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State to defend civil servants, act against 'violent trolls': PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday vowed that the State of Pakistan would defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties and act against those "violent trolls" involved in blackmailing and pressurising them.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the people of Pakistan had spoken with a clear voice on February 8 and had given a split mandate.

"Some elements with a proven track record of violent behaviour and vigilantism (however) are now using different tricks, including weaponisation of social media in blackmailing, vigilantism and pressurising civil servants to switch their loyalties from the State of Pakistan to the violent gang," he added. Such action, he said, was a clear violation of the Article 5 and other articles of the Constitution and the laws of the land.

"The State of Pakistan shall defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties, act against these violent trolls and ensure exemplary punishment to them."

Prime Minister Kakar said that there should be no doubt about the government's commitment to the noble civil servants serving the State and the people of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Mekran Panjgur Prof. Dr. Abdul Malik Tareen meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Produce petitioner who wanted to get Feb 8 elections cancelled: SC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Monday ordered the officials to present the petitioner before the court after he sought to withdraw his plea through which he had demanded declaring the Feb 8 elections null and void and adjourned hearing till February 21.

The chief justice ordered the SHO concerned to trace Brig @Ali Khan and present him before the three-member bench which also comprises Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

Making it clear that the country's top court will hear the matter, Chief Justice Isa remarked whether such persons filed petition only to get instant fame.

While noting that Brig @Khan had requested to withdraw the petition on Feb 13, the very day it was filed, the court questioned as if publicity was the sole goal by resorting such tactics.

The application was shared the entire world through media, the chief justice noted, adding that he should come and the court would hear the matter.

In a report, the apex court was informed that the petitioner could neither be approached through the address given in the plea nor the WhatsApp service.

Later, the three-member bench issued the necessary orders which read that they would not allow anyone to use the Supreme Court for ulterior motives and issued a notice to the petitioner through the defence ministry, while adjourning further hearing till Feb 21 (Wednesday).

Brig @Khan had moved the Supreme Court to get orders for a probe into alleged rigging and holding the fresh elections.



QUETTA: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

Missing Baloch Students Case: IHC expresses dismay over absence of Caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ruled that the caretaker prime minister should be removed from his office as he failed to answer in the missing Baloch students' case. The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar didn't appear before the court in person for second time in the case pertaining to the non-recovery of Baloch students. "The Prime Minister didn't appear in the court for second time. He was summoned because he was answerable for all this," Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked.

Earlier, Justice Kayani had remarked that death sentence should be handed down to those behind forced disappearances.

The people involved in such disappearances should be awarded death sentence



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting to review performance and activation of Balochistan Health Card Program.

Election 2024: IHC suspends victory notifications of three PML-N NA candidates

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday suspended the victory notifications of three Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidates of the National Assembly.

A two-member bench of the IHC — comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir — issued the order against PML-N's Tariq Fazl Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel, and Raja Khurram Nawaz.

Chaudhry had won with 102,502 votes, as per unofficial results from the NA-47 constituency, but his victory was challenged by his rival candidate.

Aqeel had secured victory from the NA-46 constituency and bagged 81,958 votes. However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed independent candidate Aamir Mughal challenged it.

PTI-backed candidates to join Sunni Ittehad Council in bid to grab reserved seats

PM's candidate Omar Ayub asserts PTI will form govt in Centre; ensure release of party founder

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Barrister Gohar Khan Monday announced that independent candidates backed by the party will officially join the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) in the National Assembly (NA) as well as in provinces including Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The development comes a day after PTI's senior leaders, Barrister Gohar, Omar Ayub, along with SIC head Sahibzada Hamid Raza, visited the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) Central Secretariat in Islamabad and held discussions on prospects of closer cooperation in parliament and at the provincial level.

MWM Chairman Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri, Vice Chairman Allama Ahmed Iqbal Rizvi, and others were also present.

The meeting discussed the country's political situation and important issues in the wake of recently held elections and their outcome.

The party, which could not directly take part in elections due to the non-allotment of electoral symbol, wants its share of reserved seats for women and minorities by using the platform of other like-minded parties.

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad today, Barrister Gohar said the PTI-backed independent candidates are required to join any party within three days following the issuance of notification under the law.

He said the decision to join SIC has been taken with consensus and demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to allot the PTI reserved seats in line with the law.



QUETTA: Provincial President PML (N) Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Kakar, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Shoaib Noshervani, Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammadhassani, Sardar Masood Luni and others addressing a Press conference

Senate rejects criminal law amendment bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Upper House of the Parliament on Monday rejected a bill to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 with a majority vote.

Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was in the chair when Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, presented a motion for consideration and passage of the bill, but it was rejected by the Upper House.

When asked to vote on the bill by the chairman, as many as 24 lawmakers voted against the legislation, while 14 members of the Senate expressed support in favour of the bill.

PML-N has majority in Balochistan: Jaffar Mandokhail desires to form provincial govt.

Says no agreement with PPP about slot of Chief Minister Balochistan as yet

Independent Report

QUETTA: The provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has claimed that his party has secured majority in the recent elections in Balochistan as such it is our desire to form his party's government in the province. Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail was addressing press conference at the party's provincial secretariat on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the senior leaders of PML-N and MNA-elect Jamal Shah Kakar, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Sardar Masood Luni, besides other parliamentarians-elect.

The provincial President of PML-N maintained that the party has won highest number of seats in the province.

Terrorists attack police vehicle on security of polling in Tank

TANK (APP): The armed terrorists here on Monday attacked police armoured vehicle on security of polling at NA-43, Tank cum Dera Ismail Khan.

According to initial reports shared by the police spokesman, some armed terrorists attacked police armoured vehicle on security duty for polling station at Kot-Azam in Tank.

The polling process was halted for some time due to the attack.

28,185 patients treated under HCP during three months: Caretaker CM directs to expand circle of information and awareness about Health Card Program

Digital supervision and monitoring system established for bringing transparency in Health Card Programme

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the concerned authorities to expand circle of information, awareness and consciousness about the Health Card Programme (HCP) so that every individual of the province is aware about the resources allocated for one and benefit from the vital programme. The caretaker Chief Minister was chairing a meeting held to review the Balochistan Health Card Programme here on Monday.

