



"Climate Change is a huge challenge for all of us. Gwadar received record rain this year and we are trying hard to rehabilitate the victims"

CM Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti

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Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

Saudi Ambassador announces 9,000 shelter camps & 9,000 ration bags for the calamity-hit people of Gwadar

Says we'll help our Pakistani brothers in this difficult time

QUETTA/ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has announced relief measures for calamity-hit Gwadar as hundreds of houses were damaged due to torrential rains in the port city.

The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malikiy visited Balochistan and announced relief measures for the people of Gwadar. "We'll help our Pakistani brothers in this difficult time," the ambassador said, after meeting the Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Khan Bugti.

The ambassador announced 9,000 shelter camps and 9,000 ration bags for the calamity-hit people of Gwadar. He also spoke Urdu and chanted the slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' while announcing relief items for Balochistan.

Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti paid his gratitude to Saudi Arabia for announcing relief items for Balochistan.

"Climate Change is a huge challenge for all of us. Gwadar received record rain this year and we are trying hard to rehabilitate the victims," Bugti said. Earlier, the port city of Gwadar was declared a calamity-hit area following torrential rains last month.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also visited the areas of the coastal city which suffered damage due to torrential rains last week.

As many as 3,100 houses in Gwadar, and 2,500 in Jiwni were damaged. Besides, 95 houses were completely destroyed and more than 200 cattle were killed.

The officials claimed that 355 people were accommodated in government residences, 800 were rescued and shifted to their relatives' homes. Pakistan Army and Navy established medical camps to provide health facilities to the victims.

Meanwhile National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre Pakistan has mobilized an emergency relief convoy to support the flood victims of Gwadar. Under this humanitarian initiative, a dispatch of five containers loaded with 9,000 food packages and 9,000 shelters, totaling 875 tonnes departed from Islamabad to the rain-impacted areas of Gwadar on Sunday. The departure ceremony, held at the Jinnah Stadium, Sports Complex, Islamabad on Sunday, was graced by Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sarfraz Bugti, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malikiy, along with officials from NDMA.

The NDMA has diligently coordinated with Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan, ensuring seamless liaison with local authorities, facilitating inter-provincial transit, and securing the necessary clearances to guarantee unimpeded delivery of this crucial aid. Upon arrival, the consignment will be entrusted to the PDMA Balochistan and local administration, who will oversee the equitable distribution of the relief item to the communities ravaged by the rains in Gwadar. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa, administering the oath of office of the President of Pakistan to Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Former President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, were also present. APP

Asif Ali Zardari sworn in as President of Pakistan for second term

PM Shehbaz, former president Dr. Arif Alvi, Nawaz Sharif, Bilawal, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, COAS Syed Asim Munir, CJCS Sahir Shamshad Mirza, others attend oath taking ceremony

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, who was elected as the 14th president of the country with a big margin a day earlier, has sworn in the head of state on Sunday.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa administered the oath to Asif Ali Zardari during the ceremony held at the President House.

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, former president Dr. Arif Alvi, PML-N supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, former finance minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, former speaker national assembly raja Parvez Ashraf, former prime minister Makhdoom Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Syed Khurshid

Ahmed Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar, Assefa Bhutto Zardari, Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, former first lady begum Samina Arif Alvi, services chiefs of Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy, chief ministers and governors of the provinces, members of assemblies, and ambassadors attended the oath-taking ceremony.

Asif Ali Zardari, who was the joint candidate of the ruling alliance, was elected as the country's president for the second time on Saturday after he defeated PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai by a huge margin. The president-elect secured 411 electoral votes in parliament and all four provincial assemblies with the backing of allied parties — mainly Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P). Meanwhile, his rival, Mahmood Khan Achakzai bagged 181 votes as he was only able to secure the majority of votes in the PTI-backed SIC-dominated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

In the National Assembly, Asif Zardari bagged 225 votes while Mahmood Achakzai received 119 votes. Meanwhile, in the Sindh Assembly, he gained 53 votes while his opponent could only get three.

Asif Zardari received 43 votes in the Punjab Assembly, eight in the KP Assembly and 47 in the Balochistan Assembly while his rival bagged 18, 41 and 0, respectively. This is the second time Asif Zardari has won the presidency. He earlier served as the 11th president of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013 and has been a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since August 2018.

Born in 1955, Asif Zardari was brought up and educated in Karachi. He was married to Pakistan's former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's daughter, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in December 2007.

