

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXV No. 168, Rajab 25, 1445 AH Tuesday February 06, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

India a terrorist state, committing worst atrocities against Kashmiris: PM Kakar

"On this day, I make it clear that that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are showing maximum patience and tolerance, but any misadventure in this regard will be forcefully responded'

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that India was a terrorist state, which had been committing the worst atrocities and brutalities against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir for decades.

The world was, however, silently watching the Indian state terrorism against the Kashmiris, he regretted while addressing the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The prime minister said for last many years, India was presenting a false narrative and trying to weaken the indigenous movement of the Kashmiris claiming that Gilgit- and tolerance, but any mis-



for freedom by wrongly labeling them as terrorists.

There was a clear difference between terrorism and the people's struggle for independence, he added.

PM Kakar said that the Indian leadership was also showing maximum patience

Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir were part of their country.

"On this day, I make it clear that that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are

included launched a search operation

to arrest the perpetrators.

prayers of the martyred

police officials were offered

here in Ejaz Shaheed Police

Lines with full official pro-

tocol and honor. The fu-

neral were also attended by

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Caretaker Chief Minister

Arshad Hussain Shah,

Chief Secretary Nadeem

Later, the funeral

adventure in this regard will oners. It should also abroforcefully responded." He reaffirmed that Pa-

kistan did not want any conflict in the region, however, it was fully capable of strongly retaliating any attack on its soil. India, he said, had for

many times tested Pakistan's capacity, and if still had any desire in that regard then "we are fully ready to show our might". He said if India was a true democracy then it

should give the people of

Kashmir their just right to self-determination, besides restoring all the basic human rights in the IIOJK. PM Kakar said India must also stop the gross violations of human rights

in the region along with re-

leasing all the political pris-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister

of Information, Broadcast-

ing and Parliamentary Af-

fairs Murtaza Solangi said

on Monday that the Min-

istry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) has

launched a media helpline

to redress complaints of

both local and foreign jour-

ing ceremony of the media

Addressing the launch-

nalists during elections.

Solangi says:

Media helpline launched

for quick redressal of

journalist's complaints

laws, besides removing its heavy military presence from the villages and towns of Kashmir. It should allow the Kashmiris to hold peaceful

gate all the strict emergency

gatherings, he added. The prime minister said that India must allow

unrestricted access to the observers of UN and Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), international media and human rights organizations to IIOJK to get first-hand information about the situation there; and investigate and report human rights violations.

He said that India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 usurping

Continued on page 2

helpline, he said, in the

present era of digital media

it was imperative to up-

grade and improve working.

application will be acces-

sible through any browser,

Murtaza Solangi remarked.

was launched for the con-

venience of local and inter-

national journalists and

Continued on page 2

The media-compliant

He said the application

Pakistan Army well versed with full threat spectrum and

perpetually ready to respond effectively; Gen Asim Munir lauds operational readiness of troops

RAWALPINDI (APP): ing openly called out by Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reaffirmed that any aggression or vioresponded with full na-

He was addressing the front lines along the Line of

many countries worldwide, that the fortitude, resilience, exposing its sham creden-

continue to expose all such attempts and ensure the security of its citizens.

During the occasion, the Army Chief was briefed

Monument

Council resolutions. They noted that India is attempting to change the demography of IIOJK Muzaffarabad, Caretaker through illegal administrative and unilaterally Haq Kakar, Prime Minister imposed draconian laws

They acknowledged

and unwavering faith of

Kashmiris in the face of

unabated brutality of In-

dian occupation forces in

IIOJK are exemplary. They

said the brewing humani-

tarian and security crises in the IIOJK seriously

threaten regional peace and stability. Pakistan would

always stand with

Kashmiris in their just

struggle for the inalienable

right to self-determination

in light of UN Security

Such a callous disregard for Army Chief laid floral clampdowns. Such machiinternational law and norms wreaths at the Martyrs' nations cannot suppress of the international system Monument and paid rich the will of the Kashmiri is becoming a routine occur- tribute to the supreme sac- people to attain their legiti-

PM summons important meeting of cabinet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has summoned important meeting of federal cabinet today (Tuesday).

According to sources overall economic situation of the country and security situation will come under consideration. The overall performance of care taker government will be reviewed in the meeting.
Rich tributes will be

paid to the federal minis ters for their outstanding performance.

A host of matters including privatization of first women bank will come under discussion in the meet-

Original CNIC mandatory for casting vote: ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday advised people to bring their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) to cast a vote or

Election Day. The ECP in a message said no person would be allowed to cast his vote at the polling station without having original CNIC.

No other document including a copy of CNIC passport and driving license would be acceptable for casting a vote. The commission fur-

ther said anyone having an expired CNIC can cast his/

termined to conduct the

elections in peaceful man-

Commissioner was ad-

dressing press conference at

his office on Monday.

The Provincial Election

visiting the front lines along Line of Control (LOC) in Sarian Sector. Any aggression to be responded with full military might: COAS

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

lation of the territorial sovereignty of Pakistan will be
General Syed Asim
Munir said Pakistan would tional resolve and military

troops deployed on the Control in the Sarian sector near Muzaffarabad today.

The Army Chief said the Pakistan Army is wellversed in the full threat spectrum and is perpetually ready to respond effectively. He mentioned that Indian state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan has now extended to the heinous targeting of individual Pakistani citizens on our soil.

about the latest situation along the Line of Control. He appreciated the operational readiness, high morale, and effective response of troops to Indian ceasefire violations.

Earlier, upon arrival at the Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Azad Kashmir, and the and

Nawaz Sharif pressuring administration, elections must be fair: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- the PPP was not forming kistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has addressed various issues ahead of the upcoming general elections and accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of

pressurising the administra-tion to influence the deci-In an interview with VOA Urdu, he emphasized his party's focus on contesting the polls independently, warned against al-

leged political pressure, and stressed the need for fair and transparent elections.

Bilawal reiterated that

alliances with other parties and will fight the elections

based on its own manifesto. "I am contesting the elections and trying to ensure that the People's Party wins and forms a govern-ment," he told the news outlet

He accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of the PML-N of pressuring the administra-tion, warning him against any interference in the electoral process. He expressed confidence that the administration will resist such

Continued on page 2



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the election

Kashmir Solidarity Day observed in big way:

Peace of region linked with solution to Kashmir issue,

says Mir Zubair Jamali **Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has stated that the peace of region is linked with the

solution to Kashmir issue. Therefore, this issue must be resolved so as to ensure peace in the region. In an official statement

issued here on eve of Kashmir Solidarity Day observed on Monday, the caretaker Provincial Minister said that the people of country including Balochistan express solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

He said that independence from the clutches of India is basic right of the people of Occupied KashHe said that we are standing shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiri people in their struggle. The caretaker Minister

strongly condemned the brutalities unleashed by the Indian forces against Kashmiri people for last seven decades.

He urged the interna-

tional community especially United Nations to take notice of the Indian atrocities in the Occupied Kashmir. It may be mentioned

here that Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed in big way all over the province. Rallies were taken out and seminars were organized to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people in almost all districts of the province.

10 policemen martyred in terrorist attack on DI Khan police station

Six policemen were also injured when terrorists targeted the police station in Tehsil Daraban

Ghulam Farid, Muhammad

Javed, Muhammad Idrees,

Muhammad

DERA ISMAIL KHAN nine others got injured. The reached the site and (APP): At least 10 policemen were martyred and six others got injured as a group of unidentified militants attacked Chaudhwan police station here in Daraban tehsil in the wee hours on

According to the police spokesman, the terrorists employing heavy weapons attacked the Chaudhwan police station at around Khan.

continued for around two Ismail Khan. and a half hours. However,

the attackers managed to In the attack, 10 police- a heavy contingent of pomen were martyred and lice and security forces

country after coming to power.

menace of loadshedding.

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: On Kashmir Solidarity Day, being

observed on February 5,

the passion for Kashmiri

self-determination burned

bright across Pakistan and

Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

tions, symbolic gestures,

and passionate speeches

marked the day, highlight-

ing the ongoing struggle and

demanding international in-

capital of Azad Kashmir, a

grand ceremony unfolded at

Azadi Chowk. Participants

waved flags, chanted slo-

gans, and formed a chain of

human hands connecting

them to their brethren

across the Line of Control.

A special session of the

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

In Muzaffarabad, the

tervention.

Large-scale demonstra-

Nawaz asks Murree

constituents to vote

wisely for a new dawn

MURREE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and party chief organiser Maryam Nawaz on Monday pledged to redevelop the

the general elections, Nawaz reiterated that the cost of

essentials was much less when he was the prime minister

than the present prices. He said he rid the people of the

the economy was flourishing and businesses were thriv-

change the destiny of their generations." He asked the constituents to stamp on the 'tiger' (electoral symbol of

PML-N) on Feb 8 and become part of development and

said the country was devastated after his removal from office and today they (a reference to judges) were tender-

Kashmir Solidarity Day:

Protests, calls for freedom

echo across Pakistan, AJK

Assembly was also held,

with speeches reiterating

support for the Kashmir

marched on Constitution

Avenue in Islamabad, led by

Foreign Ministry officials.

Children, politicians, and

citizens alike joined the

rally, paying homage to

Kashmiri martyrs and

chanting "Kashmir Banega

Pakistan." Caretaker Fed-

eral Minister for Religious

Affairs Aneeq Ahmed also participated, delivering a

strong message against the

Mehmood Ahmed Sagar

Islamabad, highlighting the

Kashmiris and the ongoing

Continued on page 2

sacrifices made

addressed the media in

Indian occupation.

Hurriyat

Meanwhile, thousands

He criticised the judges who disqualified him. He

During his last stint in power, Nawaz claimed that

He urged the people to vote responsibly as "vote can

During the power show in Murree just days before

Muhammad Imran, Safdar, ASI Kausar, Ehtram Syed, Rafi Ullah and Hameed ul Haq while the injured policemen included Ahmad Hasan, Akbar Zaman, Inayat Ullah, Shehrab Khan, Ibrahim and Naqeeb

The injured were imme-

The police retaliated diately shifted to District tor General of Police (IGP)

Aslam Chaudhry, Inspecand an exchange of gunfire Headquarters hospital Dera RPO Nasir Mehmood Satti and DPO Abdul Rauf

Akhtar Hayat Khan, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Nasir Mehmood Satti, Commissioner Dera Zafaru Islam, Deputy Commis-Babar Qaisrani along with

Contined on page 2 Visit Muzaffarabad

Monument PM, COAS pay tribute to sacrifices of martyrs

RAWALPINDI (APP) Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Ch. Anwar ul Haq and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday visited the Muzaffarabad Jammu and Kashmir Monument to lay wreaths and pay rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of the mar-

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the leadership acknowledged that the fortitude, resilience and unwavering faith of the Kashmiris in the face of unabated brutality of Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK)

had been exemplary. They observed that brewing humanitarian and security crises in the IIOJK seriously threatened regional peace and stability.

Pakistan would always stand with the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination in light of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, they

"India is attempting to change the demography of IIOJK through illegal administrative and unilaterally imposed draconian laws and security clampdowns.

launched Media Helpline app at Press Information Terrorists killed in Mach operation belonged to banned organization,: Jan

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for

Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that the terrorists killed in Mach operation belonged to a banned terrorist organiza-

He said that the heirs of the terrorists killed by the security forces in Mach themselves confessed in written that they were the members of the banned organization and were involved in the terrorism activities. In a tweet on his social media account "X" on Monday, the Minister Information said that the bodies of terrorists are not handed over to the heirs anywhere in the world, and the state takes care of their

misled children. He said that the heirs of terrorists have given assurance that no terrorist would participate in their funeral prayer.

He said that the terrorists have baffled out after the operation conducted by the security forces and their conspiracy was un-

Jan Achakzai also said that the bloody plot and network of the conspiracies hatched on behest of the Indian masters have also been exposed to the world.

He said that the mastermind of the drama Mah Rang is making allegation of the extra judicial killing just to hide her shame. The caretaker Minister

Information said that the

pro-India banned organization had played holi of blood and ingle in Mach and Kolpur. He insisted that India is behind the incidents of terrorism and lawlessness

in Balochistan. In the end, Achakzai asked Mah Rang Baloch as why she had gone to Dubai prior to the Turbat protest sit-in and what guidelines she had taken

from the "RAW" agents.

It may be mentioned here that the leader of Baloch Yakjehti Committee, Dr. Mah Rang Baloch had claimed that give bodies brought in the civil hospital after the Mach operation were of the missing

1651 polling stations declared most sensitive:

All set to hold elections in Balochistan; preparations finalized, maintains PEC

Muhammad Farid Afridi says around 82,000 polling and security personnel to be deployed all over Balochistan for election duty He said that we are de-

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Muhammad Farid Afridi has stated that all the preparations have been finalized for the general elections to be conducted on February 8 in the



He said that the elec tions would be held on 16 Continued on page 2

No guidelines to shut down internet on election day: Solangi

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that the government had not issued any guideline to shut down internet and mobile signals on the day of general elec-

Speaking in a private news channel programme, the minister said that the local administrations had the authority to decide about shutting down internet in a specific area if it faced any law and order

He said there was no doubt that an extraordinary situation required extraordinary measures, however, so far no such a situation had been reported in any

Highlighting the government's measures to curb fake news and propa-

Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Continued from page 1

Sharif's pressure, the ad-

ministration will not take any such step," the PPP

While avoiding direct comment on the military's

role, Bilawal emphasized

the need for politicians to

take responsibility in reduc-

ing its influence in politics.

"I did not talk about the role

of the establishment in any

cern over the arrest of po-

litical workers and advo-

cated for fair and peaceful

maintain respect and avoid hostility. "Pakistan's de-

mocracy needs more ef-

fort," he insisted, adding

He also expressed con-

He urged politicians to

' he stressed.

"Despite

chief hoped.

elections.

Nawaz Sharif pressuring....

Nawaz

ganda on social media, the minister said the relevant institutions had been issuing clarification to rebut any such news circulating in dif-

"Security is a serious issue," he said, while pointing out a steep rise in activities of different terrorist groups in the country, especially after the establishment an interim government in Kabul.

"Last year alone, around 1,500 incidents of terrorism were reported in the country," Murtaza

Police cops were martyred in a terrorist attack on a police station in the Dera İsmail Khan, he said, adding such acts had failed to affect the resolve of law enforcement agencies fighting terrorism in

He noted that recently, 24 terrorists were killed in

Mach area of Balochistan. prived the Kashmiris of their rights by abolishing Article 370 of the Indian The minister ruled out any delay in the elections which were scheduled for Constitution February 8. The history of He said the government Pakistan suggested that the and the people of Pakistan

Tuesday February 06, 2024

harsh and difficult conditheir moral, legal and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir. To a query, he said the Kashmir dispute was a long-standing issue on the agenda of the United Naminister clarified that the

elections were held in

given their right to self-de-

the Indian government de-

All set to hold...

