

Independent

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Minister Information visits Passport office:

Implementation on one document regime continues in larger interest of country: Jan Achakzai

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that implementation on the one document regime is continued in larger interest of the country. The across border movement can be monitored through one document regime in real manner. By doing so, the international relations can also be promoted by fulfilling the legal requirements, maintained Jan Achakzai while speaking on occasion of his visit to the Regional passport office here on Tuesday. He said that there is a need to expand the role of NADRA and Passport office in this regard so as to resolve the public problems immediately. The Minister Information said that the interim government stressed on effective resolution of the problems soon after taking

over the government. He said that the government has been successful in resolving the issues of masses. Meanwhile, the Minister Information visited different sections of passport office besides hearing the issues of people there. He also assured every possible cooperation to resolve issues of the masses. Later, Jan Achakzai also visited the office of PPHI the same day. He appreciated the effective role of PPHI in the sector of public health. He said that it's very important to provide healthcare facilities to the people. However, he stressed the need to bring innovation in the health department according to the requirements of present era. He assured his best cooperation for improving the health sector.



ISLAMABAD: U.S Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome calling on Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters in the Federal Capital.

Air Chief, US Envoy for elevating training momentum via enhanced cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu was called on by US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome here on Tuesday and discussed issues of bilateral interests. The two dignitaries expressed their mutual desire to elevate the training momentum between the two sides through enhanced collaboration in air force to air force mutual exercises, said a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release. The Air Chief and envoy also emphasized the importance of fostering a robust exchange of delegations and knowledge sharing to bolster the capabilities of both the PAF and the US Air Force. The discussion also centered around collaboration in the recently established techno parks, with a focus on leveraging technological advancements for enhancing operational effectiveness and efficiency.



LAHORE: Chief Organizer PML (N) Maryam Nawaz warmly welcome upon arrival at PP-159.

Maryam pledges to work 'day and night' for public's welfare

LAHORE (INP): Maryam Nawaz, Chief Organizer of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), on Wednesday declared that February 8 will resound with the roar of the "lion", her party's election symbol. Addressing a rally in Lahore's Gajju Matta, Maryam expressed gratitude for the warm reception, stating, "Gajju Matta, I thank you wholeheartedly for your overwhelming welcome. You have chosen me, and in return, I promise to serve day and night for the welfare of the people if you help bring victory to the lion." She highlighted the infrastructure developments in Lahore by PML-N, particularly the sight of Speedo Bus service on Ferozpur Road and the Orange Line train, attributing them as symbols of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's dedicated service to the people of Lahore.

Razaur Rehman withdraws for Tahir on PB-42: Tahir Mehmood to support Lashkari Raisani on NA-263, Quetta-II

Independent Report
QUETTA: The independent candidate contesting election from PB-42, Tahir Mehmood Khan has announced to support the leader of Balochistan Grand Alliance (BGA) and tribal and political personality Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani on the seat of National Assembly from Quetta, NA-263. Tahir Mehmood Khan made this announcement while addressing press conference in presence of Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and others here at the Quetta press club on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion were the candidate of BGA for PB-42, Razaur Rehman and others. Razaur Rehman announced withdrawal of his candidature in favour of Tahir Mehmood Khan.



WAH: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visits Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Wah.

ECP launches new policy on electoral symbols of candidates

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) stopped ROs and DROs from changing election symbols of candidates for the upcoming elections. The ECP told ROs and DROs that at this phase stage with the elections coming near the changing of election symbols should be avoided. "If the need to change the election symbol is so important then the commission should be asked for a change," the ECP told ROs. According to the ECP, the printing of the ballot papers has started and it may not be possible at this stage to change the election symbol.

Sheikh Rashid arrested after bail rejection

RAWALPINDI (APP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was arrested on Tuesday after the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) rejected his bail in a case pertaining to the May 9 incidents. The former minister appeared before ATC Judge Malik Asif Ejaz, who dismissed his plea for bail. Talking to the media, Rashid's counsel Sardar Abdul Razzak said that his client had attained bail in 12 out of 13 cases pertaining to the May 9 incidents. He said Sheikh Rashid was taken into custody outside the court after his bail was rejected in a case of an attack on the office of an sensitive institution on May 9.

Visa made mandatory at Pak-Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (INP): Truck drivers carrying goods from Afghanistan, who hitherto would cross over into Pakistan only by showing to the officials their passports, would now have to show their passports with visa stamps on them, says in media reports. In this connection, an agreement was reached between the officials of the two countries at their meeting held at Pak-Afghan border crossing at Torkham yesterday. The purpose of the decision is to regulate trade between both countries, improve security and eliminate smuggling. Both truck drivers and traders have welcomed the agreement. A truck driver has expressed the hope that the decision will not only benefit both Pakistan and Afghanistan, but also traders and drivers. Another driver, who was equally pleased with the agreement, said that not only he was happy to hear the news but all truck drivers.

Challenges faced by the media, the regional press, the role of the media in the upcoming general elections 2024 and the freedom of press came under discussion in the meeting. The minister said that the media acted as a bridge between the candidates and electorates during the elections. The government was striving to provide training and technical assistance to the journalists for coverage of the electoral process, he added.



GWADAR: Chairman GDA Tourism Committee Changez Khan presiding over a meeting

COAS vows to enhance defense with self-reliance, latest technology

Says path to national progress is defined by indigenous, local industries like POF Wah

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday paid a significant visit to the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in Wah, a crucial hub for the nation's defence production, the military said. The visit aimed to gain insights into POF's production capabilities, its role in meeting the defence needs of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and its potential for export, according to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). During his visit, the COAS was briefed on various aspects of POF's operations, including its contributions to the national defence through the development and production of a wide range of military equipment. The army chief had the opportunity to witness firsthand the testing and trials of indigenously designed and manufactured weapons and ammunition, showcasing the organisation's commitment to innovation and self-reliance. Addressing the officers and staff of POF, Gen Munir applauded their dedicated efforts in bolstering the security and economy of Pakistan, emphasising the pivotal role of POF as the primary defence industry in the country. He acknowledged the significance of indigenous and local industries in the path to national progress. "The path to national progress is defined by indigenous and local industries like POF Wah. We will continue to work for self-reliance and the adoption of the latest technology, which is essential towards ensuring reliability and strengthening the defence of Pakistan," remarked the army chief. Gen Munir's visit highlighted the military's commitment to promoting self-sufficiency and technological advancement in the defence sector. The COAS emphasised the need for continuous efforts to enhance the capabilities of indigenous defence industries, aligning with the broader goal of ensuring Pakistan's defence is built on reliable and cutting-edge technology.



LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to Party workers Gathering at Bhutto House Naudero.

Bilawal warns PML-N of fate similar to PTI in future

NAUDERO (INP): In an apparent reference to the rivalry between PML-N and PTI, PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday that the former will face the same circumstances that the latter is facing today. Bilawal, while speaking to a public gathering in Naudero, said that the PPP had always exposed the "selected" governance system, adding that his party also thwarted PML-N's dream of self-appointing himself as the "Ameer Al Momineen" (leader of the faithful). "No one has any sense or concern about the worsening situation of the country," the PPP scion said, adding that terrorists were raising their heads again. "They have been invited to come and settle in Karachi," he added. Read Bilawal says only an arrow can be used to hunt a lion. Bilawal stated that the current political climate in Pakistan has proved detrimental for the wellbeing of the country, adding that political instability will damage the country, economy, the federation and also the entire governance system.

Media has key role in shaping public perception during elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday highlighted the crucial role of media in shaping public perception about elections through coverage, analysis and debates. The minister, in a meeting with Pakistan Observer Chairman Faisal Zahid Malik, underlined the need for unbiased, authentic and fact-based media coverage of the general elections, scheduled for February 8.

PM Kakar, US special envoy discuss issues relating climate change

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under the theme "Rebuilding Trust", the event aims to reinforce and strengthen the fundamental principles of transparency, consistency and accountability among world leaders. The annual meeting of the Forum will continue till Friday. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday met US Presidential Special Envoy on Climate John Kerry on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. He will deliver a key note address on the theme Trade, Tax, Trillion Dollar Promise. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will also hold meetings with government and business leaders on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. During the meeting, they discussed the local and global impacts of climate change. The two leaders also discussed the climate change related challenges being faced by the developing countries.



DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets U.S. Presidential special envoy on Climate John Kerry on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

Six-member JIT constituted to probe social media campaign against SC judges

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The caretaker government on Tuesday established a six-member joint investigation team (JIT) to "reveal the facts surrounding an alleged malicious social media campaign" against the Supreme Court judges. The JIT's mandate, as outlined in the notification, is to "ascertain the facts behind a supposed malicious social media campaign aimed at damaging the reputation of the honorable judges of the Supreme Court." The committee is responsible for identifying and prosecuting the culprits according to relevant laws, presenting charges in appropriate courts, and recommending measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. After extensive hearings last week, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to invalidate the PTI's electoral symbol "bat" and declared its intra-party polls as "unconstitutional." The notification specified that the JIT is required to submit a preliminary report to the Ministry of Interior within a fortnight.



QUETTA: A delegation of BNP meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Tourism places to be improved in Gwadar, decides GDA's committee

Independent Report Gwadar. The participants expressed the resolve to make wholehearted efforts for making Gwadar attractive and peaceful tourism hub in time to come. In this regard, the government and private organizations would be taken on board, it was decided further. The committee noted with pleasure that work is already in progress on a comprehensive plan for development and preservation of the historic culture of Gwadar. In addition to this, sea food street, water sports, GDA club and amusement park are also part of the future projects in Gwadar, it was informed to the committee. QUETTA: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Tourism Committee has decided to take steps for improvement of tourism places in Gwadar and make their publicity at large scale. The decision to this effect was made during the first meeting of the GDA Tourism Committee held under the chair of Director Administration, GDA, Changez Khan in Gwadar on Tuesday. The meeting reviewed the prospects of the promotion of tourism in the port city. It was decided to ensure participation of all stakeholders including the private sector for promotion of the tourism in

Farid Afridi posted as new PEC Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Aijaz Anwar Chohan has been transferred and posted as the Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab with immediate effect. This was announced in an official notification issued here on Tuesday. According to the notification, the Additional Director General Elections in Election Commission, Muhammad Farid Afridi has been posted as the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan.

Pakistan, Lebanon agree to strengthen bilateral relations

DAVOS (APP): Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati Tuesday met Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF). During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the overall situation in the region, and reiterated their resolve to strengthen the bilateral relations.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi indicted in marriage case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The local court on Tuesday indicted the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and his wife Bushra Bibi in the marriage case. Senior Civil Judge Qudrat Ullah read the charge sheet during the case hearing at Adiala Jail, with the PTI founder in attendance. The court expressed annoyance at the absence of Bushra Bibi and rejected the defence counsel's plea for exemption from her attendance.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

On your mark

After the Supreme Court's shock verdict depriving the PTI of its election symbol late Saturday, many observers have wryly questioned the need for having elections at all, given how neatly the field now appears to be set up. However, the show must go on.

By now, most of the parties, including the PTI, have issued lists of candidates to whom tickets have been awarded, and these hopefuls have very little time to canvass for votes. They must get going with their campaigns forthwith. The PML-N still seems considerably behind compared to the PPP, which has taken a head start as far as holding workers' meetings and jalsas is concerned.

The PTI, unfortunately, faces new, serious existential challenges after losing the bat. However, the party has displayed grit and determination thus far, and it is hoped, for the sake of Pakistani democracy, that it will manage to make the best of the hand it has been dealt.

The lesson that ought to have been learned in 2018 was that engineering results by interfering in the electoral process invariably has disastrous consequences. Those benefiting from such 'interventions' may reap short-term benefits, but without meaningful public support and the legitimacy conferred by a fair election to strengthen their hand, they cannot expect to survive the pressures that come with executive power.

With this in mind, all political parties should collectively ask non-democratic forces to step away from the ring immediately.

It is well past time for them to assert their space in the country's power configuration and keep dominion over the political sphere — unless they wish to remain at the mercy of non-democratic forces in the years to come as well. The parties seem eager to out-compete each other; it would be a shame if they are not given a fair chance to do so on an equal footing from here on.

Meanwhile, it is deeply concerning that two fresh resolutions have been forwarded to the Senate to seek a delay in elections over weather and security concerns.