Asif Zardari will replace Dr. Arifur Rehman Alvi, who stayed in office for five more months despite completing his five-year term in September 2023.

PM increases Ramazan Package to Rs12.5bn

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has increased the volume of Ramazan Package from Rs7.5 billion to Rs 12.5 billion, besides directed for enhancing its outreach in the country to facilitate the masses during the upcoming holy month.

Along with Utility Stores and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), mobile units would provide edible items at subsidized rates, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

In the initial phase, a total of 1200 mobile points and 300 permanent package relief centers were being established.

The prime minister desired that maximum relief should be extended to the poor people.

During the month of Ramazan, the masses would be provided different edible items at lesser rates compared to market rates.

Besides, designated places, trucks would supply food stuff to different places and GPS technology would be used for this purpose.

A video would be released for use of mobile app. A dashboard would be created to supervise sale of mobile flour with the help of digital technology.

On March 7, the prime minister had announced Rs7.5 billion subsidized Ramazan package.

A total of 39.6 million people would be provided food items during the holy month of Ramazan at subsidized 30 percent rates.

The items under BISP included, flour, rice, pulses, ghee, sugar, syrup and milk.

The subsidy on flour would be Rs77 per kg and on ghee Rs100 respectively. APP

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulates Asif Ali Zardari on his election as President of Pakistan

Xi Jinping says China & Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners & good brothers

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as President of Pakistan.

In his message, Xi Jinping said China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners and good brothers.

He said the two countries have achieved fruitful results in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations. The Chinese President said Beijing is ready to work with President Zardari to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Under auspices of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) Pakistan, has mobilized an emergency relief convoy to support the flood affectees of Gwadar.

CM Maryam warns officials negligence in Ramadan package not to be tolerated

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited Model Bazaar's control room in Poonch House on Sunday to review the monitoring arrangements regarding delivery of Ramzan package to the people.

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasizing on due monitoring of the delivery of Ramadan package to the homes, directed that it must be ensured that food packages should be delivered at the door step of each house. She told the government officials that negligence in the delivery of Ramadan package will not be tolerated.

She said instead of standing needy people in long queues, government will deliver ration at their houses.

Maryam Nawaz clarified that scorecard of government employees will be made on Ramadan package and other issues, in case of violation, their marks will be reduced. INP

Death toll from Indonesia floods, landslides rises to 21

JAKARTA: The death toll from flash flooding and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra has risen to 21, an official said Sunday, with six people still missing.

Torrential rains on Thursday triggered the disaster in Pesisir Selatan regency in the West Sumatra province, with more than 75,000 people forced to evacuate. "As of Sunday, 21 people were found dead and six people remained missing," Fajar Sukma, an official from West Sumatra disaster mitigation agency, told a foreign news agency on Sunday. A village located on a hillside in the Sutura subdistrict was struck hard, with around 200 families in the area left isolated after a landslide followed by flash flooding, Fajar said.

A local official earlier put the death toll at 18 with five missing. Rescuers were searching for the missing on Sunday as authorities focused their operation on three areas affected by the disasters, local search and rescue official Abdul Malik said. "Today's search involves around 150 people

from disaster organisations in West Sumatra," Abdul said in a statement.

Doni Gusriyal, a senior official from the Pesisir Selatan disaster mitigation agency, said waters had started to recede after the flooding, but added that access to areas affected by the landslide remained difficult because of hilly terrain. In the Padang Pariaman regency, also in West Sumatra, heavy downpours earlier this week caused rivers to overflow and triggered floods and a landslide, killing at least three people, according to a statement from the local disaster agency.

Indonesia is prone to landslides during the rainy season and the problem has been aggravated in some places by deforestation, with prolonged torrential rain causing flooding in some areas of the archipelago nation. A landslide and floods swept away dozens of houses and destroyed a hotel near Lake Toba on Sumatra in December, killing at least two people. INP

Unveiling of the Haval TANK500 HEV & ORA03 where Luxury Meets Innovation

Revamping the Haval EXPERIENCE, a Brand Built on Innovation, Style, and a Bold New Look Haval TANK500 manufacturer

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The automotive world witnessed a groundbreaking moment in Haval showroom I-9, Islamabad, with unveiling of TANK500 HEV & ORA03 electric. This event shows state-of-the-art Haval EXPERIENCE setup that highlights all elements of GWM which focus of customer trust. Haval EXPERIENCE has two customer experience lounges that has "entertainment areas" while customer enjoy GWM RANGE (Haval, Bj40, ORA, TANK 500) on display OR are getting their car serviced at the company workshop having European standard machinery to carry out highly sophisticated car services by the trained professional Technicians. Shields were distribution at the end of

the ceremony.