Continued from page 1

and 51 seats of National

Assembly and Balochistan

Assembly from the prov-

ince. He said that 429 can-

didates are in competition

run for 16 seats of the Na-

tional Assembly from the

candidates are contesting

elections on 51 seats of the

rity arrangements have also

sonnel of different law en-

forcement agencies would

be deployed at the polling

stations located all over the

province. He assured that

the general elections would

be peaceful in the province

and as such the voters should

come out from their homes

hand, some 51,000 polling

While on the other

To a query, Mr. Afridi

said that action would be

taken if any complaint was

received about refusing the

women to cast their votes.

said that we are reviewing

the matter of suspending

To another query, he

for casting their votes.

He said that the secu-

Provincial Assembly.

province. Similarly, 1267

caretaker government had tions Security Council. no favourites in the elec-He recalled that some tions and the statement of 75 years ago, the then Inthe Pakistan Peoples Party dian prime minister promchairman in that regard ised in the United Nations was "unfortunate".
The minister reiterated Security Council that the Kashmiri people would be that the caretaker govern-

termination so that they playing field for all the could decide their own despolitical parties and the state media was giv-"On August 5, 2019, ing due coverage to all of India changed the status of Kashmir by taking unilateral and illegal actions," he said while regretting that



QUETTA: Members of New Pakistan Zindabad Movement are holding rally to express solidarity with the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day"

Kashmir Solidarity Day celebrated in Australia

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Kashmir

ment was ensuring a level-

would continue to extend

To another query, the

Solidarity Day was commemorated across Australia, with multiple events organized across major cities, including Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Car rallies featuring pictures that expressed support for Kashmiris and their quest for justice and selfdetermination also gained a lot of public attention.

The main event was organized at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Sydney, bringing together Australian parliamentarians, human rights activists, media personnel, and members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora.

The participants underscored the need for a collective commitment to just resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute.High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, in his ad-Zahid dress, highlighted the political, legal, and humanitarian aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He underscored the gravity of the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He informed that India has main-IIOJK for seventy-six mination.

years, making it one of the oldest unresolved dispute on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) agenda.

The situation worsened after India's illegal actions on August 5, 2019, aimed further disempowering Kashmiri people. The recent events, such as the Indian Supreme Court's judgment on December 11, 2023, further signalled India's intent to consolidate its illegal occupation of

Expressing concerns over the human rights situation in IIOJK, the High Commissioner stressed that India needs to ensure the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people. He commended the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their resilience against Indian oppression and brutality.

Reiterating Pakistan's unwavering support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people, the High Commissioner emphasized that Pakistan will continue to lend full moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir till just realization tained its occupation of of their right to self-deter-

Kashmir Solidarity Day commemorated in Akara

event was organized at Pakistan Embassy Ankara to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day. Every year, February 5th is commemorated as Kashmir Solidarity Day to reaffirm support to the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for realization of their right

ISLAMABAD (PR): An termination, , Chairperson community needs to play Human Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament, MP Derya Yanik stated that Turkiye has always supported peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the desire of the

Kashmiri people and will continue to do so. While ex-

self-determination. Chairperson Human

Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament MP Ms. Derya Yanik, Deputy Governor Ankara, Bekir Yilmaz, President Institute of Strategic Thinking Gen. ® Guray Alpar and representatives of media, think tanks and civil society attended the event.

While reiterating Turkish support for Kashmiri mir and Palestine. She reitlegitimate cause of self- de-

pressing concerns over worst human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), she stated it is sad

that Kashmir remains as one of the oldest unresolved conflicts in the world. The international system has the ability to resolve any conflict, but unfortunately there is a lack of will and intention when it comes to Kashits due role in putting an end to human rights atrocities in IIOJK and implementation of UN resolutions to ensure peace and stability in the

In his speech, President Institute of Strategic Think-ing (SDE), Gen. ® Guray Alpar stated that the indifference of international community to Kashmir and Palestine is surprising; Kashmiris deserve the basic human right of self-determination, as promised to them by the United Nations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid underscored that Palestine and Kashmir represent unceasing situations of foreign occupation in the modern world, where brutal military occupations have not only denied the people of their fundamental right of self-determination but also unleashed a reign of terror on innocent civilians. Kashmir represents an absolute case of hypocrisy, treachery and tyranny at the hands of world's largest selfproclaimed democracy. India In the course of history it is proven that justice may experience delays, yet it remains undeniable and ulerated that international timately prevails, he added.

PIA's Gilgit-Islamabad flights grounded due to aircraft malfunction

ISLAMABAD (INP): In the two cities using ATR some bad news for patients, including residents, of Gilgit and adjoining areas, travellers between Gilgit and Islamabad are in for some disruptions as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) suspends flights to the northern city from Feb-

staff has been deputed at ruary 3 to 7. the polling stations of the This province. The PEC ingrounding is due to a techformed that in all 1651 pollnical malfunction in the ing stations have been declared ATR aircraft that typically as most sensitive from secuserves this route. The PIA rity point of view. Similarly, plane on the air route be-2249 and 1126 polling statween Gilgit and Islamabad tions have been declared as has been handed over for sensitive and normal rerepair work. spectively, he maintained. The PIA flights to

Gilgit will remain suspended until February 7 due to the malfunctioning ATR aircraft.

PIA operates one to two daily flights between tered a mechanical issue. necessitating immediate re-With only two ATR aircraft available for small-sector flights across the country, including Gilgit, PIA is unable to offer alternative services during the repair

aircraft that malfunctioned

on February 3, known for

their ability to handle short

runways and mountainous

terrain. Unfortunately, one

of these planes has encoun-

period. One of the two aircraft is engaged in flights in the north zone of Islamabad and in the south zone of Karachi. spokesperson The

confirmed that the affected aircraft will be back in service on February 8, resuming regular operations to

Across the nation, caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi emphasized the enduring demand for self-determination and condemned India's oppressive tactics. He urged the international community to

dom for Kashmiris. Kashmir Solidarity Day serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle for Kashmiri selfdetermination. The united voices of Kashmiris and their supporters urge the world to act and pave the way for a peaceful resolution based on the aspirations

PCB to elect new full-time

chairman today ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to witness the election of its new chairman during a special meeting of the PCB Governing Board scheduled for today at 2:00

The key huddle will be hosted at the prestigious National Cricket Academy. serving as the backdrop for what promises to be a significant moment in Pakistani cricket administration.

The responsibility of overseeing the election process has been entrusted to Election Commissioner Shah Khawar who has called for this special meet-

Notably, the Governing Board comprises influential representatives from various regions and organizations, ensuring a diverse and comprehensive representation in the decision-making process

On the other hand, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Nagvi, emerges as a formidable candidate for the coveted position of PCB Chairman. His nomination has gained traction, fueled by his prominent role as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, a position that has undoubtedly bolstered his candidacy.

The Governing Board includes two representatives of the Patron, Mohsin Nagyi and Mustafa Ramde, alongside representatives from Azad Jammu Kashmir, Dera Murad Jamali, Larkana, Bahawalpur, Sui Northern Gas. Ghani Glass. State Bank, and PTV.

10 policemen martyred...

Continued from page 1 Haq Kakar on Monday

sioner Mansoor Arshad, District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, Senior military and civil administration's officials, besides a large numbers of people hailing from different segments of the society.

The smartly turned out

contingent of police presented salutes to the martyred cops. The participants laid

floral wreaths on the coffins of martyred policemen wrapped in the national Speaking on this occa-

sion, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan paid rich tribute to the martyred police cops who fought bravely with terrorists. He said the sacrifices of those who rendered their lives for the sake of the country's stability and safety of the public would not go in vain.

He said such cowardly attacks of terrorists could not weaken the resolve of the police force.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the police station in Teĥsil Daraban of Dera Ismail According to reports,

at least 10 policemen were martyred and six others got injured as a group of unidentified militants attacked Chaudhwan police station in Daraban tehsil in the wee hours of Monday.

The prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of ranks of the martyred police personnel in paradise and also expressed his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families. PM Kakar paid tribute to the police personnel for bravely fighting the terrorists. He also directed the concerned authorities to provide all possible medical aid to those injured in the attack.

"Cowardly acts of terrorists will always fail to destroy our resolve to maintain law and order," he said adding the entire nation stood with the police and security forces and salutes the martyrs.

Media helpline launched....

Continued from page 1 efficiently. media persons covering the general election 2024.

He remarked that under Article 224 of the Constitution, the Caretaker Government came into being and helped the Election Commission of Pakistan in every way to ensure a free and transparent election within the timeframe given

He said now only two days were left for the elections in which more than 120 million Pakistanis will exercise their right to

by the ECP.

In the elections, the people of Pakistan will choose their representatives to run the affairs of the country as the preamble of the constitution states that this country will be run by its elected representatives.

Earlier Murtaza Solangi inaugurated the media complaint application at Press Information Department.

This application will help to lodge complaints online through mobile, laptop and other devices during coverage of election activities.

Through this application, journalists will be able to report issues quickly and

Head of Digital Media,

in the Press Information Department briefing the audience said that the application would not only resolve the complaints of journalists but also the staff would be deputed to address the complaints of election observers. He said the app will be

functioning as a mediator between different departments and foreign or national journalists.

Their complaints would be referred to the concerned departments within no time and keep the track of the application until it is resolved. Press Information Of-

ficer Tariq Mehmood said that the application was made primarily to address the complaints of journalists during the general elections of 2024 however this would be made a permanent medium to resolve complaints of journalists in fu-

He also announced that an election cell would be set up in PID on February 7, a day before the general elec-

The cell would be working round the clock to facilitate journalists.



Continued from page 1

the special status of of the IIOJK were a blatant violation of international laws, including the UN Charter, 4th Geneva Convention and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

India had since been engaged in taking further measures to alter the demographic structure and political landscape of the held Valley, he added.

PM Kakar said that the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was annually observed on the 5th February across Pakistan to express its unwavering support for the Kashmiris' just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination.

It was also an occasion to pay rich tribute to the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri brothers and sisters during the last 76 years,

he added. The prime minister said that Pakistan had consistently maintained that a lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was possible only in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and as per the wishes of Kashmiri people.

Pakistan would conand political support for the just cause, he vowed.

challenging, citing differing political approaches and accusing Sharif of promoting 'politics of hatred" that

TOKYO: Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan Raza Bashir Tarar along with

other viewing a photographic exhibition depicting continued atrocities be-

ing committed by Indian occupation forces organized on the occasion of

"In the past, we have

seen even tougher and more

difficult situations. The ar-

rest of political supporters should be stopped imme-diately," he added. The PPP leader deemed

aligning with the PML-N

could harm the country. "This is not the same been finalized for the elec-PML-N that signed the Charter of Democracy. It informed that 31,000 perhas become very difficult to go along with the PML-N,' Bilawal remarked. He reiterated his belief

in a biased administration favouring the PML-N and called for transparent elections. "The first step for reducing the role of the establishment in politics will have to be taken by the poli-

QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial General Secretary, Jamal Shah Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Ouetta press club.

mobile network on the polling stations in the province. India a terrorist state, committing worst...

PM Kakar said that the relevant UN Security Council resolutions provided that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute would be made in accordance with the will of its people through the democratic method of a free conducted under the aus-

> However, he added, India over the last 76 years campaign to intimidate and suppress the IIOJK people as evident from extrajudicial killings, arbitrary deten-

> tions and custodial torture. arrival at the AJK Legislaminister was presented a guard of honour.

> Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the entire Pakistani nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters to support their struggle for the right to self-determination.

"Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brothers and their right to self-determitinue its moral, diplomatic nation as per the UNSC resolutions", the prime minister said during his visit

to Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Talking to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque and Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Asand impartial plebiscite sembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar here, PM Kakar said pices of the United Nathe final and just solution of the Kashmir issue was possible only under the free and impartial referendum had carried out a relentless according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

He said the Indian atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal Earlier on his arrival at rule of India were not hidden from anyone and the tive Assembly, the prime silence of the international community on Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris was alarming and reprehensible.

The speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the prime minister's visit to Muzaffarabad.

They said the PM Kakar's visit Muzaffarabad on the occasion of Kashmir Solidaridy Day had sent a clear messisters until they realise sage to India that the hearts of Pakistani and Kashmiri brothers and sisters beat

Protests, calls for freedom...

Continued from page 1 internet blockade in Occupied Kashmir. He asserted that despite oppression, Kashmiris' resolve for selfdetermination remains

Divided families yearn to unite

Meanwhile, the pain of separation resonated deeply as Kashmiris living on opposite banks of the Neelum River expressed their yearning for reunion. Divided by the Line of Control for 76 years, families yearn to connect but remain separated by an arbitrary border. This stark reality served as a powerful re-

of the conflict.

play a role in securing free-



HYDERABAD: Workers of Election Commission and police officials busy in sorting and distribution of bags of election material to proper destinations.



participants hold a banner to showing solidarity with the people of Kashmiri during protest rally to mark nation for last seventy-six the Kashmir Solidarity Day, at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

President, PM, Services Chiefs reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support to Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Forces Chiefs have said extend its unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support for just solution to Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes

of the Kashmiri people. In his message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, President Dr Arif Alvi said people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have been struggling to realize their right to self-determi-

The President said the in their own land. UN General Assembly annually adopts a resolution expressing unequivocal support for the realization Pakistan will continue to of the right to self-determination for people under foreign occupation. Regrettably, the Kashmiri people have not been able to exercise this inalienable right.

He said Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir is one of the most militarized zones in the world. He said following its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, India's efforts have been aimed at engineering demographic and political changes so that the Kashmiris are transformed

In his message, Care-

taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said this is an occasion to pay rich tribute to sacrifices made by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters during the last seventy-six years. He said relevant UN Security Council Resolutions provide that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in

accordance with will of

people of Jammu and Kash-

mir, expressed through

democratic method of a free

and impartial plebiscite

conducted under auspices of the United Nations. The armed Forces of Pakistan, Chairman Joint

and Services Chiefs have paid rich tribute to people of Kashmir for their resolve and valiant struggle, consistently braving grave human rights violations and inhumane lockdown in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir under Indian occupation forces. Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi in his message said Jammu and Kashmir is one of the longest-standing issues on the agenda of the

UN Security Council. He said the ultimate goal of Pakistan is to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the formed into a Pakistan, Chairman Joint Kashmiri people and the disempowered community Chiefs of Staff Committee relevant UN resolutions.

ICCPO holds high level meeting on elections 2024 security

Also inaugurates Officers Mess and Stable in Security division

lowed in any scenario. Le-

gal action will also be taken

against the display of arms,

adequate measures for

smooth flow of traffic and

parking will be imple-

mented. Surveillance cam-

eras will be installed at all

sensitive polling stations.

Journalists, foreign observ-

ers and observation teams

covering the elections will

He further said that

aerial firing and rioters.