Those who were in at-

tendance at the meeting were included the caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razaq, Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Programme, Asadullah Kakar, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority, Noorul Haq Baloch.

The meeting reviewed the overall performance of the Health Card Programme besides the issues and hard-

ships being faced by it.

The CEO of Health Card Programme briefed in detail the meeting about the three months performance after its launch besides the challenges being faced in smooth implementation of the programme.

Expressing his views on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that Health Card Programme is such a historic programme of the province's history under which every poor and rich person has the quality healthcare and treatment facilities at some 1200 hospitals located in all over the country including Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) addressing a Press conference

US, Chinese diplomats calls on Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chinese and American diplomats have separate meetings with President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.

According to the sources privy to development, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the newly formed government in Pakistan and the possible challenges it would face and to inform about the support required to fight it.

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated to increase the pace of CPEC and to provide diplomatic and economic support to the newly formed government.

The Chinese ambassador assured full support for Pakistan, in regional security and foreign infiltration in Pakistan.

Four-parties alliance decides to continue protest against "rigging" in elections

Independent Report

QUETTA: The four-parties alliance of Balochistan has decided to continue protest against the alleged rigging in general elections in the province.

The alliance also decided to expand the protest together with other democratic parties of the country after making contacts with them.

This was decided in a meeting of the four-parties alliance held under the chair of Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai here at his residence the other day.

Others who participated in the meeting were included: President Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar

Mengal, President National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and Chairman Hazara Democratic Party (HDP), Abdul Khaliq Hazara besides four members each of the four parties.

The meeting discussed about the general elections 2024 and vehemently rejected them after detailed deliberations.

The elections 2024 were declared the most rigged elections in the history of country, as mentioned in a press release issued here at end of the four-parties alliance meeting.

Meanwhile, the meeting directed the four-parties alliance coordination committee to prepare future plan of protest.

Instead of presenting performance by a political party: Making allegations on security institutions & officers inappropriate, immoral: Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister Information says BNP Chief and former MPs have to answer about billions of rupees given in then PTI & Bizenjo's govts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that it is an inappropriate and immoral to make allegations against the security institutions and their officers by a political party which remained in the provincial and federal governments for five years.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, Jan Achakzai said that making allegations against the security institutions and their officers instead of presenting their performance by a political party which has been in the government for five years and also has the Governor in a province speaks high about that it

(party) is surely baffled out.

The caretaker Minister said that the people have expectations from the party to whom they vote for.

But with passage of time, and if there wouldn't have been no development work to their credit then they try to hide their failures by making allegations on others, he added.

He also said that it is right of the people to ask about the performance of a party, which had two important federal ministries and slot of Governor too, if it's zero. He stressed that the party should tell about the steps taken for development and prosperity of the people except enjoying the perks and privileges of the federal

ministries.

The people would no more believe on the politics of allegations now, and they would demand for performance and practical steps, he added. Jan Achakzai said that BNP Chief would also have to give answer to Rs. 9 billion which were taken on account of the development budget during the era of PTI government.

Not only this, but the members of provincial assembly belonging BNP-Mengal Akhtar Lango and others who were in the forefront in making of Abdul Qudus Bizenjo's government, had also got approved schemes of billions of rupees and also benefited from the secret fund.



QUETTA: A view of dinner hosted by Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi in honour of Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Qadir Bakhsh, Prince Ahmed Ali, Sardar Ejaz Jaffar, Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan, Mir Zubair Jamal and Sardar Asif Dummar

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

PML-N challenge

On Friday night, PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique took to X to highlight the challenges facing politicians in forging a new government in Islamabad in the absence of a clear mandate for any single party. "No party has [an] absolute majority in the National Assembly," he reminded other stakeholders, largely the PPP. Therefore, he said, "the formation of government is the joint responsibility of all the parties in the parliament, [and] not just PML-N". Alternatively, he suggested that PTI-backed independent members form a government with PPP support.

Although it is unclear whether Mr Rafique's words reflect his own or his party's position, the gist of his message posted after a party huddle reportedly chaired by Nawaz Sharif is that governing the country would be akin to wearing a crown of thorns amid chaotic political and economic conditions, and that his party had no desire to claim it.

He is not the only PML-N politician to hint at stepping back from the party's initial stance of entering into a coalition with the PPP and others as spelled out by Mr Sharif in his post-election speech after it became clear that the N-League hadn't won enough seats to make a government on its own.

Many are understood to have advised their leader against forming a minority government at the centre, especially after Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced support for a PML-N-led set-up in exchange for the top constitutional offices and a PPP government in Balochistan.

It may be a unique experience for Pakistan but parliamentary democracies everywhere have seen minority governments supported by other parties function quite well. In India, the Congress supported the minority Janata Dal government in the 1990s. If the PPP is demanding too much, PML-N can negotiate a deal. Give-and-take is essential as the PPP also has much to lose if the system is derailed. Even a rowdy PTI would not want to rock the apple cart of democracy once it has made its point on rigging. Governing a politically and economically distraught nation would indeed be tough for the PML-N without sufficient numerical strength in parliament.

Divergent political interests might occasionally thwart or slow down legislative and economic reform. But should these hold back the three-time PM from accepting the challenge because of fear of the unknown, or losing the support of the PPP and others at some point? That hardly makes sense. The people have given a split verdict. Now it is time for all political stakeholders to respect it. The biggest responsibility rests with the PML-N. Mr Sharif should not only put away his fears to form a minority government, he must also realise that the nation has deep wounds to heal. A politician of his stature can overcome hurdles. It is a challenge he should accept.

Young voters

Huma Yusuf

A general election is like a democratic health check. In its wake, comes the prognosis: will Pakistani democracy live or die? The widely discredited polling process points to terminal illness. But many pro-democracy Pakistanis believe we have identified a possible cure in the form of the youth vote.

