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CM inaugurates Chinese funded projects: Solarization & computer lab projects in educational institutions, libraries and health centers completed

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki formally inaugurated different projects of solarization and computer labs completed with assistance of China, here on Tuesday. The solarization and computer labs have been completed in the educational institutions as well as the public libraries and healthcare centers in 12 different districts of the province.
 The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razzaq, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Chairman Friends of China Forum, Bayazeed Kasi besides other high ups were present on the occasion.
 Addressing the inaugural ceremony, caretaker Chief Minister said that the projects completed with assistance of China would be helpful for welfare of the people. He said that there is a strong bond of friendship and neighbourhood between Pakistan and China. This relationship going to be strengthened further with passage of time, he added. The Chief Minister said that the relations between the two countries are seven decades old and these are well routed.
 He said that the biggest investment of China had been started in Pakistan in form of the CPEC projects. This is a strong chain of the sustainable relations between the two countries, he added.



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OGRA scales up gas tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): OGRA has scaled up sui gas tariff enormously. Tariff of Sui Northern has been increased by 35.1 percent from February 02 and Sui Southern by 8.5 percent.
 OGRA has sent notification on enhancement of tariff to government for implementation.
 According to notification the average cost of gas has been increased from Rs 1238.68 to Rs 1673.82 per MMBTU on Sui Northern system.
 Sui Northern has been allowed to recover more Rs 180 billion from consumers.
 OGRA has enhanced tariff of Sui Southern by 8.5 percent.
 The average cost of Sui Southern gas has been increased from Rs 1350.68 to Rs 1466.40 per MMBTU. Sui Northern has been allowed to recover Rs 48 billion more from the consumers.
 According to notification OGRA failed in getting gas theft ratio reduced from sui gas companies.

Security forces kill two terrorists in N. Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (Online): Two terrorists including terrorist ring leader Ayubullah alias Mansoor were killed in an intelligence based operation by security forces in North Waziristan.
 According to the ISPR, weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities including target killing as well as extortion and abduction of innocent civilians.
 Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist in the area.
 Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

4.4 earthquake tremors felt in Khuzdar, adjoining areas

QUETTA (INP): An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale jolted Khuzdar and its adjoining areas on Tuesday, no casualties were reported so far.
 According to the seismological center, the depth of the earthquake was 24 kilometers, while the epicenter was southwest of Khuzdar, a private news channel reported. People came out of their houses in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba. However, no loss of life or damage to property has been reported from any part of Khuzdar so far.

Backwardness, poverty issues to be removed by using proper resources: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has regretfully pointed out that our collective nature problems are aggravating due to ever increasing population and human needs.
 Under the given situation, there is a need to prepare comprehensive strategy to create balance between the human needs and resources as we can move ahead by ensuring better use of the resources and discipline, stressed the Governor while speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.
 The Governor said that the situation is worst and complex just by ignoring the issues of poverty and backwardness in the past.
 He spoke at length about the importance and utilization of the ongoing development projects by the federal and provincial governments, and said that the public issues are increased manifold if the projects are not completed well in time on one hand, while on the other hand, the cost of projects are also increased manifold.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about arrangement for holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in the province

Best arrangements made to ensure peaceful election, PM Kakar tells international observers

Says now it is the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote; Caretaker government has fulfilled its responsibilities.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that despite numerous challenges, the best possible arrangements had been made to ensure peaceful and seamless conduct of elections on polling day, across the country.
 He was talking to a delegation of the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG), led by former President of Nigeria Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was part of the COG's interaction with various stakeholders ahead of the upcoming general elections on 8th February, 2024.
 The prime minister welcomed the COG delegation and said that Pakistan was proud to honour its commitment as a Commonwealth member state by inviting independent international observers to witness the general elections.
 He also highlighted that the caretaker government had fulfilled its responsibilities to run the day-to-day

affairs of the state and create a conducive environment ahead of the elections.
 Now it was the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote, he added.
 Goodluck Ebele Jonathan thanked the caretaker prime minister and conveyed best wishes of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland. He said the COG delegation would be visiting various polling sites throughout the country to observe the election process.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet, in the Federal Capital.

US continuing to monitor Pakistan's electoral process closely: State Dept

ISLAMABAD (APP): With just two days to go for Pakistan's general elections, the United States is continuing to monitor the country's electoral process "quite closely", a State Department spokesperson said Monday.
 The department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel, said, "We're continuing to monitor Pakistan's electoral process quite closely, and as we have said, we want to see that process takes place in a way that facilitates broad participation with respect for freedom of expression, assembly, and associations." Patel stressed that Pakistanis are entitled to free and fair elections. "Pakistanis deserve to exercise their fundamental right to choose their future leaders through free and fair elections without fear, violence, or intimidation, and it is ultimately for the people of Pakistan to decide their political future," the spokesperson said.

Thanks to caretaker Chief Minister Computerized arm licenses and succession certificates launched in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has inaugurated the computerized arm licenses and succession certificates and successions certificates in the province in order to facilitate the people in getting the legal documents.
 The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Home Department Balochistan and NADRA high ups.
 Also present on the occasion were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razzaq, Director General NADRA, Mir Alam Khan and other high ups.
 Expressing delight over launch of the computerized arm licenses and succession certificates, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the process has been started from now. This would create ease for the people to get these legal documents, he said adding that prevention of the fake documentation would be ensured about the same besides ensuring prompt online verification of the documents.

Nawaz vows to make Pakistan 'Asian Tiger'

KASUR (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif says he will make the country an 'Asian Tiger' as the youth is supporting the former ruling party.



Addressing a rally on the last day of the election campaign in Khudian, the former prime minister said, "If our government were in power, every person here would have a job."
 "We have to come out of this era; we have to make the country an 'Asian Tiger'. Shehbaz Sharif should utilise this passion for Pakistan and change the country's destiny," said Nawaz.
 The PML-N leader said that their government would build roads in Khudian better than those in Paris; there should be universities for the youth here, and they should have laptops and computers in their hands.
 Nawaz Sharif said that their government would provide jobs to the youth of Khudian.

Conduct of free, fair & peaceful election to be made successful at every cost, maintains CS

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the interim provincial government is fully ready to conduct the general elections in the province.
 He reiterated the government's resolve to make conduct of the free, fair and peaceful elections successful at every cost.

