naenenaent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

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

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 31, Shaban 05, 1445 AH Friday February 16, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

PTI announces nationwide protest campaign on **Saturday**

Imran picks Omar Ayub as PTI's candidate for prime minister, Mian Aslam Iqbal as Punjab CM

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): protest peacefully all over Pakistan on Saturday," Barment, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has officially nominated former provincial minister Aslam Iqbal as its candidate for the Puniab.

from PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, signalling PTI's intent to solidify its leadership in the province.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Barrister Gohar also disclosed that PTI has put forward Salar Khan Kakar as its candidate for the chief minister position in Balochistan.

Moreover, the PTI has announced its plans for a nationwide protest sched-uled for Saturday. "We will

rister Gohar added.

Emphasizing chief minister position in to convey a strong message against what the party per-This announcement came ceives as electoral irregularities, particularly the alleged theft of 80 seats.

"According to records, the PTI has won 180 seats. Nobody has the right to fake mandate," he insisted, adding that in the protest, they will give the message been stolen.

peaceful, and there should not going ahead with any be no arrests," Barrister alliance with the Pervez

Addressing concerns over potential power-sharing arrangements, Barrister the Gohar firmly stated that peaceful nature of the pro- PTI will not engage in any test, the PTI leader asserted that the demonstration aims ties like the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Furthermore, Barrister Gohar affirmed Omar Ayub as the PTI's candidate for form a government with a the prime ministerial position, reiterating the party's commitment to public service-oriented politics rather that 80 of their seats have than pursuing power-sharing arrangements. He also "The protest will be claimed that the PTI was Khattak-led PTI-P.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the troops onboard

Naval Chief oversees conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024

Chief of the Naval Staff Ad- take complex operations, readiness for defence of miral Naveed Ashraf on an Inter Services Public Re- Creeks areas which consti-Thursday visited naval ships at sea, creeks areas on the coastal belt of Sindh and coastal areas of Balochistan to oversee the conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024 and meet the deployed troops in the ex-

Exercise Seaspark 2024 is a major maritime exercise of Pakistan Navy (PN) which is regularly conducted after every two years on two force concept i.e. Blue Force (own force) and Orange Force (enemy

force). The purpose of the exercise is to plan and conduct naval operations as per wartime procedures to check operational readiness, major mobilisation of personnel and practice coordination between various

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Foreign Office (FO) has

said election process in

Pakistan is its internal mat-

foreign observers and Com-

mon Wealth observers. We

discharge our constitutional

obligations forcefully. Po-

litical leaders are being tar-

geted in Occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan wants Kashmir

issue is resolved as per as-

pirations of people of

Kashmir in accordance with

UN resolutions, this was

said by Foreign Office

Spokesperson Mumtaz

Zahra Baloch here in

weekly press briefing

kistan welcomed foreign

observers, including a group

from the Commonwealth,

country's commitment to

transparency in the elec-

its constitutional obliga-

She said Pakistan takes

demonstrating

toral process

She mentioned that Pa-

"We have welcomed

lations (ISPR) news release said.

During the operations at sea, the PN warships and aircraft also detected Indian Navy ships, submarines and aircraft, attempting to covertly observe the exercise and interpret PN war plans. Accordingly, necessary safeguards were

taken by the PN. During the visit of Maritime Headquarters at Karachi, the Chief of the Naval Staff was given a briefing by the Orange and Blue Naval Force Comoperations by the respec-

Thereafter, the Naval Chief visited Keti Bandar Post and Battalion Headquarters of Pak Marines at Shah Bandar where he

tions seriously. It is the

right of Pakistanis to enjoy

freedoms and democracy.

She said any step that Pa-

kistan takes in this regard

is in conformity with its

own constitutional obliga-

tions and not influenced by

report of Commonwealth

observer group also high-

lighted the transparency

and participatory nature of

budget announced by the

Indian government for ille-

gally occupied Jammu and

Kashmir, the spokesperson

said pouring in money in the

occupied territory can nei-

ther absolve the occupying

power from its responsibili-

ties nor can it legitimatize

its illegal occupation. She

said Jammu and Kashmir is

one of the oldest unresolved

disputes. It has been on the

agenda of the UN Security

Council since 1948.