The event was graced by distinguished individuals from various fields. Special guests of the unveiling ceremony were Sheikh Fahad waheed (Vice President ICCI), Bilal Azam (Director ETO), Asim Ayaz (GM EBD), Business community, Govt officers and auto experts were graced the event.

The Chief Guest Mian Ali Hameed (CEO Sazgar Engineering Works Ltd) was present to share his insights on the intersection of technology and automotive innovation. With an innovative approach that fused luxury, comfort and convenience, TANK500 HEV stood as a testament to Haval's commitment to providing a superior driving experience. Pakistani market is a significant part in Auto global industry. We will continue to provide with more excellent products, including



EV and PHEV. Sheikh Afzal (CEO Haval Experience), a visionary leader who had made substantial contributions to automotive industry,

was also in attendance, lending his perspective on the Haval impact on the auto market. Its bold exterior design exudes confidence.

Mr. Sheikh said we will work together with Sazgar for a win-win development and support the Pakistan market to achieve a great success in the future. The Haval represents a perfect harmony between aesthetics and functionality, redefining the driving experience.

Customer can also avail wide range of GWM Haval accessories and Spare-Parts on display. Video also highlights journey and achievements of Haval EXPERIENCE, team, showroom and CEO.

As the automotive world geared up for the unveiling of the GWM Haval and this event stood as a testament to innovation, luxury, and sheer magnificence.

Haval is a global automotive brand dedicated to pushing the boundaries of innovation, design, and performance. With a commitment to excellence, Haval continues to redefine the driving experience by introducing vehicles that inspired and elevated.

The Haval TANK500 HEV & ORA03 electric are a testament to this commitment, embodying the perfect synergy of style, performance, and technology. ORA 03: An electric car designed for modern living. Experience sleek design and cutting-edge technology that takes your driving experience to the next level. With a powerful battery providing a range of 310-400 kilometers per charge and a maximum speed of 160 kilometers per hour, drive confidently and stylishly. Experience innovation on the road with the ORA 03.

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Next step on net-zero ambition for Europe