The local and international media has a clear narrative: the triumph-against-all-odds of PTI-affiliated candidates was delivered by social media savvy young voters; their engagement with TikTok videos and AI-generated rallying cries has checked the excesses of elite institutions and vested interests. Ahsan Iqbal attributed polling results to a "youth rebellion against traditional politics" and called for "older parties... [to] create spaces for these segments in their party structures".

But has democratic backsliding truly met its generational match? In some ways, this election was bound to belong to the youth: our country's median age is 22.7 years, and more than 56.8 million eligible voters were under 35. But will young voters remain engaged in a sustainable way?

An election is chaotic. This year's polls invited acts of defiance, which suited Imran Khan's politics of disruption. Were the youth votes cast akin to an expletive against entrenched political actors and institutions? Or do they signal a revival of political engagement in the sense of policy development, institution building and service delivery?

The signs do not breed optimism. Firstly, the key issues that matter to young Pakistanis — inflation, education, employment — received only scant attention in parties' manifestos. As

service delivery falters, young voters will be disappointed.

Indeed, while they may have cast votes, young Pakistanis have been voting with their feet for the past few years. A survey from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics last year found that 67 per cent of young Pakistanis want to leave the country in pursuit of employment. The number of Pakistanis emigrating tripled between 2021 and 2022, with the trend continuing last year.

Youth electoral fervour is also disengaged from Pakistan's political economy and structural challenges, which must be addressed as a prerequisite to democratic revival. A VOA/Ipsos survey in the run-up to the elections found that 74pc of young voters trust the military, while 58pc rank the Supreme Court as the second-most trusted institution. Such beliefs are hardly the precursor to a status quo shake-up.

Research from the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Future of Democracy may shed light on the youth phenomenon in these elections. The 2020 Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy report (which maps global trends) found that satisfaction with democracy is declining most rapidly among 18-34 year olds, with 55pc of global millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) expressing dissatisfaction. This is largely driven by the inability of democratic governments to address youth unemployment, wealth inequality and other forms of 'economic exclusion'.

That said, the report identified an interesting quirk: countries with populist leaders like Khan logged a 16 percentage point jump in satisfaction with democracy among voters aged under 35 years during the first few years of a populist's tenure. This turnaround effect was noted irrespective of whether the populist leader was left- or right-wing. And it occurred despite the polarising effects of populist politics, which should be anathema to democracy.

But the report also found that an uptick in youth satisfaction with democracy under populist politicians is short-lived, with satisfaction de-c-lining gradually after four years, and precipitously after two terms. In other words, as populists either turn authoritarian to preserve power, or temper their excesses in order to succeed as mainstream politicians, they lose their youthful support, and democracy suffers again.

The conduct of Imran Khan and his supporters in opposition will steer the nature of youth political engagement, with perceptions of complexity a key risk. In all scenarios, it would be a shame for all parties and democracy champions not to seek to sustain youth participation.

We need more data to better understand Pakistan's demographic political trends. This should include tracking various forms of political engagement beyond casting ballots. Everything from social media engagement and protest to consumer boycotts counts, and acknowledging this will help clarify how to sustain youth engagement. We must also nuance the debate: the youth bloc is not a monolith, and grassroots circumstances will shape different young voters differently. Giving them due respect at a granular level — through participation in local government bodies — is likely to be a key step in sustaining engagement. -- Courtesy Dawn

Let students thrive

Neda Mulji

We've had a history of academic pressure to chase marks in tests, good grades at the end of the term and, in many schools, students still get ranks that benchmark them against their peers. Most assessments test the preparation of content; they do not test understanding of concepts. Students select the more 'important' content they know they will be tested on, and memorise that. Studying skills aren't necessarily taught, which means students must learn these skills on the go. Those that haven't mastered the art of preparation or the ones who haven't managed to develop the endurance to focus and write material from memory do not manage to get good marks as they have not mastered test-taking skills.

When teachers are truly skilled, they aren't only great at teaching but also guiding and monitoring. Traditionally, the teachers who have made a lasting impact on their students are the ones who focus on holistic development — those that are skilled enough to teach, motivate students and enable them to thrive.

Usually, these teachers empower students with a level of self-confidence that makes them able and willing to learn. They teach them the ropes to break down tasks to make it easier for themselves and they encourage them to plan ahead of time so they can acquire greater control on the mountain of work that comes their way. Most successful teachers keep a close eye on the students' studying habits, their turning in of assignments, their responses in class and their interest in their own progress.

Thriving is not just about learning but also about the willingness to do better and the innate drive to accomplish the next big task. Student motivation is key to learning. However, unfortunately, most teachers manage to kill motivation by warnings and threats of failure and disaster. How teachers connect and communicate with students may be the key to enabling students to thrive. A teacher's positivity and belief in the student's ability can turn the tide towards progress.

Most students need health and well-being programmes at school to support them through their academic journey. Back in 1995, when WHO, Unesco and Unicef jointly introduced the 'health promoting schools' approach, 90 countries around the world adopted it. Pakistan was not one of them. Ninety per cent of countries now provide at least one meal during the school day. Pakistan is not one of them.

Clean water and sanitation, eye-testing services, a doctor on the premises and vaccine administration and monitoring facilities, counselling were all part of the health programme. In 2010, Pakistan collaborated with Unesco after a report established that 61pc of government schools in Pakistan lacked drinking water and a staggering 56pc were without toilet facilities. A decade later, basic facilities are available in a fragmented and inconsistent manner, if at all.

The global Education 2030 agenda, initiated by Unesco, reiterates a set of eight Global Standards to help improve the lives of one billion school-going children. Pakistan has committed to these goals and yet, given the

scale of the improvements needed, we may well miss this bus too.

