





# Governor urges masses to exercise right to vote

### Appeals people to maintain brotherhood in election

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has urged the masses to participate in the electoral process abiding by the norms of democracy and respecting the electoral rights of each other.

In a message issued here in connection with general elections, the KP Governor also urged the masses to cooperate with the administration, police and polling staff for the peaceful conduct of the electoral process.

He said that KP people had always expressed mutual respect in elections and hoped that the election would be completed in the province in an atmosphere of peace and mutual coexistence.

KP Governor advised

the masses to remain patient and avoid creating unnecessary rush in polling stations. He said that law enforcers are fully prepared to meet any untoward incident adding that political workers should respect the democratic rights of each other and maintain decorum and discipline during elections keeping in view the basic norms of democracy.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has appealed to the people of the province to complete the election process peacefully by maintaining the environment of brotherhood during this democratic process on election day and extending full cooperation to the



LAHORE: Punjab's Election Commissioner Ijaz Anwar Chohan talking with media persons at University of Engineering, in Provincial Capital.

## NA-43 Tank anticipates exciting electoral battle

PESHAWAR (APP): In the upcoming 2024 general elections, the Tank district is gearing up for fierce competition in the National Assembly constituency NA-43 Dera-cum-Tank and PK-108.

This constituency comprises one seat in the National Assembly consists of two tehsils of Dera Ismail Khan Kulachi and Paharpur areas and one in the Provincial Assembly.

With a total of 392,214 registered voters, including 214,790 men and 177,424 women, the electoral landscape in NA-43 is marked by its

diversity. The constituency boasts 353 polling stations.

The influential tribe association of Bettani, Jattatar, Kundi, Gandapur, Marwat and Mchusud holds considerable sway in the district.

Three prominent candidates are vying for the NA-43 seat including Maulana Asad Mahmood Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Dawar Khan Kundi Tehreek-e-Insaf, Abdullah Nangyal Bettani Independent and Muhammad Ramzan Shori Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan.

## KP CS reviews arrangements for general elections

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry along with IG Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, Additional Secretary Home Abid Majeed and Commissioner Peshawar Muhammad Zubair visited the office of Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He reviewed the preparations with reference to general elections and polling materials. The Provincial Election Commissioner briefed the delegation about monitoring and control room established in the office. On this occasion, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Aziz Bahadur gave a detailed briefing about the monitoring system.

## 2.6 mln people to cast votes in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A total of 2,668,700 voters are set to exercise their right to vote for five National Assembly and ten Provincial Assembly seat of general election 2024 in Sargodha district. According to a spokesman for ECP office Sargodha, a total of 1,417,495 male voters and 1,251,205 female voters would cast their votes on February 08.

## Minister Information says: Arrangements finalized for general elections

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Caretaker Minister for Information, Barrister Feroze Jamal Kakakhel Wednesday said that all the necessary arrangements had been completed for general elections that was the mandate of caretaker government. Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that control rooms had been established by election commission, home department and police to monitor the election process.

He said that Quick Response Force had also been deployed to meet any emergency in an effective way. He said that steps had been taken for security of sensitive polling station adding that about 15000 polling stations had been established among which some are declared sensitive.

The minister said that strict action would be taken that were planning to challenge of state. Regretting May 9 incident, he said that youth were misguided on the day by certain elements to fulfill their nefarious designs.

## Rasool Bangash says: ECNEC approved two projects for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved two projects for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Caretaker Finance Minister Ahmed Rasool Bangash.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Finance, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Ahmed Rasool Bangash has said that every possible effort is being made to provide basic facilities to the people of the province and possible measures are being taken for the development of the province and the restoration of infrastructure.

He expressed these views while representing the province while participating in a Zoom meeting regarding Executive Committee of National Economic Council in his office on Wednesday. Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Finance Secretary Aamir Sultan Tareen and other officials have participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, ECNEC approved PC-1 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project (KP-RRDP) with the cooperation of Asian Development Bank (ADB), in which 1337 km of roads and 62 bridges are planned. The total cost of the project is Rs. 105.45 billion, of which 13.5% is provincially shares and 86.5% is ADB funded.

The project will provide access to rural areas, upgradation and rehabilitation of flood-affected roads will be made possible.