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Ďr Akbar Nasir Khan chaired a high level meeting on general election 2024 security, a public relations officer said.

He said that the meeting was attended by all divisional CPOs, SSPs, DPOs, SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, admin officers, and Muharars.



The officers were briefed on security issues before, during and after the general elections 2024. A central control room for elections will be established in Safe City Islamabad. The ICCPO will personally monitor all security matters from the control room.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the regulations issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan will be ensured and no violation will be al- relation officer said.

in a professional manner. The safety of citizens and conducting peaceful

to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan visited the Diplomatic Enclave, and inaugurated the Officers Mess and Stable in Security division, a public

elections in the Federal Capital will be the first priorities of the Islamabad Capital Police, he added. Meanwhile, According

Speakers demand reversal of Indian illegal actions of August 5, 2019

Condemning India's unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019 as blatant violations of United Nations Security Council (UNSC)'s resolutions and international law, the speakers at a seminar demanded that the same must be reversed by the Indian Government. They paid homage to the exemplary bravery and sacrifice by the Kashmiri people in their quest for freedom from Indian occupation and selfdetermination. The seminar was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Paris marking the Kashmir Solidarity Day to support the Kashmiris struggle for selfdetermination and to express solidarity with the oppressed

gally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion, followed by a documentary focusing on the origin of the Kashmir dispute and the plight of the Kashmiris subjected to gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in IIOJK, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy in Paris said. Similarities were drawn between the Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir disputes as both were stories of grave human tragedies and suffering at the hands of occupying powers, and denial of their right to self-deterty with the mination as promised to Kashmiri them by the UN and the in-

people in the Indian Ille- ternational community. **Aizaz Chaudhry says:** Pakistan remains most 'strongest voice to raise Kashmir' cause globally

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani nation has remained the strongest voice cordance with the in the world for the wishes of the Kashmiri Kashmiris' right to self-determination, and its government is committed to keeping this issue effectively raised at every global forum, including the United Nations, former Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said on Mon-

On the occasion of February 5, while talking to a private news channel, he reassured Kashmiri brothers and sisters that the Pakistani nation and government were still committed to continuing to stand with them in their just struggle

self-determination. He said, "Pakistan's ultimate objective is a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dis-

pute as per relevant UNSC resolutions in acpeople

He said, "Every year Pakistani and Kashmiris observe this day to draw the attention of the international community to-wards the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, which provide that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will be made in accordance with the will of the

He criticized, "India has been consistently engaged in efforts to further entrench these illegal measures through artificial demographic changes, political engineering, economic marginalization of the local people, and an assault on Kashmiri identity and cul-

Turabi asserts Kashmiris' Right to Self determination

ISLAMABAD (INP) Former Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir chapter Abdul Rashid Turabi on Monday emphasized the need for international intervention against India's op-pressive actions in Kash-

In a special message regarding Kashmir solidarity day on state run news channel, he said that the entire Pakistani nation stood firmly with the Kashmiri brethren and sisters in their struggle for the right to self-determina-

This solidarity serves as a powerful message that Kashmiris are not alone in their struggle for freedom, e added.

Turabi expressed determination against India's attempts to change the demographic and religious fabric of Kashmir.

He firmly stated that Modi's illegal efforts to convert Kashmir into a Hindu state would not succeed. He stressed the urgency of global intervention to address human rights violations and protect the rights of the Kashmiri

26 outlaws

arrested; drugs

and weapons

recovered

Independent Report

SLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police apprehended

26 outlaws including twelve

professional beggars from

different areas of the city

during the last 24 hours and

recovered drugs and weap-

ons from their possession,

ing the special directions of

Islamabad Capital City Po-

lice Officer (ICCPO) Dr.

Akbar Nasir Khan, the

Islamabad Capital Police

has intensified crackdown

against the criminal ele-

ments in order to eliminate

tions, the Karachi Com-

pany police team arrested

an accused namely Sagar

and recovered 50 liquor

bottles from his posses-

sion. The Golra police team

arrested an accused namely

Nasir Ali and recovered one

30 bore pistol with ammu-

nition from his possession

Police team arrested two ac-

Muhammad Irfan and recov-

ered 875 gram heroin from

their possession. Likewise,

the Shams Colony police

team arrested an accused

namely Nnamokoejike and

recovered 15 bottles of li-

quor from his possession.

Îhe Khanna police team ar-

rested an accused namely

Rehman Ullah and recov-

ered one 30 bore pistol

from his possession.

cused namely

Muhammad

Likewise, the Sangjani

Following these direc-

the crime from the city.

public relations officer

He said that, follow-

TikTok shares measures to combat misinformation ahead of elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the general elections approach in Pakistan, TikTok has outlined efforts to combat misinformation and uphold election integrity on its

The platform's latest initiatives demonstrate its unwavering commitment to maintaining a safe, authentic, and reliable environment during this important period, said a news release issued here on Monday.

TikTok is also working closely with local community partner organizations in Pakistan to ensure platform integrity.

These partnerships enable TikTok to identify potential misinformation, take action on it, and share accurate information with its community around important events.

TikTok's fact-checking partners do not moderate content on the platform, but their assessments provide valuable input which helps TikTok take the appropriate action that upholds its Community Guidelines.

TikTok's strategy included innovative product features aimed at enhancing user awareness and partici- egy.

ISLAMABAD: Commuters move past the election banners of political parties at

sector G-7 road in the Federal Capital ahead of the upcoming general elections.

As the Pakistan Super

League Season 9 starts from

17 February, UNHCR, the

UN Refugee Agency, has

announced a partnership

with Peshawar Zalmi to

promote the refugee cause

through cricket in Pakistan.

leading franchise of Paki-

stan Super League (PSL)

cricket championship,

which has been taking place

As part of the partner-ship, Peshawar Zalmi and UNHCR will work together

to highlight refugee issues

during one of the most

popular cricketing contests. Peshawar Zalmi will show-

case the emblem of

UNHCR on their jerseys,

marking a visible commit-

Officer, of Peshawar Zalmi,

Mr. Mian Abbas and crick-

eter Mr. Mohammad Haris,

presented the official jersey

of Peshawar Zalmi to UNHCR's Representative

al Secretariat

ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Syed

Navyer Hussain Bukhari addresses to media per-

n People

The Chief Operating

ment to the cause.

since 2015.

Peshawar Zalmi is the

UNHCR, Peshawar Zalmi

announce partnership

ahead of PSL Season 9

ISLAMABAD (Online): in Pakistan, Ms. Philippa

Candler, in Islamabad.

On behalf of Mr.

Javed Afridi, owner of the

Peshawar Zalmi, Mian

Abbas said that war and

conflict forced millions of

people to become refugees

worldwide adding that

Peshawar Zalmi and UNHCR will jointly part-

ner to run an awareness

campaign during the Paki-

manitarian organization such as UNHCR will allow

us to use our platform to highlight global challenges

and help mobilize our

people for a greater humani-

tarian impact," he said quot-

mended Peshawar Zalmi's

commitment to the refugee

cause. "In featuring UNHCR's logo on Peshawar Zalmi's jersey,

they are demonstrating their

dedication to raising aware-

ness and supporting those

Ms. Candler com-

Teaming up with hu-

stan Super League.

ing Javed Afridi.

pation in maintaining platform integrity.

TikTok has launched the Pakistan Election Center on the platform, which is a dedicated hub, available both in English and Urdu, that will direct users to authoritative information on the election, including voting procedures and loca-

Additionally, easy-touse reporting tools will empower users to easily identify and report potentially misleading content. This user-centric approach fosters a vigilant and responsible community, crucial during the election period. Furthermore, TikTok

is committed to raising awareness among its users, by providing educational content and in-app guides.
These initiatives are

designed to equip the community with the necessary skills to discern credible information, thereby reinforcing informed participation in the electoral process. Enforcement

TikTok's Community Guidelines, available both in English and Urdu, is a key component of its misinformation combat strat-



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick inaugurating the poster exhibition organized by National College of Arts (NCA) in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Missing girl reunited with her family

ISLAMABAD (INP) Islamabad Capital Police Bhara Kahu police station team reunited the missing girl with her parents, a public relation officer said.

According to the details, the Bhara Kahu police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his daughter, namely Manahil had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Upon receiving the application, the Bhara Kahu police station team used technical and human resources and successfully traced the missing girl and reunited him safely with her

The parents appreciated the police team efforts and thanked the Islamabad Capital Police for immediate assistance

Citizens are requested to dial"Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 App" regarding any suspicious person or activity.

One killed in car-bike collision

ISLAMABAD (APP) One was killed in a road accident on Monday near Chorangi Bridge in Five-Star area of Karachi.

According to a private news channel, the accident happened when a recklessly driven car hit a bike near Chorangi Bridge.

As a result, bike rider identified as Syed Naeem. received multiple injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

World's peace not possible without peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute ISLAMABAD (APP): IIOJK. She noted that the Special Assistant to the

Mushaal says:

Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has urged the global community to break their silence and take proactive measures to prevent the ongoing genocide committed by the Modi-led Indian government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). She was addressing a poster exhibition organized by National College of Arts (NCA) on Kashmir Solidarity Day. SAPM was accompa-

nied by a focal person to SAPM, Sabien Hussein Mullick. The exhibition organized by NCA served as a powerful platform to raise awareness about the Kashmir issue. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister highlighted the profound influence of art in evoking empathy, understanding, and generating awareness about the just struggle of the people of and Kashmir.

poster exhibition showcased the remarkable artistic talent within the National College of Arts. Mushaal expressed deep concern over the Indian Judiciary aligning itself with the RSS ideology and the fascist policies of the Modi government. She strongly criticized the recent verdict by the Indian Supreme Court regarding the revocation of Kashmir's specia status and described the biased and unfair judicial proceedings against Kashmiri political leadership as judicial terrorism. She said that Modi's entire government machinery was conspiring to impose a death sentence on Yasin Malik under false and fabricated charges to gain electoral advantage.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister lamented the information and communication blockade imposed by India in the illegally Occupied Jammu



ISLAMABAD: The Chief Operating Officer, of Peshawar Zalmi, Mr. Mian Abbas and cricketer Mr. Mohammad Haris, presenting the official jersey of Peshawar Zalmi to UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Philippa Candler.

Over 857 Kashmiris martyred since Aug 2019 in IIOJK: report during cordon and search

operations and house raids

across the occupied terri-

sands of Hurriyat leaders,

activists, Ulema, journalists,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Unrelenting military and police siege imposed by Narendra Modi-led Hindutva Indian government on August 05, 2019 continues to take a heavy toll on daily life of the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, said that the life of Kashmiris has been made a living hell and an open prison for the residents of the territory since India illegally revoked the special status of occupied Kashmir on August 05, 2019. The move was aimed

at snatching away identity, properties, government services of the Kashmiris through changing the Mus-lim-majority status of the occupied territory.

The report revealed

that Indian troops martyred 857 Kashmiris including 17 women and 28 young boys during the period.

The report said that the troops damaged over 1116 houses and molested sons during press conference, at Peoples Secretariat. | and disgraced 133 women

youth, woman and human rights defenders including APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sufi, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-UL-Islam, Faroog Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Shah, Syed Shakeel Ahmad, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Bilal Sidiqi, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Mushtaq-UL-Islam, Ameer Hamza, Abdul Ahmad Parra, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Fahim Ramzan, Hayat Ahmed Butt, Advocate Zahid Ali, Zaffar Akbar Butt Muhammad Yousuf Falahi, Dr Muhammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Dr Muhammad Shafi Shariati, Ghulam Qadir Butt, , Umar Adil Dar, Shabir Ahmed Dar, Firdous Ahmed Shah,

Jahangir Ghani Butt,

Saleem Nanaji.

Hussain Gul, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Shamsuddin Rehmani, Hassan Firdousi, tory in the period. Thou-Sarjan Barkati, human rights defender Khurrum Parvaiz, journalists Aasif Sultan, and Eng Rasheed are the worst victims of political vendetta," it said. They have been imprisoned in jails in India and IIOJK on fabricated charges. The report pointed

out that India is carrying out genocide of the Kashmiri youth particularly, after August 05, and harassment of residents, attaching properties and terminating from government services has become a norm in occupied Kashmir. The report said that military and police siege and cordon and search operations and house raids by Indian forces, NIA and SIA had multiplied the sufferings of the Kashmiris. It added that the brutal laws, siege and harassment had destroyed the economy of occupied Kashmir while press freedom in now where seen in occupied Kashmir where journalists are detained, harassed and face charges

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Tuesday February 06, 2024

Economic rhetoric

On Thursday, voters will elect a new government tasked with forms the next government. managing one of the country's worst-ever economic crises: growth shrank, inflation soared to record highs, the rupee weakened rapidly, and foreign reserves dwindled in the last two years. However, the 'economic programmes' articulated by the three major contenders for power — the PML-N, PTI and PPP — in their respective election manifestos show that none has an actionable short- to long-term strategy to tackle the daunting economic challenges.

More crucially, no party talks of how they intend to accomplish the immediate task of approaching the IMF for another larger and longer funding programme — critical to economic revival — once the current \$3bn facility expires in mid-April, to avoid the prospect of default. Rather than giving the party's roadmap for achieving macroeconomic and other targets in their manifestos, and outlining economic objectives, priorities and policy intentions, each party has made frivolous promises instead. For example, the PML-N, whose leadership likes to harp on the party's 'development narrative' and building a network of motorways and roads, has pledged to create 10m jobs, enhance wages to match inflation and cut electricity bills by 20-30pc. How? They don't explain.

Likewise, the PPP has promised to double salaries, and provide free electricity up to 300 units and subsidies to alleviate a time when Pakistan is the impact of inflation on vot ers, as well as generate employment opportunities for young which is likely to continue at least for the next five labour market entrants.