When asked about the

the general elections.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch pointed out that the interim

external advice.

OUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for In-

formation Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker

Election process in Pakistan

is its internal matter : FO

Home Minister Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali

RAWALPINDI (APP): elements of PN to under- was briefed on combat tutes the South Eastern maritime boundary with

> During the visit, the Naval Chief interacted with the troops deployed in difficult marshy areas and apreciated their devotion and igh morale.

Later on, the Naval Chief also visited Jinnah Naval Base at Ormara and naval ships operating at

During the visits, the NS expressed his satisfaction on the professional excellence, high manders on the conduct of morale and perpetual readiness of the Pakistan Navy to ensure impregnable maritime defence of motherland and reaffirmed its resolve to safeguard national maritime in-

AJK ECP issues arrest warrants of Ali Amin

MUZAFFARABAD (Online): Azad Kashmir Election Commission has issued arrest warrants of former minister for Kashmir affairs and nominated Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur

Petition on violation of election code in AJK general election 2021 by Ali Amin Gandapur was filed against him.

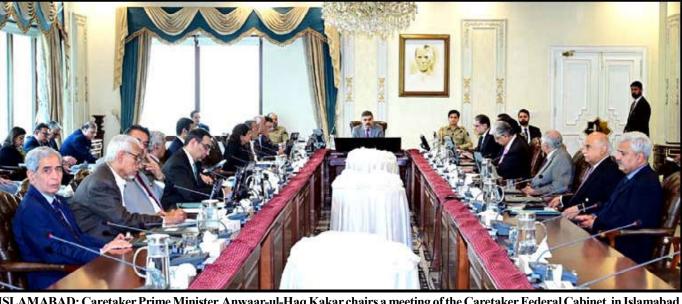
Deputy Commissioner (DC) D.I Khan has been ordered to present Ali Amin Gandapur in Azad Kashmir as he has not appeared despite being summoned by election commission repeatedly.

Ali Amin Gandapur be arrested and presented on February 28.

ANP rejects alliance with PTI, citing electoral rigging

PESHAWAR (INP): After Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), the Awami National Party (ANP) has also declined to forge an alliance with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

ANP leader Mian Iftikhar Hussain stated that the party's position stemmed from the belief that supporting PTI in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa resulted in ANP's loss of seats. He explained that given these circumstances, negotiations with PTI were deemed inappropriate by the ANP.



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

Cabinet approves Syed Tariq's appointment as PBM MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): transfer to Afghanistan The Federal Cabinet on Thursday approved the appointment of Syed Tariq Muhammad ul Hassan as Managing Director of Pakistan Baitul Maal (PBM).

The decision was taken on the recommendation of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security, according to a press release issued by the Prime Minis-

ter House Media Wing. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar presided over the cabinet

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, the cabinet approved the transit/transfer of vehicle spare parts and new tires used by the Country Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan from Karachi Port to Kabul.

such imports and their shareholder.

were prohibited to prevent smuggling in the country, however, the said spare parts and tires would be used by the United Nations and were not for commercial use. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence Production, the cabinet also approved the redeployment of Grade-20 officer Khan Nawaz of the

Industry Taxila. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Finance Ministry, also gave its approval for the exemption of JS Bank's sponsoring shareholder Shabbir Ahmed Randiri from Section (IV)(1)14 of the Banking Companies Ordinance.

Secretariat Group as Mem-

ber Finance in the Heavy

Under the exemption, Shabbir Ahmed would be able to exercise his voting rights in JS Bank Limited It was informed that as a 7.06% sponsoring

Shehbaz apprises Nawaz of progress in talks with allies over formation of govt

kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif apprised three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday about the progress in the negotiations with the allies, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the

Shehbaz Sharif called on the PML-N supremo at Jati Umra. On this occasion, both leaders discussed the latest political position of JUI-F supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

A meeting of PML-N bigwigs was also held under the chairmanship of Nawaz Sharif. During the meeting, consultation was day.".

LAHORE (Agencies): Pa- held on the possible names of the Punjab cabinet. The possible names of the Punjab assembly speaker and deputy speaker were also considered.

The consultations were also held regarding the inclusion of allies in the provincial cabinet and their possible ministries in Punjab.

