

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; Âli Amin Gandapur named KPK CM by PTI founder ISLAMABAD (INP): The (KP) over reserved seats.

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 Raoof 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

Those who have emerged victorious in the [February 8] polls, should be allowed to form the government as it is their right [do do so], he said while conveying Khan's message. "I have been given the mandate [by Khan] to ap-

proach 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): Paki- Punjab and is the largest in stan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Presi-dent Shehbaz Sharif said The PML-N president



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): ter the meeting, Asif Ali he acknowledged the gath-Political leaders from various parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Move-ment-Pakistan (MQM-P), a unified agenda, focusing on economic, defense, and other critical issues to en-Pakistan Muslim League, sure Pakistan's success.

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Zardari highlighted that despite competing against (IPP), and Balochistan coalition government.

Zardari expressed determi-nation to establish the coa-has concluded, and Parlialition government. He em- ment is on the brink of forphasized the importance of mation," he continued, emphasizing the transition. "It is imperative for the economy to stabilize," he asserted, underlining the significance of financial strength.

"National unity is para-Awami Party (BAP), have each other in elections, they mount for progress," Sharif remarked, highlighting the announced plans to form a are not ideological opponents and can collectively This decision emerged manage the country, adding need for solidarity among following a meeting held at that reconciliation efforts will diverse factions. "The recent Chaudhary Šhujaat extend to include PTI as well. Hussain's residence, where "Thank you, IMF agreement has bol-"Thank you, stered the country's eco-nomic standing," he added, acknowledging the pivotal leaders discussed strategies Speaking to media afpressed Shahbaz Sharif as role of international support. 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"

"I extend my gratitude to Bilawal Bhutto for his vot-ing 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 representa-

tion from Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and KP signifies our collective strength,³ Sharif noted, emphasizing the diverse yet unified rep-resentation. "With our majority, we pledge to address the nation's challenges," he assured, committing to effective governance.

Complete shutdown strike against election rigging continue in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): A provparalyzed Balochistan, as major political parties protest against alleged rigging in the recent general elections. Business centers remained closed, streets echoed with slogans, and sitins sprang up across the region, demanding transpar-

ency 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

Nushki saw a complete ince-wide shutdown strike 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

Chaman, the In Pashtunkhawa 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 of-fices, NADRA offices, and post offices remained shut for the second day, highlighting the impact of the



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

PPP to back PML-N candidate for PM's slot but won't become

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 con- to move forward together stitutional right as the in the country's larger in-PML-N has a majority in terest.

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 port, he told a private TV prime minister. "Nawaz Sharif will become the channel that complaints related to the polls were "beprime minister for the ing heard at the relevant fofourth time," he added. rum' Shehbaz Sharif said

Solangi said the carethat the Pakistan Muslim taker government, particu-League Nawaz would inlarly the interior minister, had fulfilled its responsibilvite everyone to form a coalition government in ity by holding the biggest the Centre, adding that all democratic exercise in the stakeholders would have country in a free, fair, trans-

for governance.

parent and peaceful manner QUETTA Balochistan Information Ambassadors Minister Jan Achakzai on of Iran, Pak Tuesday declared that the recent election results demmeet in Brussels onstrate the unequivocal SLAMABAD (APP): rejection of ethnic nation-Ambassador of Iran to Belalist narratives by voters, gium and European Union who instead extended

According to the re-

Ali Robatjazi Tuesday their support to maincalled on Pakistan Ambasstream parties like PPP sador to Belgium, Luxemand PMLN. burg and the EU Amna "This resounding rejec-Baloch at Pakistan's emtion should serve as a wakeup call for ethnic nationalbassy in Brussels. During the meeting, they discussed ist parties to reassess their matters of regional and glogrievances and their habit of bal importance. The two maligning the state," he sides also agreed to stated He criticized the use of

strengthen Pakistan-Iran cooperation in Brussels. "missing persons" and "exploitation of resources" as **UN Chief continuing** mere talking points to deceive the electorate and disto monitor situation parage the state. He said that the days

in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres is "continuing to monitor the situation following the general elections", according to his spokes-

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

I8LAMABAD: President PML-N Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Co-Chairman PPPAsif Ali Zardari, President PML-O Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, MOM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and BAP's Sadiq Sanjrani addressing a joint pres conference

Balochistan voters reject nationalist narratives, demand progress: Jan

(APP):

genuine progress. Minister Achakzai furdecision to recount the ther urged ethnic nationalist parties to abandon disof Jamat-e-Islami (JI) from ruptive tactics that harm PK-17, PK-20, and PK-21 ordinary citizens. "Blocking roads, high-

ways, and essential ser-2024. vices is not only counterproductive but deeply unfair to the very people representing PK-17, Waheed Gul from PK-20, they claim to represent," he emphasized, saying they should pursue legal av-enues, like tribunals, to 21- initially secured vicaddress their concerns. He outlined the true

needs of Balochistan: ending corruption, ensuring merit-based appointments, and responsible resource management. These are the issues

cured victory in PK-17. that truly matter to the people," he said. "All po-Similarly, Anwar Zeb Khan, also an independent litical parties, including ethcandidate, clinched the seat nic nationalists, must prifor PK-20 with 12,903 oritize the well-being and votes. progress of Balochistan, he noted.

Pakistan, Somalia discuss increased coordination at OIC

of blind faith in their abil-

ity to bring positive change

are long gone, the people

demand tangible results and

developments.