Though the PTI has avoided populist commitments, its economic plan, like those of the PML-N and PPP, is also heavy on rhetoric, hardly giving concrete strategies to achieve the macroeconomic goals its maniMany will recognise the name of the great Russian festo defines. Elections are the best time for political parties to send their message to the vot- rican origin, and that his ers and rally support around heritage is routinely touted by Moscow as their socioeconomic priorities. However, in Pakistan, parties pean-style imperial power. We may not know usually avoid providing quanti- this detail, but it is widely tative, evidence-based policy appreciated across the Global South, particularly targets with a detailed overview in Africa, where Russia is of how and when they intend to implement their economic excesses of the Global promises. A PIDE study of past election manifestos of the major parties shows that these spite its imperial past, and documents did not contain concrete plans and largely comprised empty promises, with no homework done vis-à-vis future of Russia's Notorious Mercenaries. The film goals. While the PML-N is seeking votes for its promise of delivering 'speedy development', PTI is staking its claims on the driven further by Russian propaganda, including the basis of its 'economic perfor- production of slick action mance' during the Covid pandemic, and PPP on its social welfare agenda. That means these parties do not have any ready economic policy blue- are reframed as sacrifices in the name of stability, prints to work on if voted into particularly in places like

Both the PML-N and PTI of finally standing up to may have given some abstract European (and by extension Western) colonial macroeconomic, export and other targets and priorities in their new manifestos, but do ways, we are an outlier. not offer any specifics or pracnot offer any specifics or practical strategies to achieve these goals if elected to power. Little goals if elected to power. Little wonder these parties are un- Moscow on the eve of the tabled in exchange for able to consistently pursue Russian invasion of Ukraine. Khan's poputheir economic policies even lism was plugged into through a single budget cycle. these emergent global narratives, and he briefly lim unity over Palestine's

What to watch for on Feb 8

Maleeha Lodhi Pakistan goes to the polls

this week in an exceedingly fraught atmosphere marked by uncertainty about the future. In the country's 12th general election a record number of 128.5 million voters will decide who

Punjab, of course, has more voters — 73.2m than those in the other three provinces put together, which makes it the battleground province that will determine the outcome of the national election. There are 5,113 can-

didates in the contest for 266 general seats of the 342member Lower House in the country's first-pastthe-post system. A total number of 12,638 candidates are in the run for assembly seats in the four provinces. There are 313 female contenders for National Assembly seats, the highest ever, but still only 6pc of the total, while 568 female candidates are in the race for provincial assembly seats

pointers to watch out for n election day?

Voter turnout: How

many people show up at the ballot box will reflect the level of political engagement as well as the health and vitality of Pakistan's democracy. It will also be a significant indicator of how credible and inclusive the electorate sees the polls, especially in view of widespread public doubts about

The average turnout in

their fairness.

the last two general elections was around 52pc. In the past four elections it ranged between 51pc (2018), 53pc (2013), 44pc (2008) and 41pc (2002). In the 1990s, which saw four elections in quick succession starting with the one in 1988, turnout averaged 42pc, except in 1997 when it fell to 36pc. In general, turnout usually dropped when people felt their vote would make no difference to the outcome or that the election was 'pre-determined'. This time if turnout is very low it could indicate a lack of confidence in the election's integrity and thus undermine the legitimacy of the result.

Young voters: The youth bulge among registered voters is now a prominent feature of the electoral landscape. The number of ential candidates.

young voters (between ages 18 and 35) today is at a record high — 57m, which is over 47pc of the electorate. This is a potential game-

The heavy presence of young people in queues at polling stations might provide an early indication of how well parties with a youth following will do. In past elections, turnout among younger voters has been low. There are no official statistics on this. But a Gallup Pakistan report, relying on exit polls conducted since 1988, found that usually only a quarter of young voters cast the

In the past two elections, their participation was a third compared to the average overall turnout of 52pc. But according to the latest youth survey by the Voice of America, 70pc of respondents said they will vote on Feb 8 Anecdotal evidence

also suggests young people are now more motivated to vote. If they do show up in large numbers, it could produce upsets and defy conventional wisdom about invincibility of 'electables' or locally influ-

New voters: Over 23.5m new voters have been added to the electoral rolls since the 2018 election, including over 12m female voters. Thus, new voters constitute 18pc of the electorate. They mostly comprise young voters but possibly also older voters not registered before. This could impart a significant swing factor to the election because many of them may be unaffiliated to any party and open to last-minute canvassing by candidates. This could make the outcome unpredictable in sev-

Women's participation: 59.3m registered female voters comprise 46.1pc of the electorate even though they account for 49pc of the population. Male voters are 69.2m or 54pc of the electorate. That means there are around 10m more male than female voters, which lavs bare the electorate's persisting gender gap.

eral constituencies.

Nevertheless, this gap has been steadily narrowing thanks to initiatives by the Election Commission of Pakistan and advocacy groups to increase women's participation. On

gap persists. In the 2018 election turnout among women trailed by 10pc from that of men. Male turnout was almost56pc for the NA election, but just over 46pc for female

It would be worth whether watching watering whether women's polling stations on Feb 8 will see longer lines to indicate greater participation which could benefit parties with a stronger female base of support. Marginal seats: A

critical area to watch would be the marginal constituencies. There is a sizeable number of tightly fought seats in Pakistan's first-past-the-post system. Well over 100 NA seats were won by a plurality, not majority of votes in the 2018 election. Eighty-seven NA seats were won by a margin of less than 1,000 votes, and 26 seats by a margin of under 2,000 votes. In 51 constituencies, the winning candidate's margin of victory was under 6,000 votes.

Most of these were in Punjab — where general elections are won or lost. voter turnout the gender With the average size of tesy Dawn

Punjab's national constituencies around 900,000 today, these are fragile margins of victory. The overall election result could be determined by what happens in these marginal constituencies, where there may be four-cornered fights between PML-N, PTI-backed candidates, PP and IPP.

Sensitive polling stations: Half of the 90,675 polling stations across the country have been designated as 'sensitive' or 'most sensitive' by the ECP. Sensitive means there is a security risk; 'most sensitive' denotes a higher risk. Around 27,628 are classified as sensitive and 18,437 as most sensitive, the majority of which are in Punjab followed by Sindh, Balochistan.

Of course, the most important aspect of election day would be any instances and evidence of efforts to manipulate the poll result or ballot fraud. That would undermine the democratic exercise, denude the electoral outcome of legitimacy and plunge Pakistan into another period of instability. -- Cour-

Dr Naazir Mahmood

While several analysts have compared the manifestos of confesting political parties, not much attention has been paid to the parties' education policy. It then becomes essential to look closely at the manifestos and check what the parties have to offer in terms of education and whether they have an understanding of budgetary and constitutional realities and the requirements of the 21st cen-

The PML-N in its 2024 manifesto promises to increase education spending to 4.0 per cent of the GDP but fails to explain how it is going to do something which it was unable to do during its previous government (2013-2018) — a period with much better economic indicators.

It appears to be a hollow promise, especially at annling with an extremely weak currency and a hardly sustainable economy, years. Unless some major non-development expenditure sees a diversion, expentor will not be on an upward trajectory

The PML-N's manifesto also promises safe, accessible and eco-friendly transport nationwide for every student. It seems that the party has not done any calculations to have an idea about the cost of such a project and the resources needed to finance it.

The next promise is about opening nationwide evening schools, without taking into account the fact that after the 18th Amendment, education at all levels has become a provincial matter, and the federal government cannot (and should not) try to do something that is not under its pur-

Even if the PML-N is able to form provincial governments in all provinces, evening schools will require additional staff whose numbers will go in hundreds of thousands nationwide. Again, no explanation has been given to clarify how the party will perform this gigantic task, especially manifesto is to establish a when the performance of national commission on exthe existing teachers in government schools is highly questionable. Boosting while to promise provincial

diture for the education sec- but if past experiences are that the constitutionally how the PPP will allocate any guide, most such experiments end up benefitting the private sector.

Many private schools that have become big businesses now, originally benefitted from governmentbacked initiatives like the allotment large areas of land for schools and low-cost loans. Perhaps it is better to call it public and 'nonprofit' sector partnerships so that the for-profit corporate sector does not exploit resources in the name of education, especially at a time when the class divide in society continues to expand. Daanish Schools. an initiative that was launched by the PML-N's Punjab government in 2010, have been performing better for years, but these places are small islands of excellence and benefit a limited number of pupils. When millions of children are out of school, focusing on a couple of thousand

students is not a good idea. Another interesting promise in the PML-N's cellence in education. Perhaps it will be more worthpublic-private partnerships (PPP) is another promise and universal education so

empowered provincial governments do their jobs properly rather than allowing a 'national commission' based in Islamabad – to start interfering in a domain which is not its mandate. Similarly, talks about developing a national action plan for artificial intelligence (AI), STEM, machine learning (ML), and technology-driven education appear more to be wishful thinking than a doable plan. More than half of our children are unable to do basic

literacy and numeracy ex-

ercises, and here we are talk-

ing about AI and ML.

There are other such promises too, but for now, let's end it here and move our focus on the PPP's manifesto. The PPP pledges to allocate at least 5.0 per cent of the GDP (\$17 billion) to education. Again, the same concern arises here: how will the party divert such a high amount of funds when the economy is in shambles and non-development expenditures are unlikely to witness a decline any time soon? Pakistan's total public debt is somewhere around \$100 billion and its annual exports are not more than \$40 billion, so, in this situation,

\$17 billion to education remains a million-dollar question. A good and appreciable promise of the PPP is the devolution of finances of higher education to provinces. Provincial higher education commissions need strengthening and capacity in research and development, and the provinces can achieve this only if the next government implements the 18th Amendment in letter and spirit. Finances must flow directly to these

commissions instead of taking a longer route that runs through the HEC. The PML-N has not thought about these intricacies, but the PPP has at least mentioned this issue in its manifesto. The PPP's manifesto also promises to comply with Article 25A of the constitution and enforce compulsory and free education for all children, but, like the PML-N, it fails to outline how it will do so when for the past 15 years, successive PPP governments in Sindh have not been able to offer the same to all children in the province. While 'school jao, hunar barhao' (go to school and upgrade your skills) is a good-sound-

primary objectives of any worthwhile education, the plan needs more details than a mere slogan

One more promise by the PPP that needs attention is to provide wellequipped and inclusive classrooms, libraries, computers, and sports facilities. It is hard to imagine how this will turn into reality keeping in mind that most government schools in Sindh do not have libraries, and if they do, the books are locked up to gather dust. Some schools that do have computers lack qualified computer teachers and soon the machines become out of order and remain out of reach for students. The provision of sanitation facilities also remains a perennial challenge in schools

The PML-N and the PPP have made grandiose promises which look good on paper but lack a realistic approach to solving the problem of universal basic education. One can only hope that the promise of allocating 4-5 per cent of the GDP to education materializes – if not in the next budget then at least in the next five years. This may be a turning point in ing slogan as arts, crafts, and Pakistan's history. -- Courskills should be one of the tesy TheNews

Anti-colonial ally?

Huma Yusuf

poet, Alexander Pushkin. Fewer people will know that he is partially of Afproof that it is not a Euroincreasingly valued as an ally helping to balance the

Global South that Russia its colonising aims in Ukraine) is apparent in the recent documentary Inside Wagner: The Rise shows how the narrative that Russia is anti-West, and so pro-Global South is becoming entrenched, films glorifying Wagner and the co-option of Afrisocial media influencers. Russian mercenaries' violent tactics and human rights abuses Central African Republic, and swept aside in favour

Why is this relevant to Pakistan? In some Tehran, anti-US stance Russia features less in our

sitioning as an extension of his anti-US stance. However, that flirtation was quickly replaced by military pragmatism and pro-Ukrainian messaging, particularly in the run-up to the IMF deal.

Islamabad of late has tried to better balance its ties with Moscow, with celebrations of 75 years of diplomatic engagement last October, and promises to boost trade ties and security cooperation.

a serious bilateral relationship is complicated, particularly with the Middle East developments. Paki-The sense in the stan has never been a foreign policy priority for Russia, with most engagement from Moscow being perfunctory. Russia's growing proximity with Iran is another twist: Tehran is allegedly supplying Moscow drones for the Ukraine conflict; Moscow has responded with a pivot towards Palestine in the context of the Israel-Palestine war. This pivot is largely driven by domestic political considerations. As Fiona Hill points out in an interview with Brookings, Moscow is worried that Gaza's fate will stir memories of violent Russian interventions in Chechnya, and pro-Palestinian positioning is considered a way to appease Russia's Muslim population. Still, this also facilitates Moscow's affinity with Tehran.

While Russia's pro-Palestine positioning will win it more fans across Tehran, anti-US stance will leave it in murky political waters given the post-conflict scenario shaping up in the Middle East. Given plans for a two-state solution to be Saudi recognition of Israel — and all the security guarantees that would en-

flirted with pro-Putin po- plight could fragment along the lines of US/ Saudi vs Russia/ Iran.

Where will Pakistan find itself? While Islamabad's diplomatic balancing act will continue, pro-Russian sentiment is unlikely to become a major feature of public discourse. Indeed, in Moscow's calculations, ours is a geopolitical space already dominated by Russia-friendly Beijing, and so not worth the effort to shape through over-But the potential for tures and propaganda. But that does not mean that Pak-is-tan is completely disengaged from broa-der

Global South narratives. Pro-Russian narratives in the Global South are in fact anti-colonial and pro-justice. And anticolonial sentiment will express itself in various ways in an increasingly stressed and resourcescarce world — as demands for climate justice, labour rights, inclusive technology, equitable service delivery and more. Indeed,

authoritarianism creeps, civil resistance will soar. And as I wrote recently, Pakistan is not immune to these trends

Even during a carefully engineered election cycle, our powers that be have been distracted by civil movements, which they have sought to address through both soft and hard approaches. Wheat subsidies are being deployed to calm tensions in Gilgit-Baltistan, while a security crackdown is intensified in Balochistan. The game of whack-amole to manage protest (whether in the form of social and political movements or violent uprisings) will continue in the post-poll settlement as well, and may intensify in response to the political orches-tration of this week. As such, Pakistan is firmly in step with the Global South. -- Cour-

Arif Azad

Education is a strong determinant of higher remunerations in the course of a lifetime and generally, higher education levels result in increased incomes. For instance, a university graduate is likely to earn more than a college graduate. These higher earnings levels create better health outcomes lifespans, healthy lifestyles and enough funds to spend on health maintenance and improvement activities. However, the link between the years of schooling, adult mortality and longevity has been under-researched. This under-examined connection has been somewhat established recently, and estimates for years of schooling and gains in lifespan were produced in a recent global metaanalysis and systematic school.

The Centre for Glo- missing out on school bal Health Inequities-Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (Chain-IHEME) issued a global meta-analysis and systematic review that esti- any education face higher mates the magnitude of risks of ill-health education on mortality throughout their lives risks and lifespans. The the effects are compastudy covers 70 locations rable to consuming five or in 59 countries in 10 languages, including the UK, US, Brazil and China. The rettes per day for a defindings of the study are cade. It also demonstrates far-reaching in terms of policy implications and resources. It goes beyond previous studies on the subject as it is not restricted by time, location and

and language. While previous studies on educational inequalities focused on high-income countries, this study includes varied economic contexts and regions and produces estimates of adult mortality in the age group 18 to 70 years. The importance of this analysis lies in its risk and healthy lifespans. identification of under-ex-

Living longer amined benefits of educa- so far, been narrowly contion by systematically ceived. Its impact on moridentifying and quantifying the impact of number

of years of education on

adult mortality risk at a global level. Broadly, the review shows that the number of years spent in education have a relationship with longevity and mortality. In this way, education exercises not only protecin terms of longer tive effects on adult mor- and individual expenditure

longevity-boosting func-

According to the study, every two years spent at school or univer- as intimately connected sity reduces the risk of mortality by two per cent. For 18 years of education, the mortality risk declines by a whopping 34pc, while completing secondary education cuts the risk by an impressive 25pc. Therefore, you can add more years to your life with a longer stay at

Conversely, those years or dropping out of school find themselves deprived of health benefits. The report claims that adults not receiving more alcoholic drinks daily or smoking 10 cigathat mortality risk is moderated by health behaviour. Higher education, in turn, shapes access to better healthcare wholesome lifestyles.

