#### **Senate session summoned** F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned a session of Senate on April 25, Thursday at 04:00 p.m. which was earlier convened for April 22. The president summoned the session under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on

# Frontier Post

**Quake jolts Mingora, Swat** F.P. Report

MINGORA: A magnitude 4.4 magnitude earthquake jolted Mingora and Swat Valley on Saturday, National Seismic Monitoring Centre, Islamabad reported. In the Swat Valley, residents experienced tremors in Mingora and its surrounding areas, prompting them to evacuate buildings for safety. The epicenter of the earthquake was situated in the Koh Hindu Kush region, and it struck at a depth of 142 kms.

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# US curbs: Pakistan rubbishes 'political use' of export control

decision to impose sanctions against commercial entities allegedly having on Saturday rejected the "political nomic development. use" of export control.

dence whatsoever.

under any control lists but were ty deemed sensitive under catch-all pro-

Muhammad

Economic

ties

Pak-China

ties rapidly

growing: PM

F.P. Report

Saturday said that the eco-

nomic and cultural rela-

tionships between Pakistan

and China were being rapidly growing due to China

In a message on global

observance of Chinese lan-

guage as one of the largest dialects for communica-

tion, he said that a suffi-

cient number of Pakistanis

were learning the Chinese

language which was fur-

between the people of the

(UN) observed the UN

Chinese Language Day

every year on April 20 to

highlight the contribution

of Chinese literature, poet-

ry and language in world

observed that steps were

being taken at the official

promote the Chinese lan-

guage and literature so that

the people to people con-

tacts between the two

countries could be further

strengthened, PM Office

Media Wing said in a press

release. Today was the

observance of the Chinese

Chinese culture.

he added.

The prime minister

The United Nations

ther cementing

two countries.

culture.

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan

Corridor (CPEC).

fore, important to avoid arbitrary ISLAMABAD: Following the US application of export controls." She said there is a need for discussions between relevant parties for an objeclinks to Pakistan's ballistic missile tive mechanism to ensure access to programme, the Foreign Office (FO) technology in pursuit of socio-eco-

Addressing a press briefing, FO discuss end-use and end-user verifispokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch cation mechanisms so that legitimate Such listings of commercial commercial users are not hurt by disentities have taken place in the past as criminatory application of export well on allegations of links to controls." Baloch further said, "It is a Pakistan's ballistic missile pro- reality that the same jurisdictions, gramme without sharing any evi- which claim to exercise strict nonproliferation controls, have waived She said that Islamabad was not off licensing requirements for aware of the specifics of the latest advanced military technologies for measures by the US, adding that in some countries. This is leading to the past they have come across many arms buildup; accentuating regional instances where listings have been asymmetries, and undermining the made on mere suspicion or even objectives of non-proliferation, and when the involved items were not regional and global peace and securi-

Islamabad, she said, had pointed out many times the need to avoid The spokesperson said that arbitrary application of export confor reportedly supplying items to Islamabad had pointed out many trols and for discussions between Pakistan's ballistic missile protimes that such items have legitimate concerned parties for an objective gramme.

tions on the technology needed purely for socio-economic development

"Pakistan has been ready to discuss end-use and end-user verification mechanisms so that legitimate commercial users are not hurt by dis-"Pakistan has always been ready to criminatory application of export controls." She said that it is well known that the same jurisdictions, which claim strict adherence to nonproliferation controls, have waived off licensing requirements for advanced military technologies for some countries.

"Such discriminatory approaches and double standards are undermining the credibility of non-proliferation regimes and also the objectives of regional and global peace and security by accentuating military asymmetries," she added. It is pertinent to mention here that the US State Department on Friday announced sanctions against three Chinese companies and one Belarus-based firm

Speaking at the public

rigging in the recent elec-

"These assemblies are sold

In remain on the front line in

He further said that they



LAHORE: Polling staff carrying election material for today's by-polls.

#### Rain death toll in Pakistan climbs to 98 F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The recent ongoing heavy rains have claimed the lives of 98 people and injured 89 people Pakistan, said NDMA report issued today.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in a report stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the highest number of people, 46, died in heavy rains, while 26 lost lives in Punjab, 15 people were killed in Balochistan and 11 in Azad Kashmir.

At least 89 persons sustained injuries in various incidents during rainfall, where 60 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 in Azad Kashmir, 10 in Balochistan and 8 were injured in Punjab.

partially damaged across the country including 436 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 20 in Azad Kashmir and 80 in Balochistan.

The met office stated rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in most places of upper Khyber . Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and Pothohar region during the twelve hours. next Snowfall is also likely on mountains in northern

It is pertinent to mention here that the rainfall played havoc with various parts of Balochistan submerging the port city of Gwadar. Hundreds of villages have been drowned, link roads and bridges were damaged by water after heavy rainfall on Pak-Iran coastal belt. Sporadic spells of heavy rainfall lashed border town of Chaman and adjoining areas. Additionally, a great deal of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. the For mud dwellings have been destroyed by flash floods brought on by persistent rain on the nearby slopes.

# Stage set for by-polls on 22 seats

Army deployment approved for security

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The stage is set for by-elections in around two dozen National and provincial assembly constituencies (Sunday).

The campaign for by-polls on 22 NA, PA seats ended on midnight of April 19 and 20. According to the commission, by-elections will be held for five vacant seats of the National Assembly; 12 of the Punjab Assembly, two each of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan legislatures as well as one of the Sindh Assembly.

All necessary arrangements for the by-elections have been finalised by ECP. Furthermore, the torren- Polling will commence at 8 tial rains have completely damaged 536 houses, 2,725 Over 6.23 million ballot cast their votes. papers have been printed for white ballot papers have been printed for both the national and provincial

assemblies. In Punjab, 174 candidates are vying for positions, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 49 candidates in the running. Punjab boasts 21.77 million male and 18.67 million female registered voters, who will exercise their democratic

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will see 1.471 million voters participate in the by-elections. Punjab will host 663 male, 649 female, and 1289 joint polling stations, with a total of 892 polling stations set up in

National Assembly constituency NA-196 in Sindh, 4.239 million voters are eligible to vote. Five candidates will compete in this constituency, which will have 933 polling stations. In Balochistan, 125 polling stations have been established across two tiers of security and they provincial constituencies,

## Mobile phone, internet services to be shut down

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to shut down mobile phone and internet services in the province on the occasion of by-elections on Sunday (tomorrow). The Punjab Home Department forwarded a circular to the Interior Ministry in this regard on Saturday, recommending closure of the services.

The Home Department sought to switch off the mobile phone and internet services in 13 cities where the by-elections are being held. By-elections on 21 vacant seats of National and Provincial Assemblies will be held tomorrow throughout the country. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), polling will be held on five National Assembly seats, 12 Punjab Assembly seats, two seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and two seats of Balochistan Assembly. Polling will start at 8:00 in the morning and it will continue till 5:00 pm without any break.

To address any concerns the elections. Specifically, or complaints, a control room will be set up in the provincial election commissioners' offices. It is pertinent to mention here that Asifa Bhutto has been elected unopposed from National Assembly Constituency NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad, while Zubair Junejo has been elected unopposed from Sindh Assembly Constituency PS 80 Dadu.

Meanwhile, on request of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) seeking strict security measures during the by-elections in the country, the federal government has approved deployment of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces (CAF) troops.

The government would use the armed forces' units as a quick response force. The Ministry of Interior has issued an order in this regard. The notification mentions that the CAF and Pakistan Army units would be used as second and third would be available with "The exact number of

troops, date/period, area and mode of deployment would be worked out by the ECP in consultation with all concerned stakeholders based on ground requirement/ assessment. The date of de-requisitioning of the said deployment will be decided subsequently after mutual consultation among all stakeholders," the notification stated. Earlier, the Punjab government requested the interior ministry to suspend mobile internet services in the province's 13 districts and tehsils on April 21 (today)

made to maintain law and order situation in the province and avoid any untoward incident. In a letter to the interior ministry, the provincial home department requested the suspension. According to the letter, the request for the suspension of mobile internet services has been made for Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Sadiqabad, Kot Chutta, and Dera Ghazi Khan districts.

owing to the by-polls.

The request has been

#### Over 600 SIC leaders booked for holding public gathering

CHUNIAN: A first inforand public sectors levels to mation report (FIR) has been lodged with multiple charges against 16 Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) leaders and 600 unknown workers for holding a public rally in Chunian ahead of NA-132 by-election in Kasur district.

The FIR mentioned that language as the global language, he said, adding that the SIC did not obtain no the dialect had been an objection certificate (NOC) exponent of centuries old from the district administration for the gathering, In the last few decades, where an attempt was made China had been proving to "incite people through its mettle in economic anti-state narrative". It prosperity besides, the violated Chinese language and culleaders ture had been becoming popular across the globe,

Criminal

alliance — which led to the fidence move against Khan. movement now.

Sardar

Procedure more than 25,000 votes The FIR lodged at Shehbaz decided to retain Khaddian police station his NA-123 Lahore-VII

under different sections of seat. the Pakistan Penal Code also mentioned that they issued a reminder to candibrandished weapons during dates, under Section 182 of the public event. The case the Election Act, 2017. has been lodged against regarding the electioneer-SIC 16 leaders including ing deadline which it said Sher Afzal Marwat and Muhammad Hussain Dogar and 600 national and provincial other unidentified political

campaign for the by-elec- Balochistan on Sunday tions going to be held from April 21. According to alleged that the political April 21 ended last mid- election regulations, camthe night. Prime Minister had paigning ceased precisely Election Commission of won the February 8 general at midnight between Pakistan's (ECP) code of election on NA-132 seat, Friday and Saturday (April conduct as well as Section while Dogar had stood run- 19-20).

The seat was vacated after

The ECP, a day ago

# 144 of the Code of ner-up with a difference of

Election 2024 more

rigged than 2018: Fazl ouster of Imran Khan from Speaking at the r

Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief minister to be ousted not accept the results of the

Maulana Fazlur Rehman on through a no-confidence February 8 elections.'

the need for harmony

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf among the political forces had launched a movement (PTI) and the JUI-F — for- and said: "This is not the against the rigging in the

mer political foe — found time to fight. Politicians 2018 elections, adding that "ideological coordination" were always used [by they would continue to

The JUI-F chief was the F chief had accused former recent polls. "We will not

key politician who brought chief of army staff (COAS) allow fake government to

arch-rivals the PML-N and General (retd) Qamar Javed run with this movement," he

the PPP under the umbrella Bajwa and ex-spymaster Lt vowed. The JUI-F leader of the Pakistan Democratic General (retd) Faiz Hamid also said that nobody could

Movement — a multi-party of orchestrating the no-con- stop their anti-government

Assembly.

power in April 2022. Khan gathering, Fazl said: became the first ever prime "People of Balochistan do

motion in the National Referring to the massive

Addressing a public tions, the JUI-F chief said: meeting in Balochistan's "These assemblies are sold

were always used [by they would continue to

February this year, the JUI- protest against rigging in the

Pishin, the JUI-F stressed and bought.

F.P. Report

PISHIN: Jamiat Ulema-e-

Saturday claimed that the

February 8, 2024 general

elections were more rigged

His remarks came after

in connection with the anti- establishment]."

the Imran Khan-founded

PML-N-led government.

than that of 2018.

activists.

Time for the election

expires by Friday midnight ahead of by-polls in 21 assembly constituencies across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and

# Sindh govt inaugurates People's Bus Service in Mirpurkhas

F.P. Report

MIRPURKHAS: Senior Minister of Sindh and Minister inaugurated the People's Bus Service in Mirpurkhas.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Sharjeel Memon stated that currently, the people of Pakistan are facing the challenges of inflation and unemcommitment of the top leadership of the Pakistan People's Party and the Chief Minister of trict of Sindh. Sindh to provide relief to the people. Memon emphasized the need for improved travel facilities in a better environment.

lowing the orders of the top People's Party, they have commenced the 10-point agenda of the people. It is an important day for the people as well as the Karachi. Sindh province because the

Pakistan People's Party has addressed the long-standing problems of the people. Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that unfortu-Information, Transport, Mass nately, a few foolish individuals Transit, Excise, and Taxation, and politicians of hatred have Sharjeel Inam Memon, formally placed this country in trouble. Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that with the efforts of the

Pakistan People's Party and the Sindh Government, the People's Bus Service has been initiated in Karachi, Larkana, Sukkur, Hyderabad, and ployment. He highlighted the Mirpurkhas. He added that the People's Bus Service should soon be launched in every dis-

He mentioned that the pink bus service for women was launched in Karachi for the first time, a facility not available in He further stated that, fol- Europe, Canada, and other developed countries. He also leadership of the Pakistan announced that soon the pink bus service would be introduced in two routes. Sharjeel Inam Inam Memon stated that the public service because the Memon said that this honor also Pakistan People's Party has goes to the Pakistan People's always initiated its work Party and the Sindh government according to the aspirations of that the first EV electric bus was launched in service



the increasing prices of petrol and diesel, the People's Bus Service is being subsidized by the government of Sindh to offer affordable travel to the to connect the cities. people. This initiative aims to provide better and more economical travel facilities to the

Senior Minister Sharjeel phase of providing improved and affordable travel facilities to the public by the Transport Department of the Sindh Government is ongoing. In the Sindh, while also provided free that the Pakistan People's Party and more affordable travel

service and yellow bus service will be launched this year. This initiative aims to provide intracity and inter-city bus services

Sharjeel Inam Memon mentioned that the Pakistan People's Party initiated public and enduring projects, including the Support Income Benazir Program, which has become an inaurmountable program. He stated that the PPP government is constructing 21 lakh houses for the flood victims across

which are the priorities of the Sindh Chief Minister and the provincial government. He expressed the desire for the development of backward

Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, while addressing the people of Mirpurkhas, stated that it is now the responsibility of the citizens to protect these buses that provide better travel facilities. Speaking on this occasion, Provincial Minister of Social Welfare Mir Tariq Talpar said

Noor Ahmed Bhurgari and Hari Transport Asad Commissioner Divisional Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmad Additional Baloch, former MPA Nusrat Khawaja, Sultana Jaskani, Chaudhary, PPP Dhonkayi, PP Information ed to Secretary Abdul Salam Memon, options. Information ed to enhance city travel Town Chairman Syed Khadim Hussain Shah, Syed Shazal Shah, PP officials, officers from official Mir Hassan Dhonkayi, concerned departments, jour- and Shehzado Malik of civil nalists, and a large number of people were present.

ing the People's Bus Service.

On this occasion, MPs Haji

Addressing the opening ceremony, Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori stated that with the efforts of the Government Sindh and Provincial Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, better

He remarked that the leadership of the Pakistan People's Ram Kishori Lal, Secretary of Party has fulfilled the promise Zamin, made to the people of Mirpurkhas to provide a people's bus service, a commitment that has been long-awaited. He Commissioner Dr. Ali Nawaz urged the senior provincial min-Bhoot, Mayor Abdul Rauf ister to initiate the pink people's Ghori, Deputy Mayor Sumaira bus service from Mirpurkhas to Hyderabad for the women of DIG Mirpurkhas. He also empha-Mirpurkhas Javed Sonharo sized that since the intra-city SSP Mirpurkhas bus service has been launched Captain Retired Asad Ali in the first phase, additional District out-of-city People's bus trans-General Secretary Mir Hassan port facilities should be provid-

which is a good development.

MPA Hari Ram Kishori Lal, Haji Noor Ahmed Bhurgari, PP society also congratulated the Sindh government Provincial Minister Transport, Information, and Excise and Taxation, Sharjeel Inam Memon, for initiating the People's Bus service in Mirpurkhas. They thanked Inam Memon and urged for the arachi. first phase, following the intro- cooked food and rations to has given a wonderful gift to the Sharjeel Inam Memon men- duction of the pink, EV, and red those affected by the floods, citizens of Mirpurkhas by start- the citizens of Mirpurkhas, for women as well.



LAHORE: Youngsters enjoying boat ride in River Ravi during evening time in Provincial

# CM directs Excise Dept to achieve recovery targets

Sindh Chief Minister Syed on professional tax and Excise Duty, Motor Vehicles Cess target is Rs. 84,139 mil-Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a meeting of the Taxation and Department (ET&NC) here attended by Minister Excise Saturday, reviewed their Sharjeel Memon, Chief revenue recoveries and found that there was a shortfall of Rs19,977 million in their revenue recoveries during the last nine Saleem Rajput, Special months of the current finan-Secretary Finance Nisar cial year 2023-24.

shared the collection data Waheed Shaikh. of the Excise and Taxation Department for the last 2023-24: During the last three years, from 2020-21 nine months of the financial to 2022-23. It was discovered that they were supposed to collect Rs 335,200 Rs. million, but they only man- However, the department's aged to collect Rs 287,604 target for the same period million, resulting in a short- was Rs. 107,455 million, fall of Rs 47,596 million.

The chief minister 19,977 million. expressed his disappoint Minister of Excise, ment and directed the Taxation, and Narcotics Excise Department to focus Control on improving their recover- Sharjeel Memon, briefed the ies. He also advised them to chief minister on the recov-

provincial excise, which have a large potential.

Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Wasif, Agha Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Excise Memon, DGs Excise depts The Finance Department Aurangzeb Panhwar and

> The nine-month target of year 2023-24, the Excise Department has recovered 87,478 million. showing a shortfall of Rs.

of Excise, Department,

LAHORE (PPI): The internet and Sheikhupura, Sadiq Abad, Chakwal, mobile services will remain suspended in several major cities durbakkar, Kasur, Alipur Kot Chatta.

As per details, the Punjab Home seeking internet suspension on the

KARACHI (APP): The tax rates, and concentrate Professional Tax, Provincial recovered. The Infrastructure Cotton Infrastructure

The meeting was held at Entertainment Duty, and oth-Control the CM House and was ers. It is worth mentioning that the property tax has been devolved to local councils.

> er Rs. 143,273 million for special attention must be seven different taxes, cess, paid to their recoveries by and fees during the current bringing in transparency financial year. Furthermore, and efficiency. Although the department has achieved 81.41 percent of the nine- Fees are smaller taxes, they month target of Rs. 107,455 are still essential for the million, recovering Rs. department's revenue gen-87,478 million. The figures shared by the

> Minister of Excise show that ed the minister to propose the department has recovered revised tax rates and Professional Tax against a for inclusion in the upcomtarget of Rs. 1460 million, ing budget. Minister of which is 38.72% of the tar- ET&NC, Sharjeel Memon, get. The Provincial Excise informed the chief minister collection stands at Rs. 5,165 that he was considering million against a target of Rs. introducing premium num-9692 million, which shows a ber plates for vehicles 53.29% recovery of the tar-including silver, golden, get. The Motor Vehicle Tax and diamond options, has a target of Rs. 11,351 mil- which would be sold to

Iran's attack on Israel:

Fee, lion, but the department has Cess, recovered 87.78% or Rs. 73,861 million.

The chief emphasized that Professional Tax According to the minister, Provincial Excise have a the Department has to recov-vast scope, and therefore, Entertainment and Cotton

Murad Ali Shah instructmillion in explore new tax avenues explore new taxation regimes, improve the old The taxes and fees included or Rs. 7,728 million has been an auction.

According to the details, Section

144 of CrPC was imposed in those

districts where by-elections are

being held including Lahore, Kasur,

Section 144 of CrPC is enforced

#### CM pays tribute to martyred policeman

Home

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid a glowing tribute to the Punjab police constable Imran Haider, who embraced martyrdom in an encounter with bandits in Baghbanpura.

In her message, the CM said that Shaheed constable Imran Haider had made Punjab police proud. She offered condolences and expressed sympathies with the bereaved family.

The chief minister highlighted that those who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty live forever. She also directed to provide best medical aid to injured constable Dildar.

Meanwhile, the funeral prayers for martyred constable Imran Haider of Lahore Police were offered at Police Lines Qila Gujjar

Singh on Saturday. Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar, Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana, DIG Operations Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, DIG Investigations Zeeshan Asghar, senior officers and police personnel attended the funeral prayers. Constable Imran Haider, funeral posted at Baghbanpura Police Station, embraced martyrdom during fire

exchange with dacoits. CCPO Lahore paid tribute to the martyred constable and prayers were offered for the departed soul. A police confingent saluted the body of the martyr. The CCPO offered condolences bereaved family. The martyred constable belonged to Awan Dhai, Batapur area of Lahore and he survived by his wife and eight children.

#### Motorway Police seizes 151 kg drugs worth millions

LAHORE Motorway Police seized drugs worth millions of rupees during an operation on Saturday and arrested an accused.

According spokesperson, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) tipped off the Motorway Police about a suspicious vehicle.

In response, patrolling officers attempted to stop a Corolla car with license plate KHYA-8127 near Sial Mor. The driver tried to escape but was chased down and apprehended.

Upon searching the vehicle, a massive haul of 78 kg of opium and 73 kg of hashish was discovered. One person was arrested in connection with the illegal sub-

#### Ministry has issued a notification day of by-election. in Bhakkar, Wazirabad, Narowal, Earlier, the Punjab government Sheikhupura, Rahim Yar Khan and Section 144 of the imposed Dera Ghazi Khan. A notification the internet and mobile services will Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) issued in this regard read that remain suspended in 13 cities ahead of the by-elections in differ- Section 144 would remain enforced including Lahore, DG Khan, Gujrat, ent districts of the province. from April 18 to 22.

Chakwal, and Gujarat.

ing the by-election on April 21

(tomorrow), it emerged today.

regarding the internet suspension.

According to official notification,

ight months of wreckage, carnage yet the world is happen. They brutally slaughter three has happened.

The magnanimity of disaster is unmatched, IDF vows to eliminate by depriving them of food, water, electricity and any basic amenities, however the humanity narrative is somewhere lost; it was lost in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and it has somewhere under thousands of Palestinian corpses unable to be traced. The plans of US, Israel and well since they blocked all the people have been heavily bombardopened attack on Israel after giving came out of fortresses of fear of

Punjab by-polls: Internet to

remain suspended

The Punjab home ministry earlier

wrote to the federal interior ministry

er chapter in the new World Order. The Iran's attack on Israel and the massive damage it has caused has **/sleeping for some miracle to** broken the mirage created by West of unbreakable Israel's Iron Dome. **children; the world calls it mutual** The Quran has already informed us damage. They killed more than in Surah Hashr about how cowardly thousand Jews fight as it says "They will Palestinians, humans, yet UN is never fight against you as a body (in silent looking away as if nothing an open battlefield); and if they fight against you they will fight only in fortified townships or from behind walls. Intense is their hostility to one every human born on the Gaza strip another. You reckon them united

while their hearts are divided. That is because they are a people devoid of reason. (59:14)" Similarly, the Jews of Makkah used to feel superior to Muslims in terms been put to rest by Western Media of warfare and the tribe of Banu Qanuqa challenged Holy Prophet (PBUH) for war by boasting its strengths. What happened after-Western countries were working wards will help us understand the significance of Iran's attack. The incoming and outgoing passages of Holy Prophet (PBUH) marched humanitarian aid and escape for towards them with small army and Palestinian people. The Palestinian the Jews retreated and hid in their deal in 2023) instead of instigator large fortresses like the Iron Dome. ed and killed in mass numbers as Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) asked they moved towards Rafah strip near his troops to cover the boundary of Egypt to seek some refuge and it fortresses from all ends. After fifteen appeared all in vain until Iran days, the Jews tribe of Banu Qanuqa

Opening of new chapter in World Order it multiple warnings opening anoth- attack and surrendered uncondition- is highly likely that with combined ally in spite of having more armory and cooperative efforts, the matter and men. Now consider the location of illegally captured territory of Palestine in the name of Israel which is guarded by Iron Dome. It is being surrounded by all Muslim countries out of which it has agreement with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon and Syria is already in doldrums thanks to US unprecedented attacks in the previous years.

> However, Iran disrupts the whole middle-east game by launching three hundred missiles. With complete support from China, US and Western Countries are aware what will be the repercussions of airstrikes on Iran. China has already broken the political, economic and strategic power of US, as through induction of Saudi Arabia and UAE in BRICS and with de-dollarization, it has opened new gateways for countries to get out from the shackles of US. Then the world has accepted the role played by China as the mediator (historic Saudi and Iran taken by US.

Then Iran is visiting Pakistan to further the support towards Israel's

of Israel atrocities on Palestine will be raised in OIC. China has 'no limits friendship' with Russia and can ask for its support towards the cruel horrendous treatment of Palestinian people. Moreover, Russia has already security alliance with Iran and has helped Iran to strengthen its defense against Israel airstrikes. All things combined means that if the war escalates any further, Israel is doomed to fail and surrender since it is being besieged from all ends. US Congress is already discussing the heavy costs it has to bear of Iron Dome Interceptor. Just one attack from Iran has caused a loss of nearly \$1 billion overnight as per former financial adviser to Israel's military and it costs Iran 1/10th or less to fire 300 drone missiles.

