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DERAALLAH YAR: Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing during political gathering

Fires broadside at Nawaz Sharif Will not let three-time PM to be imposed on nation for fourth time, says Bilawal

Says arrow will hunt down the lion on Feb 8; Contest only between PPP and PML-N now after bat's exit from polls: PPP believes in politics of serving masses; Will give interest-free loans to the people of Balochistan so that they can do your business and farmers will be assisted by Kisan Cards and build a university in Naseerabad besides giving youth card to the young people of the country to support them financially.

DERA MURAD JAMALI (Agencies): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Sunday that only two political parties — his own and the PML-N — remained in the electoral arena, urging the nation to vote for the 'arrow' in the upcoming general election. The comments come a day after the PTI lost the battle for its iconic 'bat' electoral symbol, forcing its candidates to contest the polls as independents. "Only two parties are left now," Bilawal said

while addressing a rally in Balochistan's Dera Murad Jamali. "You have to decide between the PPP and the PML-N," he said. The former foreign minister said that the people had to use their vote to determine if they wanted the same politics to continue or "new thinking" to prevail. "You have to decide if you want to give the country's fate in the hands of a person who served as prime minister thrice but failed to do anything for the country," Bilawal said, taking aim at PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. "Or do you want to give an opportunity to a party that takes everyone onboard as the country moves forward?" he asked. He highlighted that the PPP practiced politics and contested elections "for the poor" while the PML-N supremo was taking part in the polls so he could be saved from going to jail. "I'm only contesting the polls so that I save you, the public, and the future of Pakistan from those people," Bilawal said. Taking another swipe at Nawaz, the PPP chief said the former premier was a coward as he vowed to defeat the PML-N in their home ground of Lahore. "I'm also contesting from Lahore. I will strike them inside their house," he asserted, adding that the PML-N feared the public. "They fear what the public will do to them if they step out," he said.

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Elections on Feb 8 in interest of country, political parties: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that it was in the interest of all political forces and parties concerned that general elections should be held on February 8.

Speaking at the seventh edition of Think Fest 2024, the minister said it would be good for the country if the elections were held on the scheduled day i.e., Thursday, February 8.

Without a fundamental change in the system enabling the common man to contest elections, there would not be a level playing field, he remarked. The minister stressed that every political party should give its members the right to vote in the election of its office-bearers.

He said in his opinion, the yesterday's Apex Court decision was a good precedent. It would have been better if there were legal experts in the panel who could explain the legal position that Pakistan would be run by the elected representatives.

The minister said that in the run-up to the elections, everyone was complaining about the level playing field. The Pakistan Peoples Party and the Muslim Pakistan League (N) were voicing their complaints in that regard while Maulana Fazlur Rehman also complained of a lack of level playing field in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

"In fact, the working class of Pakistan does not have a level playing field," Solangi maintained.

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In all 442 candidates in competition run for 16 NA seats from Balochistan

119 & 363 candidates to contest elections from 3 NA & 9 PA seats from Quetta respectively

Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 442 candidates would be in competition run for 16 seats of National Assembly from Balochistan province. According to the final list of candidates issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, 442 candidates contesting the elections on 16 NA seats from the province are included 428 male and 14 female candidates.

Altogether 38 candidates are contesting the polls from NA-262 while 46 and 35 candidates are competing from NA-263 and NA-264 respectively. Similarly, a total of 363 candidates are in competition run for all nine seats of Provincial Assembly from Quetta.

The highest number of candidates (63) are contesting elections from PB-42, Quetta-V.

Two each female candidates are contesting from NA-255, NA-260, NA-262 and NA-263. No female candidate



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addressing a Seminar (Muzakara) organized by Think Fest at Al Hamra Hall.

Inaugurates election office: PkMAP not against anyone, just waging aging struggle for rights of Pashtoons: Mehmood Achakzai

Says all nationalities living in Pakistan should get equal rights; we have to be resolute to secure our rights despite hurdles and constraints

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai inaugurated the central election cell of NA-263 and PB-41 in the respective election constituency on Sunday.

people were also present. Addressing the ceremony, the Chairman PkMAP said that PkMAP is not against anyone, but it has been struggling for rights of the Pashtoons in the province and country.

He said that there have been numerous hardships in our struggle, and even the same would be in time to come, but we have to be firm and resolute against all odds for securing the rights.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the election candidate of the party for PB-41, Abdul Qahar Wadhan besides other leaders including Dr. Hamid Khan Achakzai and others.

A large number of the party workers and other

deviate from our objective. However, still we have to move forward to achieve our objectives, he stressed adding that we should indulge in the politics of allegations.

2024 elections ECP urges political parties to ensure 5pc women candidates on general seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has urged the political parties to ensure 5 percent representation of women on general seats for General Elections 2024, in accordance with Section 206 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The ECP spokesperson on Sunday stated that all political parties need to provide the Election Commission with the list of male and female candidates holding party tickets for general seats within a period of five days.

It is noteworthy that political parties assigned symbols for the 2024 general elections must comply with Section 206 of the Elections Act, 2017, ensuring a 5 percent representation of women candidates on general seats.



QUETTA: Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party Mehmood Khan Achakzai is inaugurating the election office of the candidate PB-41 and NA-263.

95 percent target of polio immunization campaign achieved in Balochistan

the immunization campaign. It may be mentioned here that the anti-polio campaign was launched on Monday last in all 36 districts of the province.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio eradication Balochistan, the campaign lasted for seven days all over the province. The EOC sources said that almost 95 percent target of the polio immunization was achieved in the province till sixth day i.e., Saturday.

While the campaign also remained continued on Sunday, it is likely to achieve more about



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Commission for Human Rights are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Manan Chowk in Quetta.

CS asks concerned authorities to take tribal elders in confidence for peaceful polls

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has asked the concerned authorities to take tribal elders into confidence for ensuring peaceful elections in the province.

He said that every possible efforts would be made to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in peaceful manner.

The Chief Secretary was presiding over the meeting held to review the arrangements made for general elections in Loralai Division on Sunday.

He said that it is our firm resolve to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in the province.

Referring his visit, the Chief Secretary said that the basic objective behind his visit is to monitor the preparations for general elections.

In this regard, visits would be made of the remaining divisions of the province so as to mobilize the government machinery for elections.

He directed to ensure provision of best security, repair of the polling stations, provision of water, electricity, washrooms and construction of ramp for the disabled persons.

Earlier, the Commis-

Third resolution tabled in Senate seeking delay in Feb 8 polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): Another resolution seeking a delay in the February 8 polls moved in the Senate on Sunday, citing the weather and the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Senator Hilalur Rehman of the Independent Parliamentary Group submitted the resolution citing severe cold weather, snowfall, and security challenges as the hindrances for the general elections. "Severe cold and snowfall in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are depriving the citizens to cast their ballots while the candidates are also facing numerous challenges to run their campaigns," said the resolution.

In the same way, due to security concerns in the country, especially in KP, candidates are facing threats of terrorist attacks while campaigning," it said, adding that it was also creating obstacles and limiting candidates' participation in their campaigns.

It added that the date of Feb 8 to hold the elections is not suitable. The resolution urged the ECP to delay polls to a date which was acceptable for all the relevant stakeholders.

PTI kicks off election campaign in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A day after losing 'bat' as electoral symbol, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) launched its campaign for the upcoming polls with a rally led by central leader Sher Afzal Marwat at Karachi's Sea View beach on Sunday.

Marwat led the party's first election rally at Sea View with a significant number of participants. The rally was announced by PTI leader Raja Azhar, who mentioned that the party chose Sea View, a popular picnic spot in Karachi, to kick off its campaign.

However, Azhar complained about police barricades on the roads leading to the venue. Subsequently, the traffic police clarified that the main track along Sea View beach was temporarily blocked due to the political rally but was soon restored.

The party faced a setback on Saturday when the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), leading to the loss of its electoral symbol 'bat.' Following the Supreme Court's decision, the deadline for the allotment of electoral symbols to political parties expired. The ECP assigned different symbols to PTI candidates, who will now participate as independent contenders in the Feb 8 elections.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, the now-former chairman, stated that all PTI candidates would participate independently, and the party would release a list of candidates with their new election symbols.



LORALAI: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting to review preparation for general elections

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 21 runs to take control of T20 series

HAMILTON (Online): National team was defeated by New Zealand by 21 runs in the second T20 match as well. The half-centuries of Fakhr Zaman and Babar Azam went in vain.

The host team got a two-nil (2-0) lead in the five-match series. The second match of the 5-match T20 series was played in Hamilton on Sunday, where national team captain Shaheen Afridi won the toss and decided to field first.

New Zealand started the match, the first wicket of the host team fell for 59 runs, Dion Conway scored 20 runs and caught Fakhr Zaman off the ball of Amir Jamal. The host team started aggressively, Finn

Allen hit 5 sixes and 7 fours. He played a brilliant innings of 74 runs in just 41 balls but could not score a century and got out on Osama Mir's ball. Skipper Kane Williamson suffered leg pain while scoring runs due to which he had to leave the match after scoring 26 runs.

New Zealand's third wicket fell on a total of 147 runs, Daryl Mitchell was the victim of Abbas Afridi for 17. Mark Chapman was the victim of Abbas Afridi for 4, followed by Haris Rauf, Adam Milne (0) and Ish Sodhi. (0) and Gaylen Phillips (13) to the pavilion, while Mitchell Santner was run out by Azam Khan.

The New Zealand team

managed to score 194 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in 20 overs. Osama Mir, Aamir Jamal took one wicket each, Abbas Afridi took 2 wickets and Haris Rauf took 3 wickets.

In pursuit of the target, Saim Ayub of the national team became a victim of Tim Southee by scoring only one run this time, while Mohammad Rizwan could also score only 7 runs, 2 players were dismissed for 10 runs of the national team.

Fakhr Zaman took charge of the batting lineup after the early dismissals of Saem Ayub and Muhammad Rizwan.

After Fakhr Zaman's dismissal, wickets contin-

ued to fall. Babar Azam scored 66 runs off 43 balls with 2 sixes and 7 fours, Iftikhar Ahmed 4, Azam Khan 2, Aamir Jamal 9, Abbas Afridi 7, Haris Rauf 2 while Osama Mir returned to the pavilion without scoring any runs. Shaheen Afridi took the game forward with the help of 2 sixes but gave away the wicket of Adam Milne after scoring 22 runs.

The entire team was dismissed in 19.3 overs and could score only 173 runs.

From New Zealand, Adam Milne took 4 wickets, Tim Southee took 2 wickets, Ben Sears and Ash Sodhi took two wickets each.



MUZAFFARABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick Distributing Winter Kits among the prisoners of Central Jail.



LORALAI: Commissioner Loralai Division Balach Aziz presenting a memorial shield to Inspector General of Police Balochistan AbdulKhalik Sheikh

Election symbols allotted to PTI candidates independently

LAHORE (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan has allotted election symbols to the candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in independent status.

Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was allotted the kettle mark while Shaukat Yousafzai got the Racket mark.

Party leader Shahryar Afridi will have to contest the election on the symbol of a bottle, Shandana Gulzar has been given a bowl symbol and Meher Bano Qureshi has been given a tongs symbol.

From Multan, Zain Qureshi got shoes, Dr Riaz

Long got a rocket, Alia Hamza Malik got dice from Lahore, Sanaulah Khan Mastikhel from Bhakkar got a letterbox symbol. While Aamir Dogar got clock election symbol, Irfanullah Khan Niazi got Gharial symbol.

