

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 29, Shaban 03, 1445 AH Wednesday February 14, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

PTI to ally with MWM in Punjab and Centre, with Jamaat-i-Islami in KP

Rauf says Imran has given instructions to make contact with all political parties except PML-N, PPP, MQM-P; Ali Amin Gandapur named KPK CM by PTI founder

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has claimed that the former ruling party, upon directions of its founder Imran Khan, will join hands with Majlis-e-Wahdat-Muslimeen (MWM) to form its governments in Centre and Punjab. Speaking to the media in Islamabad on Tuesday, PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan said that the former prime minister, while ruling out the prospects of any talks with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), has directed the party to form a coalition with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over reserved seats. "Those who have emerged victorious in the [February 8] polls, should be allowed to form the government as it is their right [do so], he said while conveying Khan's message. "I have been given the mandate [by Khan] to approach all political parties to continue the party's political struggle for democratic values with the exception of the PML-N, MQM-P and the PPP," Hasan added. Other decisions ratified by the party founder include the nomination of Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief minister for KP, the holding of intra-party elections and the appointment of Amir Dogar as the party's chief whip in the National Assembly, Hasan added.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar, Hassan Darvishvand, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran-Quetta along with others cutting cake to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Glorious Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the National Day organized by the Iranian National Council.

PML-N ready for opposition if independents show minority: Shehbaz

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that independent candidates backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) can form a government in the Centre if they have the required number of seats. Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said that if PTI-backed candidates could show majority in the National Assembly then they were welcome to form a government. "The PML-N is ready to sit in the opposition if PTI-backed candidates prove their majority in the lower house of parliament. The PML-N will accept the government of the PTI-backed independent candidates but if they fail to do so, then the PML-N will use its legal and constitutional right as the PML-N has a majority in Punjab and is the largest in the Centre in terms of party," he added. The PML-N president said that after independent candidates' induction into the party the number of elected members was now 80, adding that more independent lawmakers would join the PML-N in the coming days. He said that despite PML-N failing to secure a majority in the elections, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was still the party's candidate for the slot of prime minister. "Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister for the fourth time," he added. Shehbaz Sharif said that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz would invite everyone to form a coalition government in the Centre, adding that all stakeholders would have to move forward together in the country's larger interest.



QUETTA: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Khushal Khan Kakar speaks during a press conference.

IHC summons PM Kakar in personal capacity in Baloch students non-recovery case

There should be death sentence in enforced disappearances: Justice Mohsin ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to appear in person in non-recovery of missing Baloch students case. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has remarked there should be death sentence in enforced disappearances. Those involved in enforced disappearances should be awarded death sentence twice. The non-recovery of Baloch students case came up for hearing before IHC Tuesday. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case. During the hearing Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Usman Ghuman requested Attorney General (AG) is not available today therefore, hearing be adjourned. The court dismissed the plea. Auditor General (AG) took the plea during the hearing we need more time in this case. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked it is kindness that I am not summoning both of the DGs. Caretaker PM should appear himself at 10 a.m.



HUB: A view of business activities seen shut down due to strike called by All Parties against alleged rigging in General Election 2024.

PML-N, IPP, PPP, MQM, PML-Q join forces for coalition govt

Asif Zardari vows to extend reconciliation efforts to PTI; Shehbaz says "war" is against country's challenges; Aleem Khan hopes Shehbaz-led govt will take decisions beneficial for the country; MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool vows 'full support' to Shehbaz to 'strengthen' democracy

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Political leaders from various parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Muslim League, Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), have announced plans to form a coalition government. This decision emerged following a meeting held at Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain's residence, where leaders discussed strategies for governance. Speaking to media af-

ter the meeting, Asif Ali Zardari expressed determination to establish the coalition government. He emphasized the importance of a unified agenda, focusing on economic, defense, and other critical issues to ensure Pakistan's success. Zardari highlighted that despite competing against each other in elections, they are not ideological opponents and can collectively manage the country, adding that reconciliation efforts will extend to include PTI as well. "Thank you, Chaudhary Shujaat, for hosting us all here," expressed Shahbaz Sharif as

he acknowledged the gathering. "The election phase has concluded, and Parliament is on the brink of formation," he continued, emphasizing the transition. "It is imperative for the economy to stabilize," he asserted, underlining the significance of financial strength. "National unity is paramount for progress," Sharif remarked, highlighting the need for solidarity among diverse factions. "The recent IMF agreement has bolstered the country's economic standing," he added, acknowledging the pivotal role of international support.