The caretaker government and the ECP must ensure that the commitment to holding general elections on Feb 8 is not derailed. These elections are key to restoring the political stability that Pakistan desperately needs.

Unfortunately, major controversies have dogged the polls from the very beginning, and there is now a dark pall over the entire exercise. The institutions responsible, especially the ECP, owe it to the nation to salvage what respectability they can for the exercise by ensuring, from now on, fool-proof security and the freedom to campaign for all candidates cleared to participate in the polls.

No candidate should fear appearing in public and putting their agenda before the people. Much damage has already been done. No more should be allowed.

The missing link



Neda Mulji

Passing the parcel was a favourite game among kids at birthday parties in the bygone days. These days, passing the buck seems to be a running trend among those who like to shy away from accountability. One school owner I met seemed to have a litany of complaints against the teachers employed at her school: excessive absences, lack of classroom management skills and an unprofessional attitude were cited as reasons that land a school into ill-repute.

Meanwhile, teachers point fingers at the school management's inability to provide the necessary resources, training and development, reward and recognition. Whilst these may indeed affect the teachers' motivation, they are not the drivers of performance or the lack thereof. Those who are experts in their subject and professionally astute don't usually rely on external factors to motivate them.

There might be a missing link in this equation — a gap between how the teachers perform and the school management's perception of them. When this gap grows, it becomes a gaping wound, leading to teacher absences, high turnover, lower student retention rates, mediocre academic results and complaints by parents — all resulting in disgruntled school leaders which, in turn, clouds the entire school culture.

Communication and collaboration may help address this missing link between teachers and management. Often, teachers have little agency in contributing to the transformation processes at school. From timetabling and scheduling of classes to the choice of books for their subjects, most decision-making rests with those at the top. When parents complain, teachers get only a filtered version of it. When the teachers underperform, the management cannot necessarily put their finger on the reason for it, and the blame game continues.

Part of the transformational growth at schools requires an inquiry mindset where the management collaborates with teachers and seeks their insight on growth, obstacles and opportunities. Most teachers would welcome more open and frequent communication, as would parents, who desperately want answers regarding their children's experiences at school.

teaching strategies and plan their modules together.

In most schools, only the heads conduct supervision rounds, although it could be very useful for junior teachers to shadow the more experienced ones and give constructive feedback as well as learn from seniors. There can be massive professional growth in watching and learning across the board. Besides, the supervision isn't always followed up with feedback, so teachers may not be explicitly aware of the aspects of their teaching that need improvement. Similarly, many school or subject heads ask for weekly or monthly lesson plans but do not add-re--ss the disparity between the plan and what is actually being taught in class. Reflection sheets that can steer teachers towards pinpointing what they do well and where they need support are greatly beneficial for continuous learning.

School management may want to leverage available technology for digital reminders, discussion boards and tracking content taught in class by having teachers enter records each week. Sustainable systems in place can streamline much of the work being done, besides providing opportunities for collaborative work online vis-a-vis shared lesson plans.

Most teachers want to be inspired, as opposed to being managed, and inspiration can lead to dramatic positive change. When the work is shared across the board, the management would be less fearful of lack of productivity and teachers would get a chance to showcase their work and receive timely feedback. The ultimate beneficiaries — students and parents — walk away with greater satisfaction. -- Courtesy Dawn

Social interaction amongst the teachers also has a huge bearing on teacher motivation and well-being. Yet, in most schools, the aim is to minimise social interaction or reserve it for end-of-term school dinners.

Work relationships among colleagues evolve continually, and it would help to provide regular opportunities for teachers to engage with each other during frequent breaks, collaborate on lesson plans and

Corporate purpose



Waleed Ahmed

Who am I? Why are we here? What happens to us when we die? Complex questions which every individual seeks to answer in a lifetime.

According to Colin Mayer's Prosperity, the purpose of the existence of a corporation is rather simple: "producing profitable solutions to problems of people and planet". The current socioeconomic business model creates an overabundance of wealth for businessmen, shareholders and CEOs. The scarcity of natural resources necessitates that the role of corporations goes beyond the stakeholder capitalism prevalent in the environment, social and governance (ESG) policy today.

The reasons behind social disorder, energy crises and corporate bank failures are 'as clear as day', yet perpetually unseen by a few. The world yearns for real, sustainable and permanent change — a change in the way we conduct business, treat the environment and build a better future for coming generations.

Governance can help the corporation become a source of benefit to society and diminish the likelihood of harm caused to citizens. Orthodox shareholder primacy has been rejected across the Atlantic, but the alternatives to solving issues related to prosperity and consumer welfare need further examination. The citizen has become merely a consumer, with no active participation in the decision-making process. The consumer is deprived due to profit maximisation at each stage

of interaction between the individual, state and corporation. Prescriptive mandatory rules and best practices to redefine the corporate purpose of companies in both the Global North and South are required immediately.

Do ESG reporting standards and frameworks solve the problem? ESG addresses a company's performance and risk exposure based on its environmental impact, social responsibility, and how it is governed. The idea is to integrate a broad corporate strategy, addressing stakeholder and regulatory demands.

ESG programmes are driven by investor demand, workforce pressure, enterprise management, and competitive advantage. Institutional investors employ 'sustainability-linked' loan-lending strategies to gain a better understanding of risks of an investee firm.

According to the UN Principle of Responsible Investment estimates, global sustainable lending activity grew from \$6 billion in January 2016 to \$32.2bn in September 2021. However, sustainable investing approaches differ widely by strategy and products, making it difficult to measure ESG performance. The greatest challenge faced by institutional investors is 'greenwashing' — funds which have branded themselves as 'sustainable' but are not fundamentally different from traditional funds. The UN Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023 states: "Growing awareness of misleading practices is creating disillusion, threatening the entire market's credibility and leading to an increase in regulatory measures to enhance transparency and accountability."

Realignment of the profit motive and embedding purpose in the corporate legal framework lies at the heart of the issue. How is a buzzword of any use to a shareholder if it carries no instant return or promotes stakeholder interests at the cost of financial capital? The answer is not straightforward. ESG guidelines nudge private actors at the corporate level. Alternatively, SDG goals and the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions prod public actors at the state level. A truly sustainable society is visible through the lens of shareholder governance, but can only be manifested through a paradigm shift towards stakeholder governance.