Trump has already gained advantage politically by showing support towards pro-Palestine supporters as they chanted "genocide Joe" in the rally. With no way to go, Israel appears to be left totally stranded and even if US Congress approves \$95 billion bill for Israel-Palestine apartheid towards the Palestinian and Ukraine War, the end is near for people. The Saudi Arabia's foreign Israel and US dominion as superminister is already in Pakistan and it power is about to crumble in pieces

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### strengthening, says Maryam LAHORE (APP): Punjab edges the importance of friendship. China has Chief Minister Maryam China and the Chinese lan-launched numerous projguage, she said and added ects for Pakistan's econom-

**Pak-China ties** 

Nawaz Sharif has underscored the deepening ties between Pakistan and China, stating that the relationship is steadily strengthening with each passing day.

International Chinese acquired a significant importance in the global perspective, adding that it is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

The world duly acknowl- and boost Pakistan-China

power across the globe. A language holds its significance for the promotion of relations between the peo-In her message on the ple across the globe, there is a dire need to China's political, diplomatic

> The CM said there is a with the Chinese language as it can further strengthen

that China has proved its ic stability. Punjab police worth as an economic deputed on the security of Chinese nationals are taught the Chinese language, she asserted.

The CM stressed that acquire proficiency in the Language Day, she said the Chinese language has acquired a significant imporworld, she mentioned.

Chinese language in order to link with the Chinese market. "Learning the Chinese language need to acquaint oneself enable us to understand their culture along with promoting better ties with

Moazzam Marri, also

briefed the provincial min-

Ali Talpur expressed satis-

faction over the work of the

department and directed that

there is a need for improve-

ment in the various institu-

tions run by the department

The provincial minister

warned that strict action

will be taken against those

who do not fulfill their

responsibilities properly.

Provincial Minister Tariq

ister about the work.

at the field level.

# Talpur lauds work of Social Welfare Dept



F.P. Report

Provincial Minister for Social Welfare, Tariq Ali Talpur, visited the office of the Secretary of the Social Welfare Department. On this occasion, the Social Protection

Welfare, Sajid Jamal Abro, informed the provincial minister about the operational framework of the department. General of Social Welfare, Nisar Sheikh, and Director

Provincial Minister for Social Welfare, Tariq Ali Talpur, said, "I will person-Director ally monitor all the offices and make surprise visits.'

The provincial minister General of Sindh Child also directed to complete Authority, all the projects on time.

# Registration of pilgrims under private Hajj scheme in progress

LAHORE (APP): challenging periods, he Holy Mosques King Chairman Pakistan Ulema said the Saudi government Salman bin Abdulaziz, Council, Muhammad Tahir Pakistan. Mahmood Ashrafi

the private Hajj scheme and the prime minister, Ambassador to Pakistan was in progress, with Saudi Crown Prince Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki 24,000 pilgrims slated to Mohammad bin Salman for their unwavering supparticipate in the Road to had dispatched high-level port in providing facilities Makkah project this year. He made these remarks

during a press conference held at the Lahore Press Club, where he was joined by representatives from Йајј Organisers Association of Pakistan (HOAP), including Saeed Ahmed Malik, Chaudhry Ehsanullah, Malik Abdul

Khaliq, Chaudhry Muhammad Adil, Khalid Mahmood Bhatti, Pir Shafaat Ahmed Boudla, and Zeeshan Qamar.

Ashrafi, who is also the patron-in-chief of HOAP, noted that this year, certain private tour operators were offering Hajj packages at a more affordable rate compared to pilgrims participating in the government Hajj scheme. He emphasised that due to enhanced self-accountability measures, private pilgrims would encounter issues as they have in the past. "It is imperative to provide written documentation to pilgrims detailing all the facilities to be provided during the sacred jour-ney," he added. Furthermore, Ashrafi

mentioned that the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah was dispatching high-level officials to train Pakistani pilgrims. With the concerted

efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, he said high-level Saudi delegations had visited Pakistan.

He remarked that Pakistan's shift towards trade rather than aid was a significant development with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic nations poised to play pivotal roles in Pakistan's future economic and financial advancement.

He commended the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for implementing corruption-free measures, expressing praise for the current government and the minister for their efforts. In response to a question, Ashrafi affirmed hat the Saudi government always refrained from interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs. During

Hafiz had extended assistance to

announced that the registioned that following the Umrah Dr Tawfiq Fawzan tration of pilgrims under visits of the army chief Al-Rabiah, and Saudi Saudi delegations to to pilgrims and other Pakistan. He underscored tourists. the commitment of the Saudi government to invest in and financial stability.

In a gesture of deep appreciation, he extended Custodian of the Two

Crown Prince Muhammad Salman, Ashrafi further men- Minister of Hajj and

Responding to another

query, he emphasized that Pakistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enhancing its economic shared identical stances regarding Israel. "Both countries firmly assert that Israel's occupation of his heartfelt thanks to the Palestine is unjust", he



آب مسماة صفوراافضل ( جونيرًا گيزيکيُو )اي -آر - يېنمبر: 56499، بنت خان افضل (پية : توم شالمان محله امیر خان خیل محصیل لنڈی کوتل ضلع خیبر) مور نیه 09-Jan-2024 سے اپنی ڈیوٹی سے بغیر درخواست/ پیشگی اجازت مجاز اتھار ٹی مسلسل غیر حاضر ہیں۔ تحكمه بذا سے دو (2) نوٹس بحواله نمبرز: RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/56499

: اور دومٌ نولْس بحواله نمبر First Notice Dated: 22-Feb-2024 RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/56499/Second Notice Dated: 12-Mar-2024 کے ذریعے ڈیوٹی پر حاضر ہونے اور اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت کرنے کی ہدایت کی گئی لیکن آپ ان کی تعمیل میں ناکام رہیں اور آپ کا بیمل سروس/ ریگولیشنز رواز ( کارکردگی اورنظم وضبط) 2020 کی صریحاً خلاف ورزی کے شمن میں آتا ہے۔ آپ کو بذرایعہ نوٹس ہذا ہایت کی جاتی ہے کہآپ فی الفورا پنی ڈیوٹی پر حاضر ہول اور تحریری طور پراپٹی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت پیش کریں ۔بصورت دیگرسروس/ریگولیشنز رولز ( کارکردگی اورنظم وضبط) **2020** کے تحت

كيطرفة تاديبي كاروائي عمل ميس لاكرآپ كوملازمت سے برطرف كرديا جائے گا۔

**ڈائریکٹر جنرل** (مجازآ فیسر) ریجنل ہیڈآفس نادرا:ای۔او۔بی۔آئی ہلڈنگ پلاٹ نمبر 31 سیکٹر B-1 فیز5 حیات آباد پیثاور 

**Government of Pakistan** Ministry of (Energy) Petroleum Division **Geological Survey of Pakistan** 

#### ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM

1. Reference to Tender Notice No. PID (L)3104 for the Development, and Maintaining GIS Based Geodatabase Solution and Integrated Field Data Collection Mobile App published on PPRA & GSP websites and in 'The News (Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi), Daily "Jang" (Lahore, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Quetta), Daily "Frontier Post, Peshawar, Daily "92News" Peshawar dated 6th April, 2024. All the prospective bidders are hereby informed that in the light of the Pre-bid meeting, GSP has extended the date of bid submission as well as necessary amendments incorporated in the bidding documents.

2. The bidding process will now follow "Two Stage Bidding Procedures"

in accordance with the Rule 36 (c) of PPRA Rule 2004. 3. Public sector Organizations willing to participate in the bidding process are requested to fulfill the legal requirement for their eligibility. Exemption certificates/Proof of compliance with regard to prevailing tax laws must also

4. Updated bidding documents can be downloaded from GSP website www.gsp.gov.pk and PPRAwebsite www.ppra.org.pk.

5. The Technical bids complete in all respects may reach Office of the undersigned by 8th May 2024 at 12:00 hours. Same will be opened on the same day at 12:30 hours in the presence of representatives of the SAJJAD KARAMAT

Director Procurement, AGM Project, Geological Survey of Pakistan, Trade Center near Expo Center, M.A. Johar Town, Lahore. Tel: 042-99232932-3

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**PUBLIC NOTICE** (Spous

On the above application the objections of public at large an invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission or objection (if any) within fourtee (14) days after publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

oveable & immoveable asset for deceased Ms. Birgees Begun tizen number 1310138869816 been received. Followinger declared as legal heirs. Lubna Maqsood (Daughter Shahid Maqsood (Son Saadia Maqsood (Son) in the above application the operation of public at large arrivited. Any aggrieved person lay approach in person the dersigned for submission opjection of graph of the person that the same of the person that of



#### **Peshawar City** The Frontier Post



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur called on by Country Director UN World Food Program Ms Coco Ushiyama.

# RoboTec 24 kicks off

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Youth inaugural ceremony the held in joint collaboration Iftikhar Hussain, Ex Vice Event, organized by the ed the efforts of UET Science and Technology Prof. Dr. Misbah Ullah, Center of Peshawar for organizing (DOST) Robotics and Automation the event for the last three UET Peshawar, kicked off years. He assured full suphere at the Mechatronics port to the youth in financ-Department Hayatabad ing their innovative ideas Peshawar, while over 500 and informed them about participants from education loans and grants for startinstitutions across Pakistan ups being offered by the including COMSATS, Air government. University, GIKI, UET He urged the students to Taxila, HITECH develop entrepreneurial

Chief Minister Khyber three day event also Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, includes competitions and Commerce & Technical recreation activities and a Education, Abdul Karim two-day STEM workshop Tordher attended the open- with free of cost registra-

While speaking to the

Hazara skills and assured them that University, and many oth- the government will also ers attended the inaugural offer training and certifications in joint collaboration Special Assistant to with the universities. The ing ceremony as a chief tion for the students in the

newly emerged districts.

University of Engineering were also present on the & Technology, Peshawar, occasion.

Dr Taza Gul Director The YRT 2024 is being General DOST, Prof. Dr. Mega Special Assistant appreciat- with the Directorate of Chancellor UET, Peshawar, Khyber Treasurer, UET, Peshawar Pakhtunkhwa, Directorate Prof. Dr. Tahir Khan, of Youth Affairs, Khyber Chairman, Department of Pakhtunkhwa, Bank of Mechatronics Engineering Khyber, UBL and Storm UET Peshawar, large num-Fiber Ltd. Prof. Dr. Qaisar bers of Faculty members Vice Chancellor and Government official



## Bajaur By-election 2024 an overview of NA -8

the provincial assembly local and national political tive committee. He is a PTI, clarified that Mubarak seat PK-22 are currently dynamics, he enters the staunch admirer of Zulfikar Zeb had no affiliation with complex due to its history, demographics, and political evolution, especially landscape. transitioning from the Shaukat Ullah Khan - is
Federally Administered an experienced politician Tribal Areas (FATA) who has held significant regime with its distinct positions, administrative and judicial frameworks. Let's Pakhtunkhwa and Federal delve into the profiles of Minister. He is the son of the candidates.

veteran politician and for- tribal chief. Election cammer MNA, has been a paign of Shaukat Ullah prominent figure in the pol- Khan strategies involve itics of Bajaur. His political engaging with youth, tribal journey gained significant chiefs, and religious leadattention in 1996 when he ers, demonstrating his challenged the tribal sys- understanding of local tems under the Frontier power structures. He has Crimes Regulation (FCR) secured the support of tribin an interview with al chief Malik Sultan Zeb zine. His commitment to enhance his influence and reforming these age-old voter appeal in the region. systems and opposing Gul Zafar Khan extremism has been consistent. Initially associated with the Awami National Zafar is a former member Party (ANP), he later of the national assembly. joined Muslim League-Q Despite PTI's popularity in and is currently contesting Bajaur, Gul Zafar's camunder the banner of Muslim League-N.

cratic governance. Maulana abusive language has also assembly seats.

N District Bajaur, Khan Zaib is an emerging numbers of voters. Bye- elections for voice in local politics. With

islative positions. The platform likely focuses on rose through the ranks, Comparing the two candidynamics in Bajaur are addressing local issues and becoming the district presidates, it's argued that leveraging his understanding of the district's political including

Khyber

Haji Bismillah Khan for-Shahbuddin Khan - A mer MNA and a respectable 'Sabawoon" ????? maga- of Larkhlozai, which could

Governor

Representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Gul paign faces internal challenges from Mubarak Zeb, His history suggests a brother of a slain PTI focus on changing tradi- leader, which might split

Habib ul Hassan Yad Khan Zaib - A new yet sig-been a point of contention,

National a background in education an ex-MNA and a member candidate. Sher dent of the party's student Mubarak Zeb's candidacy wing, the People's Student is significantly better than National Assembly seat in Rasheed - Contesting on the 2008 elections and has the ticket of Jamaat-ebeen actively addressing Islami, Haroon Ur Rasheed social and political issues in brings another dimension to Bajaur.

During his recent election campaign on April 17, Chattan's vehicle was targeted with a remote-con- nance, appealing to the relitrolled bomb, but he narrowly escaped. This incident garnered increased highlighting his dedication to addressing local concerns despite facing risks.

Mubarak Zeb Khan strategies to the forefront of emerged on the political the tragic assassination of his elder brother, Rehan modern political factors Zeb Khan, during his election campaign.

Rehan Khan was an activist of the PTI and had close ties with PTI chairman Imran Khan and former Federal Minister Zartaj Gul. However, due to financial constraints, he couldn't afford the party ticket fee. After his brother's death, Mubarak Zeb announced tional tribal justice systems the party's vote bank. His his candidacy for both local issues that resonate and advocating for demo- aggressive and sometimes national and provincial

Despite requests from nificant presence, Maulana potentially alienating large PTI's current leadership to withdraw, Mubarak chose Akhun Zada Chattan is to run as an independent Assembly seat NA-8 and and a good grasp of both of the PPP's central execu- Marwat, a central leader of seeing vigorous cam- political arena following in Ali Bhutto and Benazir the party and urged party paigns from several can- the footsteps of his brother, Bhutto and has been workers to support Gul didates, many of whom have previously held leg-ed elections in Bajaur. His his student days. Chattan independent candidate.

Federation. He won a Gul Zafar Khan. Haroon Ur the election landscape. His campaign is likely underscored by a focus on Islamic values and govergious segments within the

electorate. These candidates represympathy from voters, sent a blend of experienced political leaders and new their campaigns. The elecscene of Bajaur following torate of Bajaur, influenced by tribal, religious, and faces a significant decision in shaping the future of their representation in both the National and Provincial

Assemblies. outcome The depend on various factors, including the candidates ability to communicate their vision, their previous political records, alliances and the capacity to address with the voters in Bajaur

# PM to visit China on May 14: Mashood

Says Imran's regime destroyed CPEC

PESHAWAR: Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Minister and prominent politician in economic development Rana Mashhood Ahmed and that is the reason why beyond any doubt, but that the country can stand during the regime of on its own feet. Imran Khan, not only the CPEC project was importance of CPEC destroyed, but also an under this project so far attempt was made to spoil China has invested 26 biltwo brotherly countries.

views while talking to the lars, he added. media and In an address

ferent galleries of China success quickly. Window, signed the friendship

Muhammad Program, former provin- Shahbaz Sharif wants to cial minister of Punjab make Pakistan a partner Khan has said that the he is bringing investment between from Pakistan's friendly Pakistan and China is countries to Pakistan so

the relations between the lion dollars in Pakistan while the total investment He expressed these target is 65 billion dol-Rana Mashood said

students of the that from May 14, the National Commission for Prime Minister will make Technical and Vocational an official visit to the Training during his visit People's Republic of the programs offered by in Peshawar and said that to the China Window a China, which will restore the National Commission it is commendable that Chinese cultural center the confidence of the for established in Peshawar. brotherly neighboring Rana Mashhood country and the CPEC Ahmad Khan visited dif- project will move towards

He said that Prime ment's focus is on youth.

Along with higher edu- and China. cation, Prime Minister directed to increase the technical training of the youth so that the talented ship. also be fully utilized in said that many countries Pakistan.

Recognizing importance of languages, including Chinese, Rana Mashhood disclosed that ous fields. he had instructed relevant institutions to initiate language programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of different countries.

He specifically men-Technical Vocational Training. Rana Mashhood

expressed appreciation signed the In response to a quest the Chinese Cultural wall and tion, Rana Mashhood Center in Peshawar, fore-

recorded his comments in Ahmed Khan said that the seeing it as a pivotal hub current federal govern- for further enhancing the bonds between Pakistan

He reiterated his com-Shehbaz Sharif has mitment to providing all possible cooperation in strengthening this friend-

abroad but their skills can Ahmed Khan further including China and Saudi Arabia are planning to invest in Pakistan while in vari-

> Thousands of talented people will also get an opportunity to perform services in the country and abroad.

He appreciated the tioned plans to include establishment of the the Chinese language in Chinese Cultural Center the China Window will prove to be a center for further strengthening the friendship for the establishment of Pakistan and China. He the Chinese Cultural also assured of all possi-



briefed during his visit to China Window.

# 4th International Public Health conference concluded in KMU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 4th International avenues to leverage artificial intelli-Public Health Conference, hosted by Khyber Medical University (KMU) in Peshawar, concluded successfully, analytics, and personalized healthmarking a significant milestone in the global dialogue on public health.

The theme of the conference was, the Power of Prevention: Investing in Complex Issues in Public Health, the conference brought together esteemed national and international experts to deliberate on pressing health challenges and explore innovative solutions. Key discussions approach needed for non-communicable disease (NCD) control, emphasizing early detection, prevention strategies, and comprehensive management. Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Mehmood

Aslam was the chief of the event. A major focus of the conference was on advocating for robust tobacco control policies, including measures such as increased taxes, comprehensive advertising bans, and public awareness campaigns highlighting the harmful effects of tobacco use. Additionally, there was a call to integrate mental health services into primary care settings, aiming to raise awareness and reduce stigma

surrounding mental health issues. Recognizing the pivotal role of

family medicine in bolstering health- submissions, and the dedicated care systems, participants explored gence (AI) and health informatics for disease surveillance, predictive care delivery. The conference highlighted evidence-based policies derived from cutting-edge research, offering insights for resource allocation and priority setting in public

health agendas. During the closing ceremony, Mr. Mehmood Aslam, Provincial Secretary of Health for Khyber pants. Pakhtunkhwa, emphasized the centered on the collaborative urgent need to prioritize investments in addressing non-communicable diseases, citing alarming statistics on diabetes and hypertension.

The ceremony also recognized the outstanding contributions of participants and organizers, with certificates and shields presented to win- health initiatives and ensuring the

organizing committee.

Dr. Khalid Rehman and his dedicated team, including Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan, Dr. Maria Ishaq Khattak, Dr. Shaista, Dr. Samrina, Dr. Ikram, Dr. Sheraz, Dr. Nauman, and Mr. Shujat, served as the driving force behind the organization of the conference. Their collective efforts were instrumental in orchestrating a successful event that fostered robust discussions and facilitated invaluable knowledge exchange among partici-

During the conference, Secretary Health KP delivered an impactful address, emphasizing the critical importance of collaboration among governmental bodies, academia, and healthcare professionals. He highlighted the pivotal role such collaboration plays in advancing public ners of oral presentations, abstract well-being of communities.



#### AI to empower youth, revolutionize national economy PESHAWAR (APP): In the rap- ty through innovative solutions marks a pivotal milestone in various sectors. From moderniz- city traffic monitoring systems. Pakistan Telecommunication nological shift. Dr. Mehreen

idly evolving landscape of the like advanced traffic monitoring this journey. By outlining a modern world, the integration systems. Moreover, forecasts national strategy for AI adopof Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning is not just a choice but a necessity to revolutionize economy by unlocking potential of the youth.

technology is of vital importance to prepare youth for the country at par with the global counterparts to cope with modern-day challenges. The journey towards this transformation is not just about technological advancements; it is also about

While the global community marches forward in the AI revolution, Pakistan finds itself lagging behind. Yet, the potential benefits are undeniable.

predict a substantial growth in tion, the policy lays the groundthe AI software market, hinting work for establishing an ecosysat the vast economic opportunities awaiting those who embrace and growth. this technology. However, the For Pakistan, embracing the road to reaping these benefits is not without its challenges.

The advent of AI is expected skilled jobs and positioning the to create million of new jobs globally, but it also raises concerns about job displacement. To bridge this gap, the country must prioritize both adoption and up-skilling initiatives. Government-industry-academia reshaping education, gover- collaborations can play a pivnance, and industry practices to otal role in developing a highly unlock full potential of the skilled AI-trained workforce within the next five years.

curricula and policies to equip students with the necessary skills to thrive in an AI-drivenworld. The Ministry of Harnessing AI could enhance Information Technology and fields while talking to APP governance, promote trans- Telecommunication's draft of emphasized over the transfor- and enhancing transparency,

tem conducive to innovation

It aligns with global initiatives like the "AI for good" initiative by the International Telecommunication Union and the Sustainable Development Goals set forth by the United Nations, emphasizing responsible AI deployment and equitable distribution of opportunities. The policy recognizes the importance of ethical considerations and data privacy in AI adoption. By intertwining with existing frameworks like the Personal Data Protection Act This necessitates updating and the Digital Pakistan Policy, ensures that AI-driven progress is inclusive and respects individual rights.

Experts from the diverse parency, and even improve safe- the Artificial Intelligence Policy mative potential of AI across citing examples such as safe Director-General

ing industries and boosting productivity to addressing cyber-security challenges, AI holds the key to unlocking new frontiers of growth and innovation.

However, to fully realize these benefits, Pakistan must invest in research and development infrastructure and foster an environment conducive to innovation and collaboration. Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, emphasized over embracing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning modernize to Pakistan's education system. She underscored the need to equip the youth with the skills necessary for the rapidly evolving job market, aligning them with global standards. She also highlighted the transformative potential of AI in establishing effective governance systems

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, reflected on the era of unprece-

dented information accessibility. He stressed the responsibiliamidst this abundance of data. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahood, Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, advocates for aligning Pakistan's response speed with the pace of AI transformation globally. He emphasized increased investment in the AI and ICT sectors to foster indigenization and economic growth while retaining indigenous talent.

Brig. Muhammad Yasin, Senior Advisor Emeritus at SDPI, highlighted the role of AI in modernizing various sectors including industries, agriculture, and manufacturing. He underscored the importance of modernizing cyber security infrastructure to address emerging challenges and protect critical data. Dr. Mukarram Khan, of

Authority, discussed leveraging big data and trend analysis to enhance cyber security measures. He emphasized the importance of the cyber security stratty of ethical information use egy 2023-28 in addressing evolving threats. Mudassir Hussain, Vice-President of Jazz, called for a comprehensive approach to cyber security regulations, emphasizing the need to balance sustainability with innovation.

Muhammad Aslam Hayat, Senior Policy Fellow at LIRNE Aisa, emphasized the role of AI in enhancing cyber security and stressed the importance of regulatory frameworks that foster innovation and scalability. Dr. Yasir Ayaz, Chairperson of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence at NUST, discussed the exponential growth of AI and its potential to create new jobs while displacing others.

He underscored the imporworkforce to embrace this tech-

Afzal, Executive Director of N-CERT, highlighted the need for policymakers to regulate AI technologies effectively while ensuring security without stifling innovation. Dr. Faisal Nawaz, Deputy

Director-General of Artificial Intelligence at the Ministry of Defense, underscored the importance of collaboration and long-term policies to effectively utilize AI.

Zakir Syed, Director of Internet Governance at the Ministry of Information Technology, discussed the potential of the global AI market and emphasized the importance of government-industryacademia linkages in developing a skilled AI workforce. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences at AIOU, stressed the importance of updating curricula to equip students with the skills needed to tance of upgrading skills of the adapt to emerging technological



#### In brief

Arms smuggling attempt foiled F.P. Report

JACOBABAD Jacobabad Police intercepted a major arms shipment on the border Sindh Balochistan, seizing a large cache of weapons and arresting seven individuals, including three police officers and relatives of prominent Sindh political figures. According to police sources, acting on a tipoff, a Jacobabad special team raided the border region and thwarted the attempt to weapons into Sindh. Among those appre-hended were three were policemen and close associates of influential politicians. recovered Kalashnikov rifles, and a substantial amount of ammunition (2,350 bullets) from the suspects. Notably, one of the seized vehicles was a double cabin registered under the number SPN 375, which is reportedly used by a figure. SSI
Saleem significant Sindh politi-Jacobabad, Shah, revealed that the modern weaponry origifrom

Balochistan arms dealer and was destined for Sindh. The raid resulted in the confiscation of a double cabin vehicle and a police mobile. An investigation is underway to determine who was using the police mobile. Additionally, a joint interrogation team, comprised of DSP City and DSP Sadar, has been formed to probe the matter further.