ISLAMABAD (APP): during a meeting between Pakistan and Somalia have Pakistan's Ambassador and discussed ways and Permanent Representative means for increased coorto OIC Syed M Fawad Sher dination at the platform of and Somalia's Permanent the Organization of Is-Representative to OIC lamic Cooperation (OIC) Abdul Rahim Osman, the envoy posted on X. besides other issues of

During the meeting, mutual interest including regional and international the two sides vowed to continue cooperation in The discussion came diverse fields.

part of govt in Centre: Bilawal

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

SLAMABAD (APP): myself forward for the can-Chairman Pakistan Peoples didacy of the prime minis-Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto ter," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto said Zardari on Tuesday anthe PPP had formed a comnounced to support the candidate of Pakistan Muslim mittee to engage with other political parties for the for-League-Nawaz (PML-N) for Prime Minister and abmation of government and political stability in the country. "PPP has decided stain from joining to be coalition government's federal that we ran this general elec-Addressing a press contion on a manifesto based ference here after the meeton issues of public imporing of party's Central Executance; we want to restore tive Committee (CEC), he

political stability and end said that PPP was accepting this environment of political toxicity," he added. The PPP chairman the election results despite its concerns in the larger insaid that his party had

raised concerns regarding a He said the reality was that his party did not have level playing field with a mandate to form the govformer President Asif Ali ernment in the federation, Zardari during the PPP's adding that the PML-N and CEC meeting and the latter the independents had had assumed that these greater numbers in the Cencomplaints would be adtre. "I will not be putting dressed



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 .

stan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked Punjab governat what time. . Police watched burning this all before their eyes. rights of minorities came up months.

or hearing before SC. Punjab government filed progress report about places and what they are the incident in SC.

The case related to

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 Chief Justice of Pakitime first church was burnt and Fajar occurs in August

ment report is liable to be thrown into waste paper basket. Only 18 challans were made during 6

rights. He emphasized that They beat the drum of the international commu-Islamophobia on other nity cannot afford to ignore

cabinet

terest of the country.

JI loses three

KP seats after

vote recount

BAJAUR (INP): Follow-

ing the Election Commis-

sion of Pakistan (ECP's)

votes, the three candidates

The three JI candi-

dependent candidate, se-

FM condemns

Israel's bombing,

offensive in Rafah

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Caretaker Foreign Minister

Jalil Abbas Jilani has vehe-

mently condemned Israel's

recent bombing and offen-

In a post on his X handle, he described the Is-

raeli acts against innocent

Palestinians as deplorable

and a grave violation of in-

ternational law and human

sive in Rafah.

the situation.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Akhtar Kayani heard the Islamabad High Court During the hearing Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Usman Ghumman requested Attorney General (AG) is not available

Mohsin adjourned. Akhtar Kayani has re-The court dismissed marked there should be the plea. Auditor General (AG) death sentence in enforced disappearances. Those took the plea during the involved in enforced dishearing we need more time appearances should be

QUETTA: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami

Party, Khushal Khan Kakar speaks during a press

IHC summons PM Kakar in

personal capacity in Baloch

There should be death sentence in

conference.

(IHC) has directed care-

taker Prime Minister (PM)

Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to

appear in person in non re-

covery of missing Baloch

awarded death sentence

Baloch students case came

up for hearing before IHC

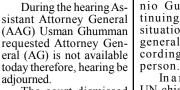
Tuesday. Justice Mohsin

students case.

twice

Justice

in this case Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked it is kind-The non recovery of ness that I am not summoning both of the DGs. Caretaker PM should appear himself at 10 a.m.



students non-recovery case post-elections enforced disappearances: Justice Mohsin

Page 02

Wednesday February 14, 2024

form.

regions

cide attempts per year,

and 13,000 to 15,000

2023-24,

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

Economic uncertainty

Pakistan is facing enormous macroeconomic challenges, as evident in its fragile balance-of-payments, weakening growth, and soaring prices. The new government is expected to quickly set about dealing with these issues.

Its most pressing challenge is to formulate a longer-term financing plan to meet Pakistan's growing external debt obligations, beginning with negotiations for a longer and larger IMF bailout as the present \$3bn package ends in April.

Islamabad's ability to secure loans and investments from other commercial, bilateral and multilateral lenders will be constrained without an IMF package. The Fund's support is also required to avoid the prospect of default. Even with such support, the government's willingness and ability to implement politically unpopular reforms will be tested.

Thursday's elections should have reduced the instability in the country. However, the unanticipated results, with no party securing a clear majority in parliament due to the surprise win of a very large number of individuals associated with the PTL has intensified the uncertainty, which could impact economic stability and efforts to execute structural reforms

Allegations of rigging have also cast a shadow on the incoming set-up's credibility. Many suspect that the political insecurity might last through the next election cycle, as the split mandate is pointing to the formation of a coalition — most likely between the PML-N and PPP, with smaller parties demanding a share — on the lines of the erstwhile PDM that ruled the country for 16 months after ousting Imran Khan in 2022.

The question is that, given the divergent political interests of its component parties, will the coalition be in a position to deal with the formidable economic challenges the country faces?

The last ruling coalition did not have an enviable track record when it came to taking difficult decisions. The way the PDM coalition government mismanaged the economy is known to all. The price for the mismanagement is now being paid by the people and has cost the PML-N heavily in Punjab in the polls. It is no wonder that many believe a 'weak' coalition government will dampen the prospects of the economic reforms Pakistan so desperately needs to be able to attain sustainable growth. The presence of a strong and noisy opposition in parliament might also impede required legislation, as the PTI is unlikely to accept the legitimacy of a government by its rivals. Some are of the view that the military-backed SIFC will act as the main economic policymaking forum, reducing policy uncertainty despite potential political chaos, and providing some comfort to investors. Yet, that may also lead to an uneven field for investors and frictions between the political and military leadership. So far, the future of the economy appears quite uncertain because of the split mandate following tainted elections.

Preventing suicide

lighting a worrisome gap in mental health fund-**Ali Burhan** Mustafa ing.