In the absence of such programmes across the board, teachers have an all-encompassing role at school where they have to plug in their expertise to fill in many gaps. They have to screen students for bad eyesight by using their own judgement in class, they write to parents to monitor nutrition when the child doesn't bring in a healthy snack, they act as first-aid respondents when children are hurt and they provide emotional support in the absence of school counsellors. The list is endless and the teachers' duties go far beyond their ba-sic job description. In many schools, teachers find themselves having to don their superwoman capes to take care of every contingency, and this can well take them away from their core work as a subject specialist. While every school year presents new challenges, it also opens new opportunities for growth. Relaxing the controlling grip on children may help them find learning fun. Instead of forcing them to read from their books, reading to them may help. Letting them teach whatever they know may help them get more involved in learning. Enabling them to track their own progress and set goals helps them take responsibility and develop a work ethic.

There is a world of possibilities where different strategies can be applied to achieve targeted outcomes, especially if the tried and tested means are not yielding results. Ignacio Estrada said it aptly: "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

MoU signed to make Pakistan food self-sufficient

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday signed between Green Corporate Initiative and Organic Pakistan to Revolutionize Agriculture to ensure food sovereignty and environmental sustainability in Pakistan.

The Green Corporate Initiative (GCI) and Organic Pakistan (OP) have officially inked MoU to spearhead a transformative journey towards smart and sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and urban farming practices to make Pakistan food self-sufficient.

The agreement signed for ensuring Pakistan to move from food import and dependency to a self-

sufficient food exporting nation.

The partnership is also aimed to improve the status of the farmers by bringing them into the mainstream economic development, particularly the agriculture policy debate.

The MoU, signed at the Green Corporate Initiative Pvt. Limited's head office, establishes a robust framework for collaboration between Green Corporate Initiative and Organic Pakistan, with a shared vision to make Pakistan food self-sufficient.

Through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovation-centric initiatives, both organizations aim to foster resilience, sustainability,

and inclusivity within the agricultural sector.

Commenting on the MoU, Shahid Nazeer, Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Green Initiative said, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to drive smart sustainable development and environmental stewardship in Pakistan. By combining our expertise, resources, and networks, we are poised to create lasting impact and empower communities across the country."

Nadeem Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Organic Pakistan, said, "We are excited to embark on this journey of collaboration with the Green Corporate Initiative.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 586 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 586.79 points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 60,459.75 points against 59,872.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 261,799,826 shares valuing Rs 9,907 billion were traded during the day as compared to 314,247,768 shares valuing Rs12.243 billion the last day. Some 330 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 170 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 21 remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were PIAC(A) with 21,406,500 shares at Rs 11.06 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 20,034,698 shares at Rs 1.23 per share, and Pak Refinery with 15,164,705 shares at Rs 25.33 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 373.35 per share price.



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE while talking to a Pakistani exhibitor during the Gulf Food Exhibition at Pakistan Pavilion, World Trade Centre.

SECP says: 2,651 new companies incorporated in January

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has registered 2,651 new companies in January 2024, showing an increase of 10 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

The total number of registered companies now stands at 212,108. Total capitalization (paid-up capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies is Rs5.2 billion, said a news release.

In January, around 58 percent of companies were registered as private limited

companies, 38 percent as single member companies, and 4 percent as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships, and foreign companies.

Five foreign companies also registered their place of business in Pakistan. Around 138 foreign applicants were registered through eServices. Almost 99.85 percent of companies were registered online. The information technology sector took the lead with regards to incorporation with 356

companies, trading with 319, real estate development and construction, and services with 277 each, tourism with 145, education with 116, food and beverages with 94, corporate agricultural farming with 93, e-commerce with 72, engineering with 65, chemical with 61, power generation with 58, marketing & advertisement, and textile with 55 each.

Furthermore, pharmaceutical, mining & quarrying with 53 each, healthcare with 48, fuel and energy with 45.

POL import bill shrinks by 12.06% in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 12.06 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July-January (2023-24) stood at \$ 9,332.322

million against the imports of \$ 10,611.727 million during the same period of last year. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 25.94 percent, from \$ 4,889.799 million last year to \$ 3,621.420 million during the period under review year whereas petroleum crude dipped by 3.96 percent from \$ 3,100.481 million to \$ 2,977.671 million.

Gold rates increase by Rs 1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs 214,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 213,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24karat gold also increased by Rs 943 to Rs 183,728 from Rs 182,785 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 168,417 from Rs 167,553, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

CDNS attains Rs 1030b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained a target of Rs 1030 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to February, 19.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday.

He said this was a Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

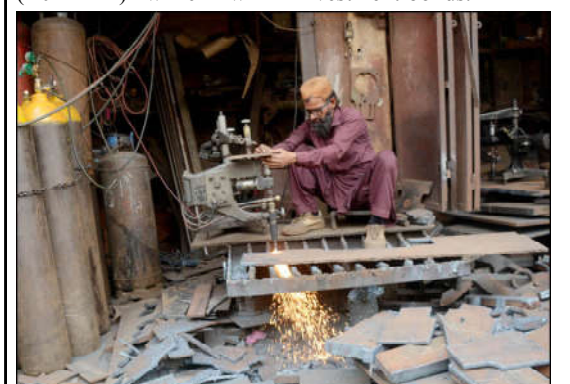
"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will

promote savings culture in the country," he said.

Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.

"At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 55 billion by January 9, 2023-24, through Islamic investment bonds.



LAHORE: A blacksmith is busy at his workplace cutting large pieces of iron and making molds.

FCCI proposes separate ministry to produce skilled human resources

FAISALABAD (APP): Engineer Ahmad Hassan, former Vice President and Convener FCCI (Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry) Standing Committee on R&D, has proposed a separate and dedicated ministry to produce highly skilled human resources which could be exported to other countries to almost double the existing foreign remittances.

Addressing a meeting of the standing committee, he said that our current exports are only \$20bn while remittances are

\$30bn but still there is a gap of \$20-25bn.

He said, "We must focus on exporting highly skilled manpower to overcome this trade gap. The economy is facing multiple challenges and fundamental administrative changes are needed to resolve the issues. We are exporting unskilled and semiskilled workers which are sending \$30bn remittances. The proposed ministry may be tasked with identifying the specific needs of each potential country and produce human resources in that particular area."