ANDREW HAMMOND

Since the Ukraine war began, the EU has reprioritized energy security as it moves away from Russian fuels in its energy mix. However, on Thursday, the bloc made a significant pivot toward climate action, taking a key new step toward meeting its net-zero ambitions. Many of the 27 EU nations are proud of their intent to become the first continent to hit net zero before 2050. Despite the Ukraine war, there is widespread acknowledgement of the importance of this pioneering goal, with the European Green New Deal encompassing more than 50 major sustainability initiatives since the signature policy agenda was announced by the Ursula von der Leyen-led commission. This has helped the 27-member bloc rebrand itself as a global green superpower, which it hopes can secure a renewed political lease of life to boot. This after several difficult decades that saw the rise of challenges, such as growing Euroscepticism, and multiple financial crises. Along this journey, there have been predictable obstacles to delivering on Europe's climate ambition. One of these challenges, for instance, is the political backlash (or "greenlash") by the political right, which includes not just populist groups, but also the mainstream conservative European People's Party, the largest bloc in the European Parliament. Conversely, there have been unexpected impediments, too, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Another unanticipated blockage to climate action delivery cited by governments is the 1998 Energy Charter Treaty, signed by dozens of nations, which was originally intended to protect international investments in petroleum-rich post-Soviet states. Outside of the EU, current signatories include Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. This international treaty allows energy companies to try to sue governments over policies that damage their investments. In recent years, the deal has been increasingly criticized by NGOs and some governments for allowing corporates to challenge policy decisions that would see the closure of fossil fuel plants as countries seek to deliver on net-zero. EU countries have so far been the target of around 90 percent of Energy Charter Treaty disputes, in part because of the region's significant climate ambition. For instance, the EU 27 have embarked on a challenging pathway as set out in the RePowerEU strategy to scale up use of clean energy, while also saving almost 20 percent of energy consumption. Renewable successes in the first year of this strategy include reaching a record of 41GW of new solar energy capacity installed, and increasing wind capacity by 16GW. This helped generate, for the first time, more EU-wide electricity from wind and solar sources than from gas. In recent years, a steady stream of EU and non-EU European nations have signalled their intent to leave the Energy Charter Treaty, including Italy in 2016. Most recently, the UK announced last month its departure decision, too. Last July, the European Commission first proposed a coordinated bloc-wide departure from the treaty by the EU 27 nations. A total of nine member states have so far announced their intent to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty since Italy — Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. In the meantime, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Poland have officially notified their withdrawal. On the other side of the ledger, however, a number of other EU countries, including Cyprus, Finland and Hungary, had expressed interest in staying in. Meanwhile, other members of the bloc had pushed for supporting wider international efforts to reform the treaty. Until February, these splits in the EU had delayed decisive action, but suddenly a breakthrough was fashioned in negotiations this year. What the European Commission proposed last week was that, before leaving the treaty, EU countries should allow reforms to pass at the Energy Charter Treaty conference, expected potentially in November, while allowing the EU and Euratom, the European Atomic Energy Community, to leave the treaty. This is not just an example of pragmatic politics in action to deliver a deal. It also potentially allows the member governments to revise the ECT in a way that would have the time (from 20 to 10 years) that non-EU energy firms would continue to enjoy the pact's protections to their investments across the bloc after treaty departure. The wider agenda for reform of the Energy Charter Treaty includes potentially extending its investor-state dispute settlement provisions to clean tech, such as carbon capture and hydrogen. However, this slate of proposed reforms, which some NGOs and governments still claim still gives too much protection to fossil fuel firms, requires unanimous approval from about 50 nations that are signatories to the treaty. This fell down in 2022 when France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain prevented the EU Council from approving the potential revisions to the Energy Charter Treaty deal. What Europe hopes now is that energy firms will increasingly move their investments in the continent to cleaner fuels. EU officials estimate that reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 will require about 700 billion euros in additional investment by the bloc each year, and the role of the private sector is, therefore, key to delivery. Taken together, the EU's decision to leave the Energy Charter Treaty is widely welcomed by NGOs as another key step on the journey to deliver climate action. Europe increasingly hopes that investment will be redirected from fossil fuels to cleaner energies that will help the region become the first to hit net-zero before 2050, the key goal of the bloc's Green New Deal.

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DR. THEODORE KARASIK

External perceptions of the next US presidential election

There is no doubt that foreign observers are looking at the US and wondering what will come next. On the foreign front, both Russia and Gaza are key vectors of further international attention. Having just completed Super Tuesday, the US is moving toward its presidential election in November 2024. What type of America will international observers see, as both foreign policy challenges and internal discontent and political jockeying continue? First, a quick notation: Although a new Trump administration is a possibility, there are still many legal steps that could derail former President Donald Trump's candidacy, but not stop his political machine or base from operating. So, the prospect of President Joe Biden winning also brings with it many pros and cons. Both leaders are seen as being at a unique stage of their older life. Some in Washington feel that at the end of the day Biden and the Democrats will win because of Trump's criminal convictions and doubts over his financial affairs. To be sure, outside observers see American society is divided across a number of different planes that are becoming more complex and creating very sharp divisions. Never has there been such breakdown in family and personal relationships, especially between generations. Polarization runs rampant in the halls of the

US Congress all the way down to what's left of the family dinner table. Four years ago, in the run-up to the presidential election, there were predictions of major problems on a US local or regional level. Trump-era laws help to complicate local politics, such as abortion, in the US, and the current administration seems to counterbalance gender identity and, consequently, there are urban and state divides over halting current trend lines in these two issues and others. Here polarization takes a whole new level of stress as a factor in the inability to communicate on key policy questions. Issues regarding Texas stand as a case in point. Many outside observers view this behavior as "strange" for America. The international scene is no less divisive for the US presidential election. A major war in Europe and the tragedy of Palestine and Israel means that US domestic issues will become highly inflamed via rhetoric and information warfare. American universities are exploding from the hatred that is rising, affecting the quality of the education received. Universities today are not learning environments but incubators of narrative hatred. We are seeing now in universities and in workplaces across the US greater divisions leading to major lawsuits, and dismissals

