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Bilawal tells PTI workers to support PPP in polls, vows to eliminate politics of revenge

Says I have experienced the oppression of the PML-N and I would never wish for any political party worker to endure such hardship

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to rally behind his party in the upcoming general elections, pledging to put an end to the politics of revenge and division.

"I've experienced the oppression of PML-N myself, and I wouldn't want any political party worker to go through such difficulties," he said during a rally in Lahore.

On the occasion, Bilawal targeted the former coalition partner with strong criticism, questioning how long the people of Punjab would endure the alternating rule of PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and Wasim Akram plus (PTI's Usman Buzdar) in Lahore. Accusing the PML-N of engaging in vengeful politics with full force and

terrorising workers of the PTI, Bilawal highlighted the PPP's consistent opposition to retaliatory politics and advocacy for the release of political prisoners.

Appealing to the youth aligned with PTI, Bilawal urged them to cast their votes in the upcoming elections. He empathised with the struggles faced by PPP supporters under the rule of the PML-N and urged the nation to steer clear of the divisive politics of the 1990s.

"Those who used to chant slogans of vote ko izzat do (give respect to vote) are nowhere to be found," he said, referring to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Bilawal reminded that those who now mock the PPP's limited presence in Lahore have forgotten that the city warmly welcomed Benazir Bhutto, and in turn, she was elected as the

prime minister of the country.

The PPP chairman highlighted his 10-point welfare agenda, emphasising that upon assuming power, 17 federal ministries would be abolished and the elites would no longer receive subsidies. Instead, he added, the funds saved from these decisions would be spent on the welfare of the people.

"If you make me the prime minister, your salaries will be doubled in five years. We will provide free electricity for up to 300 units through solar panels. Cards will be provided to women and farmers," Bilawal promised.

APP adds: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Sunday reiterated his party's commitment to overcome nation's multifaceted crises after coming to government.



LAHORE: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting regarding Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Lahore.

Sindh CM writes letter to PM Kakar for completion of M-6 motorway

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Maqbool Baqar has requested Interim PM Anwarul Haq Kakar to facilitate completion of M-6 motorway by taking personal interest. ARY News reported on Sunday.

In a letter to Prime Minister Kakar, Sindh's caretaker CM wrote that all portions of Peshawar to Karachi motorway have been completed but a key link of the road project from Hyderabad to Sukkur has been still incomplete.

Caretaker CM has said that lack of progress in implementation of the M-6 project at site has been a matter of concern. "The M-6 project was actually a part of the CPEC Project framework, regrettably the federal government removed the project from CPEC without sharing any specific reason," letter read.

"The ECNEC approved the M-6 project in July 2020 with estimated cost of Rs.165.678 billions. In May 2021 the project cost was revised and fixed at 191.471 billion rupees", caretaker CM writes.

"At last, the project was decided to be built in December 2022 under the public-private participation mode," Maqbool Baqar said.

"The project was approved for implementation under the build-operate and transfer framework with the cost of Rs.308.194 billions," Sindh chief minister said.

Now the National Highway Authority (NHA) has cancelled the agreement awarded to the Techno-CMC-ACC Consortium. "The reason has been given that the company has failed to complete its financial close within given time".

Timely election, the only way out: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif asserted on Sunday that the nation was ready to enter the election, emphasizing the need for nationwide polls despite challenges.

Talking to a private news channel, he urged all stakeholders to prioritize unity for the country's better interests.

He highlighted the PDM government's dedication to Pakistan's economic survival during its 16-month rule without political agendas.

Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the imperative need for rapid economic development in the country, adding that PML-N as a party dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges facing the country.

He emphasized that quick economic progress was not only beneficial for the people but overall progress of the nation.

Pakistan Army, Royal Saudi Land Forces commences in Okara Garrison

RAWALPINDI (APP): The joint military training of the Pakistan Army and Royal Saudi Land Forces organized by the Multan Corps commenced in Okara Garrison.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Sunday, the military forces of the two countries presented an exemplary military drill at the beginning of the joint training.

On this occasion, the national anthems of both

countries were also played during the unveiling of the national flags. The Garrison Commander was the chief guest of the ceremony.

Through the joint training programme, the forces of both countries will have classroom sessions and the opportunity to hone their collective combat skills. At the end of the presented an exemplary military drill at the beginning of the joint training, the Chief Guest presented badges of joint training to the officers and men of the forces of both countries.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Khan along with Abdul Khabeer Azad, Chairman of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Pakistan visiting free medical camp titled role of Mمبر and Mehrab in Health Society organized by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Punjab at Badshahi Masjid.

Additional FS reaffirms Pak commitment to NAM's efforts towards peace, equality

Our Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Additional Foreign Secretary United Nations, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah on Sunday outlined Pakistan's firm commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and its founding principles.

In a national statement delivered at the 19th NAM Summit in Kampala, Uganda, he also reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support to the Movement's efforts towards peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all.

Ambassador Haider Shah is leading the Pakistan delegation to the NAM

Summit after Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani had to cut short his official visit in view of recent developments, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a press release.

Ambassador Haider Shah underlined that the current multi-dimensional global challenges could only be overcome through effective international collaboration. He called for urgent action to reform the systems of finance, trade and technology to ensure balanced and sustained socio-economic growth, particularly in the developing countries.

Maryam launches election campaign; PTI candidate backs her

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Chief Organizer and candidate from constituency NA-119 Maryam Nawaz on Sunday formally started her election campaign in the constituency.

Addressing a meeting of her campaign team in NA-119, she said that she would never leave the constituency. She said that progress of each person and family in the constituency was her responsibility and added that people of the constituency had always supported

her. She said that she would meet people in the constituency on January 25.

Maryam Nawaz said that she does not consider herself a leader but wanted to serve people. "PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif's message of progress would be conveyed to every house," she said and added that the PML-N would win the general elections with a thumping majority. She said that her party had made a development plan for the next five years.



KARACHI: Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Director General, Naveed Anwar being briefed by Tariq Rafi, Chief Engineer on Marine Walk Project, in Karachi.

Saeed Ghani demands arrest of PPP election office attackers

KARACHI (INP): PPP Karachi's President Saeed Ghani on Sunday alleged that the MQM has been in possession of the 'PSP mafia'.

Addressing a press conference here Saeed Ghani, a former provincial minister claimed that "Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has been a powerless convenor" of the party.

He also claimed that after entry of Mustafa Kamal in MQM-Pakistan

the party's remaining vote bank has also left it.