LAHORE: People are busy buying secondhand toys at a Landa bazaar in Provincial Capital.

Railways finalize plan to procure 230 passengers coaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is finalizing a plan to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at

the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the Ministry of Railways.

He said Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track along with improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time.

The infrastructure, including the track and signaling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km).

Equipping students with IT, AI crying need of hour: Governor

MULTAN (APP): Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman has said that equipping students with Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the dire need of the hour.

Addressing a convocation of a private institute here on Monday, he stated in the modern era, acquiring knowledge of modern sciences and arts is essential for progress and success. He informed that hard work and consistency play a crucial role in the journey of progress.

Instead of reacting to false and misleading information on social media, ensure a research-based approach, the governor advised the students adding that reacting against corruption

should be based on real data and facts from international organizations.

Rehman noted that destruction and violent protests were extremely detrimental to the country. He said that determining those who merely talk against corruption and those who take practical actions was imperative.

The governor said success in education is possible through collaboration with the private sector. Honesty and high moral values are the keys to success in practical life, he maintained.

Vice Chancellors (VCs) of public and private universities besides parents and graduating students were in attendance.



ABBOTTABAD: Rescue officials trying to remove a vehicle stuck in snow covered area after the heavy snowfall of winter season, which more decreases the temperature below in minus degree Celsius, at Nathiagali area in Abbottabad.

Gandapur says: Party leadership to decide joining of political party for formation of KP govt

PESHAWAR (APP): Talking to media here outside Peshawar High Court (PHC) he said a legal team was looking into matters related to joining any political party, however, the final decision would be taken by the party chairman. Gandapur said that after coming to power, he would take measures to make the province financially.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of District Bar Association Charsada meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Wani seeks independent probe into mass rape incidents in occupied Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) has demanded an independent and international probe into mass-rape incidents committed by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian-held territory of Jammu Kashmir.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Wani said that the occupation forces deployed in the restive region have been involved

in heinous crimes. Use and abuse of power, harassment and humiliation and sexual abuse, he said, were among the dirtiest war tactics the Indian army has been using to suppress Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said that being a vulnerable segment of society, the Kashmiri women have been the worst victims of Indian belligerence.

Referring to the dreadful incident of Kunan and Poshpora mass rape, the Hurriyat leader said that the horrific incident was a big blot on the face of Indian democracy and the state that has been using rape as a weapon of war against Kashmiris.

Highlighting the pain and agony of the rape victims, he said that it was disgusting to see that the Indian rulers and their henchmen in the territory have shamelessly tried to cover up and conceal the facts to save the bloody cul-

Ghafoor Baig says: Complaints of federal employees swiftly addressed

PESHAWAR (APP): In-charge Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad, Abdul Ghafoor Baig on Monday said the complaints of federal employees related to misadministration are being addressed on a swift basis and no negligence towards this end is tolerated.

He said to make the general people abreast of the effectiveness and importance of the office of Federal Ombudsman, open katcheries are being held through print and electronic media are released.

He said to facilitate the public, the process of lodging complaints has been simplified and only through an App the complainants forward their applications through an automated online system.

He said the Federal Ombudsman office.



MIRPUR: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Saeed Akram Khan and the judges of the Supreme Court are meeting the bar officials under the leadership of the newly elected President District Bar Association Chaudhry Shakeeluz Zaman.

686,711 students access PITB's Higher Education Portal

LAHORE (APP): The Higher Education Portal (HEP), developed by PITB for the Higher Education Department, is a centralized platform enabling public colleges in Punjab to have daily reporting of essential data. This centralized system facilitates seamless data reporting, fostering enhanced efficiency and transparency in higher education administration throughout the province.

In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousof stated, "HEP signifies a significant stride towards modernizing and digitizing the higher education.

Child falls to death in water tank

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-year-old child was killed after falling into a water tank in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber district on Monday. Police said the incident occurred in Bakarabad area of Jamrud where a three-year-old child, named Hayan, son of Amir fell into a water tank during play.

The area people retrieved the child from the water tank and shifted him to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jamrud.

Doctors at the hospital did their best to save the child however, the child breathed his last at the hospital.

KP Governor lauds lawyers' role in development, prosperity, strengthening of democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that lawyers have an important role in maintaining the rule of law and establishing a justice-based system in society.

"Lawyers have always played a positive role in the country's stability, development, prosperity and democracy. They are the most important part of the judiciary and the delivery of justice," he said during a meeting with a delegation of Charsadda District Bar Association here at Governor House.

The governor said that the role of a lawyer in any society is very important especially in the provision of justice, adding that the lawyers' community has a great responsibility to uphold the supremacy of law and ensure justice for the poor and middle-class of the society.

He urged lawyers to play an important role in the speedy disposal of cases and the provision of justice to the victims.

Earlier, the delegation led by the President of the Bar Association Mujibur Rahman Advocate informed the Governor about the problems and difficulties faced by the District Bar Association and requested for his cooperation to solve them.

He especially mentioned that the revenue cases of Charsadda were referred to Peshawar and caused inconvenience for both lawyers and the masses.

International News

Gaza Health Ministry says Over 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk
2.3 million people have sought refuge from fighting elsewhere.

The United States, Israel's top ally, says it is still working with mediators Egypt and Qatar to try to broker another cease-fire and hostage release agreement. But those efforts appear to have stalled in recent days, and Netanyahu angered Qatar, which has hosted Hamas leaders, by calling on it to pressure the militant group.

The Health Ministry said 107 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours. That brings the total number of fatalities to 29,092 since the start of the war.

The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its records, but says around two-thirds of those killed were women and children. More than 69,000 Palestinians have been wounded, overwhelming the territory's hospitals, less than half of which are even partially functioning.

The Health Ministry is part of the Hamas-run government in Gaza but maintains detailed records of casualties. Its figures from previous wars in Gaza have largely matched those of U.N. agencies, independent experts and even Israel's own tallies.



Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrives at his family compound following his release.