He directed the concerned high ups to install close circuit TV (CCTV) cameras at the highly sensitive polling stations.
 The Chief Secretary was chairing a high level meeting on preparations of the general elections in the province, here at the Provincial Control Room on Tuesday.
 The Chief Secretary visited the Provincial Control

Room established in the Information Department for monitoring of the elections in Balochistan.
 Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary vowed that we have to make conduct of the free, fair and peaceful elections successful at every cost.
 He on the occasion directed to install the CCTV cameras at highly sensitive polling stations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing a press conference, in Islamabad.

Gohar Ejaz pledges to ensure robust security for upcoming polls-2024

Over 120mln to exercise right of vote to elect representatives: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, on Tuesday expressed his commitment to ensure robust security for upcoming general elections scheduled to be held on February 8.
 Speaking at a joint press conference, he outlined the government's comprehensive preparations in place for the upcoming elections.
 The minister was flanked by Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, and Federal Secretary for Interior, Aftab Akbar Durrani.
 Highlighting the security measures, Dr. Ejaz assured that there would be no compromise on maintaining law and order during the elections.
 He underscored the collaboration between security agencies and the administration to prevent any unlawful interference.
 Dr Ejaz emphasized the presence of trained commandos in Balochistan and the support of the armed forces in ensuring the safety of the electoral process.
 Providing an overview of the election preparations, the interior minister shared that out of 90,777 polling stations across the country, 44,000 were declared normal, 29,985 deemed sensitive, and 16,766 labeled as highly sensitive. He reassured the public that security would be deployed in three levels, with 7 to 8 law enforcers stationed at each polling station.
 Despite concerns and challenges, Dr. Ejaz expressed hope for a "transparent", and peaceful election.
 He urged the public to exercise their right to vote with confidence, acknowledging the dedication of the 511,000-strong police force guarding the polling stations.
 The minister recounted his visits to Karachi and Balochistan, addressing specific challenges in each region.

Politics of 'hate' puts country into trouble: Bilawal Bhutto

LARKANA (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto



Larkana becomes the prime minister, the country becomes a nuclear power and the country develops by leaps and bounds.
 "People should give me votes as the country has not seen a Larkana PM for a long time," he added.
 The PPP chief said the economy suffered immeasurably due to the stubbornness and ego of the old politicians as they have introduced the abuse culture in politics. He said, "people are well aware who wants to become PM for the fourth time despite getting enough opportunity to provide people the basic necessities."
 "When a person from

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Terrorism challenge

The new government that takes over after Thursday's general election will have the briefest of honeymoon periods, with the immediate task of formulating a cogent counterterrorism policy lying before it. Acts of terrorism continue unabated, particularly targeting police and military personnel, as the attack on the Chaudhwan police station in KP's D.I. Khan early on Monday shows. At least 10 police personnel were martyred in the attack, which officials say was launched from multiple directions by over 30 terrorists.

A military check post in nearby Daraban was stormed by militants last December, causing over 20 fatalities. That was apparently the deadliest single attack on military men last year. The Daraban atrocity was claimed by the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan, an alibi used by the banned TTP, which emerged last year.

This particular part of KP, as well as neighbouring areas of Balochistan and Punjab, were beset by terrorist violence throughout 2023. The new administration needs to ensure this grim trend does not continue in the current year. Overall, 2023 was a blood-soaked year, with some figures citing over 1,500 terrorism-related fatalities.

The challenge is two-tiered: to secure Pakistan and ensure no part of the country is available for terrorist outfits to establish themselves, while the other goal must be to prevent militants from creating sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

The new government, together with the security establishment and provincial set-ups, must hammer out a failsafe plan to secure the country, particularly those parts of KP and Balochistan suffering from frequent terrorist attacks.

The basic structure exists in the form of the National Action Plan. The key is to update it as per the requirements of the day, and implement it. Furthermore, dealing with militancy should be a one-window operation, preferably led by Nacta with input from all stakeholders.

As for the issue of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan, the UN has validated Pakistan's concerns about training camps on Afghan soil used by Al Qaeda and the TTP to foment trouble in Pakistan. The Afghan Taliban need to shut down these facilities, or else bilateral ties will suffer. Either the Taliban should stop the attacks or relocate terrorists away from the Pakistani border so that they are not able to spill blood in this country. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson recently remarked that the Afghan Taliban need to "firmly combat all forms of terrorist forces". This is the message that should be communicated from Islamabad, Beijing and all other regional capitals to Kabul's current rulers. Unless the new dispensation in Islamabad tackles terrorism head-on, economic stability and social cohesion will be very difficult to achieve. The security forces should also dedicate all their energies to eliminating the terrorist threat, and protecting the lives of civil and military personnel on the front line.

Will of the people

Rida Hosain

In his autobiography Friends Not Masters, Ayub Khan wrote "our people are mostly uneducated and our politicians not so scrupulous. The people are capable of doing great things, but they can also be easily misled. Unfettered democracy can, therefore, prove dangerous". As is the case with most dictators, the field marshal held deep disdain for politicians, as well as the judgement of the masses.

This utterly misguided narrative carries on, the essence of which is that the people simply do not know what is good for them.

Historically, those interfering in the democratic process always find a justification, ie, political and economic stability, good governance, peace and order, or the 'genius' of the people. Every supposed 'reason' is a cover for undemocratic interventions, whether overt or covert.

There is no past wrong which justifies the dismantling going on today. The Constitution guarantees that every citizen shall have the right to form or be a member of a political party. The courts have held that the right to form a political party includes the right to function as a political party. In violation of these rights, across provinces, there has been a crackdown on PTI workers. Attempts have been made to disrupt the election campaign of PTI candidates. Even virtual events have been met with internet disruption.

The maintenance of public order laws have been used to keep politicians in custody. In the detailed judgement setting aside various detention orders, Justice Babar Sattar observed that between May and September 2023, the "over-

whelming majority" of detainees were either leaders or members of the PTI. "Of the detention orders that were challenged before Islamabad High Court, not one order has been upheld as having been passed in accordance with law," per Justice Sattar. Not one detention order. Either the deputy commissioner would withdraw the detention order, or the court would set it aside, or the detention period would lapse.