"I extend my gratitude to Bilawal Bhutto for his voting decision," Sharif expressed appreciation for Bhutto's stance. "The nation has spoken; these parties now hold a two-thirds majority," he asserted, indicating the significant electoral mandate received. "Inclusive representation from Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and KP signifies our collective strength," Sharif noted, emphasizing the diverse yet unified representation. "With our majority, we pledge to address the nation's challenges," he assured, committing to effective governance.

Solangi says Justified complaints regarding polls to be redressed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi has said that "justified complaints regarding the polls would be redressed in accordance with the law". According to the report, he told a private TV channel that complaints related to the polls were "being heard at the relevant forum". Solangi said the caretaker government, particularly the interior minister, had fulfilled its responsibility by holding the biggest democratic exercise in the country in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner.

Ambassadors of Iran, Pak meet in Brussels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Belgium and European Union Ali Robatjazi Tuesday called on Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Anna Baloch at Pakistan's embassy in Brussels. During the meeting, they discussed matters of regional and global importance. The two sides also agreed to strengthen Pakistan-Iran cooperation in Brussels.

UN Chief continuing to monitor situation in Pakistan post-elections

WASHINGTON (INP): United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres is "continuing to monitor the situation following the general elections", according to his spokesperson. In a media briefing, the UN chief's spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Guterres "calls for the resolving of all issues and disputes through the established legal frameworks and for human rights and the rule of law to be fully respected in the interest of the people of Pakistan".



ISLAMABAD: President PML-N Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Co-Chairman PPP Asif Ali Zardari, President PML-Q Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and BAP's Sadiq Sanjrani addressing a joint press conference

Balochistan voters reject nationalist narratives, demand progress: Jan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Tuesday declared that the recent election results demonstrate the unequivocal rejection of ethnic nationalist narratives by voters, who instead extended their support to mainstream parties like PPP and PMLN. "This resounding rejection should serve as a wake-up call for ethnic nationalist parties to reassess their grievances and their habit of maligning the state," he stated. He criticized the use of "missing persons" and "exploitation of resources" as mere talking points to deceive the electorate and disparage the state. He said that the days of blind faith in their ability to bring positive change are long gone, the people demand tangible results and

genuine progress. Minister Achakzai further urged ethnic nationalist parties to abandon disruptive tactics that harm ordinary citizens. "Blocking roads, highways, and essential services is not only counterproductive but deeply unfair to the very people they claim to represent," he emphasized, saying they should pursue legal avenues, like tribunals, to address their concerns. He outlined the true needs of Balochistan: ending corruption, ensuring merit-based appointments, and responsible resource management. "These are the issues that truly matter to the people," he said. "All political parties, including ethnic nationalists, must prioritize the well-being and progress of Balochistan," he noted.

JI loses three KP seats after vote recount

BAJAUR (INP): Following the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP's) decision to recount the votes, the three candidates of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) from PK-17, PK-20, and PK-21 constituencies lost their seats in the general election 2024. The three JI candidates—Aizaz Ul Malik representing PK-17, Waheed Gul from PK-20, and Sardar Khan from PK-21—initially secured victories in their respective constituencies. However, following a recount ordered by the ECP, they ultimately faced defeat. As per the latest result, Ubaid Ur Rehman, running as an independent candidate, secured victory in PK-17. Similarly, Anwar Zeb Khan, also an independent candidate, clinched the seat for PK-20 with 12,903 votes.

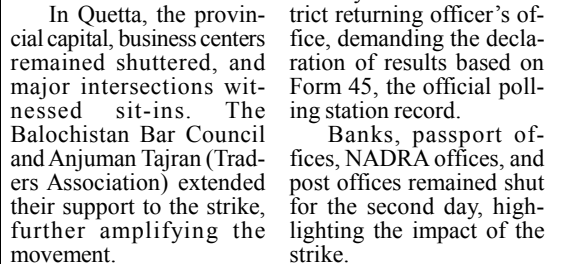
FM condemns Israel's bombing, offensive in Rafah

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani has vehemently condemned Israel's recent bombing and offensive in Rafah. In a post on his X handle, he described the Israeli acts against innocent Palestinians as deplorable and a grave violation of international law and human rights. He emphasized that the international community cannot afford to ignore the situation.