Pakistan has one of the highest number of outof-school children in the world; the dropout rate is elevated as are school absences. These factors have number of years spent in education and the cumulative effect on mortality In Pakistan, education has,

tality risk reduction has not been considered in public health strategies. Therefore, pouring more and dedicated money into education and making concerted efforts to keep children in school and beyond can result in better health outcomes for population health, which, in turn, saves governmental tality but also serves a on health, especially in poor households.

Policymakers and politicians should see both education and health and focus on improving educational outcomes and retaining as large a number of youngsters as possible from school to univestment in health and education.

A strategy that combines education and health will see not only prosperity but also improved health for the nation in the long term. Our younger generations are affected more by education inequalities that plague our education system. Therefore, enhanced schooling policies and increased resources towards education can act as proactive investment in health, which reduces disparities in learning and well-being.

Education is an essential component of the Sustainable Development Goals, which target inclusive and quality education for everyone, gender equality and reduction of inequalities within and between countries. Pakistan has been lagging behind on SDG targets. Dedicating sustained and stipulated funds to education with an 'educationhealth' lens as the bedrock a direct impact on the of investment and policies can turn the tide on low educational attainment and associated low health outcomes. -- Courtesy

PM Kakar says:

Entire nation stands with Kashmiris to support their right to self-determination

MUZAFFARABAD occasion of Kashmir not hidden from anyone (APP): Caretaker Prime Solidarity Day. Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the entire Pakistani nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters to support their struggle for the right to self-determination. "Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they realise their right to selfdetermination as per the United Nations Security UNSC resolutions", the Council (UNSC). He said clear message to India that his visit to Muzaffarabad.

and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque and Speaker Azad Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir under Kashmiri brothers and

and the silence of the Talking to the Prime international community Minister of Azad Jammu on Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris was alarming and reprehensible. The speaker of the Kashmir Legislative Legislative Assembly and Assembly Chaudhry Latif the prime minister of Azad Akbar here, PM Kakar said Jammu and Kashmir the final and just solution of the Kashmir issue was possible only under the free and impartial referendum according to the resolutions of the occasion of Kashmir and Kashmir the resolutions of the occasion of Kashmir prime minister said during the Indian atrocities in the hearts of Pakistani and



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Caretaker Information and Public Relations Minister Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kaka Khel are leading the rally from the Chief Minister's Secretariat to the Governor's House on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

and Communications is

credited with upgrading the

historical building of

Bahawal Victoria Hospital

beautifully. If a new hospital is built, it will not

be as upgraded as Bahawal

Victoria Hospital. The old

building of the hospital has

been completely renovated.

The upgradation Project cost Rs 2.10 billion and

the upgrade was completed

Minister distributed land

allotment documents to the

people of Cholistan. He

said that in the next few

days, 26,000 people will

the double road from Uch

Sharif to Ahmedpur East in

Bahawalpur ĥas been

completed. The road from

Mari Qasim Shah to Dera

Bakha has also been

completed. The road from

peace. Paying rich tributes

to sacrifices, bravery and

courage of the oppressed

Kashmiris of IIOJK for

right of self-determination,

the Governor said that

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Government and its people

were standing with oppressed Kashmiris and

has

Chowk

KP Governor says:

atrocities, human rights

violations in IIOJK

PESHAWAR (APP): to the world and regional

Later, the Chief

in 2 months and 5 days.

CM Punjab inaugurates upgraded BVH, safe city project in Bahawalpur

Independent Report B A H A W A L P U R : Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Bahawalpur on Sunday for the inauguration of the OPD, Surgical Ward Upgradation Project at

Victoria Hospital. He also inaugurated the Safe City project in Bahawalpur. He inaugurated the upgraded building of the Civil Lines He Polic Station. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also virtually inaugurated other model police stations of Bahawalpur. He visited Victoria Hospital. He also receive their land inspected the Medical documents. He said that Emergency, Plastic Surgery, and ENT wards. He talked to the patients, doctors, and paramedical staff. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said, "This is your hospital, take care of this

lovely building."

Talking to the media
he said that Bahawal Victoria Hospital was built in 1906, and renovating the old building was a difficult be implemented. Starting task. The team of the Department of Buildings

task. The team of the Bahawalpur is a big deal.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali

here Monday said that

India has broken all

records of oppression and

brutalities after illegally

invaded the Occupied

Kashmir and demanded

international community

take notice of it.

Two more children succumb to pneumonia in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Pneumonia claimed two more lives of children during the past 24 hours in Punjab.

According to the Punjab Health Department, a total of 605 new cases of pneumonia were reported during the last 24 hours. The health authorities said Lahore logged 177 fresh cases of pneumonia during the last 24 hours

Punjab has reported 318 pneumonia-related deaths, while over 20,872 cases have been reported in the province whereas Lahore only reported 58 deaths and 4,050 cases.

Health experts attribute the rapid increase in cases and deaths in Punjab to the environmental pollution caused by smog during the winter season.

Mandi Yazman to Chandni Pneumonia is an infection in the lungs, completed. The projects of often caused by viruses. It Green Pakistan and can manifest after symptoms of a cold or flu Cholistan Rivers will also and can range from mild to Typically, pneumonia is more common in children aged five or younger. India breaks all records of

Kashmir **Solidarity Exhibition starts** in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A three-day Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition has started at the art gallery of Bahawalpur Arts Council here.President, Board of Management, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Prof-Dr. Aslam Adeeb along with Director, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain inaugurated the Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition at the

It was a pictorial exhibition displaying pictures and photos of Kashmiris who were victimized by Indian forces. The pictures, photos, and portraits placed in the exhibition narrated the brutalities and atrocities of Indian armed forces which they committed against innocent





MUZAFFRABAD: Students hold placards to showing solidarity with the people of Kashmiri, during protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day.



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman addressing during ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Al-Hamra

Pakistan always keeps Kashmir issue alive at global forums: Governor

Independent Report Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said on Monday that Pakistan has always played its role in keeping the issue of Kashmir alive at all forums of the world including the United Nations Organization (UNO) and Organisation of Islamic

Cooperation (OIC). He was addressing the ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day organized by Punjab Department of Information and Culture here at Al-Hamra Arts Council where Secretary Information Daniyal Saleem Gilani, Director General Public Relations Punjab, Rubina Afzal, Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mushtaq Mehmood and a large number of people from different region. Now most of the

Provincial

Sindh.

Commission has completed

all arrangements to hold

fair, free and transparent

elections on 61 National as

well as 130 Provincial

Assemblies general seats in

This was stated by Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh

Sharifullah and Joint

Election Commissioner

Nazar Abbas while

addressing a joint press conference here at the PEC

apart from 61 general seats

of the National Assembly

and 130 of the Provincial

Assembly, polls will be held on 14 reserved seats

of women in the National

Assembly 29 reserved

seats of women and 9 seats

of minorities in the Sindh

26,994,769 registered

voters will exercise their

right of franchise for

many

Assembly.

Sharifullah said a

office on Monday.

walks of life were present. The Governor said that today Pakistanis and millions of Kashmiris living around the world, are observing Kashmir Solidarity Day against Kashmir India's invasion and illegal occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the purpose of observing this day is to draw the attention of the

international community towards the Indian usurpation and oppression of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir so that the oppressed Kashmiris get their right to self-determination. He said that the attack on the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir on 27 October 1947 was an armed aggression that had shattered the peace of the

stations have been set up

Commission of Pakistan,

PEC said and added that all

arrangements were in the

final stage and now we are

preparing for the polling

He informed that the

printing process of the

ballot papers had already

been completed and the

same have been delivered

to all districts while bags

are ready which will be

delivered to the polling staff on February 07.

officers have devised a

transportation plan from

where ballot papers will be

and counting process.

All District Returning

Election

the

PEC says:

Arrangements finalized as

over 26.9m. voters to elect

191 legislators from Sindh KARACHI (APP): The which 19,008 polling

Election

nefarious designs. He said that a peaceful solution to

the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolutions is also better for India. He added that justice and goodness always prevail, while oppression and tyranny are giving a clear message to the world that lasting peace cannot be established in the region without resolving the Kashmir issue. The heinous violations of human rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir have turned occupied Jammu and Kashmir into an open-air prison.

Gas leakage leaves 2 dead in Havelian

Two more people on Monday lost their lives in a gas leakage incident in Haavalian village, during the current season death tolls caused by the gas

area of Rajoi Police Station.

He said polling material had been dispatched to the districts and the polling scheme was finalized on January 24 after receiving data from the polling staff, they were provided required training.

of guidelines for the use of gas heaters during the winter season by Rescue 1122 district administration, and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), it is disheartening that people continue to neglect these guidelines, leading to the loss of precious human lives. This was the fifth incident of gas leakage in dispatched and after completion of the polling

doomed to be defeated ultimately. The Governor said that today, people of Pakistan and Kashmiris from all over the world are

ABBOTTABAD (INP) leakage crossed 12.

According to the Rescue 1122 sources, dead persons were identified as Department of Khyber planted by involving school Yasar and Mehtab, hailed from the village Tatrila an

Responding to the incident, the rescue medical team shifted the bodies of Yasar and Mehtab to Type-D Hospital Havelian. Despite the issuance

the district of Abbottabad where 12 people lost their lives.

CM Sindh directs to strengthen security of sensitive polling stations

Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has directed the administration that the Sukkur Division has 916 sensitive and 830 highly sensitive polling stations, therefore security plan for the polling station must be effective so that no untoward incident could take place.

The meeting was attended by Minister Information Åhmad Shah, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, Commissioner Waheed Shaikh, DIG Hameed Khoso, and deputy commissioners and SSPs of Sukkur, Ghotki, and Kahirpur.

Commissioner Fayaz Abbasi briefing the chief minister said that the Sukuur Division has three

SUKKUR (INP): and Khairpur – with seven Caretaker Sindh Chief national and 14 provincial assembly seats. There are 3,040,256 registered votes, including 1628,951 female

> The chief minister asked Commissioner Waseem Jafferi of Sukkur if he was satisfied with the election arrangements. The Election Commission expressed satisfaction and said that he was properly consulted for each and every arrangement.

> There will be 2,277 polling stations, including 3,761 females and 7901 polling booths, out of which 3761 would be for females.

The CM was told that out of 277 polling stations, 916 are sensitive, and 830 are highly sensitive. Ghotki has 216 polling stations sensitive and 207 districts - Ghotki, Sukkur highly sensitive.



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented guard of honor upon his arrival at AJK Legislative Assembly.

Children-plants WHO's 'Own a Tree' initiative fosters strong bond of attachment

unique idea of involving school children in the Tree' plantation programme has shown an encouraging response. promotion of green cover fostering a strong bond of attachment between minors and the plants planted with

their nameplates. The plantation drive was carried out by the (WHO) with cooperation of the Health indigenous species were Pakhtunkhwa by involving children who were asked to

PESHAWAR (APP): The saplings within the premises of four Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Charsadda district.

Day (WHD) April which also marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948," informed DHO Charsadda, Dr World Health Organization Farhad Khan. In all a total the of 241 plants of different



LAHORE: Former Prime Minister AJK Sardar Muahmmad Tanveer Ilyas Khan addressing a press conference during sit-protest in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Mall road.

SFA signs two agreements with KU's ICCBS

The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi.

Sight Food Authority

Mile Teeds to the testing of food products, which is in the interest of both institutions.

SFA Director General Sindh Food Authority

signed a Memorandum of University of Karachi. These MoAs aim to

framework collaboration, cooperation, Prof. Dr. Asad Sayyed.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh and development of a Food Authority has signed strong linkage between SFA two Memorandum of and the research centers of Agreements (MoAs) with the ICCBS for the testing

Agha Fakhar Hussain and Prof. Dr. Farzana Shaheen, Agreement (MoA) with Director of ICCBS, Halal Certification Testing University of Karachi, and Research Services signed the agreement in a (HCTRS) and the meeting held at the HEJ, Industrial Analytical Research Institute of Center (IAC), ICCBS, Chemistry, University of Karachi.

Among others who create a long-term attended the ceremony of were officials from SFA

PPP, MQM, JI, PML-N, GDA gear up election campaign as polling day nears

KARACHI (APP): All major political, religious parties, alliances and the independent candidates have geared up their election campaign across Sindh as polling day is to be held this week on February 08.

Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, MQM Pakistan's Convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, PML-N provincial president Bashir Memon, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman and Grand Democratic Alliances leadership were holding election rallies in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and other districts and towns of the province

and asking the voters for

casting votes in their

Bilawal

his election campaigns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan, expedite his electioneering in Sindh where his parties continuously rules since 15 years. Bhutto-Zardari and his younger sister Aseefa

HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool

Bakar addressing to media persons at Shahbaz Hall.

Bhutto was leading election rallies in several cities and towns of Sindh to convince their electorate. PPP Chairman has addressed public meeting in Mirpurkĥas on Saturday night where despite rains, the party workers participated in the campaign. MQM Pakistan's Convenor Dr

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with central leadership including former Mayor Karachi Syed Mustafa Kamal and Dr

Zardari after completing many election rallies and public gatherings in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sindh's other urban area where their electorates are in sufficient number. They presented their manifesto for the uplift of urban areas which according to them had been neglected during the last 15 years.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an organized political and religious party, is in the run in Karachi and other areas of Sindh, also held public gatherings addressed by the Central Emir Sirajul Haq and Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman. Sirajul Haq addressed public meetings in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Tando Adam and asked their voters to elect their party candidates.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) provincial Bhutto Farooq Sattar addressed president, a former Police

along with party's leaders also organized public meetings in district Matiari where he is participating in National Assembly seat against PPP's Makhdoom Jamil uz Zaman. While addressing the rally he claimed that PML-N will win several seats from Sindh while allied parties JUI-F, GDA and MQM Pakistan candidates will defeat opponent

candidates. Grand Democrat Alliance led by Sayed Sibgatullah Shah, Pir Pagara is in tough contest with Pakistan People's party candidates in different districts of Sindh. GDA and PPP candidates in district Sanghar and Khairpur Mirs are in tough

completion. In Khairpur, Syed Bano Wassan of GDA.

officer Bashir Memon Sadaruddin Shah Rashid is contesting election on NA 203 against Sayed Fazul Shah Jillani of PPP who was elected an MNA from the same constituency in 2018 election while GDA's Moezam Abbasi is in the contest with Sayed Javed Ali Shah Jillani of PPP on NA 203 Khairpur Mirs.