For anyone living in Pakistan this past year, it would be no surprise that the ECP took particular interest in the PTI's intra-party elections. The Peshawar High Court rightly restored PTI's election symbol, and held that the ECP could not question the intra-party election process. Instead of accepting the decision of the Peshawar High Court, the ECP was so determined that it took the matter right up to the Supreme Court.

Then, in a quest to supposedly uphold democracy within political parties, the Supreme Court was seen to undermine the electoral process in the country. It found that PTI failed to hold intra-party elections, and would, therefore, lose its election symbol. The most inexplicable part of this decision was that the law does not expressly contemplate depriving a political party of its election symbol on account of intra-party elections. This decision has done nothing except hurt the ordinary voter. This was not a case about an individual or a political party, it was about the disenfranchisement of millions of voters. Weeks after this regrettable decision, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was entirely correct in holding, "electoral laws must be interpreted in favour of enfranchisement rather than disenfranchisement".

Mere days before the elections, convictions in one case after another are being announced. In the cipher case, Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were denied the right to be represented by the counsel of their choice, and, instead, represented by state counsel. In the Toshakhana reference, the judge closed the right to cross-examine witnesses. At the heart of a fair trial is the right to be represented by the counsel of one's choice, and to properly defend oneself. Hearings have been conducted well past court hours, and the great urgency with which these convictions are being announced is beyond any reasonable justification. It is clear that there has been no fair, impartial process in these cases.

The conviction in the 'unlawful marriage' case manifests the tragic extent of the weaponisation of justice. Unjustifiable aspersions have been cast on a woman's character, and individuals have been forced into a courtroom to defend private decisions they made. The decision attacks the right to dignity, which the Constitution and the Supreme Court distinctly provide is an absolute right. There can be no restrictions on the right to dignity. Those adamant on overriding the will of the people continue with their dismantling, instil fear, mock the voter, and make it seem that it is not worth one's while to exercise their right to vote. But everyone must cast their vote on Feb 8. It is the day the people have a chance to make their voice heard, and for the future of our country, it is something we must all do. -- Courtesy Dawn

Poll manifestos

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Elections can rejuvenate nations if they are fair, parties present strong ideas and teams to the masses competitively and the winners have a strong mandate to take the country forward. Thursday's polls may be among our most rigged, more so after Imran Khan's dubious convictions last week. Opinion polls suggest a hung assembly. Thus, we may have a rigged and weak new government. This leaves the issue of whether parties have strong ideas and teams.

To convince discerning voters, party manifestos must present an in-depth analysis of why people suffer on account of major issues and the best way of addressing them permanently. In the current scenario, where we face huge economic and security challenges and, with the rest of the world, the impact of climate change, there must be a special focus on these areas. I reviewed the 2024 manifestos of the PTI, PML-N and PPP on such key points. All three were issued days before the elections, reflecting the limited role ideas play in our polls as against catchy slogans and patronage flows. But all are better than their 2018 iterations in terms of length, presentation and coverage. This is especially credible for the PTI, which has the longest and most comprehensive one, despite the state crackdown it faces.

The shortest is the PML-N's, much of it wasted on large Sharif photos. It is bereft of any in-depth analysis of the root causes of our long-term or current problems, jumping straight into sectoral promises. The PTI's and PPP's contain preambles that mention inequities as a root cause

of our problems and reflect on our economic and security problems. As expected, the PTI's reflects heavy religious ideology, but without linking it to concrete policies. The PPP's reflects no ideology despite its pro-poor rhetoric, its socialist origins mixed long ago.

The PPP's is the weakest on concrete economic ideas. It promises the sky on increasing income, social services and housing, and aims to increase investment and tax revenues for this purpose. But it hardly contains any concrete ideas on how it would do so. The other two present more meso-level concrete ideas in some economic areas. The PML-N talks rightly of merging investment, industries and commerce to create a ministry of economy, which must also include planning and IT. The PTI and PML-N both have some concrete proposals for exports, investment, industry, etc. However, they fall short of a new and coherent economic strategy that can remove the threat of default and high inflation to attain sustainable and equitable progress. All three lack strong economic teams to translate ideas into successful strategies. The PTI has lost its capacity due to the crackdown it faces, while PML-N has alienated talent by its family-centric politics.

The three say little on our second biggest threat, insecurity due to terrorism by TTP and Baloch militants, or their root causes such as societal extremism and genuine Baloch complaints. The PPP talks of its Balochistan package that proved inadequate even the last time. But there is little talk by the parties on solving Baloch complaints or talking to Baloch groups or end-

ing societal extremism. On the mother of all our problems — civilian supremacy — the PML-N has removed the mild talk of its 2018 manifesto but now PTI includes it mildly. Our Constitution needs an overhaul as many anomalies have been unearthed in it in recent years. But the three only mention limited changes. Lack of space does not let me review the other areas in their manifestos. Readers must read them to form informed views.

If the larger parties lack strong ideas, what is the alternative? The manifestos of small leftist outfits like the Awami Workers Party, National Democratic Movement and Haqooq-i-Khalq party provide detailed analysis of the root causes of deprivation due to inequities embedded in capitalism. But as small and new parties with limited resources, they need more time to develop concrete ideas and field large numbers of candidates who can win. So, their impact on these polls will be minimal, though I will still vote for them. Readers are encouraged to look more closely at such parties. Thus, we may get a weak and rigged new regime that lacks strong ideas and teams and is heavily dependent on the security establishment and other elites. It will lack the strong links to or mandate from the masses to challenge elites and make fundamental changes in our elite-dominated political and economic order. So, we may go from one weak and rigged hybrid regime to another that adds to our mounting problems and kicks the can further into the future. This cannot go on forever and ultimately there may be a crash landing. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Minister inaugurates country's first e-Rozgar Center

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday inaugurated the country's first e-Rozgar Center in collaboration of Excel Consulting Services.

The center boasts around 100 workstations fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities tailored for freelancers, with plans to expand to 300 workstations in the future. Additional Secretary

MoITT Ayesha Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, Project Director Amir Ahmed, Chairman EC Services, Nazir Qureshi, officials from MoITT, NTS, PSEB and a large number of freelancers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Umar Saif said that with the establishment of the center, the project of setting up 10,000 e-rozgar centers across the country now begun officially.