Complete shutdown strike against election rigging continue in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): A province-wide shutdown strike paralyzed Balochistan, as major political parties protest against alleged rigging in the recent general elections. Business centers remained closed, streets echoed with slogans, and sit-ins sprang up across the region, demanding transparency and accountability. The call for the strike came from a powerful alliance of four parties the Balochistan National Party (BNP), National Party (NP), Pashtun Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Hazara Democratic Party (HDP). They accuse authorities of manipulating poll results to favor other parties, effectively stealing their victories. In Quetta, the provincial capital, business centers remained shuttered, and major intersections witnessed sit-ins. The Balochistan Bar Council and Anjuman Tajran (Traders Association) extended their support to the strike, further amplifying the movement.

Nushki saw a complete shutdown, with markets and shops deserted in response to the four-party alliance's call. People took to the streets, raising their voices against alleged poll rigging and demanding fair results. The BNP's ongoing protest outside the Nushki district returning officer's office entered its third day, blocking the national highway and intensifying pressure on authorities. In Chaman, the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (ANP) led a shutdown strike, causing businesses to close and essential services to be disrupted. Party workers staged sit-ins for the fifth consecutive day in front of the district returning officer's office, demanding the declaration of results based on Form 45, the official polling station record. Banks, passport offices, NADRA offices, and post offices remained shut for the second day, highlighting the impact of the strike.



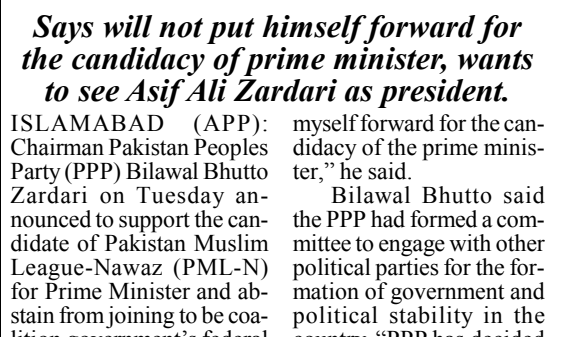
ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a press conference.

PPP to back PML-N candidate for PM's slot but won't become part of govt in Centre: Bilawal

Says will not put himself forward for the candidacy of prime minister, wants to see Asif Ali Zardari as president.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday announced to support the candidate of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for Prime Minister and abstain from joining to be coalition government's federal cabinet. Addressing a press conference here after the meeting of party's Central Executive Committee (CEC), he said that PPP was accepting the election results despite its concerns in the larger interest of the country. He said the reality was that his party did not have a mandate to form the government in the federation, adding that the PML-N and the independents had greater numbers in the Centre. "I will not be putting

myself forward for the candidacy of the prime minister," he said. Bilawal Bhutto said the PPP had formed a committee to engage with other political parties for the formation of government and political stability in the country. "PPP has decided that we ran this general election on a manifesto based on issues of public importance; we want to restore political stability and end this environment of political toxicity," he added. The PPP chairman said that his party had raised concerns regarding a level playing field with former President Asif Ali Zardari during the PPP's CEC meeting and the latter had assumed that these complaints would be addressed.



QUETTA: Members of All Parties are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC office in Quetta.

SC rejects Punjab govt report on Jaranwala incident declaring it waste paper

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court (SC) has rejected Punjab government report in respect of Jaranwala incident declaring it waste paper in minorities rights case. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked Punjab government report is liable to be thrown into waste paper basket. Only 18 challans were made during 6 months. They beat the drum of Islamophobia on other places and what they are

doing. What treatment is being meted out to non-Muslims in India, they want to copy it. Jaranwala incident took place when and how many people have been arrested so far. At what time first church was burnt and Fajar occurs in August at what time. Police watched burning this all before their eyes. The case related to rights of minorities came up for hearing before SC. Punjab government filed progress report about the incident in SC.