Former Chief Minister Sindh Sayed Ghous Ali Shah is in contest with former MNA Dr Nafisa Shah who is the daughter of Ex CM Sayed Qaim Ali Shah on NA-202 Khairpur. In Sanghar district, GDA candidate Muhammad Khan Junejo is contesting election on NA-209 against PPP candidates and the former Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Shazia Atta Marri while Saira merit were reported as

loans were extended to

some of the government

employees in violation of

General Financial Rules

(GFR) and the approved

criteria of 07-12-2015.

AGPR conducts study on loans to employees on direction of President

Auditor General identifies violations of rules in granting of loans to govt employees, recommends to improve existing mechanism on the direction of the President In response to the concerns raised by President Dr Arif Alvi over the violations of merit and criteria for government employees to loans to government employees, the and fair play. He had General of Pakistan (AGP) has identified weaknesses and violations of rules in the

existing system of granting

long term Advances (House

Government employees by criteria as to when, why conducting a special study suggests recommendations for

improving the system. President Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter to AGP, had urged the need to evaluate filed the current system of granting loans to ensure transparency, merit raised concerns over the non-observance of criteria as two separate lists, called the "regular list" and the "out of turn list/priority", were being maintained for granting loans. He observed

advances) to Federal that there seemed to be no AGP, the President had also observed that the Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs) of various and how an employee was to be moved from "regular ministries send lists of list" to "out of turn" (priority) list. This issue employees to AGPR based had come to light during on their discretion. These hearing of representations, out-of-turn loans to different employees on the basis of by priority were causing government officers/ grievances and litigation. organizations, wherein incidents of preferential In response to treatment and violations of

President's letter, AGP conducted a special study on the long-term advances to Federal Government employees that found violations discrepancies due to non-

observance of the existing rules and procedures.

Independent Report

Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi distributed allocation

letters for 12.5 acres of land

to 26,000 landless farmers in

Bahawalpur. The allocation

of land to Cholistan farmers

is poised to uplift the

impoverished community

and pave the way for

ransformative initiative,

each farmer has been

granted a lease for 12.5

acres of land for a period

of five years. This

momentous decision addresses the long-

standing grievance of the

underprivileged farmers

spanning three districts in

south Punjab, namely

Bahawalpur, according to

a handout issued here

immense importance for

the Bahawalpur division,

The occasion holds

Khan,

Rahim Yar

Bahawalnagar,

prosperity.

Under

AHORE: Caretaker Punjab

letters among landless

farmers of Cholistan



Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani speaking at the roundtable discussion on "Shared Prosperity, Economic Resilience, and Investments" at the Third EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels.

In his letter to the Building and Conveyance

ISLAMABAD: Women wearing traditional Kashmiri dresses as looks warm shawls on a stall at Lok Virsa Museum in the Federal Capital.

Pak mobile industry thriving despite dire economic indicators

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan battles its prevailing dire economic indicators, it seems that the country's mobile industry has managed to thrive despite rampant inflation the declining purchasing power of the

people. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) annual report has revealed that local mobile phone manufacturers produced a whopping 84.4 million devices in the last five

smartphone devices that manufactured between January 2019 and

September 2023. Furthermore, the regulatory authority said that 33 local and foreign locally companies

MOSCOW: Yandex NV has struck a 475-billion-

rouble (\$5.21 billion) deal

to sell what has been

dubbed "Russia's Google"

to a group of Russian

investors, marking the biggest corporate exit from

the country since Moscow

invaded Úkraine almost

engineered deal would see

Russia's largest technology

player fall entirely under

including a fund ultimately

owned by oil major Lukoil,

Kremlin-

ownership,

two years ago.

Russian

plants under the Mobile generation Device Manufacturing (MDM) Regulations introduced in 2021 — with these companies, operating both as standalone entities and through joint ventures, obtained a 10-year MDM authorisation.

The country also has initiated the export of locally manufactured handsets, with 120,000 SEEGO brand mobiles labelled as "Manufactured in Pakistan" exported to the African market in December 2022.

As per the report, 25 and Blocking System million duplicate or cloned million of these were (DIRBS), introduced by the PTA, has provided a level playing fleld for manufacturing industry in provisioning Pakistan. In addition to

promoting established manufacturing been a source of revenue soaring inflation.

in 2014, slammed Russia's

invasion of Ukraine as

"barbaric" in August,

leading some within the

nationalise Yandex, people

government, collecting Rs48.8 billion in customs duties in the individual category from January 15, 2019, to October 25, 2023 This revenue stream remained untapped before the implementation of

Leveraging this ystem, PTA has blocked 758,113 International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs) which were reported as stolen.

identified and blocked 35.5 Device million non-compliant Identification Registration IMEIs, including 7.3 IMEI numbers.

The revelation holds significance as the country foreign investments in the has been gripped by an device economic deteriorating local currency, depleting foreign manufacturing, DIRBS has exchange reserves, and

plans on simplifying

familiar with the matter But ultimately, fear of a technology brain drain

helped keep that prospect at bay and has resulted in a complicated deal under which Yandex businesses accounting for more than 95% of revenues would remain in Russia and come under Russian control. The Kremlin, which

welcomed the deal, has and cement Yandex's departure from Western engaged negotiations with Yandex tech circles. for around 18 months to Once seen as one of try and spin off the the few Russian companies Russian businesses from with the potential to become a global business. Yandex NV, its Dutch parent. Yandex has always Nasdaq-listed Yandex had sought to portray itself as developed leading online free from Kremlin services, including search. advertising and ride-hailing influence, a task that has become more challenging co-founder as the company has Arkady Volozh, who become such a strategic

Yandex owner to exit

Russia in \$5.2bn deal

moved from Russia to Israel national asset **UAE's banking, real** estate and Adnoc stocks to perform well in 2024

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Banking and finance, real estate and Adnoc entities stocks are expected to perform well this year on the back of strong dividends they have been paying to the shareholders.

Anita Gupta, head of equity strategy wealth management at Emirates NBD, said the UAE equity market is about dividend yields and this trend is likely to continue this

year.
"We expect 2024 to be a good year for banks. We may not see astronomical growth that we saw in 2023, but we do expect dividend payout to

which is very good for Dubai and Abu Dhabi banks," she said.

While speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the 2024 outlook report in Dubai on Monday, she said most of the IPOs over the last three years paid dividends of over four per

"That is again key to maintaining their growth upside. Last year, banks did exceptionally well and we saw their earnings on average have gone up 20-30 per cent and some have doubled their earnings. Banks also increased their dividends as net interest margins improved, and they wrote back provisions be maintained in 2024, as the economy is strong."

DÎRBS has also

National Bonds savings, fostering financial literacy, digital tools

Monitoring Desk JAE: The Group Chief Executive Officer of National Bonds unveiled a three-pronged strategy today to drive a nationwide savings surge in 2024. The plan focuses on simplifying savings, fostering financial literacy, and leveraging innovation and digital

Mohammed Qasim Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer at National Bonds, commented, "We aim to make saving a lifestyle, away from consumer culture and empower individuals to achieve their financial goals.

The Group Chief Executive Officer of National Bonds unveiled a three-pronged strategy today to drive a nationwide savings surge in 2024. The plan focuses on simplifying savings, fostering financial literacy, and leveraging innovation and digital

KPT organizes solidarity walk on Kashmir Day

KARACHI (APP): Å solidarity walk in support the oppressed Kashmiris was organized at Nishan-i-Pakistan (Sea

View) on Monday as part of Kashmir Day activities by the Karachi Port Trust. Participants included Chairman KPT Syed yedain Raza Zaidi, Deputy Commissioner South Karachi, Director

Rajput, senior KPT officers, and students. The walk aimed to denounce Indian actions against Kashmiri autonomy, with students demonstrating determination

enthusiasm

Information Mansoor

Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, and Bahawalnanger for securing their rightful allotment. CM Naqvi shed light on the protracted journey, revealing that the land allocation process for the Cholistanis had been pending since 1978. With this breakthrough, the entire expanse of Cholistan is poised for cultivation is poised for cultivation, transforming once-barren lands into lush greenery, complemented by the availability of canal water, he said. Anticipating a positive ripple effect, Mr Naqvi expressed confidence that farmers Nagvi would cultivate this allocated land in the upcoming crop season. The event witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including the IG police, chairman P&D, secretary C&W, secretary health, commemorating a historic commissioner Bahawalpur day for the Cholistanis. and others.

Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi expressed heartfelt

congratulations to the

landless farmers of

Pakistanis drank tea worth over \$336m in six months!

Monitoring Desk fiscal year compared to last year's corresponding period, the Pakistan

Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

data showed. The tea imports into the country increased up to \$336.423 million during July-December (2023-24) compared to the imports of \$318.798 million in July-December (2022-23)

according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, the imports surged by 9.12% as the country imported 139,751 metric tonnes of tea during the period under review compared to the imports of 128,068 metric tonnes.

Meanwhile, on a yearon-year basis, the tea imports during December 2023 decreased by 16.80% to \$58.869 million from last December's \$70.759 million. The imports of the commodity; however, witnessed an increase of 9.81% in December 2023 when compared to the imports of \$53.608 million November 2023, according to PBS data.

The overall food LAHORE: Tea imports group imports into the into the country witnessed country during the first half an increase of 5.53% during of the current fiscal year the first half of the current witnessed a decrease of 19.48%

The food imports during July-December (2023-24) were recorded at \$3.957.188 billion as against the imports of \$4,914.278 billion during last year. It is pertinent to

mention here that the overall country's merchandise trade deficit contracted by 34.29% during the first half of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The trade deficit from July-December (2023-24) was recorded at \$11.148 billion as against the deficit of \$16.965 billion in July– December (2022-23), showing negative growth of 34.29%.

During the period under review, the exports increased by 5.17% to \$14.981 billion compared to the exports of \$14.244 billion during the corresponding period of last year, according to the latest PBS data.

Dubai's realty off to a flying start with record Dh35.4b sales

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Dubai's real estate market witnessed a remarkable boom in January 2024, with recordbreaking sales totalling Dh35.4 billion, signifying a positive outlook for the sector in 2024 on the back of a sustained momentum from the previous year and a growing demand for offplan properties.

January 2024 broke records with a substantial increase of 27 per cent compared to Dh27.9 billion January 2023, showcasing a consistent upward trend in recent

Property Finder's data indicates a 17 per cent year-on-year increase in recorded sales transactions 11,000 over transactions compared to 8,712 in January 2023.

Cherif Sleiman, chief revenue officer at Property Finder, said January built on the great momentum from last year, revealing positive scope for sustained successes in 2024. "It's interesting to

see off-plan gain further traction, promising demand for new projects. As a leading proptech portal, we continue to keep our eyes on evolving consumer choices, with an aim to empower our partners and property seekers to make more informed decisions within this thriving real estate landscape.

Off-plan showed more demand, with a yearon-year increase of approximately 25 per cent in volume and 6,000 recorded transactions. Values experienced a surge of around 21 per cent yearon-year, reaching roughly Dh15 billion, compared to Dh12.2 billion in January 2023. According to a Zazen Properties report, Dubai's resilient off-plan real estate sector propelled the overall UAE market to hit Dh455.7 billion in sales in 2023. With demand expected to outstrip supply going forward, the off-plan sector looks set to bolster the overall market's growth in 2024.

PTA committed to ensuring CM distributes allotment safe online environment for country's youth: Chairman ISLAMABAD (APP): in our commitment to promoting a safer online environment in Pakistan.

P a k i s t a n ensuring a safe online Telecommunication environment, particularly Authority (PTA) Chairman, Major General safe online environment, particularly for the country's youth and children.

In a message on the occasion of "Safer Internet Day", to be celebrated on February 6, he said, "PTA recognizes the critical role that the internet plays in

for our youth and children."The chairman ® Hafeez ur Rehman, has asserted that it is the said that the PTA is collective responsibility of committed to ensuring a all to create a secure and protective digital space, allowing Pakistani users to continue their online activities in a safer environment. He further mentioned that PTA has collaborated with Meta, United Nations Children's

cause have been recognized, and PTA received the SAMENA international LEAD award under the category of "Enabling Child & Youth Safety Online," chairman said.

He said that online safety is a global issue, and only through collaboration and coordinated efforts can the government create a Fund (UNICEF), TikTok, digital world that and other organizations to prioritizes the safety of our lives. We are steadfast pursue the cause of every individual.

"Our efforts for the

Tokyo shares open higher after US rallies

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks opened higher Monday, driven up by the strength of US tech shares that pushed Wall Street indices to new records.

benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.69 percent, or 248.99 points, to 36,407.01, while the broader Topix index added 0.61 percent, or 15.61 points, to 2,555.29

The dollar stood at 148.40 yen, compared with 148.30 yen on Friday in New York. The S&P 500 and the

Dow Jones renewed record finishes on Friday as investors cheered a strong US jobs report and robust earnings from Meta and Amazon. In Tokyo,

market is expected to start higher following Wall Street gains," online brokerage Monex said. But investors are

gauging whether the market can sustain its momentum on brewing worries about possible overheating, it said.

Among major shares, Sony Group rose 0.35 percent to 14,525 yen and SoftBank Group added 1.83 percent to 6,575 yen.

Uniqlo operator Fast Retailing rose 0.67 percent to 39,080 yen. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group climbed 1.08 percent to 1,407 yen.

Gold rates drop in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.214,800 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 216,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,029 to Rs.184,156 from Rs185,185 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.168,810 from Rs. 169,753, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,600 and 2,229.08 respectively. The price of gold in

the international market decreased by \$11 to \$2,048 from \$.2,059, the Association reported.

The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) witnessed a decrease of 0.28 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on February 1. According to the PBS

data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 317.65 points in Pakistan as compared to 318.55 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under

Pakistan's exports to China up by 46pc in 7 months Pakistan (SBP) reported.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 46 percent during the seven months (July to January).

According to sources, the overall exports to China were recorded at US \$1.7214 billion during July-January (2023-24) against exports of US \$1.18 billion during July-January

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during July-US \$7.71 billion against US sources added.

On January, Pakistan's export of goods 39.44 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the

million in November 2023. It is pertinent to January were recorded at mention here that China earlier "agreed" \$7.66 billion last year, rollover of \$2 billion debt to Pakistan. According to sources with the finance ministry,

The overall exports to

China were recorded at US

\$1223.532 million during

July-November (2023-24)

against exports of US \$877.444 million during

July-November (2022-23),

SBP data revealed. On a

year-to-year basis, the

exports to China also surged by 36.29 per cent from \$199.058 million in

November 2022, against

the exports of \$271.316

and services to China the \$2 billion debt will be witnessed an increase of rolled over before the maturity date on the existing conditions. Sources said that less

than 2 percent interest will exports of the be applied on the deposit corresponding period of s2 billion debt from last year, State Bank of China.