"They could not tolerate the People's Party's election office in their stronghold after eyeing a clear defeat in election," he said. Saeed Ghani demanded of the authorities to arrest the people involved in attack on the PPP's election office and launch an inquiry about those who orchestrated the attack.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing renowned Naat Khawan Fasihuddin Saharwardi's book "Fasahat ka Safar" luncheon ceremony.

'Mahfil-e-Zikre Mustafa (SAWW)' held

KARACHI (APP): Mahfil-e-Zikre Mustafa (SAWW) was held at the Governor House Sindh here on Sunday. The Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, well-known spiritual leaders, dignitaries of the city and a large number of citizens participated in the Mahfil.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the reasons behind our problems were that we did not follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

He said that Karachi was called the hub of the country's economy but no one paid proper attention towards it.

Ballot paper printing set for February 4 finish

ISLAMABAD (APP): The printing of ballot papers is on track, the Election Commission is satisfied with the quality and the process is expected to conclude by February 3 or 4, says official source.

He informed APP that the Election Commission (ECP) had directed the Printing Corporation of Pakistan on January 14 to print 260 million watermarked ballot papers for the February 8 polls.

The ongoing printing process involves 270 tons of special paper, he said, adding that printing for Balochistan and Sindh constituencies is continuing in Karachi, while for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Islamabad constituencies, the ballot papers are being printed at the government printing office in Islamabad.

Supreme Court disposes of 859 cases in three months

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court disposed of 859 cases in the last three months.

According to a quarterly report (from 17th December 2023 to 17th December 2023), the apex court disposed of 859 during the period.

The report, issued under Article 19-A which guarantees right to information, read that the number of pending cases was 56,503 on 17th September 2023 and dropped to 55,644 on 17th December 2023.



A view of group photo as joint military training between Pakistan Army and Royal Saudi Land Forces started at Okara garrison

Attack on PTI, PPP election offices leaves several injured in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Tensions soared in Karachi as the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) accused the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) of orchestrating attacks on their respective offices. The clashes resulted in injuries to several political workers from both parties.

According to media reports, the incident unfolded at the electoral office of PTI candidate Arsalan Khalid in Constituency NA-248 of the National Assembly. Over ten individuals, including Arsalan Khalid, were reportedly injured in the attack.

PTI's spokesperson laid blame on MQM workers, alleging that the assault was orchestrated by them. The wounded party workers were swiftly transported to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and Jinnah Hospital for medical attention. In response, PTI supporters staged a protest at Liaquat Ali Khan Chowk against the incident.

Simultaneously, in the vicinity of Hyderabad Town, within the limits of PS-250 and PS-129, an attack was reported on the Pakistan Peoples Party's office.

Iran, Pakistan flights resume amid easing tensions

KARACHI (INP): In a sign of improving relations between Iran and Pakistan, commercial flights between the two countries have resumed after a brief hiatus.

According to aviation sources, Iran's Mahan Airlines flight arrived in Lahore from Tehran on Sunday, carrying more than 100 passengers.

The flight landed at Lahore Airport from Tehran, sources said.

Flights between the two countries were suspended due to Pakistan-Iran tensions over border security and regional issues.

The resumption of flights is expected to boost

trade, tourism, and people-to-people contacts between the two neighboring countries.

On Friday, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, had a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The two ministers discussed the recent developments in the region and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Jilani briefed Abdollahian on Pakistan's position and reiterated that the defence of national security and sovereignty was the most important for Pakistan.

MQM-P to face defeat in general elections: Waqar

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh General Secretary Senator Waqar Mehdi has said that Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)-Pakistan will face defeat in the upcoming general elections in the metropolis.

He said that the PPP would emerge as a victorious political party in the general elections.

While addressing a press conference at People's Secretariat here on Sunday, he said that PPP would resolve issues of the city. Waqar Mehdi said that PTI members had announced joining PPP and they belong to NA-245 and PS118 constituencies. He said that over 600 workers of PTI had joined PPP.

Fire erupts in Yarn factory, emergency declared

KARACHI (APP): A fire has been reported in a yarn factory in New Karachi Industrial area Sector 12 here Sunday.

According to a spokesman for Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, an emergency had been declared at Water Corporation's Sakhi Hasan Hydrant. Several tankers filled with water had been dispatched to the fire site.

CEO Water Corporation Engineer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed had said that the in-charge of Hydrants Cell was actively in contact with the Karachi Fire Brigade authorities.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute hosts dialogue on "outlook on South Asia Security".

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Olive branch?

Dare one hope? Imran Khan's recent overture to "hold dialogue" surfaces as a beacon of potential reconciliation in a political landscape that has increasingly become fraught with venomous rhetoric and hardened stances. However, the ambiguity shrouding the intended recipients of this dialogue raises questions.

Historically, Mr Khan, as the leader of PTI, has taken an unyielding stance against engaging with other political factions — to the extent that he once said he could talk to the militant group TTP, but not "thieves". Such history prompts us to ask: with whom does he now wish to converse, and what has brought about this sudden shift?

Mr Khan's refusal to engage with other political entities despite their willingness to talk has been a hallmark of his political career. His rhetoric not only widened the chasm between the PTI and other parties but also contributed to a fragmented political environment. Such divisiveness is not something Pakistan can afford. Therefore, this newfound desire to initiate dialogue, albeit vague, must be cautiously welcomed, yet scrutinised for its authenticity and direction.

For the dialogue to serve the nation's interest, it must be rooted in the spirit of democracy, involving the country's political stakeholders. History has shown that stability and progress come from collaborative efforts among political entities, not from unilateral decisions or alignments with non-political establishments. It is imperative for the incarcerated PTI chief to clarify that his call for dialogue is not a veiled attempt to negotiate with the establishment, but a genuine effort to bridge gaps with other political parties.

Labelling political opponents — who are simply that, and not enemies to be vanquished — as unworthy of dialogue has done little in the past to foster the environment crucial for democratic discourse. For the nation to move forward, it is essential that political leaders shed animosity and engage in constructive dialogue, prioritising national interest over personal or party agendas.

The onus is now on Mr Khan to elucidate his intentions. It is an opportunity for him to demonstrate statesmanship by extending an olive branch to his adversaries, paving the way to addressing together Pakistan's myriad challenges. The success of an offer for dialogue hinges on its inclusiveness and transparency. For the sake of the nation's democratic health, this dialogue — if it ever occurs — must not be an echo chamber but a platform for genuine engagement among all political stakeholders. Meanwhile, Mr Khan's rivals, including the PPP and PML-N, must respond positively to any sincere overture on his part, rather than bind themselves to elements outside the political realm. Numerous examples establish that it is through dialogue, not discord, that nations forge paths to unity and strength. This nation is waiting for a new chapter of political maturity and inclusiveness to dawn.