In a significant stride towards mental health re-Pakistan Pakistan's mental health decriminalised attempted suicide (later crisis, marked by the challenged in the Federal untimely deaths of indi-Sharia Court) by repeal-viduals grappling with ing Section 325 of the severe psychological Pakistan Penal Code, a distress. In one inchange that stands out stance, the 40-year-old for its compassion and son of a renowned reliunderstanding. The re- gious cleric succumbed peal is complemented by to a prolonged battle with severe depression. the Mental Health Act's Section 49, which intro- In July 2023, a life was duces mandatory psy- lost to this crisis when a chiatric assessments to 63-year-old industrialist ensure that individuals took his own life, leavexperiencing mental dising behind a note revealtress receive the care ing his struggle with a they need. This reform chronic, undisclosed illbecame possible due to ness

Such heart-wrenchthe steadfast advocacy of mental health experts, ing incidents followed the shocking deaths by including those in the Pakistan Psychiatric Sosuicide of a 66-year-old psychiatrist from Multan, who ended ciety, the efforts of legislators in 2022, and the both his own life and support of religious and educational groups. that of his daughter. In

addition, there is the Suicide is a critical global public health still-unresolved suicide concern, accounting for of a celebrated actor who met a tragic end over 800,000 deaths from a gunshot wound worldwide. Globally, it is the third leading cause in 1986.

of death among 15- to The concerning 19-year-olds, and the rise of 'kala pathar poisoning', caused by parsecond leading cause of death among 15- to 29aphenylenediamine, in districts like Rahim Yar year-olds. Alarmingly, 90 per cent of adolescent Khan and Sahiwal is a significant public health suicides occur in lowand middle-income issue, with a high mortality rate of 50.5pc countries, with recent among rural women. analyses reporting a

pooled suicide rate of These incidents, 3.77 per 100,000 in these often linked to selfharm, emphasise the ur-In Pakistan, where gent need for an im-10.37pc of the popula-tion falls in the 15- to 19proved mental health infrastructure and strict year age group, there are regulations regarding no official national suidangerous substances. cide statistics due to the Investigations in Pakiabsence of vital registra- stan rev-eal the high tion systems. Nonethe- prevalence of suicide

According to a 2023 study by Nazish Imran, et al, the ingestion of toxic A series of tragic substances was the suievents has shone a cide method for 50pc of harsh spotlight on the individuals in their sample (140 out of 279). Hanging was the second most common method. These findings stress the

need for prompt interven-

tion and widespread preventive measures. Recent circumstances have intensified the demand for improved mental health services in Pakistan, a country where psychological autopsies are rarely conducted. These autopsies are crucial as they can illuminate the psychological state prior to death. inform preventative actions, provide comfort to bereaved families, and in-

fluence policy reform. Psychological autopsies involve a detai-led postmortem examination of the decea-sed's mental state through investigations in---to their life, emotions, and thoughts bef-ore death, typically by interviewing those close to them. Outcomes from these autopsies are instrumental in informing suicide prevention initiatives, enhancing mental health support, and deepare ening the understanding of suicide's multifaceted nature Despite evidence that proactive measures can prevent suicide, the

unique cultural and religious context of Muslim countries, such as Pakistan, hinders data-gathering, thus emphasising the need for customised research to create effective suicide prevention strategies.As a nation, we must commit to nurless, estimates indicate atte-m-pts through pesturing a society where 130,000 to 300,000 sui- ticide ingestion and mental health is prioritised, the stigma benzodiazepine overdose. The key risk facattached to mental illdeaths by suicide. It is tors among adolescents ness and death by suiconcerning that the include mental health discide is eradicated, and healthcare budget for orders, substance addicwhere every individual totalling tion, previous suicide at- has access to the sup-Rs24.21 billion, lacks tempts, a family history port they need - to not designated allocation of suicide, and thoughts just survive but thrive. for mental health, high- of suicide and homicide. -- Courtesy Dawn

Research shows a causal link between happy workers and an increase — 13 per cent — in pro-

ductivity, while unhappiness at work costs the world \$8.8 trillion. According to a survey conducted by Gallup, there friends. is a "strong relationship between worker happiness and workplace engagement. Happy and much more likely to have a positive relationship with their boss, are better equipped to handle new challenges and changes, feel they are more valued by their employers, handle stress more effectively, and are much more satisfied with their lives".

There are three types of employees within organisations: a) engaged employees' who work with passion and feel a deep connection with their "They organisation. drive innovation and move the organisation forward"; b) workers who are 'not engaged' and sleepwalk through their workday, putting 'time, but not energy or passion, into their work"; and c) employees who 'actively disengaged', not only unhappy at work, but also busy acting out their unhappiness. They undermine what their engaged coworkers accomplish. An employee con-

tributes to productivity, if his supervisor focuses on his strengths or positive traits. At the same can't work from home, time, having a positive interaction with coworkers is also important. Employees who are not happy at the workplace don't maintain a positive relationship with their peers. Engaged employees feel less frustrated at work in comparison to those not engaged or actively disengaged.

Supervisors play a crucial role in workers' also be of help in their hour well-being and engage- of need. A pleasant work tesy Dawn

Happy workers

Parvez Rahim

affect his morale and performance. Such employees often take home their tension and frustration, which impacts their relations with family and

In her article 'Creating a happier workplace serve all stakeholders, is possible — and worth including employees, it', Jennifer Moss deengaged employees are scribes three steps organisations can take to turn around a negative and shareholders. The environment. An expert hospitality industry sufon workplace well-being, employee happiness and workplace culture, Moss delves into the following three factors for generating happiness at work: flexibility, a sense of belonging among employees, and finding purpose

in their work. Flexibility at work: A 2023 ILO report found from staggered start times to shift-sharing, to remote working options — leads to greater productivity and improved work-life balance. A global survey of 28,000 full-time employees by Cisco shows that over 80pc of employees find that their ability to work from anywhere has made them happier. The Covid pandemic

forced organisations to allow some of their employees to work from home. However, post-pandemic, the concept of working from home has not taken root in Pakistan. Few companies here allow flexible work timings. Besides, 60pc of the workforce such as those engaged in leadership would take the manufacturing process, in running shops, or managing hospitals, etc. Build a sense of belonging: Happiness is negatively impacted at the workplace without social interaction. People should have a sense of belonging to their organisation, which is generated by making friends, who may

ment. If the employee environment is created feels uncomfortable while when employees contribinteracting with his su- ute meaningfully to pervisor, it will adversely shared goals. Having social get-togethers, shared activities, etc, outside the workplace boosts people's attachment to their organisations.

Purpose in work: Businesses should responsibly and ethically communities, and the environment — not just their management teams fered the most during Covid. But Hilton Hotels continued to retain recruiters that pla-ced their employees in outside sectors that needed talent. Similarly, they announced a million empty rooms for patients who had to quarantine away from their own homes.