Jeff Bezos to sell upto 50mn Amazon shares valued around \$8.6bn

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos plans to sell up to 50 million shares of Amazon stock over the next year, valued at nearly \$8.6 billion, according to a regulatory filing posted, CNN reported. Amazon's annual

report included Bezos' planned stock sale due to a Securities and Exchange Commission rule, which follows the company's record holiday shopping quarter, which saw shares climb by 8% on Friday.

billionaire stepped down as CEO of the company he founded in 2021 but remains the chair of the Bezos has since been uncertainty.

known for his fashion choices, relationship with fiancé Lauren Sanchez, and space-faring ambitions through his private company Blue Origin.

The annual report said

Bezos adopted a trading plan to sell up to 50 million shares of Amazon stock over a period ending on January 31, 2025, subject to certain conditions. Amazon's stock has

seen a sharp rally, climbing roughly 90% since December 2022, after falling to \$84 a share. This is a good time for

The 60-year-old the millionaire to sell his plummeted in 2022 due to pandemic-induced demand for e-commerce and macroeconomic

Pak bronze sculptures attract visitors at Beijing **Traditional Fair**

from Pakistan, along with other goods from home and abroad, wowed visitors attending the 28th Beijing Traditional New Year Fair held in Beijing recently.

As per the organizer, this year's fair covers an area of more than 10,000 square meters, gathering a total of more than 500 merchants."Spring Festival is the biggest occasion of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. It's also a good opportunity for merchants to make a profit," noted a stallholder from New Zealand. This time the annual fair served as a review witnessed an platform for showcasing increase of 39.45 per cent. goods from across the globe.

BEIJING (APP): The including Pakistani jade, glittering bronze sculptures wood carvings, bronze carvings, Mongolian cashmere products, Russian chocolate, Australian cereal, Ethiopian cowhide handbags, Indonesian Kopi Malaysian Luwak. durian...Muhammad Abid, who owns the Pakistan booth, has spent four years in China doing business. In fluent Chinese he methodically showcased his customers Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts. "The business is good so far," he told China Economic Net,

adding that for the Spring

Festival, everybody in

China likes to keep good and

attractive items at home so

the exotic goods he brought

here are popular.

127 more Palestinians killed as fighting rages in Gaza

in Gaza's south Sunday ahead of another visit to the region by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a bid to secure a new truce as the Israel-Hamas war approaches its fifth month.

Blinken set off Sunday on what is his fifth Mideast trip since the October 7 attack by Hamas that set off the crisis.

He is expected to begin his trip on Monday in Saudi Arabia before visits to Israel, Egypt and Qatar.

The health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said at least 127 people were killed in Israeli strikes in the previous 24 hours in the

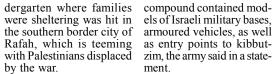
The Hamas govern-

the southern border city of armoured vehicles, as well Rafah, which is teeming as entry points to kibbutwith Palestinians displaced

"There is no safe place in the Gaza Strip, from north to south," displaced man Mohammed Kloub told foreign media in Rafah, which according to UN figures now hosts more than half of Gaza's population.

Israel has warned its ground forces could advance on Rafah as part of its campaign to eliminate Hamas. Israel's army said its forces had raided a Hamas training facility in Khan Yunis where militants prepared for the October 7

Al-Qadisiya



army "neutralised" several militants, it said.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said that at the nearby Al-Amal hospital there were "alarming signs (of) a humanitarian disaster... after 14 days of continuous siege'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army had "destroyed 17 of 24 (Hamas) battalions. Most of the remaining battalions are in the southern Strip and in Rafah. and we will deal with

Philippines

ready to use

a security official said Sun-

day, after former President

Rodrigo Duterte threatened

to separate some southern

islands from the rest of the

archipelago. Duterte has

called for the independence

of his hometown Mindanao

from the Philippines as his

alliance with President

erdinand Marcos Ir disin

tegrated this week over dis-

agreements around efforts

to amend the constitution.

cession could reverse the

gains of the government's

peace deal with former

separatist groups.
Violence and conflict had plagued Mindanao for

decades as the government

battled insurgents and ex-

tremists, which has discour-

aged investments and left

rebel group, the Moro Is-

lamic Liberation Front

(MILF), had signed a peace

agreement with the Philip-

pine government in 2014.

The region's largest

many villages in poverty.

Ano said calls for se-



Palestinian children wait to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen amid shortages of food supplies, as the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas continues, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

2 killed in Bangladesh as fighting rages on **Myanmar border: police**

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: At least two people were killed in Bangladesh on Monday after mortar shells fired from Myanmar during clashes there landed in a village across the border, police

Parts of Myanmar near the 270-kilometre border with Bangladesh have seen frequent clashes since November when rebel Arakan Army fighters ended a ceasefire that had largely held since a 2021 coup. "The two were killed at around 2:15pm (0815 GMT) in the firing at Jalpaitoli village," local police chief Abdul Mannan told AFP. Police said a Bangladeshi woman, named 48-year-old Hosne Ara, and an unnamed ethnic Rohingya man had been

They were sitting in the kitchen ... when a mor-tar hit the place," Ara's daughter-in-law said, too

forces' to quell any secession attempt-official distraught to give her name. MANILA (Internews): "She was serving lunch to the Rohingya man The Philippine government is ready to use "authority and forces" against at-tempts to divide the nation, who was hired by the family for farm work when

they were hit." Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Sunday said that border police officers from neighbouring Myanmar's Rakhine state had "entered our territory for self-protection" ahead of advancing AA fighters.

A spokesman of the Border Guard Bangladesh the country's frontier forces, told AFP on Monday that "at least 95 border officers of Myanmar have crossed the border and taken shelter in Bangladeshi border posts".

Aid agency Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said its medics in Cox's Bazar had on Sunday received 17 patients "following fighting at the Bangladesh-Myanmar

US Senate unveils \$118 b bill on border security, aid for Ukraine, Israel

WASHINGTON (INP): The U.S. Senate on Sunday unveiled a \$118 billion bipartisan border security bill that would also provide aid to Ukraine and Israel, but it promptly slammed into opposition from the House of Representatives.

I urge Congress to come together and swiftly pass this bipartisan agreement," President Joe Biden said, also praising the migration measures in the bill, which took months to negotiate. However, House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson declared it "dead on arrival" if it reaches his chamber.

"This bill is even worse than we expected, and won't come close to ending the border catastrophe the president has created," he said in a statement on X, formerly called Twitter.

The Democratic and Republican Senate backers of the wide-ranging U.S. border security and foreign military

aid bill pledged to push ahead, despite opposition by Donald Trump as well. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he would take steps to hold an initial vote on the bill on Wednesday.

If the bill were to become law, it would mark the most significant changes in U.S. immigration and bor-

Some progressive Independent most migrants if there are an

der security in decades.

Democrats are angry the measure does nothing to provide a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented people who have lived in the U.S. for many years, including 'Dreamer' immigrants who were brought in as children. Senator Kyrsten Sinema told reporters the legislation would secure the U.S. southern border, including by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to temporarily "shut down" the frontier to

Philippines ready to use 'forces' to quell any secession attempt **Monitoring Desk**

MANILA: The Philippine government is ready to use 'authority and forces' against attempts to divide the nation, a security official said Sunday, after former President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to separate some southern islands from the rest of the archipelago. Duterte has called for the independence of his hometown Mindanao from the Philippines as his alliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr disintegrated this week over disagreements around efforts

to amend the constitution. Marcos said amending the 1987 constitution was meant to ease foreign investments, but Duterte accused him of using constitutional change to stay in power.



Local people carry a bullet wounded man for emergency aid at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Ukhia, after a military crackdown at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is welcomed upon arriving at King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

US intends further strikes on Iran-backed groups

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States intends to launch further strikes at Iran-backed groups in the Middle East, the White House national security adviser said on Sunday, after hitting Tehran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen over the last two

The United States and Britain unleashed attacks against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, a day after the U.S. military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan.

"We intend to take additional strikes, and additional action, to continue to send a clear message that the United States will respond when our forces are attacked, when our people are killed," White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the Press" program on Sunday.

The strikes are the latest blows in a conflict that has spread into the Middle East since Oct. 7, when the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas stormed Israel from the Gaza Strip, igniting war.

Australia PM says government 'examining' claims against UN Palestinian agency

Monitoring Desk SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Sunday his government was probing claims that some staff of the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) were involved in the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, after Australia paused funding to the aid agency last

Australia is one of several countries to have funding for UNRWA, a critical source of support in Gaza, after Israeli claims of U.N. employees' complicity with

"We're examining it, along with other like-

minded countries like Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. We want that to be resolved," Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp regarding the allegations, according to a tran-Albanese said his gov-

ernment wanted to make sure the accusations were "fully examined" so that all funding was "going to the purpose for which it is given" The prime minister

added that he did not want people "literally starving" in Gaza and "the only organisation that can provide that support there is UNRWA"

Turkey completes new homes in area hit by devastating earthquake

ANKARA (Înternews): Turkey on Saturday handed over keys to newly-completed homes to some of those left homeless after last year's devastating earthquake, one year after the country's deadliest disaster in its modern history.

Powerful quakes on Feb. 6, 2023 in southern Turkey killed more than 50,000 people in 11 provinces and left millions

Russian cosmonaut sets record for most time in space Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko on Sunday set a world record for total time spent in space, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka who logged more than 878 days in orbit, Russia's space corporation said.

At 0830 Kononenko broke the record, Roscosmos said. Kononenko is expected to reach a total of 1,000 days in space on June 5 and by late September he will have clocked 1,110 days. "I fly into space to do my International Space Station.



Russian space agency Roscosmos Yuri Borisov accompanying cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Argument over the Middle East conflict leaves Jewish student hospitalized in Berlin

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: A college student

in Berlin beat a Jewish classmate until he was hospitalized after the two got into an argument Friday night about the Israel-Hamas conflict, police said. The 30-year-old Jew-

ish student was out with an acquaintance in Berlin's neighborhood shortly before midnight on Friday when he encountered a 23-year-old fellow student from the university.

The two students — the 23-year-old, who held strong pro-Palestinian views, and the 30-year-old Jewish student, who had posted pro-Israel views on are ongoing, police said.

social media - got into a heated discussion. As the argument esca-

lated, the 23-year-old repeatedly punched the 30year-old in the face until he fell to the ground, police said. The suspect kicked the older student while he was lying on the ground, then fled the scene. The victim was brought to the hospital with facial fractures. Police said his injuries were not lifethreatening. Police eventually traced the suspect to his home in Berlin's Schöneberg neighborhood, where they conducted a search and seized evidence, including his smartphone. Investigations

WDS 2024: A global hub for defense innovation and collaboration

RIYADH (Internews): Building on its successful debut, the World Defense Show returns to Riyadh this February, with over 750 exhibitors from 77 countries set to emphasize future readiness in the sector.

Founded by Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Military Industries, WDS serves as a global forum for innovation and technological discourse in the defense industry, covering five key domains: air, land, sea, space, and secu-

The second edition is

scheduled for Feb. 4-8 and promises to provide a comprehensive international perspective of the defense industry, while analyzing needs at local, regional, and

global levels. It will bring together military players, the Saudi leadership, and industry decision-makers with a key focus on the sector's future. As the Kingdom aims

for a robust defense sector, a top priority remains localization, with Saudi Arabia aspiring to localize 50 percent of its defense spending by 2030.

Senegalese **President Sall** postpones Feb presidential vote **Monitoring Desk**

DAKAR: President Macky Sall on Saturday postponed Senegal's planned Feb. 25 presidential election, announcing in a televised address to the nation that he had cancelled the relevant electoral law due to disputes over the electoral process. With little more than

three weeks to go before the vote, the unprecedented step followed a formal request to postpone from the opposition Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) whose candidate was excluded from the running in January. The constitutional council's decision to exclude prominent contenders such as the PDS's Karim Wade and opposition firebrand Ousmane Sonko has fuelled growing discontent.

China says Philippine vessel "illegally" landed on disputed atoll

Monitoring Desk SHANGHAI: China said

on Saturday a small civil ian vessel from the Philippines had "illegally placed itself on the beach' of an atoll in the South China Sea that both countries claim.

The vessel, which landed on the Spratly Islands atoll on Friday, was there for supply purposes, the China Coast Guard posted on the Weixin platform.

Indian troops to leave pelago to be within its sphere of influence. MALE: The small but stra-However, the Maldives has shifted into tegically placed Maldives will strengthen its military to defend its vast maritime

Maldives vows to boost

defences after telling

Monitoring Desk

territory, the new president

vowed on Monday after or-

dering Indian troops to

withdraw from the archi-

parliament he would turn

the modest Maldivian Na-

tional Defence Force

(MNDF) into a modern

military capable of patrol-

ling its seas, which straddle

The pro-China leader

key global shipping lanes.

reiterated that India will

begin withdrawing its

troops operating three

aircraft from March 10 and

the orbit of China — its largest external creditor with September's election of Muizzu, who demanded the Indian troops leave.

"I believe that the Mohamed Muizzu modern military capability said in his first address to to defend the country by road, sea and air should be strengthened in the Maldives," Muizzu said. 'We have started to do that now." He said the MNDF will soon be able to conduct surveillance of the country's 900,000 square kilometre (347,000 square mile) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the maritime reconnaissance clock. The Maldives accused India's coastguard last week of entering the north of its EEZ and intimi-

complete the process within two months. New Delhi considers dating three Maldivian fishthe Indian Ocean archi- ing vessels.

'Unprecedented catastrophe' in Chile as wildfires kill 51

Monitoring Desk

VIA MAR: Chileans on Sunday feared a rise in the death toll from wildfires blazing across the South American country that have already killed at least 51 people, leaving bodies in the street and homes gut-

Authorities warned of "complicated" conditions as they battled fires in the coastal tourist region of Valparaiso amid an intense summer heat wave, with temperatures soaring to 40 degrees Celsius over the

Dense gray smoke blanketed the city of Vina del Mar on the country's central coast Saturday, forcing residents to flee.

The fires are being driven by a summer heatwave and drought affecting the southern part of South America caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, as scientists warn that a warming planet has increased the able to contact her spouse.

risk of natural disasters such as intense heat and

The rising temperatures threaten to engulf more of South America, as brigades in Argentina have been fighting a fire that has consumed more than 3,000 hectares in Los Alerces National Park, famed for its beauty and biodiversity, since January 25.

Rosana Avendano, a 63-year-old kitchen assistant, was away from home when the fire began to sweep through the El Olivar neighbourhood, where she lives with her husband.

"It was terrible be-cause I couldn't get (to my house). The fire came here.. we lost everything, Avendano said.