PTI candidate Meher Riaz Fatiana from NA-107 was awarded a chair, Ashfa Riaz Fatiana from PP-123 and Syeda Sonia Ali Raza Shah from PP-124 were awarded a cup. Khosa has been allotted the alphabet (K) symbol while PTI candidate Afzal Azim Pahat from NA-123 has been allotted the radio symbol.

NA 124 CPTI candi-

date Sardar Azimullah was awarded the watch and Zameer Ahmed the dolphin symbol while PTI candidate Jameel Asghar Bhatti from NA 125 received the drum symbol. PTI's Salman Akram Raja from NA 128 was allotted the symbol of the racket while PTI candidate Mian Azhar from NA-129 will contest the election on the symbol of the cricket stump. It should be noted that last night the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Election Commission and invalidated the verdict of the Peshawar High Court, after which PTI has lost the electoral symbol of the bat.

Deployment of Pak Navy ships has no connection to tussle Houthis, US

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Navy and Ministry of Defense have rejected the fabricated and baseless propaganda allegations on social media regarding the deployment of Pakistan Navy ships in the Arabian Sea.

According to the sources of the Ministry of Defense, the US-allied attacks against the Houthis in Yemen have nothing to do with the deployment of Pakistan Navy ships. Linking the deployment with the American operation against the Houthis is completely baseless and based on propaganda. The United States announced the formation of Task Force 153 against the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea.

According to sources, Pakistan rejected the American invitation to join Task Force 153, Pakistan is not a part of Task Force 153 and Operation Prosperity Guardian in the Red Sea, Pakistan has no intention of joining Task Force 153 or

any such coalition. Whatever the issue is against Palestine, Pakistan Navy has never been used against Yemen and will not be used in any case.

Recently Senator Mushtaq Ahmad said on Twitter that the Pakistan Navy is not part of any alliance that is against Palestine or Hamas. I am not a party, Pakistan is located on the edge of the most important sea passages like the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz through which there is a large volume of oil tanker traffic.

The ships of Pakistan Navy are continuously patrolling to ensure the safety of Pakistan's trade routes in the Arabian Sea. The Pakistan Navy is also conducting continuous aerial surveillance of trade routes. The purpose of patrolling is only to protect Pakistan's trade routes. To ensure security, Pakistan Navy warships are always patrolling the Arabian Sea to ensure a constant presence.

Persistent fog disrupts train services across Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): In an ongoing struggle against dense fog, train operations in various parts of the country continue to face disruptions, causing delays in several key services.

According to the latest update from Pakistan Railways on Sunday, many trains were delayed, affecting travel schedules for passengers as 1-Up Khyber Mail train was running late for 4 hours, 5-Up Greenline for 01 hour, 7-Up Tezgam for 2:15 hrs, 9-Up Allama Iqbal Express for 3:30 hrs, 11-Up Hazara Express for 1:30 hrs, 13-Up Awam Express for 1:30 hrs, 15-Up Karachi Express for 2 hrs, 17-Up Millat Express for 4:30 hrs, 25-Up Bahauddin Zakariya Express for 4 hrs, 33-Up Pak Business Express for 5:30 hrs, 37-Up Fareed Express for 2 hrs, 41-Up Karakoram Express for 4:45 hrs, 45-Up Pakistan Express for 4 hrs, 47-Up Rehman Baba Express, 4:45 hrs and 145-Up Sukkur Express was late for 5:30 hrs.

While 2-Down Khyber

Mail train was running late for 2 hrs, 6-Dn Greenline for 1:30 hrs, 8-Dn Tezgam for 2:30 hrs, 10-Dn Allama Iqbal Express for 4:15 hrs, 12-Dn Hazara Express for 01 hrs, 14-Dn Awam Express for 1:15 hrs, 16-Dn Karachi Express for 3:15 hrs, 18-Dn Millat Express for 3:30 hrs, 26-Dn Bahauddin Zakariya Express for 3:15 hrs, 28-Dn Shalimar Express for 2:15 hrs, 34-Dn Pak Business Express for 8:40 hrs, 38-Dn Fareed Express for 5:15 hrs, 42-Dn Karakoram Express for 6 hrs and 48-Dn Rehman Baba Express was late for 5 hrs.

Pakistan Railways authorities acknowledge the challenges and assure the public that measures are being implemented to restore normalcy. However, they emphasize that complete punctuality can only be achieved once weather conditions and visibility significantly improve. Commuters were advised to stay informed about the latest updates and plan their journeys accordingly.

Elections on Feb 8 in interest,...

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that they were offered to hold their sit-in either at F-9 Park or H-9 but they insisted on going to the D Chowk in Red Zone.

"No group, be it political or religious, is allowed to enter the Red Zone," Solangi said.

He said the police had to take action when the protesters camping outside the National Press Club tried to enter the Red Zone. Later, the government's negotiation committee held talks with them and then the women and children arrested by the police were released first. Another 163 people were released in the second phase and finally the remaining 34 were also set free.

Medical facilities, including an ambulance were also provided to the protesters, he added.

The Balochistan governor and other members of the committee persuaded the protesters to go back peacefully, he said.

The minister said that there was a need of a negotiating committee having representation of major political parties that could give a better solution to this problem.

Maryam to launch election campaign in Okara today

LAHORE (INP): As the electioneering has failed to gain the traditional momentum with the political parties delaying campaign for the reasons not explained, Maryam Nawaz is scheduled to address a rally in Okara tomorrow (Monday) — a move that will certainly boost the voters' mood.

In a post shared on X, the social media platform which was previously known as Twitter, PML-N Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said Maryam — who is the party's chief organiser and widely believed as the political scion of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif — would share the important points of the manifesto to the crowd at Iqbal Stadium, Okara.

Describing the public gathering as a part of the PML-N's election campaign, she said the people would be the winner on February 8 — the day when Pakistan will go for countrywide polling.

The victory, she added, the days of progress and development would return after her party wins the much-awaited general elections.

Replying a question

I didn't seek PML-N ticket, means not in the party: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said, he didn't seek the PML-N ticket, which means he is not in the party. "If a person does not seek the party's ticket after 35 years of affiliation is extraordinary and a clear message," seasoned politician said in an interview. "There was no need of a ceremony at joining and neither today, for quitting the party," he said.

"Some party friends talked with me after, I didn't apply for the PML-N ticket. I had given the names of some party workers of the constituency and said I will support them," former PM said. "These workers were not awarded tickets, now I will not support the PML-N candidate". "After the PML-N decision, I am free," he said.

"I was being pressurized in constituency to contest or field my son as an independent candidate," he said. "I will support if the workers stand for election," he said. "It is okay, the party is theirs, they decided what they think is better," he said.

Abbasi said, "How could you devoid a political party from its election symbol, election is the constitutional right". "I don't want to be part of a farce like IPP, PML-Q and Patriot," he said. "I have to do politics and will my line of action after the election," Abbasi said. "If I found a party or not but new will definitely formed as there is space," Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said.

"The new party will not be a group of some individuals, which emerges around in election times," he said. "All three parties have created a space for a new political party with their performance and attitude. The new party will be for a big cause," he said.

Former prime minister said that several people have contacted with him. "I am agreed that there should be a new political party". "This will not be a party, which used to be constituted for a specific purpose." "Sword was made Arrow and the Cow fielded against Lion and made it to resemble like the Lion". "The Cow bagged 12,000 votes against me, when no one was knowing the candidate," Shahid Khaqan said.



ISLAMABAD: Photo journalists posing for a group photograph along with senior photojournalist Abdul Hamed after the annual election 2024 of RIPJA (Professional) at Pindi press club in the city.

PPP candidates win hearts by distributing toffees to children

GARHI YASIN (INP): In a heartwarming display of community engagement, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidates in Garhi Yasin, including Shahryar Meher Khan and Agha Siraj Durrani, have become the talk of the town after a video showing them distributing toffees to children in constituency PS-9 went viral on social media.

The candid moment, captured during their campaign activities in the NA-193 constituency, showcased the warm interaction between the political figures and the young members of the community. Agha Siraj Durrani, also the Sindh Assembly Speaker, was seen personally handing out toffees, creating a positive and amicable atmosphere.

The video, which has been widely shared on various platforms, has garnered attention for its endearing nature, providing a refreshing break from the often serious tone of political campaigns. The act of distributing toffees to children serves as a unique and relatable way for the PPP candidates to connect with the local community.

The gesture not only showcases a softer side of the political figures but also emphasises the importance of community involvement and rapport-building during election campaigns.

Such initiatives contribute to breaking down barriers between politicians and the public, fostering a sense of unity and goodwill.

Will not let three-time PM to be...

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Bilawal said there was no 'bat' in the February 8 election and the contest would be between the 'tiger' and the 'arrow', the electoral symbols for the PML-N and the PPP, respectively.

During his speech, Bilawal also promised to complete the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to fix the issues of Balochistan if the province voted in favour of the PPP.

"I want to give a message to Islamabad. The people in the provinces are not happy with the rulers sitting in Islamabad," he said. He asserted that the people did not approve of attempts under way to make Nawaz premier for the fourth time.

He said that he was building two million houses and giving ownership rights in Sindh besides raising a question that why did this not happen in Balochistan?

"I will give interest-free loans to the people of Balochistan so that they can do your business and farmers will be assisted by Kisan Cards," he said.

The PPP chief further said that he would build a university in Naseerabad besides giving youth card to the young people of the country to support them financially. While talking about the prevalent hunger in the country, he claimed that the hunger eradication program would be at the union council level so that no one sleeps hungry.

"The public is no one's slave. The people of Balochistan have dignity and are brave. They do not bow down in front of anyone, they do not back down, and are not afraid either," he said. Bilawal

vowed to form a PPP-led government, adding that the country needed the leadership of a party that was dedicated to serving the poor as opposed to the PML-N only served the rich.

He warned that the province would not see any development for the next five years if Nawaz was made premier.

"My first promise is that if you help in forming a PPP government, I will double your salary," Bilawal said. "I will make sure that the poor throughout the country receive 300 MW of electricity for free," he said. He also promised to build free educational and health institutions in every district of the province.

The PPP chairman also promised to introduce welfare schemes for farmers and the country's youth. He concluded his address by urging the people to vote for the PPP in the upcoming general elections.

Later, Bilawal also addressed a rally in Sindh's Khairpur. Other party leaders, including Qaim Ali Shah, also spoke on the occasion. The PPP chief promised the people of Sindh that the leaders they elect would not forget the public after winning the elections. Bilawal said he would personally visit Khairpur after the PPP won the election and inquire about the problems the people were facing. He pinned the responsibility for the PPP's success in the upcoming elections on the voters in Sindh. "We have a complaint against the caretaker government for halting our development works for so many months," Bilawal said as he decried how the flood affectees in Sindh were being deprived of their rights.

Appeal against SC's verdict is likely to be filed today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has prepared an appeal to be filed in the Supreme Court (SC) against the 3-member bench of the Supreme Court. It is likely to be filed on Monday.

Sources have said that Hamid Khan Advocate has prepared an appeal.

Many important constitutional and legal points have been disputed in the verdict issued by the Supreme Court in the appeal and references to the most important verdict have also been given in response to them.

Azan Awais gears up for his maiden U19 World Cup in South Africa

PESHAWAR (INP): The latest installment in Sialkot's rich legacy of exciting cricket talent production, Azan Awais was all set to feature in his maiden U19 World Cup for Pakistan U19 in South Africa and he'll be the linchpin of the team's batting unit during the tournament.

As the second-leading run-scorer in ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2023 with 222 runs in four games, the highlight of Azan Awais' career, according to him, has been the hundred against India in that tournament, where he anchored Pakistan's chase with maturity and courage.