Pakistan has an ambitious climate change action plan, exhibited recently at the pavilion of COP28 in the UAE. Two things seem quite obvious, first, despite its low greenhouse gas emissions (490 million tons of CO2 equivalent in 2017-18) Pakistan's frequent exposure to natural hazards and significant dependence on monsoon rain and the glacier-fed Indus Basin make it vulnerable to climate change. Second, public-private partnerships are integral to achieving the transformation of 60 per cent of the country's energy production through 'clean and renewable' resources by 2030. It is an inflection point for the Global South, which can either embrace economic growth in a measured sustainable method or follow the path of the Global North's industrial expansion, which is irreversible. Various regulators in the country, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, the Pakistan Stock Exchange and the State Bank have issued ESG-and sustainability-focused regulations, policies and guidelines. However, time is of the essence; the quick remedy lies in embedding corporate purpose in a company's constitutional documents — which is variable on a self-regulatory basis but loosely monitored by the SECP. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

IPO-Pakistan sensitizes SMEs about importance of IPRs to flourish

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) of Pakistan, Farukh Amil on Tuesday said that SMEs should get better awareness about the protection and enforcement of patents, copyrights, and trademarks to avoid counterfeiting and piracy of their products and flourish their business at the national and international level.

He said this while addressing an awareness session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with IPO-

Pakistan for the business community, said a press release issued here by ICICI. Farukh Amil briefed the business community about the role of IPO-Pakistan in nurturing an enabling IP environment through its initiative to promote businesses, creativity, and innovation. He said that the lack of an IP culture and weak IP enforcement are major challenges that need to be overcome and added that IPO-Pakistan is working to place Pakistan on the global IP map as a compliance and responsible country through increased public awareness, practice, and enforcement. He said that

adherence to global standards on IP, through international treaties and societal practices will enhance Pakistan's reputation as a business and investment-friendly country. He said that SMEs should benefit from the services of IPO-Pakistan for better protection of their patents, copyrights, and trademarks. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that SMEs are the backbone of the economy and IPO-Pakistan should further simplify the IP registration

processes and procedures and introduce mobile apps to facilitate SMEs in online registration of their products and services for copyrights and trademarks. He said that in the global competitive business environment, the role of IPO-Pakistan is very important in promoting innovations and startups and ensuring better economic growth of the country through strict enforcement of IPRs. He assured that ICICI would work with IPO-Pakistan to raise more awareness in the business community about the importance of IPRs for better growth of their businesses.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman IPO-Pakistan Farukh Amil addressing the Seminar regarding awareness of IP rights at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce.



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Bakhtawari President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce exchanging views with Farukh Amil Chairman, IPO Pakistan about creating better awareness in the business community about the Importance of intellectual property rights during his visit to ICICI.

HCCI VP met Incharge anti-encroachment, urges to remove illegal encroachment

HYDERABAD (INP): The vice president of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Ovais Khan met with the Incharge of the anti-encroachment department of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Rasheeda Bano and emphasized the need to address the growing issue of illegal encroachments.

During the meeting, Incharge anti-encroachment department Rasheeda Bano said that Mayor Kashif Shoro was actively working on the beautification and

improvement plan of the city.

She stated that the increasing encroachments not only disrupt traffic flow but also directly affect the public.

The Mayor is keen on developing a plan in collaboration with the business community to eradicate illegal encroachments in markets and commercial centers.

The flow of traffic is hindered by encroachments in markets and commercial areas, causing difficulties in the movement of school students and also affecting business activities in markets.

CM inaugurates BFC to promote business activities

MULTAN (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) at tehsil office, here on Tuesday.

According to official sources, 22 provincial and two federal government departments would issue different sorts of 124 non-objection certificates within 14 days. The chief minister appreciated the performance of Punjab Information Technology Board's team for excellent performance to provide services.

Gold rates decline by Rs.600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.600 and was sold at Rs.217,300 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.217,900 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.514 to Rs.186,300 from Rs.186,814 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.170,775 from Rs.171,246 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Tanveer chairs 3rd consultative session on Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan 2024-34

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture, Industry and Energy SM Tanveer chaired via video link the 3rd consultative session on Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan 2024-34 here at Agriculture House on Tuesday.

On this occasion, he said that Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan will prove to be a complete game changer for the agricultural development of the province. This plan has

SECP, UN Women Pakistan to host ESG symposium

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange of Pakistan (SECP), in partnership with UN Women Pakistan, is all set to host a symposium on "Driving Progress on Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations." The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, will be the chief guest of the

been prepared on the instructions of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, which includes proposals for improvement of water resources, reforms for agricultural research and improvement and innovation in the market and industry system related to the agricultural sector.

With consultation of all stakeholders these recommendations will be sent to the Provincial Cabinet for approval.

symposium, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Leadership and experts from capital market institutions including Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Pakistan Business Council, Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance, Mutual Fund Association of Pakistan, Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation, InfraZamin,

Ambassador says: Exploring new avenues for trade cooperation vital to augment Pak-German ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan in Germany Saqlain Syedah has said that exploring new avenues of cooperation in trade and investment

between Pakistan and Germany would further augment the friendly bilateral relations.

She was addressing as special guest at an event titled "Business Opportunities Pakistan" organised by the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce (IHK Frankfurt) in collaboration with Commercial Section of Consulate General of Pakistan, Frankfurt and

the German Emirati joint Council for Industry and Commerce, UAE (AHK, UAE), according to a press release.

In her keynote address, the ambassador highlighted business opportunities in Pakistan with special reference to Pak-German relations.

She noted that Germany was a significant trading partner for Pakistan for being the fifth largest destination of Pakistani exports.

She said that Pakistan also benefited from German imports like machinery,

chemicals, electric goods etc.

The ambassador emphasised that Pakistan was keen to invite investors especially from the world through the newly formed platform of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Johannes Richter, Director Asia Pacific, IHK Frankfurt, welcomed the ambassador and the participants and noted that the event was aimed at exchanging ideas with market experts, diplomatic representatives and textile entrepreneurs.

FESCO staff ordered to prevent theft of transformers

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engr. Muhammad Amir has issued orders to the staff to be on alert at the company's installations in the region, especially for transformers. He said that transformer thieves could take advantage of the darkness at night.