## Journalists under RUDA LHC seeks reply from respondents on petition against allotment of plots

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from the respondents on March 13 in respect of the petition filed against allotment of plots to the journalists under Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA).

The court did not issue stay order regarding allotment of plots to journalists in its written order.

The court however made RUDA advertisement conditional with final decision of the court.

Justice Tanvir Ahmad issued written order of Tuesday hearing on the petition of information department employees Khawaja Muhammad Sami Ullah, Muhammad Rafiq and others.

The counsel of the petitioners told the court Punjab Journalist Housing Foundation (PJHF) is an institution. This institution works under Information department. The mandate of PJHF is working for the welfare of journalists. The forum mandate is to provide plots to journalists free of cost and without profit.

The counsel for the petitioners told the court under rules the quota of employees of Information Department on this forum has been earmarked in 2004 law. Issuing forms is job of PJHF.

The counsel for petitioners told the court RUDA is development authority. It has nothing to do with it.

The court inquired what is your objection over the persons to whom quota has been given.

## PEC KP says: All arrangements for election completed 15, 696 polling stations for 21.928mn voters setup in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): All arrangements have been completed by Election Commission of Pakistan for free and transparent election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where over 21.928 million registered voters would decide fate of 713 candidates contesting for national assembly seats and 1,814 candidates of provincial assembly seats on Thursday (tomorrow).

Provincial Election Commission (PEC) Spokesman told APP on Wednesday that all arrangements for February 8, 2024 general election were completed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged tribal districts where over 1,80,000 trained polling staff were deployed for polling duties.

He said that there are over 11,944,383 million male and 99,83,737 million female who exercise right of votes in KP including merged tribal districts. Similarly, 4,180 polling stations were set up for male, 4,287 polling stations for female and 6600 collective polling stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said, adding that 4,178 polling stations were declared highly sensitive and 5,925 sensitive where police and security personnel would be deployed for smooth conduct of the election process.

As per ECP's Code of Conduct, there would be a complete ban on electioneering and persuading voters within 400 meter distance of the polling stations and only polling camps of the polling parties could be established at 400 meters distance in rural areas and 100 meters in urban areas of the province.

## PO among three accused held

MULTAN (APP): A proclaimed offender (PO) among the three accused was arrested with as many motorbikes recovered from their possession.

According to a police source, a team of muhafiz squad registered as number-5 stopped a suspected motorbike.

While checking the identification through E police app, it was discovered that the motorbike was stolen and its case number 2029/2023 registered with Basti Maluk police station.

## Five injured in IED blast on former MPA's car

PESHAWAR (APP): At least five people were injured in an IED blast near car of former MPA Naseer Ullah Wazir in South Waziristan.

According to police all the injured were shifted to hospital.

# International News

## US lawmakers reject \$17.6 billion Israel aid bill

WASHINGTON (INP): US lawmakers voted Tuesday to reject a standalone Israel aid bill denounced by critics as a "cynical" bid to thwart a cross-party border security and foreign assistance package that would include cash for war-torn Ukraine.

Republicans in the House of Representatives scheduled the vote after the Democratic-led Senate released a bipartisan bill Sunday pairing billions of dollars for Israel and Ukraine with some of the strictest immigration curbs in decades.

But support for that \$118 billion package has dwindled, with Donald Trump—who is running for a second White House term—pressuring Republicans to avoid handing Presi-

dent Joe Biden a legislative victory ahead of November's election.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said after the border and foreign aid bill was unveiled that it would be "dead on arrival" if it reached the lower chamber of Congress. The standalone Israel bill would have provided \$17.6 billion in military aid for the country, which is strongly supported by the vast majority of lawmakers in both parties as it responds to the deadly October 7 attacks by Hamas militants.

But 167 Democrats voted no after Biden had threatened to wield his veto, angered that the legislation appeared aimed at undermining the larger package, hammered out af-



People gather to inspect the remains of a wrecked police vehicle that was destroyed by reported Israeli bombardment at Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

## UN calls Rafah invasion war crime; Hamas responds to truce offer

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The UN aid coordination office (OCHA) warned on Tuesday that Israel's invasion of the densely populated southern city of Rafah would constitute a war crime.