In 1972, I had joined a factory at Kot Lakhpat, Lahore, which was nationalised by the government. Most employees had no sense of belonging to the enterprise nor had any purpose at work to keep them motivated. Their output started to decline after the government takeover and the only purpose left for them to come to work. was their monthly salary. The number of not-en-

gaged and actively disengaged employees started escalating. Thereafter, I worked

in an American and a British multinational company for around 27 years. There, besides a system that ensured lucrative salaries, the companies good care of employees health, general well-being, fulfilling their personal needs and maintaining a work-life balance by providing recreational activities. The employees in both the above companies remained happy and mo-tivated and delivered greater output in terms of productivity. -- Cour-

Commerce News

Umar Saif distributes Rs 825m to IT companies

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) Dr. Umar Saif distributed Rs825 million as cash prizes to companies playing a significant role in of 10 billion dollars for IT IT and IT services exports during the "IT and ITeS Export Award" organized by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), an organization of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Dr Umar Saif said that the IT industry was playing a pivotal role in the country's economy and it deserved maximum incentives, facilities and rewards. companies are strengthening the country's a record 32 percent in the

companies with a positive growth in IT exports, for which the government had allocated Rs1 billion in the annual budget. He said that Facilitation Council (SIFC) on the recommendations of "These overall IT exports in the country have increased by

KARACHI: A stock broker watches share prices

during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock

SCCI to organize

conference to highlight

Exchange (PSX) in the Provincial Capital.

(APP):

PESHAWAR

President Sarhad Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

(SCCI), Fuad Ishaq announced organizing a

Sanatkar' (Builder of Nation),

Trader and Industrialist] in

aims to introduce current

economic turmoil and

Pakhtunkhwa before the

federal and provincial

governments and frame a

He said the conference

community

in Khyber

the first week of May.

business

problems

soon," he added.

economy by earning huge last 60 days. In the first and foreign exchange in return second quarters of the for the services of digital current financial year, the talent of Pakistan performance of many companies in IT exports worldwide. If the performance of the IT also showed a positive sector continues like this, trend. In such a situation, it is hoped that the target it was decided to give cash prizes from the allocated exports will be achieved fund of one billion rupees encourage the The federal minister companies and accelerate said that the IT Ministry

growth. Dr. Umar Saif said had decided to encourage that out of the Rs1bn fund Rs825 million had been distributed to 550 companies with positive growth. "For this purpose, six categories have been due to timely decisions of made; the first top 100 the Special Investment companies awarded Rs .5 million, the second 100 companies Rs 2 the Ministry of IT, the million, the third 100 companies Rs 1.5 million, the fourth 100 companies Rs 1.25 million.

First plenary meeting for cotton crop to be held today ISLAMABAD (APP): The first plenary meeting for the cotton crop will be held on February 14

has

loans.

(Wednesday) to discuss and deliberate the ways and means to enhance the output of the crop during the coming season to achieve sustainable

agriculture growth and economic development in the country. The meeting will

evaluate the per-maund cotton price during the forthcoming season to ensure a proper rate of return to local growers, besides encouraging the farming community to bring maximum area under cotton cultivation, said Cotton

said Cotton Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Anjum Shahzad.

Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that the meeting will also make deliberations to overcome the challenges faced by the cotton growers and suggest innovative measures



ISLAMABAD: Director (CIMMYT) an international maize & wheat improvement center Dr. Kevin Pixley called the Caretaker Federal Minister for national Food Securty & Research.

PSDP 2023-24: Govt releases Rs 507.979b funds in seven months

ISLAMABAD (APP): development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 190.443 The federal government authorized the utilization of development billion, according to the funds amounting to Rs latest data released by the 507.979 billion, out of a Ministry of Planning, total allocation of Rs 940 Development and Special billion, for various ongoing Initiatives. and new social sector According to the uplift projects of the

disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third

Out of the total authorized/disbursed quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter amount, the total amount spent so far on the (April-June) of a fiscal year.

US regional banks is piling up, say investors

escalated again a year after the collapse of Silicon Valley YORK/ Bank in spring of 2023 Community Bancorp's triggered a regional banking (NYCB.N), opens new tab crisis. NYCB's recent exposure to commercial real earnings release which sparked a dive of about 60% estate has intensified investor scrutiny around regional in its shares has particularly focused investors on combing banks, with some expecting more pain for those with office through portfolios of regional banks, as small banks and multifamily property account for nearly 70% of all

Fears about the health commercial real estate (CRE) loans outstanding. of the smaller banks have

that Rs 127.066 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 211.777 billion had been disbursed to corporations including National Highway Authority (NHA) National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO). For the Aviation

The detail showed

Division, funds amounting to Rs 3.270 billion have been disbursed and Rs 668.86 million for the Board of Investment.

Similarly, government authorized Rs 61.312 billion.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Tuesday

gained 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.32.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.5 Rs282.25. and respectively.

Punjab Governor says: SIFC established to promote investment in the country

Independent Report LAHORE: Continuity of policies is very important for the economic Rehman further stated that development of any country. Countries that provide a conducive have developed rapidly have one thing in common; there has been continuity of policies for many years. These views were expressed by Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman while talking to the delegation of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) at Governor House

Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur it is very important to environment to businessmen for the development of the economy.

He said that issues pointed by the delegation are very important in boosting the country's economy.