Large industry grows 1.59% in November

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) increased by 1.59 percent on Year-on-Year (YoY) basis during the month of November 2024 compared to the output of the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. On Month-on-Month (MoM) basis, the large industry grew by 3.63

percent in November 2024 compared to October 2024, PBS reported.

However, the industry witnessed negative growth of 0.80 percent during the first five months (July-November) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The provisional quantum indices of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for October 2023.

Naqvi inspects upgradation of LGH, Ganga Ram hospital

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the upgradation work of Ganga Ram Hospital and Lahore General Hospital (LGH) at late night for 3 hours.

Upon noticing the sewerage line running through the hospital's verandah, the CM called the MD WASA, directing the immediate relocation of the line to an alternative site, said a handout issued here on Tuesday.

Emphasising the importance of fostering a green environment, he insisted on the plantation of samplings and landscaping in the vacant

hospital space.

CM Naqvi issued a firm directive to ensure the completion of the upgradation work by Jan 31, without any compromise.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, particularly in the case of LGH emergency services, he stressed that every moment is crucial, and the deadline must be strictly adhered to.

Providing an overview of the ongoing efforts, CM Naqvi highlighted that the upgradation work spans an impressive six lakh square feet. He acknowledged the simultaneous commencement of various

projects aimed at enhancing the overall condition of the hospitals.

Expressing dedication to completing the projects before the stipulated deadline, he underscored the commitment to ensuring public convenience.

The CM affirmed his involvement in monitoring the progress of the undertaken tasks, reinforcing his commitment to the successful completion of the hospital upgradation projects.

Provincial Ministers Dr Javed Akram, Amir Mir, secretary health, secretary C&W, secretary tourism, commissioner and others were present.



MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi unveiling the plaque to inaugurate the Revamping of Children Hospital Emergency, OPD & Pathology blocks during his visit.

KP becomes first province imposing ban on sale of e-cigarettes to minors

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: In a landmark development, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has imposed section 144 to ban the storage, sale and use of e-cigarettes and vapes to minors and within the vicinity of educational institutions in the province.

"The decision has been taken in wake of the alarming increase in the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping devices particularly among children and youth in the province," reads an official notification issued here on Tuesday by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The concern over increasing use of e-cigarettes and vapes is heightened due to the presence of nicotine in these products which is a highly addictive substance, reads the order.

The use of e-cigarettes and vapes poses significant health risks, especially to children, youth and women (pregnant) as it can lead to addiction and other serious health issues. In response to these concerns and to safeguard the health and well-being of our citizens, especially the younger generation.

2 bandits killed, 4 escaped in alleged police encounter

LAHORE (Online): 2 people died and 4 were escaped in alleged police encounter in Shadbagh.

According to police, with the help of Qasim and Riyaz associates, the dead accused escaped by snatching the official rifle from the police custody.

According to police, while searching for fleeing robbers, 6 people on 2 motorcycles were signalled to stop when the accused opened the fire. During the exchange of fire, the accused were killed by their accomplices while 4 accused were escaped.

Meeting discusses matters relating to PHA Mega city

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Justice Irshad Qaisar chaired a meeting and discussed matters relating to Pakhtunkhwa Housing Authority (PHA) Mega City.

The meeting was also attended by Caretaker Minister, Dr. Aamir Abdullah, CM's advisor, Ashfaq Khan, Secretary Housing and concerned officials.

The meeting discussed observations

being made during the site visit of PHA Mega City. The meeting was informed that concerned land could be used for housing purposes according to the land revenue laws of KP province.

It was said that 1750 kanal land has been acquired for phase I and allotment of 3434 plots has been done. The meeting was informed that appropriate measures have been taken to prevent flooding and private sector has been involved for investment in the mega housing scheme.



KARACHI: Female police march during the passing-out ceremony at Saeedabad Police Training Centre, in Provincial Capital.

Muslim Hands, AIOU Mirpur hosts capacity building workshop

MIRPUR (AJK (APP): Regional Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Mirpur here on Tuesday hosted a day-long capacity building workshop, in collaboration with Muslim Hands International (MHI).

According to AIOU official details, MHI UK-based distinguished NGO with established roots in Pakistan and AJK raising awareness among the masses about the significance of plantation for earning and livelihood in this era of rising dearness and price hikes.

The workshop, led by renowned resource person Dr. Tayyaba Kanwal, provided participants with insights into the cultivation

process, including soil preparation, nurturing, caring, and growth of plants aimed at generating income.

Dr. Tayyaba Kanwal actively engaged participants in hands-on activities, emphasizing the practical aspects of the successful plantation. Discussions included techniques for cultivating Seeds, soil preparation, and the nurturing process crucial for plant growth, aligning with AIOU's commitment to sustainable income sources.

The Chief Guest, Imran Sadiq Malik, commended AIOU Mirpur for its efforts in promoting plantation initiatives in AJK.



LAHORE: Labourers are busy in construction work of Sagian Road with the help of heavy machinery in the Provincial Capital.

10 developmental schemes worth Rs 11.941b approved

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party, Punjab, (PDWP) has approved ten developmental schemes of the SHC&ME, RP and literacy sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 11941.6 million.

The schemes were approved in the 42nd PDWP meeting of current financial year, chaired by Planning and Development Board (P&D Board) Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo here Tuesday. The Board Secretary Muzaffar Khan Sial, all the P&D Board members, Provincial secretaries of departments

concerned and other senior representatives attended the meeting. Approved schemes are as follows:

Program for Strategic Transformation / Revamping of old Blocks of Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital Gurjat at the cost of Rs 769,998 million; Program for Strategic Transformation / Revamping of old blocks of ex-DHQS (DHQ Hospital, Sargodha) at the cost of Rs 827,045 million; Program for Strategic Transformation / Revamping of old blocks 351 of ex-DHQS (Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala.

Pakistan Army, FC organizes medical camps

PESHAWAR (APP): In response to the onset of winter, the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps North organized free medical camps in various areas including Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Swat, Dir, Buner, and Chitral.

At these free medical camps, doctors and nursing staff conducted over seven thousand free medical examinations, providing essential medications to the patients, said officials here on Tuesday.

Some cases requiring further treatment were referred to relevant district hospitals.