Interacting with PCB Digital about his journey, Azan reminisced about the times when he fell in love with the game. "I started playing the game when I was just eight years old. My father took me to an academy for training. I had to stop playing for some time due to my studies but a visit to Sialkot's Jinnah stadium reignited my hunger to play during school days. My father has sacrificed a lot for my growth as he lent time and attention and helped me excel."

Azan played U13 Inter-Regional T20 Tournament 2017 for Sialkot U13, and returned in the same tournament as the leading run-scorer in the 2018 edition.

Rameez Raja criticizes selectors for not including Mohammad Harris in team

LAHORE (Online): Former Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board Rameez Raja has criticized the selectors for not selecting the young wicketkeeper batsman Muhammad Harris in team.

In an interview, he said that Mohammad Harris's performance in the T20 World Cup 2023 was excellent, but after that he was not given opportunities.

He questioned that if Saem Ayub is included in your plan then why the selectors have left out Mohammad Harris. Former

Chairman PCB said that Mohammad Harris' strike rate has been more than 200, no batsman will be able to score runs with such a high strike rate because there is a risk in playing like this. He defended the young batsman. While saying that earlier a cricketer was brought to a strike rate of 180, now if it is not part of the plan, it also damages the player.

Rameez Raja also admitted that Harris plays innings of 20 or 30 runs but he cannot convert it into long innings.



QUETTA: Provincial President Minority Wing of Muslim League (N), Patrik S M speaks during a press conference.

Mushaal distributes winter kits to refugees in Kashmiri Camp

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday distributed winter kits among the refugees from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) residing in Kashmiri Refugees Camp Muzaffarabad. She is accompanied by the Focal Person to SAPM Sabien Hussein Mullick and DG Legal Aid and Justice Authority Dr. Raheem Awan on a two-day visit to AJK. SAPM is leading an initiative to provide critical relief to refugees facing the challenges of harsh weather conditions in AJK, said a press release issued here.

The winter kits include essential items such as warm clothing, blankets, thermal socks, gloves, and other necessities to help vulnerable families in camp cope with the severe winter conditions. She personally mingled and engaged in conversations with the refugees. She said that in the face of adversity, it was our collective responsibility to extend a helping hand to those who needed it the most. She said that the winter kits were aimed to provide some comfort and relief to the brave individuals and families forced to live away from their homeland due to Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Expressing unwavering solidarity, she assured refugees in Azad Jammu and Kashmir that they would not be left alone in their plight.

She expressed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to alleviate the pain of their forced eviction from homes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). She said that apart from expending maximum public funds for AJK, the Government was also diverting private funding towards the region to ensure its uplift.

Mushaal assured the refugees that the recent distribution of aid was not a one-time effort but part of an ongoing commitment. She announced a Ramadan package for the refugees aimed at providing sustained relief during the holy month. She also expressed her steadfast commitment to ensure the establishment of proper education facilities for children within the refugee camps. Mushaal expressed her belief in the liberation of Kashmir from Indian occupation, a day when refugees would be able to return to their homes and reunite with their loved ones.

She said that the rightful owners of IIOJK were enduring suffering in refugee camps whereas India was busy distributing domiciles to non-Kashmiris to alter the demographic landscape of IIOJK.

She urged the UN for immediate action to facilitate the conduct of a plebiscite in accordance with its resolutions so that families displaced by the conflict could return to their homes, reunite with their loved ones and rebuild their lives in a peaceful and just environment.

Mushaal also undertook a visit to Central Jail Muzaffarabad, where she issued directives to the superintendent to ensure all necessary measures to facilitate the prisoners.

She underscored that prisons were correction facilities meant for reformation of convicts and their conversion into contributing citizens of the State.



ISLAMABAD: President PML-N Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir meeting with Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq.

Diverse array of electoral symbols/candidates spice up Capital's election landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the bustling political arena of Islamabad, the electoral battleground is set with an intriguing mix of candidates and symbols as in total 119 contenders are vying for victory across three capital's constituencies, each armed with their distinctive election emblem.

The District Returning Officer (DRO) Islamabad has allotted electoral symbols to the candidates who are contesting the forthcoming General Election 2024 from all three national assembly constituencies of the federal capital, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said

while talking to APP on Sunday.

In NA-46, where 44 candidates are in the race, Mustafin Kazmi stands out as an independent candidate with the unique Parachute symbol. Renowned lawyer Shoaib Shaheen joins the fray with the graceful Dove as his election symbol.

The competition heats up in NA-47, where a total of 37 candidates are in contention. Among them, 25 are independent candidates, bringing diversity to the ballot. Notably, Chaudhry Ilyas Mehrban holds the Battery symbol, while Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar marks time with

the Clock symbol. Adding a dash of spice, a transgender candidate sports the Green Chili as their election emblem.

In NA-48, a field of 38 candidates is vying for victory while independent candidate Raja Khuram Nawaz stands out with the Pomegranate symbol, while PTT's Ali Bukhari adds an interesting twist by contesting independently in the same constituency.

As election fervor intensifies, the distinctive symbols promise a visually captivating electoral journey in the heart of Pakistan's political landscape.

29 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 29 outlaws including 10 professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the Aabpara police team arrested two accused namely Hamza Noor and Naseer Masih and recovered 535 grams heroin and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. The Ramna police team arrested an accused namely Amjad Khan and recovered 22 gram ice from his possession. Tamol police team arrested three accused namely Umar

Farooq, Raees Khan and a lady accused namely Zarmena and recovered 2,325 gram hashish and one 30 bore pistol from their possession.

Similarly, the Noon police team arrested two accused namely Muhammad Yahya and Riaz and recovered two 9mm pistols from their possession. The Khanna police team arrested two accused namely Rizwan Munir and Faisal Younas and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. The Koral police team arrested an accused namely Naeem Ahmad and recovered 320 gram hashish from his possession. Further-more, the Sihala police team arrested an accused namely Arbaz and recovered an iron punch from his possession. The Humak police team arrested three accused namely Shaikat Masih, Nabeel Javed and Bashir Masih and recovered 49 liters of alcohol from their possession.

CDA auctions 11 plots, fetches Rs13.5b

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has auctioned 11 out of 35 commercial plots, getting Rs13.541 billion during the three days of auction, which concluded last week.

The auction committee followed the auction of five plots for Rs11.141 billion for six commercial plots. The committee auctioned plot number 18 Blue Area (G-9/F-9) measuring 611.11 square yards for Rs1.316 billion, while another plot of 20 kanals in Orchard Scheme was auctioned for Rs400 million. The committee received the highest offers of Rs164.6 million and Rs157.3 million for two 133.33 square yard plots.

Another two plots of 133.33 square yards each in I-11/1 and D-12/1, class three shopping centers, were auctioned for Rs14.6 million and Rs160 million, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan Professor Dr. Mehmet Pachaji in a meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (ret) Arshad Hussain Shah.

DRAP, NIH directed to take urgent steps for ensuring anti-rabies vaccines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government hospitals and summoned the senior officials of both these organizations on January 09, 2024 to unearth the root cause of the situation. He had also directed the DRAP to conduct a thorough probe as to why the NIH was not manufacturing this essential vaccine. As a follow-up measure, the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib immediately issued a notice to both these organizations i.e. NIH and DARP and the Registrar of the Wafaqi Mohtasib initiated a probe into the matter. It was revealed that in his office, he took a serious notice of the non-availability of this essential vaccine in the Islamabad's

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PIDE launches Discourse Magazine's latest edition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has launched the latest edition of its 'Discourse Magazine' this week, aiming to initiate a nationwide debate on the reform of key sectors, domains, and institutions.

Around 15 unique areas have been covered in 'Discourse: Reconfiguring Pakistan: State, Society, and Economy,' including Reconceptualizing Development, Constitutional Reform, Political Contestation, Parliament and Civil Service, Economic Policy, Foreign Aid, Energy, Trade and Industry, Land and Agriculture, Labour Relations, Education, Public Welfare, Cities and Local Governance, Climate, and Society and Culture, as stated in a PIDE news release on Sunday. The publication features contributions from a number of prominent personalities in the academic domain, political sphere, legal fraternity, media sector, government bureaucracy, diplomatic circle, business community, development network.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy youngsters searching valuables from garbage.

PIMS denies reports regarding closure of its OT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has contradicted the news item appearing in a section of press on closure of its Operation Theatre (OT).

In a statement on Sunday, Dr Mubashar Mushtaq Doha, spokesperson to Executive Director PIMS said that such news about the federal capital's largest government hospital were baseless. According to the records, supplies are being received in PIMS for emergency operations, he added.

He said that supply was being provided according to the demand of the procedure. The list displayed outside the OT is baseless and the PIMS administration has nothing to do with it. Who put the list outside the OT and under what purpose, investigations are being done, he said.

"PIMS has sent a request for release of funds to the concerned department while the OT was not closed and still working."

He said that caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan is ensuring effective measures for the release of funds.

He said that these funds would also be released by the end of this month due to the efforts of the Minister for Health.

Commuters eye introduction of electric buses as a breath of fresh air

ISLAMABAD (APP): The introduction of metro buses on different routes has brought much relief to the commuters of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, but still, plenty of daily travelers continue to face the issues of rude behavior and attitude of drivers and conductors of public vans on those routes that are not traversed by the metro buses.

A number of commuters, including the elderly, pointed out that the majority of drivers and conductors of public transport, including vans, who are plying vehicles on the Islamabad Expressway, were particularly impolite and indecent with the passengers, besides causing undue waste of precious time.

They demanded of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to look into the woes and immediately roll out recently purchased electric buses by linking these massively populated areas lying at the outer fringes of the Capital Territory, including the Islamabad Expressway.

Last week, the CDA welcomed the arrival of the first batch of 30 new electric buses being introduced on additional routes to provide climate-friendly means of transportation for the citizens of Islamabad.

According to the CDA media wing, following an agreement regarding the procurement of 160 electric buses from China, the first batch of the 30 new zero-emission buses arrived at the Zero Point bus terminal.

As announced, the second batch of electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to arrive in February or March this year, and the denizens hope that it will be utilized to facilitate them.

In the meantime, frequent altercations took place in private vans on a daily basis due to unfair charging and self-inflated fares, particularly after the significant reduction in petroleum products, Muhammad Zareen Bacha, an employee of a private firm in Blue Area, told APP on Sunday. He particularly mentioned public vans No. 136 and 124 and said that the majority of conductors seemed to be illiterate and did not produce a fare list whenever asked to by the travelers, as they often charged them extra.

Similar were the views of Ayesha Jabeen, a housewife, as she lamented the proper checks on the rude behavior and conditions of public vans where extra passengers were forced to board without considering the seats allocated for women's commuters.

Moreover, it is also observed that different vans have installed CNG cylinders and extracted fares equivalent to those fixed for the usage of petrol and diesel. Zubair Talha, a NUML university student, says that he travels from the Police Foundation to H-9 on a daily basis and noted that these vans had installed CNG kits but never witnessed any relevant authority to check the safety of these kits or the fares charged by the van owners.

"They also prolong their stay at different stops and waste precious time," he says while wearing a peevish look.

Sajjad Azhar, a senior journalist, writer, and resident of Media Town, regretted that a huge population was living in a dozen private societies nestled around the Expressway and were not linked with the Metro buses as they had to rush to Koral Chowk to catch the buses for their desired destination.

"Plying electric buses will not only streamline mass mobility in these areas but also link the deprived populace with the Metro bus network," he suggested. He demanded that CDA immediately start electric bus service from Bahria town, linking the entire areas of Media Town, Police Foundation, PWD, Soan Garden, Pakistan Capital, Jinnah Garden, Capital Enclave, and others with the metro bus routes.