"We have also

fulfilled another promise made to the people, where a significant number from the existing 1.5 million and upcoming new freelancers can work independently at very low rates" the minister said.

He said, the best facilities including high-speed internet, UPS, training centers, individual cabins, meeting rooms and separate office rooms for start-ups had been provided to freelancers.

The minister said that with the completion of the

great project, IT exports would be increased soon by \$10 billion annually and under public-private partnership, these centers would also be able to significantly increase the capacity and income of freelancers. He said, the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) would be responsible for providing freelancers and required technical support for these centers. Dr. Umar Saif said that as promised, e-rozgar centers in other cities were also nearing completion.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a group photo with the organizers and participants of the event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif inaugurates Pakistan's First Private Sector E-Rozgar Center managed by EC Services in association with NTS.

Zong 4G holds Annual Business Conference to set strategic roadmap for 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): During the Annual Business Conference, focused on the theme "Elevate Core Capabilities, Strive for Excellence," Zong 4G celebrated its notable accomplishments in 2023 and revealed its strategic roadmap for 2024. The Chairman and CEO, Huo Junli praised the employees for their exceptional efforts that resulted in the company's positive growth, creating over 47 million satisfied and happy customers.

Huo Junli reaffirmed that Zong 4G's industry success is attributed to the unwavering commitment and resilience of its employees,

propelling the company to greater heights. Even in challenging times, Zong's dedication to placing its employees at the forefront of its operations was strengthened, accompanied by various initiatives for their well-being.

"Furthermore, he said that in 2024, the company must sustain the momentum of digital and intelligent transformation to achieve the vision of a Digital Pakistan. The commitment extends to actively contributing to the high-quality joint development of the 'Belt and Road' and the 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor'.

FESCO to ensure uninterrupted power supply on election day

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has chalked out a plan to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all polling station areas on general elections 2024. FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said on Tuesday the company had set up a monitoring cell at FESCO Headquarters where Chief Executive Officer Engineer Muhammad Amir would monitor all electricity related issues. He said that circle officers and SEs of all circles were issued necessary directions to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across the region on election day.

'Safer Internet Day' PTADG stresses public awareness to protect Info on digital accounts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Ahmed Shamim Pirzada Tuesday on 'Safer Internet Day' emphasized to create media awareness among the general public for the responsible and safe use of social media platforms.

Talking to the PTV news, he said that while acknowledging the digital impact on children, the PTA is dedicated to

ensuring a safer internet that meets their educational needs and promotes positive online interactions, adding that the public urged to refrain from clicking on links from unknown numbers as well as unknown senders.

"Keeping the digital safe is a shared responsibility, and all the stakeholders need to come together to keep the dialogue alive on creating a safer space for children," he added.

Pak earns US \$280m from travel services' export in Jul-Nov

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$280.981 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a decrease of 19.03 percent as compared to the US \$347.001 million worth same services provided during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months

under review, personal travel services also decreased by 19.80 percent, from US \$344.211 million last year to US \$276.071 million during July-November 2023. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure rose by 372.48 percent while the education-related expenditure increased by 83.25 percent.

In addition, the other personal services witnessed a decline of 22.31 percent.

President Alvi directs Postal Life to pay Rs 5 mln to heirs of insurance policyholder

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Tuesday directed Postal Life Insurance to pay the death insurance claim of Rs 5 million to the legal heirs of the deceased policyholder within 30 days.

He gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) against the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib directing it to pay the death insurance claim, a President Secretariat press release said.

As per details, complainant Abdul Aziz's

deceased father had obtained an insurance policy from PLI for the sum assured of Rs 5 million against an annual premium of Rs 448,600 in 2010.

After his father died in 2015, PLI refused to pay the death insurance claim on the pretext that the deceased had concealed material facts about his date of birth and the pre-insurance ailment of diabetes at the time of obtaining the insurance policy.

Feeling aggrieved, the son (complainant) filed a

complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib to seek relief. Wafaqi Mohtasib held that the deceased had purchased the insurance policy as per his date of birth mentioned on CNIC and that PLI had issued the insurance policy after accepting the requisite information.

The Mohtasib held that the denial by the insurance agency to honour the claim of the complainant amounted to maladministration.

Afterwards, PLI filed a representation against this decision with the president.

SBP announces public holiday on February 8

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, Tuesday, announced a public holiday on February 8, 2024 to facilitate voters on the polling day.

The central bank, in a statement issued here, stated that SPB will remain closed on February 8, 2024 (Thursday) being a public holiday in the country as notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan to enable the voters to exercise their right of franchise freely and conveniently in General Election, 2024.

PSX stays bullish, gains 796 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 796.10 points, a positive change of 1.26 per cent, closing at 63,799.02 points against 63,002.92 points the previous trading day.

A total of 330,921,598 shares valuing Rs 15,195 billion were traded during the day as compared to 263,547,879 shares valuing Rs. 10,730 billion the last day.

Some 336 companies transacted their shares in

the stock market; 230 of them recorded gains and 79 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 27 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were PIAC(A) with 47,061,500 shares at Rs.10.84 per share, Oil and Gas Development with 23,123,662 shares at Rs.155.57 per share and Cnergyco PK with 21,272,911 shares at Rs.4.15 per share. Marri Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.77.73 per share price, closing at Rs.2,316.57.

CM chairs meeting on election preparations, emphasises transparency, security measures

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting at the Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday to discuss election arrangements in the province.

Addressing the attendees, Naqvi emphasized that internet and mobile services will remain operational throughout the province on election day without interruption. He instructed for the commencement of city cleaning activities immediately after dawn on February 9, with banners and posters to be removed from all areas by the end of the day. Secretaries concerned were tasked with monitoring the

removal process and reporting the completion of the task by evening on February 9.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, Naqvi urged district administrative officers to actively oversee election duties in the field.

He noted the installation of 32,000 CCTV cameras at polling stations and emphasized the need to complete the installation by midnight. Naqvi commended the Punjab government for saving 1 billion rupees in the procurement of CCTV cameras.

Emphasising adherence to SOPs and the Election Commission's code of conduct, Naqvi directed for the activation

of control rooms and the establishment of an efficient complaint redressal mechanism.