He said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been established to promote investment in the country, Lahore today. The adding that priority has been delegation was led by to the agriculture sector Chairman (PIAF), Senator under SIFC.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif addressing IT &ITES Export Awards 2024 Ceremony in Lahore

CDNS achieves **Rs 1020 billion** targets in fresh bond

The Central Directorate of of Rs 1.4 trillion for the National Savings (CDNS) current financial year has achieved a target of Rs 1020 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to February 09th, 2023-24. 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 Tuesday. The senior official 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): set a reviewed saving target 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 said. 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.

business community issues charter of the economy. Political leaders, high government officials, important dignitaries and members of the business conference titled "Watan community would be invited Kay Maimar Tajir Aur to the conference. Fuad Ishaq community would be invited announced while chairing a

Shinwari, Riaz Arshad,

meeting of SCCI's executive committee held here at the chamber house on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by the chamber Senior Vice President Sanaullah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi, former Presidents Zahidullah

Real estate pain for Monitoring Desk NEW WASHINGTON: New York

federal ministries and

divisions during the first

seven months (July-

January) of fiscal year

2023-24 under its Public

Sector Development

Programme (PSDP).

ndependent

Wednesday February 14, 2024

CM chairs 40th cabinet meeting, approves provision of 10,000 interest free e-bikes to students

Independent Report LAHORE: The 40th session of the provincial cabinet, convened under the chair of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office, commended the police, administration, and law enforcement agencies for their commendable efforts in ensuring peaceful conduct of the general elections on February 8. The CM conveyed

his congratulations to the chief secretary, IG police and others for successfully overseeing the elections in a tranquil manner, emphasizing the effective noted that voters exercised their democratic right in a Additionally, the formation calm atmosphere, electing representatives their

through transparent and Commission free voting procedures. Expressing gratitude for the achieved objectives, he business facilitation stated that the caretaker centers. Furthermore, the government made earnest installation of automated endeavors to provide external defibrillators in mmediate relief to the Rescue 1122 ambulances populace. He further for the prompt treatment asserted the team's of heart attack patients satisfaction in having received the cabinet's nod. dedicated themselves to Approvals were also serving the public to the granted for the best of their abilities.

provide seven thousand of issue smog. of an appellate committee for the Punjab Charity

was approved, along with the allocation of funds for appointment of

It was decided to chairpersons for drug courts in Bahawalpur, electric bikes to male Lahore and Multan, students and three alongside the endorsement thousand to female of decisions made in the students on interest-free 16th meeting of the and convenient terms standing committee on law role played by the through The Bank of and order. Provincial caretaker government. He Punjab to mitigate the ministers, advisers, chief secretary, advocate general Punjab, IGP, Chairman P&D, SMBR and others were also present.

Funeral prayers of Ali Amin Universal Gandapur's father offered DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The funeral prayer òf Major ® Aminullah Syed Mohsin Naqvi. Khan Gandapur, father of former Federal minister Ali Amin Gandapur was offered at Besaki ground in Dera Ismail Khan on

the people.

Tuesday. The funeral prayer was attended by many prominent figures and large number of people belonging to different walks from DIKhan division and it's neighbouring towns amidst tight security.

Major (Rtd) Aminullah Gandapur was passed away on Monday due to a heart attack.

Aminullah Khan Gandapur had served as a former provincial minister as well. He has left behind

two daughters and three sons including former Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Former Provincial Minister Faisal Amin collaboration Gandapur, and Tehsil Mayor Umar Amin Khan Gandapur.



National News

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi presides over the 40th Provincial Cabinet meeting.

Revolutionary reforms made in Punjab's Sehat Sahulat Program: Minister

Independent Report government's commitment LAHORE: Professor Dr. to allocating health facility Javed Akram, the Caretaker Punjab Health cards exclusively to the deserving populace of Minister, has spearheaded transformative changes in Punjab. He revealed efforts to rectify deficiencies and the Sehat Sahulat Program, streamline operations, including the establishment of a comprehensive emphasizing the welfare of During a recent meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee for database.

Notably, Dr. Akram highlighted the staggering daily expenditure of Rs 260 Health Insurance, Dr. Akram million on Sehat Sahulat highlighted the significant improvements made under cards prior to the reforms, underscoring the need for the guidance of Punjab fiscal responsibility. Through innovative Caretaker Chief Minister initiatives, costs have been slashed by up to 50 per

on

and

Addressing the challenges faced by the cent, alleviating the financial burden program, Dr. Akram emphasized the Punjab's residents.

KP Minister inaugurates child protection unit in Abbottabad

Independent Report Welfare, Special Education, A B B O T T A B A D : and Women Empowerment Provisional Caretaker Government of Khyber Minister for Social Welfare. Pakhtunkhwa. The minister Special Education, and said that establishing Child Protection Units in every Women Empowerment, Justice retired Arshad district of Khyber Oaiser on Tuesday stated Pakhtunkhwa strengthening the Child Protection Help Line 1121 that the government is determined to fulfill its are among the priorities of international and national responsibilities for the the government for the protection of children. welfare of children.

International News

He expressed these Arshad Qaiser said views while addressing the that the inauguration of the Child Protection Unit in inauguration ceremony of the Child Protection Unit in Abbottabad is a crucial milestone in strengthening with UNICEF, under the the child protection supervision of the system in Department of Social Pakhtunkhwa. Khyber

KP Governor to launch innovative online campus management system

PESHAWAR Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, initiative has been designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the education sector which will provide comprehensive compliance details, including adherence to the 2% minority quota in education and the 5%

employment quota. This announcement was made by Governor KP, Haji Ghulam Ali in

RWMC ensures cleanliness of **Tehsil Gujar** Khan RAWALPINDI (APP):

The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) was ensuring the cleanliness of all tehsils of the district including Tehsil Gujar Khan.

According to a RWMC spokesman, the company had deployed additional workers in evening shift in Gujar Khan to ensure the sanitation of the rural areas.

He informed that camps were being organized across the district to create awareness Industrial about the importance of Bhobatian, Jalo Park and on cleanliness. He said that Defence Road. He said that cleanliness was necessary the purpose of the to eliminate smog and inspection was to ensure the dengue and urged the provision of food in the residents not to burn waste or any chemical.