"We, as the UN and member states, can bear witness," OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists. "We can make it clear that under international humanitarian law, indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas may amount to war crimes."

The concerns arose as OCHA reported an "increase in strikes" in Rafah governorate, with thousands of Gazans seeking refuge in the city, including those fleeing intense fighting in Khan Yunis.

"To be clear, intensi-

## Houthi claim fresh Red Sea ship attacks

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Tuesday they had struck US and British ships in two attacks in the Red Sea, the latest among dozens of incidents that have disrupted global shipping.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree said the first attack on Tuesday "targeted the American ship Star Nasia, while the other targeted the British ship Morning Tide".

The Houthis "will carry out more military operations against all hostile American-British targets" in self-defence, Saree warned on X, formerly Twitter.

Security firm Ambrey had initially reported a drone attack on a British-owned cargo ship off Yemen but later said a projectile had targeted the Barbados-flagged vessel.

It was launched from a small boat sighted near the ship, Ambrey said, adding that the projectile did not impact the ship but exploded nearby, causing minor damage. There were no casualties among the crew, the British firm said.

## Nikki Haley campaign requests Secret Service after security incidents

WASHINGTON (Internews): Republican presidential contender Nikki Haley, the last remaining rival to Donald Trump in the primary race, has requested U.S. Secret Service protection, the campaign said on Monday.

While the campaign did not disclose any specific threats that prompted the request, Haley, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was targeted in two "swatting" incidents, once on Dec. 30 and once on Jan. 1.

## Palestinians hope Blinken visit can deliver Gaza truce before Rafah assault

DOHA (Internews): The top U.S. diplomat met Saudi Arabia's de-facto ruler on Monday during a Middle East visit. Palestinians hope will clinch a truce before a threatened Israeli assault on Rafah, a border city where about half the Gaza Strip population is sheltering.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Riyadh at the start of his first trip to the region since Washington brokered an offer, with Israeli input, for the first extended ceasefire of the war.

Blinken's meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman lasted about two hours.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said Blinken and the crown prince had discussed regional coordination to achieve "an enduring end" to the crisis.

"The Secretary underscored the importance of addressing humanitarian needs in Gaza and preventing further spread of the conflict," Miller said in a statement.

## 100,000-year-old human footprints found in Morocco

Monitoring Desk LARACHE: Archaeologists in Morocco have unearthed more than 80 human footprints dating back around 100,000 years and believed to be the oldest in North Africa.

The footprints, probably left by five homo sapiens, including children, were discovered on the coast of Larache, a city 90 kilometres south of Tangier, by archaeologists from Morocco, Spain, France, and Germany.

## Hamas proposes 135-day Gaza truce with complete Israeli withdrawal

DOHA (Online): Hamas proposed a ceasefire to quiet the guns in Gaza for four-and-a-half months, during which all hostages would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war.

Israel's government spokesman said Israel was studying the offer intently, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu due to hold a news conference later on Wednesday.

Israel's Channel 13 TV quoted an unidentified official as saying some aspects were not acceptable and officials were debating whether to reject the proposal or seek modifications.

The Hamas offer, the contents of which were first reported by Reuters, is a response to an earlier proposal drawn up by U.S. and Israeli spy chiefs and delivered to Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the offer with Netanyahu after arriving in Israel following talks with the leaders of Qatar and Egypt, the countries that have acted as mediators in the conflict.

There remain major gaps between the two sides: Israel has previously said it will not pull its troops out of Gaza or end the war until Hamas is wiped out. But sources described Hamas as taking a new approach to its longstanding demand to end the war, now proposing this as an issue to be resolved in future talks rather than a pre-condition for the truce.

A source close to the negotiations said the Hamas counterproposal did not require a guarantee of a permanent ceasefire at the outset, but that an end to the war would have to be agreed before final hostages were freed.



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) listens to questions during the weekly Democratic Caucus lunch press conference at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, U.S.

## Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities kills three

KYIV (Internews): Russia launched missile strikes on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities during Wednesday morning's rush hour, killing three people, injuring at least a dozen more and setting blazes across the capital, Ukrainian officials said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that two people had been killed in the capital Kyiv and one person in Mykolayiv in the south of the country.