#### Husband, wife killed in Bajaur F.P. Report

KHAR: Two people died tragically on Saturday when the roof of their house collapsed in Malangy area of Tehsil Mamond of Bajaur district. The incident occurred due to heavy rains, resulting in the unfortunate demise of Sultan Gul, 65, and his wife, aged 63. Upon eceiving the initia report, Rescue 1122 mobilized disaster and medical teams to the scene. The Rescue 1122 medical team retrieved the bodies of both individuals from underneath the collapsed roof. Medical professionals later confirmed the deaths of Sultan Gul and his wife.

#### Two killedin rival groups clash

KHAIRPUR Two people were killed and three others injured in armed clash between two rival groups here on Saturday. Police arrest ed armed men of both groups involved in clash. According to details, armed men of two groups which were in old enmity traded fire after they came across in tehsil Kingri of district Khairpur of Sindh. In cross firing two people were killed on the spot while three others sustained critica injuries. The bodies and injured were shifted to medico-legal formali ties. The police arrested armed men of both groups involved in firing and after registering a case into the incident started investigations.

#### Man guns down daughter-in-law F.P. Report

MARDAN: gunned down his daughter-in-law and infant grandson over petty dispute here said on Saturday. Police arrested the accused. According to details, the incident took place in Shergarh area of Mardan where an accused after exchange of hot words with wife of his son opened fire at her and her infant child. As a result of firing, both mother and her infant child were killed on the spot. The bodies were shifted to hospital for postmortem. The police arrested the accused and after registering a case against him started investigations.

# Minister expresses regret over loss of lives caused by rains

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Provincial Minister Food, Zahir Shah Toru on Saturday while expressing regret and sympathy over the loss of lives and property caused by the recent rains in the province, has reiterated the determination of the provincial government that the government will do all possible to help the affected families and will not leave them alone in this hour of trou-

He said this on the occasion of a visit to Village Council Saukai along with Commissioner Mardan Fayaz Khan Sherpao, where a mother and her children lost their lives due to the collapse of the roof of a room in a

The provincial food minister attended the funeral prayers of the deceaseds and expressed his sorrow over their martyrdom and expressed his condolences to the families and assured all kinds of cooperation. Nazim Lal Badshah of Village Council Sokai, Kisan Council Member Taj Muhammad, former Nazim Bilal Ahmed and Nadeem Abbas were also present on this occasion.

Zahir Shah Toru said Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur is personally monitoring the rain and also been set up in all Khyber offices at the district level this regard, FPCCI has also rates,

F.P. Report

Khan Afridi, on Saturday.

Wali, respected additional

district judges, senior civil

BUNER: District Bar President

in honor of the transferred pated.

judges, civil judges and dis- Khan

organized a grand function number of lawyers partici-

In the function District the Bar and appreciated

ment equally shared the Technology for the Federal grief of the relatives of the Chamber of Industry and deceased citizens and will take care of them in their Pakhtunkhwa. As many sufferings. He said that the engagements as will be district administration was related to IT will be monisurveying the damages tored by the appointee. caused by the rain and It should be rememb tims on an emergency Meanwhile, the provin-

Provincial Member Assembly Abdul Salam Afridi and Commissioner Mardan Sherpao visited distributed prizes and gifts nations. On this occasion, generation as a business. Provincial Minister Food Shah Toru was informed

ister assured to solve the special problems in a timely man- Deputy that Chief Minister Khyber government is well aware Village of its responsibilities in this Shergarh.

DBA Buner hosts farewell

party in honor of ADJ Qaisar

Additional District and District and Sessions request of the former presi-Sessions Judge Qaiser Judge Samira Wali thanked dent of the bar and the new

and Sessions Judge Samira holding of such a grand bers of the bar. The D&SJ

Afridi.

trict bar former president described it as a good rela- ter facilities will be ensured

Rafiq Ahmed Khan, former tionship between the Bar as much as possible within

general secretary Hazrat and the Bench and hoped the available resources.

Association (DBA) Buner Naeemuddin and large will be continued.

Hussain, newly elected that this series of better

District and Sessions request of the former presi-

the new and old cabinet of president to mark the facili-

function in honor of the also gave consolation and

transferable ADJ Qaiser said that the role of lawyers

case of any accident and Irshad Ahmed has been appointed as the Regional He said that the govern- Convener of Information Commerce of Khyber

It should be remembered would compensate the vic- that Irshad Ahmad Mardan was the former chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Standing Committee, and cial Food Minister Zahir based on his expertise and Shah Toru along with experience, he has been given this position. Irshad Ahmed said that efforts will Deputy be made to organize programs at the regional and provincial levels that will Sahadi Yateem Khana benefit the young genera-Shamsi Road Mardan. He tion and will bring beneficial programs, especially among the children who for engineers and IT holdachieved prominent posi- ers, on a priority basis that tions in the annual exami- will be used by the young AC inspected markets

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zahir to ensure official prices: Assistant Commissioner about serious issues and (AC) Takhtbhai Aftab Alam problems of the institution. visited Shergarh and The provincial food min- Takhtbhai markets on the instructions of Commissioner ner and said that the Mardan Muhammad Fayaz upbringing and care of Khan Sherpao to compare orphans is the responsibili- the official rate of flour ty of the government and with the market rate. Visited the society at large and our City Flour Mills and Flour

According to the mills FPCCI elects conven- manager, flour is available flood situation in the er: The Federation of at the following rates. Fine province. A control room Pakistan Chamber of flour per bag of 20 kg: 2500 has already been set up in Commerce and Industry of Super flour: per bag of 20 the Chief Minister's has elected Irshad Ahmed kg: 2150 Normal flour per Secretariat, while emer- as the convener of the bag: 2100. The public is gency control rooms have Information Technology informed that the shop-Pakhtunkhwa keepers who use these rates Deputy Commissioners' Regional Committee. In If they are selling at higher file complaints and people can contact issued a formal notifica-them day and night for tion. against them. Strict action will be taken against them.

Mian communication and respect

D&SJ Samira Wali

assured taking steps on the

ties required for the mem-

D&SJ is key and provision of bet-

LANDI KOTAL: A view of destroyed house after heavy downpour in Khyber District. - F.P. photo

#### **Torrential** rain paralyzes life in upper Swat, Shangla Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Torrential rains in upper Swat and LANDI KOTAL: District nearby Shangla district have paralyzed routine life, forcing tourists and local residents to remain in their hotels and homes.

Besides Kalam and Malam Jabba, the torrential rains also affected routine life at Bahrain, Madain, Gabin Jabba, Miandam, Matiltan, Utror, Gabral, Matiltan, Mahodand, Loye Sar where tourists preferred to stay at hotels after the downpour that lashed the entire Swat and Shangla districts for the last

Flash floods inundated low lying areas, forcing people to pump out water on self-help basis. Torrential rains also affected standing wheat crop and orchards in upper Swat where farmers demanded compensation from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. Reports of landslides at links roads connecting Kalam-Mingora Road were also reported which disrupted traffic

Meanwhile, standing wheat crop over hundreds of acres land flooded in Flanked by the orga some areas of Kot Addu near river Indus causing huge loss to farmers. According to local farmers, there was a sudden rise in water level in river Indus due to heavy rains in the northern areas. The water level at Taunsa Barrage was also increasing.

Some areas in Kot Addu, including Qaimwala, Nishanwala, Chichraywala and others have been flooded as the river burst its banks. Moreover, about 400 wheat bags were damaged due to gushing water as farmers could not find time to shift them. The farmers have appealed the government to compensate them for their loss.

However, the weather in Karachi is hot and humid while the mercury is likely to rise further. According to Meteorological Department, the minimum temperature on Saturday morning is 25 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature can go up to 35 degrees Celsius. Winds are blowing from the west at a speed of 14 kilometers per hour, while the humidity has been recorded at 77%.

# Relief for rain affectees demanded

F.P. Report

Salaar Khedmatgar organization demanded of the Provincial Management Disaster Authority (PDMA) administration, parliamentarians and other philanthropist' bodies to adopt necessary initiatives to provide relief to the rain affected people in Khyber.

Addressing to a press conference in Landi Kotal press club district Khyber on Saturday, Khudai Khedmatgar district Salaar Fazal Rehman Afridi said that hundreds of thousands tribesmen had suffered in the torrential downpour but ironically PDMA and administrative officials beside parliamentarians and philanthropist organizations had turned blind eyes towards them that was injustice to the poor masses.

He maintained that they alerted Khudai Khedmatgar volunteers in Khyber to facilitate the needy ones although in limited sources they could not took place in the Bazaar rain, however power supply campaign to work for the

Organization (FWO) for ignoring building of bridges over the spillways at Pak-Afghan highway during its construction that suspended traffic due to flood flashes that need to be built.

He demanded of the forthwith chalk out relief Khel, Shiekhmal Khel, Piro in the coming days.

plan for the natural disaster Khel, Shelman, Pased Khel, affectees especially to the laymen of the tehsil Landi Kotal who suffered a lot and provide them tents and other commodities in that time of

Minor girl kills another hurt in rain related incidents: Torrential downpour created havoc in the area and one small girl has been killed and another has wounded besides events rooms collapse in addition with fall of boundary have been reported in various localities of tehsil Landi Kotal district Khyber on

carry out a comprehensive Zakha area of Landi Kotal, is continuing to the localiroof of rooms of one Qudrat ties. caved in that killed his Flanked by the organiza- minor daughter, Zainab and has kicked off relief works ion workers. Afridi also injured another one. The tor- and has started providing criticized the Frontier Work rential rain that continued for the last two days not only disturbed routine life and financial loss on the residents.

Numberless cases of room collapse and demolishing of boundary walls

Khyber Zakha Khel and adjacent According to the locals, heavy and continuous rain washed away link roads alongside Pak-Afghan highway and was suspended by the flesh blood at different sections that multiplied mis-

eries of the travelers. Landslides near at Anzari checkpoint and Arkhunda point cut the territorial connection of Landi Kotal with Loy-Shelman and Kam-Shelman, police informed. Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) official said that three pylons have In the fatal incident that also been damaged in the

The local administration tents and other facilities to the rain affectees however locals have expressed disbut also inflicted property satisfaction over the slow pace of relief activities, carried out and urged for additional help. According to the Provincial Management Authority provincial government to have been filed in Khuga more rain has been expected

# Commission inspected steps taken in Hafizabad

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Members Judicial Water Commission Hina Hafeez Ullah and Syed Kamal Ali Haider visited different villages of district Hafizabad to review implementation on Anti-Smog Measures taken for containing spread of smog by the administration and concerned departments.

The officials checked conversion of bricks kilns on Zigzag Technology and harvesting of wheat as well as effective measures to stop review use of Modern burn of residues of crops, Machinery and Agriculture smoke emitting brick kilns

lage Laweery, local landlord Muhammad Razwan apprised them about utilization of latest agriculture technology to increase per acre yield. They also attended a meeting held to review different steps to overcome spread of smog in the area.

Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Sundas Irshad briefed the members Judicial Water Commission that district administration taken

Technology to get bumper and vehicles and 12 cases get crops. During the visit of vilregistered against owners of registered against owners of bricks kilns running without Zigzag Technology, 24 bricks kilns sealed and imposed Rs.24 lakh fine.

DC said that five smoke emitting factories were also sealed and charged five lakh rupees fine from their owners. She also said that Secretary District Road Transport Authority impounded 36 vehicles, five lakh and fiftyeight thousand fine imposed on 279 smoke emitting vehicles while traffic police seized 3168 vehicles and imposed hefty fines on drivers.

# Sunni Tehreek hold solidarity rally with Palestinians

F.P. Report

relatives of rain hit people.

LARKANA: The head of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek Mohammad Shadab Raza Naqshbandi of PST took out a rally from Jama Masjid Sadat Resham Gali of the city to express solidarity with Palestine and against Israeli aggression.

The club reached the front, where these leaders and workers carried banners and organizational flags in their hands and shouted slogans. Addressing the rally on this occasion, the senior provincial leader of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek Sindh Maulana Ali Nawaz Qasmi, Shamsuddin Sarohi, Hafiz Madad Ali Abdul Qamaruddin, Haji Roshan, Gulab Khan, Sajid Ali Kemitu, Ata Allah Abaro, Agha Arshad Kahwar and others said that during the last

6 months.

world, due to which PST celmeeting parties. They said silenced which the entire Muslim the Palestinian Muslims. community has to raise their voice for Palestine together on a platform, because the oppression that Israel is doing in Gaza. All this cruelty is taking place under the auspices of the United States, while Israel is trying to establish an illegal state in Gaza in order to eliminate the exis-Qadri, Hafiz Aslamuddin, tence of Muslims from the Abdul Sattar Hali in the Rehman, map of the world.

MARDAN: Provincial Minister Food, Zahir Shah Toru offering dua to

They are getting angry, but still they are raising the voic-tilator. es of Allah Akbar, for which all the Muslim countries of the world should boycott all the products of Israel, while members to investigate the The oppressed Palestinian under a conspiracy in Gaza, matter and take legal action

being massacred, which is in the Muslims And other necesfront of the entire Islamic sary things have been closed, which is cruelty and abuse, ebrated Eid Al-Fitr with sim- but at this time the United plicity and canceled all Eid Nations has blindfolded and tongue. that during these 6 months, Therefore, all the Muslim thousand innocent countries of the world should Palestinian Muslims have raise their voice against been martyred in the terrorist Israel's oppression, opprescountry of Israel in Gaza, for sion and oppression and help

**DBA** demands impartial inquiry against death of girl: District Bar Association (DBA) Larkana passed a resolution demanding the medicines even if the appoint-Secretary of the Health ed doctors regularly. Instead Department and DG Health regarding the death of the 18year-old daughter of Larkana lawyer and literary writer emergency ward of Chandka Hospital due to lack of a ven-

It has been decided to form a committee based on good reputation and honest this regard, the General Secretary of the District Bar lawyer Abdul Sattar Hulio's Advocate Association, statement about the resolution of the Bar.

Expressing that the health department has failed to provide health services to the common people and citizens, the negligence of most of the doctors in the quality and trauma center is clearly visible who are not providing better medical facilities and stay in private clinics and hosnoticed that X-ray machines, CT scan machines, MRI machines and ventilators are non-functional and it is sad to Hulio that your daughter say that there are no ventilators in the emergency ward.

Despite the medical superof intendent Medical Hospital receiving a bar who also contacted the

daughter Amar Sindhu was Amanullah Luhar, issued a brought at 9 pm where doctors and paramedical staff were on duty. were not present when the lawyer Abdul Sattar shouted that he is a lawyer, then a doctor Saad Ansari came and gave normal treatment to his daughter and called for a consultant but the consultant did not come to provide treatment for 4 hours, it is a pity that asking the lawyer Abdul Sattar ed doctors regularly. Instead Hulio buy medicines from a of paying duty, they prefer to private medical store, he told him that there are no medipitals, the district bar has cines available at the quality medical store, while the inex-

Chandka informed the president of the children and women are the food, food, medicine of against the negligent doctors on April 12, there was a Chandka Hospital. It has

perienced and trainee doctors

told the lawyer Abdul Sattar

needs a ventilator immediate-

Sattar Helio

Abdul

and the involved elements. In demonstration of doctors' been demanded that after officials to ensure that chilnegligence in Qalwal where committee based on good reputation and honest members should be formed and legal action should be taken against the negligent doctors and the involved staff.

Polio eradication campaign to start from 29th: District DC Larkana Sharjeel Chana has given strict instructions to the officials of the Larkana District Health Department to eradicate polio from April 29 to May 6 in Larkana district. He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee at Darbar Hall Commissioner Deputy Office Larkana.

The previous polio campaign was reviewed in the meeting. The commissioner briefed Larkana about the preparations being made in connection with the polio after the exams in the schools, campaign through maps and budget of billions of rupees, medical superintendent of charts, on which the deputy campaign to make the camcommissioner instructed the

investigating the matter, a dren under 5 years of age are given polio drops. said that polio teams should be appointed at the UC level and committees should be formed to monitor them and the security of the polio teams should be ensured and the set target of polio vaccination should be completed in any case, he said.

> It is a dangerous disease, for which the campaign has been going on for many years, the Sindh government is paying special attention to the polio campaign, he added that the API teams should cooperate with us and some UCS secretaries who were in the previous campaign. Those who were not involved in the campaign during the campaign should be banned and at the same time an awareness program should be started about the polio campaign visit the schools during the paign more successful.





## **EU official Leyen visits** Finland-Russia border

COPENHAGEN (AP): The being orchestrated by head of the European Moscow. Finland's govern-Union's executive branch ment has closed eight of its said that Finland's decision nine checkpoints with to close its border crossings Russia. The only one that with Russia over a surge in remains open is dedicated migrants is a security mat- to rail travel only, and cargo ter for the whole 27-mem- trains mainly run through ber bloc to consider. it. Commission European President Ursula von der kilometer (832-mile) land Leyen made the remarks border with Russia, running during a trip to the frontier, mostly visiting a part of the border forests in the south, and to located in southeastern the rugged landscape in the Finland.

(Russian to your firm support of comes to security.' Ukraine and your accession Finland decided to extend over the landscape of crossing points with Russia border. In a statement realignment of Europe's further because of what the gov- said that "the spring's

Finland shares a 1,340-

through thick Arctic north. "This is not "We all know how just about the security of President Finland, but it is about the Vladimir) Putin and his security of the European allies instrumentalize Union. We are in this migrants to test our defens- together," von der Leyen es and to try to destabilize said after visiting the borvon der Leyen told der in Lappeenranta with officials. "Now Putin is Finnish Prime Minister focusing on Finland, and Petteri Orpo. "We should this is no doubt in response be more Finnish when it

Von der Leyen and Orpo notice" issued after the visit, Orpo of organized migration the risk of Russia helping sion of Ukraine.

people illegally try to get to Finland via the land border ... outside the border crossing points." Von der Leyen is campaigning as a mem-

ber of the conservative European People's Party bloc for a second term in office as head of the EU's powerful executive branch Security is a top EPP theme ahead of the June 6-9 European Parliament elec-

Most of the migrants hai

from the Middle East and Africa. The vast majority of them have sought asylum in Finland, a member of the EU and NATO with a population of 5.6 million Finland joined NATO in April 2023, ending decades of neutrality after the country's defeat by the Soviet Union in World War II. In March, Sweden also became a member of the to NATO." On April 4, flew in a Finnish helicopter trans-Atlantic alliance. The move dealt a major blow to the closure of its border forests and towns on the Putin, with a historic post-Cold War security landscape triggered by ernment says is a high risk warmer weather increases Moscow's full-scale inva-

## 'Russia doesn't have capability to knock Ukraine out of war'

ATHENS: For General Ben Russia over Taurus, would some way saying, 'We Hodges, who once combe without a nuclear detercan't afford not to do it'." manded NATO forces in rent." Or take the adminis-Europe, the worst-case sce- tration of US President Joe nario for Ukraine is for Biden, which Hodges Western powers to "keep described as "unduly

interview on the sidelines of the regime [of Russian of the recent Delphi president Vladimir Putin], Economic Conference in or that Putin will think he Greece that a paralysed US has no choice but to use a Congress, over-cautious nuclear weapon to prevent White House administrathat from happening," said tion and fearful allies in Hodges. "I think those are Europe constitute a Russian two false, unfounded fears. marketing success. Take the I hope it does lead to the German refusal to send collapse of the Putin (310-mile) Taurus missiles. we should fear. It's some-"That is 99 percent because thing we should plan." [Olaf Scholz] is convinced Believing Russia's that if [Donald] Trump is nuclear threats is likely to [US] president, then he will withdraw the nuclear shield from Europe and turn his ambitious leaders providback on NATO," said ing more provocative forms Hodges, referring to the of help to Ukraine. "I think former US Republican there is a very real possibil-

ended up in a conflict with France, some others, in Aljazeera

doing what we're doing, scared". "They think that if exactly right now".

Ukraine liberates Crimea, He told Al Jazeera in an that will lead to the collapse

> 500km-range regime. It's not something produce a split in the Western alliance, with more

French President Emmanuel Macron caused Russia to renew its nuclear threats after he suggested last month that NATO troops on the ground in Ukraine should not be ruled out. Macron's generals and foreign policy wonks later finessed that message, sug gesting NATO troops could only ever play a supporting role, and not participate in active combat.

Hodges was deeply sceptical about how well Russia has succeeded in conventional warfare Since the fall of Avdiivka in Ukraine's east on February 17, its forces have "oozed" forward, swallowing sever al villages, as Ukrainian forces have performed tactical retreats. "Here we are in April, and [the Russians] are oozing out. Why is that? I think it's because that's leader who is running again ity that certain European the best the Russians can countries will insert them- do. They do not have the "Germany then, unlike selves," he said. "I can capability to knock Ukraine rance and the UK if it imagine Poland, even out of the war."

## More people evacuated after eruption of volcano

ple living near an erupting the necessary actions to volcano on Indonesia's ensure flight safety, security est level of alert. People Sulawesi Island were evacu- and comfort," said Ambar ated due to the dangers of Suryoko, head of the regionspreading ash, falling rocks, al airport authority. More hot volcanic clouds and the than 11,000 people were told possibility of a tsunami.

Manado city, which is locationint team from the local ed less than 100 kilometers authorities is still combing (62 miles) from the erupting the villages surrounding the Mount Ruang, is still temporarily closed as volcanic ash was spewed into the air. boat. Satellite imagery from the Indonesia's Transportation Ministry.

"We are still monitoring from the eruption. developments in the erupcoordinating with relevant the Center for Volcanology Pacific Ocean.

to leave their homes and at An international airport in least 1,000 have done so. A volcano and evacuating the residents to safer areas by

Officials worry that part Meteorology, Climatology of the volcano could coland Geophysics Agency lapse into the sea and cause a showed that the ash has tsunami, as happened in an spread to the west, north- eruption there in 1871 erupwest, northeast and south- tion. Houses, roads and east, covering Manado and other buildings in the affect-North Minahasa, according ed areas were covered by to a statement from gray volcanic ash. Many house roofs were also broken by the materials spewed

Mount Ruang saw at least

JAKARTA (AP): More peo- stakeholders ... to anticipate and Geological Disaste Mitigation to issue its highwere ordered to stay at least 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from the 725-meter (2,378foot) mountain. The observation from the agency said that white smoke is rising from the main crater with medium to thick intensity.

Tagulandang Island, east of the volcano, could be at risk if a collapse occurred. Its residents were among those being told to evacuate. Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency said residents will be relocated to Manado, a journey of six hours by boat Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, has 120 active volcanoes. It is prone to volcanic activity because it sits along the 'Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seistion of Mount Ruang and five large eruptions, causing mic fault lines around the

#### US reimposes oil sanctions against Venezuela

International

WASHINGTON: United States is reimposing sanctions on Venezuela's vital oil sector over what it says is the government's failure to adhere to democratic principles ahead of elections in July. The administration of President Joe Biden said it would not renew a licence that expired, and which had partially eased the punitive measures since October after a US-backed election deal was reached between the government and the Venezuelan opposition in Barbados.

"[Venezuela's President] Nicolas Maduro and his representatives have not fully met the commitments made under the electoral roadmap agreement," said US Department of State spokesperson Matthew Miller. "Therefore, General License 44 - which authorised transactions related to the oil and gas sector with Venezuela - will expire after midnight and not be renewed." As the clock ticked down on the deadline, the US Treasury Department announced that it had issued a replacement licence giving companies 45 days to "wind down" their business and transactions in the OPEC country's oil and gas sector.

We are concerned that Maduro and his representatives prevented the democratic opposition from registering the candidate of their choice, harassed and intimidated political opponents, and unjustly detained numerous political actors and members of civil society," Miller added. The government has barred several key political opponents from participating in the July 28 presidential race, despite agreeing with the opposition last October to hold a free and fair vote General License 44 broadly authorised oil and gas transactions with Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA. It was introduced by the US after the government agreed to reforms that would bring more competitive elections with international observers.