In the meeting, Ishaq Dar, while giving a briefing on the joint meeting of the coordination committees of the PML-N and PPP, said, "There has been progress in matters regarding government formation, while the third meeting of the coordination committees will be held on Fri-

Achakzai urges public reject calls for disruption from losing candidates

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Balochistan Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Thursday urged the public to reject calls of agitation by the unsuccessful candidates and parties of elections, instead, he encouraged citizens to keep their role in efforts to promote national development and prosper-

Minister Achakzai emphasized that creating chaos and blocking roads is not a solutions to existing problems. He characterized such actions as attempts by

"rejected individuals" to mask their disappointment with the electoral outcome. He advised those with genuine concerns to seek

legal recourse rather than resorting to disruptive pro-Furthermore, the Min-

ister appealed to individuals blocking roads to consider the impact on ordinary citizens. He urged them to demonstrate peacefully on the side of the road, allowing for unimpeded traffic flow, if their intentions are truly focused on public well-being

Gas bomb:

Caretaker govt raises tariff by 67%, effective from Feb 1

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: In a move

that has stirred public outcry, the caretaker government has greenlit a 67% increase in gas prices, effectively burdening consumers with higher costs of living starting from February 1.

The decision, approved in a meeting of the federal cabinet led by caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, follows the recommendation of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) to raise gas prices by a staggering 67%. This sharp hike in rates will apply to both protected and non-protected customers, translating to a surge of Rs100 and Rs300 per MMBTU (million British thermal units),

respectively.
Notably, while the in-

crease will apply to consumption charges, there will be no increase in fixed charges for both categories of consumers. However, bulk gas consumers will bear the brunt of a significant surge, facing a whop-ping increase of Rs900 per MMBTU.

Furthermore, the CNG sector is set to face its own set of challenges, with prices anticipated to surge by Rs170 per MMBTU. Collectively, these price hikes are expected to impose an additional burden of Rs204 billion on all con-The decision has

sparked widespread criti-

cism, with many decrying the government's imposition of further financial strain on an already belea-

zens brace for the impact of increased gas prices on their household budgets, concerns mount over the potential escalation of inflationary pressures across the economy. As the caretaker gov-

ernment drops a gas bomb on consumers within just days of its departure, it is also expected to raise the price of petroleum products as per the fortnightly djustments.

The possibility of an ncrease in petrol and diesel prices today is being considered due to fluctuations in global oil prices.

Following a hike of Rs13.55 per liter in petrol prices from February 1, authorities are now contemplating an increase in the price of high-speed die-



QUETTA: A delegation of teachers led by Master Abdul Karim meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Section 144 imposed in Hub

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government imposed Article 144 on Thursday following a clash between workers of two political parties in the Industrial Town area of

Hub District Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmed Musani requested the Department of Home Affairs and Tribal Affairs to impose Section 144 to

prevent further clashes. Two political workers were killed and 13 injured as a result of firing by rival political parties at the RO office on the main RCD road during the recounting of votes.

The Department of Home Affairs and Tribal Affairs has issued a notification to enforce Section 144 in the district to maintain peace in the district bordering Karachi on the request of the DC Hub.

Imran Khan was ousted on Gen Baiwa's directives: Fazlur Rehman

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman said Thursday that the no-confidence motion that ousted former prime minister Imran Khan was tabled on the directives of ex-army chief General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa.

In an interview on a private news channel, Fazl, who was the chief of the multi-party alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) responsible for removing Khan, said: "I was personally against the noconfidence move [...] but if ouster' I had said no despite insistence of other parties, then an impression would've been given that I 'saved' the PTI founder."

The PDM removed the

Sharif, the multi-party alliance ruled the country for 16 months before handing over the reins to the caretaker set-up. At first, Khan insisted

that the US had him removed — a claim that the Joe Biden administration vehemently rejected. However, the ex-prime minister later shifted the blame to Gen Bajwa. In an interview in February last year, Khan, cit-

ing an apparent conversation of the retired general with a journalist, said General Bajwa had "accepted and clarified that he was behind our government's

After he became the first prime minister to be ousted via a no-trust motion, Khan continued a tirade against the establishment; however, politicians Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf also said that the ex-army (PTI) government in April chief was involved in the 2022 and led by Shehbaz PTI's ouster.