A number of daily passengers harbor doubts by saying that, from the CDA's announcement, it appeared that a vast populace in these areas would not be able to get any immediate relief with the introduction of EVs.

APHC says: Repression, might policies continue unabated in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the policies of repression and military might by Indian authorities continue unabated in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC leaders, including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Muhammad Saleem Zargar, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Ms. Hafza Bano, and Shafiq ur Rehman, said in their separate statements in Srinagar that for more than seven decades, India's belligerent military occupation and state terrorism had been major causes of gross human rights violations in the territory. They lamented that non-Kashmiris were being facilitated to buy land and property in IIOJK to change its demography, and its real citizens were being displaced and rendered homeless in an inhumane way.

They said, shielded by draconian laws, the Indian non-Kashmiri establishment, occupation forces, and bureaucracy have taken full control of the civil administration and judicial institutions in the territory, whereby people are arrested, tortured, and harassed with impunity.

They denounced the inhumane behavior meted out to the Kashmiri political prisoners detained for demanding the right to self-determination, recognized by the United Nations and supported by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Terminating the ongoing resistance movement against the Indian illegal occupation as purely political and indigenous, the APHC leaders said the Indian imperialistic system of governance is dealing with the common masses with iron fists and trampling their fundamental rights through regular army.



ISLAMABAD: A view of polluted water of Lotus Lake in the Federal Capital, as needs to attention for concern authority.

NCHR signs MoUs with universities to promote HR education

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to promote human rights education among university students, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a number of higher education institutions (HEIs).

The recent MoUs were signed with Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University in Islamabad and Fatima Jinnah Women's University, Rawalpindi.

This collaboration underscores the shared commitment of both entities to empower individuals, foster a culture of respect, equality, and justice amongst students, and prevent human rights violations through education.

This initiative is aligned with the crucial role of education and awareness in the protection and promotion of human rights.

"By engaging with universities and educational institutes, the NCHR aims to create a lasting impact, fostering a society that values and upholds the principles of human rights. We look forward to creating a more just and inclusive society through widespread human rights literacy," said chairperson NCHR Rabiya Javeri Agha.

She said, "NCHR recognizes the pivotal role of human rights institutions in contributing to the formulation and execution of human rights education programs." In line with this objective, the Commission has been actively engaged in forging partnerships with esteemed universities and educational institutes across the country.

"This partnership, in accordance with its mandate under Section 9(h) of its Act, is crucial to NCHR's program on human rights education, building knowledge about human rights, changing attitudes and behaviors, and promoting a culture of tolerance and peace." An NCHR team, led by Member Balochistan Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, recently engaged in several meetings with key stakeholders in various universities. The team recently held two meetings at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), with Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad emphasizing the renewal of an MoU to strengthen collaboration in the realm of human rights education. Notably, fruitful discussions were held with Professor Dr. Tahir Khalily, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad, and Vice Chancellor of Fatima Jinnah Women University.



ISLAMABAD: People taking picture with Golden man at Dam-e-Koh picnic point during Sunday Holiday in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters playing football match in a ground at sector G-10 in the Federal Capital.

Naqvi okays grant of Rs90m for Punjab press clubs

Arfa Karim a torch-bearer for new generation: CM Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday said he was proud that he belonged to the fraternity of journalists. Addressing a function held to distribute cheques among press clubs of the province, the chief minister announced a grant of Rs90 million for the clubs. He said that journalism was the name of 'honesty and responsibility'.

shoulders," he said, and added that he attached great importance to the provision of facilities to journalists. He urged them to concentrate on digital media since the future belonged to this form of journalism. "Those who don't change themselves according to changing times lag behind others," the CM opined. There were many things, he went on to say, in which Pakistan was behind other countries. Speaking on the occasion, Caretaker



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing Hindko convention organized by Hindko Tahafuz Foundation.

Global collaboration vital to reap benefits from emerging Artificial Intelligence: VC

MULTAN (APP): The two-day Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology Conference was concluded at Women's University here Sunday with a call for increased global collaboration to address the challenges posed by the rapid development of Information Technology. Highlighting the positive impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on human consciousness and task efficiency, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha stated that it would help manage difficult tasks with ease and effectiveness. She also acknowledged the need for international cooperation, particularly in cybersecurity, as the growing development of Artificial Intelligence introduces new security concerns especially cybercrimes.

Dr. Paracha stressed the potential of AI in accelerating the development of underdeveloped countries but also warned of job displacement like it was observed during industrial revolutions. Anticipating significant job shifts due to AI, she raised concerns about potential competition for resources and the misuse of AI. As per experts view, nearly 300 million people will lose their jobs, she alarmed. Through Artificial intelligence, machines will replace men. Some other speakers advocated for the establishment of new laws and robust ethical frameworks to regulate and limit AI. Artificial Intelligence is a modern concept. We will have to move forward along with the world, she added. The AI will revolutionize the world. Pakistan will have to contribute its share in this revolution, Kalsoom suggested.

2200 CCTV cameras being installed to maintain law and order: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Sunday said that 2,200 Closed Circle Television (CCTV) cameras were being installed at 306 points in the city to improve the law and order situation in the city. During a visit to the City Police Office to review the ongoing work of the Safe City Project, he informed that 300 labourers were working day and night on the Safe City project to complete the task.

He said that under the Safe City project, 2200 cameras would be installed at 306 locations while Rs 230 million had been provided for the construction of the CPO office. Dr. Jamal Nasir said that in a short time, work had been started on mega projects in all sectors, including the Rawalpindi Ring Road project, which was stalled for a long time. He said that the revamping of Holy Family Hospital (HFH) was a historic project that would be remembered by the people of Rawalpindi for decades which would significantly improve healthcare facilities. The minister said that around 83 percent of work on the old HFH block had been completed while 65 percent of work on the basement was finished. He added that most parts of the HFH would be opened to the public by January 31. Dr. Jamal informed that the Planning and Development Board had approved Rs 1500 million for the revamping and renovation of the Hospital while 600 labourers were working in different shifts to complete the work within the stipulated time. Funds have also been released to upgrade Rawalpindi's parks, he added.



KHAIRPUR: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to public gathering during Election Campaign.

'PML-N to steer country out of crisis'

SARGODHA (APP): District general secretary and candi-date for PP-78 of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, Rana Munawar Ghous, said on Sunday that only his party was capable of steering the country out of economic and other crises and towards progress. Addressing meetings at Chak No 120 SB, 119 SB, 125 SB and Sillanwali in connection with his election campaign for the upcoming general election 2024, he said the PML-N would bring progress and prosperity to the country through the power of votes under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He said that general

Free travel facilities to students extended

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Sunday announced a three-month extension of free travel facilities for students, following special instructions from the Punjab Chief Minister. In a statement issued here, he said that students up to grade 12 could travel free in the Orange Line Metro Train. The minister added that in the recent holidays, this process was interrupted for some time, while thirty thousand students were benefiting from this facility on a daily basis and till now millions of students have benefited from this facility. He said that the Speedo bus service would also provide the free travel facility to students. While fulfilling its education-friendly vision, the Punjab government is also ensuring the provision of free of interest motorcycles on EVs technology for students so that more youths could continue their education journey easily.



KARACHI: Students holds placards during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

IG distributes plot documents among families of police martyrs Orders safe city project completion on urgent basis

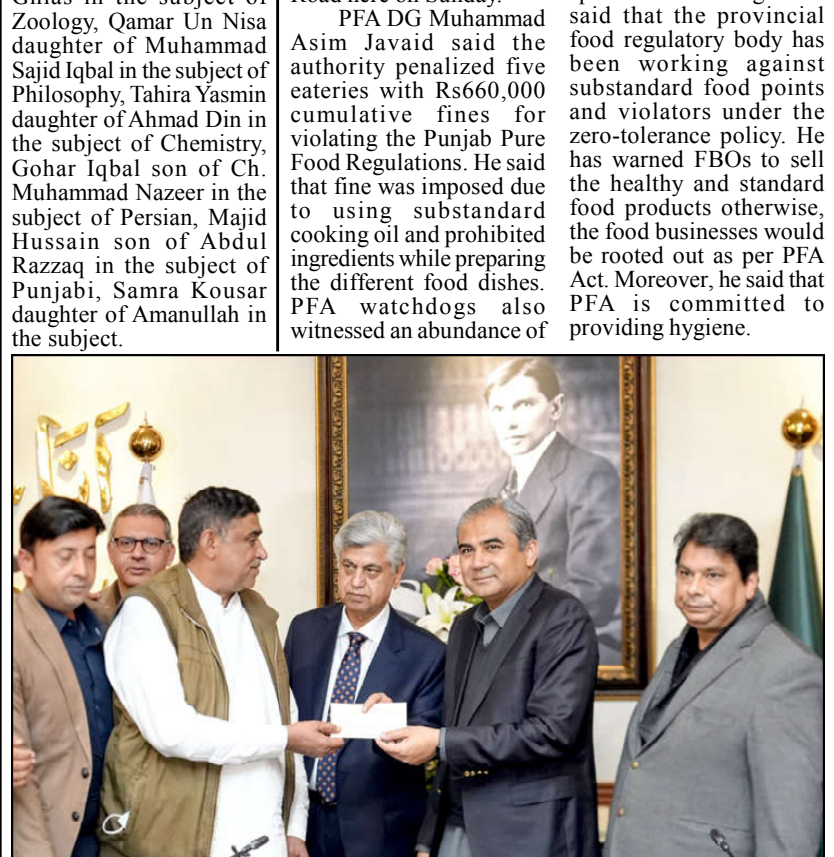
FAISALABAD (APP): Inspector General (IG) Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar distributed documents of plots among the families of police martyrs. During his visit to Faisalabad, the IG presided over a ceremony and said that the services of police martyrs would be remembered forever as their sacrifices brought laurels to the department. He said that it was the first and foremost duty of the police to provide safety and security to the lives and properties of the masses and in this connection, loyal police officials sacrificed their lives while performing

PU awards ten PhD degrees

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University has awarded ten PhD degrees to scholars in various disciplines. According to the varsity spokesman here Sunday, these scholars included Muhammad Aslam Khan son of Shad Muhammad in the subject of Islamic Studies, Muhammad Javed Iqbal son of Muhammad Rashid Ghias in the subject of Zoology, Qamar Un Nisa daughter of Muhammad Sajid Iqbal in the subject of Philosophy, Tahira Yasmin daughter of Ahmad Din in the subject of Chemistry, Gohar Iqbal son of Ch. Muhammad Nazeer in the subject of Persian, Majid Hussain son of Abdul Razaq in the subject of Punjabi, Samra Kousar daughter of Amanullah in the subject.

PFA imposes Rs660,000 cumulative fine on 5 eateries over violations

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) under the supervision of its Director General Muhammad Asim Javid conducted inspections of renowned restaurants and bakeries on MM Alam Road here on Sunday. PFA DG Muhammad Asim Javid said the authority penalized five eateries with Rs660,000 cumulative fines for violating the Punjab Pure Food Regulations. He said that fine was imposed due to using substandard cooking oil and prohibited ingredients while preparing the different food dishes. PFA watchdogs also witnessed an abundance of insects and worst condition of hygiene in kitchen areas, he added. He further said that food business operators were also failed to present the medicals of workers and other necessary record to the raiding teams on the spot. The director general said that the provincial food regulatory body has been working against substandard food points and violators under the zero-tolerance policy. He has warned FBOs to sell the healthy and standard food products otherwise, the food businesses would be rooted out as per PFA Act. Moreover, he said that PFA is committed to providing hygiene.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presenting special grants cheques to President and General Secretaries of 44 Press Clubs.