of university personnel and suspension of students. Naturally, many are looking at the possibility of Trump returning to office based on the fact that Biden has fudged America's foreign policy to the point of failure at a key moment in regional history in the Middle East. Outside observers note this moment frequently in their analyses, and many different actors are expanding their influence, such as Iran. Concepts such as strategic failure begin to arise and the discourse regarding what is ongoing with America and what will come next. Consequently there are two key questions: Is a Trump administration really going to restore Washington's wrecked moral standing? Do outside observers see Trump as better suited to fix regional issues because of previous and ongoing relationships? The answer is not easy. Policymakers and stakeholders who were observing the situation in Washington are increasingly seeing the pluses of a change in administration and would welcome it because continuation of the current phase and what comes next with both Russia and Gaza is a key determinant. On top of this break in continuity between the administrations is how the next leader will deal with accusations of human rights violations and genocide. How a new Trump admin-

istration would use this as a potential political tool is an interesting question. A rules-based order does not seem to be on the cards, so how will the International Court of Justice contend with such an America? The next administration, whether Biden or Trump, is going to have to deal with the legalities surrounding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and radical settler actions as well as accusations against US government officials. The presidential election is also showing to the rest of the world that the US has no fresh blood for a political renewal or thinking. Many joke about the Soviet-like nature of the age of America's leaders, and they do have a point. But Trump would be more willing to use a hammer instead of Biden's light touch on major policy issues. That fact makes some foreign observers curious, and nervous, about what comes next from the US. A US election is supposed to be a renewal. Current events preclude more immediate credibility problems. What the morning of Nov. 6, 2024 brings will be seen in the following years.

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Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



After this failure, a prominent Congress leader, C. Rajgopalacharia, suggested a formula for a separate Muslim state in the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was rejected at the time, but later on, in 1944, formed the basis of the Jinnah-Gandhi talks.

PAKISTAN MOVEMENT

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim community.

MEN, WOMEN, STUDENT, ULEMA AND BUSINESSMEN

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its

demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy,

reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms,

CABINET PLAN

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan. This provided

the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, as a 'Direct Action Day' to show Muslim solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand.

PARTITION SCHEME

In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the party objective from within the Interim Government. After a short time, the situation inside the Interim Government and outside convinced the Congress leadership to accept Pakistan as the only solution of the communal problem. The British Government, after its last attempt to save the Cabinet Mission Plan in December 1946, also moved towards a scheme for the partition of India.

To be continued....

Chris Hemsworth fills fans about his role in 'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga'

'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga' will release on May 24, 2024

Chris Hemsworth spoke openly about Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga and his new role. Hemsworth, well known for portraying Thor in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, revealed details about his "evil" role as Warlord Dementus during a recent interview with Empire. He started by saying, "He's a pretty horrible individual." "Through the whole film we kept coming back to, 'This is evil, but what is the intention behind it?'" he continued. Chris also explained, "It's not just sadistic insanity. There is a real purpose, the wheels are turning, he's plotting and planning and ten steps ahead of everyone else." The American actor elaborated on his character's



encounter with Anya Taylor-Joy's character, Furiosa, in the upcoming film. "I think that's how he sees himself," he added of his tough character. Concluding the discussion, Chris stated, "I think there's a paternal quality and nature to the relationship in his eyes. [Furiosa] would, I'm sure, argue to her death the complete opposite." For those unversed, Chris and Anya's latest film is centred around Furiosa, a character who is trying to find her way back home to the Green Palace of Many Mothers. According to Wikipedia, Furiosa was taken from her home and forced to join a biker gang led by the ruthless warlord, Dementus.

Tech

WhatsApp introduces new feature to identify end-to-end encrypted chats

WhatsApp, the Meta-owned social messaging platform, is releasing a new feature to indicate when chats are end-to-end encrypted. According to WaBetaInfo, the messaging app is rolling out a new update through the Google Play Beta Program, bringing the version up to 2.24.6.11. This feature is currently available to some beta testers, and it is rolling out to more users over the coming weeks, it added. The feature is designed to make it easier for users to understand which chats are end-to-end encrypted, providing users with a convenience knowing that their conversations are securely encrypted. A new caption to identify end-to-end encrypted chats is available under the contact and group name within the conversations. With this enhancement, users are always aware when their chats are securely encrypted using the signal protocol, serv-



ing as a visual confirmation that nobody can read their messages and listen to their calls. It is pertinent to mention here that this caption disappears after a few seconds so the last seen info can appear.