In addition to medical care, healthcare professionals at the camps raised awareness among the residents about seasonal illnesses.

The initiative, led by the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps, aims to continue providing health facilities to remote areas through free medical camps.

IGP review up-gradation work of Special Initiative Police Station Civil Lines

RAWALPINDI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar here on Tuesday visited Special Initiative Police Station Civil Lines and reviewed its up-gradation work.

He directed the officers concerned to complete all the projects within the stipulated time frame.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali, City Police

Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The IGP inspected different parts of the police station and appreciated its up-gradation work in a short span of time. Rawalpindi police officers briefed the IGP regarding ongoing projects. All projects should be completed as soon as possible, the IGP directed the authorities.

LHC reserves verdict on bail plea of Wazirabad attack accused

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Tuesday reserved verdict on a post-arrest bail petition of Waqas Ali, one of the accused involved in the Wazirabad attack on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder.

The bench, headed by Justice Aalia Neelum, heard the post-arrest bail petition and reserved the verdict on conclusion of arguments by the parties.

International News

UK announces biggest deployment to Nato exercises in decades

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain will send 20,000 armed forces personnel to one of Nato's largest exercises since the Cold War, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps announced on Monday, warning of increasing threats to the Western-led alliance.

The deployment, which Shapps characterised as the UK's biggest to Nato in four decades, is aimed at "providing vital reassurance" over the "menace" posed by Russian President Vladimir Putin following his invasion of Ukraine, Shapps said.

The British personnel — from the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and

Army — will be deployed across Europe and beyond for the military alliance's latest "Exercise Steadfast Defender", alongside personnel from 31 other member countries and Sweden, which is a candidate to join the transatlantic alliance.

"Today's Nato is bigger than ever but the challenges are bigger too," Shapps said in a wide-ranging speech in London, in which he warned "the international rules-based order" was facing rising dangers.

"And that's why the UK has committed... the totality of our air, land and maritime assets to NATO", he went on.

"In 2024 I am deter-

mined to do even more and that's why I can announce today the UK will send in some 20,000 personnel to lead one of Nato's largest deployments since the end of the Cold War."

The UK contingent will include fighter jets and surveillance aircraft, the navy's most advanced warships and submarines, and a full range of army capabilities, including special operations forces.

London will send a so-called Carrier Strike Group — which features its flagship aircraft carrier and F-35B fighter jets and helicopters — to the exercises in the North Atlantic, Norwegian Sea and Baltic Sea.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a ministerial statement in the House of Commons, in London, Britain.

Yemen's Houthis say they will target US ships

CAIRO (Internews): The Yemeni Houthi movement will expand its targets to include U.S. ships, an official from the Iran-allied group said on Monday.

"The ship doesn't necessarily have to be heading to Israel for us to target it; it is enough for it to be American," Nasruddeen Amer, a spokesperson for the Houthis, told Al Jazeera.

"The United States is on the verge of losing its maritime security."

Amer also said British and American ships had become "legitimate targets" due to the strikes launched

by the two countries on Yemen last week.

Attacks on ships since October by the Houthis, who say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians, have hit commerce and alarmed major powers in a regional escalation of Israel's more than three-month war with Hamas militants in Gaza.

In the latest apparent attack, a U.S.-owned bulk carrier was reportedly struck by a missile near Yemen's port of Aden, causing a fire in a hold but no injuries on board, according to British Maritime Security firm Ambrey.

One dead, 12 injured in rammings; Israel arrests students in West Bank

NABLUS: Apparently coordinated car-rammings in central Israel on Monday, claimed the life of a woman and injured 12 other people, police and medical officials said, as tensions soared over the more than three-month-old Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip.

Police described the incident in Raanana, north of Tel Aviv, as a terrorist attack and said two suspects were under arrest.

Major storm hits French territory in Indian Ocean

SAINTE REUNION: Hundreds of thousands of people on France's Reunion Island were confined to their homes on Monday, as authorities issued the highest alert for a potentially devastating storm.

Cyclone Belal hit the French Indian Ocean island on Monday, moving in from the northwest packing "extreme winds", according to Meteo-France. "The eye of the storm is passing over the Reunion Island, starting from the northern part."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards attack Israel's 'spy HQ' in Iraq

DUBAI/BAGHDAD (Internews): Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they attacked the spy headquarters of Israel in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, state media reported late on Monday, while the elite force said they also struck in Syria against the Islamic State.

The strikes come amid concerns about the escalation of a conflict that has spread through the Middle East since the war between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas began on Oct. 7, with Iran's allies also entering the fray from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

"In response to the recent atrocities of the Zionist regime, causing the killing of commanders of the Guards and the Axis of Resistance ... one of the main Mossad espionage headquarters in Iraq's Kurdistan region was destroyed by ballistic mis-

siles," the Guards said in a statement.

Israeli government officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

In addition to the strikes at northeast of Kurdistan's capital Erbil in a residential area near the U.S. consulate, the Guards said they "fired a number of ballistic missiles in Syria and destroyed the perpetrators of terrorist operations" in Iran, including the Islamic State.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for two explosions in Iran this month that killed nearly 100 people and wounded scores at a memorial for top commander Qassem Soleimani.

"We assure our nation that the Guards' offensive operations will continue until avenging the last drops of martyrs' blood," the Guards' statement said.

Commerzbank merger talk resurfaces as Germany mulls company sales, sources say

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Five years after Deutsche Bank (DBKGN.DE) and Commerzbank (CBKGD.DE) aborted an attempt to merge, an uncertain outlook for bank profitability and Germany's need to plug a hole in its budget have rekindled speculation about a potential deal.

Germany has said it is looking at all options to raise funds by selling stakes in some of the 100 or more companies it owns.

Though a sale of its remaining 15% holding in Commerzbank is not imminent, Finance Minister Christian Lindner is open to a disposal and ultimately would prefer the government exiting the stake, according to a person familiar with his thinking.

A merger with Commerzbank would allow

Deutsche Bank to further diversify away from volatile investment banking earnings, bolstering its longer-term stability, another factor that could sway the German government, said the person, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Deutsche Bank, which has completed the bulk of a multi-year restructuring plan, has recently stepped up internal discussions on deals, including possible purchases of banks such as Commerzbank and ABN Amro, Bloomberg News reported on Friday, without naming sources.