ECC approves Rs.7.4 bln 'Ramzan Relief Package'; tariff rationalization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved Rs. 7,492.75 million proposed Ramazan Relief Package-2024 to provide relief to the general public during the upcoming holy month of Ramazan. The package is aimed at providing subsidy to the targeted beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) with net amount of Rs. 7,492.75 million, which is provided for in the budget for 2023-24, according to a press statement issued by the fi-

nance ministry. The ECC meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsud Akhtar. The ECC meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter-Provincial Coordination, Fawad Hasan Fawad; Minister for Interior, Commerce & Industries, Gohar Ejaz; Minister for Energy and Petroleum Division, Mohammad Ali; Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed; Minister of Maritime Affairs, Communica-

tion and Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar; Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan; Advisor to PM on Finance, Dr. Waqar Masood, federal secretaries, and other senior government officers of the relevant ministries. The committee approved a summary of the Ministry of Commerce (Tariff Policy Wing), regarding "Individual Tariff Rationalization Proposals from Different Sectors for Review of Custom Duties" and advised that tariff rationalization should be coordinated with the trade policy. ECC also approved a proposal regarding "Permission to Import Wheat and Export of Wheat Flour under Export Facilitation Scheme 2021" presented to the forum by the Ministry of Commerce and directed the relevant Ministries to prepare comprehensive proposals for enhancing the opportunities for valued added exports. The ECC also approved a summary of the Power Division regarding the "Commissioning of 1263 MW CCPP Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Limited, Jhang (PPTL)".



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz chairing a briefing at NADRA headquarters.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan presiding a meeting of DRAP at Central Drugs Laboratory.

Solangi reads news bulletin to give message govt considers radio important communication medium

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday created new history by reading English news bulletin on Radio Pakistan on World Radio Day. The minister read 1.00 pm news bulletin on Radio Pakistan and gave an important message that the government considered radio as an important medium of communication. This move by the caretaker information minister also indicated that the government was committed to promoting radio broadcasting in the country. Radio Pakistan is the oldest and largest broadcasting organization in the country with a wide audi-

LHC dismisses petition against Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday dismissed a petition against the victory of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from NA-130 in elections 2024. Sharif's victory from NA-130 was challenged by Ishaq Ahmed in the high court after the former three-time prime minister was declared the winner as per unofficial and unconfirmed results. Justice Baqar Najafi terming the plea inadmissible directed the plaintiff to contact the Election Commission of Pakistan on the matter. You can contact RO or ECP for recounting of votes in NA-130, the LHC said in its verdict. It is pertinent to note that according to the unofficial and inconclusive result of Constituency NA-130 Lahore-XIV, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of PML-N won with 171,024 votes from 376 polling stations. However, the three-time former Prime Minister, faced a significant defeat in the NA-15 Manshehra constituency, losing the seat to independent candidate Shahzada Gostasap, who secured 74,713 votes against Sharif's 63,054 votes. Earlier on Monday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) rejected several pleas filed against victories of key candidates in the General Elections.

PSL 9 trophy unveiled at Lahore's Polo Ground

LAHORE: The PSL 9 trophy has been unveiled at the Polo Ground of the Race Course Park in Lahore in the presence of PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, franchise owners, and star cricketers. The trophy is "The Orion Trophy" and will be a source of motivation for all the teams participating in the tournament. The trophy embodies the spirit of the Pakistan Super League where each team shines brightly as they strive for glory. Mohsin Naqvi said: "It is a pleasure to announce that PSL is entering its ninth season, and I am proud to say that PSL continues to be a success story for Pakistan cricket. Today, as we unveil this Orion trophy, we look forward to a month-long celebration of the beautiful game of cricket and the excitement and drama that accompanies it. PSL connects to the hearts of people of Pakistan, who cherish every thrilling moment of the game. Be it towering sixes, high-intensity bowling, and top-notch catches, PSL offers an emotional rollercoaster. I would like to thank the title sponsor of the league, they truly have uplifted the game of cricket in our country through their support and have become synonymous with the name of the league. All the successes over the past eight years are a testament to commitment of the Pakistan Super League. The President, in the letter, stated that given the status and importance of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, having access to these documents was a matter of national value and interest for Pakistani people. President Alvi conveyed that First Lady Samina Alvi had visited Zurich Archives in January 2024, and after reading most of the documents, had taken a personal interest in the matter. The President has requested Switzerland to gift this historical document collection to the National Archives of Pakistan.



LAHORE: Captains of PSL teams poses with PSL-9 trophy during inauguration ceremony of PSL-9 in Provincial Capital.

Alvi writes to Swiss President for gift of documents related to Quaid-i-Azam's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi has written a letter to the President of the Swiss Confederation, seeking assistance in providing copies of archival documents about the life of Ahmad Ali Jinnah (brother of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah) to Pakistan. The documents, currently in possession of Zurich's City Archives, are a compilation of photographs, history and details of the life of Ahmad Ali Jinnah and related to late Fatima Goepfert Jinnah, niece of the Founder of Pakistan, a President Secretariat press release said.