Beyond headlines

Muna Khan

You can't get all your news from headlines. I was reminded of this last month in the US, when reading stories about Harvard president Claudine Gay's resignation following allegations of plagiarism. In reality, her resignation was the result of a well-coordinated campaign which had to do more with race and misogyny than upholding academic principles. But you wouldn't think so reading the headlines.

This campaign to oust the first Black president at Harvard was led by conservative activist Christopher Rufo, who is against DEI (diversity equity inclusion initiatives) and Bill Ackman, Harvard alum and hedge fund billionaire. They were then joined by donors and Republican Elise Stefanik, who headed a Congressional committee looking into accusations of antisemitism on elite campuses. Essentially, they were enraged by Gay's "failure" to condemn antisemitism; ie, pro-Palestinian student demonstrations on Harvard.

"Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate Harvard's rules of bullying and harassment?" asked Stefanik, who herself is a Harvard alum and was removed from an advisory board after she said the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump.

"The rules around bullying and harassment are quite specific," replied Gay, "and if the context in which that language is used amounts to bullying and harassment, then we take — we take action against it."

The backlash to Gay's response was swift and calls for her to be removed were amplified. (Incidentally all three universities called to the hearing were headed by women, and only the MIT president

still has her job.)

However, there was little mention of how, in those hearings, Stefanik was framing protest to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land as genocide. At one point, Stefanik described the "call for infadad as a call to commit genocide against the Jewish people". Even a basic internet search will show that infadads have not called for eliminating Jewish people. But it was clear no one in the press wanted to make this distinction, perhaps fearing it would be seen as antisemitic. Unfortunately, the most innocuous or seemingly obvious thinking can be framed as antisemitic in the US.

Gay didn't stand a chance.

When the hearings weren't able to produce the desired results, her detractors amplified the accusations of plagiarism. An investigation by Harvard into those claims found "few incidents of inadequate citations" but no wrongdoing. In reality, the right-wing (read rich men) cannot tolerate a Black woman in charge of an institute whose history is rooted in protecting white interests.

Gay resigned on Jan 2, but the trifecta of Ackman, Rufo and Stefanik — as MSNBC's Ali Velshi called them — has vowed to pursue probes into "deep institutional rot" at Harvard. I read this as protecting elite interests, one of which they say is freedom of speech on campuses. But whose speech do they want to protect?

US colleges have never been bastions of free speech because Palestinians, and other marginalised voices, have struggled to tell their stories. However, this is changing as DEI initiatives have allowed new perspectives, and younger generations no longer accept mainstream

media narratives, especially about genocide. The establishment continues to bully them into silence, but I don't know how much longer for.

Advocates of free speech are often the ones who suppress the most marginalised voices. These are usually the same people against DEI initiatives which, they claim, is the only reason Gay got the job. Men like Ackman, with access to formidable resources, are now trying to equate DEI initiatives as racist and/or antisemitic. On the other side are Palestinians and their supporters with far fewer resources but with truth on their side.

The media's focus on Gay's "plagiarism" should remind us how easy it is to distract from coverage on Palestine. I'm not here to say that Gay's story isn't important, but surely there's space in newspapers about Israel's war that is now starving Palestinians. It is also a reminder of how elitist the media is — more keen to talk about palace intrigues at Harvard than starvation in Gaza because that's what its audience wants. This serves politicians like Stefanik well because they don't have to answer questions about their Israel policies. The media aids them in this.

The interest in Gay's future or Harvard's policies will wane when journalists, editors and media owners realise they can't just serve elite interests. The tide is turning, albeit slowly, and the resistance to this change is immense.

The Israel lobby has upped the ante on keeping its narrative alive, but a new audience is emerging that isn't buying their Kool Aid anymore. This number will grow and won't rely on the media for information. They're already on TikTok; how long before everyone else is too? — Courtesy Dawn

Security decisions

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Nearly every country facing the kind of security challenges that Pakistan confronts maintains a national security council (NSC) as a principal decision-making body that brings together the civil and military leadership onto one platform. However, in Pakistan, this idea has not been fully embraced.

Gen Ayub Khan constituted a national advisory council to give the impression of collective decision-making by the civil and military leadership. In 1969, Gen Yahya Khan established an NSC for advice. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto constituted a cabinet committee on national security in 1976. Gen Zia also created an NSC in 1985 but abolished it the same year. In 1997, the interim government of Malik Meraj Khalid established a council for defence and national security but the idea was abandoned by the elected dispensation, which preferred the forum of a defence committee of the cabinet.

In October 1998, Gen Jehangir Karamat floated the idea of an NSC for institutionalised decision-making on national security. However, the suggestion was resisted by the Sharif government on grounds that it would give constitutional legitimacy to the army's role in political governance. Gen Musharraf revived the idea in 2004 and set up an NSC as a statutory body, which worked till 2008. In 2013, prime minister Nawaz Sharif softened up to the idea but reconstituted it as a national security committee (not council), subservient to the cabinet.

Evidently, the idea of having an NSC could never take root in Pakistan. The story is no different when it comes to the office of national se-

curity adviser. Pakistan had NSAs in 1969, 2004 to 2008, and then 2013 to 2022. Since April 2022, there has been no NSA.

Clearly, there is no consensus in Pakistan about the powers and role of an NSC. Civilian rulers perceive it as a forum to give the military a greater say in political governance, which, they believe, undermines the mandate of elected governments.

A counter argument is given that since an NSC is chaired by the prime minister and includes several leading cabinet members, involving the military leadership in decision-making on critical issues of national security could strengthen, rather than weaken, the hands of the civilian government. Further, given our ground realities, a high-level civil-military forum for collective decision-making could address misunderstandings before these morph into military interventions.

Given the enormous geostrategic changes underway globally and regionally, and instability on our borders with Iran, Afghanistan and India, Pakistan needs an NSC to address security challenges. It is worth noting that national security is now defined more comprehensively as a tripod of traditional security, economic security and human security. Given the interconnected and wider spectrum of threats to national security — external, internal and non-traditional — a whole-of-the-nation approach is needed.

It would also be relevant to look at how the rest of the world is managing decision-making on issues of national security. In the US, the NSC was created in 1947 as the president's principal forum for considering national security and foreign policy matters. It is chaired by the

president and its regular attendees include the vice president, secretaries of defence, state, treasury and homeland, chairman joint chiefs of staff and director of national intelligence. It has become the president's principal arm for coordinating between domestic and foreign policies and across federal agencies. Time has shown that this forum has enabled the president to make informed policy decisions.