Health

Here are 5 easy tips from experts to improve your body posture

Does your job also require you to sit in front of the screen for hours? Sitting in a slouch position for hours is associated with lower back pains. According to the American Heart Foundation, sedentary jobs have increased by 83% since 1950, Newsweek reported. Prolonged sitting can ruin posture making certain muscles and joints work overtime which can lead to fatigue, arthritis, and headaches among other things. Here are some tips by YahooLife to help improve your body posture. **Posture starts with feet** Dr Michael Fredericson, a physician at Stanford Health Care, says it's best to start with foot placement first. He says, "For good posture when you're standing, you need good foot support. You want to stand with

your feet shoulder-width apart, and you want to feel your feet connected to the ground. Even when you're in a chair, you want to connect your feet with the ground, and that will help your posture." **Don't stiffen up** Fredericson says being relaxed is the key. He said, "Instead of sticking your chest out like a military posture, relax your chest and think of broadening your shoulders. Remember to be in a neutral spine: Think of your tailbone pointing down." He suggests loosening up shoulders and to breathe from the chest. **Incorporate stretching exercises** Orthopedic spine surgeon from Yale Dr Peter Whang suggests these steps. Stand up straight and intertwine your hands behind your back

Take a deep breath and while exhaling shrug your shoulders Hold this position for 15 minutes and repeat it three to four times. **Ensure a good work position** Some steps that you can incorporate. Place your computer at eye level to not have to bend your neck. Place your feet on the ground with knees reaching hip level. Invest in a good chair with back support. Take regular breaks to stretch. Incorporate yoga into your daily routine. Yoga instructor Louise Bartlett says, "Incorporating cat and cow position into your yoga practice regularly can help strengthen the muscles that support good posture and increase awareness of alignment in your daily activities."



Traditional Chinese culture to tap international market

BEIJING: "We will bring more products of traditional Chinese culture to the world!" said Jin Ruirui, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), and a Yi embroidery inheritor, in an interview with China Economic Net.

Yi embroidery is a form of intangible cultural heritage that has a long history and rich culture. It is a folk art that uses needles and colored thread to decorate fabric with various patterns and symbols. After graduation from college, Jin came back to her hometown and set up her own Yi embroidery company, hoping to help more local embroiderers who know well about the culture employed, empowering rural women and revitalizing the countryside.

With a history of more than 1,700 years, Yi embroidery is the "fingertip art" that the Yi people are proud of. Jin Ruirui told China Economic Net that last year she was very honored to participate in the Milan Fashion Week in Italy, and took her embroidery to the international stage. "It was my very first time going abroad!" She smiled, adding that she felt very proud to see Yi embroidery, which has been inherited for more than 1,700 years, go global. Jin noted that many foreigners are quite interested in Yi embroidery and other Chinese intangible cultural heritage. Therefore, how to turn such culture into something enchanting enough that overseas customers would like to buy remains a question worth thinking about. Returning home, she focused more on inheriting and innovating Yi embroidery culture, and exploring more products that could integrate with the international market. "That trip did open my mind," Jin said that she was impressed by the love that the international friends showed for Chinese culture. DNA



HYDERABAD: WAPDA worker busy in installed electricity cable on the electric pole at Autobahn Road. APP

Strategy to provide relief to people in Ramadan evolved: Minister

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru on Sunday said that a well thought strategy had been evolved to provide maximum relief to the people in Holy month of Ramadan. 736,000 families registered under the Ehsaas program will get Rs.10,000 each through cross cheque to bring transparency and more than 50 lakh people of the province will benefit from this move, he said while talking to the media delegation led by Mardan Press Club President M. Bashir Adil and addressing the party workers at his residence.

Zahir Shah Toru said Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will definitely meet the Prime Minister for the rights of province. There will be purposeful and meaningful negotiations with the Centre. Restoring law and order will be the top priority of the incumbent government, he said. Zahir Shah Toru arrived in Mardan today for the first time after taking the oath of his office. He was warmly welcomed by a large number of party workers and people at the Ring Road. He said that the Chief Minister will meet the Prime Minister not only for a photo session, but he will hold purposeful negotiations for the constitutional rights of the province and will not compromise on the rights of the province. He said that for this purpose, the opposition

would also be taken into confidence, it was not a matter of a single person, rather, it was the issue of rights of the province and he would go to any extent for this. He said that if the center refused the due rights of the province, they would consider other options including approaching the Supreme Court. The provincial food minister said that in the month of Ramadan, hoarding, adulteration and collection of excessive prices would not be tolerated at all. Clear instructions have been given to the administrations of all the districts. Bazar checking will also be carried out at night time, he added. Zahir Shah Toru said that the development of the province was linked to peace, so it had been decided to prepare a plan of action with all stakeholders to end terrorism and restore peace. He said Pakistan is mired in debt and Imran Khan is being punished only because he has been raising his voice to save the country from the torment of debt since day one. The provincial minister said that it was the mission of the provincial government to give relief to the poor people. The relief policy has been changed in this Ramadan and it has been decided to give benefit to 5 million poor people, he expressed. INP



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying banana for bidding in connection with upcoming Holy Month of Ramadan at Islamabad Fruit and vegetable market. APP

Election Commission of Pakistan appoints Returning Officers for conduct of Senate elections

By-election on six vacant seats of the Senate will be held on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed returning officers in the Islamabad Capital Territory and four provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan for the conduct of senate elections.