Independent MPAs from Balochistan unite to join party for province's dev

QUETTA (INP): Newlyelected independent candidates from Balochistan convened bly resolved to adopt a consultative meet- a unified stance for ing and unanimously the development and decided to join a political party together. During the meet-

MPAs, including Wali the people of the prov-Noorzai, Noorullah, Lehri, Muhammad Kakar, these MPAs are in and Asfandyar Kakar, contact with the pro-Achakzai joined via

video link. The MPAs of the

Balochistan Assemprosperity of the province, affirming their collective commiting, the newly-elected ment to representing Maulvi ince in the Liaqat Balochistan Assem-Bakht bly. Sources said that participated, while vincial leaderships of Abdul Khaliq the PML-N, PPP and Achakzai joined via JUI.

QUETTA: Members of Four-Party Alliance are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office in Quetta.

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Staged show

The country barely survived the trailer; now, it appears, a full five-year show has been penned for PDM 2.0. There is little that can be considered new or improved, and there are very few changes in the cast: the PML-N will once again take the lead under Shehbaz Sharif, with the PPP content with reprising its supporting

There will be the usual favourites — parties that were first herded into the PTI government, and then into the PDM: MQM, PML-Q and BAP, as well as familiar faces from the IPP. The directors will continue calling the shots, especially on critical matters like the economy and foreign affairs.

Their 'backing' will be the glue that holds the rickety government together, with legislation likely to be reduced to an on-demand farce. This ragtag bunch of 'patriotic' politicians will soon resume their mission of 'saving' Pakistan, despite making a hash of it the first time around.

It will be grating not only to PTI sympathisers, who voted for change, but also PML-N supporters how this arrangement has come to pass. The latter were told that these elections would usher in Nawaz Sharif's fourth term as PM. Instead, it seems like his party ended up using his name and stature to strengthen another candidate's hand.

Mr Sharif may have had an idea he was not the 'preferred choice', which could be why he did not campaign as aggressively as he was expected to. The manner in which his victory in this election was announced also seemed designed to put him in a corner. It is puzzling, though, why the seasoned politician did not refuse to play once it became clear he was being manipulated.

His decision to, instead, give the government to Shehbaz Sharif was a sad reminder of all that he had achieved and was made to lose over his career. Still, he has ensured that his daughter will get a head start. The Sharifs have deemed Maryam Nawaz ready to take over as Punjab chief minister— a major responsibility. It remains to be seen how successful she is in regaining lost ground.

Meanwhile, the PPP has emerged as the most astute of the lot. It is likely to secure several constitutional posts despite refusing to carry the PML-N's baggage.

The other parties will also be accommodated, most likely through various ministries: the PDM's last term, too, had featured an obscenely bloated cabinet. But how will the alliance address the country's challenges this time around?

It will not be easy to tackle economic despair, social fragmentation, deep political polarisation and having to please allies while governing with a dubious mandate. Another big challenge will be to demonstrate some stability to international lenders. Has it learned from experience, and will it do a better job?

A lousy election

F.S. Aijazuddin

Pakistan is the only faux-democracy that holds general elections yet learns nothing from each experience.

Many remember the general elections of December 1970 — the first (and some say only) free and fair elections in our history. The electoral mood then bordered on the euphoric. President Ayub Khan's ham-fisted experiments with Basic Democracy had been relegated to oblivion. His renegade ex-foreign minister, Z.A. Bhutto, had launched his PPP. country, mustering support for his home brand

of social democracy. At the time, I happened to be in Gambat, in the interior of Sindh, managing our family textile mill. Political loyalty in that area was sharply divided between the

progressive Mr Bhutto. Both sought to call on me to raise election contributions. My family was divided: the eldest brother followed Pagaro, another Bhutto. I was told to receive Pir sahib. During our discussions, Pir sahib predicted victory for his

After the results came in, I called on Pir sahib at Pir jo Goth to congratulate him on the thrice PM Nawaz Sharif victory of his candidate (his brother Sain Nadir Shah) over his PPP rival. Seeing me, Pir sahib crowed: "We have won by a margin of 35,000 votes." I replied: "Pir sain, by my calculation, you've actually lost by 95,000 votes. If in your own stronghold of Sanghar, so many dared vote for the PPP and not you, you have actually lost by that number."