In our own neighbourhood, India's prime minister Vajpayee established an NSC in November 1998, six months after the South Asia nuclear tests, and one month after Gen Karamat had proposed the idea in Pakistan. Since then, India's NSC has functioned regularly on all matters relating to the external and internal security of India, with key union ministers and military leaders in attendance. Five NSAs (three with diplomacy and two with intelligence background) have served the country. The NSC has a three-tiered structure, comprising a strategic policy group, an advisory board, and a joint intelligence committee. Pakistan can learn from these and several other examples where national security interests have been better served by institutionalised decision-making. Given that we have border security issues with our neighbours to the east and west, and with the forces of terrorism raising their head again, the next elected government needs to consider setting up a fully empowered NSC, chaired by the prime minister, and also appoint an NSA, so that serious challenges to Pakistan's national security can be addressed collectively and more effectively. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Revenue shortfall to be met with more taxes

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has committed with the International Monetary Fund to further increase gas prices before February 15th—third raise in one year—and also stands ready to impose additional Rs18 billion per month taxes including Rs5 per kilogram levy on sugar. The additional taxes, having an annual impact of Rs216 billion, would be imposed only if the government's income from the Federal Board of Revenue and other sources falls short of the agreed targets, according to a report that the IMF released on Saturday. Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsud Akhtar has given the commitments to the IMF.

The report also disclosed that the caretaker government had missed the

primary budget surplus target of the first quarter of the fiscal year. The IMF board had to give a waiver on this key performance criterion to make Pakistan eligible for the \$706 million loan tranche.

Pakistan would issue a notification of the December 2023 semi-annual gas tariff adjustment determination by February 15, 2024, according to the staff level report.

This is the third gas price increase that would be enforced in the past one year.

In November last year, the caretaker government had increased the gas prices by 1,100%, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The energy ministry claims that the average increase was 172%.

Despite implementing two

increases, circular debt in the gas sector has jumped to over Rs3 trillion as of Nov-end—an addition of Rs938 billion in just five months (Jul-Nov) 2023.

The interim government has committed that the Feb price increase would include maintaining the current progressive slab structure for domestic consumers as well as not disturbing the protection cover enjoyed by the most vulnerable household consumers.

However, the caretaker government has apparently misguided the IMF that the most vulnerable gas consumers were protected from the November 2023 increase. The PBS weekly report showed that the country's poorest segment earning Rs17,000 per month also faced the 1,108% increase in prices.

PFC plans for global presence of Pakistani furniture

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) has strategically chalked out an ambitious yearly plan to ensure global presence of Pakistani furniture.

Chairing the council's Board of Directors (BoD) meeting here Sunday, the PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq disclosed the annual plan in which throughout the calendar year, the council aims to showcase its diverse range of furniture products in key international expos. This proactive approach would not only help explore new markets but also captivate the attention of foreign buyers, he added.

In order to strengthen the global footprint, the PFC envisions collaborative efforts by fostering partnerships with international counterparts. The plan emphasizes the significance of joint ventures within the furniture industry.



BERLIN: Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik in a meeting with Managing Director, IFW Expo and Management of DLG International Stefan Kresse, on sidelines of Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held in Berlin, Germany.

Spokesman says: Amendment in Biosafety rules aimed to align with International standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research on Sunday said that the proposed amendments in Pakistan's National Biosafety Rules (2005) aimed to align with international standards and enhance regulation.

In a press statement, the spokesman of the ministry said that proposed amendments in regulations also aimed at adopting a dual approval approach for planting and

processing respectively as enshrined in 'Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety' concerning GMO imports and focusing on cultivation and food, feed and processing (FFPs).

The other objectives of ongoing processes are to ensure the safe and beneficial integration of GMOs into the country's agricultural landscape, besides fostering collaboration between stakeholders and authorities.

IT, solar sectors can significantly boost the economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Iftikhar Khan, the advisor to the president of FPCCI, stated on Sunday that the IT and solar sectors are both promising and ought to be encouraged.

He said that these industries can boost the struggling economy by pushing IT exports to \$25 billion and lowering the cost of oil imports.

In a statement released today, Iftikhar

processing respectively as enshrined in 'Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety' concerning GMO imports and focusing on cultivation and food, feed and processing (FFPs).

He said that scientific evidence supports the safety of GMOs, with reputable organizations endorsing their consumption, and rigorous testing before approving GMO crops ensures minimal harm to biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

He said Pakistan stands at a pivotal juncture regarding GMO integration into its agricultural landscape.

LESCO finds three power pilferers at Wagha

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Wagha Sub-Division's SDO along with his team checked main transmission lines and power meters during a search operation late last night and found three customers stealing electricity in Hamad Garden area. The company's spokesman told media here Sunday that two accused were stealing electricity by hooking wires on LESCO's main supply lines.

Aleem Khan vows to introduce reforms in agriculture sector

KHANEWAL (APP): President Isteqam-e-Pakistan (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan said on Sunday that IPP would introduce reforms in the agriculture sector and also offer cheap petrol and 300 electricity units to each poor family after coming to power.

He was addressing party workers, ex-chairmen and vice chairman of union councils at Kacha Koh. He also vowed to provide free of cost electricity to farmers having less than 12.5 acres of land. Similarly, barren land will be made fertile, he added. He alleged that

previous governments could not deliver however IPP would surely offer maximum relief to the masses.

Aleem Khan also promised to provide shelter to waifs and strays. IPP will also introduce wash-rooms, and filtration plants and upgrade schools as well as the grades of teachers. About contesting elections from PP 209, he remarked that Ayaz Khan Niazi was his neighbour in Lahore and it was an honour to contest from the constituency. Aleem Khan also promised to ensure record development in the region.



SARGODHA: Farmer busy making traditional sweet item Gurr near Khushab Road.

Malik Iftikhar urges people to buy 'Made in Pakistan' products

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former president Iftikhar Ali Malik has urged the people to buy 'Made in Pakistan' products to promote the local market that will curtail the import bill and keep the foreign reserves in good shape.

Talking to a traders delegation led by Muslim Khan Buner here Sunday, he added that economically, prioritizing locally made products bolsters the country's industries, generates employment opportunities and increases economic growth. "When people choose Pakistani goods over imported ones,

it strengthens the domestic market contributing to a more robust and self-reliant economy. It also leads to a positive cycle of increased investment, innovation and competitiveness," he argued.

Iftikhar Ali Malik suggested enhanced collaboration between public and private sector to make this initiative successful. He added that government must formulate policies which support local industries, while businessmen must ensure the quality and competitiveness of their products, that align with the ethos of 'Made in Pakistan'.