"Another massive attack against our state. Six regions were under the enemy's strike. All our services are now working to cope with the consequences of this terror," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messaging app. The Ukrainian air defence shot down 44 missiles and drones out of 64 launched by Russia in several waves of the attack, said Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, Ukraine's armed forces commander.

European Foreign policy chief Josep Borrell who is in Kyiv on a two-day visit to underline the EU's support for Ukraine.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo during his visit to the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

## President Dr. Alvi briefed: Wafaqi Mohtasib resolves 193,028 complaints; provides relief Rs4.898bn

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib has resolved a total of 193,028 complaints against the maladministration of government departments and provided relief worth Rs 4.898 billion to the citizens during 2023.

The Mohtasib processed a record 194,099 complaints during 2023, with processing witnessing a surge of 18 per cent, while the disposal of complaints increased by 22 per cent, as compared to 2022.

Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad

Qureshi briefed President Dr Arif Alvi who visited the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib on Wednesday. The president had a briefing on the complaints received and resolved by the Ombudsman to ensure prompt relief to citizens during the year 2023, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Briefing the president, the federal ombudsman highlighted the role and performance of the institution. He informed that 193,028 complaints were addressed in 2023, with monetary relief of Rs 4.898 billion provided to the complainants. Furthermore, on the recommendations of Wafaqi Mohtasib, as many as 18,000 street children were enrolled in government schools in Islamabad. The meeting was informed that 85.4 per cent of Wafaqi Mohtasib's decisions were implemented last year, with efforts underway to further improve the ratio of the implementation. It was stated that the increased use of technology in Mohtasib had enhanced people's accessibility, with 48,190 complaints registered online in 2023, marking an increase of 47 per cent from 2022. Similarly, 22,321 complaints were received through Mohtasib's mobile App in 2023, representing a 21 per cent increase from 2022.

The meeting was also briefed on the Integrated Complaint Resolution System, processing 18,469 complaints in 2023, alongside Mohtasib's teams conducting Khuli Kucheries and inspection visits to address people's grievances against government agencies.

## ECP declares 16,766 polling stations highly sensitive, 29,985 sensitive

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has declared 16,766 polling stations highly sensitive and 29,985 as sensitive in the general elections across the country due to the prevailing security situation in those districts.

"The Returning Officer, Presiding and Assistant Officers have been delegated first-class magistrate to control the law and order situation at the polling stations, while Pakistan Army will be deployed outside the most sensitive polling stations," the ECP spokesman told APP.

The spokesman said that the ECP will use Election Management System

(EMS) to transmit and edit the results of the general elections, adding that no decision was taken yet to shut down the internet anywhere on Election Day.

"As many as 90,675 polling stations and 266,398 polling booths have been established across the country to ensure the right of the people to vote, while 1,490,000 election staffers will perform their duties of polling staff," he added.

He said the ECP has already fixed the election duties of the officers and employees for the general polls across the country, under which the staffers will perform duties in two shifts round the clock.

## Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan says: Subversive acts in Killa Saifullah, Pishin conspiracy to sabotage peaceful election process

Governor strongly condemns blasts: says no one would be allowed to sabotage peaceful environment of Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the explosions took place in Pishin and Killa Saifullah districts which claimed lives of several persons and left many injured on Wednesday.

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the two blasts and injuries caused to several persons.

He also sought report of the subversive acts from provincial Home department.

He directed to the law enforcement agencies to mobilize all available resources for arrest of the elements involved in the terrorism incidents.

The Chief Minister said that the subversive acts

are conspiracy to disrupt the peaceful election process in the province.

He directed to the LEAs to take those involved in the blasts to task.

On the other hand, he asked the voters to not be scared of the situation and come out of their homes to use their right of franchise.

He assured that the security arrangements are being improved further, and adding he vowed to stop the subversive acts.

He expressed sympathy and condolence with those died in the two blasts and prayed for the departed souls.

He also prayed for early recovery of the injured of blasts.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan has condemned the blasts occurred in Killa Saifullah and Pishin in strongest words.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the Governor asserted that no one would be allowed to sabotage the peaceful environment of the province at any cost.