Boy burnt alive

FAISALABAD (APP): A boy was burnt alive in the area of Khurarianwala police station. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Sunday that 10-year-old Roshni, son of Zahoor of Chak No.216-RB, Bara Muhammadwala on Jaranwala Road, was asleep in a room when his family put a burning oven under his bed to beat the cold. However, the bed caught fire accidentally and the boy died from severe burn injuries. The body was handed over to the family for burial after formalities, he added.

DBA Sargodha new office-bearers elected

SARGODHA (APP): Syed Mohsin Raza Shah Sherazi was elected President while Chaudhary Farrukh Javed Cheema of Justice Group General Secretary of the District Bar Association (DBA) Sargodha in the annual election 2024-25. According to election results, issued by the election board here on Sunday, Syed Mohsin Raza Shah Sherazi was elected as DBA President with 1185 votes while his rival Asra Naseer Jalip of Sherazi Group could only grab 742 votes. Similarly, Faiz Ahmad Bakher was elected as Vice President with 1038 votes whereas his rivals Asmat Zahra Awan and Ghulam Fatima Gujjar could get 808 and 71 votes respectively. Meanwhile, Chaudhary Farrukh Javed Cheema was elected as General Secretary of Sargodha District Bar with 1033 votes while his rival Bilal Rasool Mahota could bag 898 votes. Muhammad Awais was elected as Joint Secretary unopposed.

Two died and 18 injured in Kohistan road mishap

KOHOSTAN (APP): At least two women died and 18 others were injured when a pak-up vehicle fell into a deep gorge at Village Qilla of district Kolai Palis. According to the Rescue 1122 sources, the pickup, which was carrying more than 20 family members who were going to attend a marriage ceremony, fell into a gorge, resulting in two women dying on the spot and 18 others, including women, children, and men, sustaining injuries. District Emergency Officer Lower Kohistan mobilized a medical team along with all available ambulances to the accident site and promptly administered initial medical aid to the injured. Initially, the injured were shifted to the district hospital in Pattan, and after first aid, seriously injured passengers were transferred to Ayub Medical Colleges in Abbottabad.



MULTAN: A protest arranged by the Save Gaza campaign with the solidarity of the people of Gaza at Multan press Club.

Nawaz bringing new vision: Malik

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Musadik Malik said on Sunday that those who had violated law must be held accountable. Talking to media here he said that PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was bringing a new vision among people on the basis of his performance. He said that people would give their decision on February 8, adding that the PML-N had launched

various public welfare projects in Punjab. "A development comparison between Sindh and Punjab will make the situation crystal clear," he said and added that interference in democracy was not good at all. He further said that what Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said about Nawaz Sharif's tenure was not correct. "Abbasi was not criticizing the PML-N but himself," he maintained.

Call for caution amidst harsh winter conditions

LAHORE (APP): Professor Dr. Ashraf Jamal, Head of the Pulmonology Department at Allama Iqbal Medical College/Jinnah Hospital, emphasized the need for heightened care among the elderly and young children in the current foggy and cold weather. Talking to APP on Sunday, Dr. Jamal warned of increased air pollution resulting from the combination of fog and smog during severe cold spells. He highlighted a surge in chest infections, fever, and pneumonia cases, particularly among children and the elderly. He underscored the vulnerability of these groups to adverse weather effects and urged special precautions, including the use of warm clothing and consumption of hot drinks. Motorcycle riders were advised to wear helmets and face masks to shield themselves from the cold winds and pollution associated with the fog. The pulmonologist discouraged outdoor activities such as jogging in open grounds, parks, exercise, and walks during severe cold and fog. He explained that heightened respiratory problems could arise from increased breathing during exercise, combined with the elevated pollution levels in the fog. Additionally, Dr. Jamal addressed the correlation between cold weather and the rise of heart diseases, high blood pressure, and other ailments. He explained that decreased intake of water and drinks in cold weather could lead to blood.

Social media to play instrumental role in Election 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): In democratic setups, free and transparent elections provide a strong base for democracy and ensure that the government chosen through polls is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Showcasing the signs of a healthy democracy in a country, a free, fair, and transparent election provides legitimacy to an elected government to take decisions in the national interest and the welfare of people for the next five years. "Election gives the authority in the hands of the public and provides them the freedom to elect the government of their choice, which will work for their growth and development besides resolution of the country's

problems," said Professor Dr. A.H. Hilali, former Chairman, Political Science Department, University of Peshawar, while talking to APP. In the 2013 and 2018 general elections, he said, social media played an impactful role in deciding the fate of political parties. "The PTI's social media strategies and social mobilizers compared to other political parties had helped in establishing government for a second consecutive term in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he said. According to a report from Digital Pakistan 2023, the number of internet users in Pakistan swelled to a record 87.35 million in January last year, showing a 4.4 million increase between 2022 and 2023. The number of social media users also increased to a record 71.70 million in 2023, including 37.30 million users of Facebook, 71.70 million users of YouTube, 12.95 million on Instagram, and 16.51 million on TikTok. Similarly, about 11.95 million people are using Facebook Messenger, 9.30 million LinkedIn, 25.70 million snapchat, and 4.65 million users of X (Twitter) in the wake of an increase in mobile connections to 191.8 million in January 2023 in Pakistan. Professor Hilali said the process of filing and scrutinizing nomination papers for the 2024 general elections was completed, and social media's role would be crucial in the 2024 election. He said all political parties, including

PML-N, PPP, PTI, ANP, JUIF, MQM, IPP, and PTIP, have shown their presence on every major social media platform for political gains. He said all political parties and leaders have opened official pages with blue-ticks on Facebook and Facebook groups for communication with party members as well as with their fans and voters. Besides other social media platforms, he said all political leaders, including Nawaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto, Khalid Maqbool Saddiqui, Pervez Khattak, and Jahangir Tareen, opened official X (former Twitter) handles with blue ticks for authentication, along with official pages on Instagram by the young political leaders. "For me, manifestos of political parties are important, and every person can see the programs of these parties by visiting their social media websites and pages with a single mobile click," said Ehtisham Qaiser, a lecturer of Urdu literature, while talking to the news agency. Dr. Hilali said the success of political parties in the 2024 general election would largely depend on the political behavior and psychological-economic factors, past service records and manifestos of political parties, rather than the launching of personal attacks, blame games, characters assassination of political leadership, and dragging state institutions into politics in public meetings or issuing statements on social media platforms.



LAHORE: Visitors viewing paintings during Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition in collaboration with Formanite School System and Walled City Authority.

PBF hails army chief's efforts for country's economic progress

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has expressed satisfaction with the military diplomacy and economic initiatives undertaken by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as the nation witnessed a positive shift in various sectors. In a media statement issued here Wednesday, PBF President Khawaja Mahboob ur Rehman said that a wave of optimism is sweeping through the country as the caretaker government's economic policies, coupled with the strategic decisions of the Army Chief, have resulted in tangible improvements in key economic indicators. He said significant reduction in the value of the dollar against Pak rupee, that has seen a commendable drop from Rs 340 to Rs 280,

prompted expectations of further stabilization.

The PBF President added, "The caretaker government has taken the best measures for the economy; the price of the dollar has fallen, and we anticipate even more positive changes when the new IMF and Asian Development Bank funds arrive, with hopes of the dollar reaching Rs 250." The impact of these measures is evident in the Pakistan Stock Exchange, where a positive trend has now emerging, bringing relief to investors, he said. Additionally, the reduction in petrol prices has garnered praise from the public, further raising a positive sentiment towards the government's economic policies.

The PBF President appreciated the positive initiatives of the Army

Chief. "There is a positive trend in the Pakistan Stock Exchange, and petrol prices have decreased. These things are good for our country. Furthermore, the decrease in essential commodity prices, such as daily-use items, has not gone unnoticed which need to be monitored properly by deputy commissioners so that the masses may benefit."

The PBF President further stated that the measures taken by the Army Chief were for the betterment of the country and hoped for more improvements in future. "The unwavering resolve by Pakistan's security forces to combat illegal activities and secure the nation's economic interests, ultimately working towards a more prosperous and stable Pakistan."



ISLAMABAD: People are busy buying Kinnow in Sunday weekly bazaar at sector G-10 in the Federal Capital.

SNGPL disconnects 1853 connections over using compressors in Multan

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 1853 connections over using compressors so far during the ongoing drive across the region.

Deputy Chief Engineer Operations SNGPL Hussain Zafar while talking to APP here on Sunday said that the drive against illegal compressors was underway in order to ensure provision of gas supply to consumers equally. He said that various teams were visiting different areas in Multan region to discourage the use of compressors. He said that the gas meters were disconnected over the use of compressors and connection restored again after one week by taking affidavit from the consumer concerned and seizing compressor.

He informed that the use of compressors was not only destroyed the infrastructure of the SNGPL rather, it was also very dangerous for human lives. He urged the citizens to avoid using compressors for illegally getting gas supply as the consumers of tail end affected from it.

Hussain Zafar said that they had launched the drive concerned from November 2022 and disconnected 1853 connections so far.

To a question about RLNG, he informed that the whole industry has been shifted on RLNG while it was also being given to some private housing colonies like Butch villas, green valley and others. Replying to another question, he said that the LPG cylinders were being provided to the consumers at their doorstep on prices fixed by OGRA.

RDA, PITB sign agreement for E-filing system

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) on the direction of the Punjab government have signed an agreement for E-Filing and Office Automation System.

According to RDA spokesman on Sunday, a meeting was held here on Sunday in RDA office for E-Filing and Office Automation System.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta, Director General (DG) RDA, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, representative of PITB, Dr Shaikat Ali and Deputy

Director (IT) RDA, Dawood Khalid and others participated in the meeting.

The spokesman said that the purpose of this agreement was to maintain paperless files of the notes, approvals and proposals so that the records could be easily accessible. Sometimes important documents of the offices are damaged during any untoward incident like flood or fire. For example, RDA documents were lost in 2004 due to the flood, he told. The spokesman informed that representative of PITB briefed the participants about E-Filing and Office Automation System.



HYDERABAD: Labourers are busy unloading corn cobs from the delivery truck.

First batch of Pakistani dried chili arrives in China

BEIJING (Online): The first batch of Pakistan's high-quality dried chilies, weighing 182 tonnes, has finally made its way to the Neijiang city of Sichuan Province, China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

This significant shipment marks a new chapter in the trade relations between the two nations and is expected to pave the way for increased economic cooperation, said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's ambassador to China.

Addressing the ceremony for the arrival and warehousing of the dried chili under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Agricultural Cooperation Project, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi said that Pakistan, known for its flavorful and aromatic spices, has long been recognized as a major exporter of dried chilies.

MEPCO disconnects power supply to 1862 tube wells over non payment

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) on Sunday disconnected electricity connections of 1862 agriculture tube well consumers over non payment of over Rs 1.36 billion pending dues across the region. The MEPCO's drive against defaulter tube well consumers was underway under the directions of the Prime Minister. Teams have disconnected the connections of defaulter farmers and removed transformers also during the ongoing drive. While 491 agriculture consumers have deposited Rs 179.9 million dues during this period.



ISLAMABAD: Customers selecting and purchasing old clothes displayed by the Weekly Bazaar vendors to attract the customers.

China-Pakistan cargo route launched to facilitate air transport

ISLAMABAD (Online): A new air cargo route was launched linking Ezhou Huahu Airport in central China's Hubei Province with Lahore, said SF Airlines, China's largest air cargo carrier in fleet size.