Netanyahu could surprise Israelis with Hamas deal next week

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel has sent negotiators for truce talks in Cairo as requested by U.S. President Joe Biden but they did not go back for further talks because Hamas' demands were "delusional," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

On the other hand, as per unverified online reports, Benjamin Netanyahu could surprise Israelis with a Hamas deal for the release of hostages in the next week.

Netanyahu also said

Famine becomes latest threat in Gaza's north

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Like many in northern Gaza, Shadi Jenina has resorted to desperate measures to stave off hunger for his five children — grinding up animal feed into flour.

"We're looking for food for birds, animals and livestock... such as barley, corn, wheat and fodder. We grind them and make flour," Jenina, 40, explained.

"The bread is dry and not suitable for humans but we're forced to eat it," he said, adding they struggle to feed their children. The Gaza Strip was already one of the poorest places in the Middle East even before Israel declared a complete siege on the territory.

Though much of Gaza was reliant on food aid, enough of it was entering the territory to largely meet the needs of its 2.4 million inhabitants.

But now, after more than four months of war that has flattened huge swathes of the Strip, Gazans are inching closer towards famine, according to the UN's World Food Programme.



Volunteers distribute rations of lentil soup to displaced Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

US threatens to veto new Gaza ceasefire resolution

WASHINGTON (Online): "Over the last week, President Biden has had multiple calls with Prime Minister Netanyahu, as well as the leaders of Egypt and Qatar, to push this deal forward. Though gaps remain, the key elements are on the table," the ambassador said. "We believe this deal represents the best opportunity to reunite all hostages with their families and enable a prolonged pause in fighting, that would allow for more lifesaving food, water, fuel, medicine, and other essentials to get into the hands of Palestinian civilians who desperately need it," she said.

UN special envoys in Doha to discuss future of Afghanistan

DOHA (Online): In less than a year the second UN gathering with national and regional envoys to Afghanistan are set to meet in Doha on Sunday (today), however, there is still uncertainty about whether Taliban leaders would attend it or not.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres spokeswoman said that the two-day conference, which is being hosted by the secretary general will include stepping up col-

ICJ to hold hearings on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories

HAGUE (Online): International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague will open a week of hearings on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories today.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki will speak first in the legal proceedings.

Meanwhile, at least 127 Palestinians have been martyred in Israeli strikes on Gaza in the past 24 hours. The week-long proceedings, which begin at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on Monday, come as Israel continues its devastating war on Gaza.

The assault has killed more than 29,000 Palestinians since October 7.

The case is separate from the genocide complaint South Africa filed at the ICJ against Israel for its alleged violations in the ongoing war.

It focuses instead on Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since 1967.

The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state.

Palestinian representatives, who speak first on Monday, will argue that the Israeli occupation is illegal because it has violated three key tenets of international law, the Palestinian legal team told reporters on Wednesday.

They say Israel has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest by annexing large swathes of occupied land, violated Palestinians' right to self-determination and imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid.

Don't let Israel attack Rafah, Irish foreign minister warns EU

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The European Union "must do everything possible" to pressure the Israeli government into not attacking Rafah, Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin said on Monday in Brussels.

Martin said the "level of inhumanity that's now happening within Gaza" has shocked the world, referencing Israel's ground and air offensive to defeat Hamas in response to the October 7 terrorist attack.

The Israeli government has been preparing to launch a full-scale ground offensive into Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza near the border with Egypt, despite international fears it will lead to massive civilian casualties.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel said he has warned Israel that the country is in danger of losing "the last sup-

President for financial inclusion of weaker segments of society through digital transformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for enhancing the inclusion of deprived sections of society, especially women and persons with disabilities, in the mainstream economy through digital transformation of the financial sector for socio-economic development.

The president was addressing the third edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, and recognize the contributions of companies working in the sector.

The ceremony was attended by businessmen and diplomatic community members, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a news release.

The president said that the Pakistani people were a vibrant nation, and the country, blessed with abundant natural resources, needed to invest in their intellectual development and capacity building.

He also highlighted that Pakistan could not progress without the inclusion of 26.2 million out-of-school children in the edu-

cation system. Educating such a large portion of the population would require thousands of new schools and additional resources, he observed, adding, "If left unaddressed, Pakistan would export raw labour without any value-addition."

The president cited the example of China which had lifted millions of its people out of poverty by investing in their education and health.

He said that financial inclusion was not possible without political inclusion of the people. He opined that technology should be utilized for internet voting (i-voting) and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS).

The president also hailed millions of young voters who had expressed their confidence in the democratic system.

He highlighted the need for setting priorities, making good decisions and efficiently utilizing human resources for progress of the country.

President Alvi said that the low tax-to-GDP ratio was a perennial problem in Pakistan, adding that overcoming that issue

would help reduce its reliance on foreign loans.

He said that banks were offering business loans for women on easy terms and conditions, however, there was a lack of awareness about micro-credit facilities for women.

He urged the banks to enhance their outreach by introducing cashless banking in far-flung areas through customized products and services.

CEO of Transforming Hub Iftikhar Hussain highlighted that BizNet was an ecosystem that had brought together the best minds by promoting increased collaboration, commitment and innovation.

He underlined the pivotal role played by the banking sector in adopting the latest financial solutions paving the way for user-friendly banking transactions.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO of Airlinks Communication Muzaffar Piracha apprised the audience that digitization of the economy was the first step towards financial inclusion which was not possible without advancements in the mobile industry.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 3rd edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ECP committee kicks off probe into Liaquat Chattha's allegations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) high-level investigation committee on Monday initiated its inquiry into the allegations raised against the former commissioner of Rawalpindi, Liaquat Ali Chattha.

Sources privy to the matter said that the committee has taken the initiative by reaching out to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to acquire the transcript of Liaquat Ali Chattha's recent press conference.

On the other hand, six district returning officers (ROs) from Rawalpindi Division have already furnished their written statements, categorically refuting the allegations leveled by the former commissioner.