According to a notification issued by the Election Commission on Sunday, ECP Director General Training Saeed Gul will be the Returning Officer in the federal capital, whereas provincial election commissioners Aijaz Anwar Chohan, Shariqullah, Shamsad Khan, and Muhammad Farid Afridi will be returning officers in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan respectively.

Members of the National Assembly will elect one general seat and one seat for technocrats, including Ulema from the federal capital.

The Election Commission of Pakistan also called upon members of the provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to elect



members against seven general seats, two women seats and two seats for technocrats, including Ulema from each province and one seat for non-Muslims each from Punjab and Sindh which are going to be vacant after expiration of term of incumbent Senators today (Monday). The notification has been issued by the Deputy Director (Coordination) Muhammad Nasir Khan. The copies of the notification have also been sent to all the concerned officials.

Meanwhile by-election on six vacant seats of the Senate will be held on Thursday. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, polling will be held at the National Assembly, Islamabad as well as Sindh and Balochistan assemblies in Karachi and Quetta. These seats in general category fell vacant on in the federal capital, two in Sindh and three in Balochistan as senators relinquished their seats, following their election as member of the national assembly as well as provincial assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan.

Makhdoom Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri have joined the National Assembly after winning the recently concluded general elections. Similarly, Nisar Ahmed Khoro and Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar were elected to the Sindh Assembly, whereas Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai and Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan Bugti became members of the Balochistan Assembly. SABAH

Iranian President Ayatollah Syed Ebrahim Raesi congratulates Asif Ali Zardari on his election as the President of Pakistan

TEHRAN: Ayatollah Syed Ebrahim Raesi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a message has congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Ayatollah Syed Ebrahim Raesi expressed hope that during his presidency, the relations between the two countries, having historical, cultural and religious history, will be more developed and deepened than before. The Iranian President stated: As always, and especially in the new era, the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. SABAH

SCBA condemns arrest of Salman Akram Raja and Latif Khosa

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Sunday strongly condemned the arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and lawyers Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja and others. According to a statement issued by the SCBA, President Shahzad Shaikat and Secretary Syed Ali Imran "vehemently denounced" the arrests of Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja, Mumtaz Mustafa, and numerous other lawyers while peacefully protesting against the alleged electoral malpractices in the recent general elections.

While demanding immediate release of all arrested lawyers, the President and the Secretary said that as senior Advocates of the Supreme Court and life Members of this Association, the arrests is viewed with grave concern. "All of them have always represented the highest standards in legal profession," they commended. Expressing his utter discontentment, the President stated that it is in common knowledge that SCBA have always advocated for upholding the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.

The SCBA President further lambasted that despite this association, on numerous occasions, have called upon the authorities to respect the legal and democratic rights of citizens, including lawyers. "The recent trend of targeting and arresting members of the legal fraternity is alarming. It reflects a blatant disregard for constitutional rights, rampant lawlessness, and an abuse of power," read the statement. Furthermore, to address the escalating aggression against the legal community, the SCBA has decided to summon emergency meeting of its Executive Committee to chart out a course of action. "Let no one be mistaken, SCBA reiterates its commitment to defending the rights of lawyers and upholding the fundamental rights, democratic principles, protection of human rights and rule of law," the statement concluded. INP

PTCL group steps up as Gwadar battles floods

ISLAMABAD: In response to the devastating floods sweeping through Gwadar, Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group joined forces with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) to provide essential relief and deliver up to 30,000 liters of clean drinking water every day for a month to the affected communities. Torrential rains have plunged Gwadar into chaos, displacing families and leaving them desperately short of necessities, with clean water being the most pressing concern. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, PTCL Group and PRCs have stepped up to ensure a steady supply of clean drinking water is delivered directly to those reeling from the disaster. Commenting on the effort, Atif Raza, Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "Access to clean water is indeed a fundamental human right, crucial for survival. PTCL Group, in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent, is acutely aware of this pressing need. Our joint efforts are dedicated to delivering clean drinking water to thousands of affected families in Gwadar.