Ezhou-Lahore cargo route is the first international air cargo route launched by SF Airlines in this year departing from Ezhou Huahu Airport, China's first cargo-focused airport, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Ezhou-Lahore route is planned to operate three times a week, providing over 300 tons of air

transport capacity from Ezhou to Lahore every week.

Transported goods mainly include textiles, 3C electronic products, electronic equipment, etc.

The opening of this international cargo route is an important measure for Huahu Airport to further increase routes to South Asia.

It will provide an efficient and stable air logistics channel for economic and trade exchanges between China and Pakistan, and provide more logistics convenience for Chinese brands to

explore the Pakistani market.

Previously, SF Airlines has opened two direct cargo routes from Ezhou to South Asia, Ezhou-Delhi and Ezhou-Chennai.

The opening of the new Pakistani route will further strengthen Ezhou's South Asian air transport network.

SF Airlines, the aviation branch of China's leading courier enterprise SF Express, to date has launched a total of 11 international cargo routes from Ezhou to global destinations.

Machinery import goes up by 6.36% in five months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group witnessed an increase of 6.36 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the machinery group during July-November (2023-24) stood at \$ 2,935.576 million against the imports of \$2,760.055 million during the same period of the last year.

The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 60.76 per cent from \$19.784 million to \$31.804 million; office machinery including data processing equipment \$7.11 per cent from \$129.909 to \$204.095 million; construction and mining machinery by 3.87

per cent from \$33.260 million to \$34.546 million; electricity machinery and apparatus 17.10 per cent from \$778.902 million to \$912.073 million; telecom related equipment 74.36 per cent from \$455.625 to \$794.445 million; mobile phone 112.20 per cent from \$290.550 to \$616.541 million and other apparatus 7.77 per cent from \$165.075 million to \$177.904 million. However, during the period under review, the import of power-generating machinery declined by 26.24 per cent from \$ 243.135 million to \$ 179.337 million; textile machinery by 73 per cent from \$212.786 to \$56.803 million; and other equipment by 18 per cent from \$886.654 million to \$722.473 million. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the machinery group imports increased.

China's weekly export shipping index up

SHANGHAI (Xinhua/APP): China's export container shipping index rose in the week ending Jan. 12, according to the Shanghai Shipping Exchange (SSE).

The SSE added that the average China Containerized Freight Index (CCFI) recorded an increase of 21.7 percent from the previous week to reach 1,140.31.

The sub-indices for all 12 shipping routes registered week-on-week rises, with that for the Europe service achieving the biggest increase of 40.1 percent.

The CCFI tracks spot and contractual freight rates at Chinese container ports for 12 shipping routes globally, based on data from 22 international carriers.

The index was set at 1,000 on Jan. 1, 1998.



RAWALPINDI: Workers prints election campaign posters of candidates of political party Pakistan Muslim League (N) at a printer in the city, ahead of the upcoming general elections.

'PFC playing active role in furniture industry's progress'

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) has played a pivotal role in expanding the global presence of Pakistani furniture by actively participating in 13 significant international expos and showcased the diversity and craftsmanship of Pakistani products during last year.

PFC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq stated this while talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers, designers and exhibitors led by Chaudhary Muhammad Arab Arain here on Sunday.

Mian Kashif said this strategic participation provided a platform for the council to forge connections with counterparts and foreign buyers, fostering opportunities for market exploration and trade collaboration.

He said the PFC's commitment to global outreach extended beyond expos, with visits to nine countries worldwide. These visits were instrumental in establishing relationships with international stakeholders, creating avenues for the export of Pakistani furniture, he added. He said by introducing Pakistani products to a broader market, the council aimed to enhance the country's position in the international furniture market. The CEO said the comprehensive approach of participating in expos and undertaking international visits underscored the PFC's dedication to promoting Pakistan's furniture industry on a global scale. These efforts not only showcased the quality and craftsmanship of Pakistani furniture but also contributed to the council's mission of fostering economic growth through increased exports and market diversification, he concluded.

China's e-commerce logistics index up in 2023

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): China's e-commerce logistics index went up 4.2 points year on year in 2023 as the operation of the sector registered steady expansion, industry data showed.

The index averaged 110.1 points last year, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

In December 2023, the index stood at 112.4 points, edging down 0.7 points from the previous month, the data revealed.

The federation attributed this decline to the shrinking of demand, as sales promotions of major e-commerce platforms had concentrated heavily on the big annual shopping festival in November.

It also noted that e-commerce logistics demand still remained at a high level in December, with the categories of winter clothing and ice-and-snow tourism equipment proving major sources of momentum.

Exporters urged to capture Kyrgyz pharmaceutical market

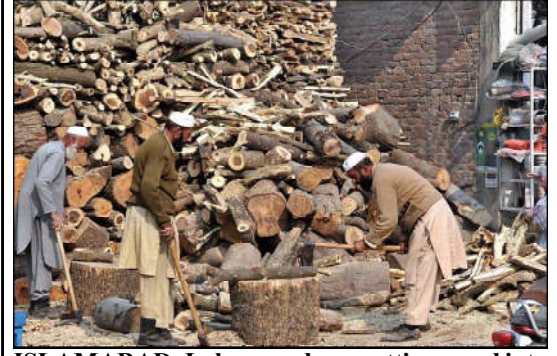
LAHORE (APP): Kyrgyzstan Trade House (KTH) Chairman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday urged Pakistani exporters to capture Kyrgyzstan's US \$ 650 million pharmaceutical market.

Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ms Sana Abdullah here at KTH on Sunday, he said that by strategically entering this market, Pakistan can not only boost its economic prospects but also contribute to the healthcare needs of Kyrgyzstan's seven million population. He adding that by capitalizing on its pharmaceutical prowess, fostering strategic collaborations, Pakistan can successfully capture a substantial portion of Kyrgyzstan's pharmaceutical market, contributing to the well-being of both nations.

Meher said Pakistan possesses a well-

established pharmaceutical industry with a proven track record of producing high-quality medicines. Leveraging this expertise can help meet Kyrgyzstan's increasing demand for affordable and effective healthcare solutions, he observed. Building strong relationships will not only enhance the distribution network but also foster trust in Pakistani pharmaceutical products.

Meher Kashif Younis said Health Minister Kyrgyzstan Alymkadyr Beishenaliev who participated in the first-ever two days global health summit in Islamabad a couple of days ago also invited Pakistani pharmaceutical manufacturers to visit his country for providing affordable and quality medicines in state owned pharmacies in government run hospitals.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at their workplace.

SCCI voices Concern over increasing environmental pollution using alternate sources

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq has expressed grave concern over increasing environmental pollution in wake of using alternative sources of fuel by people owing to low gas pressure issue. He urged the caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, provincial Chief Secretary and district administration to make contact on emergent grounds with centre and resolve these issues once for all. In a meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC)

Peshawar Sania Safi in her office, Fuad Ishaq apprised him that the SCCI has taken up issue gas with federal government, relevant ministry and high ups in an efficient way because unjust was being carried out with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the meeting, presidents of city bazaar, traders' leaders and members of the business community were present in a large number, said a press release issued here Sunday. The SCCI chief said the people in Peshawar along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been compelled to use the traditional way as an alternative source of fuel.

First Cross-Border Oil Project launched in Pak, China collaboration

BEIJING (Online): First international bulk oil trade project, a collaboration between the Pakistan-China Center, Pakistan, and East Sea Group, China, was launched in the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area (SCODA), Qingdao, Shandong, China.

Under the project, the initial batch of MALAYSIA BLEND crude oil, totaling 300,000 tons, underscores a deepening of investment cooperation between

SCODA and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Fang Yulong, CEO of East Sea Group, expressed confidence in expanding into SCO member countries' markets, attributing it to the support and assistance received from SCODA. Leveraging its geographical advantages and openness, SCODA has actively promoted energy cooperation with SCO member countries and BRI countries.

Apple farmers in occupied Kashmir face uncertainty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Last year, during this season, the apple and other farms, sprawling over thousands of hectares, were carpeted under a thick layer of snow, particularly in the upper reaches of south Kashmir, signaling a bountiful harvest.

According to Kashmir Media Service report on Sunday, although an erratic weather condition, which was experienced from March to June, impacted various horticulture crops, the farmers by and large

harvested a good crop. However, this year the situation seems diametrically different with a long-drawn-out dry spell becoming a cause of concern for thousands of apple farmers across occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

While a good snowfall often holds the promise of quality harvest, its continued absence during the ongoing winter has begun leaving thousands of farmers, particularly the apple cultivators, distraught.



QUETTA: Warm clothes are being selling at a roadside stall as the demand of warm clothes increased in city during the winter season, in Quetta.

Russia strikes Ukraine with 40 missiles, drones

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine suffered a large Russian missile attack, while its air defences were able to down a far lower proportion of them than usual.

According to Ukraine's air force, Russia launched 37 missiles and three drones. Eight missiles were downed, it said in a statement on social media. The air force's spokesperson said earlier this week that Ukraine was now suffering from a deficit of air defence missiles. It was not immediately clear whether this or any other factor was the reason for the low hit rate.

Most of the types of missile used overnight were extremely fast-moving ballistic types, the air force said. These are far harder to shoot down.

"It should be noted

that more than 20 of all the listed (weapons) which were not included in the number of the downed, did not reach their targets as a result of active countermeasures by electronic warfare," the statement said. There were no details on the targets of the strike.

Air defences shot down Russian missiles in at least five regions across Ukraine, according to local officials from those provinces.

The large south-eastern city of Dnipro was struck, the local governor said, also without providing detail as to what was hit. Police in the northern region of Chernihiv posted a picture of a large crater made by a downed missile.

"As a result of being hit by the debris of an en-



A plume of smoke ascends following Israeli bombardment over the Gaza Strip.

North Korea fires missile, minister to visit Russia as tensions rise

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired an apparent intermediate-range missile off its east coast on Sunday, South Korea said, as tensions run high after Pyongyang's recent launches of an intercontinental ballistic missile and its first military spy satellite.

"North Korea fires unidentified ballistic missile towards East Sea," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said had it detected the launch but gave no further details.

Five migrants die trying to cross the Channel

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Five migrants trying to cross the Channel to Britain died in French waters in the early hours of Sunday, French local authorities said.

The small boat overturned as it attempted to launch from a beach in Wimereux, south of Calais, an official told Reuters, adding that one person in critical condition had been taken to hospital in Boulogne, northern France.

Dozens were pulled from the cold water but the overnight rescue effort was complicated as the waters were too shallow for the French navy's boats that came to help.

Taiwan tells China to 'face reality' after election

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI CITY: Taiwan told China on Sunday to "face reality" and respect its election result, after voters defied Beijing's warnings and chose pro-sovereignty candidate Lai Ching-te as president.

Voters spurned Beijing's repeated calls not to vote for Lai, delivering a comfortable victory for a man China's ruling Communist Party sees as a dangerous separatist.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its territory and has never renounced force to bring it under its control, responded to Lai's victory by saying it would not change the "inevitable trend of China's reunification."

Volcano erupts in southwest Iceland

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: A volcano in southwest Iceland erupted on Sunday, the country's meteorological office said, making it the fifth eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula since 2021.

A coast guard helicopter has been sent to assess the situation and the exact location, the Civil Protection agency said.

The eruption began north of the fishing town of Grindavik but it was still not clear exactly where the lava was emerging from or in which direction it was flowing, said broadcaster RUV.

Maldives tells India to withdraw troops by March as row deepens

Monitoring Desk
MALE: The Maldivian president on Sunday told India to withdraw its nearly 100 troops by March 15, a day after returning from China where he signed a raft of deals.