Drug app launched to ensure availability of medicines: Dr. Nadeem

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that a drug app had been launched to ensure availability of the medicines. He said that his ministry took measures to ensure registration of sugar, blood pressure and life-saving medicines on emergency basis. Expressing his views during his visit to Karachi Drug Testing Laboratory here, the Minister said that he had laid a foundation stone of large-scale reforms in the Ministry of Health Services in a short period of time. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that it was his priority to keep the cost of medicines within the reach of the commonman. He said that the Caretaker government would not allow the sale of sub-standard medicines and hoarding of the medicines. The Minister said that concerted steps had been taken to make the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) public friendly. The facility of testing medical equipment was now available in the laboratory, he said adding that the registration and licensing system in DRAP had been digitized. He said that coordinated measures to promote merit and transparency had been ensured.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Asif Durrani meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozzeai.

Establishment of BINS for curing of raising metal diseases inevitable: Abdullah

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Secretary Health Abdullah on Tuesday said that the setting up of the Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences (BINS) for the treatment of increasing mental diseases was inevitable in the province. He expressed these views while chairing a review meeting of the Institute of Neurological Sciences here. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Health Arif Khan, Additional Secretary Health Abdul Hameed Zehri, Dean PGMI Neurophysician Professor Dr. Noor Muhammad Khosa, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Rasool Zehri, Governance Specialist Abdul Qadir Nasir, Additional Director PGM Dr. Mir Abdul Qadir, Assistant Chief P&D Syed Saifullah, Section Officer Aziz Ahmed Sub Divisional Engineer B&R Shahid Nawab and Sub Engineer B&R Muhammad Yousuf. Dean PGMI Neurophysician Professor Dr. Noor Muhammad Khosa gave a briefing about the Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences at the meeting. The secretary of health while addressing the meeting said that the establishment of Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences for the treatment of increasing mental diseases was predictable saying that Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences would start functioning in the same year for which funds were being arranged. The burden of neurological diseases in Pakistan is very high and it is quite common among children, twenty per cent of children in the five million disabled population suffer from mental retardation and developmental disorders, he said.

Nawaz Sharif should not become PM: Javed Latif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Javed Latif, who faced defeat in the general elections 2024, opined that party supremo Nawaz Sharif should not become prime minister. Speaking at a private TV Channel, the PML-N leader cast doubt over the elections' legitimacy, claiming that results of candidates belonging to every political parties have been changed. "Today, not me or any political party, but the state has been defamed", Javed Latif said, pointing out the press conference of Pir Sibghatullah Shah Rashidi, popularly known as Pir Pagara—who announced his refusal to accept the results of the recent general elections. Speaking of his defeat, Latif claimed he was told 15-20 days earlier that a "cross has been made on my name". "The prof of declaring someone winner and loser should be stopped," he demanded. PTI-backed independent candidate Khurram Shahzad Virk won the election for National Assembly constituency NA-115, Sheikhupura III by securing 130,255 votes. As per unofficial result, his runner-up was Javed Latif, who bagged 94,144, votes.



QUETTA: Chief of the Jamhoori Wattan Party, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti speaks during a press conference.

Financial fraud case Court approves bail after arrest plea of Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Courts Islamabad has approved bail after arrest plea in respect of former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in financial fraud case. Civil and judicial magistrate Judge Dr. Sohail Tahim announced reserved judgment on bail plea of Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday. The court approved bail of Fawad Chaudhry against surety bonds in the sum of Rs 100000. The former federal minister is facing the charges of not giving the job to a citizen after taking Rs 50 lac from him. On the other hand judge of Accountability Court (AC) adjourned the hearing of corruption case against Fawad Chaudhry till February 22 without proceedings. Judge ordered investigation team of anti corruption department to present challan on next date. Talking to media men outside anti corruption court, Fawad Chaudhry said the entire world has raised questions on election. What type of elections have taken place is before all of us. Australia, UK, US and entire world have raised questions on the election. These elections will be remembered after the election held in 1965 during Ayub Khan regime.