(APP): recent meeting with revenue, budget, grants, Khyber Program Manager Qamar and expenses. This system marks a

Haji Naseem here on Tuesday. Ghulam Ali is set to The governor significant step forward in introduce a groundbreaking reiterated the government's streamlining campus 'Online Campus commitment to management and ensuring Management System' safeguarding the rights and that educational through the Governor's entitlements of all institutions comply with official portal. This communities, particularly government quotas and vulnerable groups. He underscored importance of this campus also announced the information management system in realizing the said objectives. The online mechanism. This platform system will offer a wide also aims to offer swift array of information, such responses to aggrieved as the number of teachers, students regarding quota students, and persons with issues within ten days and disabilities, gender-segregated data, and addressed promptly and financial details including efficiently.

regulations.Furthermore, the Governor Haji Ghulam Ali imminent launch of an online complaint redressal

Page

03

PFA shuts down four bakeries, fines two food outlets Independent Report

quality parameters defined in the Punjab Pure Food LAHORE: Punjab Food Regulations. The PFA also Authority's enforcement teams on Tuesday shut served warning notices for down four bakeries and improvement on four levied fines of Rs200,000 bakeries besides discarding inferior quality of khoya, on two food business poor quality of food flavours, 40kg of substandard flour and more operators (FBOs) during the inspection of bakeries and their production units in different areas of Lahore. than 20kg of prohibited PFA Director General food ingredients. Moreover, Muhammad Asim Javaid PFA confiscated 5,000 gum said that food safety teams base, 720kg of fruit pulp thoroughly inspected several bakeries in Sundar and 150 litres of essence (Arq), he said. Muhammad Asim Estate,

further said that the provincial food regulatory body had stopped the production of four bakeries and cake shops by market as per the food imposing emergency safety standards and prohibition orders (EPOs).

PESHAWAR: Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali and Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Banafsheh Khah along with other officials cutting cake during 45th National Day of Iran last night.

4,199 Polio teams to administer drops

Rawalpindi district on February 26. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Executive Officer (CEO) of Health Authority District Health Authority Dr Ejaz Ahmad told APP that as many as 4,199 polio that as many as 4,199 polio teams would go door-todoor and administer polio drops to 10,15,262 children of less than five years of age in all tehsils and union councils of the district during the campaign.

Union Council Medical circulating in the area.



would also be deputed at toll plazas so that no child could miss immunization.

He said that the second campaign of the year was being started after the detection of positive the detection of positive sample of Polio virus

India, UAE sign pact on trans-continental trade corridor

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: India and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday signed an agreement on a trade corridor that aims to connect Europe with India through parts of the Middle East by sea and rail, an ambitious plan backed by the US and the European Union.

His trip comes ahead of India's national election which is expected to begin in April.

Modi was due to inaugurate the Middle East's largest Hindu temple on Wednesday, a day after he addresses thousands of expatriates in a community event

Geneva-based doctor Raouf Salti holds 17-month-

old Zeina, next to 16-year-old Yussef, both of whom

Civilian vessel

attacked off Yemeni

coast – UK Navy

LONDON (Online): A civilian ship has come under had initially focused on vessels they believed to be

the United Kingdom Mari- they were acting in protest

time Trade Operations over the country's actions

No casualties or significant However, after the US and damage have been reported. the UK conducted a num-

Since the start of ber of strikes on Houthi fa-

nation.

fire off the coast of Yemen,

(UKMTO) has confirmed.

damage have been reported.

Israel's military operation

against Hamas in Gaza,

Houthi militants control-

ling large swaths of Yemen

have been targeting mer-

chant ships traversing the

vessels they believed to be

linked to Israel, claiming

in Palestinian territory.

cilities, the group said it

would now also attack

ships affiliated with either

in the capital Abu Dhabi. The visit is largely focused on ment signed in 2022, India's galvanising the diaspora, according to experts, even though Indians in the UAE can't vote from abroad. The UAE is home to about 3.5 million Indian nationals—the largest expatriate community

in the Gulf country. Today, Modi met the UAE president Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Indian foreign ministry and local state media, their fifth meeting in eight months.

They inked several deals, including a bilateral through Saudi Arabia before investment treaty, building on a Comprehensive Eco-

thering regional connectivity." the ministry statement said. The corridor, announced last September on Nahyan, according to the the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi, aims

> United Arab Emirates and and Israel to Europe.

> > **Russia-Ukraine** war, negotiations a distant prospect MOSCOW (INP): After two years of war in Ukraine, there is no prospect of negotiations to find a breakthrough as President Russian Vladimir Putin, emboldened by the erosion of Western support for Kyiv, girds for a long conflict. 2024 will be another

were evacuated from Gaza to Switzerland to receive year of war as Ukraine is medical treatment, at Geneva airport, Switzerland. determined to keep on fighting to recapture

lysts and diplomats say. Putin may have sig-

terview with right-wing US talk show host Tucker Carlson that Russia was interested in negotiations but this would be so much on Moscow's own terms that Kyiv would not countenance such talks. "I don't see any negotiations taking place any time soon, Fyodor Lukyanov, head of the Kremlin-linked Council on Foreign and Defense Policy think tank

On Monday, the UKMTO, which is a moniin Moscow, told. "There's nothing they can negoti-Red Sea and the Gulf of toring service operated by Aden. The Shiite group the British Navy. ate about.

foreign ministry said. "This would build on

previous understandings and cooperation on this matter and foster India and the UAE cooperation fur-

to extend from India across the Arabian Sea to the

Two years into Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel an-

nounced on Monday a visa ban on the United Nations special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories over recent comments denying Hamas's Oct 7 raid was "anti-Semitic" The UN-appointed independent expert, Francesca Albanese, said

last week she disagreed with French President Emmanuel Macron's description of the attack as "the biggest anti-Semitic massacre of our century"

territory while Putin will only be satisfied with Kyiv's full surrender, ana-

to achieve 'promised victory' nalled in last week's in-BEIRUT (Online): The top resistance leaders of Lebanon and Palestine assert that it is necessary to remain steadfast and work tirelessly to achieve the promised victory. Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed

Hassan Nasrallah and Secretary General of Palestine's Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhaleh held a meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, the two resistance leaders discussed the latest devel-

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks next to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a ceremonial welcome upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi for a two-day visit to the UAE. Israel bans UN expert's entry over 'oppression'

remarks 'No", Albanese wrote in French on social media platform X. "The victims of

successfully carried out a "ballistic control test firing of 240-mm caliber multiple rocket launcher shells" on Saturday to develop a "controllable shell and ballistic control system" for the launcher, state news agency KCNA reported.

three at Greek shipping company

ATHENS: A former emopments in the war-torn ployee of a Greek shipping Gaza Strip and the occupied company shot dead three West Bank, encompassing people including its owner both political and onground situations, amid incessant Israel's brutal aturb of Athens, police said. tacks against the people of

> broke into the company's building in Glyfada and killed two men and a woman on the first floor before barricading himself inside.

and I hid under my desk before police officers helped us out of the building," another employee of the company

IMF, WB warn Gaza conflict and Red Sea attacks may imperil global economy Monitoring Desk "Right now we see a

DUBAI: The IMF and risk of spillover in the Suez World Bank warned on Canal," she said, as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels Monday that the Gaza conhave attacked Red Sea shipflict and the related attacks ping leading to the crucial on shipping through the maritime passage. The Houthis say they Red Sea pose threats to the global economy.