New Delhi considers the Indian Ocean archipelago to be within its sphere of influence but the country has shifted to China's orbit, the Maldives' largest external creditor.

The March deadline was set during talks with Indian officials in the Maldives on Sunday, a top aide to President Mohamed Muizzu said, honouring the leader's long-standing election pledge.

"The president put

UNSC members uphold right of Palestinians to stay in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: In a UN Security Council meeting on Friday evening, representatives unanimously called for allowing Palestinians to remain in Gaza and the West Bank, emphasising the importance of respecting international law and preventing forced displacement.

The meeting addressed the worsening situation in the Middle East, particularly focusing on the escalating conflict in Gaza and rising tensions around the Red Sea.

As the war in Gaza approached the 100-day mark, key figures and representatives voiced serious concerns about the situation in the Palestinian enclave and rejected any move to displace Palestinians from their lands.

With over 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza internally displaced, the situation in the Palestinian territory "is heart-breaking and untenable," said US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

"The US position has been clear and consistent – Palestinian civilians in Gaza must be able to return home as soon as conditions allow," she said, noting that her country has also made it clear that "civilians must not be pressed to leave Gaza under any circumstances."

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield drew attention to an "unprecedented rise" in violence in the West Bank. "The US strongly opposes the advancement of settlements in the West Bank, and we strongly oppose the violence that has come to characterise them," she said. "At their core, settlements undermine the geographic viability of a two-state solution, exacerbate tensions and further harm trust between Israelis and Palestinians."



Taiwan voters elected Lai Ching-te to be their next president despite warnings from China that he would take the island closer to war.

6 Turkish soldiers killed in an attack on a base in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Six Turkish soldiers were killed Friday in an attack on a military base in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, the Turkish Defense Ministry said. Authorities blamed Kurdish militants.

Five died in the assault and another soldier succumbed to his wounds later. Another seven soldiers were wounded, two of them

Arab partnership on Palestine awaits Israeli commitment: US

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Arab nations are ready to collaborate with the US on both short-term and long-term solutions for Palestinians in Gaza, but this partnership is contingent upon Israel's willingness to participate, says the US State Department.

In an interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell, the department's spokesperson Matthew Miller reviewed Secretary of State Antony Blinken's seven-day visit to the Middle East, highlighted the willingness of Arab nations to work with the US on Palestinian issues. However, he emphasised that this cooperation depends on Israel's commitment to the process.

"We've traveled to nine countries and met with leaders in each of those, securing agreements with all of these Arab partners, as well as with Türkiye," Miller stated. "They were ready to coordinate with the United States and take real steps to improve the lives of the Palestinian people in Gaza and to rebuild Gaza."

Blizzard cancels flights, disrupts presidential campaign

Monitoring Desk
CHICAGO: Tens of millions of Americans were in the pathway of dangerous and damaging weather conditions as snowstorms moved across the North-west and Midwest, flooding threatened the East Coast and potential tornadoes were on tap in the South.

Airlines delayed more than 7,600 flights across the U.S. on Friday, including planes grounded at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport due to winds and blinding snow.

In Iowa, Republican presidential candidates canceled events three days out from the state's caucuses, the first of the

US climate envoy John Kerry to leave Biden administration

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US senator and secretary of state John Kerry will leave his post as President Joe Biden's special climate envoy after three years but will help Biden's re-election campaign.

The decision by Kerry, 80, comes a month after he played an instrumental role in helping broker an international agreement announced in Dubai for nations around the world to transition away from fossil fuels.

He informed his staff on Saturday about his decision after speaking with Biden on Wednesday, one of the sources familiar with the situation told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The administration has made no decisions about who may be selected to replace Kerry.

Activists protest at British base in Cyprus used in Yemen strikes

Monitoring Desk
AKROTIRI: Pro-Palestinian activists protested at the gates of RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus on Sunday, angry that the British base was used as a launch pad for strikes against the Houthi militia in Yemen.

U.S. and British warplanes, ships and submarines launched dozens of air strikes against Houthi forces in Yemen overnight Thursday to Friday in retaliation for attacks on Red Sea shipping that the Iran-backed group says is a response to the war in Gaza.



BAGHDAD: Supporters of pro-Iran factions wave various flags at Tahrir square during a protest on Saturday against the US and British air strikes against Yemen's Houthi fighters.

Denmark awaits new king, as Queen Margrethe to bow out

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: Queen Margrethe II, Denmark's longest reigning monarch, was set to pass the throne to her first-born son Frederik on Sunday and crowds began gathering in front of parliament from early morning to witness events.

Margrethe stunned the nation of nearly 6 million on New Year's Eve when she announced her decision to abdicate after 52 years as queen, becoming the first Danish monarch in nearly 900 years to voluntarily relinquish the throne.

There will be no coronation, but the succession will take place in parliament at around 1300 GMT, the moment Margrethe, 83, signs the declaration of her abdication.

People from all over Denmark converged on the capital in a sign of the huge popularity the monarchy is enjoying.

"I was in shock and started crying when the queen said on New Year's Eve she would abdicate."

All UN peacekeepers to leave Congo by end of 2024

Monitoring Desk
KINSHASA: About 2,000 U.N. troops will leave restive eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo by the end of April in the first phase of the peacekeeping mission's planned withdrawal from the country, the head of mission said on Saturday.

The U.N. Security Council approved the end of the mission in December following a request by Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in September to fast-track the withdrawal of the peacekeepers.

The currently 13,500-strong force, known as MONUSCO, took over from an earlier U.N. opera-

Scientists assert 'alien mummies' in Peru are really dolls made from Earthly bones

Monitoring Desk
LIMA: A pair of 'alien mummies' that mysteriously turned up at the airport in Peru's capital last October have entirely Earthly origins, according to a scientific analysis revealed on Friday.

The two small specimens were described as humanoid dolls by experts at a press conference in Lima, and likely fashioned from both human and animal parts. A separate three-fingered hand believed to be from Peru's Nazca region was also analysed, with experts ruling out any connection to alien life.

"They're not extraterrestrials. They're dolls made

Canada, facing housing shortage, to consider cap on international students

Monitoring Desk
WINNIPEG: Canada is considering a cap on the number of international students allowed to live in Canada, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said according to a CTV report, as the government faces criticism for a housing affordability crisis.

Canada depends on immigration to drive its economy and support an aging population and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been ramping up annual immigration. The housing crisis has been blamed on an increase in migrants and international students fueling demand for homes just as inflation has slowed construction.

Miller said in a taped interview with CTV Question Period that the Liberal government is considering a cap on international students in the first and second quarters this year.

"That volume is disconcerting," Miller is quoted by CTV as saying, referring to the number of international students in Canada. "It's really a system that has gotten out of control."

He did not say how much of a reduction in international students the government is considering. Miller's spokesperson could not be immediately reached.

Official data show there were more than 800,000 foreign students with active visas in 2022, up from 275,000 in 2012. Canada is a popular destination for international students since it is relatively easy to obtain a work permit.

The interview with Miller is scheduled to air on Sunday.

The Liberal government floated the idea of capping the number of foreign student visas in August, but Housing Minister Sean Fraser said then that the government had not yet made a decision of whether to pursue that option.

Miller said he planned to discuss the problem with provincial counterparts.

Trudeau's Liberals have seen their popularity plummet after more than eight years in office.

Hundreds of firefighters battle Western Australia wildfire

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Hundreds of firefighters on Sunday battled an out-of-control bushfire near Western Australia's capital Perth, prompting authorities to urge residents in the fire's path to flee.

More than 25 bushfires were burning on Sunday in the vast state, with residents in the rural shires of Gingin and nearby Chittering, about 60 kms (37 miles) north of Perth, at risk from the fast-moving blaze, according to fire authorities.

A high-risk bushfire season is underway in Australia due to an El Nino weather event, associated with events such as cyclones, droughts, heatwaves and wildfires.

A state Department of Fire and Emergency Services spokesperson said 240 firefighters were battling the blaze, which was at emergency level, the highest threat rating.

"If the way is clear, leave now for a safer place," the agency said on its website. The blaze, which has burnt through 417 hectares (1,030 acres) of bushland, broke out on Saturday.

The nation's weather forecaster on Sunday issued a warning for "extreme fire danger" in some parts of Western Australia state amid a heatwave alert in place since Saturday.

In Perth, a maximum temperature of 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) was forecast, more than three degrees above the city's average January maximum, according to data from the weather forecaster.

Australia's last two fire seasons have been quiet compared with the devastating 2019-2020 "Black Summer" of bushfires that razed an area the size of Turkey and killed 33 people.



A bus stops at a place protected with sandbags in Belgorod, the main city in Russia's south-western region which has come under shelling by Ukraine over the past week.

Thousands of pro-Palestinians march on Washington to demand ceasefire in Gaza

WASHINGTON (APP): Tens of thousands of demonstrators rallied and marched in Washington, D.C., on Saturday to demand an end to Israel's deadly military campaign in Gaza, marking almost 100 days since the start of the Israel-Palestinians war that is killing 250 Palestinians per day.

The march, one of the biggest in this capital city, was led by a coalition of pro-Palestinian groups who are calling for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza, an end to US funding for the Israeli military, and for Israel to be held accountable for war crimes and violations of international law.

At a rally on Freedom Plaza, speakers shared sto-

ries of victims in Gaza, and marchers walked several blocks before arriving in front of the White House. Protesters carried signs listing the names of Palestinians killed and accusing President Joe Biden of participating in a 'genocide'.

Israel's siege of Gaza has killed more than 23,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry, since it declared war on October 7. One of the organizing groups in Washington, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), said that they had sent a letter to the White House calling on the president to secure a "complete and verifiable ceasefire," the release of all hostages in Gaza and political prison-

ers in Israel, and the termination of unconditional US financial and diplomatic support for the Israeli government. The letter also called for Israeli officials to be "held accountable for the Gaza genocide" and the initiation of credible negotiations for a just and enduring peace by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The rally in Washington is the second in the US capital since the current Israeli offensive began on October 7. The Gaza Health Ministry has estimated that at least 23,708 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children, and 60,000 wounded in the Israeli action, the vast majority civilians.

Earlier this week,

South Africa accused Israel of genocide in a case brought to the International Court of Justice, charging that Israel's far-right government was "intent on destroying the Palestinians in Gaza" and creating conditions "calculated to bring about their physical destruction".

Among those addressing the crowd in Washington, by video link, was Al Jazeera journalist Wael al-Dahdouh, whose wife, daughter, two sons, and a grandchild were killed by Israeli airstrikes. Also speaking were long-shot US presidential candidates Cornel West and Jill Stein, as well as the daughter of Malcom X, Ilyasah Shabazz.



Chief Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf award certificate to a student of Bahria University Karachi Campus during 19th Convocation ceremony.



KARACHI: Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing during demonstration against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.

Naeem regrets Muslim leaders' failure to stop Israel's onslaught in Gaza

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi chapter Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday said the Muslim leaders have failed to protect the innocent Palestinians at the hands of indiscriminate attacks of Israel.

He added the cowardly rulers of the Muslim world gave Israel the courage to bomb children, women and houses in Gaza.

He made these remarks while addressing the Gaza March and highlighted that the Muslim world can show sympathy to the Gaza's brothers and sisters by protesting against the crimes committed by Israel.

The JI Karachi region chief said, "We salute the patience of Hamas as we see that everyone is engaged

in politics and preparing for polls but the JI has not forgotten Gaza even during the elections."

He highlighted that that twenty-five thousand Palestinians have been martyred, including children and women while applauding the actions of Hamas whom he mentioned has destroyed the Israel's defence technology.