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Kaim Khani Welfare Trust (PKKW) Chairman, General (Retd) Muhammad Yousaf Khan addresses during annual ceremony held at Sindh Museum in Hyderabad.

NAVTC empowering youth through skill development programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) is running extensive programs by taking memorabilia initiatives to uplift technical training and skill development in the country.

Technical Training and Skill Education has occupied a very important place in the modern-day economy, according to a

news release on Sunday. The Prime Minister's Youth skilled program is a key pillar to empower them with the necessary tools and innovative skills, which will grow globally.

NAVTC invites media friends to join hands with it and have a good look at the programs and initiatives to enhance the technical sector in the country.

CM announces 15pc quota for news room journalists in residential plots

Says first time in history of Punjab, 3,300 residential plots granted to the reporters, photographers, cameramen and journalists of the News Room through a transparent balloting mechanism.

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced granting residential plots to reporters, photographers and cameramen and 15 per cent quota for journalists working in the news rooms. Addressing a ceremony organised for journalists at the CM Office on Sunday, he said that for the first time in the history of Punjab, 3,300 residential plots had been

granted to the reporters, photographers, cameramen and journalists of the News Room through a transparent balloting mechanism. Reporters will be granted 7-marla residential plots, while cameramen and photographers will be granted 3-marla residential plots through a transparent balloting mechanism. The advertisement for eligibility for acquiring the plot will be advertised on Monday, January 22. Ravi

Urban Development Authority (RUDA) will inform the journalists community about the mode for acquiring the plots. Mohsin Naqvi stated that approximately, one year of the incumbent government has passed. "Whichever city I visit, the only demand being made by the journalists community is to do something substantial for their welfare. Today, we have fulfilled our promise being made with our journalist brothers."



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi addressing the ceremony organized in connection with allotment of Residential Plots to Professional Journalist of Punjab.

IG Punjab reviewed the ongoing works of DIG Security office

Independent Report
LAHORE: Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar paid a surprise visit to the under construction office of the DIG Security Division and issued instructions while reviewing the ongoing works of finishing and fixtures.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that after the completion of the civil work, the decoration should be completed as soon as possible according to high standards and no compromise should be made on the quality standard. IG Punjab Dr

Usman Anwar said that police offices and Police stations have been upgraded with the latest resources with the support of Punjab Government and new office of DIG Security Division will be inaugurated soon.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar further said that police infrastructure development has improved public service delivery to citizens. DIG Security Kamran Adil, DIG Telecommunication Imran Ahmar, SSP Security Division Khalid Mehmood, AIG Operations, SPS, senior officers were present on the spot.

Flight inquiry helpline 'out of order' at Lahore airport

LAHORE (INP): Passengers are facing difficulties in conforming to their flights as flight inquiry lines at Lahore airport are 'out of order'.

According to sources, contact with the flight inquiry section is not being established at the Lahore airport, causing difficulties for the passengers.

We are unable to confirm flights as the schedule is badly affected due to dense fog, the passengers said. The dense fog across the country has badly affected the flight operations. On January 16, four Islamabad-bound flights were diverted to Karachi.

Talha Mehmood says: Developmental network to be established in Chitral district if elected MNA

PESHAWAR (APP): Due to the negligence of the rulers and elected representatives, the people of Chitral are still forced to live a stone-age life and the roads here are not fit for human beings, people are deprived of their basic rights.

"If I get a chance, I will change the map of Chitral," these views were expressed by Senator Mohammad Talha Mehmood, who is a candidate for the National Assembly seat from NA 1 Chitral in the forthcoming general election to be scheduled on Feb 8, 2024.

Contesting the elections from Chitral on the ticket of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Muhammad Talha Mehmood said during his

visit to different areas of Tehsil Torkho. He addressed public gatherings there. The people of Veerkop, Shahgram and other areas gave him a warm welcome. The JUI workers welcomed him outside the city and took him in a convoy to the public meeting place.

On this occasion, Haji Shakeel, the candidate of provincial assembly constituency PK-1, former Amir Sher Karim Shah and other members of JUI were also present with him. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, said that when I travelled to Upper Chitral, it seemed that the people here were still forced to live in the stone age.



GILGIT: Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmad Mirza chairing a meeting of Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners at CS Secretariat.

Rwp Ring Road project to be completed by July 31: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that Rawalpindi Ring Road project would be completed by July 31. He informed that the work had been started at the bridges of river Swan and Sial. Thalian Interchange is also being remodeled while the modeling of traffic network of Ring Road and Motorway is also in progress, he said.

He said that Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) would give a plan for plantation on both sides of the Ring Road.

Over 18 percent physical work of the Ring Road project had been completed, Liaquat Ali Chatta informed.

He said that the Ring Road project would be completed by July 31 and the project would be inaugurated on August 14.

There will be no compromise on the quality of the construction work, he added.

Firdous says her politics has always been anti-PML-N

SIALKOT (INP): Categorically stating that the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) candidates did not need other political parties' support for getting elected to assemblies, the party spokesperson Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday said that the seat adjustment agreement the IPP had reached with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was on paper. In an interview with a private TV Channel

in Sialkot, she said not only her politics had been anti-PML-N right from the very beginning, but voters of her constituency too were opposed to the party.

"I was opposed to any kind of seat adjustment with the PML-N right from the word go," she said. "What happens in the world does have an impact on any country's domestic politics," Firdous said, adding, "For us, Pakistan comes first.

Persistent use of e-cigarettes badly affects human health

PESHAWAR (APP): The persistent use of e-cigarettes in Pakistani society has exposed the younger generation to serious respiratory, oral and brain issues that may prove fatal in later stages of life.

Besides an increasing possibility of drug addiction and long-term damage to brain and IQ development as well as the respiratory system, constant use of e-cigarettes along with other tobacco products can do even more damage to the human body than conventional cigarette smoking. "Electronic cigarettes

are equally harmful that of conventional cigarettes and their regular use can prove fatal due to threats of lung, oral and mouth cancers," said Dr Malik Riaz Khan, Principal Medical Officer, Government Hospital Pabbi, Nowshera while talking to a state run news agency.

Citing reports, he said that about 6.2 per cent of the population used vaping/e-cigarettes while 15.9 million (12.4pc) used smokeless tobacco. "The young adults, especially college and university students, when consumed these products do not realize the long term

harmful impacts of e-cigarettes and at a later stage expose themselves to serious lung related diseases, nicotine addiction, depression and anxiety," he said.

In recent years, electronic cigarettes or vapes have gained popularity among youngsters and students as a fashionable alternative to traditional tobacco smoking. Supporters claimed that e-cigarettes are less harmful than conventional cigarettes but the true intensity of the habit is still unknown to the public. "I started first

naswar, then e-cigarette as a fashion and now conventional cigarette due to unemployment and today I could not go a day without a vape," said Sajid Khan, an e-cigarette smoker of Pabbi.