The reimposition of sanctions means that Venezuela's fuel sales are expected to take a major hit, while US oil companies operating in Venezuela wil have to scramble to seek special authorisations. If the ÛS does not grant enough individual authorisations, PDVSA is expected to resort to little-known intermediaries to sell its oil under price discounts, mainly to Asia. "We are open [for business], willing to keep progressing along with all foreign companies that want to come, Venezuela's Petroleum Minister Pedro Tellechea told reporters after the US

announcement. Venezuela is ready to secure the stability of global oil markets that we need so much." While hitting the Venezuelan economy, the US sanctions also carry risks for Biden as he runs for re-election since they could result in a jump in domestic oil prices or pressure from Venezuela's government leveraging its migration policy. Venezuela has previously warned it would cancel migrant repatriation flights Venezuelans, hundreds of thousands of whom have crossed into the US in recent years, if Washington continued with its "economic aggression". — Aljazeera



# Reactions to US veto of Palestine's UN membership bid

draft resolution at the UN Security Council (UNSC) which recommended granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations. The veto by Israel's main political and military backer had been expected ahead of the vote. Twelve counwhich was introduced by Algeria, while the United Kingdom and Switzerland abstained. The office of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the US veto was "blatant aggression ... which pushes the region ever further to the efforts to bring peace to the region. edge of the abyss"

In a statement, the presidency called the US veto "unfair, unethical and unjustified". "The fact that this resolution did not pass will not break our will, and it will not defeat our determination," Palestinian ambassador to the UN, Riyad Mansour, said after the vote. "We will not stop in our effort. The state of Palestine is inevitable. It is real," he said.

"Please remember that once this ent right of the Palestinian people". session adjourns, in Palestine, there are innocents paying the price with their lives ... for the delay in justice, freedom and peace," he added. The Palestinian armed group accused the national community "to exert pres- different anyway." sure to go beyond the American will

Palestinian people and their legitimate right to self-determination".

'We assure the world that our Palestinian people will continue their struggle and resistance until they defeat the occupation, take away their rights, and establish their independtries voted in favour of the resolution, ent, fully sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," it added. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "deep regret" at the "failure" of the UNSC to adopt the resolution, and said it "considered it a sad day for justice and a setback for

This reveals the council's "inability to carry out its responsibilities and role within the framework of maintaining international peace and security, especially in light of the brutal war on the Gaza Strip", it said. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "deep regret" over the inability of the UNSC to pass the resolution and said approving Palestine's bid to become a full UN member was a vital step and "an inher-

It said preventing Palestine from gaining full UN membership is a move that is "not consistent with the legal and historical responsibility" of the international community, which US of standing "in the face of international will" by exercising its veto power and denying Palestinians full palestinian issue". President Recep on the Palestinian Authority to undermembership in the world body. The Tayyip Erdogan said: "While every- take necessary reforms to help estabgroup said in a statement that it con- one is on the side of Palestine, unfor- lish the attributes of readiness for emned "in the strongest terms the tunately America puts forward their statehood and note that Hamas, a ter-American position biased towards the occupation", as it called on the inter-occupation in graph standing by standing by the side of Israel." "We didn't expect anything ing power and influence in Gaza, an

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel this resolution," he said. — Aljazeera

GAZA: The United States vetoed a and support the struggle of our Katz commended the US for vetoing the resolution, which he labelled a "shameful proposal", in a post on X. "It is outrageous that even half a year after the October 7 massacre, the UN Security Council failed to condemn Hamas['s] horrific crimes," he wrote, referring to the Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel that triggered the current conflict. At least 33,970 people have been killed and 76,770 wounded in Israeli attacks on Gaza since

> US deputy ambassador to the UN, Robert Wood, said his country "has worked vigorously and with determination to support Palestinian statehood in the context of a comprehensive peace agreement that would permanently resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". "Since the attacks of October 7, President Biden has been clear that sustainable peace in the region can only be achieved through a two-state solution with Israel's security guarantee," he said after he raised his hand to vote against and veto the resolution.

> "There is no other path that guarantees Israel's security and future as a democratic Jewish state," Wood continued. He said that "there are unresolved questions as to whether the integral part of the state envisioned in

## Croatia's court bars President Milanovic from becoming PM

who had campaigned to become prime minister before this week's parliamentary elections, may not head the new government.

"The president has been warned in time that he cannot participate in the campaign but that he must [first] resign. Now it is over. He can no longer be a prime minister-designate,' Constitutional Court President Miroslav Separovic said at a news conference. "Everyone is obliged to adhere to the constitution and the law,' he added.

Croatia held parliamentary elections, in which the ruling conservative Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) down as president. won the most seats but not enough to between longtime political foes - the Minister Andrej Plenkovic, and the left-wing populist Milanovic.

For months, Plenkovic and his Croatia's 1991 independence from major policies. — Aljazeera

ZAGRAB: Croatia's top court has Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) Yugoslavia. The HDZ won 61 seats in ruled that President Zoran Milanovic, party seemed poised for an easy victory that would secure his third term as premier. But in mid-March, Milanovic, who tops opinion polls, made the shock announcement that he would challenge Plenkovic and become the candidate for the Social emocrats.

March 18, triggering this week's snap election in the European Union member state of 3.8 million people. He said he would run for prime minister and resign only after winning the polls. The Constitutional Court then immediately warned him that he could only stand in the elections if he first stepped

But Milanovic ignored the warning form a government alone. The vote and campaigned across the country, was held after a bitter campaign accusing Plenkovic of leading the 'most corrupt government in Croatia's conservative incumbent, Prime history". Corruption has long been the Achilles heel of the HDZ, which has been in power most of the time since prime minister and his cabinet set all

the 151-member assembly, and a centre-left coalition led by the Social Democratic Party (SPD) won 42. The nationalist, right-wing Homeland Movement party came third with 14 seats, making it a likely kingmaker. Al Jazeera's Marina Barukcic.

reporting from Zagreb, said President Milanovic dissolved parliament on Milanovic's next move was unclear after the court's verdict. "He believes that the Constitutional Court's decision is a preparation for a coup d'etat led by Prime Minister Andrej Milanovic," she said. Barukcic said the president promised to bring back the will of the people to the state. Plenkovic said that it would be known 'very soon' with whom the party would form a new parliamentary

The SDP was also trying to cobble together a majority although its task appears more difficult. Croatia has a parliamentary democracy in which the

### Why an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities is a bad idea

have been explosions at some mili- major attack. He also suggested it tary sites in Syria – taken as indications that Israel has responded to Iran to reconsider pursuing a nuclear Iran's missile and drone attacks on its soil last week.

Iran said it shot down the quadcopters in the central province of ed retaliation for Israel's suspected Isfahan, where there are military bases, as well as the country's main nuclear facilities at Natanz. However, IRGC personnel, including two genthe International Atomic Energy erals. Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran's nuclear sites were untouched.

For several hours, there were conflicting reports as the United States said there had been an Israeli missile attack while Iran said there had been that had been shot down, and Israel said nothing. This came a day after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it would respond in kind if Israel attacked Iranian nuclear sites, adding that it may also shift its stance on nuclear bombs.

Brigadier General Ahmad attacks on nuclear facilities blamed

would be "likely and imaginable" for weapon if its nuclear facilities were targeted. Iran's attack last week was a well-telegraphed and near fully avertbombing of the Iranian consular building in Syria that killed seven

tic missiles punched through layers of defences mounted by Israel and its allies. Before the Israeli attacks, Iran had bolstered its defences, including no missiles, only some small craft at nuclear facilities. The Iranian government told the IAEA that all nuclear facilities subject to inspection would be closed for one day for "security considerations", IAEA head Rafael Grossi told reporters the following day.

Attack was close to Natanz, and Israel has successfully launched high- nuclear facilities are located, satellite Haghtalab, head of IRGC Nuclear profile sabotage attacks on Iranian Command, established after sabotage nuclear facilities before, but would it made in constructing a new undergo as far as launching a direct attack

three quadcopters launched inside its Israeli nuclear sites and has "fingers" under the current circumstances, the territory and news reports say there on the trigger" to launch another answer is most likely no. For one, there are tactical military considerations. Israel would most likely have to carry out such an attack alone as the US, which helped repel Iran's attack, has cautioned it will not actively participate in an attack on Iran and has demonstrated.

This has come after strict warnings from Tehran to Washington to keep clear - messages delivered publicly and officially. Shortly after Iran's Operations "exceeded expecta-tions", the IRGC said, as some ballis-unprecedented step of summoning unprecedented step of summoning the Swiss envoy – the representative of Washington's political interests in Iran – not to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as is the norm, but to the IRGC, to warn against any attack. In the absence of US military backing, Israel would be alone in trying to get through layers of Iranian air defences to reach facilities that are underground or buried deep in the moun-

At Natanz where Iran's main images have shown progress being

At an estimated 100 metres (328 feet) year. below the ground, it is so deep that even the US-made bunker buster bombs that Israel has been using in Gaza to devastating effect will likely fail to damage it.

Israel says the world must do everything possible to ensure Iran never gets a nuclear weapon and has even promised direct military action to stop that from happening. Iran has always maintained that it does not seek a nuclear bomb. It ramped up its nuclear activity starting in 2018 after the US unilaterally abandoned the 2015 nuclear deal – now in tatters – with world powers that capped Iranian uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent in exchange for sanctions relief.

Construction on the new site at Natanz started in response to a 2020 sabotage attack. In 2021, Iran took uranium enrichment up to 60 percent, days after a sabotage attack on Natanz that Tehran blamed on Israel. required for several bombs but that, based on inspections, it has not started on a bomb. The IAEA said in its ground site that could hold uranium slightly slowed the pace of its 60 per- unprecedented violation of internation-

nuclear facilities would contradict Israel's rhetoric about Iran's nuclear capabilities in that it would only push Iran to a more drastic course of action, which could include reconsidering a bomb and pulling out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Even in a scenario where Israeli jet fighters manage to punch through Iranian air defences to reach Natanz or another top nuclear facility which could also entail an environmental disaster - there is no guarantee what they will achieve.

Iran has been making strides in its nuclear research and development since the 2018 US withdrawal – a body of knowledge that cannot be destroyed by bombs or by assassinating individual scientists or project managers. An Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear facilities would be a de facto declaration of war as it would constitute a full-fledged The IAEA says Iran has the materials military assault on one of the highest-

valued Iranian state facilities. This new level of escalation would be even higher than the levelling of

TEHRAN: Iran says it has shot down on Israel, said Tehran identified on an Iranian nuclear facility? At least enrichment halls and other facilities. cent enrichment since the end of last allaw, which seemed to start the current cycle of attack and response. It would A direct Israeli strike on Iranian not only force Iran's hand to mount an even stronger military response, but it would likely also spring the "axis of resistance" of Iran-aligned groups in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen to the highest level of action against Israel since the start of the devastating war on Gaza. Facing growing international condemnation for the war on Gaza, Israeli officials would also find it extremely difficult to justify a direct assault on Iran, especially on nuclear facilities, at the UN, which would test the boundaries of "ironclad" support from their Western allies.

This while the Israeli army is already stretched by the combined strain of its military campaign in Gaza and border fighting with Hezbollah. It also would remain to be seen whether the attacks would be directed solely at Israel, as Tehran has repeatedly warned that it would also hold the US, and any regional countries who cooperate with Israel, responsible for any major strikes by Israel. That would expose the entire region and beyond to significantly last quarterly report that Iran has Iran's consulate in Syria, itself an expanded military conflict, if not all-

out war. — Aljazeera

#### The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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#### **US** exposes itself

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**THE vote in the United Nations Security Council on** Palestine's full membership on Thursday highlights the enduring, but unfortunately unsuccessful, quest of the Palestinian people for statehood. It also exposes the United States, which vetoed the widely backed UN resolution that would have facilitated the full membership of Palestine, as the biggest obstacle to the Palestinian people's legitimate pursuit of their rights. So much for the self-proclaimed leader of the free world.

It was in 2011 that the Palestinian Authority first applied to join the world body as a member. That attempt failed because the Palestinians didn't get the required minimum support of nine of the 15 UN Security Council members. But this time, 12 of the 15 Security Council members, including US allies France, Japan and the Republic of Korea, voted in favor of the resolution, with the United Kingdom and Switzerland abstaining. And yet the US vetoed it.

The overwhelming support Palestine received this time reflects the increasing number of UN members recognizing its statehood as well as the global support for the Palestinian people facing a humanitarian crisis because of the incessant attacks by Israeli forces. By vetoing the UN resolution on Thursday, after having vetoed four previous resolutions calling for a cease-fire in Gaza, the US has positioned itself against the international community. The US has not only prevented the Palestinian people from fulfilling their aspirations, but also prompted scrutiny of its claim of being the biggest "protector of human rights". US Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the UN Robert Wood has been reported as saying that Palestine's UN membership "needs to be the outcome of the negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians", as well as "something that would flow from the result of those negotiations". The US blind support of Israel has eroded the basis for a two-state solution— which is the only path toward lasting peace.
The US has long called for direct talks between Israel and

Palestine to resolve the Palestinian issue, but by doing so, it overlooks the shifting dynamics within the region, including Israel's reluctance to accept a two-state solution. The expanding Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian lands in the West Bank have significantly reduced the territory of the Palestine state since it first applied to join the UN in 2011. On Friday morning, within hours of the US vetoing the Security Council resolution, US officials confirmed that an Israeli missile had hit an Iranian site while explosions were reported near the Iranian city of Isfahan, with flights across several areas including Teheran and Isfahan suspended. By insisting on direct negotiations between Israel and the countries with which it has disputes, the US is only making the situation in the Middle East more volatile. The Palestinian death toll in Gaza is already nearly 34,000, with the majority of them being women and children. At a time when an Israeli attack on Rafah, where 1.4 million Palestinians are huddled to escape the ruthless Israeli attacks in central and northern Gaza, is possible, and the Palestine-Israel conflict could spread to the rest of the Middle East, the US should align itself with the right course of history to uphold justice and peace. Despite the setback, the international community, defying the duplicitous US, should intensify efforts to ensure the Palestinian people get justice by acceding to the UN as a full member.

#### DPP cannot cut bonds of blood and culture

HE wheels of history are rolling toward the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and neither the pro-independence forces in Taiwan nor external interference can hold back the historical trend of national reunification. The obstacle delaying the realization of that inevitability is the actions of the Democratic Progressive Party authorities on the island, who refuse to accept that "Taiwan independence" is nothing but a figment of their imaginings, as the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are united by bloodlines, the same cultural roots and their common history.

This has been highlighted once again in recent days by the visit to the Chinese mainland by a delegation of youths from the island led by former chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang party Ma Ying-jeou, which wrapped up an 11-day trip on Thursday. This is the second time Ma has led a delegation of Taiwan youths on a visit to the mainland, highlighting that the driving force for improved cross-Strait relations lies in the youth of both sides, who shoulder the responsibility to be friendly and work together for the good of the Chinese nation.

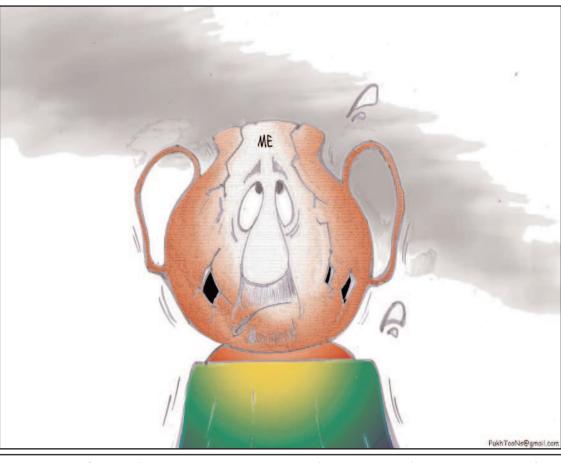
The visiting delegation had a busy itinerary. Before arriving in Beijing, they visited Guangdong and Shaanxi provinces, paying tribute to the Yellow Emperor at his mausoleum and visiting other historic sites, as well as forging ties with mainland universities. Such exchanges that continue the interactions between the two sides in education, business and culture are instrumental to strengthening cross-Strait bonds as they are a reminder that both sides of the Strait belong to one Chinese nation.

Ma's personal efforts in this regard are noteworthy and he should be praised for promoting cross-Strait exchanges, especially those between the youth on both sides of the Strait. At a time when cross-Strait ties are strained, and sometimes turbulent, thanks to the current Taiwan authorities' pro-independence stance and deeds, endeavors such as Ma's are worth cherishing as they contribute to further consolidating awareness of there being but one China, and thus, form a strong foundation for opposing "Taiwan independence"

The separatist forces on the island should realize they are pursuing a lost cause, as no matter which external forces they are willing to sell their souls to fabricate a cross-Strait division, their reckless pursuit of separating Taiwan from the motherland runs counter to the natural law that blood is thicker than water. Worse, by constantly stoking tensions in the Taiwan Strait, they have provided a ready excuse for outside forces to meddle in China's internal affairs. This was highlighted again on Thursday by the Foreign Ministry issuing a notice that Beijing was taking countermeasures against US companies that have been selling arms to the DPP. Such external interference in China's internal affairs cannot change the objective fact that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to the same nation. To give greater impetus to the historical trend of national reunification more needs to be done to promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations. In this regard, the youth on both sides of the Strait should play a bigger role.

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# Is China growing tired of Russia's war in Ukraine?

Maksym Skrypchenko

Russia's war in dawns, resistance and the West's through European ports and tether Beijing closer, per China finds itself strug-Kyiv. Far from the display inspection. Such gling to maintain its delicate balancing act. of overwhelming force that arm" tactics by the West on equal footing. If Russia Beijing's stance of strate- could have emboldened could foreshadow harsher feels compelled to make act. of overwhelming force that arm" tactics by the West on equal footing. If Russia gic ambiguity - neither China's ambitions towards treatment should Beijing such compensatory eco-condemning Moscow's Taiwan, the war has move overtly against nomic arrangements with invasion nor offering revealed Russia as a declinovert military support - is being tested by the war's capabilities are no match culating its stance. Xi's first a close, unwavering mounting costs and implifor Ukraine's defensive call with Ukrainian alliance of mutual support cations for China's global

S the third year of

Ukraine

On the surface, China

has emerged as one of the

the war. Its purchases of

discounted Russian energy

with a vital economic life-

line amid Western sanc-

tion of United States and

an extended war could give

advantage over rivals who

are burning through their

European military buildup,

dynamic suggests that a

prolonged war in Europe

interest, contrary to some

cold feet about its deepen-

ing entanglement. Recent

Hui have raised doubts

about whether Beijing truly

that upends the global order

from which it has enor-

likely influenced by high-

profile meetings between

Putin and Xi before key

military escalations, reveal

a pattern of pre-coordinated

ters before the 2022

Beijing Winter Olympics

raises questions about the

outcomes China expected

from these invasions, out-

comes that have not materi-

alised as foreseen and pos-

If such private assur-

sibly promised by Putin.

mously benefitted.

interpretations.

hat Beijing may be

interests.

resolve to arm and support airports may face greater ing power whose military signs point to China recal-

Moreover, China's pursuit of narprincipal beneficiaries of row self-interest through the war is prompting scrutiny and blowback that have provided the Kremlin could hinder its strategic ambitions. Secondary sanctions on Chinese tions. Moreover, the deple- firms accused of undermining Russia ceptions of Western bias NATO weapons stockpiles sanctions will likely expand, while has led some to argue that transits through European ports and China's military a strategic airports may face greater inspection. Such "long-arm" tactics by the West arsenals in their efforts to could foreshadow harsher treatment support Ukraine. Yet, the should Beijing move overtly against spurred by the ongoing war, **Taiwan. Crucially, recent signs point** could pose a significant challenge to any Chinese to China recalculating its stance. Xi's military ambitions. This first call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in April 2023 may not be in Beijing's best marked a surprising turn, given Ukraine's expected elimination per There are growing signs Moscow's plan.

shuttle diplomacy efforts commitment. This miscal- President to grapple with the sad reality. Rather than showcasing desires a protracted war how a superpower can easily subdue a smaller neighbour, the war has exposed the risks, costs and poten-China's expectations for tial for catastrophic miscal-

a swift Russian victory, culation. Economic factors are also straining China's position. Though benefitting Russian energy from exports, Beijing has seen its aggression. Their encounglobal trade interests disrupted by sanctions, supply and prior to the 2014 bility in key markets. Crimea occupation at the Ukraine's far-reaching Sochi Winter Olympics attacks on Russia's infrasuggest an anticipated structure and nuclear sabrestrengthening of Sino-rattling only amplify these Russian ties. This situation risks.

Moreover, China's pursuit of narrow self-interest through the war is prompting scrutiny and blowback that could hinder its strategic ambitions. Secondary sanctions on Chinese firms ances were made, they accused of undermining spectacularly failed to Russia sanctions will likely anticipate Ukraine's fierce expand, while transits Moscow

Volodymyr by China's special envoy Li culation has forced Beijing Zelenskyy in April 2023 marked a surprising turn, its economy, and drained its given Ukraine's expected principal elimination per Moscow's plan. Beijing's continued capability. While Beijing Ukrainian grain under the sanctioned, pliant pupper grain deal and even after its regime wholly dependent collapse underscores its on China, doing so carries

pragmatic trade interests. ing to shape China's rheto- costs. Alternatively, China ric and actions. Li Hui's could lean into its recent diplomatic tour has amplified Beijing's calls for a uncharacteristic departure ceasefire and negotiations -Ukraine invasion at the chain shocks, threats to an implicit acknowledgeshipping routes, and insta- ment that the war has veered off its expected course and is no longer ingrather than beneficial to aligning with China's interests. Moreover, Russia's these options are not muturecent \$25bn grain agree- ally exclusive. Even as i ment with China emerges cautiously explores off not as a testament to unity ramps to the war, Beijing but as a revelation of may simultaneously work Moscow's strategic anxi- to bind a weakened eties. This move aims to Moscow closer as a vassal curtail Ukraine's grain state. But extending the war export channels to China, indefinitely would be fruitchallenging the trade between Kyiv and its main burning the resources of trade partner. This step by both it and its would-be

It signals Russia's intent to haps too closely for an "long- alliance purporting to stand Taiwan. Crucially, recent China to retain its favour, it runs counter to the image of that both sides attempted to project.

Of course, powerful counterpressures still bind to Moscow Historical ties, ideological opposition to US hegemony and NATO expansion, and concerns about alienating Russia and reinforcing per will continue shaping China's calculus. But the war's human, economic and strategic costs are mounting. With each escalation, China is being forced to contradictions confront between its rhetorical commitment to sovereignty and its tacit enabling of Russia's breach of Ukraine's territorial integrity on a massive

Ultimately, the Ukraine

war has presented China

with a stark choice: double

down on propping up a diminished Russian state or pursue a new reality by engaging seriously in peace cs to end the war. The protracted war has strength ened potential rivals exposed China to nove sanction threats, disrupted partner resources and military role as the top buyer of may seek to render Russia a immense risks of secondary These realities are start- sanctions and reputational subtle diplomacy from its aversion to "global policeman" roles - as a sign it has grown weary of a war that is increasingly damagits interests. Of course, less for China, needlessly paradoxically subordinate partner.

## Trump might have dozed off in court

Elliot Williams

notoriously quiet places where people are required to remain seated almost all of the time. The air is often stagnant and the ever-sodistracting devices that are our lifelines to (and barrier from) the world around us are strictly forbidden.

That's the kind of environment in which Donald Trump, a defendant in a criminal courtroom in Manhattan (who also happens to be the 45th President of the United States) appeared to doze off in court this week. Jury selection resumed Thursday in the case against Trump and there was plenty of action in the courtroom, with a full jury getting seated only hours after two of the seven initially-selected selected jurors were dismissed earlier in the morning. All of this in the midst of unresolved questions about whether Trump violated his gag order by making statements on social media about prospective jurors, which will be addressed at a hearing next week.

remains: Can Trump consistently stay awake through the long slog of a criminal

On Monday, Trump, who is on trial for falsifying business records to cover up a sex scandal, appeared to catch a few minutes of shuteye in his criminal case for falsifying business records to cover up a sex scandal. As reported by The New York Times' Maggie Haberman, Trump seemed to doze off, "his mouth going slack and his head drooping onto his chest." Other news reports said that Trump appeared to nod off again during the second day of jury selection on Tuesday. One might chuckle at the

thought of a high-profile figure "catching some Z's" at an inopportune time. Still, it was a striking image that simulcast three individuals in one: a criminal defendant; one of the most powerful people on the planet; and a napping old man. And, despite their bluster, none of Thursday's participant. back-and-forth over jurors demonstrated that nothing will be straightforward in the prosecution of a former President, and that this legal proceeding won't be over

any time soon. Setting aside Thursday's drama - and in fairness to the former President who might have been struggling at times to stay awake - court proceedings typically are boring in a way in which the average member of the public might not appreciate. As a former prosecutor and attorney in Congress, I have attended more trials and hearings than I can count over the years and can attest that more than anything else, the gears of justice are not made for the 24-hour news cycle. What might be resolved in an eight-minute final segment of an episode of "Law and Order" might be drawn out over days of painstaking testimony. It can take months, if not years (even in cases in which a defendant is not deliberately attempting to slow proceedings down) before a matter finally gets to trial.