He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to take prompt steps against those elements creating law and order situation and trying to disrupt the election process in the province.

He also urged the law enforcers to foil the nefarious designs of miscreants who want to spread fear and harassment on occasion of the elections in Balochistan.

The Governor directed to the concerned authorities to provide best possible medical treatment to the injured of Killa Saifullah and Pishin blasts.

He prayed for the departed souls of those died in the two blasts besides praying for early recovery of those injured in them.



LAHORE: Pak Army soldiers patrol a road to ensure security ahead of general election, in Provincial Capital.

## Speakers uphold self-determination at Pak-sponsored event, stressing its integral to freedom

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan Tuesday told a gathering of diplomats and rights advocates at the U.N. that the right of self-determination will not be fulfilled until all peoples who are under foreign occupation or settler-colonialism, especially Palestine and Kashmir, are able to exercise that right.

"The right of self-determination is bedrock of the modern international system," Ambassador Munir Akram said, warning that historically a colonial power has never succeeded in suppressing the right of self-determination of a determined people.

Ambassador Akram was speaking at a largely-

attended event, which was sponsored by Pakistan, in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day. The topic of discussion was "Challenges to the realization of the Right to Self-Determination in the Contemporary Global Context", with speakers from all regions of the world upholding that inalienable right of peoples struggling for freedom.

"We are confident that the Palestinians, the Kashmiris and other oppressed people will ultimately secure their right to self-determination and freedom as most of us have done through the process of decolonization," the Pakistani envoy said.

Panelists at the Self-

determination event were: Ms. Fionnuala NiAolain, a professor at the University of Minnesota and former UN rights expert; Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz, permanent observer of the Arab League at the UN; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace and Justice, and Hameed Ajibaie, permanent observer for OIC at the UN.

After the presentations from the panelists, ambassadors and representatives of Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Iran, Venezuela, Eritrea and India participated in the general discussion in which they also raised issues of concern to them.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Abdullah Khan and CEO PPHI Hameedullah Khan Nasir inaugurate BHU Model at Kechi Baig.

## Aircraft carrying Pakistan's humanitarian aid for Gaza people arrives in Egypt

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special aircraft carrying 100 tons of relief goods donated by Pakistan for the suffering people of Gaza arrived in Egypt on Wednesday.

The plane carrying the fifth tranche of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance consisting of winterized tents, tarpaulins and blankets landed at El-Arish International Airport of Egypt.

The relief goods were received by the senior diplomatic officials of Pakistan

for their onward delivery to Gaza.

This brings the total humanitarian assistance delivered by Pakistan for people of Gaza to 330 tons, Pakistan's Embassy in Egypt said on its X timeline.

Further deliveries are in the pipeline and will be delivered soon, it added.

This ongoing support underscores Pakistan's continued commitment to addressing urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza.

## Bilawal, Zardari lay terrorist incidents

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned terrorist incidents in Qila Saifullah and Pishin areas of Balochistan.

The two leaders sympathized with the families of those who lost their lives in the bomb blasts and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Bilawal said the criminals involved in cowardly acts of terrorism should not be spared and urged federal and Balochistan governments to arrest them at the earliest.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Over 596,000 Army, CAFs & Police personnel to perform election security

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the cool breezes of the outgoing winter season add flavour to the bright sunny days, the country's political fate is going to be decided on Thursday in the General Elections 2024 with over 596,000 Army, Civil Armed Forces and Police personnel being deployed across the country to maintain law and order for the smooth and fair electoral process.

A total of 596,618 personnel of Army, Civil Armed Forces and Police will perform election duty to maintain law and order situation in the country, official sources said on

Wednesday.

The beefed-up security arrangements for General Elections 2024 have been ensured for peaceful conduct of the polls. Some 106,942 personnel of the Quick Response Force have been deployed across the country at the request of the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct the Elections in a peaceful environment.

Besides, 23,940 security personnel will be permanently on duty during the elections, whereas as many as 130,882 personnel of the Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces will be on election duty.

## Pakistani youth lauds Beijing's Intl environment

BEIJING (APP): Muhammad Ammar, who came from Pakistan around 18 years ago, and now works for an international education group in Beijing, has lauded international environment in the Chinese capital. Beijing has greatly influenced his personal growth, and its international environment and various resources are unique advantages that have helped his career development.