"These drugs have snatched my happiness and prestige," Sajid Khan said, adding my family had left me abandoned after smoking and I felt angry at myself when children started laughing at me due to my ugly attire.

Dr Riaz said every segment of society, nongovernmental organizations and social bodies are on the same page

to control the alarming use of e-cigarettes, stressing the need for collective efforts to save youngsters from the harmful habit.

Blue Veins and the Provincial Alliance for Sustainable Tobacco Control Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also urged the provincial government and concerned authorities to remain vigilant of the manipulative ways of the tobacco industry emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to combat these nefarious strategies.

"Governments and civil society organizations must remain active.



KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident at a factory as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at New Karachi Industrial area of Karachi.

International News

President Sisi says Egypt will not allow any threat to Somalia or its security

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt's president said on Sunday it will not allow any threat to Somalia, after Ethiopia said it would consider recognising an independence claim by Somaliland in a deal that would give it access to a sea port.

The remarks by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi were the strongest yet made on the issue by Egypt, which already has frosty relations with Ethiopia, and were a sign that Cairo may get involved in a dispute that has raised fresh tensions in the volatile Horn of Africa.

Somaliland declared

independence from Somalia in 1991 but has not won recognition from any country. The port lease deal, which was agreed earlier this month but not yet finalised, would be a boon to landlocked Ethiopia and has enraged Somalia.

"Egypt will not allow anyone to threaten Somalia or affect its security," Sisi said, speaking at a news conference with visiting Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

"Do not try Egypt, or try to threaten its brothers especially if they ask it to intervene," he added.

In a Jan. 1 memorandum of understanding,

Ethiopia said it would consider recognising Somaliland's independence in return for the port access. It would lease 20 km (12 miles) of coastland around the port of Berbera, on the Gulf of Aden, for 50 years for military and commercial purposes.

Ethiopia's current main port for maritime exports is in the neighbouring country of Djibouti. "My message to Ethiopia is that ... trying to seize a piece of land to control it is something no one will agree to," Sisi said, saying cooperation on development was a better strategy.



Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi arrives to be sworn in for a second term as a president during the inauguration ceremony at Martyrs Stadium in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Israeli strike on Damascus kills Iran's spy chief in Syria

Monitoring Desk
DAMASCUS: An Israeli strike on Damascus killed the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps's (IRGC) spy chief for Syria and four other Guards members on Saturday, Tehran said, in an attack that tore into a multi-storey residential building.

Iran condemned the strike as a "desperate attempt to spread instability in region", state media reported. "Iran... reserves its right to respond to the organised terrorism of the fake Zionist regime at the appropriate time and place," foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a Britain-based monitor, said 10 people were killed in the Israeli strike on the Mazzeah neighbourhood of the Syrian capital.

The Mazzeah area is also home to the United Nations headquarters, embassies and restaurants.

"That situation (in Gaza) behoves us to ask: how much is enough? And does the very concept of enough even exist in this setting?" asked UNGA President Dennis Francis as the death toll in Gaza carnage exceeded 25,000.

Secretary General

Biden cancels nearly \$5 billion more in student debt relief

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday announced student debt cancellation of nearly \$5 billion for an additional 74,000 borrowers, including more than half who earned forgiveness after 10 years of public service as teachers, nurses and firefighters.

The White House announcement brings the total loan forgiveness approved by the Biden-Harris administration to \$136.6 billion for more than 3.7 million Americans.

India plans to fence off Myanmar frontier

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India plans to erect a fence along its vast and porous frontier with Myanmar and will scrap a free movement border zone agreement, Indian media reported on Sunday.

The announcement by Home Minister Amit Shah comes after hundreds of troops from Myanmar who were fleeing insurgent attacks crossed into India. The government had "decided to fence the entire open India-Myanmar border".

Iran launches satellite that is part of a Western-criticized program as regional tensions spike

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Iran said Saturday it had conducted a successful satellite launch into its highest orbit yet, the latest for a program the West fears improves Tehran's ballistic missiles.

The announcement comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and just days after Iran and Pakistan engaged in tit-for-tat airstrikes in each other's countries.

Meanwhile Saturday, the U.S. conducted new strikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels, who have been targeting shipping in the Red Sea over the war, and Iranian-backed militias in Iraq struck a base housing U.S. troops, wounding several personnel.

The Iranian Soraya satellite was placed in an orbit at some 750 kilometers (460 miles) above the Earth's surface with its three-stage Qaem 100

rocket, the state-run IRNA news agency said. It did not immediately acknowledge what the satellite did, though telecommunications minister Isa Zarepour described the launch as having a 50-kilogram (110-pound) payload.

The launch was part of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' space program alongside Iran's civilian space program, the report said.

Footage released by Iranian media showed the rocket blast off from a mobile launcher, a religious verse referring to Shiite Islam's 12th hidden imam written on its side.

An Associated Press analysis of the footage suggested the launch happened at the Guard's launch pad on the outskirts of the city of Shahrood, some 350 kilometers (215 miles) east of the capital, Tehran. Iran's three latest successful satellite launches have all happened at the site.



DAMASCUS: Security and emergency personnel search the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli strike.

'4 survivors' after Russian jet crashes in Afghan mountains

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Four people survived and two are unaccounted for after a Russian plane crashed in mountainous northeastern Afghanistan, the air transport agency Rosaviatsia said on Sunday.

The Falcon 10 business jet was believed to be carrying six people on a hospital flight from India to Uzbekistan and Russia before communication was lost on Saturday evening.

"Of the six people on board the aircraft, ten-

tatively, four are alive. They have various injuries. The fate of two people is being clarified," Rosaviatsia said, citing the Russian embassy in Afghanistan.

The RIA Novosti news agency said two passengers were Russians, one who was seriously ill, and the other her husband who had paid for the flight.

The two-engine plane was built by France's Dassault in 1978 and owned by a company called Athletic Group and a private individual.

Trump, Haley duke it out in New Hampshire before primary

Monitoring Desk
MANCHESTER: Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and former President Donald Trump will make their closing arguments in New Hampshire on Sunday in a final stretch of campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination before voters go to the polls on Tuesday.

Time is running short for Haley, who served as Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, to topple the Republican presidential frontrunner after his victory in the Iowa caucus underscored his dominance in the primary race. If she cannot score an upset win in New Hampshire on Tuesday, her already-narrow path to the nomination could close altogether. Trump, who is leading Haley and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis here, addressed a stadium full of cheering supporters in Manchester on Saturday night, encourag-

ing them to go the polls on Tuesday, when the primary will take place. But he also appeared to shift some of his focus to the next major nominating contest, in South Carolina in late February.