Furthermore, the committee plans to extend its scrutiny to encompass statements from ROs across 13 constituencies of the National Assembly and 26 constituencies of the

provincial assembly within the Rawalpindi Division.

The inquiry stems from a series of startling events, notably former commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha's resignation on Saturday, citing election irregularities.

Addressing the media at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Chattha expressed remorse over his actions, acknowledging wrongdoing and advocating for accountability. "I have done injustice in Rawalpindi Division; I should be punished for it, along with others involved," he stated solemnly.

Chattha's resignation, coupled with his candid admission of guilt, has sparked a ripple effect across the political landscape. He recounted the pressures he faced, including social media scrutiny and the expectations of overseas Pakistanis, which led him to contemplate suicide.

However, he chose to confront the truth publicly, resigning from his post and vowing to face the consequences.

Rs 35.6 bln program being launched to eradicate fatal diseases: Health Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that a mega project worth Rs35.6 billion was being launched to eradicate fatal diseases including sugar, HIV Aids and hepatitis in the country.

He said that a Rs six billion program has been prepared for the control of sugar disease besides projects were being launched for the eradication of AIDs HIV.

He was addressing a function after inaugurating a modern labour room at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Kotkay in Charsadda district.

The minister said that providing the best healthcare facilities to patients at their doorsteps was the top priority of the government.

He said that basic health units are being strengthened in terms of medical staff, equipment and medicines.

The minister said the promise of rehabilitation of

the flood-affected BHU has been fulfilled and termed the cooperation of the World Health Organization for rehabilitation of the BHU as highly praiseworthy.

Nadeem Jan said that people of the area would now get quality treatment and medicine facilities at their doorsteps.

The minister said responsibilities rest on the shoulders of officials of the health department to ensure the best use of the BHU for the betterment of the people.

He said that timely availability of the staff and provision of better healthcare facilities was the prime responsibility of the health department.

"If the performance of BHUs is good then there will be minimum load on big hospitals and precious lives would be saved" he said.

He said that a mega project worth Rs35.6 billion was being launched in Pakistan to eradicate fatal diseases including sugar, HIV AIDs and hepatitis besides help its patients.

Cheng Xizhong says: Pakistan's fair, smooth general elections fully reflect will of people

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's recent general elections for the national and provincial assemblies were held in a fair, smooth, secure and successful and fully reflected the will of the people, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of South-west University of Political Science and Law said on Monday.

"This general election in Pakistan may be summarized in four words: fair, smooth, secure and successful. In particular, Pakistani security forces have successfully thwarted attempts by the regional power to disrupt this general election," he said in a statement.

He said that the general election held in Pakistan fully reflected the will of the people.

Now, some external forces accused the Pakistani general election of misappropriation and unfairness, which was completely groundless, he said, adding,

LHC dismisses petition seeking removal PTI from list of political parties

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed the petition seeking removal of PTI from the list of political parties.

The petition seeking removal of PTI from list of political parties came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Baqar Ali Najafi Monday.

The petitioner Afaq Ahmad advocate while making chairman Election Commission (EC) and secretary EC respondents took the plea EC has declared PTI intra party election illegal. Election symbol has been withdrawn from PTI... No office bearer of the party is there and no party in the name of PTI exists in EC. Therefore, court should order to remove PTI from list of political parties besides declaring PTI elected senators as independent senators.

The court dismissed the petition declaring it non maintainable.

Pakistan's policy endeavours on track to achieve disaster resilience against floods: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday told the Senate that the country's policy endeavours keeping in view its growing vulnerability due to climate catastrophes were on track to achieve disaster resilience against floods.

He said that after three years deliberations post 2010 floods, the Ministry of Water Resources had finalized the National Flood Protection Plan-IV, which was approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on May 2, 2017.

However, all the four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, after the enactment of Model River Act 2016, were instructed to change and implement the law according to their requirements, he added.

"The Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have implemented the law whereas its approval in the other provinces is in different stages," the minister said.

Solangi noted that under the National Plan for Flood Telemetry Programme, some 707 telemetry stations would be established on different small and big rivers across the country. The project concept or PC-I had been made, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had assured its assistance for developing 45 stations, he added.

The Punjab and Sindh provinces, he said, continued to work rapidly on expansion and innovation of all their barrages, whereas the work had been completed in Punjab and progress on Sukkur and Guddu barrages in Sindh was underway.

Responding to a motion tabled by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand to discuss the pressing issue of water resources, floods and water mismanagement in Pakistan, especially in the wake of the devastating floods in 2022 and in 2010, the minister provided a brief overview of the

Abdullah inaugurates Dittu Children Ward Civil Hospital Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan on Monday inaugurated Dittu Children's Ward Civil Hospital Quetta with the support of MNCH program after the completion of its renovation works.

On this occasion, Medical Superintendent (MS) Civil Hospital Quetta Dr Ishaq Panizi, Head of Department of Paediatrics Associate Professor Dr Saima, Provincial Coordinator MNCH Dr Gul Sabin Azam Ghorizi,

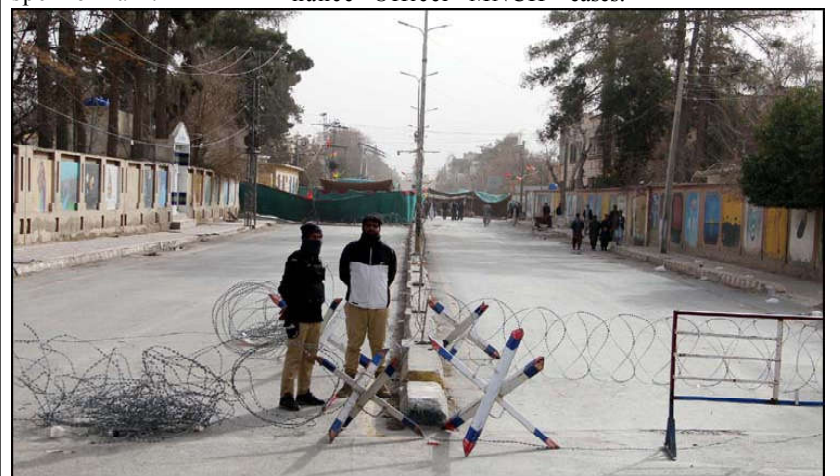
DMS Dr Garmukh Das, DMS Dr Zubair Jan Bugti, Post Graduate Doctors, Medical Officers, Finance Officer MNCH Kameel Ahmed Qamrani, IT Incharge Sikandar Zaib and other assistants were also present.