He stressed that ensuring peaceful and fair elections is a national responsibility, urging everyone to work together as a team.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Punjab, Inspector General Police, Provincial Election Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary, Interior Secretary, Secretaries from Local Government, Transport, Finance, CCPO, MD Punjab Safe Cities Authority, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner, and other officials.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi being presented "Karpan" by representative of Sikh Community during his visit to Kartarpur.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Kartarpur Corridor

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the Kartarpur Corridor and explored various artifacts related to Baba Guranank Dev Ji.

Provincial ministers, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, and senior officers, also accompanied the CM. They were received and warmly welcomed by prominent members of the Sikh community at Gurudwara Sahib, said a handout issued here.

During his visit, the chief minister received a briefing on Gurudwara Sahib Kartarpur and participated in the prayer ceremony, also taking time to observe

the historical well. He was honored and presented with a 'kirpan', and interacted with members of the Sikh community from India, including Lalita Agarwal from Delhi, who expressed gratitude for the facilities provided to the Sikh community in Punjab.

Posing for photographs with the Sikh community, the CM extended compassion towards a special person, engaging in a lengthy conversation. He made a special visit to the 'Langar Hall', where he dined with the Sikh community, commending the quality of the food and personally rewarding the cooks.



MIRO KHAN: Peoples Party (PPP) Candidate for PS-15 Constituency, Nisar Ahmed Khuuro addresses to gathering during a corner meeting as a part of election campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Miro Khan.

CM KP chairs meeting Cabinet takes number of decisions pertaining to issues of day-to-day affairs of Province

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Caretaker Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met here Tuesday afternoon under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Syed Arshad Hussain Shah to take a large number of decisions pertaining to the issues of day-to-day affairs of the Province and of urgent nature.

The cabinet approved the hiring of transactional Advisor / Legal Consultant for negotiations of agreements regarding private public partnerships with different entities and in this regard authorized the office of Advocate General of the Province.

It approved exemption from section 22-A of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act 2012 enabling the Provincial Culture and Tourism Department to out-source the PTDC properties under Public Private Partnership mode. As a result of 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010 Federal Ministry of Tourism having been devolved to the provinces, 19 different properties of PTDC were handed over to the Tourism Department of the Province. The outsourcing of these properties to local and international investors will be made under the guidance of Special Investment Facilitation Council.



LAHORE: Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Anwar Chauhan addressing a press briefing in the Provincial Election Office.

CS, IGP inspect polling arrangements in Haripur

PESHAWAR (APP): To ensure the peaceful conduct of general election, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP, Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Monday paid a visit to Haripur district.

On the occasion DPO Haripur, Muhammad Umar Khan, DC Haripur, Khan Muhammad, SP Investigation Haripur, Amjad Hussain and district officers were present on the occasion, said an official press release.

DPO Haripur Muhammad Umar Khan gave a detailed briefing to the CS and IGP on the security arrangements for the general election.

The Chief Secretary and IGP paid a visit to the polling station established at Post Graduate College Haripur and inspected the security arrangements.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administration to ensure a peaceful atmosphere and conduct of free, fair and transparent polling on the election day.

MS chairs meeting regarding general election arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): The Medical Superintendent (MS) of Liaquat University Medical Superintendent Hyderabad Jamsoro has said that regarding the general elections 2024 to be held across the country.

Addressing the meeting with In-charges of different department he said that on the directives of the Director General Health Hyderabad circular has been issued regarding cancellation holidays of all civil

hospitals Hyderabad and Jamsoro doctors, paramedical and nursing staff including other employees of the hospital have been immediately cancelled. Action will also be taken against the staff who are late on duty.

MS Dr Shahid Islam Junejo directed the In-charges of all the departments present in the meeting and said that they should ensure the presence of all the necessary equipment in the accident.

Dr Jamal inaugurates renovation work of BBH nursing college

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday said that Rs 65 million would be spent on the renovation of the Nursing Hostel while repaving the College of Nursing would be completed at the cost of Rs 40 mln.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the renovation of the Nursing Hostel and College of Nursing at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH).

Dr Jamal said that the College of Nursing would be completed in a month while the renovation work of Nursing Hostel would be completed in April.

Later, the provincial minister visited Holy Family Hospital (HFH) along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha. He said that after the completion of the revamping and renovation work of the hospital, immediate steps were being taken to activate the PEADS and Gynecology wards of the HFH at the earliest.

The minister informed that as many as 100 hospitals had been renovated across the Punjab province.

Preparations complete for general elections in Punjab: Ijaz Chohan

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Punjab Ijaz Anwar Chohan said on Tuesday that all preparations had been finalized for general elections in Punjab.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that printing of ballot papers had been completed and delivered to all district returning officers in the province.

He said that on February 7, the returning officers would ensure the receiving of election material, including ballot

papers, by the presiding officers, besides polling stations' readiness.

He said that security, communication and transport plans had been chalked out for the elections, adding that police and army personnel would perform duties to maintain law and order at polling stations.

He emphasized the Election Commission's commitment to fulfilling its constitutional obligations, highlighting ongoing efforts to enhance the electoral process.

International News

Blinken seeks progress on Gaza cease-fire-for-hostages deal in meetings with Egyptian mediators

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Cairo on Tuesday for a meeting with Egyptian leaders that U.S. officials said would concentrate on negotiating a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war in exchange for the release of hostages held by the militants.

Blinken's visit also comes amid growing concerns in Egypt about Israel's stated intentions to expand the combat in Gaza to areas on the Egyptian border that are crammed with displaced Palestinians.

Israel's defense minister has said Israel's offensive will eventually reach the town of Rafah, on the Egyptian border, where

more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have sought refuge and are now living in increasingly miserable conditions. U.N. humanitarian monitors said Tuesday that Israeli evacuation orders now cover two-thirds of Gaza's territory, driving thousands more people every day toward the border areas.

Egypt has warned that an Israeli deployment along the border would threaten the peace treaty the two countries signed over four decades ago. Egypt fears an expansion of combat to the Rafah area could push terrified Palestinian civilians across the border, a scenario Egypt has said it is determined to prevent. Blinken, who was

meeting Tuesday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, has said repeatedly that Palestinians must not be forced out of Gaza. During his latest trip, Blinken is seeking progress on a cease-fire deal, on potential normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and on preventing an escalation of regional fighting.