At the rally, several high-ranking state and federal officials from that state spoke on Trump's behalf, including South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. "They understand that I am the only candidate in this race who is going to save America and we're gonna get rid of this Biden disaster right away," Trump said. "So you know what I'm doing? I'm kissing ass." Haley has stepped up her attacks on Trump in recent days with a late-in-the-game move to draw contrasts with a businessman and politician whose time in the White House was characterized by chaos and who faces four criminal cases.

President for blacklisting proven bank fraudsters, directs banks to refund Rs 2.74 million to fraud victims

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has asked the Banking Mohtasib to take up the matter of banking frauds with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to get essential SOPs issued so that proven fraudulent personnel's CNICs could be blacklisted, placed at Central negative list, and no Banking/financial facility could be extended to them by the Banking industry.

The President issued these directions while rejecting two separate representations filed by the United Bank Ltd (UBL) and Bank Alfalah Ltd (BAL) directing the banks to pay Rs 1.9 million and Rs 0.744 million respectively to their customers who fell victim to online banking fraud at the hands of fraudsters.

As per details, Mr Qaiser Mehmood who was holding an account with UBL received a call from a number resembling the Bank's helpline and the caller advised him to activate his disabled digital banking app. He activated his app, after which Rs 2 million were transferred from his account through multiple transactions. Similarly, Brigadier Muhammad Arif Shaikh received a call from fraudsters asking him for his banking credentials to remove some technical flaws from his account. Later, an amount of Rs 994,000 were transferred from his account through 19 transactions. They asked their respective banks to refund their money, but to no avail. Feeling aggrieved, they separately approached the Banking Ombudsman to get relief. The Ombudsman directed the banks to refund the lost amounts to the customers. The banks, then, separately filed representations against the Ombudsman's decisions with the President.

The President held personal hearing of the cases, and having listened to the parties and going through the available record, decided the cases in the complainants' favour.

The President observed that the banks were found non-compliant with the SBP's directives regarding the implementation of monitoring systems to detect fraudulent transactions. He added that multiple consecutive transactions were conducted but it did not raise alerts and allowed the money to pass through the system. He noted that the banks also failed to establish the legitimacy of transactions in terms of Section 41 of the Payment System and Electronic Fund Transfers Act, 2007. He said that the banks failed to submit any proof of compliance with the directions of SBP despite being given ample opportunity.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presented a shield on eve of inaugural ceremony of Society of Gynecology Oncology Pakistan.

Aneeq inaugurates free medical camp at Badshahi Masjid

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed inaugurated a health camp at Badshahi Masjid here on Sunday, and stressed the need for collective efforts to establish a healthy society.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony and a seminar on 'Role of mosques, mimbir and mehrab for healthy society', he said there were more than 250,000 mosques in the country, which should be made a centre of medical and other facilities. He added that these mosques should be given the status of community centres.

Caretaker Federal Minister Health Dr Nadeem Jan, Punjab Health Minister Dr Jamal Nasir, Minister Auqaf Sayed Azfar Ali Nasir, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Abdul Khabeer Azad, Joint Secretary Ahmad Nadeem, Secretary Auqaf Dr Tahir Raza Bukhari and others were also present.

Aneeq Ahmed said that medical camp had been established at historic Badshahi Masjid and other mosques of big cities like Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad in which dentists, ultrasound, sugar screening and other facilities are being provided free of cost to people.

Governor inaugurates Society of Obstetric and Gynecology Oncology

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the Society of Obstetric and Gynecology Oncology at the Governor House for the treatment of various cancers in women.

According to a Governor House communique on Sunday, a MoU was also signed between Sogo and a local pharma company. The Governor said that the doors of the governor's house were open to everyone.

China-Pak companies sign \$43 mln new energy order

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's leading distributor of solar energy products, MaxPower signed a USD 43 million order with China's new energy company, CHISAGE ESS.

According to CHISAGE, they have supplied over 300,000 units of inverters and will provide a full range of low-voltage single-phase and three-phase hybrid inverters as part of the order.

In March 2023, MaxPower showcased the prototype of CHISAGE ESS hybrid inverters at 12th International Renewable Energy Exhibition and Conference in Pakistan.

Non-state actors threat to regional, national security: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said that the Iran crisis resolution was the 'model of crisis management', whereas the non-state actors have become a threat to the regional and national security now linked to regional geopolitics.

He was speaking at the Pakistan-China Institute dialogue on "Outlook of Security Situation in South Asia in 2024" organized under Friends of Silk Road (FOSR) Initiative that took place simultaneously at two venues; Islamabad and Quetta Press Club, said a news release issued here Sunday.

In his opening speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed highlighted the significance of the current scenario, dominated by turbulence and transformation. In this context, he analyzed China's Global Security Initiative (GSI) as a new

framework for peaceful resolution of security issues, since GSI focuses on security as being indivisible, based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. It seeks also to promote a security governance framework, including A.I., cyber security and related security threats based on accepted international norms of behavior enshrined in the UN Charter and international law.

He strongly condemned the ongoing Genocide and Crimes against humanity in Palestine by Israel. Delving into security issues, he discussed three new realities; the shattering of the Middle East status quo after October 7, serious challenges posed by Non-State Actors, and the complex security situation between Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan which is now inextricably intertwined with regional geopolitics, necessitating dialogue and diplomacy.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, Nasreen Jilil and others waving hands to their supporters during public gathering as a part of Election Campaign in connection of General Election 2024, at Jinnah Bagh in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi launches campaign to put covers on open manholes

KARACHI (INP): Mayor Karachi and Chairman Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) Barrister Murtaza Wahab took another positive step to improve the drainage of the city and formally launched the campaign to put covers on the open manholes across the city.

According to the spokesperson of (KWSC) CEO Water Corporation Engineer Syed Sallahuddin Ahmed, COO Water Corporation Engineer Asadullah Khan and Chief Engineer Sewerage Aftab Chandio were present on the occasion of the launch of the Manholes Covers campaign.

On this occasion, Mayor Karachi said that the campaign of manholes covers has been formally started in all the districts, in the first phase, manholes cover campaign is being conducted in four districts of Central West Kemari and Korangi while in the second phase, manholes cover campaign will be conducted in the rest of the districts.

He said that manholes covers will be installed under the supervision of the concerned executive engineer and elected UC chairman.

Five injured in firing incidents

KARACHI (INP): Five people including a woman were injured in separate firing in different localities of the metropolis, police said on Sunday.