Georgieva.

Dubai.

said

Its knock-on effects

"I fear most a longev-

could impact the world the

longer the fighting drags on,

Georgieva told the World

Governments Summit, an

annual gathering of busi-ness and political leaders in

ity of the conflict because,

if it goes on and on, the risk

of spillover goes up," she

The conflict in Gaza, are targeting what they consider Israeli-linked shipraging since October, has already hit the Middle East ping in solidarity with Paland North Africa region's estinians in Gaza, pushing economy, said the Internasome cargo carriers to take tional Monetary Fund's longer and more expensive managing director Kristalina

routes to avoid attacks. The UN Conference on Trade and Development warned late last month that the volume of commercial traffic passing through the Suez Canal had fallen more than 40 percent in the previous two months.

Georgieva said that if there are other "consequences in terms of where the fighting goes, it could be more problematic for the world as a whole".

Indian police fire tear gas as protesting farmers march to capital

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian secuprotests comes ahead of national elections likely to begin in April. Two-thirds of India's 1.4 billion people rity forces fired tear gas on Tuesday to stop thousands draw their livelihood from agof farmers demanding miniriculture, accounting for mum crop prices from nearly a fifth of the country's marching on the capital New Delhi after talks with GDP, according to governthe government failed.

ment figures. Local broadcasters Farmers have called for a "Delhi Chalo", or "March to Delhi", echoing showed thick clouds of tear gas fired to disperse pro-January 2021 when farmtesters near Ambala, about ers breached barricades and 200 kilometres north of the marched into the city on capital, with police also

Republic Day during their then-year-long protest. The farmers are peace Police have set up a ful, but tear gas is being used fearsome blockade of metal against us through drones, spikes, cement, and steel Sarwan Singh Pandher, a top barricades on the highways farmers' union official from from three surrounding Punjab, told reporters. "The states leading to New Delhi. protest will continue till the "Maximum numbers have been deployed," Ranjay government agrees to our demands." Indian broadcasters Atrishya, assistant commissioner of Delhi Police, told AFP. Public gatherings of more than five people have been banned in the city. Farmers in India have political heft due to their sheer numbers

showed columns of hundreds of tractors moving towards the capital from the surrounding states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, with some using their machines to and the threat of renewed drag barricades off the roads.

Gunman kills **Monitoring Desk** dropping canisters from the air by drones.

before killing himself on Monday in a coastal sub-The shooter, 70

Palestine. Nasrallah and Nakhaleh also exchanged views about the condition of other fronts opened by the Axis of Resistance in

support of the Palestinian We heard gunshots people and resistance in the face of Israel. The discussions also touched upon existing possibilities and expected developments.

migration authorities had been instructed not to issue Albanese a visa, they added, also calling for her dismissal Hezbollah leader, Islamic Jihad chief urge steadfastness



day it had developed a new control system for a multiple rocket launcher that would lead to a "qualitative change" in its defence capabilities. Pyongyang's Acad-emy of Defense Science

but in response to Israeli

oppression." Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Interior Minister Moshe Arbel called her online remark "outrageous" and said in a statement she was now "denied entry to

the state of Israel". The im-

North Korea tests new rocket launcher control system

PYONGYANG (INP): North Korea said on Mon-

7/10 (Oct 7) were not killed because of their Jewishness,

Daily **Independent**, Hub

Wednesday February 14, 2024

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-

Ashraf Tarar; Deputy meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Fi-Chairman Planning Comnance, Revenue, and Ecomission, Dr. Muhammad nomic Affairs, Dr. Jehanzaeb Khan; Advisor Shamshad Akhtar. to PM on Finance, Dr.

The ECC meeting was Waqar Masood, federal secattended by the Minister retaries, and other senior for Privatization and Intergovernment officers of the Provincial Coordination, relevant ministries. The Fawad Hasan Fawad; Mincommittee approved a summary of the Ministry ister for Interior, Commerce & Industries, Gohar of Commerce (Tariff Policy Ejaz; Minister for Energy Wing), regarding "Indiand Petroleum Division, vidual Tariff Rationaliza-Mohammad Ali; Minister tion Proposals from Differfor Planning, Development ent Sectors for Review of and Special Initiatives, Sami Custom Duties" and ad-Saeed; Minister of Marivised that tariff rationalizatime Affairs, Communication should be coordinated

nance ministry. The ECC tion and Railways. Shahid 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 presides a meeting of DRAP at Central Drugs Laboratory.

Solangi reads news bulletin LHC dismisses 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.

taker 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 nization with a long and rich country with a wide audi- history," Solangi added.

ence in different languages This initiative of the minister would strengthen Radio Pakistan as a national broadcaster and help promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan.

Solangi also participated in Radio Pakistan's podcast program and expressed his views on various issues.

The minister said that the government was committed to strengthen Radio Pakistan and make it a more This move by the care- effective and dynamic medium of communication.

The government was also working to promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan, he maintained. "Radio Pakistan is a national broadcasting orga-

the matter.