On all three fronts, Blinken faces major challenges. Hamas and Israel are publicly at odds over key elements of a potential truce. Israel has dismissed the United States' calls for a path to a Palestinian state, and Iran's militant allies in the region have shown little sign of being deterred by U.S. strikes.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Lusail Palace, in Doha, Qatar.

8 dead, 80 injured in India fireworks factory explosion: officials

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least eight people died and 80 were injured on Tuesday in a giant explosion at a fireworks factory in India that saw balls of flames soar into the sky, officials said.

Footage on Indian television showed a tower of flame after the explosion at the firecracker plant, with dozens of ambulances sent and army helicopters called in to evacuate the wounded.

Senior district police official Rajeshwari Mahobia told AFP there were "eight deaths so far and around 80 injured", at the factory in Harda in Madhya Pradesh state, adding that "the death toll is likely to go up".

Images from the factory site showed a wasteland of blackened and smoking rubble.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said reports of the explosion were "very sad news" and said medics at burn units in nearby major hospitals were called to make "necessary preparations".

"Ambulances are being rushed to Harda from the surrounding areas, and the army has been contacted to arrange for helicopters," Yadav said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. At least 20 ambulances were at the site, with 50 more being sent to help those injured, he added. Manish Sharma, a surgeon at the Harda district hospital, said the centre was flooded with a stream of casualties. "We have eight deaths at our hospital, a total of 90 people were admitted here so far and we have referred 15 of them to a bigger hospital."



Rain falls over cars stuck by a mudslide, caused by an ongoing rain storm in Studio City, California.

UN chief sets up body to probe Israeli allegations

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres established an independent body on Monday to scrutinize allegations regarding neutrality of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Guterres, in consultation with UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini, has assigned the leadership of this crucial review to Catherine Colonna, a former foreign affairs minister of France. The panel will collaborate with three reputable research organizations — the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden, the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Norway, and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In a statement released in New York, the UN chief emphasised the importance of this review, stating, "The Review Group's mandate is to assess whether the Agency is doing everything within its power to ensure neutrality and to respond to allegations of serious breaches when they are made."

Two-state solution only path to peace, Scholz tells Netanyahu

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a phone call on Monday that a two-state solution with the Palestinians was the only path to lasting peace in the region.

"From the view of the government, only a negotiated two-state solution would open up the prospect of a sustainable solution to the Middle East conflict. This must apply to both Gaza and the West Bank," Scholz said, according to a statement issued by his spokesman.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with his counterpart from the UAE Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Russia said on Monday.

The presidents discussed the situation around Ukraine and Gaza and agreed on the "further development of friendly relations".

Ukraine's Donetsk region pounded by up to 2,500 Russian strikes daily - governor

Monitoring Desk
DONETSK REGION: Russia is firing between 1,500 and 2,500 shells and rockets at Ukraine's war-ravaged Donetsk region every day and is targeting critical infrastructure to make it harder for people to remain there in winter, its governor told Reuters.

The eastern province, 57% of which is occupied by Russia, has been at the forefront of war since 2014, when Russian-backed proxies seized the region's capital city, also called Donetsk, as well as many other large towns.

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022, this has been where many of the war's most vicious and protracted battles have occurred.

"The enemy shells (the region) from 1,500 to 2,500 times a day," Governor Vadym Filashkin said in an interview on Friday, adding he believed Moscow was still aiming to capture the entire region.

"The enemy's shelling is this dense, this heavy, almost every day."

The governor said the Kurakhove power plant, one of the region's few remaining large-scale sources of electricity generation, had been forced to close a week ago due to Russian shelling. He said this was part of a wider campaign.

"The enemy is trying to destroy critical infrastructure objects so that people find it difficult to remain in the region in winter."

Filashkin said the town of Avdiivka, home to the largest coking plant in Europe and the target of a massive Russian assault since October last year, was "95-98% gone." "The enemy dropped about 200 guided aerial bombs on Avdiivka alone over the (last month). They are totally destroying it," he said.

Local authorities say the number of civilians in the town has dwindled to less than 1,000.

Police shoot dead two 'terrorists' outside Istanbul court: minister

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkish police on Tuesday shot dead a man and a woman belonging to a leftist "terrorist" organisation who attacked a security checkpoint outside Istanbul's main courthouse, injuring six people, officials said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the assailants were members of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) — a fringe leftist group that has staged periodic attacks in Turkey since the 1980s. The group issued no initial claim of responsibility. "While the terrorists who attempted to attack were neutralised, six people, including three police officers and three citizens, were injured," Yerlikaya said in a social media statement.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said "heroic police officers prevented a treacherous attack", adding that prosecutors had launched a "multi-faceted investigation". Images from the scene showed two bodies lying on the ground outside the main entrance of the Caglayan courthouse.

Over 100 Palestinians martyred by Israeli forces in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
GAZA (Online): More than one hundred Palestinians have been martyred in unabated Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip during the last twenty four hours. According to medical sources, thousands of civilians are buried under the rubble, but the Israeli forces are blocking access of ambulance crews and civil defense teams attempting to reach them. They said that the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip had resulted in the deaths.

Britain's King Charles diagnosed with cancer: Buckingham Palace

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's King Charles has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and the 75-year-old will postpone public-facing duties while he undergoes treatment, Buckingham Palace said on Monday.

Charles, who became king in September 2022 following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, is "wholly positive" about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible, the palace said.

Charles spent three nights in the hospital last month where he underwent a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate.

The palace said a separate issue of concern was spotted during the hospital visit but did not give any further details beyond saying the king had a "form of cancer". A royal source said that it was not prostate cancer. "His majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties."

UK-owned cargo ship damaged in drone attack off Yemen

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI (INP): A British-owned cargo ship was damaged in a drone attack off rebel-held Yemen, a maritime security firm said on Tuesday, the latest in dozens of incidents in the Red Sea.

The Barbados-flagged ship "reportedly incurred minor damage on the port side" in an attack west of Hodeida, British firm Ambrey said, adding that there were no injuries.

Maryam urges political forces to bury politics of hate, revenge

KASUR (INP): Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz has urged all political forces of the country to make collective efforts for 'burying politics of hate and revenge'.

While addressing a public gathering in Kasur on Tuesday, she asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers to set aside the politics of hate and think for larger interest of country.

Maryam Nawaz while thanking the people of Kasur for their continuous support for PML-N said that she and her father Mian Nawaz Sharif faced political victimization during the last 6 to 7 years. Every line was crossed to punish Nawaz Sharif and to

wipe him out of the political arena, she added.

Those who wanted to end the political career of Nawaz Sharif failed as today the politics is beginning and ending in the former premier's name, she added.

The Senior Vice President of PML-N also appealed to the masses to vote for PML-N on February 8. She promised that the process of development projects that was halted after ousting Nawaz Sharif from power would be revived again.

It must be noted that the election campaign by political parties and independents concluded across the country at Tuesday-Wednesday for the general elections to be held on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Common Wealth Observer Group for General Election H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan along with the delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Aurat Foundation emphasizes: Women ought to cast votes in elections on wholeheartedly

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Aurat Foundation has emphasized that the women should cast their votes in the general elections to be held on February 8 in the country.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the Regional Director of AF has stated that the candidates had imposed ban on casting of votes by the women in some constituencies and polling stations of the province in past.

As a result they had been deprived of using their right of franchise, which is

an undemocratic process, he added.

It had been further stated that it is also duty of all political parties, claimants of the democracy, to provide opportunities to women to caste votes in large number so that they may play their effective role in the country's democratic system and decision and policy making.

The women were also urged to play their positive role for supremacy of democracy by using their right of franchise in the elections.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

People of Hub will not be afraid of bomb blasts, bullying threats: Zehri

Anti-people terrorist elements will not be allowed to terrorize innocent people with bomb blasts & succeed in their nefarious purposes

Independent Report
HUB: The zealous and brave people of HUB cannot be intimidated by bomb blasts and hideous tactics of terrorism.

These views were expressed by the senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and President of Hub district and former President Asif Ali Zardari's spokesperson for Balochistan, PB21 Hub candidate Mir Ali Hassan Zehri strongly condemned the bomb attack on the office of Pakistan Peoples Party in Hub.

Expressing his anger over the injury of innocent children and other people in the bomb attack, he said that the cowardly actions of the defeated anti-people elements cannot intimidate the people. The people have decided to change their destiny and the sun of February 8 will rise with a new thought.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Senior Vice President, Sajid Tareen Advocate addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki attending a MoU signing ceremony between Provincial Government and NADRA to start Computerized Weapon License

CDWP recommends Rs 23.8b project for automated indus basin irrigation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), has recommended Rs 23.8 billion project for automated Indus Basin Irrigation system.

The CDWP was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission,

Dr. Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

The CDWP discussed vital projects related to the energy, transport and communication, and water resource sectors. The forum also recommended the revised PC-1 titled Installation of Telemetry System for Real Time Discharge Monitoring at 27 key sites

on Indus Basin Irrigation system, presented by the Ministry of Water Resources with a total cost of Rs. 23,834,707 million, to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration.

Indus Basin Irrigation system is proposed to be financed through PSDP. Rs.500 million would be sponsored by IRSA through its resources. The project is under the ownership of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), with execution responsibilities given to the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). After two year post completion period, IRSA will take over the operation and maintenance of this transformative venture.

Currently, the Indus Basin Irrigation water management system operates on manual procedures. Decisions regarding water distribution rely on manual calculations at barges and information obtained through traditional means like phone or fax. The absence of automated monitoring system has led to a situation where gate positions are unknown, causing control issues for provincial irrigation departments and potential inter-provincial disputes.

To address these challenges, IRSA plans to install state-of-the-art telemetry equipment at 27 key locations.

Eight-member Russian poll observers visits ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The eight-member Election Observer Group from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, led by Chairman Andrey Maximov, visited the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to meet with Secretary Dr. Syed Asif Hussain and others.

Secretary ECP, Syed Asif Hussain, extended a warm welcome to the members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation upon their arrival in Pakistan to observe the elections.

The secretary briefed them on the preparations and arrangements made by the commission for conducting the elections in Pakistan.

The delegation chairman praised the Election Commission's preparations for the elections and conveyed his best wishes for the smooth conduct of the general elections.

Pak dispatches 6th tranche of relief assistance for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has dispatched sixth tranche of relief assistance for the people of Gaza. Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Ahmed Rebai, officials of NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Al-Khidmat Foundation attended the send-off ceremony at Jinnah International Airport Karachi today. The humanitarian assistance flight will land at Al-Arish Egypt, where Pakistan Ambassador to Egypt will receive the tranche for further distribution to Palestinian people.

This sixth relief consignment comprises 100 tons of assistance including 30 tons of blankets, special winterized family tents and 70 tons of medicines and tinned food items as per needs at Gaza.

PTI files review petition in SC against decision on withdrawal of poll symbol

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has filed review petition in Supreme Court (SC) against decision on withdrawing the election symbol of bat from the party.

PTI while praying the court to review January 13 decision regarding intra party election requested that Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision be restored.

PTI has filed petition seeking review of SC decision on PTI intra party election and symbol of bat.

It has been said in the petition that intra party elections were held as per party constitution.

Pakistan to continue its support to Kashmiris till their freedom: Ejaz

QUETTA (APP): Chairman of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE), Mir Ejaz Azim Baloch on Tuesday said that Pakistan would always continue its moral diplomatic support to Kashmiris till their freedom.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized by BSISE to show solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

PML-N only representative party of people: Sulman

QUETTA (APP)- Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N)'s candidate from NA-262 and PB-39 constituency Nawab Sulman Khan Khalji said that the PML-N was the only representative party of the people that could get them out of their problems. He shared these views while addressing the corner meetings held at various places in connection with the election campaign on Tuesday.

He said that Mian



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) Leaders, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Haji Madad Ali Jattak, Sardar Sarbuland Jogizai and others addressing a joint press conference, at Quetta press club.

JUI to prove majority all over country if elections not rigged: Hamdullah

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Hafiz Hamdullah has stated that the JUI has always represented the nation truly right from the assembly to every forum.

He was confident while claiming that JUI would succeed in the elections with majority of these were not rigged.

Hafiz Hamdullah was addressing the public meeting as part of the election campaign on eve of the annual Dastar Bandi at Jamia Darul Uloom Chaman on Tuesday.