Secretary Health Abdullah Khan, also inspected the renovated wards, emergency room, ICU and nursery of various departments of Dittu Children's Ward.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that health problems of the public would be addressed by providing better medical facilities at Dittu Children's Ward. He said the Children's ward would be made ideal medical center of the province, particularly for the treatment of children's diseases.

Two houses were destroyed completely while two were partially damaged.

In a statement, Director General PDMA Muhammad Qaiser Khan said that all kinds of emergency services are being provided and all the district administrations were informed about the spell of rain.



QUETTA: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident as security has been high alert due to protest of four-party alliance against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office in Quetta.

Tributes paid to Iqra Ilmi Markaz Chaman in education sector

Independent Report CHAMAN: Rich tributes have been paid to the famous educational institution of Chaman Iqra Ilmi Markaz on the meritorious services in education sector.

In a message on eve of launch of new year's admission campaign, the prominent educationist and Patron-in-Chief of the Iqra Ilmi Markaz Chaman, Chaudhary Muhammad Tahir paid rich tributes to the institution on educational services in Chaman.

He said that all necessary steps have been taken to educate the children in the area. The children are studying in best environment, he said.

He also highly praised the Director of Iqra Ilmi Markaz Chaman and senior journalist, Syed Sardar Muhammad Khondoi for the great initiative.

Similarly, the legal advisor and prominent lawyer Syed Musawar Shah Agha and central president of Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges, Sabirur Rehman Bangash also praised Iqra Ilmi Markaz and said that we are proud of it.

SC rejects bail plea of accused in drug case as withdrawn

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed bail plea of an accused arrested in drug case as withdrawn.

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood took up the case for hearing Monday.

Justice Tariq Masood remarked when the accused is arrested then detailed search is conducted. Recovery of pistol and heroin are two separate matters. Police was becoming wise. The drugs were recovered from the body of accused and not from vehicle. The counsel for petitioner said fake case was

made and his client was nominated therein. In first case pistol was recovered and in second case drugs were got recovered after one hour. The accused is in jail since three and half months.

Justice Sardar Tariq Masood inquired is not it injustice that children take heroin. These children are found lying along side road after taking heroin.

The counsel for the petitioner said I withdraw my petition.

The court dismissed the petition as withdrawn.

The accused Intiaz Ahmad resorted to SC against rejection of bail plea in high court.



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE inaugurates the Pakistan Pavilion during Gulf Food Exhibition at World Trade Centre.

Ambassador Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at World Trade Center Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi Monday inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the World Trade Center Dubai.

On this occasion, he visited various stalls and had detailed discussions with the Pakistani exhibitors.

According to the Press Counselor of Pakistan in Dubai, the Pakistani ambassador to the UAE also spoke to media after inaugurating and visiting the pavilion set up by the Trade Development Au-

thority of Pakistan (TDAP).

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi said that almost a hundred Pakistani companies associated with the food industry have gathered here, which is a welcome sign.

He said that Pakistan's exports especially rice and meat have increased significantly compared to last year.

Expressing pleasure over his interaction with the organizers and representatives of TDAP, he said that Pakistan is the third largest country in terms of milk

production in the world adding that Pakistan, for the first time has entered the market of Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia.

He said that he was very happy to see that Pakistani dairy producers are participating in Gulfood in large numbers.

The ambassador said Pakistan's economic development was directly linked to the country's exports.

He said Pakistani businessmen and growers are backbone of the country's economy and their focus should be on increasing exports.

Govt's formation: PPP deteriorating PML-N's credibility: Rana

LAHORE (INP) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaulah has alleged that regarding formation of the government, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was deteriorating the credibility of his party while improving its own reputation.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he slammed the statement Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about government formation.

Rana Sanaulah said that the Pakistan Peoples Party was joining the coalition government, but there was a strong opinion among them that the government should not be taken.

He said that even if the PPP comes under any compulsion in formation of government, it will not be sincere and will not give us the required support.

The PML-N leader said that we were ready to give any sacrifice for national interest, but under such circumstances our sacrifice will be lost.

Rana Sanaulah further said that the party leadership was taking notice of Bilawal's statements.



QUETTA: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry addressing a Press conference.

Senate passes "The Pharmacy Amendment Bill, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate convened on Monday and passed The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023, clause-by-clause to enhance and standardize pharmacy education across the country, aiming to cultivate professionally skilled human resources.

Senator Mushaq Ahmed introduced the bill, which aimed to grant recognition to qualified pharmacists and foster opportunities for postgraduate specialized diploma programs to enhance their skills.

Additionally, it seeks to curb and prohibit unchecked and substandard pharmacy education programs through robust recognition procedures and prohibitions.

The prevailing pharmacy Act was promulgated in 1967 in a time when the country was deficient of relevant qualified professional human resources.

Couples of universities were awarding degree in Pharmacy i-e, university of the Punjab and university of Karachi, whereas

now there are almost 100 institutes conducting Pharmacy Degree Courses and more than 200 institutes imparting education in Pharmacy Technician programs.

There is dire need of drastic amendments to live decades old pharmacy act.

The existing Pharmacy Act provides for registration of Pharmacists persons other than those not holding a relevant qualification in Pharmacy.

While internationally health professions are being segregated in different categories of healthcare service delivery levels and updated to meet the challenges of modern medical and healthcare services deliveries thereof with appropriate professional recognitions.

To meet the requirements of legally qualified and professionally competent human resources in the health care sector both inland and to the international market, this professional segregation through amendments in the existing act is unavoidable.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan addressing participants of IMNCI training.