Deutsche Bank in recent months has come closer to reopening the idea of a merger with Commerzbank, even if there are no live discussions, a second person with knowledge of the situation has told Reuters.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Head of the Ukrainian President's Office Andriy Yermak arrive for the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (not pictured) during the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Saudi Arabia could recognise Israel if Palestinian issue resolved: foreign minister

Monitoring Desk
DAVOS: Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Tuesday the kingdom could recognise Israel if a comprehensive agreement were reached that included statehood for the Palestinians.

"We agree that regional peace includes peace for Israel, but that could only happen through peace for the Palestinians through a Palestinian state," Prince Faisal bin

Farhan told a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Asked if Saudi Arabia would then recognise Israel as part of a wider political agreement, he said: "Certainly," Prince Faisal said securing regional peace through the creation of a Palestinian state was "something we have been indeed working on with the US administration, and it is more relevant in the context of Gaza".

Big win in Iowa moves Donald Trump closer to Biden re-match

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump romped to a landslide victory on Monday in Iowa's caucuses — the first vote in the US presidential race — cementing his status as the presumptive Republican standard-bearer to challenge US President Joe Biden in November's election.

The former president has led polling for more than a year, but the contest offered the clearest insight yet into his ability to convert that advantage into a stunning White House return.

Major US networks took just half an hour to call the race, with Trump taking 51 per cent of the vote and opening an unprecedented 30-point gap over Ron DeSantis — the Iowa victory for an Iowa challenger in modern history.

The Florida governor and Trump's other main rival — former UN ambassador Nikki Haley — were locked at 21 and 19pc respectively.

Russia welcomes North Korean foreign minister for talks on deepening ties

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui is due in Russia on Monday for talks with her counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, as the two countries deepen economic, political, and military ties.

As Russia's international isolation has grown over its war in Ukraine, analysts say Moscow has seen increasing value in its ties with North Korea.

For North Korea's part, relations with Russia have not always been as

warm as they were at the height of the Soviet Union, but the country is reaping benefits from Moscow's need for friends.

North Korea on Sunday tested a new solid-fuel hypersonic missile with intermediate range, state news agency KCNA reported, in a move that was condemned by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

Choe and her delegation departed Pyongyang for Russia the same day, KCNA said.

President for scientific based knowledge sharing tendency to benefit entire humanity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday while alluding to the significance of the technological advancement and innovations in diverse fields and availability of abundance of knowledge, stressed the need to share the latest breakthroughs, experiences and achievements for the greater benefit of the entire humanity.

The president said that the availability of knowledge should not be contained under the mere tag of 'copyrights' as greater accessibility could help humanity to move through the current economic, social and global challenges.

The president was speaking as a chief guest at a ceremony to mark the 29th anniversary celebration of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, former diplomats, members of academia and the media.

The president said there was a need that the profuse availability of knowledge should be shared among the nations without any hindrance by resetting the priorities which were focused somewhat elsewhere.

"Open learning knowledge resources should be utilized and priorities of the world should be changed towards mutual transfer of knowledge. The injustices should be addressed," he emphasized.

The president further said that transformation in the world could take place in the presence of 'ethics or humanity-based order', adding the new world would be dependent upon these shifts.

While the rules-based world order was dominated by material-driven priorities, he opined.

He regretted that contrary to the requirements of the world, the prevalent tendency was towards the ultra-rich who had been becoming rich while the poor of the world were mired in squalor and deprivation.

He stressed that just and equitable distribution of wealth in the world could make penance for the sufferings of humanity.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi cutting cake to mark the 29th anniversary celebration of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) meeting.

Minister seeks DSSI report to ensure prevention of edibles' profiteering, hoarding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday sought a detailed report from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on the active usage of the Decision Support System on Inflation (DSSI) for price monitoring of edibles, checking profiteering and hoarding.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the prices of essential commodities, a news release said.

One of the salient features of DSSI, which provides market-level information, city-wise comparison of prices, and time series data at the commodity level, is the comparison of rates issued by Deputy Commissioners and those collected by the PBS every week.

The minister also directed the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to engage with the Pakistan Poultry Association to identify and resolve the supply issues of poultry products.

Besides, he asked provincial governments and the administration of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to vigorously pursue smooth availability of essential items, especially in the preview of the upcoming holy month of Ramazan, seeking report demand and supply situation of specific commodities used in the fasting month.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministries of Food Security and Research; Commerce; Finance; Industries and Production, and Climate Change, besides provincial governments, PBS, Trading Corporation of Pakistan, Utility Stores Corporation, Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO) and ICT administration.

During the meeting, the PBS Chief Statistician presented an overview of the price situation in the country for the week ended on January 11, 2024, and

PM Kakar emphasizes unleashing full potential of Pakistan's agri sector

DAVOS (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday emphasized the immediate need to realize the true potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector by scaling up investments in its modernization and mechanization for achieving food security.

He was talking to Brian Sikes, Chief Executive Officer of Cargill Inc - the largest private American global food corporation, who talked on him here on the sidelines of the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The prime minister appreciated Cargill's role in strengthening Pakistan-US trade relations and cooperation in the agricultural sector.

He also highlighted the government's initiatives for food security, especially the innovative initiatives in the agricultural sector under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Highlighting the government's measures to promote business and investment, the prime minister talked about the establishment of the SIFC, its measures to promote foreign investment in various sectors in a short period of time, and its positive effects.

PPP demands ROs' removal for 'denying' Arrow symbol

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) demanded the Chief Election Commissioner to remove those Returning Officers (ROs) who have 'not' allotted "Arrow" symbols to seven candidates of the party from Punjab for the General Elections 2024.

PPP's In-Charge Election Cell Taj Haider said that "injustice is being done with their party in Punjab. A pattern is emerged during the election schedule which is against the PPP," he added. Taj Haider said that the PPP has also written a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and demanded the removal of the concerned ROs. The PPP In-Charge Election Cell said their candidates from two national and five provincial constituencies of Punjab were declared independents and have been issued different symbols instead of the party's traditional "Arrow".



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Lasbella University Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Open katchehry organized to address issues of Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: An open katchehry was held under the auspices of Quetta administration to address the issues of Quetta city on Tuesday.