JIP debunks alliance with PTI

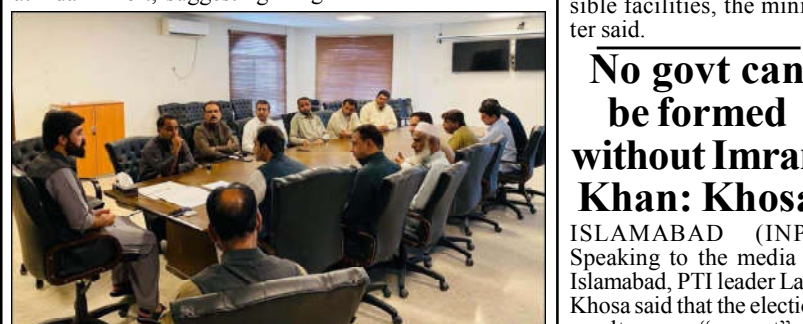
PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, has refuted claims of allying with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In response to a statement by PTI spokesman Rauf Hassan, Professor Ibrahim Khan, in a released statement from Markaz-e-Islami, asserted that while PTI has the authority to form a government with any political party, it lacks moral justification to associate JIP with their efforts. Professor Ibrahim Khan clarified that JIP has not reached a decision regarding alliance formation with PTI and criticized PTI for using their party's name in the process without consent. He deemed such actions as inappropriate and immoral, emphasizing that JIP will not extend its support.

FO expresses grief over loss of lives in Philippines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the devastation, caused by a landslide in the Southern Philippines which took multiple lives. "Our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Philippines and families of the deceased," the Ministry of Foreign Office posted on its official X account. It further said that it was another grim reminder of the ravages caused by climate change and the need for collective action to overcome it.

Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday accused India of complicity in the violence against Palestinians. Addressing a press conference, he said according to reports, Israel was utilizing Indian-made drones to perpetrate attacks on the innocent people of Rafah, a claim that has stirred international concern. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) condemned the alleged collusion between India and Israel, stating that while India continued to oppress Kashmiris, it was also practically involved in the bloodshed of Palestinian civilians. He pointed fingers at Adani-Elbit, suggesting that the conglomerate was facilitating the provision of drones to the Israeli government, thus exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Palestine. The recent Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) special summit convened to address the Palestine issue resulted in a decision to exert pressure on countries supplying weapons to Israel. Ashrafi called upon Muslim nations to sever financial and economic ties with such countries if they fail to adhere to the OIC's directives. He urged for a boycott of Indian products, similar to the ongoing boycott of Israeli goods, in response to India's alleged complicity in the attacks on Palestinians. Expressing grave concern, Ashrafi warned of dire consequences if Rafah continued to be targeted, emphasizing the potential ripple effects on neighboring Muslim nations. He urged for a boycott of Indian products, similar to the ongoing boycott of Israeli goods, in response to India's alleged complicity in the attacks on Palestinians. Expressing grave concern, Ashrafi warned of dire consequences if Rafah continued to be targeted, emphasizing the potential ripple effects on neighboring Muslim nations.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Badini presiding over a meeting of District Polio Eradication Committee.

WAPDA to divert River Swat at Mohmand Dam Project in April

PESHAWAR (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is going to divert River Swat in April this year at the under construction Mohmand Dam, as diversion system of the project is steadily heading towards completion in accordance with the timelines. In this connection, Chairman WAPDA, Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) visited Mohmand Dam, being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. He visited in detail construction sites of the spillway, the diversion tunnels and the power house to review construction activities going on there. Advisor (Projects) WAPDA, GM and PD Mohmand Dam Project and the Consultants and the Contractors were also present during the visit. Later, the chairman also presided over a progress review meeting at the project office. At present, construction work is continuing on 12 sites. The project team gave a detailed briefing about diversion scheme, concreting and slope stabilization at the spillway, slope excavation and support works at the power house, excavation at the irrigation tunnels, construction of structures across the irrigation canals and finishing works at the permanent access roads.

No govt can be formed without Imran Khan: Khosa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaking to the media in Islamabad, PTI leader Latif Khosa said that the election results were "correct" up till the issuance of the Form 45. "According to the Form 45, 170 of our people are winning. They are not independent because PTI exists as a legal and constitutional party. Calling us independent is wrong and illegal," he said. He said that if reserved seats were added to this number, then the PTI would cross the 200 mark in the National Assembly. "The largest political party which emerges in the election is given the right to form the government," he said.



HUB: Members of All Parties are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, in Hub.