People have fallen asleep

OURTROOMS in far less hospitable envidon't lend them- ronments: Pope Benedict 'selves to keeping XVI did once when saying a people awake. They are mass in Malta; Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi dozed at the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Center; and the late Supreme Court handheld Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was caught snoozing at the 2015 State of the Union (although she later quipped that it had only happened because she "was not 100 percent sober"). I have not fallen asleep at a trial or or a congressional proceeding, but I am also cursed with not being able to fall asleep just anywhere. I, however, am married to someone who does not have the same problem. (Marital privilege prohibits me from disclosing whether she once fell asleep on a Zoom call with the camera off.)

In practice, there is little consequence to Trump for nodding off for a few moments during jury selection. If something of note had come up, any one of his highly-skilled attorneys would surely have been able to regain his attention if the need arose.

Not everyone is so lucky when those around them fall asleep in court. A judge's sleeping through trial is not sufficient to have a conviction tossed out. The same can be said for sleeping jurors. While the Sixth Amendment Constitution guarantees us all the right to competent legal counsel, it's not necessarily required that one's lawyer even be awake during legal proceedings. Defendants throughout history have gone to jail, and even been sentenced to die, despite their lawyers having slept through their trials. Still, one can almost excuse a judge or juror for succumbing to accidental sleep under the conditions. A defendant whose liberty is on the line would be well advised to find out a way to stay awake. (Some judges might frown upon a defendant chewing gum in court, but sleep specialists have identified plenty of other ways to stay awake, some of them courthouse-friendly.)

All of this exposes an enormous problem for those three faces of Trump Trump. The images of him has meaningful control of in court are a stark visual the legal system of which reminder that, like it or not, they are now an unwilling he is a defendant like any other. Though presume innocent, he is subject to the protections - and strictures of the legal system and stands a real chance of ending up behind bars if he is convicted. The Amendment requires that he remain in the courtroom for the duration of his criminal proceedings. The rule is for his own protection; the Constitution requires that he be able to "confront" the prosecution. No courthouse press conference, campaign speech or indignant online tirade can change the requirement the Constitution foists on him as an accused. That will mean a lot of time trapped in the obscurity of a windowless, under-ventilated courtroom.

A man of Trump's age needs somewhere between seven and nine hours of sleep an evening. Given that the judge has called parties to court every morning at 9:30 and the former President has been known to take to social media in the wee hours of the morning, he's going to need to catch up on those hours somehow. Ît's his choice only as to where to do so.

#### World cannot turn its back on Sudan and its neighbours any longer **Amitabh Behar**

young boy fled to South Sudan since the start of the conflict a year ago. He now lives with his aunt in one of the two transit centres. Despite facing myriad challenges, Miyok's wish is simple yet profound - to be educated and have the opportunity to fulfil his dream of

becoming a doctor.

As international donors ed deeply. His dream represents not only his personal aspirations but also embodies the collective hope of a nation striving for a better future. A future that continin host countries. Although what the future holds

T Renk in South this is most welcome, it is Sudan, 40km (25 only half of the \$4.1bn needmiles) south of the ed to give people their next border with Sudan, I met a meal and what they need to Miyok, survive and rebuild their orphaned by the brutality lives. To date, the conflict in of the Sudan conflict. Sudan has displaced at least Miyok is one of at least two million people, trigger-**600,000 refugees who have** ing one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. Neighbouring countries -South Sudan, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Libya - are feeling the impact whether through strained resources, economic disruptions or risk of the conflict spilling over. We have seen up to 1,500

people arriving every day in Renk, some on donkey carts, met earlier this week in others crammed into over-Paris, Miyok's story resonat- crowded minivans, and those who can't afford transport walk for miles under the scorching sun to reach the border. Many of those who have fled are women carrying nothing but a small bunues to remain uncertain, dle of clothes on their backs however. In Paris, donors and their children. Their eyes pledged \$2bn to support mil- are filled with exhaustion, lions of people in Sudan and fear, and uncertainty about

Time and time again, ture and crops. This situawhen I met with officials and Oxfam's partners in South Sudan, the phrase "perfect storm" was mentioned, summarising the prevailing challenges which have plunged the nation further into destitution. Even before the war

Sudan erupted, South Sudan was already suffering from intercommunal conflict over resources and a climate crisis, which have created a dire humanitarian crisis. Two-thirds of the population urgently needs food, including 35,000 people facing starvation. Nearly nine million people currently depend on aid for survival. Despite contributing little to global carbon emissions, South Sudan has been hit hard in recent years by climate change-induced erratic weather patterns - harsh droughts and boiling temperatures followed by heavy rains leading to severe flood-

tion, compounded by an ecovulnerable population.

nomic crisis, has had devastating effects on an already To make matters worse, the country's key oil pipeline, which passes through neighbouring Sudan, was damaged in February. With oil responsible for 90 percent of South Sudan's revenue and the pipeline accounting for two-thirds of oil revenues, the loss of the pipeline puts the already fragile economy on the brink. Despite South Sudan's humanitarian and economic crisis, and the increasing influx of refugees from neighbouring Sudan, aid has dwindled to an extreme low. In 2023, the United Nations appeal for South Sudan was slashed by half to \$1.79bn, but less than four percent of the target was met. The resilience of the South Sudanese people has as a crucial step in addressbeen repeatedly tested, yet ing the governance, economing which have continued to the difficulty in fully imple-

the legitimacy of the government. This situation, coupled with an economic crisis, ongoing violence.

could intensify further the To overcome this deep crisis, South Sudan needs three key things. First, an immediate injection of aid funding that not only focuses on short-term emergency support but also prioritises development that empowers South Sudanese people to break free from the vicious cycle of shocks and be able to rebuild their lives. Second, while external support is crucial, the South Sudan government should intensify efforts to lead, build basic infrastructure and provide essential public services so the economy works for the South Sudanese people. Third, and most importantly, as the country heads towards elections later this year, refuse to lose hope. We many in South Sudan see this ic and humanitarian chal- munities to chart their path wreck property, infrastruc- menting the 2020 peace lenges. A lasting peace will towards a brighter future.

agreement risks jeopardising help avert the perfect storm and ensure a stronger South Sudan.

Amid the chaos, those who love this country, from government officials to grassroots activists and partners, share a determination to rebuild a nation torn apart by conflict and climatic shocks. Despite the numerous crises the world is currently experiencing, we should not turn our backs on the South Sudanese people and the refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan. We urge donors who met in Paris this week to keep the momentum and immediately scale up the humanitarian response and renew their call for an immediate ceasefire and an inclusive peace process. I left South Sudan with my heart aching for Miyok and countless others, whose futures hang in the balance. But I should all rally together as partners in progress, empowering South Sudanese com-

# Development, democracy dominate debate in India's mammoth election

EARLY a billion Indians will be eligible to start voting Friday in the world's biggest election, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third term in office. Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party or BJP is pitted against an opposition alliance led by the Congress Party that was formed to put up a united challenge to the powerful leader, who

Modi has highlighted economic the poor as his biggest achievements. At election rallies he exhorts huge crowds to vote for him to ensure that he can continue of parliament will be conducted in the momentum and make India a developed country by 2047. "In the last 10 years, by lifting 250 million people out of poverty, we proved that we work to get results," Modi said while releasing his party's election manifesto last week.

The INDIA or Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, which consists of over two dozen opposition parties, has flagged joblessness and what it says is a threat to the country's democratic and secular credentials as key issues in the race. It accuses the pro-Hindu leader of polarizing the country along religious lines and weakening opposition ranks with corruption probes by federal investigative agencies. One key leader, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, was arrested weeks before the election in connection with graft allegations. The government denies the charges of politically motivated investigations.

"This election is fundamentally keeping the Modi factor right up in Congress Party, but it is unclear

powerful force is stalking

the world's gold market. It

is operating in the shadows.

the

Chicago

said Ross Norman, a veteran gold this mystery, one geopolitical and

Metals Daily. Gold has been ratchet- three years that Russia, China and

None of the normal footprints are

visible on the London bullion

Mercantile. Retail goldbugs have

not been buyers: ETF gold funds

have been shrinking since December. The crowd is piling

Yet gold has smashed through a

four-year barrier around \$2,000 an

ounce, rising in parabolic fashion

since mid-February, and hitting an

all-time high of \$2,431 on April 11.

Is somebody preparing for an escalation of the shadow Third World

behind this. It is a massive player

with very deep pockets. I have never

seen this kind of buying before,"

yields, and hawkish talk from the

Federal Reserve. This mix would

normally spell trouble for gold.

Whoever it is - or they are - seems

insensitive to cost. Central banks do

not behave like this. "They buy on

the London benchmark and they

don't chase the price," said Mr

"It is not a Western institution

into the Bitcoin scam instead.

at risk, the constitution has been as much at risk as it is today," said Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the main opposition Congress Party, as he released his party's manifesto this month. Although Gandhi has not been projected as a prime ministerial candidate, he is widely seen is widely seen as the frontrunner. as the main challenger to Modi. Voters will choose between the growth and welfare measures for competing narratives offered by Modi and the opposition over the next six weeks -- the election to fill 543 of 545 seats in the lower house seven phases until June 1. Votes will be counted on June 4. The staggered vote enables security forces to move around the country. Recent surveys project that Modi will easily secure a rare, consecutive third stint in office, a feat managed only by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Ten years since he took power after decimating the Congress Party that dominated India since independence, the Indian prime minister remains hugely popular.

He is seen as a strong, nationalist, pro-Hindu leader, who has fasttracked development, boosted India's global stature and delivered on promises like building a temple on the site of a razed mosque to Hindu Lord Rama - a decades-long demand by devotees in the Hindu majority country. "The BJP is very clearly going into this election on the shoulders of the prime minister's image. They are very clearly

frozen. Yet the scale is modest. The

World Gold Council said central

banks bought a net 18 tonnes in

February: 12 in China, six in Kazakhstan and India, four in

Turkey, partly offset by Russian sales. This hardly moves the needle.

have been buying gold, creating traf-fic jams at the Shuibei jewellery

hub. Precious metal is the only

refuge from the property crash and

the slump on the Shanghai bourse.

Tightening capital controls make it

hard to smuggle serious sums

abroad. But this alone cannot

account for the price surge, either.

Mr Norman says the gold flow to

Asia has been within normal

bounds. So let me take two stabs at

ligerent hyper-nationalism as a

means of regime survival, and all

aim to press their advantage against

a fatally complacent West before the

reached a dangerous juncture. None

of the major democracies have put

window of opportunity closes.

The Chinese people certainly

a different election. I don't think front," political analyst Sandeep that democracy has been as much Shastri told VOA. "That will help them to a certain extent offset antiincumbency that has come in after 10 years."

The anti-incumbency sentiment largely centers on concerns about unemployment and inflation, which have been cited as key issues for the public, according to recent surveys. While India's economy is growing rapidly, young, educated people are facing challenges in finding jobs. In a busy market in the Indian capital, New Delhi, opinion is divided on how the economy is faring. Some, like Rushil Mattta, a software engineer, are upbeat. "I am very optimistic. I have hope for this country and I am staying here," said Matta, referring to the trend in earlier decades of software professionals migrating to Western countries for better opportunities.

That sentiment is not shared by others, like Surinder Ojha, a hawker who sells bags to make a living. "Livelihood is a problem. But no government solves this problem for the poor," he says despondently. To woo voters, the main opposition Congress Party has promised to boost social spending and welfare payments for women, and provide 3 million government jobs and apprenticeships to college students. It also promises to reverse what it views as India's democratic backsliding under Modi. Rahul Gandhi has undertaken two crosscountry marches over the past 18 months to boost support for the

Gold is sniffing out monetary

and geopolitical dystopia

Russia's foreign reserves were as it wants. This has enabled Tehran

votes. The party only holds 52 seats in parliament after being routed in the last two elections and Gandhi is perceived by many as an ineffective opponent to Modi.

"As far as Mr. Modi is concerned, there is no one on the opposite side to match him," says political analyst Neerja Chowdhury. "Lot of people who are dissatisfied today with the BJP rule and face economic hardship rising prices. They talk about it but turn around and say who is there on the other side?" The INDIA group's hopes largely rest on putting up common candidates against the BJP to prevent splitting of opposition votes. So far, it has only been able to do that in some states. The alliance includes many powerful regional parties but has failed to come up with a common program to counter the Indian leader.

"They have the issues before them, but can they bring these before voters as a credible alternative is the question. What we see is each member of the alliance is speaking in their own voice. Each for example has its own manifesto," says analyst Shastri. "If you need to launch a concerted attack on the government, you need to have a clear-cut strategy, but that seems to be missing and that to a certain extent is pulling them down." Surveys project Modi's BJP could surpass its 2019 performance when it won 303 seats in parliament. But the Congress Party says that when votes are counted on June 4, the results will be much closer than expected.

# Belgorod under near-daily attack

war between Russia inhabitants of the Russian city of Belgorod feared most of all happened. It became the first Russian animal fear of death stays city to experience the war directly. Just a year ago, Belgorod was simply described as a border city. Now, the most accurate way to describe the city, which is increasingly heard in the media, is a frontline city in the war.

ed, I was terrified. Most of my life has always been connected with Ukraine. As a child, I was always told we were brothers and neighbors. On Feb. 27, 2022, after returning home from a trip I had planned before the war, I sobbed in a cab to work because I didn't understand how my family could support this horror they call a "special operation." I told the cab driver, who I didn't even know, and he cried with me. I remember him telling me, "Don't cry now. It will only get worse from here." At the time, I couldn't even imagine how much worse it would get.

Residents of Belgorod probably felt the most acute connection with Ukraine, especially Kharkiv, among all regions of Russia. By today's standards, I had an amazing childhood. I frequently traveled to Kharkiv with my parents: we walked around the city, went to the water park and zoo, shopped at the Barabashovo market, and visited our relatives. Our cities are so close, linked by a train, that Belgorodians visited Kharkiv more often than in neighboring Russian cities.

Now our cities are probably going to be divided by this war forever. Many of them will grow up in this war and never know what peace is. My younger sister already knows about shelling, air defense systems. Along with the games on her phone, she has an app installed to send notifications about the danger from missiles. She asks why no one can stop the shelling, but no one can answer her.

The lost childhood of an entire generation is not the biggest price that the residents of Belgorod had to pay for Russia's war with Ukraine. The worst is the death of dozens of residents of the city. According to Belgorod residents have March: children, old people, and infants.

One man who fled from Izium in Ukraine to Belgorod told me this January that during the months he spent in a basement due to the massive shelling of the city, he had learned to live with the constant fear of death that haunted him even in Belgorod. He said, "If my acquaintance died, if my neighbor's leg was blown off on her way to the market, why can't I be next?"

Only now have I really begun to understand what he was talking about. Indeed, if a friend of mine died, if a shell landed in a neighbor's house, if my neighborhood regularly comes under fire, why can't die today or tomorrow?

It's gruesome but, at 21, 've learned to live with the

and Ukraine, what explosions have you hiding in the hallway hoping that today won't fly into your house - only the constant with you. When the shelling ends, despite the relief you cannot help but think that if it was OK this time, it does

not mean that a shell will

not hit my house tomorrow.

By now, everyone in PTSD. My relatives and I When the war first starthave developed a fear of loud noises and open spaces, and have a phantom siren constantly sounding in our heads.

Recently I heard about a and again to different neighborhoods of Belgorod, only for shells to fly into her yard each time. The last time she went to another border town, Valuiki, but even there a shell hit the house where she lived. Because of this, she had a nervous breakdown and is now being treated in a psychiatric hospital because she became paranoid that the missile was following her and wanted to kill her. When I heard this story I laughed hysterically. Not at this woman's pain, but because of the fact that now these are the realities of life in Belgorod, which used to be peaceful and happy. The shelling of Belgorod

have separated Belgorodians from the rest of Russia for a long time, if not forever. It is difficult to feel close to people who live a completely different life to you. Belgorod residents have taken to tagging posts on social networks with the "Belgorod is Russia. desperately trying to remind the federal authorities and residents of other cerely regions of their existence. When the week of Shrovetide festivities was underway in Russia, and when Moscow is celebrations of the anniversary of the annexation of Crimea were held in Moscow, people were dying in Belgorod. Some Russians don't even know that Belgorod is part of the same country as them. This makes it increasingly

All President Vladimir Putin was able to say about the shelling of the city was that Russia could "respond to Ukraine in the same is not the first reason why torn settlement.

Belgorod is being shelled! I

There is pro don't know how you can died almost every day in even claim to protect Russians in Ukraine when a city that is part of the country you rule is begging for help. Doing so shows ghastly, horrible indifference. I now feel that I am much more Belgorodian than Russian. I can't blame people from other Russian regions for the fact that they don't think about Belgorod because their lives are now so different from mine. If war doesn't touch your life, you want to shrug it off and

live as if it is not happening. At the same time, as a Belgorodian, I feel loneliness much more acutely not ident not only did not care whole country Knowing that even some

Valeria Bezrukova to blame for the shelling makes me feel even worse. They say we deserve this because Belgorodians voted for Putin, or because Russian missiles are flying from Belgorod toward Kharkiv. I am used to the authorities treating me and the inhabitants of my city as mere statistics that are here today and gone tomorrow. But I am not used to the fact that people whom I consid-Belgorod probably has ered close to me in spirit after the beginning of the war are thinking this way.

I am sorry that people

think it is a war crime to shell civilians in Kharkiv, but not Belgorod. Neither I nor other Belgorod residents woman who moved again chose to have the Russian army shelling Ukraine. Certainly, no missiles are being launched from our city itself. When I heard the Russian army was firing ballistic missiles at Kharkiv and the rest of Ukraine on April 12, I was ready to do anything to make it stop, to stop the missiles from bringing death to people like me. But I couldn't, and neither could all the other Belgorodians. Everyone I know in other Russian cities knows about what is happening in Belgorod and is worried about me and my city. But I know of cases when people were unwilling to rent apartments to evacuated Belgorod residents, or deliberately inflated the rent. I not only know about it not only from media reports, but also from my acquaintances' experience. I think that almost everyone in Belgorod feels resentment because of this.

Moreover, I know that there are not only cases of Russians who Belgorod is part of Ukraine, and also people who sinbelieve "Belgorod Kharkiv, and all Russia suffers." It sounds absurd, but the realities of 2024 are such that for a part of Russia the whole war is reduced to some internecine conflict between two cities. For them, the shelling of Belgorod and the city itself is something distant and insignificant. Now people are dying in Belgorod every difficult to believe that day, as well as in the rest of Belgorod is truly a part of Russia. Even now, when shelling is no longer a daily occurrence, Belgorod residents see their city dying day by day. From a once promising city where people went for a quiet life, it is way." As if shelling Ukraine turning into another war-

There is probably not a single Belgorodian who has not thought about moving. People are literally fleeing the city because it is impossible to live in constant fear of death. Many businesses are closing down, and many of those who remain in the city are afraid to leave home. Many of the city residents I talk to about Belgorod use the same comparison, saying Belgorod will soon become the second Donetsk. Why Donetsk, and not another Ukrainian city, they often find it difficult to explain. But one man told me that he associates Donetsk with because the authorities don't a feeling of abandonment care about my city. I also and loneliness. And it's felt the authorities and pres- only going to get worse. The shelling of Belgorod about my hometown, but the won't end until the war is before over. But I am afraid that it Belgorod came under fire. will not live to see that day. I fear my city will never be anti-war Russians and parts the same again, even if it is constant fear of death. of the opposition believe not physically destroyed. When the siren wails and that Belgorod residents are The Moscow Time The Moscow Times

#### books in the OTC market. Yes, China's central bank has West has dropped the ball on prevailing economic ideologies and political regimes. Budget deficits been adding to its declared gold Ukraine - or worse, it is preventing reserves for 17 consecutive months, Ukraine from hitting Russian oil have broken out of historical ranges part of the gradual portfolio shift

Norman. This rally is happening off their economies on a war-time footing despite the obvious threat. The away from US Treasuries and door wide open for a knock-out European bonds by the Global blow by the Kremlin this summer. South. Dollar weaponisation since Iran has been emboldened by Putin's the war in Ukraine has unnerved military comeback. It is also flush every country aligned with the with money. Joe Biden is so worried authoritarian axis of China and Russia. None can feel safe parking turned a blind eye to sanctions bust- default. You might argue that this is or monetary disorder on a trau-

East, and now to risk a direct missile strike against Israel. The third shoe has yet to drop but China knows that the West has run

to advance its pawns in the Middle

down its stock of military kit trying to contain these other two crises. Xi Jinping may never have a better moment to tighten the noose on Taiwan with a naval and air blockade, gaining a stranglehold over the West's supply of advanced semiconductors that can then be used as a bargaining chip. How would the democracies respond to this? There is a strong suspicion among gold experts that China is behind the surge in buying, building up a warfighting bullion chest through statecontrolled banks and proxies. But others, too, can see that we are living trader and now chief executive of one financial. It has been clear for through a fundamental convulsion of the global order, and that the doling up fresh records against the Iran are operating in collusion, each larised financial system will not be headwinds of a strong dollar, a 70 feeding opportunistically on each point jump in 10-year US Treasury other. All three have fostered bel-hedge against dystopia. However, largely monetised the Trump-Biden the beginning of the war. there is a parallel explanation. Covid finally broke our spendthrift governments. The talk in hedge fund land is that some big beasts are taking bets against "fiscal dominance" across This menace on three fronts has the West.

It is a collective judgment that too many countries have pushed public debt beyond 100pc of GDP and beyond the point of no return under facilities - and has therefore left the and are running at structurally untenable levels for this stage of the cycle. Central banks will bottle it under this scenario - in order to mop up issuance of treasury bonds. They will let inflation run hot to help about rising petrol prices that he has states whittle down debts by stealth money in Western securities after ing, letting Iran sell as much crude what they already did by letting rip matic scale.

the pandemic. The Bank of Japan is refusing to raise rates above zero or halt bond purchases even though core inflation is 2.8pc and the Rengo wage round is running at 5.2pc. This is what a debt trap looks like. With a debt-to-GDP ratio above 260pc, Japan cannot return to sound money without risking a fiscal crisis. Olivier Blanchard, global debt

with extreme money creation during

guru and former IMF chief economist, once told me how this would unfold by the mid-2020s. "One day the BoJ may get a call from the finance ministry saying please think about us - it is a life or death question - and keep rates at zero for a bit longer," he said. The European Central Bank is also in a debt trap. It continued to buy buckets of Club Med bonds even when inflation was over 10pc. This was patently a fiscal rescue for semi-solvent states. The ECB has backed off for now but will be forced to shield Italy again with local publications alone, as fiscal transfers disguised as QE in of March 2024, 28 people jumbo deficits. It now faces an invidious choice: either it stays the course against inflation, at the risk of a US funding crisis, a commercial property/banking crisis, and recession, all ending in a return to QE and fiscal dominance; or it cuts rates hard and fast before inflation is under control, also ending in fiscal dominance. Is gold sniffing this out?

Of course, the gold spike may be nothing more than wolf pack speculation by funds orchestrating a squeeze on bullion shorts through the options market, knowing that this sets off a self-fueling feedback loop. If so, the rally will short-circuit soon enough. My bet is that a big animal with a Chinese accent is bracing for geopolitical

#### China, Germany have potential for cooperation By Liu Zuokui, Liu Zhongwei & Ann Buel

LL eyes are on German Chancellor Olaf Scholz who just concluded a three-day visit to China from Sunday. That Scholz was accompanied by Environment Minister Steffi Lemke, Agriculture Minister Cem Ozdemir, and Volker Transport Minister Wissing shows how important the visit is for both sides.

The historical trajectory of Sino-German relations shows pragmatic cooperation has served as the cornerstone of bilateral ties. Conversely, endeavors veering toward ideological confrontation have disrupted and undermined their partnership. Anchored by the tenets of economic globalization and interdependence, Sino-German relations have thrived, buoyed by a robust mutual strategic trust and open communication.