The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Ft. Lt (Retd) Saad bin Asad, SSP Operations, Jawad Tariq, senior officials of the local administration as well as officers of the line departments including Tehsil office, WASA, PHE, QESCO, Municipal Corporation, Irrigation, Forests, Education, Health and others participated in the open court.

The Assistant Commissioners and Tehsildar of Quetta were also present on the occasion.

A large number of people participated in the open court and apprised their problems.

The officers present on the occasion gave patient hearing to the issues raised by the general public, and issued on the spot directives to address them.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner said that it is included in our priorities to resolve the issues of people of Quetta.

Siraj denounces Senate resolutions about delay in elections

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq denouncing the Senate resolutions calling for a delay in elections, asserting that they are unconstitutional and only serve to cast controversy over the sanctity of the parliament without any real impact.

Addressing a press conference at Mansoorah on Tuesday, he emphasized the importance of fair elections in accordance with the date specified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Sirajul Haq warned that the JI would resist any tactics aimed at depriving the masses of their fundamental right to choose their representatives.

Reiterating the JI's consistent demand for a level playing field for all political parties in the elections, he emphasized that polls were crucial for ensuring stability and peace in the country.

The JI chief expressed confidence that the politics of dynasties would no longer thrive in Pakistan, as awareness among people about their rights has increased. He said February 8, would guarantee the rule of the people.

He said those who remained in power during past five years failed to deliver. He criticized family-based political parties, likening their functioning to a property business. He pointed out that these parties distributed tickets among relatives, sidelining party workers.

Siraj called on those seeking the position of prime minister for the fourth time to present their past performance.

Countries touch zenith of development by empowering LG system: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that all those countries which had touched the zenith of development had done so by empowering local government.

"Throughout my own experiences and understandings there is no democracy without local government", he said while delivering his speech at a two-day Conference for the Civic Hackathon "Problem



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi speaking at a podium during the Civic Hackathon conference.

FIA arrest 18 illegal immigrants

QUETTA (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency Gwadar region has arrested 18 individuals during an operation carried out on Tuesday, FIA sources said.

Led by Deputy Director FIA Asif Naseem, FIA Composite Circle Gwadar, FIA teams carried out targeted operations in various locations in Gwadar. Among those arrested were mainly from Punjab province intending to enter the Gulf States illegally in search of better job opportunities.

JUI-F cannot run election campaign in KP, claims Hamdullah

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal leader Hafiz Hamdullah on Tuesday claimed that JUI-F is 'barred' from carrying out the election campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ahead of the general election 2024. "Pamphlets are being distributed in KP with warnings not to allow JUI-F corner meetings," Hafiz Hamdullah said while exclusively talking to a news channel. The JUI-F leader said the security situation is not ideal in KP, JUI-F candidates cannot go outside for election work in the evening.

Patients provided free treatment, consultation in PN's medical camp

Independent Report
KARACHI: In continuation to efforts for uplifting to provide standard health facilities along the Coastal areas of country, Pakistan Navy established free medical camp at Coastal village Kappar, Balochistan.

Free medical camp was established by Pakistan Navy doctors, paramedic staff in collaboration with Sahil Welfare Association. In this medical camp hundreds of patients including women and children were provided free medical treatment. A dedicated team of doctors and paramedic staff comprising of Medical,



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. (retd) Saad bin Asad presiding over a meeting regarding general elections

FBR 'delays' SIMs, connection suspension of non-filers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has "delayed" nationwide crackdown against non-filers.

The FBR was set to suspend SIMs and utility connections of the non-filers on the International Monetary Fund's demand, but now the decision has been 'delayed' due to 'legal issues'.

Sources privy to the development said the action is being 'delayed' over non-completion of the Income Tax General Order because FBR may have to face courts on legal grounds.

The action against non-filers can be initiated by March 1 after releasing the active taxpayers list, the source said. After addressing the legal issues, the tax collection body will suspend SIMs and utility connections of the non-filers.

The IMF's move to issue notices to hundreds of thousands of non-filers is part of a broader strategy to boost tax compliance in Pakistan.

Last week, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the first review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by its Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

"The Board's approval allows for an immediate disbursement of SDR 528 million (around US\$ 700 million), bringing the total disbursements under the SBA to US\$ 1.9 billion," a Finance Ministry news release said.



QUETTA: UNICEF Health Specialist Dr. Aamir meeting with caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozgazi

Asghar Achakzai vows to wage struggle for achieving goals set by our elders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai has vowed to wage struggle for achieving the goals set by the elders. He announced to set up universities in all districts if the people voted to power.

He urged the general public to use their right of franchise on the basis of performance.

The provincial president of ANP and candidate for PB-51 and NA-263, Asghar Khan Achakzai, candidate for PB-50, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, candidate for PB-38, Malik Naeem Bazai and others were addressing the public gatherings and workers convention election cell in different constituencies on Tuesday.

The provincial General Secretary of ANF, Mabat Kaka, central Vice President, Malik Usman Achakzai and member central committee, Dr Akbar Khan Kakar also addressed the gatherings.

The district presidents, general secretaries and other office bearers were also present.

A large number of people belonging to different political parties announced to join the ANP after resigning from the respective parties.

The ANP leaders welcomed those who joined the party and pledged that special attention would be given on education and health sectors if the people reposed confidence in next elections.

ECP suspends membership of 4 senators for asset details failure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday suspended the membership of four senators for not submitting details of their assets and liabilities.

The senators suspended by the ECP include Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Aon Abbas, Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah and Samina Mumtaz.

Lawmakers are required to file these statements by December 31 each year. The ECP had instructed them to submit their financial statements up to June 30, 2023, by January 16, 2024, or face suspension of their respective memberships.

Closure of Torkham border causing losses to traders: Aftab

PESHAWAR (Online): Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Tuesday said that the closure of the Torkham border was causing losses to the traders on both sides of the border, therefore, the government should reopen the border crossing. Addressing a gathering of party workers at Sherpao village in Charsadda district, he said that both the sides should hold talks to sort out bilateral issues. Aftab Sherpao said the border closure would sow discord between the two countries, urging the government to solve all the issues through diplomatic channels. He added that the closure of the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham would create problems for the business community.