



Chief Editor Shah Muhammad Awan

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PM Shehbaz vows to bring economic stability, ensure GDP growth

Premier announces restructuring of FBR to increase tax revenue



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed the resolve on Tuesday to bring macroeconomic stability and put Pakistan the path of growth. Addressing the Tax Excellence Awards eere mony in Islamabad, the premier said ensuring export-led growth through joint efforts was the only solution to make the country debt-free. The prime minister also said the government will strive to elevate productive sectors such as industries, information

as industries, information technology (IT), and

programme, the premier said the government is taking the step to bring stability to the country's

bring stability to the country's economy.

"The state will also focus on addressing the issue of inflation while ensuring growth and creating job opportunities," said PM Shebbaz, adding that the federal government along with the provincial governments will create an enabling situation for the private sector and address the issues faced by the sector. Shebbaz added that refunds to the tune of Rs65 billion were made to the exporters and expressed determination for timely payments of refunds in the future.

to provide electricity to industries at competitive rates with the aim of increasing productivity. In regards to investments, the PM said that a platform of the Scand Lattern to Excellent

In regards to investments, the PM said that a platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been formed to attract foreign inflow and the second phase of the Chrian-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be developed in a timely manner. Talking about tax reforms, the PM said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will be restructured and mentioned the bring of consultants, scheduled fornext month, for the complete digitalization of the tax collection body.

PIA privatisation



The board of directors will coordinate with the

session on April 1

President summons National Assembly



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the
National Assembly session on April 1.
The president has convened the assembly session
using powers conferred on him under Article 54 (1)
of the Constitution. President has convened the
assembly session in Parliament House on first April
(Monday) at 4 pm (afternoon).
This will be the second session of the present 16th
National Assembly of the country.
Also Read: Delay in KP Assembly session irks
opposition

plan approved by newly formed board



KARACHI:
The privatisation and restructuring plan of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Tuesday was approved by its board of directors which was recently constituted.
The 83rd meeting of the PIA's board of directors was held on March 25 during which the scheme of arrangement for the airline's privatisation and restructuring was approved, as per the official announcement.

The board of directors will coordinate with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), said the statement Meanwhile, as per the sources, the plan also discussed different proposals regarding the future of the organisation's employees. The government had appointed Ernst & Young—a global financial advisory firm—lo prepare the plan for the loss-making firm which completed its task during the caretaker setup.

PTI to stage protest demo for former PM's release



ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
(PTI) is all set to hold what it
calls the biggest ever protest
demonstration in Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa for the release
of the PTI founder.

of the PTI founder.

PTI chairman Barrister Gohar
Ali Khan said this while
talking to media on Tuesday.

He said the PTI founder had
said his life is for the country
and would die here while the
workers should not be
bewildered.

Gohar said Senate elections
and Donald Lu's statement
was discussed with the PTI
founder and he wanted Asad

Punjab, the PTI chief said. The PTI chairman said Zulfi Bukhari would also be a PTI candidate for Senate election from Punjab while Faizur Rehman and Dr Shafqat Ayaz would contest from KP. "Azam Swati would be a candidate for the technocrats post from KP. In case of any objection Noorul Haq Qadri will replace him." Khan said. He said Bushra Bibi had nothing to do with anything and she was sentenced to pureshrised the PTI founder.

He urged the chief justice to hear their cases and decide them at the earliest and let the not wait for 45 years.

Domestic consumption should determine crop cultivation: Maryam Nawaz

do not give them the actual value when they profit by genuine or artificial shortage.

Meanwhile, the consumers are the worst affected when there is shortage in the market. The prevailing inflation sustained by higher food prices is a sustained by higher food prices is a KITE TWINE DEATHS Maryam directed the officials to launch a campaign for installing safety rods on bixes to protect the people from fixte twines which have claimed multiple lives in recent days.

or the Christian community, as laryam expressed her condolences wer the death of sanitary workers in recent incidents.

An overwhelming majority of sani
workers in Pakistan are Christian

workers in Pakistan are Christian. In fact, the job announcements specifically mentions the religion as a basic requirement.
The chief minister regretted that death of a poor was only news in the society and promised that an effective legislation would be introduced to protect the lives of sanitary workers in the province.

Pakistan welcomes UNSC resolution demanding immediate ceasefire in Gaza



INLAMABAD
Pakistan on Monday
welcomed the adoption of the
United Nations Security
Council resolution 2728,
demanding an immediate
ceasefire in Gaza for the holy
month of Ramazan.