'My husband was lying down and began to feel the heat of the fire coming and he ran away. She feared the worst for hours, but eventually was

Russia says toll in Ukrainian strike on occupied city rises to 28

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia said on Sunday the death toll from a Ukrainian strike on a bakery in the occupied eastern city of Lysychansk climbed to 28 people, including a

Moscow's occupation forces said Kyiv struck a building that housed a bakery popular with locals on weekends. Ukraine has not yet commented on the Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday visited his embattled country's troops on the southern front, as Moscow's dragging offensive drags on for almost two

Lysychansk is a city in the occupied Lugansk region that fell to Russian forces after one of the most brutal battles during Moscow's long offensive in summer 2022. Before the Russian army entered Ukraine, it had a population of around 110,000 community.

'Search operations continue on the site of the collapsed bakery [...] 28 people, including a child, have died," the Russian emergency situations ministry posted on Telegram.

Occupational authorities in Lugansk said there were 18 men, nine women and one child among the dead. They did not give the child's age. Russia released images of an almost completely destroyed building, with rescuers combing the rubble in the dark, where they found a corpse and a wounded woman who was evacuated on a stretcher.

The one-storey building had a large sign on it that read "Restaurant

Adriatic" Russia alleged that Ukraine had used Western weapons in the strike and said it expected swift and "unconditional condemnation" from the international

Senegalese President Sall postpones presidential vote

President Macky Sall postponed Senegal's planned Feb. 25 presidential election, announcing in a televised address to the nation on Saturday that he had cancelled the relevant law due to electoral issues he warned would fuel dis-

with little more than three weeks to go before the vote, the unprecedented step of delaying the poll, to an unspecified date, pitches Senegal into un-charted constitutional waters that some opposition and civil society groups said amounted to an "insti-

tutional coup.' One opposition coalition has already vowed to challenge the move in the courts, raising the prospect of a protracted legal battle that could further muddy the democratic outlook.

Sall's decision follows the constitutional council's January decision to exclude some prominent contenders from the electoral list, which has fanned discontent about the election process.

"These troubled conditions could seriously undermine the credibility of the ballot by sowing the seeds of pre- and post-electoral disputes," Sall said in

He did not set a new date for the vote, but said a parliamentary inquiry had been set up to look into how candidates were verified and any other issues, and that a national dialogue would also take place to ensure the eventual election is free, fair d transparent. He said the post-

ponement would not affect his decision not to run for a third term - an issue that has helped provoke recurrent and sometimes deadly protests in what is normally one of West Africa's most stable de-

mocracies. The U.S. Department's Africa bureau said "we are deeply concerned about the disruption to the Presidential electoral calendar," in a post on X that said the bureau had noted Sall's reiteration he would not run again.

OIC reiterates call for just, peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue as per UNSC resolutions

Cooperation (OIC) on Monday reiterated its call for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the the right to self-determina-United Nations Security Council

OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha said this while addressing at a photo exhibition held in the OIC premises to highlight gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Taha also expressed the OIC's pleasure in hosting the event organized by the gross, systematic and the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pa-

tion for the people of Kash-

recalled that during the 49th March last year in Nouakchott, Islamic Reabuses in the Indian occu-

and allow unrestricted access to UN Special Proceto visit the occupied Jammu

Hissein Taha also recalled the visit undertaken by his Special Representative for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef

He also reiterated the message that the OIC rerights and aspirations of



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi leading darity day she said Kash-Kashmir Solidarity Day Walk from Foreign Office Gate, Constitution Avenue to D-Chowk in front of Parliament House organized by Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Participation of youth vital to strengthen democracy, political system: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said youth should be engaged in the political system and their energies should be utilized for strengthening democracy in

Rulers

Allah and people.

people get jobs.

mir Banay ga Pakistan.

Speaking during a podcast, he said political parties should be democratic minded to fortify democracy in the country.

Political parties in government should improve their performance to gain political space in the country, he added. The prime minister

litical parties should be elected in a democratic manner in order to take democracy forward. He said the idea of democracy was facing many

said leadership of the po-

challenges in Pakistan due to different reasons and weaknesses in the structure of the civil institutions. He said the Afghan

refugees lived in Pakistan for decades, and used the health and education services and the infrastructure of Pakistan and their businessmen earned billions of dollars through the Afghan

The prime minister asserted that Pakistan wanted a friendly government in Afghanistan as was the desire of other countries in the region. He was of the view

that the government of Taliban was formed in Afghanistan after the world squandered its opportunities despite spending \$ 2 He said the Taliban

forcefully took over the government as the United States and NATO abandoned Afghanistan. To a question, he said

during his tenure, he interacted with the students from the educational institutions of Balochistan, Azad Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan, and shared his views with them and listened to their perspectives.

He said in Balochistan, armed insurgents were masquerading as civil society and speaking the language of human rights for achieving a certain goal.

Those elements never belonged to a mainstream political party but were part of the proscribed organizations in the province,

groups in Balochistan wanted to carve out a new country on the basis of identity and through armed struggle, and they had declared a war on the state of

The stance of those elements was against morality, and the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, he

The prime minister said most of the people left the country for better jobs and due to economic reasons, however, millions of youth saw their future in

Those people who send remittances from abroad were assets of Pakistan and they were contributing to its economic growth, he remarked.

He opined that there were many people who wanted to return to Pakistan after living their lives in Europe and North America. In future, more people will return to Paki stan because of their Islamic roots and attachment to

eastern values, he observed He said during his tenure he tried to take decisions in the best interest of

Minister lauds Pakistan Rangers' performance, professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Dr Gohar Iiaz on Monday visited the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) headquarters and appreciated the professionalism and performance of the

Director General Pakistan Rangers Punjab Major General Atif bin Akram welcomed the interior minister, who placed the flowers on the martyrs' memorial and recited Fatiha, said

a news release issued here. The interior minister offered a special prayer for the martyrs of Kashmir in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day besides the Rangers Martyrs. He was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Rangers

Major General Atif bin Akram said that Pakistan Rangers Punjab will leave no stone unturned in the performance of professional duties



JEDDAH: The OIC Secretary General, H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha graced the Kashmir Solidarity Day event as a 'Chief Guest', organized by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to OIC at the OIC Secretariat.

Bilawal vows to change Karachi's fortune in five years if PPP elected

KARACHI (INP): Paki-Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday stated that if the people of Karachi elected PPP candidates from at least 20 National Assembly seats, the city's landscape will change within five years.

The Pakistan's financial capital 22 and 47 national and provincial assembly seats, respectively.

As part of his electoral campaign, Bilawal addressed the public in various areas of Karachi today, delivering speeches in the form of rallies.

Speaking at a gathering in Keamari's PT Ground, he expressed his

emphasising the potential stan Peoples Party (PPP) changes that could occur if the people choose PPP rep-

"If the people of Karachi elect my representatives, then like local government, the provincial government will also be in our hands, and with your votes, even the federal government will be in our hands,' Bilawal declared during his speech.

'Give 20 [NA] seats to PPP, and then within five years, we will change Karachi. We will form our government at the federal level and work on historic projects in Karachi. This city will be given represenvision for the city, tation as it deserves.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing at a poster exhibition organized by National College of Arts (NCA) in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Streets of Barcelona, Paris echo with 'Free Kashmir' & 'Free Palestine' slogans

The streets of Barcelona, in a powerful display of unity, echoed with 'Free Kashmir' and 'Free Palestine' slogans as the Kashmiri diaspora and their allies gathered for the annual 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' march.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the event, organized by leaders such Fahim Kayani of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK, drew attention to the intertwined struggles of Kashmiris and Palestinians for self-determination.

dressing the crowd, stressed the common goal of liberation from illegal occupations. He highlighted the historical ties between the occupied territories, where India and Israel, as occupiers and allies, have faced united resistance. British MP Yasmin

Kashmiris under internaviate the suffering in both Kashmir and Gaza.

Safa Chaudary, a Spanish human rights activist, passionately spoke about the shared resistance against occupation forces in Kashmir and Palestine. She confidently asserted that the oppressors would fail, as the global community stood firmly with the aspirations of both

Turgay Evern, a Turkish songwriter, and various leaders, along with representatives from Pakistan and Spain, reiterated their commitment to the ongoing

JEDDAH (APP): The kistan to the OIC on the pied Jammu and Kashmir Organisation of Islamic occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day". He reiterated the call dures, international media for the full implementation and independent observers of the relevant UN resolutions, which emphasized and Kashmir.

> The secretary-general session of the Council of AlDobeay to the Azad Foreign Ministers held in Jammu and Kashmir. public of Mauritania, the mained fully committed Council urged India to re- to working with all relverse all illegal and unilate evant stakeholders to find

eral measures taken on or a peaceful and just soluafter 5th August 2019; stop tion that respects the widespread human rights the deserving people of

RIYADH: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza unveiled the Fatah-II Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), at World Defense Show (WDS) 2024 in Riyadh.

Solangi says Kashmiris created new history of courage, steadfastness against Indian oppression

not far when they will get

rid of illegal Indian occupa-

tion. He said that at the time

of partition of the subcon-

and Kashmir.

ISLAMABAD (APP): sacrifices of the Kashmiri Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Monday said that every generation of Kashmir had created a new story of courage, bravery and steadfastness by resisting illegal Indian occupation of their

Delivering his speech at Kashmir Solidarity Day rally here he said the people of Kashmir had been raising their voice against slavery since 1931 during the they would join Pakistan or

Paying tributes to the

were constantly raising people, he said their fourth their voice for their right to generation was waging self-determination. struggle against Indian op-The minister strongly pression and the time was

condemning Kashmiris genocide at the hands of Indian occupation forces, said, "India cannot be allowed to turn Kashmir into a graveyard."

tinent, India illegally an-He reiterated, "Pakinexed the state of Jammu stan always stood with the He said, "United Na-Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination tions through its several resolutions had promised to and it would continue its hold a free plebiscite so that moral, diplomatic and pothey can decide whether litical support for their just cause till realization of their dream of freedom from In-

People of IIOJ&K dian clutches. **Work continues on** restoration of diversion on Hub river bridge

Independent Report QUETTA: The work has been started on restoration of the diversion built on the Hub river bridge in Hub, on war footing

According to the Assistant Commissioner Hub, Syed Samiullah Agha, the heavy machinery has been made available at the site after the flood water recedes in the area.

The Assistant Commissioner Hub visited the

site along with Deputy Director of National Highway Authority

Muhammad Sami. Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Commissioner said that work has been started on restoration of the diversion passage of the Hub river affected due to the recent

He said that the administration is taking steps for resolving the public issues in Hub.



LAHORE: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq joints hands with other leaders during demonstration rally to express solidarity with the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day", held at Mall road in Lahore.

General elections should be peaceful in country, insists Senator Allama Sajid Mir

Independent Report Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Senator Allama Sajid Mir has stressed that the upcoming general elections should be conducted peacefully and the democratic government is need of the country.

Senator Sajid Mir was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta press club on Monday.

On the occasion, the candidate of Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Maulana Masood Madni announced to withdraw in favour of JUI Chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman on the NA-265

Senator Sajid Sajid Mir said attempts were made to create hatred in the elections. Referring withdrawal

of candidate of his party,

Sajid Mir mentioned that

drawn his candidature on request of Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri. Referring

Kashmiri solidarity day, Sajid Mir said that the voice of Islamic world on the Kashmir issue is just silent, which is questionable. He stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the resolutions of United Na-

He also condemned the barbarism of Israel against the Palestinians saying that no one took action on the cruelties unleashed against the innocent Pales-

He also stressed the need to resolve the issue of missing persons in the

He urged the concerned authorities to punish those if committed crime against the state.

IPP wants a stable govt after general polls: Tareen

LODHRAN(INP) Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen has said that IPP wanted a stable government after general elections 2024 which must complete its five-year term.

Addressing an election rally in Lodhran on Monday, Jahangir Tareen wished that as a result of the general elections a strong government should be formed as a weak one always caused problems and uncer-

tainty in the country. He said the culture of rumors against the governments in Pakistan is not a good omen and desired a government which must complete its five years in

Jahangir Tareen said this time Lodhran election will be historic and the IPP will win with big margin. Elaborating his political agenda if voted into power, Tareen reaffirmed that his party would work on improving economic indicators to address unemployment as well as increase the salaries of those who are already employed.

Faculty members of Pak, China Vocational **Institute to get** training from China

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan China Vocational and Technical Institute (PCV&TI) has announced to send its faculty members (lecturers and instructors) to China for a 6-month training program in March this year.

Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology, which is among the four stakeholders of the Institute will host the visiting faculty, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. Last month the Institute had hired the services of 16 teachers in fields of Maritime Business and Port Management, Software/Information Technology, Ecommerce, Tourism and Hotel Management, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical engineering, English, Mathmatics, Statistics and Chinese language.

JI to continue unwavering support to freedom struggles of Kashmir, Palestine: Siraj

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JÍ) Pakistan, Siraj-ul-Haq on Monday clarified that party's steadfast commitment to the freedom struggles of Kashmir and Palestine.

the upcoming general elections.

He emphasized the need for a strong political stance and expressed the party's top priority the in-dependence of Kashmir, while talking to PTV News. Siraj-ul-Haq affirmed the unwavering dedication

freedom causes of both Kashmir and Palestine. He urged politicians to adopt a solid stance on the

RAWALPINDI: A convoy of army patrols at Rawal road in the city ahead of

issues of Kashmir and Pal-The JI chief assured that the Pakistani nation would persist in providing

unyielding support to the people of Kashmir.

Responding to a question, he said JI has a com-

prehensive plan for Karachi

terrorist attack on police station in DI Khan ISLAMABAD (APP):

Solangi flays

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the police station in DI Khan on Monday.

In a statement, the caretaker minister ex pressed sorrow over the martyrdom of 10 police personnel in the terrorist incident and condoled with the bereaved families of the

Pakistan Navy rescue 9 Indian seamen stranded at sea

stan Navy in coordination with Pakistan Maritime lives of 9 Indian seamen at

Feb 24, Pakistan Navy Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Center (JMICC) received a distress signal from the Ocean.



registered at St Kitts & Dry; Nevis was disabled for last few days near the Indian coast at a pisition 167 NM South East of Karachi. The tug suffered a failure of its electric generators and had no electrical supply

to initiate a Search & amp; Rescue Operation to provide assistance to the stranded Tug. Initially, PN Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft was tasked to locate the tug at sea followed by a Search and Rescue operation by Pakistan Maritime Security Ship (PMSS) KASHMIR which was deployed on routine Maritime Security Operations in the area.

Upon reaching the distressed Tug, PMSS KASH-MIR secured the Tug alongside and after three hours of strenuous repair efforts the defect was rectified. Besides technical assistance, medical facilities, fresh water and cooked meals were also

ISLAMABAD (APP): Qureshi lent her support, affirming the right to selfdetermination tional law. She pledged to advocate for their cause in the British Parliament and called for a ceasefire to alle-

Fahim Kayani, ad-

ISLAMABAD (PR): Paki-In early morning of 04 PMSA generated response

Security Agency saved the sea. An Ocean Tug SAS-5

mation, Pakistan Navy in coordination with HQ

crew of the Tug