According to details, a 40-year-old woman was injured during jubilant firing in wedding ceremony in Shah Faisal Colony, Karachi.

A blind bullet critically injured 17-year-old youth in Firdous Colony of Golimar.

Three people were shot injured upon resistance during separate robbery incidents in Nazimabad, Super Highway and Lasbela.

The injured were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases at respective police stations started investigations.

Customs officer found to be involved in kidnapping for ransom

KARACHI (INP): An on-duty Customs officer found to be a member of a kidnapping for ransom gang, an official of Anti-violent crime cell (AVCC) of Sindh police said on Sunday.

"Arrested kidnappers have been identified as Rashid, Zubair and Abdul Fatah," SSP AVCC said. "Accused Abdul Fatah has been an in-service inspector at Collectorate of Customs in Khuzdar," AVCC official said. The accused had abducted Wajahat Nadeem from Brigade police remit," Zafar Siddique said. "They were arrested in a government number plate car for abduction," he said.



KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain and Nutrition International Team in a group photo during their visit to Flour Mill.

Flour mill owners must sell fortified flour, salt: DG SFA

KARACHI (APP): Director General of Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that all operational teams of SFA must ensure the fortification process in flour and salt while all the manufacturers of flour and salt are bound to follow the SFA act in this regard.

to check zinc and iron in the flour, a communique said. DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain has also directed operational deputy directors of SFA to check documents of the manufacturers and get random sampling regularly from various locations, use iodine test kits, ensure regular visits to production sites, train staff concerned and create awareness on the issue. He said that all flour mill owners should sell fortified flour over non-compliance a strict action would be taken against them.

One robber killed, another injured, held with arms after encounter

KARACHI (INP): One robber was killed and another injured and held with arms, cash and bike after exchange of fire with police here on Sunday.

According to details, the police on a tip-off approached a two-member gang of robbers engaged in looting a motorist near Karachi's Central Jail.

The robbers started firing at police and attempted to flee.

In retaliatory firing of police, one robber was killed and another injured and held with arms, cash and a motorcycle.

Jl announces election manifesto for Karachi city

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat Islami Pakistan (JIP) Karachi head Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman announced the election manifesto to solve the problems of the city on Sunday.

He addressed a press conference on Sunday and announced that this manifesto is not of Karachi but the manifesto of Pakistan. For the upcoming elections, he said Jamaat-e-Islami has fielded an excellent team of doctors and engineers, who have a better understanding of parliamentary politics.

He said when they came to power, JIP would correct the census of Karachi city and every government school would be made a model school. He said they will promote IT education in city universities and a scholarship program will also be launched in the city on a large scale. He added the youth will be given government jobs.

He said the constitution said that the province from where the gas comes out should be given priority and JIP will implement this provision of the constitution.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

1st Commissioner's Marathon Race concluded

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The first Commissioner's marathon race was successfully concluded on Sunday in Mirpurkhas.

ongoing efforts by the division and district administration to promote sports.

Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Faisal Ahmed Uqeli, was the chief guest of the first Commissioner's Marathon Race at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Sports Stadium (Gama Stadium) in Mirpurkhas.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr. Rashid Masood Khan also said that the district administration of Mirpurkhas is making every possible effort to popularize sports and encourage the youth who are fond of sports. Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, SSP Adil Memon and others who won prominent positions in the three categories of the winners and others gave cash prizes and medals.

Addressing the gathering, the commissioner credited the success of the first Commissioner's Marathon Race to the people of Mirpurkhas, highlighting

Accused of killing friend a day before wedding held

KARACHI (INP): The police on Sunday arrested an accused involved in murder of a friend a day before his wedding.

According to details, Usama Javed hailing from Awami Colony Korangi left the house on Friday night along with his friend Talha but did not returned back.

Very next day (Saturday) bullet riddled body of Usama was recovered near Korangi Dar-ul-Uloom.

Police arrested the accused Talha who admitted of killing Usama along with his two accomplices.

The police have registered a case into the incident and raids were being conducted to arrest two other accomplices of key accused.

Cold, dry weather predicted for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted cold and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, fog and smog were predicted in Jacobabad, Hyderabad, Mohenjodaro, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu, Ghotki, Khairpur, Kashmore and Padidan.

Mainly, cold and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

PPP pledges to public welfare: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday pledged that the PPP is committed to the public welfare.

festos reflects the party's focus on addressing the issues of unemployment, poverty, health and free education for the citizens, he added.

Talking to a private news channel, he declared PPP's 10-point election manifesto as a public welfare agenda. He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was appearing in the people's court with his party's manifesto. He said Bilawal's 10-point manifesto was the public welfare manifesto. PPP's election manifesto

retary proposed to Nawaz Sharif to hold a public debate with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on national TV. He was of the view that the former three-time prime minister does not stand a chance to win the debate with Bilawal.

He claimed that the PPP has a public welfare manifesto that has upset his opponents.

Commissioner for educating people about Poliovirus

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner and Chairman Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Shaheed Benazirabad Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider said that Polio is a dangerous virus that adversely affects children. He said that the Polio virus has been wiped from across the world but still exists in Pakistan and poses serious health dangers for children. The raising of awareness against the elimination of the Polio virus ensures that what extortionation is serious about the virus elimination.

through letters to organize essay competitions in Urdu, Sindhi and English languages highlighting the "Role of students, parents and teachers in eliminating the menace of Polio". In this regard secretary board of education in a letter to principals, headmasters and headmistresses of all schools to collect handwritten essays on the topic from their students and send the same to the board office along with complete details. The announcement said that the Board would award a cash prize of Rs 25,000 to the first-position winner of essay writing Rs 15,000 to second second-position holder and Rs 10,000 to third third-position holder of the essay competition.



HYDERABAD: Students are participating in Marathon Race Pact Olympiad 2024 3rd Edition organized by Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association (PPSCA), in Hyderabad.

Will try to solve basic problems of people after success: Laghari

By Tanveer Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: Ghotki district is a green and high taxing district of Sindh, but no one has paid attention to solving the basic problems of the people here, I will try to solve the basic problems of the people with success.

Sardar Nadir Akmal Laghari, who participated in the election as an independent candidate from PS 19, said these things while addressing events in his honor in different areas.

He said that I paved the canal passing through the city of Mirpur Mathelo, and laid a network of roads in cities and villages. I have given up my American citizenship and served my poor people. I will not disappoint them like before, all the other problems in the area including clean drinking water, electricity, gas will be solved soon, worst corruption is done in development schemes, newly constructed roads would be broken in fifteen days. are.

He said that Allah has given me life again after a long illness, so I want to serve the people.