Economics and trade are the linchpin of Sino-German relations. Over the past half a century, Germany has emerged as one of China's foremost trading partners in Europe, with bilateral trade accounting for one-third of the total China-European Union trade. And the fact that German investments in China constitute a third of total EU investments underscores the symbiotic nature of their economic interdependence. The two countries' automobile and energy sectors serve as exemplars of successful industrial collaboration, exemplified by CATL's significant investments in Germany. Even amid escalating geopolitical tensions, German businesses continue to express confidence in the Chinese market and its economic potential, as evidenced by a 4.3 percent year-on-year increase in direct investments in 2023, which reached a record 11.9 billion euros

institute. Also, German investments in China accounted for 10.3 percent of its total foreign investments in 2023, the highest since 2014.

Besides, "Business the Confidence Survey 2023-24" the German Chamber of Commerce released in January shows that more than 90 percent of German companies operating in China plan to continue to do so, with more than half of them saying they intend to nothing has China been Germany's most important trading partner for eight straight years. There is still ample potential for economic cooperation between China and Germany, especially in digital and green economies, as well as in electric vehicles, clean energy, biopharmaceuticals, and artificial intelli-

China-Germany relations have been successful, because the two sides practice pragmatic cooperation and win-win collaboration for mutual benefit, promote globalization, uphold multilateralism, and are committed to building a community of shared interests through their cooperation. But the litany of crises, from financial meltdowns to geopolitical upheavals the EU has been grappling with, have given rise to conservatism and extremist ideologies, leading to a discernible shift in its foreign policies. In particular, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has dramatically reduced, if not ended, the peace and growth dividends Europe, especially Germany, had been China policies in 2023. enjoying for more than 70 years.

As a result, the development landscape has undergone significant hensive China policy, which advochanges. Relying on Russia's cheap

(\$12.9 billion), according to IW energy supply, the United States' security assurances, and China's inexpensive goods, the EU, and German economies, had maintained relatively good growth despite the challenges. But now Germany's international development environment has changed, because the severing of energy supply from Russia due to US and European sanctions against Moscow has drastically increased Germany's energy bill, hurting its economic competitiveincrease their investments. Not for ness. And given its concerns over excessive reliance on the US for security, Germany has been making substantial investments to boost security to minimize the "threat" posed by Russia. In such circumstances, the only

certainty for Germany is cooperation with China. However, this cooperation is also subject to changes given the complex international and domestic situations. And Germany's oscillating policy toward China is bound to cast a shadow over future economic cooperation.

After the EU's report, "EU-China: A Strategic Outlook", in 2019 defined China as a "partner", a "competitor" as well as a "systemic rival", there has been a noticeable shift in the EU's policy toward China, with ideological and broad security factors coming more into play. Following the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the EU followed the US in adopting a "de-risking" strategy toward China, which has significantly impacted Germany, leading to the adoption of new security and

On July 13 last year, the Scholz government passed its first comprecates for "systemic rivalry" with

China and emphasizes the necessity of reducing economic dependence on China. Simultaneously, it stresses the importance of China and Germany continuing their cooperation on global issues such as free trade and climate change. However, Scholz has emphasized that Germany has no intention of 'decoupling" from China despite the new policy. Instead, he said, Germany is committed to continuing cooperation with China. The second visit of Chancellor Scholz to China is the first one after the adoption of the new policy last year. Some foreign media have suggested that Germany seems to be shifting its focus toward Southeast Asian countries in an attempt to reduce its dependency on China. However, this approach is impractical and runs counter to Germany's interests.

It is in the interest of both Germany and China to deepen cooperation, because "decoupling' "de-risking" is not in the interest of either party. Sino-German relations will benefit from deepening pragmatic cooperation. As two economic powerhouses, China and Germany must seize the opportunity to recalibrate their partnership on a trajectory of mutual benefit and sustainable growth. By charting a course anchored in mutual respect and shared interests, the two sides can navigate the complexities of the current geopolitical landscape and forge a path toward a future defined by cooperation and prosperity.

Moreover, the growth of the Chinese economy will create considerable opportunities Germany, too. So the two sides should engage in fair competition, not indulge in a zero-sum game, and strengthen cooperation for mutual

#### EU would rather destroy the planet than let Brexit succeed

COLOGISTS high-light keystone species - those criti-seals. It would be a cal to the survival of tragedy of unimaginable many others. And there couldn't be a much more important one than the sand eel, because sand eels are essential to the diet of some of our most charismatic British sea birds, particularly the kittiwake and the puffin. Both are red listed endangered species, now also because bird flu has hit them badly in recent

vears. Perhaps of even more critical importance is the role of sand eels in feeding the Atlantic Salmon. If salmon disappear from our rivers it won't just spell the end of the traditional Scottish sporting holiday. It could remove from our riparian and estuarine ecosystems the salmon and sea trout on which dozens of other species depend: birds from dippers and kingfishers all the way up to ospreys and white

tailed eagles, and mam-

mals such as otters and

proportions for British biodiversity if, as many now fear, the wild salmon becomes extinct. There has been a huge

research effort to understand the factors behind the salmon's rapid decline. And the period when salmon smolts first hit saltwater has been identified as critical. The science shows that 99.7 per cent of their diet at this very vulnerable stage comprises sand eels. Like the kittiwake's and the puffin's, the salmon's survival is linked to sand eel numbers, which have been in decline.

So the British government has been absolutely right to use the powers over fisheries policy repatriated to it by Brexit to impose a ban on fishing for sand eels in our national waters around the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. But in an extraordinary twist to the Brexit story, their freedom to act to save our sea birds

and migratory fish has been challenged by the EU, apparently on behalf of Scandinavian fishermen, and a litigious stalemate has ensued.

In an interview just a few days ago, Nigel Farage, a keen angler, revealed that his primary motive for entering politics all those years ago had been a desire to combat the damage done to the aquatic environment by the Common Fisheries Policy. This dispute throws into sharp relief the Brexiteer narrative about the EU being on the side of big business's vested interests against nature.

In the short term it is vital that this seemingly esoteric issue is resolved to save our iconic species and to have a more constructive relationship with our ex-partners in Europe Longer term, mankind must find a better way than robbing the seas of sand eels. Meanwhile the silence from "environmental" activists on the Left is deafening.

The Telegraph





LAHORE: A vendor displaying and selling watermelon to attract customers at his roadside setup in the

### Workshops discuss decarbonization in Pakistan's cement industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The like carbon capture and Chief of the Environment ernment's International Supporting Preparedness storage, and the role of car- and response to the significant cement. expansion expected in engaged in detailed analy-Pakistan's cement industry, sis of data acquisition 83 million tons per year to cement, and the exploration 99 million tons by the end of international initiatives of 2023, held crucial work- such as the Industrial Deep shops in Lahore and Decarbonization Initiative Karachi.

workshops These focused on advancing ed with valuable industry decarbonization strategies insights and proposed within the cement sector, frameworks for integrating which is responsible for the discussed strategies and approximately 5 percent of technologies global man-made CO2 Pakistan's cement sector. emissions, said a news These include enhancing release on Saturday.

events try experts, policymakers private sectors, and utiliz-and financial professionals ing international finance tices for one of Pakistan's these initiatives. most pivotal industries.

organized by UNEP Stands Climate mitment

Pakistan be Centre, leading the Pakistan become fully pre-SPAR6C work in Pakistan pared to engage in Article 6 and included both UNEP transactions to foster susand local experts. The main tainable focus was exploring inno-vative technologies, dis-bon markets. The insights of all for countries like exchange and promoting cussing the potential of car- and collaborations fostered Pakistan, poised to harness the application of innovabon finance under Article 6 are expected to accelerate mechanisms under Article 6 tive climate solutions, around the challenges and growth and environmental Federal opportunities in reducing conservation. The chief Economic Affairs

to airline passengers.

tions," said Clark.

owners, said Clark.

sengers and bags, and we

patience and understand-

the UAE experienced its

ask for our customers' 3 days

'As of this morning,

Participants

The workshops conclud-

sector-specific mitigation were measures, fostering collabaddressed by united indus- oration among public and to develop sustainable prac- mechanisms to support

The workshops were significant milestone in challenges but opened compenhagen Climate mitment to challenges but opened communication channels development of the Paris Agreement, and the adoption of sustainable to propel their climate SPAR6C is dedicated to actionable practices across the cement action and sustainable amplifying national climate decarbonization strategies. sector, aligning with development objectives. ambitions and catalyzing Key discussions revolved national goals for economic Funded by the German investments in greenhouse greenhouse gas emissions, guest for the Lahore work- Climate Action (BMWK) able and resilient global technological innovations shop, Ms. Saba Asghar Ali, through the German gov-community.

regular flight schedules as across the cities and the

of Saturday, April 20, past week has been one of

Emirates President Sir Tim the toughest for Emirates

Clark said in an open letter operationally, as record

Saturday April 20, our reg- remained open, with flight

ular flight schedules have movements reduced for

been restored. Passengers safety, but flooded roads

previously stranded in the impeded the ability of our

airport transit area have customers, pilots, cabin

been rebooked and are crew, and airport employ-

enroute to their destina- ees to reach the airport, and

more days to clear the meals and other flight

ing," he said. apologies to every passen-The airline has also put ger whose travel plans were

together a taskforce to sort, disrupted during this time.

behind baggage to their delay many more in the

reconcile, and deliver some Emirates was forced to can-our

30,000 pieces of left- cel nearly 400 flights and explained.

backlog of rebooked pas- amenities," said Clark.

"It will take us some essential supplies like

storms hit the UAE.

"Our 24/7 hub in Dubai

also the movement of

400 flights cancelled in

Clark offered his sincere

aftermath of the storm on

for Article 6 Cooperation bon finance in facilitating Department at the Planning and spearheaded by the program in the transition to green and Development Board, Global Green Growth Government of Punjab, Institute (GGGI), with suphighlighted the need for such workshops and apprewhich is set to increase its needs, the implementation ciated the ongoing support Kommunalkredit Public production capacity from of new standards for green extended to Pakistan, Consulting, and the UNEP 'Through SPAR6C's efforts, these workshops have set a precedent for how targeted knowledge lion Euro program is being exchange and stakeholder implemented in Pakistan, engagement can signifi-

cantly contribute to the

development of the carbon

crucial for making tangible progress in our global fight against climate change.' Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly kets. positive, with many emphasizing the value of shared knowledge and the poten-

solutions that could revolutionize the industry.' Ministry

Dubai's Emirates airline restores

regular flight schedules

Dubai's flagship airline Lashing storm winds and perfect. We acknowledge who the disruption has Emirates has restored its rain disrupted activity and understand our cusimpacted and get our oper-

(Gulf News): highest rainfall in 75 years. response has been far from "Look after our customers

Climate Change Climate Initiative (IKI), porting partners Carbon Limits, GFA Consulting, Copenhagen Climate Centre.

Zambia, Colombia, and Thailand, to assist these nations in navigating and market in Pakistan. This is leveraging the mechanisms outlined in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which facilitates international cooperation on carbon mar-

The comprehensive program is structured around six interlinked work packtial impact of collaborative ages: four in-country proefforts. One participant grams focused on medium-noted, "These workshops and long-term emissions and long-term emissions planning, governance frameworks, and mitigation channels activity development, complemented by two global ers and presented viable initiatives, a community of practice for Article 6 impleonize the industry." menting countries and an SPAR6C is an integral Article 6 toolbox.

for gas mitigation, thus paving and the way for a more sustain-

To free up resources and

capacity to manage impact-

ed customers as a priority,

check-in for passengers

necting passenger traffic

from points across our net-

work coming into Dubai

"We deployed additional

The airline sent over 100

look after disrupted cus-

tomers at Dubai Airport

area, prioritising medical

tomers' frustration due to ations back on schedule,'

dozens of flights on the airline had to suspend

of the weather. Over the departing Dubai, implement

next three days, the airline an embargo on ticket sales,

had to cancel its flights, as and temporarily halt con-

"We acknowledge that resources to aid our airport

the long queues and wait and contact centre teams

times have been unaccept- with rebooking and put on

ment to our passengers very tions where we identified

able. We take our commit- additional flights to destina-

seriously, and we have large numbers of displaced

taken learnings from the customers," he explained.

things right and improve employee volunteers to

A mammoth course departures and in the transit

Clark said the airline cases, the elderly and other

the congestion, lack of he said.

diverted

information, and confusion

Tuesday to avoid the worst

DXB, Emirates' hub opera-

tions, remained challenged

by staffing and supply shortages, said Clark.

last few days to make

processes,"

correction plan

in the terminals.

**Emirates** 

# 4G for all fundamental to Digital Pakistan vision

Prioritizing the provision of high-speed 4G to rural and semi-urban popula-tions is imperative for the Digital realizing Jazz has played a signifinessing substantial growth GSMA. over the past five years, he added.

**Business** 

mobile broadband subcent five years ago, with Jazz having the largest 4G subscriber base of 46.38 million with an overall cellular subscriber base crossing 71.5 million mark, said a news release issued here Saturday.

cussion Development in Pakistan: 5G & Cloud Technology' at the Global Digital

(APP): the population into the Pakistanis, fold of digital inclusion. Other speakers on the said.

panel included Zarrar Khan CBO PTCL, Ali Akhtar CEO of DynaSys Pakistan vision, said Asif Networks and Aamir Aziz, Chief Business Ahsan Khan President and Officer at Jazz. On its part, Key Account Manager Ericsson Pakistan, while it cant role in fostering 4G was moderated by Saira adoption in Pakistan, wit- Faisal Country Head

Addressing the digital divide is imperative; if it Currently, 90 percent of persists, inequality will persist among users, posscribers in Pakistan are ing a significant threat to utilizing 4G, a notable the country's socioeco-increase from just 17 per- nomic welfare," remarked Explaining the benefits

Asif said it goes beyond involving basic connectivity to being a complete digital lifestyle tool where people productively inter-Speaking at a panel dis- act with their smartphones titled all day instead of just a Infrastructure few minutes traditionally spent on calls and messag-

"With a smartphone in Summit 2024, Asif high- every hand and broadband tion efforts at Jazz were things around for the focused on bringing the country, improving lives underserved segments of and livelihoods of ample power."

Today, we need to resume that pace, for most of which 4G provides ample power."

women and youth," he

Responding to a question about 5G, Asif won-users through cutting-edge dered if Pakistan was ready for the technology at tech, this stage, shedding light on the challenges that the on the challenges that the country currently faces.

population still without leading cellular coverage, a significant portion offline, low being handsets the benefits that 4G pres-

He also highlighted that of digital connectivity, 2G phones still comprise a significant part of local manufacturing/assembly in Pakistan, at the time when the country should even be phasing out 3G technology.

advantage to accelerate the digital uptake.

with its digital operator strategy, has been pursudigital solutions for finentertainment,

Pakistan's largest fintech "With 20 percent of our and Tamasha Pakistan's entertainment platform are serving our customers' smartphone penetration, financial services and and only 1-2 percent of entertainment needs 5G respectively, on the busienabled, our focus should ness side of things, our instead be on maximizing cloud vertical, Garaj, has proved to be a massive success, already providing over 100 enterprises with cloud and cybersecurity solutions.

Cloud computing provides organizations with the ability to rapidly scale resources up or down, as needed, allowing them to "Covid gave us a much-needed push toward digi-more effectively; It also talization, a momentum takes away the risks assowhich we could use to our ciated with huge CAPEX investment and lets the business use a pay-as-yougo model for ease, Asif added while speaking on the benefits of could

#### 'Halving' arrives for bitcoin miners

NEW YORK (AFP): The bitcoin market engineered the "halving" of the reward for operating the cryptocurrency, a muchanticipated step designed to limit production and boost the digital money.

"The 4th #Bitcoin halv complete!," announced cryptocurrency exchange Binance on X the former Twitter. "The countdown has

been reset — see you in

Bitcoin is created as a reward when computers solve complex puzzles to decide which miner wins the privilege to validate the block — and receive the reward in bitcoins.

However, since the digital currency's launch in 2009, the reward has been halved for every 210,000 blocks in a process called

halving.
With one block validated roughly every ten minutes, this critical industry event occurs just under every four years.

The reward, which was fixed since May 2020 at 6.25 bitcoins per new block, has now fallen to 3.125 bitcoins.

Bitcoin was conceived in 2008 by a person or group writing under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto.

The halving process slows the rate at which new bitcoins are created, thereby restricting supply. The reward amount has

been trimmed over time, via halving, to implement Nakamoto's overall global limit of 21 million bit-

But this ceiling is due to be reached by 2040.

The primary purpose of halving is to control bitcoin's supply," City Index analyst Matthew Weller said in a research note ahead of the event.

"By slowing the rate at which new bitcoins are created, halving helps to maintain scarcity and potentially increase the cryptocurrency's value, assuming demand remains steady or increases," he NEW

The price of bitcoin has blazed a record-breaking trail on the prospect of reduced supplies, as well as big moves toward greater trading accessibili- Middle East tensions and a said, arguing that shoppers

Bitcoin has rocketed by 50 percent in value since the start of the year, clihave fallen in recent days.

"This is the first time that bitcoin beat the previbefore the halving has that helped produce a slight even taken place," said increase in overall sales. even taken place," said eToro analyst Simon thousands of computers in markets. huge hangers or warehousconsuming amounts of electricity at a vast cost.

## **SBP** Services Corporation union elects new cabinet

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Democratic Workers Union has achieved a historic victory in the fifth industrial-wise referendum of the State Bank of Pakistan Banking Services Corporation, on Saturday. Democratic Workers

Union candidates elected named Muntazim Shah as Chairman and Liaqat Ali

Waraich Additional Secretary, and Ghulam tution. Hasan Wahla elected as The Patron in Chief.

Newly elected general Pakistan Banking Services Corporation and Labor representative Liagat Ali Sahi has been elected as is a result of their ideolog-the General Secretary ical struggle and the credit the institution.

respectively. The cabinet is goes to the workers. He including of president as assured that the cabinet Aamir Khan, Shafqat will fulfill the trust of all as contract workers and play General a positive role in the insti-

The speaker claimed that Democratic Workers Union always struggled for secretary of State Bank of the fundamental and constitutional rights of workers in the light of constitution. The new cabinet will Sahi said that this victory solve all the problems and establish the rule of law in

# Fed survey cites inflation, interest rates US election as key

# financial stability risks

WASHINGTON (Reuters): more than two years after the interviewed through March, Persistent inflation and higher-for-longer interest rates were cited as key risks to financial stability in the Federal Reserve's latest survey of US central bank contacts, with geopolitical troubles and the 2024 US presidential election also mentioned as "a potentially sig-

nificant source of shocks". "Contacts noted several areas of uncertainty including trade policy and other foreign policy issues related to escalating geopolitical tensions," the Fed said on Friday in its semi-annual survey of 25 market participants, academics and other contacts. "They also noted policy uncertainty associated with the US elections in November," when Democratic incumbent Joe Biden faces Republican for-President Donald Trump.The survey results were included as part of the Fed's latest Financial Stability Report, which looks at issues like leverage and risk-taking throughout the economy to try to identify

potential trouble spots. The report was released

Fed launched the most aggressive interest rate hiking cycle since the 1980s in a bid to slow a surge in US inflation, a move that was broadly predicted to tip the economy into recession and aggravate stresses in the financial sector.

The latest report, much like those preceding it through the Fed's battle with inflation, shows little evidence of widespread risks to the financial system despite borrowing costs remaining at their highest levels in a quarter of a century.But that overall impression of resilience may suggest potential problems for Fed officials who feel the economy needs to slow for inflation to sustainably return to the central bank's 2 per cent target. The strength of household and business balance sheets, the stability of the banks, and the lack of imminent bubbles or other threats suggest that a slowdown won't come credit channels that have typically been an important

when Fed officials began to have doubts about an ongoing drop in inflation and noted that US rate cuts might not come as fast as expected.

While that added to uncertainty about monetary policy, which along with inflation was the most cited risk, the level of "policy uncertainty" flowing from the escalation of violence in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the state of US politics, was the second-most cited potential threat to the financial system.

Across what has become the Fed's standard framework for assessing financial vulnerabilities, however, the system was characterized as in largely steady shape despite high policy interest rates and the ongoing inflation fight.

There were some areas concern, including through the financial or declining values for commercial real estate [commercial property prices] and part of monetary policy rising leverage among som transmission. Contacts were of the bigger hedge funds. rising leverage among some

#### P&G profits increased

YORK (AFP): rocter & Gamble reported higher profits Friday, citing strong demand in the United States and many European markets that offset weakness elsewhere due to ackluster performance in China.

P&G — the consumer products giant that makes maxing last month at a Tide detergent, Bounty record \$73,797. Prices paper towel and Gillette razors, among many others - had flat volume in the just-completed quarter but historical record a three percent rise in price

Chief Financial Officer Peters, noting there had been a pullback in recent consumption as "very days. Commercial bitcoin strong" in the United States mining companies operate and in leading European

But he said sales in the large Middle East were pressured while China sales were growth.

down 10 percent, excluding the effect of currency changes and acquisition.

Despite price hikes over the last few years, "consumers are not trading down within the US," he stick with known products because of reliability. Profits in the quarter

rose 11 percent to \$3.8 billion, while revenues increased one percent to \$20.2 billion.

In China, Schulten noted weak underlying market conditions" as well as lagging sales of SK-II premium skincare, which has been affected by anti-Japan sentiment.

Schulten said the company has nevertheless seen some improvement in the world's second-biggest economy, but that it will take another quarter or two y conflict in the region, for sales to return to

#### **Public Notice**

It is Published through this notice that I Iftikhar Hussain want to sale my plot # 708 measuring 10 Marla Reg. # 6416, Allotment letter # DG/PHA/Housing/Plot/ General Public/RFC/6089

situated at Township Hangu. If any person or others have any objection should contact the undersigned within 15 days after publication of this notice after no objection will be accepted. İftikhar Hussain 0346907247

#### Name Change

I have changed my name from Tamshal Haseeb to Manal Haseeb and it is requested to call me with the new name.

It is further requested to change my name in school and other government documents to Manal Haseeb S/O Sajid-ul-Haseeb, R/O Pabbi, district Nowshera.

# China's imports of Russian oil near record high in March

On Tuesday, April 16, Tuesday. Clark said the airline cases, the eigerly and e UAE experienced its He said, "We know our was clear on two priorities: vulnerable travellers.

BEIJING (Reuters): Russia remained China's top oil under sanctions offloaded supplier in March, data Sokol cargoes in Chinese showed on Saturday, as ports in March, as Russia refiners snapped up strand-

ed Sokol shipments. Russia, including supplies tions. via pipelines and sea-borne shipments, jumped 12.5% on the year to 10.81 million the from Administration

Customs. That was quite close to record of 2.56 million bpd in June 2023.

Seven Russian tankers ed imports from Russia. China's imports from wake of tightened US sanc-

More than 10 million barrels of the oil supplied by Sakhalin-1, a unit of metric tons, or 2.55 million Rosneft, had been floating barrels per day (bpd) last in storage over the past month, according to data three months amid pay-General ment difficulties and sanctions on shipping firms and vessels carrying the crude.

Stockpiling of Russian previous monthly crude for storage in strategic reserves by state-

Data from consultancy Kpler forecast sea-borne shipments from Russia hitworked to clear a glut of ting a record high of 1.82 largest supplier, totalled stranded supply in the million bpd, including 6.3 million tons in March, 440,000 bpd of Sokol and 967,000 of ESPO.

Russia was China's top supplier throughout 2023, shipping 2.14 million bpd extend its voluntary cut of 1 despite Western sanctions million bpd through the end and a price cap following of June, leaving its output the Kremlin's 2022 inva- at around 9 million bpd. sion of Ukraine.

In coordination with kept the March official sellother OPEC+ members, ing price of its flagship Russia opted to roll for- Arab Light to Asia at \$1.50 ward a voluntary reduction over the Oman/Dubai averin crude oil output of age as the Kingdom sought

quarter of the year to support energy prices. Imports from

Arabia, previously China's largest supplier, totalled or 1.48 million bpd, down 29.3% on the same period last year. Riyadh has said it would

The world's top exporter owned CNOOC also boost- 300,000 bpd into the first to secure market share.





## In brief

#### Rizwan breaks T2OI record

RAWALPINDI (Monitoring Desk): Wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan has broken the record of Babar Azam and Indian player Virat Kohli for fastest 3,000 T20I runs. The righthand batsman achieved the milestone in the second T20I game of the five-match series against New Zealand in Rawalpindi. Rizwan completed the 3,000 runs in 79 innings whereas Babar and Kohli had reached the milestone in 81 innings. Till the filing of the story, the Pakistani batter has made 35 off 27 as Green shirts are chasing a target of 91 runs set by Kiwis.