Recognizing the indispensable role water plays in sustaining life, we tirelessly work towards ensuring impacted communities have unfettered access to this vital resource. Together, we are dedicated to creating a positive impact in the lives of those who are in need." In the forefront of disaster response efforts, PTCL Group exemplifies a commitment to aiding the affected community in Gwadar. DNA

Two 'terrorists' killed during shifting of explosives in Peshawar: Police



PESHAWAR: Two alleged terrorists were killed on Sunday morning and a man was injured in a blast in the Board Bazar on the Nasir Bagh Road here.

According to police, they were carrying explosives riding a motorcycle when it went off, killing them on the spot. Rescue 1122 staff reached the site soon after the blast and removed the dead and the injured to Khyber Teaching Hospital. SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi said that they were carrying 4 to 5 kilograms explosives.

No evidence of suicide attack was found, he added. According to the SSP, it was not a planned terrorist activity. Investigators believe the explosion occurred during transfer of material, he continued.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the blast in Peshawar. He condoled with the bereaved families and ordered the best medical aid to the injured. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the blast and sought a report from the inspector general of police. INP

Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee to meet on Monday for Ramazan moon sighting

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee is set to convene on Monday for the holy month of Ramazan moon sighting at the office of Administrator Auqaf in Peshawar, under the chairmanship of Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad.

The meeting will witness the participation of esteemed members from both Central and Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committees, including Director General Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Ghulam Murtaza from the Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, Dr Sardar Sarfaraz from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and Zainul Abedin from the Ministry of Science and Technology. Among the distinguished members of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee are Azeem Zafar, Allama Dr



Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Mufti Faisal Ahmed, Qari Abdul Rauf Madani, Mufti Ali Asghar Attari, Mufti Yusuf Kashmiri, Mufti Zameer Ahmad Sajid, Pir Syed Shahid Ali Jilani, Maulana Abdul Malik Brohi, Azeem Zafar, Allama Dr Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Mufti Mehrullah, Sahibzada Syed Habibullah Chishti, and Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi. Representatives from the Zonal Committee Peshawar include Maulana Ehsanul Haq, Maulana Mufti Fazlullah, Maulana Muham-

mad Ali Shah, Maulana Syed Abdul Basir Rostami, Allama Abid Hussain Shakir, and Mufti Atiqullah Qadri, along with other esteemed scholars.

Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad emphasized that similar meetings of zonal committees across the country will be held at their respective headquarters in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, and Islamabad to decide the moon sighting of the month of Ramazan 1445 AH. Azad appealed to all citizens of Pakistan to be vigilant in sighting the moon of Ramazan, expressing hope for a unified day of fasting for the country.

He also provided contact information for inquiries regarding moon sighting: Chairman (0321-9410041 / 0333-9100619), DG Religious Affairs (0300-6831822), and Office Administrator Auqaf Peshawar (091-9330427). APP

BMP calls for promoting industry and lowering production cost

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said that business community has been facing tough challenges because of limited business. In this context, he sought attention of the government for formulation of regional, provincial and central level task force, and formulation of sector wise regional policies which would help the government address the problems confronted by exporters.

The FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar called for promoting industrialisation and enhancing exports through lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to solve liquidity crunch and relaxing import policy for industrial raw material.

He suggested that One Window Operation should be introduced for the replacing the lengthy procedures that involve interaction of manufacturers with various agencies. The government agencies were harassing the textile industry every day. Social Security, EOBI and other taxes should be merged and deducted at

the source. Mian Anjum Nisar asked the government to appreciate the role of industry for its potential to harvest maximum benefits, providing mass employment to the jobless population of the country. He also sought government's attention for formulating aggressive marketing plan and hurdle-free policies as well as urgent decisions in favour of exports while taking on board major stakeholders.

He called for concerted efforts for exploring new markets both traditional and non-traditional in order to introduce home made products. He urged the government to announce favourable policies and allow duty-free import of raw material and accessories. This move will attract investors and help in setting up new industries in the country which will create wide opportunities for employment.

We direly need a stimulus economic plan coupled with relief package by the government to maximise production. He also emphasized the need for seeking technical knowhow from China and other countries for the sake of innovation, and improvement of products. DNA