"Beijing is almost my second home which helped me to connect with different multi-national organizations, different people and talents bringing a very unique advantages for my career development," he told China Daily.

"I have studied my high school, bachelor and master degrees all from Beijing and Beijing has

greatly influenced my personal growth," he added. Ammar and his five other family members have studied at the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), forging an indissoluble bond with Beijing. His father decided to bring the family to China after he saw many pictures in a magazine related to the infrastructure development of China as he felt that the Chinese people were very hard working to build their motherland.

"At a very young age, I naturally believed that I will come to China for study. So, in 2005, my two eldest sisters and me came to China for study," he added. Currently working at TANG International Education, he is mainly responsible for the cultural exchange activities between China and Pakistan.

## 2 injured in blast near PTI MP candidate

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN (Online): Blast is reported to have taken place near vehicle of Nasirullah Wazir candidate of PTI Parliamentarian from PK-110 South Waziristan.

Two persons have been injured in bomb blast who have been shifted to hospital. Nasir Ullah was not present in his car at the time of explosion.

Nasir Ullah is former MPA and candidate from PTI Parliamentarian.

## Pak envoy, Malaysian DG Immigration discuss issues of Pak nationals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan High Commissioner in Malaysia Syed Ahsan Raza Shah met Director General Immigration Dato Ruslin bin Jusoh in Kuala Lumpur.

During the meeting the high commissioner raised immigration-related issues of Pakistani nationals in Malaysia.

The DG immigration informed Syed Ahsan Raza about forthcoming initiatives being taken in this regard.

Both sides agreed to maintain regular contact in future.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding Anti Corruption Department.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Balochistan Chief, Maulana Abdul Wasay addresses to media persons during press conference.

## Ballot papers

## EC rejects plea for recording PTI with name of independent candidate

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has rejected the plea for recording PTI as party with the name of independent candidate on ballot papers.

The reserved judgment on PTI candidate Suleman Akram Raja has been announced.

PTI candidate Suleman Akram Raja had prayed to EC to record name of PTI against independent candidates of PTI IN form 33.

A five member bench

of EC headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) had reserved judgment on the petition.

It was said in the decision issued by EC on Wednesday that election symbol was withdrawn for not holding intra party election.

The decision said Supreme Court has upheld EC decision. Therefore, the plea for recording name of party along with name of candidate in form 33 cannot be allowed.

## Saudi Minister lauds Hajj arrangements

ISLAMABAD (Online): Saudi Minister of Hajj, Dr. Tawfig bin Al-Rabiyah, congratulated the Minister of Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, on his excellent and active performance related to Hajj arrangements. In a letter received by the Saudi Embassy on Wednesday, Minister of Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and his team were formally congratulated

for winning the award.

It should be noted that on the occasion of the Int'l Hajj Expo held in Jeddah last month, Pakistan Hajj Mission was presented with the award for the best and active Hajj Mission.

In his letter, the Saudi Hajj Minister also directed the Pakistani counterpart to complete the service contracts for the pilgrims before February 25.



NASEERABAD: Members of Jamote Qaumi Movement are holding protest demonstration against Returning Officer of the Constituency PB-13, held outside Polling Station in Naseerabad.

## ECP issues guidelines for Form-45

ISLAMABAD (INP): With just only one day to go for general elections, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued instructions to the presiding officers (PO) for maintaining Form-45 after the polling process concludes.

Form 45, previously Form 14, is known as the statement of the count, according to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

It is supposed to show the number of valid votes for each contesting candidate and ballot papers excluded from the count. This form also includes gender-disaggregated data on the basis of male and female voters scored out from the electoral rolls in the relevant

polling booths.

According to the instructions, the electoral watchdog ordered the presiding officers to prepare Form-45 without failing. "The Form 45 must be signed with their CNIC cards, taking signatures of polling agents at the polling stations," it said.

The presiding officers were told to ensure a brief reason in the form for refusal of signatures by the polling agents, pasting the copy of the form outside after their signatures and handing over to the polling agents.

The ECP noted that the presiding officers will be responsible for changes in the form.