30 of PML-N won with Nawaz Sharif should not

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

Ishtaiq Ahmed in the high court after the former threetime prime minister was declared the winner as per unofficial and unconfirmed results. Justice Baqar Najafi terming the plea inadmis-

sible directed the plaintiff to contact the Election Commission of Pakistan on 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-Lahore-XIV, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

PSL9 trophy unveiled at Lahore's Polo Ground Sports Desk LAHORE: The PSL 9 tro-Mohsin Naqvi said:

phy has been unveiled at "It is a pleasure to anthe Polo Ground of the nounce that PSL is entering Race Course Park in Lahore its ninth season, and I am in the presence of PCB proud to say that PSL continues to be a success story chairman Mohsin Naqvi, franchise owners, and star for Pakistan cricket. 'Today, as we unveil this Orion trophy, we look

The trophy is "The Orion Trophy" and will be forward to a month-long a source of motivation for celebration of the beautiful all the teams participating game of cricket and the excitement and drama that in the tournament. The trophy embodies the spirit of accompanies it. the Pakistan Super League

cricketers.

'PSL connects to the hearts of people of Pakiwhere each team shines stan, who cherish every brightly as they strive for

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

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 Secre-

tariat press release said.

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.

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

vices Dr. Nadeem Jan on 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 digitized. ervices in a ort nerio

KARACHI (APP): The keep the cost of medicines Caretaker Federal Minister within the reach of the commonman.

He said that the Care-Tuesday said that a drug taker government would not allow the sale of substandard 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 liicensing system in DRAP had been

He said th



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

Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): that the conglomerate was 171,024 votes from 376 polling stations. Prime Minister's Special Representative for Reli-drones to the Israeli govern-

Mehmood Ashrafi on Tues-

day accused India of com-

plicity in the violence

conference, he said accord-

ing to reports, Israel was

utilizing Indian-made

drones to perpetrate at-

tacks on the innocent

people of Rafah, a claim

that has stirred international

the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) con-

demned the alleged collu-

sion between India and Is-

Eradication Committee

and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is

going to divert River Swat

in April this year at the un-

der-construction

Mohmand Dam, as diver-

sion system of the project

is steadily heading towards

completion in accordance

Chairman WAPDA, Engr

In this connection,

with the timelines.

Ashrafi who is also

concern

Addressing a press

against Palestinians.

Super League.

polling stations. However, the threebecome PM: Javed Latif time former Prime Minis-

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader refusal to accept the results 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.

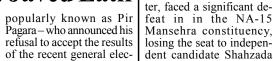
'Today, not me or any political party, but the state has been defamed", Javed Latif said, pointing out the press conference of Pir Sibghatullah Shah Rashidi,

tions Speaking of his defeat, Latif claimed he was told

15-20 days earlier that a "cross has been made on my name". "The profess 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 secur-

ing 130,255 votes. As per unofficial result, his runnerup was Javed Latif, who bagged 94,144, votes



Gastasap, 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.

> **JIP debunks** alliance

with PTI PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-

rael, stating that while In-Islami Pakistan (JIP) dia continued to oppress Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmiris, it was also prac-Professor Mohammad tically involved in the Ibrahim Khan, has refuted bloodshed of Palestinian claims of allying with the civilians.He pointed fingers Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf at Adani-Elbit, suggesting (PTI). In response to a statement by PTI spokesman Rauf Hassan, Profes-

sor 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 deci-

sion 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 sup-

Chaudhry was presented in the court of district and **FO** expresses grief over

loss of lives in Philippines ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan 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.

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

ment, thus exacerbating the gious Affairs and Pakistani humanitarian crisis in Pal-Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, estine Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

ing Muslim nations.

Badini presiding over a meeting of District Polio

WAPDA to divert

River Swat at Mohmand

Dam Project in April PESHAWAR (APP): Water to review construction ac-

tivities going on there. Ad-

visor (Projects) WAPDA.

GM and PD Mohmand

Dam Project and the Con-

sultants and the Contrac-

tors were also present dur-

ing the visit. Later, the

chairman also presided over

a progress review meeting

at the project office. At

present, construction work

version scheme, concreting

and slope stabilization at

the spillway, slope excava-tion and support works at

the power house, excava-

tion at the irrigation tunnels,

construction of structures

across the irrigation canals

permanent access roads.

and finishing works at the

The project team gave a detailed briefing about di-

is continuing on 12 sites.

headquarters along with the The recent Organiza-Secretary Interior and Dition of Islamic Cooperation rector General FIA. (OIC) special summit convened to address the Pales-Lieutenant General Munir tine issue resulted in a deci-Afsar welcomed the Minsion to exert pressure on ister in headquarters, said countries supplying weapin a press release. ons to Israel. Ashrafi called

A detailed briefing on upon Muslim nations to the institution was given to the minister by NADRA sever financial and economic ties with such counofficials.

Caretaker

Interior minister

visits NADRA

headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Minister for In-

tion Authority (NADRA)

NADRA Chairman

tries if they fail to adhere NADRA is an organito the OIC's directives. zation of international stan-He urged for a boycott dards and our main national of Indian products, similar asset, said the Minister addto the ongoing boycott of ing that being the custodian Israeli goods, in response to of the national identity, this India's alleged complicity in institution has an important the attacks on Palestinians. role in national security and Expressing grave consafety cern, Ashrafi warned of dire

Obtaining an identity document is the fundaconsequences if Rafah continued to be targeted, emmental right of citizens and phasizing the potential in this regard, they should ripple effects on neighborbe provided with all possible facilities, the minister said.

> No govt can be formed without Imran Khan: Khosa

ISLAMABAD (INP) 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.

terior Dr Gohar Jiaz on Tuesday visited the Nanated measures to promote of time. tional Database Registra-

Dr. Nadeem Jan said merit and transparency had that it was his priority to been ensured.



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

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 at-

tended by Additional Secretary Health Arif Khan, Additional Secretary Health Abdul Hameed Zahri, 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 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



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

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com



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): any proceedings. Fawad 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 Thahim 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 iob to a citizen after taking Rs 50 lac from him.

On the other hand iudge of Accountability Court (AC) adjourned the hearing of corruption case against Fawad Chaudhry till February 22 without ing Ayub Khan regime.

sessions judge Ali Nawaz in private housing society corruption case. The hearing was adjourned till February 22 without proceedings. Judge ordered investi-

gation 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 dur-

GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb