shipping for months since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7, saying they are targeting Israeli-linked vessels in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. According to sources from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, leaders from the two Palestinian Islamist groups, as well as the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held an "important meeting" with Houthi representatives last week.

The groups discussed "mechanisms to coordinate their actions of resistance" for the "next stage" of the war in Gaza, the sources said without identifying where the meeting took place. The Palestinian groups and the Houthis also talked about a possible Israeli ground assault into southern Gaza's Rafah, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

and around Rafah, Hamas's last stronghold in Gaza, most of whom are displaced and crammed against the Egyptian border in dire living conditions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Friday he had approved the military's

Bahrain's Commander meets COAS F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Shaikh Mohamed bin Isa bin Salman AI-Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at General Head Quarters (GHQ).

According to the Inter-Services Public relations the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral military cooperation. Both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest including regional security dynamics, counterterrorism efforts and training exchanges. COAS said that Pakistan values its traditionally strong defence, diplomatic and economic relations with Kingdom of Bahrain and underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhancing military ties with Bahrain.

LPG price surges F.P Report

ISLAMABAD: The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has skyrocketed by Rs 30 per kilogram, raising concerns and drawing criticism from industry leaders

Irfan Chairman of the LPG Association, slammed the hike, alleging it is a result of collusion between LPG quota holders importers.

He pointed out that this is the third unjustified increase, implemented without official notification from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). According to Khokhar, the official price of LPG currently stands at Rs 257 per kg. However, the market reality paints a different picture.



QUETTA: ANP leader Asgher Khan Achakzai submitting Aimal Wali Khan nomination papers for

India to hold world's biggest election on April 19

NEW DELHI (Reuters): the vote were announced. the 543-member lower elect a new parliament, the almost every day, inauguratcountry's election authority ing new projects, making said on Saturday, the world's announcements, taking part largest election in which in religious events, and nearly one billion people are addressing public and prieligible to cast ballots.

term strongman Prime ing economic growth during Minister Narendra Modi his two terms which has and his regional allies resulted in India becoming against a bickering alliance the fastest-growing major of two dozen opposition economy in the world at parties, with surveys sug- present, investment in infragesting a comfortable win for Modi's Hindu nationalist programmes for the poor. Bharatiya Janata party (BJP). A victory would make Modi, 73, only the for Hindu reawakening, second prime minister after including the inauguration Jawaharlal Nehru, India's of a grand temple to Lord independence hero and its Ram on the site of a

Modi and his party have for BJP and 400-plus for the been in campaign mode for National months before the dates for Alliance (NDA) it heads in

India will begin voting in The prime minister has been house of parliament, up phases starting April 19 to flying around the country from the 303 the BJP won gible to cast ballots. vate meetings. In his speech-es, Modi has been showcas-

> structure as well as welfare A main talking point has also been his party's agenda

first prime minister, to win a third straight term. destroyed mosque. Modi has set a target of 370 seats

and more than the 350 the NDA won in 2019.

The 2019 performance was the best ever for the party which was formed in 1980. Modi will be challenged by an alliance of some two dozen opposition parties led by the main opposition Congress party called INDIA or the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance.

The alliance formed last year has, however, been struggling to stay united and share seats amicably to be able to put up a one-toone fight against BJP. Congress, which has ruled India for 54 of its 76 years since independence from Britain, has sunk to record lows after Modi swept to Democratic power and is struggling to

PTI founder okays candidates for Senate polls F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The PTI founder has okayed party's candidates for the Senate elections scheduled to take place on April 2.

The incarcerated PTI founder okayed the names of Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Irfan Saleem, Khurram Zeeshan and Azhar Mashwani from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Senate general seats.

Azam Swati and Irshad Hussain will be PTI's candidates for Senate technocrat seats from KP, while Ayesha Banu and Rubina Naz will be candidates for Senate reserved seats. From Punjab, PTI founder okayed the names of Hamid Khan and Zulfi Bukhari as the party's candidates for general seats. Dr Yasmin Rashid and Sanam Javed will be the party's candidates for technocrat and women-reserved seats from Punjab, respectively.





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