In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson said,

We also velcome the Security Council's call for allowing free flow of humanitarian assistance to the provision of humanitarian assistance, and ensuring protection of civilians in the entireGaza Strip." "Over the course of past six months, Pakistan has repeatedly expressed its strong and unequivocal condemnation of the indiscriminate use of force by Israel, calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the besieged people of Gaza, return of the displaced Palestinians.

Five Chinese among six killed in Bisham suicide attack



Islamabad to their camp in Dasuin the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said DIG Malakand Mohammad Ali Gandapur. "Five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack," Gandapur confirmed. A large contingent of law enforcers reached the site soon after the attack and cordoned off the area. Traffic on the route has come to a standstill as authorities investigate the attack.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolence over the death of Chinese nationals in the

suicide attack.

In July 2021, nine Chinese nationals and four Pakistanis were killed and around two dozen others suffered injuries when a shuttle bus they were travelling in plunged into a deep ravine after an explosion on board.

Talha Mahmood joins PPP, Kundi sees forward bloc in SIC's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter



ISLAMABAD
JUI-F Senator Talha Mahmood on
Tuesday announced his decision
to switch his loyalties and join the
PPP, citing his desire to work at the
national level as the sole reason

Addressing a press conference, Talha said everyone could see the prevailing economic crisis and political situation as well as the challenges being faced by Pakistan.

Pakistan.
"Each of us has to play a role to rescue Pakistan out of the crisis," said the former JUI-F leader who was flanked by Nayyar Hussain

Bostan and raisas and

chapter

strengthening the PPP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He added that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) was trampling upon the constitution — a reference to the provincial government's decision to disregard Governor Ghulam Ali's orders about convening the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly session. The opposition parties have moved the Peshawar High Court with a plea that the SIC government in the province with the stopped period seeded to the control of the province with the stopped period seeded to the stopped period seeded per

April.2
Heurged Khyber Babar Khan Swati to play his constitutional role and claimed that the PTI members – who are now using SIC as an umbrella after getting elected as independents in Feb 8 elections – were unhappy with the affairs.

Militant attack on Pakistan Navy base in Turbat foiled: ISPR

Terrorists attacked naval base on night of March 25 and 26.

RAWALPINDI

WebDesk Security forces successfully thwarted an attack attempted by terrorists on PNS Siddique — a naval base in Balochistan's Turbat city, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. The attack, which took place on the night of March 25 and 26, was foiled following the swift and effective response by the troops ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets, the military's media wing added.

assets, the liminary's finedia will Synergetic and effective response by the armed forces enabled the killing of all four terrorists in the ensuing joint clearance operation, the statement read. A blurred image of one of the killed terrorists.—ISPR A blurred image of one of the killed terrorists.—ISPR "Security forces in the vicinity were immediately mobilised to support

the naval troops," it added. In the wake of the attack, a 24-year old Frontier Corps trooper, Sepoy Noman Fareed, embraced martyrdom after gallantly fighting the terrorists. The martyred soldier was a resident of Muzaffargath and was serving in Frontier Corps Balochistan.

"Samitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area," the statement read, adding that

Pakistan's armed forces remain "committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs". The attack comes almost a week after a group of gummen stormed the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) colony with security forces acting swiftly and foiling the fierce attack.
Own troops, the ISPR said, employed for security responded immediately and effectively engaged the terrorists, and in ensuing fire exchange, all eight terrorists were sent to hell.



ditorial & Opinion



Gwadar Power Plant

Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the construction of Gwadar Power Plant.The minister made these directions while chairing a meeting to review the progress of Gwadar Power Plant. The meeting was attended by the officials of the ministry, Managing Director, Private Power, Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Commercial Minister Counselor from Chinese embassy, Mr. Yang Guangyuan and other relevant stakeholders. It is noted that PPIB is processing the 300MW coal

power project at Gwadar, being developed by M/s CIHC Pak Power Company (Pvt) Limited (CPPCL). The project is in the 'priority list' China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and holds paramount importance for the energy infrastructure and economic development of the region."The supply of electricity is essential in Gwadar and no delay will be accepted," said the minister while directing the concerned stakeholders to remove all the bottlenecks and start the construction work immediately. Terming Gwadar 'the gateway of CPEC', the minister said that the incumbent government has expedited the

implementation on phase 2 of the CPEC while integrated it with five new economic corridors. The development of Gwadar Port City, New Gwadar International Airport and East Bay Expressway is going to transform the city of Gwadar into a maritime trade hub and a new smart port for the region. It will also lead to industrialisation in Balochistan," he said. It is noted that all major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Markran with National Grid.

New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region. During PDM's tenure several projects were completed by the then government in Gwadar particularly related to water and electricity that were neglected by the previous government deliberately. Besides, in budget 2023-24, the allocation development funds for Balochistan had been doubled.

Acknowledging The Unshakable Faith Of Palestine.

Rabiya Yousuf

With utmost respect brave Palestinians. whose faith triumphs during the month of Ramadan, it is disheartening to witness the savagery displayed by Israeli It is not unjust to label Israel as "war criminals" due to their brutal exploitation of human rights and the restriction of aid into Gaza. Their use of starvation as

a "weapon of war" constitutes a clear war crime. cruel and unacceptable methods employed by Israel have led to a dire situation of hunger, starvation, and famine. However, amidst these challenges, the Palestinian people continue to demonstrate an unshakable faith that serves as an inspiration for all Muslims The patience exhibited by Palestinians aligns with the teachings of Ramadan.

Despite regular storming of the Al Aqsa mosque by Israeli forces, Palestinian worshippers remain steadfast in their devotion during this holy Given the ongoing barbaric situation in Palestine, it is imperative for the Muslim community to unite and provide aid and support. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer in bringing about positive change.

Pseudo English-medium schools

Aqeel Malik

"The most important word in the English language is (Eleanor Roosevelt) hope' English is an international language and it is a means of communication in science, research, business, entertainment, technology, and the like. For Pakistan, the importance of the English language can not be denied by a sane mind. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, English language is not taught. You might not see this assertion eve to eve, since we have many private English medium institutes running in Pakistan. There have indeed been numerous Englishmedium institutes working in Pakistan, but, according to a report conducted by the British Council, in nearly all the pseudo-English-medium schools in Pakistan, the medium of communication between the

students and the teachers is "Urdu". The need of the hour is for the parents to be vigilant about the school they get their progeny admitted to. If you are paying thousands of rupees just to get your child into a good English-speaking environment. but the school has been unable to meet the requirements of the students, you are wasting your money. Now, some critics might come up with the notion that English is taught in every school and this accusation is just based on paranoia. The answer to this question is simple. "English is taught in schools as a subject, not as a language". There is a dire need to teach English as a language rather than a subject. There are two kinds of learning in this context. One is learning a language, and the other is learning about a language. The former is vital for the progress of the youth and the prosperity

of our country. If you are learning about a language, you will have to learn grammar, rules, and all the theory. Here, the problem is that, if you go abroad or be a part of an educated social circle, no one is, preferably, going to ask you to define the "verb". Instead, one's communication skills come into play. Henceforth, it's our duty as well as the responsibility of the government to be on the lookout for the fabricators and those who are just all hat and no cattle regarding teaching the language in consideration. Moreover, it is the foremost task of the administration of those institutions to hire teachers who are well-equipped with the tools and expertise to impart an impactful knowledge of the use of language. Since we have quoted "Eleanor Roosevelt" about hope in the beginning, we hope this problem will be dealt with with an iron hand.



Iran and Shanghai Cooperation Organization

yet. The new Iranian president,



Dr. Muhammad AkramZaheer

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an organization led by China and Russia with the participation of some regional countries. Iran has been participating in the SCO since 2005 as an observer. It also has applied for full membership several times. It took more than 15 years for the endorsement of its permanent membership. Iran's frustration with the United States prompted him to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In addition, Afghanistan's neighboring countries, including Iran, pay close attention to the country's situation. In fact, they are trying to prevent large numbers of jihadists from entering Afghanistan, which might pose a threat and harm to regional countries particularly. The fight against terrorism is also one of the key issues of the SCO. By joining the SCO or strengthening counterterrorism cooperation within the SCO framework, Iran will maximize its regional worth and security.

Iran has long been isolated by some Western countries, led by the United States. Washington continues to impose sanctions on Iran. Although US President Joe Biden's administration has promised to restore the Iran nuclear deal, he has done nothing about lifting sanctions

Ibrahim Raisi, and his government have no illusions about improving Iran-US relations, and Raisi has repeatedly agreed to work with China and Russia. Due to the Iranian nuclear issue, the West has long considered Iran a doubtful and insecure to the international community. After the joining with the SCO; Iran will avoid such diplomatic and political isolation to the point of sightlessness. This means that Iran's recognition as an important country of the region by some major powers will to bring significant political benefits for it. In terms of security, the SCO's counterterrorism efforts are much significant. Now Iran is a member of the SCO, it will cooperate in intelligence sharing and coordination with other member states. It will also serve as a strong deterrent to the possible spread of extremism in the future of

Moscow has stated that Tehran plays important role in the region and works closely with SCO. According to the Tehran Times, during a telephone conversation between Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir Abdullahian, Abdullahian thanked Wang for supporting Iran's permanent membership in the SCO. On the other hand, China has been little bit cautious of Iran's entry into the SCO because US-Iran tension. China had reservations about Iran's membership, which had always taken a hard line

Afghanistan.

against the United States, and China did not want to give the impression to the international community that the SCO was an organization aimed at competing with the United States. But, Beijing also hopes that Tehran would achieve peaceful coexistence with the Washington and never provide any chance to the United States for incitements. China and Iran have formally signed a 25-year long-term cooperation agreement in March, reflecting China's desire to strengthen cooperation in various fields. Now Iran has become a member of the SCO, then strengthening ties with Iran is not a bad option for China.

This situation means that China and Russia have built up consensus on the regional issues. But it may take some time to complete all the procedures. Against the backdrop of the confrontation between China and the United States and between Russia and the United States, it would be a tendency for China, Russia and Iran to strengthen their cooperation and alliance. These three countries are much important to the region. Their solidarity, especially cooperation through the SCO platform, will serve as a counterbalance or deterrent for the United States. The newly appointed foreign minister of Iran Hossein Amir-Abdullahian welcomed the endorsement and states that "important impact of on the process of Iran's comprehensive cooperation in the lines with its neighborhood and Asia centered policy".



${f R}$ egional News





Negligence of MC management took another life; A 2-year-old girl fell into the sewer & died

SoonTimes Correspondent
Sargodha:
The administration in Sargodha has
made a mockery of CM Punjab's Clean
Punjab programme. The negligence
and carelessness of Metropolitan
Corporation management and CO
Corporation continues. In Railway
Colony, 2-year-old Iman Fatima
drowned in the sewer and died. Iman

Fatima went out of the house and fell into the sewer. The girl was pulled out of the drain and shifted to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. The girl's father says that the sewage drain should be covered immediately so that no further damage occurs. Iman Fatima's mother says that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif' should take action against those responsible so that such incidents do

not happen in future. Residents of the area say that the municipal corporation has been asked many times to clean the sewage drain and cover it, but they have failed to do so. CO Tariq Paroya is not even ready to listen to us. CO Municipal Corporation and administration are flouting the orders of Chief Minister Punjab. Immediate action should be taken against them.



NPC & Christian Youth Welfare organize seminar

Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony and Christian Youth Welfare Harmony and Christian Youth Welfare, DPO Sargodha Faisal Kamran, Chairman National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony District Sargodha Amjad Mehmood Bhatti, Shaan Masih from Christian Youth Welfare specially participated in the seminar. The event was attended by representatives of all religions across Sargodha, including business community, lawyers, heads of Pakistan Awami Tehreek, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Muslim League-N and other religious, political and social organizations. Addressing the participants of the event, the speakers said that the challenges faced by Pakistan in the present era will have to

be tackled together. We have to work together for the security of the country without regard to caste, community, color, race and religion to bring the anti-patriotic elements who are trying to spread chaos in Pakistan to justice. We should all play our Pakistan to justice. We should all play our part in promoting peace. On this occasion, iftar dinner was also organized for all the participants. At the end, a special prayer was made for the safety and development of the country.

Commissioner Gujranwala visits Pindi Bhattian & reviews development projects



Soon Times Correspondent

Pindi Bhattian:
Commissioner Gujranwala Syed
Naveed Haider Shirazi visited Pindi
Bhattian. The Commissioner reviewed
Chief Minister's Clean Punjab
Campaign, Nigehban Ration Package,
development projects and public
welfare initiatives of the Chief
Minister. The Commissioner also laid

the foundation stone of "Ruqaya Begum Chauhan Training Center" organized by "Meri Roshni Trust" at Pindi Bhattian. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner visited various examination centers and reviewed the arrangements for the peaceful and transparent conduct of the examinations. He also visited the construction site of disposal works for Pindi Bhattian City.

The distribution of The distribution of Nigehban ration package to deserving families during Ramadanisa historic public service program benefiting millions of people. Commissioner Gujarnwala said that at the cost of 30 billion rupees, in the history of Punjab, on the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Ramadan ration Sharif, the Ramadan ration

mistructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Ramadan ration package is being delivered to the homes of the beneficiaries, which is a historie program of public service. The Commissioner said that the implementation of other public welfare measures including the Chief Minister's Clean Punjab campaign will solve the basic problems of the people and give them relief. Cleanliness of two and rural areas has clearly improved with the Clean Punjab campaign.



rime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolence over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in district Shangla on March 26, 2024.

Sher Afzal Marwat denies altercation with fellow PTI members

SoonTimes Correspondent ISLAMABAD:
A day after Pakistan Tehreck-e-Insaf's (PTI) core committee meeting was reportedly marred by a heated exchange between leaders, the party's newly elected lawmaker, Sher Afzal Marvak, has refuted the reports regarding the squabble.
Clarifying the situation with

squabble. Clarifying the situation with regards to the reports, the politician termed the exchange of bitter words with party's Karachi-based leader, Shamim Naqvi and others as "false and malicious".



"The debate in a party meeting ought not to be construed as differences in the party," he wrote in a post on X₁, formerly Twitter.

Marwat reiterated that the party is "united" and its members will "continue to work together like a rock". Allegations and counter-allegations allegedly became a reason for a bitter argument between Marwat and Niazullah Niazi on the

question of the ing on Monday 'batsman' (PTI-Nazriyati) during the party meeting on Monday During the meeting, Marwat asked who brought the (idea of) 'batsman' and that all the damage to the party was caused by it. After having been denied allotment of 'bat' as its election allotment of 'bat' as its election symbol, the PTI first decided to field its candidates from the platform of a break-away faction — PTI-Nazriyati, which received 'batsman' as its election symbol. But it did not materialise after which the party fielded its candidates as independents.



PM Shehbaz, President Zardari discuss political, economic situation in first meeting

ISLAMABAD

Soon Innes Correspondent
ISLAMABAD:
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and
President Asif Ali Zardari held their first
meeting on Tuesday since assuming charge
of their respective offices.
PM Shehbaz and President Zardari
exchanged views on the country's overall
political and economic situation. Both
high-ups expressed joint commitment to
steer the country out of challenges.
They also discussed measures for
providing relief to the masses during the
month of Ramadan.
It may be noted that the PML-N formed the
government in Centre and Punjab with the
support of PPP, with both parties pledging
to work together to end the economic crisis
in the country.

in the country.

Taking the country's reins, the PML-N expressed confidence in the economic revival of the country after a few years of

hardship.
Party's supremo Nawaz Sharif expressed hope that Pakistan will come out of difficulties in the next two years by taking

difficult decisions.

T believe the next two years oy taxing difficult decisions.

T believe the next 1.5 or 2 years will be difficult but we have to stay united [during the difficult times] and face our opponents," he said while addressing the parliamentary party meeting after the decision on government formation last month.

decision on government formation last month. He pledged on the government's behalf of providing relief to the masses by bringing down inflation, food prices and utility bills as well as stabilising local currency value against the US dollar. The PML-N supremo had also heaped praise on his younger brother and party president Shehbaz Sharif, saying he dealt with immense challenges during his brief stint in power.

KP MPAs-elect urge ECP to defer Senate polls till they are sworn in

PESHAWAR:
Members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Assembly elected on reserved seats on
Tuesday urged the Election Commission of
Pakistan (ECP) to defer the Senate elections
until they are sworn in.
A five-member bench, headed by Chief
Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan
Raja, heard the petition filed by the newlyelected women and minority MPAs, against
the denial of oath-taking.
The newly-elected members appeared
before the ECP bench in Islamabad. The KP
Assembly secretary was also present on this
occasion.

occasion.

During the hearing, complainants' counsel
Shah Khawar said the ECP issued
notifications for the female members on
March 4, so the KP speaker should have
taken oath from them after that.

sharin 4, so tine Kryspeaker shound have taken oath from them after that. The KPAssembly speaker was bound by the constitution and law to convene a session and take oath from them, he maintained. The chief election commissioner asked the lawyer how the ECP could give instructions to the KP Assembly speaker. The ECP also inquired the KP Assembly preparentarity why the newly-elected MPAs were not being swornin. In his reply, the secretary said the speaker never refused to administer them oath, nevertheless the act of KP governor's convening the session was "illegitimate". Earlier, the KP governor wrote a letter to summon the assembly session on the opposition's request, upon which the KP

government raised objections.

The assembly secretary said legal interpretation for the governor's convening a session was being carried out.

They would see if the governor could himself convene a session without a summary or not, he said, adding that the MPAs-elect would be sworn in when the assembly session is called.

ECP member Ikramullah asked what the consequence would be if the KP Assembly speaker did not accept the top electoral body's order. He questioned whether the election commission even had the authority to take action against the speaker if he denied acting upon the ECP porder.

Khawar replied the ECP could not intervene in assembly 's internal proceedings.

The ECP director general for law responded it was the commission's responsibility to hold polls and the matter of taking oath following the elections also lied within the election body's jurisdiction.

He added that electoral body could issue instructions for taking oath of the members and could intervene if the speaker delayed fulfilling his responsibility in this regard. After hearing the arguments, the ECP reserved its verdict in the case. Opposition approaches PHC A day ago, the opposition parties in the KP Assembly also moved the Peshawar High Court (PHC), seeking the court's intervention on the issue of oath-taking of members on the reserved seats.



International & Sports News \$



Bangladesh bolstered by return of star all-rounder for second Sri Lanka Test



(Web Desk) - Bangladesh make t changes to their 15-member squad the second Test against Sri Lanka Chattogram

the second Test against Sri Lanka in Chattogram. In a big boost to Bangladesh's hopes of drawing the Test series against Sri Lanka as Shakib Al Hasan makes a comeback to the squad for the second match, starting 30 March.

starting 30 March.
Shakib returns to international cricket
for the first time since the ICC Men's
Cricket World Cup in November 2023.
His campaign was cut short ahead of
Bangladesh's last World Cup match
against Australia due to a left index

Bangladesh's last World Cup match against Australia due to a left index fingerinjury. Earlier this year in January, he was diagnosed with a retinal condition but the Bangladesh medical team were "optimistic about managing the condition end of Tectively with a conservativeapproach, with a conservativeapproach, and the state of the Shakib, who last played a Test in April 2023, comes back at the expense of Tawhid Hrindey, who was in the 15-member squad for the first match but din of feature in the XI.

The Tigers have been forced into making another change to the squad with Mushfik Hasan ruled out due to a left ankle injury. Hasan Mahmud has been named as herplacement, who brings experience from his 39 appearances in ODIs and T201s for Bangladesh but is yet to make his Test debut.

MCG to host its first-ever day-night Test during Women's Ashes



(Web Desk) - Cricket Australia (CA) announced the schedule for the multiformat Women's Ashes series as part of a blockbuster home summer. The iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (McG) will host a day-night Test for the first time when Australia host England in a one-off match as a part of the Women's Ashes.

Adding to the significance, this will mark the first Women's Test match at the MCG since 1949, coincidentally featuring the same two rivals, Australia and England.

Australia and England.
The one-off Test, commencing on 30.
January 2025, will be the last leg of the Women's Ashes. The multi-format series will start with three ODIs on 12
January before the two sides face off in three T201s, starting 20 January.
The multi-format points system wavards four points for a Test win, two points if it is drawn and two points for a cach win in the limited-overs matches.

Senegal's opposition leader Bassirou Diomaye Faye set to become president



Senegal's little-known, 44-year-old opposition leader Bassirou Diomaye Faye was named the country's next persident, less than two weeks after being released from prison to run in the election.

While official results of Sunday's vote were not yet available, the former prime minister who was the other frontrumer, and who was backed by incumbent President Macky Sall, conceded defeat abased on preliminary results. Sall followed with congratulations, also naming Faye as the winner. Faye's victory reflected frustration among youth with high unemployment and concerns about governance in the West African nation. In his first speech delivered as president-elect late Monday, the former tax inspector promised to a fresh chapter following the months of violence and many political arrests that led up to the

"I pledge to govern with humility and transparency, and to fight corruption at all levels. I pledge to devote myself fully to rebuilding our institutions," he said, restating promises made during his campaign.



Schedule for Pakistan-Australia ODI. T20I series announced

Nadeem's mother said she was thankful to the Almighty and the whole nation for praying for his success.

LAHORE
Sports Desk
Pakistan are set to visit Australia for a white-ball series scheduled for November this year. The tour, which will mark the start for Australia's white ball schedule for the summer of 2024-25, will comprise six games in total – three ODIs and as many T201s – the pakistan will be returning to Australia's will be returning to Australia after a gap of nearly II months, after having competed in the Benaud-Qadir Trophy, which comprised three Test matches played across Perth, which comprised three Test matches played across Perth, The three-match Dettol Men's ODI series will begin on 4 November at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. Australia will then play in Adelaide and Perth on 8 and 10 November, respectively. Pakistan last played an ODI series on Mustralian soil back in 2016, which saw the home-side come out on top.

Be Was thankful to the Alm Subsequently, Pakistan and Australia will face one another in the three-match Dettol Men's T201 Series, Pakistan's last T201 outing on Australian soil was back in 2022, wherein the men in green appeared in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The series will start at The Gabba in Brisbane. Action will then move to the Sydney Cricket Ground; Pakistan's last T201 at the venue saw them beat New Zealand at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-final Host World Cup semi-final Host will be the last stop on the tour, where the final T201 will be played on IS November. Full schedule: ODI Series 4 November: Adelaide Oval, Adelaide 10 November: Perth Stadium, Perth

Perth T20I Series 14 November: The Gabba,

16 November: SCG, Sydney 18 November: Bellerive Oval, Hobart

Russian investigators query families of shooting suspects in Tajikistan, sources say

DUSHANBE

Russian investigators were in Taji kistan on Tuesday, questioning the families of four men charged with carrying out a deadly attack on a concert hall near Moscow, three Tajik security sources told Reuters.

sources to a Request.

The sources, who were not authorised to comment publicly, said Tajik security officials had brought the families to the capital of Dushanbe from the towns of Vakhdat and Gissar, and from the Rudaki district.

Vakidat and Gissar, and from the Rudaki district.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon was personally overseeing the investigation on the Injik side, the sources said.

On Monday, making his first public comment on the attack, Rakhmon of the side of the sources said to be sufficiently and the side of the side

net worth shoots past \$6bn; enters Bloomberg's 500 richest list

Donald Trump's



Donald Trump has recently found himself caught up in the middle of legal penalties and operating losses in his businesses as his presidential campaign faces a cash crunch However, instead of seeing a decline in

his wealth amid these challenges, Trump became wealthier than ever on Monday

became weattmer than ever on Monday afternoon, CNBC reported.

As he attended his New York eivil fraud case ruling. Trump's net worth elimbed over \$4 billion to about \$6.5 billion, according to Bloomberg, a global ranking of the \$500 wealthiest people in the world.

the world.

This spike was attributed to a recent merger between Trump's social media company, Trump Media and Technology Group, and a shell company, Digital World Acquisition Corp, known as DWAC.

DWAC.
The 77-year-old Republican presidential candidate owns nearly \$8% of Trump Media, which operates his social mesis to Futh Social, making his stock worth \$45 billion on paper at DWAC's closing price of \$549 \$5 a share on The share price of DWAC rose by 35% on Monday as a New York appeals court reduced the amount of cash needed for a bond, saving the former president from paying a \$454.

amount of eash needed for a bond, saving the former president from paying a \$454 million civil fraud penalty. Earlier on Monday, Trump struggled to secure a bond over \$550 million to prevent the state from seizing his real estate assets.

estale assets.

However, an appeals court ruled that
Trump only needed a \$175 million bond
and paused the judgment from coming
due for 10 days.
Trump was included in the Bloomberg
Billionaire's lades for the first time in his
life as a result of the media merger and the
adjusted bond.
According to Bloomberg, the estimate of
Trump's net worth is based on ethics
disclosures, public filings and staff
reporting.

Perth to kick off India's blockbuster test tour of Australia



MELBOURNE
Perth will host the opener of the blockbuster five-test Australia-India series in November, which will conclude with the traditional New Year's test in Sydney, Cricket

Australia said on Tuesday Australia said on Tuesaay.
The teams' first five-test series in over 30 years will kiek off on Nov. 22 at Perth Stadium, where Virat Kohli's India were well beaten in their only previous visit to the

The second match of the series will be a day-night test in Adelaide from Dee, 6, with Brisbane to host the third at the Gabba from Dee, 14 and Melbourne to stage the fourth match in the traditional 'Boxing Day's lot from Dee, 26.
Australia, who thrashed India a last year's 50-overs World Cup final, have not beaten the South Asians in a home test series since 2014-15, losing both the 2018-19 and 2020-21 contests.
Cricket Australia also published its schedule for the Women's Ashes between Australia and England, which starts on Jan. 12 with an ODI in Sydney.
The Ashes warps up with a one-off, day-night test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground For Jan. 30, the first pink ball international the starten shall be the series of the

Two Moscow attack suspects travelled 'freely' because no arrest warrant: Turkish official

ISTANBUL
A Turkish security official on
Tuesday said two of the Moscow
concert hall attack suspects
travelled "freely" to Russia as no
arrest warrants were issued against
them.
Russian authorities detained 11

arrest warrants were issued against them.
Russian authorities detained 11 people in connection with Friday's attack, which saw camouflaged gunmen storm into Crosus (19 Hall, open fire on concert-goers and set the building ablaze, killing at least 139 people.
Two of those, Tajik nationals Rachabalizoda Saidakrami and Kamasiah Faridania. "were able to travel freely between Russia and Turkey since there was no warrant for their arreat", the official told AFZ, speaking on condition of anonymity.
The two had both spent time in Turkey shortly before the attack and entered Russia fugether on the same flight from Istanbul, the official said.

official said.

The Islamic State group has said they were responsible for the Moscow attack, and IS-affiliated media channels have published graphic videos of the gunmen inside the venue. nside the venue. Russian President Vladimir Putin





Turkey on February 20 and returned to Russia via Istanbul airport on March 2. The suspect checked into a hotel in Istanbul's conservative Fath in Gighbourhood on February 21 and checked out six days later. During his initial questioning, he admitted to have travelled to Turkey because his vis in Russia had expired, according to the Turkish official. Fariduni posted eight times on his social media account on February 23, with the location set as "Aksaray Istanbul", and the pictures apparently showing the Fatih Mosque, the official said.



on future king, Prince William

LONDON
With both his father King Charles and his wife Kate absent from public duties as they undergo treatment for cancer, Britain's Prince William has come under the media and public spotlight like heaves before As heir to the throne and as a son of the late Princess Diana, the 41-year-old is accustomed to the serutiny that comes with being a British royal.
But his father and wife's absence from public life since mid-January have meant even greater attention has turned to the future King William V. From the moment his grandmother, the late Queen Elizabeth, died in September 2022, he would have been all too aware of the "scary" reality of his destiny, said Anna Whitelock, history of the monarchy professor at London's City University.
He knows he has to be ready to be king," she told Reuters.
"When (the king's) cancer diagnosis came, of course, I'm sure his first reaction was as a son, concern for his father. But there is also this big weight of responsibility that suddenly starts to kind of descend upon his shoulders. And I'm sure he's very-vary aware of that."
William was at the centre of soon golden years for the royal family in the last decade with public celebrations and outpourings of support at his and Kate's wedding in 2011, the births of their three children, and milestones in the reign of his grandmother Elizabeth. But the last few years also saw a high-profile fallout with Prince Harry, his younger brother's exit from royal duties along with wife Meghan, and their criticism of the institution.

There was also the scandal over his uncle Prince Andrew's friendship with the late see offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The death of Elizabeth and of her husband Philip the year before left her monarchy looking noticeably smaller, something brought into the monarchy looking noticeably smaller, something brought into the shape relief by the current absence of Charles, 75, and Kate.

"He must be absolutely devastated and worried about his wife, about his children and about his father, on top of all the problems he's had with his brother," royal biggrapher Claudia Joseph said.

"I think if's very lough But ... he's made of stems stuff. He's very stoie." WILLIAM WILL STEPUP That contrasts with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the standard of work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers greated of "work-swift with the with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-swift with the view tabloid newspapers presented of "work-proyal duties and won praise for championing causes including the environment and mental health.

"I'm sure when the time comes, Prince William will step up to the plate," said Robert Hardman, author of recent biography 'Charles Elizabeth II.—"I mean, we saw how in the afternath of the eash of Elizabeth II.— the longest lived, longest rigging monarch we've ever had people thought, how do you follow that 'Well, the answer is monarchy gets on with it."

White the role of monarch is meant to be as a non-political head of state, whitelocks and William would find it very difficult to spend his time as king just wearanch we're ever had people would actually welcome." "a more interventionist monarch."