#### **Basketball** c'ship from 21st

FAISALABAD (APP): An Inter District
Basketball Championship will commence at Crescent Sports Complex here on Sunday (April 21). Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed will inaugurate the championship at 10 a.m. In this connection all necessary arrangements have been completed to hold the sports event in a most befitting manner, a spokesman for the divisional sports department said here on Saturday.

#### Azam ruled out of T20Is

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Azam Khan has been advised to undergo a 10-day rest following radiology reports con-firming a Grade One tear of his right calf muscle. Consequently, Azam will be unable to participate in the ongoing T20I series against New Zealand, which culminates in Lahore on April 27. Azam will now depart from the Pakistan men's cricket team and report to the National Cricket Academy, where he will commence his rehabilitation process of the PCB medical panel. The discomfort in Azam's right calf was first noticed during batting practice in the pre-first T20I training session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

#### Pakistan to face Indian

DUBAI (Web Desk): Pakistani and Inidan fighters are ready for a clash today in an event titled 'Karate Combat' being held in Dubai. Earlier, the much-anticipated fight between the arch-rival took a dangerous turn when fighter Pakistani Shahzaib Rindh allegedly slapped India's skipper Rana before the Singh Singh before the clash. "How was the slap bro?" Rindh reportedly said after the clash on stage. The hosts of The Karate Combat event in Dubai are former mixed martial artists Rutten and St Pierre, George YouTuber Mike Majlak and renowned Indian actor Salman Khan. It must be noted that Rindh crehistory February earlier this year after he registered the fastest knockout at Karate Combat 44 in Mexico City. The 25-year-old stunned his opponent, Marco Cubas of Peru, with a knockout in 21 seconds during the first round.

#### Brecel, Trump

make good starts SHEFFIELD (Agencies): Reigning world champion Luca Brecel made two century breaks to hold a 6-3 lead over David Gilbert at the end of the first session at the Crucible. In a highquality match on the opening day of the 2024 World Championship, the Belgian hit breaks of 134, 104, 91 and 73 to move 5-2 ahead.

# **Bowlers wreak havoc** as Pakistan crush New Zealand in 2nd T20I

(Monitoring Desk): Fast bowler Mohammad Amir took two for 13 in his first international match in four years as Pakistan romped to a comfortable sevenwicket victory over New Zealand in the second T20I at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Amir dismissed Tim Robinson on his second delivery and added the scalp of Dean Foxcroft eight balls later as New out for 90 in 18.1 overs. Pakistan raced to victory in the 13th over, losing three wickets along the way.

Shaheen Shah Afridi was once again the pick of Pakistan's bowlers when he returned figures of 3.1-0-Cole McConchie (15), and last-man Ben Lister (1).

caused the initial damage, Usman's first outing in Shaheen wrist spinners Abrar T20Is lasted just six balls (Pakistan).

joined the party. Abrar, by Ish Sodhi. bowling for the first time in

returned identical figures.

cricket since et with Rizwan. September 2023, bagged batters found the going tough. Mark Chapman, with 19, was the top-scorer.

Chasing a modest total, Mohammad Rizwan returned be played in Lahore on 25 Zealand were sent tumbling unbeaten on a 34-ball 45 to and 27 April, respectively. guide his side to a six-wicket victory with more than seven four fours and a six. Saim Ayub started off

first ball for a boundary but departed next ball after 2-15, Shadab Khan 2-15) 13-3. He picked up the Lister brought off a stun-wickets of Tim Seifert (12), ning return catch. Babar overs (Mohammad Rizwan Azam was stumped off the opposite number Michael Irfan Khan 18 not out) After Shaheen and Amir Bracewell for 14, while

**Sports** 

Muhammad Irfan Khan, T20Is, picked up two for also batting for the first 15, while Shadab Khan also time in Pakistan colors, scored a run-a-ball 18 not Naseem Shah, bowling out and added 36 runs for for the first time in interna- the unfinished fourth wick-

The first T20I on one for 27 as New Zealand's Thursday was rained off after two balls, while the third T20I will be played here on Sunday. The remaining two matches will Scores in brief:

2nd T20I - Pakistan beat overs to spare. Rizwan struck New Zealand by seven wickets

New Zealand 90 all out aggressively by hitting the 18.1 overs (Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-13, Abrar Ahmed

45 not out, Mohammad

Player of the match

# Two-time major winner Muguruza retires from tennis



Former world number one and two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza announced her retirement from tennis on Saturday after more than a year without playing.

"The time has come to to retire," Muguruza, 30, decision that I've been tak- the life I had before, so it has one in the world.

ing little by little.'

Muguruza had not competed since January 2023 when she played her last official match at the Lyon Open before taking a break from the sport. "When I stopped competing, I returned home and I welcomed the break say goodbye, it has been a with open arms," said long and beautiful career, Muguruza who ends her Martinez in 1994. but I feel the time has come career with 10 singles titles.

been a progressive thing. Muguruza made her WTA main-draw debut in 2012, and reached her first Grand Slam final in 2015 where she was defeated by Serena Williams at Wimbledon.

However she beat the American to claim her first Grand Slam at the French Open in 2016, and then beat Venus Williams in 2017 to win Wimbledon.

Her Paris win made Muguruza the first Spanish woman to lift a Grand Slam since Arantxa trophy Sanchez Vicario triumphed in the French capital in 1998.

When she added Wimbledon to her title collection the following year she became the first Spanish female to triumph at the All England Club since Conchita

Fittingly, it was Martinez "Every day that went by I who coached her to the title told a press conference at felt better and I didn't miss the and two months later the Laureus Awards. "It's a discipline and the difficulty of Muguruza rose to number



HYDERABAD: Players in action during Kabaddi match playing between Punjab and Sindh teams at Qasimabad Sports Complex. -- APP Photo

# Chinese swimmers failed doping tests

PARIS (Agencies): Twentythree Chinese swimmers tested positive for a banned substance ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 but were world governing bodies secretly accepted China's findings that they had ingested it unknowingly, The New York Times said Saturday.

The athletes included nearly half of the swimming Japan, with several going on to win medals, including gold, according to the report. Many are expected to be

in contention again at the Paris Olympics this summer. The newspaper reported that they tested positive for a prescription heart drug, trimetazidine (TMZ), that can enhance performance at a domestic meet in late 2020

and the first days of 2021. But it was determined by Chinese anti-doping authorities that they ingested the substance unwittingly from tainted food and no action against them was warranted.

The Times cited a review of confidential documents cases had been reviewed by and emails, including a a doping control board and report compiled by the were subjected to independ-Chinese anti-doping agency ent expert scrutiny. and submitted to its global

counterpart WADA. 'No fault or negligence'

ming's governing body professionally, and by all World Aquatics, which at applicable anti-doping reguthe time was known as FINA, decided not to act Anti-Doping Code," it said. due to "a lack of any crediallowed to compete after ble evidence" to challenge China's version of events. WADA, in a statement on

Saturday decrying "some misleading and potentially defamatory media coverage this week", said that it had "ultimately concluded that it team that China sent to was not in a position to dis- executive Travis T. Tygart prove the possibility that contamination was the source of TMZ and it was compatible with the analytical data in the file".

"WADA also concluded that, given the specific circumstances of the asserted contamination, the athletes would be held to have no fault or negligence.'

WADA's senior director of science and medicine Olivier Rabin added: "Ultimately, we concluded that there was no concrete basis to challenge the asserted contamination.

World Aquatics confirmed to the Times the ties.

"World Aquatics is confident that these AAFs (adverse analytical findings) It said WADA and swim- were handled diligently and

lations, including the World

But the United States Anti-Doping Agency said the swimmers should have been suspended and pubidentified, calling WADA's lack of action "a devastating stab in the back of clean athletes"

The organisation's chief claimed he had provided WADA with allegations of doping in Chinese swimming multiple times since 2020.

WADA said that "the information provided to us by USADA and others was reviewed on each occasion in line with our normal procedure, and assessed according to the criteria stipulated within our Confidential Source Policy'

'The data held by us clearly showed that there had been no attempt to hide the positive tests as they had been reported in the usual way by the Chinese authori-

Therefore, based on the available information and a lack of any credible evidence, the threshold for WADA I&I (Intelligence and Investigations Department) to open an investigation was



the 2nd T20 cricket match between Pakistan vs New Zealand at Pindi Cricket Stadium. — APP Photo

# Peshawar, Swat take lead in PM Youth TT League

PESHAWAR (APP): In the ongoing Organizing Secretary Ali Hoti, Table Tennis League, girls' teams HEC Officials Owais were present. from Mardan and Hazara and boys' teams from Peshawar and Swat by 3-0 in the first match of the girls Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) emerged as the top performers among team event in the table tennis Amjad Ali Afridi said that by organthe participating teams from five different regions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

The league is being played at Lala Rafique Sports Arena and the latest games were held on Saturday. Several matches were played in the table tennis provincial league under the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Program. Mardan and Hazara com-Peshawar and Swat teams took the lead in the boys' competition.

Director Electronic Authority (PEMRA) Amjad Ali In the second match, Jawad of Afridi was the chief guest on this occasion. Director Distance Studies Peshawar by 11, 8, 9-11 and 11-9. Association Vice Kifayatullah, Director Sports Islamia of Peshawar defeated Jawad of College University Peshawar and Mardan by 11-7 and 11-5.

Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Female Coaches Saira, Amina and The Mardan team defeated Swat

provincial league in connection izing the Prime Minister's Talent with the ongoing Prime Minister Hunt program, new talent will Swat by 11-6 and 11-7, Huria and international levels. defeated Khadija by 11-6, 11-8 while Maya defeated Atiqa by 2-0, the score was 11-7 and 11-9 in the last singles. In the second match peted in the girls' competition, while Hazara defeated Bannu by 3-0 and qualified for the next round. Peshawar defeated Mardan by 3-1, General Pakistan in which Ubaid of Peshawar defeat-Media Regulatory ed Hamza of Mardan by 11, 6, 11, 9.

In the second match of the team event, Swat defeated Hazara 3-0. Speaking at the ceremony, Director General Pakistan Electronic Media Youth Talent Hunt Program at emerge in our province, which will Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar. shine not only in the province but Hiba of Mardan defeated Seema of also in the country at the national

He said that sports activity is very important for men as well as women. He demanded from the Higher Education Commission that along with table tennis, other sports should also be included in the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt program so that the players get more opportunities to play.

In response, to the demand of the chief guest, Owais, an HEC representative informed that in the Prime University of Peshawar Dr In the third match, Haroon of Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program, Noorzada, Provincial Table Tennis Peshawar defeated Mudassar of a total of 12 Games have been includ-Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program, President Mardan by 11-7 and 11-8 and Obaid ed and apart from Wrestling and Weightlifting, the girls' players are taking part in 10 different Games.

#### Verstappen on Chinese GP pole as Hamilton only 18th

SHANGHAI (Agencies Max Verstappen was in imperious form as he took pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix, leading Sergio Perez to a Red Bull one-two. Fresh from winning the first sprint race of the season earlier, Verstappen was 0.322 sec-

onds clear of Perez. The Mexican pipped Fernando Alonso's Aston Martin by 0.166secs with McLaren's Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri next.

Lewis Hamilton had a dire day, qualifying 18th. His Mercedes team-mate

George Russell was eighth behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz.

Hamilton - who made a mistake in the hairpin, running wide and costing himself some time - said he had made "massive" set-up changes to his Mercedes after finishing second to Verstappen in the sprint 'I'll give it my best shot - 18th is pretty bad," Hamilton said. "When I was making the set-up changes, I was like: 'It can't get any worse, surely.' And

Red Bull looked in a world of their own all day, even though Perez came close to being knocked out at the end of the first session after being caught up with traffic. The surprise was Alonso, whose Aston Martin has not looked a match for Ferrari or McLaren generally this season, but third was an impressive outcome for the veteran Spaniard.

Alonso had run third for much of the sprint before damage from a collision with Sainz forced his retirement, but he made amends with a strong performance in qualifying for the grand prix. Alonso said: "I had a moment in Turns One and Two and I was thinking about whether to abort or not, but we kept going and I set a good lap time. The car improved since this mornseason. ing and we made a few

Sainz crashed at the end of his first lap in second qualifying but managed to get the Ferrari back to the pits minus its front wing, where Ferrari discovered it was otherwise undamaged. Stewards later dismissed a protest against Sainz.

changes.

# Rybakina to face Kostyuk in Stuttgart final

STUTTGART (AFP): Elena Rybakina ended defending champion Iga Swiatek's 10-match winning streak in Stuttgart on Saturday to reach the final of the clay-court tournament.

Fourth seed Rybakina came through their semifinal clash 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, stunning the Polish world number one who had captured the last two titles at the German tournament.

Rybakina now boasts a 4-2 career head-to-head record against the four-time Grand Slam winner and will be playing in her fifth final of 2024 on Sunday. 'Like always it was a very tough match," Rybakina said of her opponent.

"My serve helped me a Rybakina, 24, who has Open in March.



lot in important moments. I was fighting for the ball. "It was such a close

match. I'm really happy I managed to win and could show a good game. Winners of the Stuttgart tournament, sponsored by German automobile com-

but Rybakina revealed the

pany Porsche, receive a car

titles to her name this season in Adelaide and Abu Dhabi and runners-up spots at Doha and Miam Rybakina will face Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk,

who defeated Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in straight sets 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 in Saturday's second semifinal.

Kostyuk took just one hour 35 minutes to win, just a day after coming through a three-hour epic against American Coco Gauff.

21-year-old Ukrainian will place in her second final of the prize would be of little use. season, having finished "I actually don't have a runner up to Brit Katie driver's licence," said Boulter at the San Diego

# Luton's survival hopes battered by Brentford



LONDON (AFP): Luton's hopes of Premier League survival were hammered by Brentford's 5-1 rout at Kenilworth Road, while Burnley thrashed Sheffield United 4-1 to remain in the

fight to stay up on Saturday.

Brentford realistically secured their top-flight status with a dominant display despite missing England striker Ivan Toney through injury. Yoane Wissa and Bryan Mbeumo had to carry the offensive burden for the Bees during Toney's ban for breaking gambling rules in the first half of the

They combined for a pectacular opening goal as Wissa smashed Mbeumo's pass into the top corner. Wissa's second just before half-time was more scrappy as he bundled the ball in from close range.

Ethan Pinnock crashed in a header from a Sergio Reguilon corner before

Keane Lewis-Potter stole in at the back post to turn in Mbeumo's cross. Kevin Schade made it 5-0 but Luke Berry netted a Luton consolation in stoppage Luton's heaviest home

league defeat of the season leaves the Hatters still one point adrift of Nottingham Forest, who visit Everton on Sunday in a huge clash at the bottom of the table. Burnley are now within

two points of Luton and three of survival after cruising to victory at rock bottom Sheffield United.

Two of the Clarets' five league wins this season have come against the Blades. Burnley scored twice in two minutes just before half-time through Jacob Bruun Larsen and

Lorenz Assignon. Gustavo Hamer pulled a goal back for the home side early in the second period. But United are destined

to head straight back down to the Championship due to their woeful defending. Lyle Foster was given far too much room in the box to turn in Assignon's cross.

Johann Gudmundsson rounded off the scoring with a fine finish into the far corner. Chris Wilder's men remain 10 points adrift of safety with just five games remaining. Arsenal will aim to

revive their title challenge later on Saturday when the Gunners visit Wolves. Mikel Arteta's men have not won for three games after losing 2-0 at home to Aston Villa in between a Champions League quarterfinal elimination by Bayern Munich.

However, that was Arsenal's only league defeat of 2024 and they can move back to the top of the table with victory at Molineux. Manchester City have a two-point lead over Arsenal and Liverpool with six games to go for each of

the title contenders. However, City are not in Premier League action this weekend as they take on Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-finals.

Liverpool are also looking to bounce back from a shock defeat to Crystal Palace last weekend when they visit Fulham on Sunday.

#### In brief

#### Girl shot dead

RAWALPINDI (INP) girl was gunned down during a gathering organized by the killer in honour of the friends here late Friday night. According to details, a flat owned by Saqib and located in jurisdiction of Airport police station was acquired by his friend Waqar and organized a gathering of friends. During the gathering, the organizer of party gunned down Hina Khan over unknown reasons. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident started raids to arrest culprit.

#### Bike lifter arrested

RAWALPINDI (INP): The police arrested member of a bike lifter gang here on Saturday and recovered four motorcycles from his possession. According to details, Morgah Rawalpindi launched crackdown against bike lifters in its jurisdiction. During operation, member of bike lifter gang identified as Ramzan Munir was apprehended besides recovery of four stolen motorcycles from his possession. SP Potohar, Naseer Nawaz said that the detainee will be prosecuted with solid evidence presented in court. He emphasized that those who deprive citizens of their valuable assets can't escape the grip of law.

#### **124,700** cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 124,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of cusecs According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1436.19 feet and was 38.19 feet higher than its dead level of 398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 40,100 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1128.20 feet, which was 78.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 62,900 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 54,400, 114,900, 35,300 and 7,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 81,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera

#### Chenab at Marala Police arrest six suspects

and 15,500 cusecs were

released from River

RAWALPINDI (INP): Rawalpindi police have arrested six individuals, recovered weapons and ammunition from their possession during operations in Rawalpindi on Saturday. According to the spokesperson for Rawalpindi Police, the arrests yielded a sub-stantial cache of weapons and ammunition. Saraj was found with 30 bore pistols and ammunition, Shehzad possessed 24 rounds, Waheed-ul-Hassan had 30 bore pistols and ammunition, Waseem Khan was caught with 30 bore pistols and ammunition, Afzal had 30 bore pistols and ammunition, and Rashed was found with a knife. Each police division took action against the suspects in their respective jurisdictions. Separate cases

Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) of the division stated that operations against those involved in aerial firing and illegal weapon possession are intensifying.

have been registered

against each individual.



Capital

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam addressing a meeting during the visit of commissioner office Afghan refugees Punjab.—APP Photo

# ANF recovers 39 kg drugs in nine operations

The Anti-Narcotics Force Rawalpindi while 16 kg (ANF) while conducting opium was recovered from 1.5 kg hashish from an nine operations across the Duki area in Balochistan. country, managed to recover 39 kg drugs and arrested informed that in an opera- kg hashish from an Headquarters recovered spokesman here

was recovered from a par- accused netted near Jinnah under process.

(APP): cel sent from UK in Colony Faisalabad.

seven accused, said an tion, 9 kg hashish was accused in Peshawar and on women rounded up near accused near Zero Point, turday. Sukkur highway. Kasur. He informed that 2.5 kg Similarly, 6 kg hashish was Case opium was recovered from recovered from a woman Narcotics Act have been parcel booked for arrested from IJP Road registered against the Australia at Lahore Rawalpindi, 2.5 kg hashish arrested accused while fur-Airport. 14 grams weed from the possession of an ther investigations are

The ANF also recovered

accused held in Teen Mela spokesman Chowk area in Attock, 1.2 from two 500 grams heroin from an

Cases under the Anti-

#### **Jadoo meets Syedal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), Arshad Khan Jadoon, and Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedal Khan Nasii Saturday pertaining matters about media codes of ethics and press freedom. During the meeting, the

CPC chairman congratulated the Senate's Deputy Chairman on assuming office, said a news Arshad Jadoon briefed

the Deputy Chairman regarding the functioning and role of the Press Council of Pakistan. He said that the PCP is

dedicated to ensuring press freedom in the country while also being resolute in its efforts to combat false and fabricated news.

The Deputy Chairman of the Senate pledged his full support to the PCP in its efforts to curb false and fabricated news.

# Dry weather to prevail in most parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD and Potohar region.

last Kashmir,

north Balochistan. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa: Jacobabad,

(APP): Bacha khan Airport 36, Pakistan Meteorological Peshawar (City 32, Airport Department (PMD) on Saturday has forecast mainly 28, Takh bai 17, Cherat 16, dry weather for most parts of Mirkhani 11, Balakot, Pattan the country and hot in south- 10, Drosh 09, Kalam 07, D.I ern parts. However, light Khan (Airport) 06, Chitral rain-wind/thunderstorm is 04, Parachinar 03, Kashmir: Punjab: D.G. Khan 11. erly wave was still present in Islamabad (Airport, Zero northern parts. During the point 03, Bokra, Golra 02, last 24 hours, rain-Saidpur 01), Mangla, Multan wind/thunderstorm occurred (Airport) 03, Narowal 02, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Jhelum, Kot Addu 01, Gilgit-

#### (R) Azam Suleman Khan likely in upper Khyber- Muzaffarabad (Airport 42, Pakhtunkhwa, Waziristan, City 35), Rawalakot 41, issued orders to the departments concerned to pay the pending dues as soon as possible. Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir Garhi Dupatta 32, Kotli 07, According to the synoptic Sialkot (City) 10, Murree 08, situation, continental air was Attock, Khanpur 06, **Body of** prevailing in most parts of Rawalpindi the country. A shallow west- Shamsabad 04, Chaklala 02), voung cable

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad, Baltistan: Bagrote Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan: Zhob 03mm. body of a 30 years-old The highest maximum cable worker was found in the wee hours of Saturday,

The rainfall recorded was temperatures recorded was Shaheed Malam Jabba 66mm, Dir Benazirabad 38, Chhor and (Lower 43, Upper 17), Mithi 37mm.

# **Tributes paid to** Kashmiri iconic leader

Muhammad Haider Khan, an iconic figure in Kashmir's struggle for selfdetermination, on his 58th death anniversary. The conference was

organized by Jammu criminatory Kashmir Peace and Justice organization Muzaffarabad, according to press statement received here Saturday. Speaking on the

occasion, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Peace and Justice Organization, Tanveer ul Islam underscored the organization's unwavering commitment to advocating the

tion of the issue.

their future prospects.

history

(APP): Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir, from the era of Speakers at a conference and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Dogra rule marked by syspaid rich tributes to Raja called for international inter- temic discrimination and vention for peaceful resolu- economic exploitation to the He also highlighted recent British India, which brought actions by the Indian govern- about massacres and forced ment, including the revoca- displacement of Kashmiri tion of Article 370 and dis- Muslims. They paid tributes legislation, to Raja Haider Khan, a which was aimed to alter the visionary leader who played demographic composition of a pivotal role in the resistance the region and marginalize movement against the anti-Kashmiri Muslims. He con- Muslim Dogra Maharaja demned these measures as and later joined the freedom further exacerbating the chal-struggle in 1947. His unwalenges faced by the Kashmiri vering commitment to the populace and threatening cause of Kashmiri selfdetermination and deep con-Other speakers on the cern for the people of the

aftermath of the partition of

occasion shed light on the occupied territory continue teries surrounding the tragharrowing rights of Kashmiris in Indian of to inspire generations ic incident.

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam near Zero Point on Expressway in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

# Muqam stresses dignified return of Afghan refugees

(SAFRON) and Kashmir charge of the ministry. Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Engineer Amir met with a delegation from importance of ensuring community, who expressed dignified return of Afghan nationals to their country. He expressed the views

Afghan Refugees Punjab Commissionerate Punjab arrival, the minister was es provided there, and warmly received by the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Abbas and Khan, Commissioner for Afghan Pakistan had been gener-Muhammad Arshad. During the visit, Commissioner Rana Muhammad Arshad about the Commissionerate

minister's first visit to the

Over Rs

13m dues

paid

RAWALPINDI (APP): On

the orders of Ombudsman

Punjab, more than Rs 13

million outstanding dues of

the complainants have been

According to details, on

Ombudsman Punjab Maj

(R) Azam Suleman Khan,

the District Account Officer, Chief Executive

Officer, District Health

Municipal Corporation, Chief Engineer Central Zone, Building Department

Chairman District Welfare

Fund Board have paid the

pending dues amounting to

over Rs 13.6 million to 13

13 complainants belong-

ing to different districts had

requested the Ombudsman

Punjab that they contacted

their respective institutions

several times to get family pension, monthly assis-

In this context, the

Ombudsman Punjab Maj.

found

who reportedly committed

suicide in the Awan Town

vicinity of Khanna police

According to police sources, the victim was

Identified as Hamza, the young man worked as a

cable technician who was residing in a rented house within the locality.

On Saturday morning,

the residents were surprised

to find Hamza's body hang-

ing from a ceiling fan at his

reported the incident as sui-

cide, but doubts have

emerged regarding the

Despite the initial

assessment, police sources

indicate that the circum-

Hamza's demise do not

align with typical suicide

enforcement officials have

launched a thorough inves-

tigation to unravel the mys-

Consequently,

surrounding

residence, police said. The authorities initially

cause of death.

stances

cases.

station Islamabad.

tance and pending dues.

Punjab and

orders of the

cleared.

Authority,

Education

Punjab,

Services

complainants.

Federal Minister for States Commissionerate Office in Commissioner for Afghan Frontier Regions Lahore since assuming

Engr. Amir Muqam also Muqam has stressed the the Afghan refugee business their gratitude for the facilities provided to them. Later, the minister

during a cvisit to the Office toured various sections of of Commissionerate for the Afghan Refugees here on Saturday. Upon his Office, reviewed the servicexpressed satisfaction with the arrangements. In his remarks, Engr.

Amir Muqam stated that many Afghan refugees, providing livelihood, education, and decades. He warned against and introduced the staff to mistreatment or harassment the minister. This was the of Afghan nationals.

The minister issued their home country.

Refugees in Punjab to collaborate with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner Refugees) to improve educational and healthcare facilities, especially in areas like Attock where a

significant number of

Afghan refugees reside.

Engr. Amir Muqam highlighted that Pakistan currently hosts 1.4 million Proof of Registration cardholders, 800,000 Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghan nationals. In Refugees Punjab, Rana ously hosting millions of Punjab alone, there are 180,000 POR and 80,000 them with protection, ACC cardholders, along with numerous undocuprovided a detailed briefing healthcare facilities for mented individuals he added and stressed the importance of ensuring their dignified return to

# RDA issues notices to illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI (INP): The housing schemes were sell- he added. He said that on District Authority, issued notices to two illegal housing schemes namely Park View City, Phase-II Rescue-1122 and Baku City.

The RDA spokesman told on Saturday that the Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate of RDA issued notices to the owners of two illegal housing schemes namely Park View City Phase-II near T-Chowk G.T Road Rawat and Baku City located in and mouza Trahia Chakbeli, which started development of the scheme as per law, work and marketing with-

out approval from RDA. He said that the illegal against the rules violators,

Rawalpindi Development ing plots fraudulently, the directions of the DG, Authority (RDA) has adding, the DG RDA had Kinza Murtaza, the citizens directed the Director were advised not to invest MP&TE that action in in illegal and unauthorized accordance with the law should be taken against illegal advertisements and marketing and First Information

of illegal housing schemes. warned the sponsors of illegal housing schemes to immediately stop the marketing of the unapproved illegal housing schemes and contact RDA Link Road Rawalpindi for getting NOC/approval

asked to check status of the housing schemes from RDA Reports should also be before investing or check RDA's official lodged against the owners www.rda.gop.pk. He said The Authority also that the owners and sponsors of illegal housing schemes were misleading the public through advertisements.

housing schemes.

The public was also

In this regard, the Planning Wing RDA had also requested the Cyber Crime Wing, FIA to take legal action against the otherwise, strict legal illegal and misleading action would be taken advertisements of illegal



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling a traditional ice lolly (Qulfi) to attract customers outside Faisal Masjid. -APP Photo

# DCC meeting briefed about performance

cers concerned briefed the Coordination Committee chaired (DCC), Chairman Qamar Islam here Saturday about performance of all the departments.

While briefing the meeting, the Health officials informed that four cases of dengue were reported in Rawalpindi this year.

Four dengue patients after medial treatment were discharged from the hospitals. 1273 dengue workers are working, the meeting was briefed and informed that another 1500 daily wages dengue workers have been recruited.

Last year, 270 daily wage workers were dismissed due to negligence on their part. During one year, medical treatment facilities were provided to 426,648 people in three major teaching hospitals of Rawalpindi including RIU and RIC. In one year, over 185,000 patients came to OPDs in hospitals while over 154,000 people were admitted, the meeting was briefed. After revamping of Holy Family Hospital, OPD is fully functional, the committee was informed. Reconciliation has also been ordered. council committee should tion level, Coordination Committee accordance with the law is Rawalpindi.

district administration offi- said that a mechanism should also be developed for first meeting of District crime prevention. The incidents of mobile snatching by and motorcycle theft are increasing day by day, he said adding, the number of personnel in police stations would be increased to control crime rate. Crackdown should also be launched against drug peddlers and

criminal gangs, he said.

He said that there were 58 dams in Rawalpindi region. The work on Chahan Dam has been completed and the water supply lines will be completed by June, the Committee was informed. There are 1807 government schools in Rawalpindi including 1039 primary, 249 elementary, 452 high and 67 higher sec-

ondary schools. The 4 inch pipelines are being laid from Swaan Camp and Ranyal to address low gas pressure problem in Rawalpindi, the Committee was briefed and informed that large-scale action is being taken against electricity thieves. Since 2023, 194 FIRs have been registered against the elec-

There are total 594 be formed at the police sta- housing societies in CEO tion level, Chairman Rawalpindi, and action in cers

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Qamar Islam directed and being taken against illegal housing societies, the Committee was informed, the meeting was told. The meeting was also briefed that action was also being taken against those looting the people on the names of the housing societies.

Chairman, Qamar Islam directed that complete details of all the public welfare projects should be brought in the next meeting. All-out efforts would be made to provide relief to people and all possible facilities would also be provided to them, he added.

Member Assembly, Malik Abrar, Daniyal Chaudhry, Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema, Members of Provincial Assembly Punjab, Bilal Yamin Sati, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Iftikhar, Naeem Ejaz, Imran Ilyas, Mohsin Khan, Raja Hanif Advocate, Malik Mansoor and Raja Sagheer Ahmed participated in the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by DG, RDA kinza Murtaza, Additional Commissioner Deputy tricity thieves while an Revenue, Nabil Riaz, AD inquiry against SDO Chakri Finance, Ramsha javid, VC Medical Rawalpindi, Dr. Umar, in CEO Health and other officoncerned

#### Driver killed, three injured in Kabul magnetic bomb explosion

KABUL (amu.tv): A driver was killed and three civilians were injured when a magnetic bomb attached to their vehicle exploded in Kabul's Kota-e Sangi neighborhood, said Khalid Zadran, spokesperson for Taliban security command in Kabul, citing preliminary information. Zadran reported that the blast targeted a minivan Wednesday evening in the densely populated area of Kota-e Sangi in west of Kabul.

# The Frontier Post **FGHANISTA** SHAWAAL 12, 1445 — SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

Iran executes four Afghan nationals for drug trafficking KABUL (amu.tv): The Iranian government

on Thursday executed four Afghan nationals, including two brothers, on charges of drug trafficking, according to the Iranian human rights group HAALVSH. HAALVSH identified the individuals as Zaman Taheri, Salam Taheri—the brothers—and Ghulam Qadir Samani and Ibrahim Noorzai. The organization cited sources stating that the four were arrested in

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

# Floods in Southern Afghanistan claim at least 9 lives



KABUL (Khaama Press): Kajaki districts of the Local authorities in province. Helmand province, Afghanistan, ple have lost their lives released a statement sayof two houses due to occurred Thursday night, and two children. heavy rainfall and flood- April 18th, in the Abghol

Head have Information and Culture ing in the Greshk and area of the Kajaki district. that on Friday night, April have lost their lives.

According to the statement, these houses were have lost their lives in of demolished as a result of severe flooding, claiming natural disasters in the announced that nine peo- of the Helmand province, the lives of seven members of a family, including following the destruction ing that the incident first one man, four women,

Authorities reported

19th, following the collapse of a house roof in a Tajik village in the district Helmand province, one woman lost her life, one child was killed, and another person injured.

This comes as heavy rainfall and floods in recent days have resulted in significant human and material losses in various provinces of the country.

Last night, due to severe rainfall causing the collapse of a house roof in the center of Bamyan province, three members of a family lost their lives. It is worth mentioning that dozens of people recent days due to deadly country.

According to the Ministry of Disaster Management of the interim government, 70 people

# Islamic Emirate says Afghan women now live with dignity

KABUL (TOLO News): The Islamic Emirate responded to remarks by US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, stating that women's rights in Afghanistan are secured within the framework of Islamic laws.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, told TOLOnews that women's rights are more secure now in the country than ever before.

The spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate said, "Our sisters will attain their rights granted to them by Islamic Sharia. We are confident that over time, all remaining issues will be resolved; but currently, Afghan women live in safety, protection, dignity, and modesty."

United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who to deal with the situation in previously spoke about continuing Washington's sup- to be front in center. We port for Afghan women and cannot leave Afghan girls, stated that women women aside ... They have must be central to any discussion between this country part of any discussions that and the interim government.

In a meeting in Tokyo, of the Islamic Emirate.

US Ambassador to the Linda Thomas-Greenfield said: "As we look for ways Afghanistan, women have to be front in center and we have with the Taliban."

Afghanistan.

Greenfield expressed Meanwhile, some politi-concern over what she cal analysts stress the full called the erasure of twenty observance of women's and years of human rights girls' rights in Afghanistan as

ly linked to the recognition

Zakaria Mohammadi, a university professor, told TOLOnews, "The Islamic Emirate has had a deficiency for two and a half years, which lies in the education sector of our sisters. It has been two and a half years since they have been banned from schools, and it has been over one and a half years since they have been

banned from universities." achievements, particularly crucial, adding that the Abdul Nasser Shafiq women's rights in recognition of women's stated, "As long as the

rights in the country is direct- women of Afghanistan do not receive attention to their rights, among which the right to education and work are very deserving, we cannot progress towards development.

Previously, the US State Department said that equal rights for women and girls in Afghanistan are a fundamental principle Washington's towards Kabul and that the 'Taliban' will not be recognized without the participation of women in Afghan society and economy.

# Afghanistan C'ship League kicks off



The third season of the Afghanistan provinces.

The league officially commenced

teams of Abu Muslim and football teams teams of Khorasan ball

Mohammad Yousuf faction with ensuring spread participation.

Football Federation, stated during Champions League kicked the league's opening cere- Afghanistan's off today, Sunday, April mony that this year's com-20th, in Kabul, with the petitions are different participation of twelve from previous years, with teams from various the presence of foreign

players in the matches.
"We have a different today, league today than the pre- ball team over India marks Sunday, April 20th, with vious leagues, as there a significant milestone in the presence of officials was no nationwide securi- our from the Afghanistan ty in Afghanistan during Hopefully, we are com-Football Federation and the last 40 years," Kakar mitted to furthering our the organization of two said. "Fortunately, with sporting In the first round of today foreign players are these competitions, the present in the squads of corners. Sar Sabzi Yashlar faced Afghanistan. Players from general director of physioff, with the next match Africa, Iran and Pakistan cal education and sports.

KABUL (Khaama Press): Kargar, the head of the security for organizing Football football matches.

Officials highlighted notable accomplishments sports, underscoring their commitment to its ongoing development.

The triumph of the

Afghanistan national footsports iournev endeavors. this nationwide security, extending from the heart of our nation to its farthest

Ahmadullah Wasiq, the scheduled between the are included in the foot- emphasized our dedicateams of Khorasan ball squads in tion to expanding sports Farayab and the Red Afghanistan." across provinces and dis-Khafi. He also expressed satistricts, fostering widein tion to expanding sports

#### **Turkish police** detain 45 Afghan refugees

Following the increase in the expulsion and detention of Afghan refugees in Turkey, authorities of this country have announced that they have detained 45 refugees in the cities of 'Balikesir" Çanakkale Fortress."

Turkish media reported on Friday, April 19th, that 29 Afghan refugees were detained in the city of 'Balikesir" and another 16 refugees in the city of 'Canakkale Fortress.

Authorities of this country have also reported the detention of four smugglers on charges of trafficking these refugees. Previously, Turkish media had reporte on the detention of hundreds of Afghan refugees for "lack of residence permits in Turkey.

On Thursday, April 18th, Turkish coast guards also reported the detention of 40 Afghan refugees on the shores of "Ayvalik."

The Turkish Ministry of Interior has emphasized that in 2023, 68,687 Afghan migrants were detained in this country. and some of them have been deported.

This comes as Turkish authorities have announced that operations to combat the entry and detention of illegal migrants throughout Turkey will continue.

It is worth mentioning that according to official statistics, more than 300,000 Afghan migrants live in Turkey.

# Islamic Emirate defends women's rights



their rights are secured.

deputy of the Ministry of Virtue and Vice, said that rights in the country. since the Islamic Emirate regained control of the country, 90 to 95 percent of immoral acts have been faced many responsibilities prevented.

KABUL (TOLO News): The daughter," which typically Ministry of Virtue and Vice involves settling a dispute said that women's rights in between families or tribes the country were previously by marrying off a girl from violated; however, now all one family to a man from the other.), which is now Sayed Ali Sadigullah, prohibited, as an example of past violations of women's

> The Deputy Minister of Virtue and Vice added, "The Islamic Emirate has

China announces aid

for Afghan migrants

In society, women are an oppressed class, and the Islamic Emirate defends their rights. Over time, we will not see immoral acts in the country, but now we see that 90 to 95 percent of immoral acts have been prevented, and reforms have been made in society."

However, some religious scholars told TOLOnews that alongside other rights, women should also be granted the right to work and education.

Abdul Rahman Abed, a religious scholar, said: "In Islam, men and women have the right to life, education, maintenance, and honor, and they are equal in these rights; therefore, all rights for women in the country should be granted."

Officials at the Ministry of Virtue and Vice speak of securing the rights of women and girls while it in defending the rights of has been more than two and The deputy of the min- the oppressed and still has a half years since schools istry cited the banning of the will and determination were closed to girls above Bad Dadan ("giving away a to stand with the oppressed. the sixth grade.

#### Smuggling of over 1,400 antiquities prevented

KABUL (TOLO News): Officials at the Ministry Information and Culture have stated that over the past two years, the ministry has prevented the smuggling of more than 1,400 antiquities out of the country.

Most of these antiquities were recovered from the provinces of Kabul, Nangarhar, Baghlan, and Jowzjan.

Khobaib Ghuffran, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and Culture, told TOLOnews: "Since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, the Ministry of Information and Culture has been able to prevent the smuggling of 1,460 antiquities in collaboration with security and intelligence agencies, and just in the year 1402, we prevented the smuggling of 1,182 antiqui-

According to officials at the Ministry of Information and Culture, the most commonly smuggled items include valuable coins, artifacts from the Kushan period, and Islamic artifacts, particularly from the Stone Age.

ties.

The spokesperson added: "The artifacts that are most targeted for smuggling are historical coins, meaning they are small items that can be transported easily.

These include artifacts from the Kushan era, the Islamic periods, and even the ancient Stone

However, some cultural experts and archaeologists say that these ancient artifacts are part of the national heritage of the country, and the government should make greater efforts than ever to protect them.

Gul Rahman, a cultural affairs expert, told TOLOnews: "Antiquities indicative Afghanistan's Afghanistan has a valuable history of five thousand years, and preserving and maintaining it is essential.'

Previously, Deputy Minister of Publications at the Ministry of Information and Culture, during a ceremony commemorating International Day for

Protection Cultural Heritage, mentioned that the leader of the Islamic Emirate had ordered measures to prevent the trafficking and sale of ancient and cultural artifacts in the country.

Khost clay workers seek support to boost business



KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): livelihood in this way but Some clay workers in south- the shortages of facilities eastern Khost province have and the non-availability of complained about their a proper location hit his dwindling business condi-work and he was unable to tion and asked authorities to promote it. support them in the revival of their business.

told Pajhwok Afghan News foot, there is a location that for the past 10 years he issue, if you don't have a duced at home. tional in Khost, and if not had been associated with proper location you cannot He said: "Too many supported their business this work and supported his work as well.

"There are too many problems that put our work Mirza, a clay worker, and business on the back

Jamil, another clay pot producer, said besides the non-availability of a proper addition, the clay producers location similar items will be also offered a locaimported from the outside tion according to their left a negative impact on their business.

clay pots which are pro- of clay workers are opera-

business.' Naseerullah is another

Pakistan, we produce simi-

lar vases and the imports of

such items damaged our

clay worker who asked the government for new necessary clay production equipment and assistance in market exploration for their products. On the other hand, Khost City Municipal admitted the shortages of proper locations for business and assured that the clay workers' and other shopkeepers' problems would be soon addressed.

Khost City Mayor Qari ismillah Bilal told Bismillah Pajhwok Afghan News that efforts were underway to find suitable markets for clay products and provide them proper locations as well. Bilal said: "Efforts are underway to find a suitable location every shop, in wishes.'

The clay work has a long He asked the govern- history in Afghanistan, ment to ban the import of nowadays a limited number tional in Khost, and if not vases are imported from can extinct.



Taliban announced that with ¥100 million in various sectors.

Hafiz Takal, the spokesperson for the ships Foreign Ministry of migrants from Pakistan.

The report outlines China has pledged to China's commitment to Sans Frontières and sevassist Afghan migrants provide ¥100 million to eral human rights organiexpelled from Pakistan support migrants facing zations have expressed forced expulsion from concerns since the begin-Pakistan in sectors such ning of the second phase Ahmed as cardiac care facilities of Afghan migrant expuldeputy and educational scholar-

Following extensive Taliban, stated in an inter- reactions from Pakistani view with media outlets media outlets on Monday, on Friday, April 19th, that April 15, reports emerged China has expressed about the second phase of readiness to aid returning forced expulsion of "illemigrants and According to the refugees from Pakistan.

meeting of the political their country in the sec- and increasing restrictions deputy ministries of the ond phase of the Afghan on women.

migrant expulsion from Pakistan. Meanwhile, Médecins

sion from Pakistan.

Médecins Sans Frontières mentioned that for many Afghans, this return entails packing their belongings and transporting them by horse, donkey, motorcycle, or group travel to a country curspokesperson, Chinese authorities raised these remarks during the third Afghans will return to equate health services,

# Finance minister briefs financial institutions on govt's economic reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister emphasizing the need for effective meeting with Jin Liqun, President of the for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad implementation and monitoring. Aurangzeb on Saturday briefed the chiefs of international financial institureform initiatives and development priorities by the government of Pakistan.

South Asia, Martin Raiser to discuss Pakistan's reform initiatives and development priorities in Washington DC. During the meeting, the finance minister expressed satisfaction that the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between Pakistan and the World Bank would be finalized soon. He underlined the government's reform thrust in the areas of energy, taxation and stateowned enterprises (SOEs), highlighting the pursuit of both short and long-term goals in these crucial sectors. Referring to his earlier meetings with the senior leadership of the World Bank, the finance minister stated that the Bank's focus on climate change, digitalization, and human capital development aligns well with the priorities of the govern-

The finance minister highlighted the government's vision to realize Pakistan's true economic potential in terms of sustainable economic growth. He stressed the importance of timely completion of tion of intended impacts and outcomes, regard. Muhammad Aurangzeb held a country.

**Palestinian** 

envoy calls

on Bilawal

F.P. Report

here on Wednesday.

He also briefed Mr. Raiser on the role

of the Special Investment Facilitation tions about the country's economic Council (SIFC) as a one-window facility for investment promotion and facilitation. Both sides agreed on the need for The finance minister met with World reforms in the agriculture sector, water Bank's Regional Vice President for management, and waste-water treatment. The finance minister also met with Brent Neiman, Deputy Under Secretary for International Finance at the U.S. Department of Treasury, on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Finance Minister briefed Mr. Neiman on Pakistan's positive economic indicators in the wake of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He informed that the government has prioritized reforms in taxation, energy sector, and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He underscored the United States' significance as Pakistan's largest trading partner and a key source of remittances and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). He briefed Mr. Neiman on the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investment into the country.

Finance Minister welcomed his visit to Pakistan after the presentation of the development projects and the realiza- budget and assured full support in this the infrastructure development of the

Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and discussed with him Pakistan's economic trajectory and explore avenues for enhancing cooperation in infrastructure development.

During the meeting, the finance minister briefed the AIIB President on Pakistan's positive economic indicators, including improving foreign exchange reserves, a stable currency, declining inflation rates, and a surging stock market. He highlighted the renewed institutional and foreign inflows into the market, on the back of the successful 9month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund

The finance minister informed Mr. Jin Liqun that Pakistan was looking to enter into a larger and extended program with the IMF, building upon the progress achieved under the SBA. He identified broadening the tax base, fixing the energy sector, and undertaking state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms as key priorities of the government. The minister expressed gratitude for AIIB's support in the aftermath of the devastating 2022 floods, particularly the co-financing of US\$ 250 million for the RISE-II program of the World Bank. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue working closely with AIIB on

# Passing out parade of cadets held at PMA Kakul

F.P. Report

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and MNA Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari According to a press

release from the Media Cell Bilawal House, discussions on Pakistan-Palestine relations took place during the meeting. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, speaking at event, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, particularly on the issue of Gaza.

ling ethos of the academy course under officer Ilyas and Pakistan Army alike.

under Muhammad under

military discipline at its Saudi Arabia. The COAS Khan of 14th Mujahid Course.

Sword of Honour was Commandant's Canes were awarded to academy's sen- awarded to course junior officer under officer Danish Sattar Nauman of 68th Integrated Course Abdullah and President's and course under officer Gold medal to company Sher Bano of 23rd Lady officer Cadet Course.

#### Ibrahim sworn in as PHC CJ F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim took oath as the High Court in an oath-taking ceremony of newly appointed Chief Justice PHC with Governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath here at Governor House on Saturday. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur also participated in the swearingin ceremony. In the ceremony, the Law Secretary read the Presidential Proclamation on the appointment of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim as the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim on his new responsibilities, expressed good wishes. Supreme Court Judge Justice Musrat Hilali, Peshawar High Court Judges, lawyers, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IGP etc. participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

#### Iran's envoy calls on Nagvi F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Saturday met with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in his office to discuss arrangements for the Iranian president's upcoming official visit to Pakistan.

The meeting discussed the details of the visit of the President of Iran along with the details of proposed agreements which would be discussed during the visit. The Iranian Ambassador congratulated Mohsin Naqvi on assuming the post of interior minister and appreciated his performance as caretaker chief minister of Punjab. "You completed public projects at an extraordinary speed during your tenure as Chief Minister," said the Iranian envoy. The minister termed the Iranian President's visit very important, in the context of the regional situation and said that the visit would be a milestone in the development

of bilateral relations.

#### Justice Ishtiaq WFP team calls on KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of World Food Program (WFP) headed by Ms. Coco Ushiyama called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar the other day and discussed with him matters related to various activities being carried out under WFP in the province specifically merged districts. Both the dignitaries also discussed the prospects for further expand-

ing the working scope between the provincial government and WFP and agreed to enhance mutual cooperation in the various The chief minister on this

occasion, lauded the cooperation of WFP in the various sectors of the province and

cial government needed national more support from WFP and other donor agencies for the development of merged quality education and merged districts is one of the priority areas of his govern- the same districts.

Program's initiative for providing educational stipends to the girls of merged districts is highly commendable, he remarked and said that despite the financial constraints, the government is not only committed but going all out to bring about positive change in the life of common man in the merged districts. However, he said that we need to have special attention and more concert-

ed efforts in order to bring

said that incumbent provin- those districts into the because the war against terrorism had badly affected the infrastructure in these areas, adding that promoting areas. Apart from this, there is a need to construct farmemployment opportunities in to-market roads to accelerate economic activities in

> The Chief Minister further said that the provincial government is planning to build small dams to ensure food security in the province, whereas introducing other modern technologies including tunnel farming is also under consideration in order to develop the agriculture sector on modern lines, in addition to establishment of food testing laboratories in the province, thereby ensuring quality of food commodities in the markets.



#### Speaking on the occa- Muhammad KARACHI: His Excellency General Sahir Javed of 149th PMA Long RAWALPINDI: Passing Shamshad Mirza said the Course. Ahmed Jawad Amin Rabei, out parade of cadets of The Chairman Joint the Ambassador, State of PMA has remained the cra-Palestine, paid a visit to 149th PMA Long Course, dle of leadership and center Chiefs of Staff Committee Bilawal House to meet with of excellence for cadets Overseas Gold Medal was

14th Mujahid Course, 68th Integrated Course, and 23rd Lady Cadet Course was held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul today, the ISPR said.

49 Cadets from friendly countries were also among the passed-out cadets. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was the Chief Guest while General Metin Gürak, Chief of the Turkish General Staff, was Guest of

joining the premier institu- awarded to friendly country tion of Army. He said senior under officer Fahad Saturday's parade served as Bin Aqil Al Towarqi Al an illustrious example of Fallaj from Kingdom of finest and reflected the ster- Cane was awarded to

Meanwhile, the coveted



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