The central Secretary Finance of JUI and candidate for National Assembly, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Sheikhul Hadith Maulana Sharifuddin, candidate for Provincial Assembly, Ghosullah Achakzai,

Maulana Abdul Manan, Mufti Muhammad Qasim, Maulana Lajor, Maulana Abdul Khaliq, Maulana Muhammad Mir, Syed Mufti Abdul Rahim Hussaini, Maulana Shamsul Haq, Abdul Khaliq and others also addressed the gathering.

The senior leader of JUI Hafiz Hamdullah said that propaganda is being made against the religious leaders to mislead the people under a conspiracy.

He said that the people of Pakistan are well aware of the fact that religious leaders are the supporters of oppressed segments. He urged the masses to vote to the "book" for protection of the Islamic values, real public service and development works.

He said that vote shouldn't be used for mere personal interests.

Indian actions in Kashmir constitute 'crimes against humanity': Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Monday termed India's repressive actions in Kashmir as crimes against humanity, and called on the international community to save the Kashmiri people.

"The Kashmiris are the most disenfranchised people on the face of the earth; they are victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing," he said at a special event to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington, DC.

"We feel the pain of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters—their wounds are our wounds," he said.

Masood Khan said that people of Pakistan have made huge sacrifices in fighting the case of Kashmir since the inception of

the country. "We are not fighting for a piece of land but we are fighting for the past seven decades because it is a moral responsibility upon us," he said.

"We are fighting for the inalienable right to self-determination of our Kashmiri brothers that was promised to them by the UN Security Council and by the international community." "Kashmir is a powder keg in South Asia that threatens regional peace and stability," the ambassador added. "It is the responsibility of international community to save them. I appeal to your conscience. We appeal to your convening power to come to the rescue of the people of illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir."

The chief guest at the event, Lars Rise, a former

Member of Norwegian Parliament, said, "We must stand and protest for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people."

"It is a sad day that even after 77 years we are still talking about lack of this right," he said.

Rise said that there was denial of basic human rights and communication blockade in Indian occupied Kashmir. He lamented that Kashmir was a forgotten cause for the international community. "Let us pool our efforts and resources in order to make the international community listen to the very important voices from Kashmir," Rise said.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, in a video message, said that the situation in Kashmir coincided with the Israeli killings in Gaza. He said that India has been exposed as a state sponsor of cross border terrorism.



LAHORE: A convoy of army personnel patrols along a road in the city to develop a sense of protection among the masses and maintain law and order situation during the General Election 2024.

Egyptian Envoy lauds services of PN for regional peace, stability

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad on Tuesday.

The Egyptian Envoy called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during the visit.

In the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral collaboration between Pakistan and Egypt came under discussion.

Ambassador Dr. Ihab Mohamed lauded the efforts of Pakistan Navy for ensuring peace and stability in the region.

PPP to sweep upcoming general election in country: Gorgage

QUETTA (APP)-Central leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Ex. federal minister Sardar Umar Gorgage and provincial senior vice president Engineer Hadi Askari said the PPP would sweep the general election in country and Balochistan on February 8.

They expressed these views while addressing the election meeting held in favor of the candidate Haji Ramzan Achakzai from NA-262 constituency and Sardarzada Samad Gorgage, the candidate from PB-42 constituency.

Agha Bashir Dost, Comrade Ali Raza, Tahir

Ilimi, Ahdia Batul, Subia Baloch, Agha Shafi, Abdullah Durrani and others also addressed the meeting.

Sardar Umar Gorgage and Hadi Askari said that the people of Hazara Town have proved today that they were with the PPP saying that with the power of the people, the PPP would take practical steps to solve the problems of Balochistan along with forming the government in the center and the province. They said that Pakistan People's Party was a public political and democratic party, the PPP party would win the general election on February 8.

Two drug pushers held, cache of narcotics recovered

QUETTA (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) seized cache of drugs and arrested two drug peddlers during separate actions in different areas of the province.

A spokesman of ANF said on Tuesday that teams of the force during crackdowns in different areas of Chaghi seized 259 kilogram opium and 7 kilogram hashish.

In another raid near suburbs Lakpas, two drug pushers were apprehended with 65 kilogram hashish and 8 kilogram Ice (Crystal Meth).

Separate cases were registered against the detainees under Drug Act and further investigations were underway.

Brothers from Khar family emerge as rival candidates on NA 180

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): In an unprecedented political showdown, two brothers from the Khar family have emerged as rival candidates in Kot Addu Constituency NA 180, setting the stage for a unique electoral contest. The sons of the late former provincial minister Malik Ghulam Rabbani Khar and brothers of former Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar are pitted against each other in this electoral battle.

Captain Retired Abdul Khaliq Rabbani Khar, the elder brother, is contesting on the ticket of the Muslim League-N, while his younger sibling, ex-MNA Raza Rabbani Khar, is representing the Pakistan People's Party. Rabbani is lending his support to Khar's candidacy, setting the scene for a heated competition between the brothers.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Lhab Mohamed Abdulhamid Hassan Ambassador of Egypt at Naval Headquarters.

Mohsin Naqvi elected new PCB chairman for 3 years term

LAHORE (INP): In a recent development for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi has been elected unopposed as the new chairman for PCB for a three-year tenure, says in media reports.

The decision was reached during the PCB Governing Board meeting held today at the National Cricket Academy. The eagerly awaited announcement came after a key gathering hosted at the prestigious National Cricket Academy, where representatives from diverse regions and organizations convened to participate in the electoral process.

Notably, the Governing Board, comprising influential representatives from various regions and organizations, underscored the inclusivity of the election process. The responsibility of overseeing the election

process was entrusted to Election Commissioner Shah Khawar, who presided over the proceedings with diligence and impartiality.

Earlier speculations had suggested that Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi emerged as a frontrunner for the coveted position of PCB Chairman. His nomination gained momentum, propelled by his distinguished role as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, which undoubtedly strengthened his candidacy.

With his extensive experience and proven leadership acumen, Mohsin Naqvi is poised to lead PCB into a new era of excellence and innovation. His election reflects a collective commitment to advancing the interests of Pakistani cricket and ushering in positive reforms within the organization.



QUETTA: Worker of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam candidate PB-39 hold protest in front of the DC office.