He said everyone in Pakistan is engaged in politics, who are working for the pleasure of America, Nawaz Sharif, Zardari and others are not opposing Israel, they are all mixed up.

Further, he claimed that the major political leaders have been avoiding to take the names of culprits - including USA and Israel - who have killed the hapless people of Gaza.

Gauhar's house raided, 4 officials plus SHO Margalla suspended

ISLAMABAD (Online): In connection with the police raid at the house of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Gauhar, on the order of IG Islamabad, 5 officers including SHO Margalla have been suspended while SP City has been appointed as the inquiry officer.

A detailed report has been ordered to be submitted within 3 days.

According to the spokesperson of Islamabad Police, 5 officers including SHO Margalla have been suspended by the order of IG Islamabad on the issue of police raid at the house of PTI barrister Gohar. Salamabad Police has completed preliminary investigation.

It should be remembered that on January 13, local police arrived at F-7/2 in search of an proclaimed offender on the information of an informer.

Solangi terms press clubs as main pillars of press freedom

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that press clubs were the main pillars of press freedom.

Addressing the cheque distribution ceremony among the representatives of press clubs across the Punjab here, he said that journalists were an important part of the society.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Provincial Information Minister Aamir Mir also addressed the cheque distribution ceremony of the press clubs.

The information minister appreciated the Chief Minister Punjab for approval of Rs 9.45 million grant for press clubs in the province. He said that Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi always took care of public needs and he was always engaged in public service.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Information and the Government of Pakistan, we thank the Chief Minister of Punjab for taking measures for the welfare of journalists", he added.

Earlier the caretaker federal minister, chief minister Punjab and information minister Punjab distributed among the journalists.

Chief of the Naval Staff attends the 19th convocation of Bahria University Karachi campus

Independent Report
KARACHI: 19th Convocation of Bahria University Karachi and the Institute of Professional Psychology was held at Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral (Retd) Asif Khaliq graced the twin sessions of the convocation ceremony as chief guests respectively and awarded Medals and Merit Certificates to the students achieving outstanding performance in academics.

A total of 1632 degrees, including 11 PhDs,

were awarded to students from various departments, encompassing Management Studies, Business Studies, Humanities & Social Sciences, Computer Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Media Studies and Professional Psychology.

During the first session, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf awarded 22 Gold Medals and 18 Silver Medals to students who excelled in their respective degree programs. In his address he highlighted the significance of meeting challenges and reframing them as opportunities. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized that teamwork and communications are the pivotal elements for success.

During the second session, Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral (Retd) Asif Khaliq awarded 24 Gold Medals and 19 Silver Medals to students for their outstanding achievements in their respective domains. In his speech, he emphasized that responsibility is the price of greatness.



LORALAI: FC Brig. Razaq Ahmed presenting souvenir to Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

CEC Raja instructs KP IGP to provide security to JUI-F rallies

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Raja Sultan has instructed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to provide security to Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) election rallies amid threat reports.

The development comes as interior ministry had warned that there were serious threats to the lives of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Awami National Party (ANP) provincial president Aimal Wali Khan.

In a letter to the chief secretaries and inspector general of police of all prov-

inces and circulated by the ANP, the interior ministry had said it had received reports from reliable sources revealing serious threats to the lives of the Maulana and Aimal. "It is requested that extreme caution and vigilance is exercised and necessary security arrangements are made at Maulana Fazl and Aimal's residences and during movement and public gatherings to avert any untoward incident," it said in a letter. Meanwhile, JUI-F leader Maulana Hafiz Waqas submitted an application in election commission, seeking security for party workers and rallies ahead of general elections.

SC to hear level playing field plea against ECP today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) will also submit its detailed answer to the court on Monday. For this, Gohar Khan Advocate will submit the answer.

Some sources said that after ECP has allotted election symbols to the candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to contest the election as an independent.

Notices have been is-

sued to parties. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will also submit its detailed answer to the court on Monday. For this, Gohar Khan Advocate will submit the answer.

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QUETTA: Workers of Pakistan Muslim League (N) hold a rally pay tribute to martyrs of the Pak Army.

Musadiq alleges Abbasi of misinterpreting PML-N supremo

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Musadiq Malik has alleged Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of misinterpreting party supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Speaking in Alhmr Hall Lahore on Sunday, he said that the conversation of Khaqan Abbasi regarding Nawaz's tenure was out of context.

Musadiq Malik said that Abbasi's criticism was not against PML-N but against himself as he spent most of his time in the said party. The latter should be held accountable for his misdeeds, he added.

124 candidates to contest on 18 reserved seats in NA & PA from Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: As many as 124 candidates would be contesting elections on 18 reserved seats of women and minorities in 18 seats of National and Provincial Assemblies from Balochistan.

As per the initial list issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan about the candidates on reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies,

a total of 64 candidates are in competition run for 11 seats of women reserved in the Balochistan Assembly.

Similarly, in all 28 candidates are contesting election on four seats reserved for women in the National Assembly while 32 candidates have come before for the reserved seats for minorities in Balochistan Assembly.



QUETTA: Candidate for PB-42 Aslam Rind speaks during a press conference.

Zulekha expresses concern over deteriorating law and order situation in Mastung

Independent Report
QUETTA: Zulekha Aziz Mandokhail, provincial leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and candidate PB-37 Mastung, while expressing concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Mastung, has said that caretaker government had miserably failed to safeguard the lives and properties of people.

These views were expressed by her while enquiring after the health of Maharaj Satesh Kumar who had been injured in a vehicle snatching bid in Dasht area of Mastung. Expressing grave concern over the de-

teriorating law and order situation in district Mastung, she said that the incumbent caretaker government had failed to protect the lives and properties of people. She said that a well planned conspiracy had been hatched to deteriorate law and order situation in Balochistan, adding that people of Mastung were not secure in their homes which was a question mark on the performance of caretaker government and district administration Mastung. She called on the authorities to take steps for securing national highways of the province.

ANP terms SC verdict a victory of democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan on Sunday hailed the recent Supreme Court ruling and termed as a victory for democracy. In a statement issued here, Aimal Wali Khan said that over the past two days, both sides presented compelling evidence, shedding light on the transparency of the case. Aimal Wali Khan pointed out that a specific political party was failed to provide a substantial defense, shifting the narrative from critiquing principles to questioning ethical standards. Expressing concern over the validation of 800,000 votes within an hour, Khan raised alarms about potential foul play.



KARACHI: PTI leader Shah Afzal Marwat is leading the rally in connection with upcoming general election.

Local hail Sibi-Harnai railway line restoration after 17 years

QUETTA (INP): A railway section between Balochistan's Sibi and Harnai districts, which was restored after 17 years in October last year, was hailed by locals as a major step towards prosperity.

The Sibi-Harnai railway track was closed in August 2006 due to terrorist activities. While the local people were facing social, economic and other problems due to the train shutdown, there were also difficulties in religious festivals, cultural gatherings and other communications.

The local people of Harnai had to travel through 6 districts to reach Sibi which was costly and time consuming.

The closure of the train track stopped the delivery of coal by train from Harnai to other cities of Pakistan and Sibi and other areas lost fresh agricultural produce from Harnai.

Pakistan Army and FC Balochistan (North) established peace here by carrying out operations against terrorists in Sibi, Sangan, Harnai and adjoining areas. Attempts to rehabilitate the Sibi-Harnai railway track have been made from time to time, but construction gained real momentum in 2023.

Pakistan Army and FC Balochistan (North) took over the security duties of Railway Engineers and NLC staff and thus this train maintenance work was completed within a short period of time.

The people of Sibi and Harnai hailed the train restoration as a positive step for the region's prosperity, economic development and comfortable travel facilities.

Sardar Ibrahim Khan of Sibi said, "Prior to 2006 when the track was active, trading was very common.

Revisiting dams construction quality in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan is a province dominated by arid climate having 85% dependency on Agriculture and livestock where the precipitation ratio as compared to rest of the country is very low making water a precious commodity for its population. Therefore, to meet the needs of its population, respective governments resorted to construction of weirs, canals, channels and dams with the small and big dams tally touching around 1085 figure.

This is surely the largest number of dams in all the four provinces to meet the needs of Balochistan people who are mainly dependent on agriculture and livestock businesses.

But recent climatic impacts and torrential rains in the province had raised many questions about the quality of construction of these dams as dozens of dams suffered damages due to heavy down pour.

Experts believe there

had been some technical flaws or absence of globally recognized development protocols that these dams could not sustain the changing weather patterns.

They think the effectiveness of dams - the sole source of hope for residents of Balochistan's parched land - could not pay off fully due to reasons like improper management, quality of construction and lack of research institute on rainfall and disaster risk reduction procedures.

"Garuk Dam constructed in Kharan district is one such example where better planning could save billions of rupees," stated an Engineer of the Irrigation department.

He revealed that as per PC-1 of the cost of this under construction dam was estimated at Rs 12 billion but it reached Rs 27 billion. "The height of dam in revised PC-1 is decreased from 55m (180 ft) to 52m (171 ft) but the live storage capacity is increased from

24,896 AF to 27,073 AF."

Moreover, he said the discharge capacity is also increased from 60 Cusecs to 73.1 Cusecs increasing the cost of spillway from Rs.1150.620 million to Rs. 5797.764 million.

According to reports, 38 dams alone in Qila Abdullah district were damaged besides over a dozen in Quetta, eleven in Khuzdar, nine in Hub, Dera Bugti and Bela seven in Kachhi, five each in Chagai Nushki, Harnai, Zhob and Musa Khel, twelve in Duki, Surab, Kharan Washuk Mastung, Kech, Kalat, Surab and Kohlu districts.

"We need to strictly implement globally recognized standards in construction of dams in Balochistan," observed Dr. Deen Muhammad Kakar, a geological expert. "Geophysical, geological and feasibility surveys are three layer prerequisites we need to practice in construction of a quality dam."

"If we do not fully

care for land's lithology and efficacy of the planned dam, we would waste our money," he said and mentioned to failure of 25 dams constructed in Chaman district that he claimed were constructed in the seismic zone. "This situation demands proper designs, use of standard materials, maintain quality control through regular health checks to serve the real purpose of providing water to people," he added.

The experts also believe that reputation and competence of contractors must also be fully taken care of while awarding the contract because the contracts awarded to incompetent builders cost in billions to national kitty.

"When we award contract to less qualified consultants, how could we be sure about quality of design and construction," stated Dr Deen Muhammad.

This is a common apathy in our system that sometimes the contracts of

certain projects are awarded either under political influence or on basis of personal relations. Therefore, this tendency must be shunned to save billions of rupees fleeced from our kitty. Although the challenge is enormous yet the concerned government departments are confident to cope with this situation through multiple steps initiated recently.

"The government in collaboration with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Air Aviation and Planning and Development department is working on construction of Automatic Weather Stations," said Abdul Razaq Khilji, Director General Water Resources Planning, Development and Monitoring Directorate of Irrigation Department. "This project would help us compile the data of rainfall and construct dams keeping in view the expected rainfall."

He agreed that construction standards must be

updated to international standards and stated, "a three-pronged approach including geological specialists could guarantee the dams' utmost success."

"Dams built without careful planning and necessary protocols prove to be potential target of harsh weather like we witnessed in 2022," Khilji said. "Unfortunately, we were unable to preserve thousands of cubic feet water after record-breaking rains in 2022."

As the Irrigation Department is mandated to meet water needs of people besides monitoring and improving the depleting water table in 18 river basins across Balochistan, it is confident to come up to masses aspirations.

"The present government is thriving hard to achieve those goals and there will be a considerable impact on the livelihood of people living in this province," commented Secretary Irrigation Hafiz Majid.