Fifty-four years later, the scenario of 1970 has been repeated. Mujibur Rehman was in "They are all the same our democracy? -- Courjail in West Pakistan. Yet, in the fact that they will tesy Dawn

in distant East Pakistan, never be the same." his Awami League swept 160 of the 162 general seats.

Adiala jail. No stone has been left un-hurled at him and his wife, even the charge of adultery. Yet, his PTI nominees – bat-less, denied an uneven playing field, hamstrung and harassed rode the crest of his popularity and secured 100-plus NA seats for him, more than any other single party.

In cricket, that number carries a special aura of success. For the He crisscrossed the other main political parsponsors, that number reeks of their failure.

yielded inexplicable sur- efforts in governing and

Jahangir Tareen's coffers funded Imran Khan's PTI's fledgling years. He left it, founded a new party feudal Pir Pagaro and the (IPP), and lost in two constituencies. PML-N's Saad Rafique endured victimisation and jail only to be defeated by PTI's Latif Khosa (until only three months ago a PPP diehard). The Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq lost. Former Raza Gilani won by only 104 votes. PTI's Dr Yasmin Rashid from her Adiala jail cell gave the PML supremo and a run for his money. She

> his PML-N stronghold. Even before the ballot papers had been distributed, Nawaz Sharif had warned his sponsors that he would not accept the premiership if he was not given a clear majority. His ambition has been scuttled. His PML-N with 73-plus seats must now cohabit with the PPP's 54-plus in a coalition euphemistically labelled a 'national unity govern-

secured 115,643 votes in

Even before the results have been sanctified by the Election Today, the PTI chief Commission, President Mr Imran Khan is in Dr Alvi regretted that ballot papers were being hand-counted when the ECP/ Nadra

has had the last five

years to perfect the

electronic voting ma-

chine system. Even as the political parties jostled for supremacy, the COAS (speaking for the establishment) cautioned them: "Elections are not a zero-sum competition of winning and losing but an exercise to determine the mandate of the ties and their invisible people. Poli-tical leadership and their workers should rise above self-The results have interests and synergise

serving the people.' Such a belated homily notwithstanding, many Western pundits believe that the election results are an indictment of hybrid democracy. They foresee an uneasy alliance between the same parties whose last PDM coalition removed Imran Khan's PTI government two years ago. The new coalition may all prime minister Yousuf too soon fulfil the prophecy made by a 17th-century Royalist to his Roundhead caphave done with us, go fight among your-

selves Following the 1970 electoral impasse, Dr Henry Kissinger met Gen Yahya Khan on July 8, 1971. He recalled: "Am I a dictator?" Yahya Khan asked every American and Pakistani present. Naturally, everyone protested that he was not. When Kissinger's turn came, he told Yahya bluntly: "I don't know, Mr President, except that for a dictator you run a lousy election." How many more elections will Then, the Bengali leader ment'. As one wit put it: be needed to delouse

House of Lord

Shahzad Sharjeel

It is not for the first time that people are of worship; and unfortunately, it appears not to be the and moves on. Pushlast. After the conse- ing it any further schools. cration of Ram recently, Varanasi, or Banaras, as it was known historically, has become the focus of another masjidmandir controversy. A court has ordered that the mosque's basement be opened to Hindu worshippers. The Muslim concerned about a Babri Masjid-like fate. Ayodhya-Kashi-

RSS ambition in terms nay Bharat, for Hindus. The Gyanvapi the Vishwanath temple in been attacked and being temple was built on female Maratha ruler,

UP, is important in because it is considered the birthplace of stroved

and the Shahi Idgah mosque is believed to Ehsani's couplet: have been built on its

decla-res a victory, would be more than tive; it would be stu-

pid eclipse it at home.

behind it is well-Mathura is the BJP/ summarising. Around of reclaiming India, 1922, Lahore's Hindu community built a temple in the Shah mosque is adjacent to Alam neighbourhood. manifested his pres- court, and legend has government.

the Hindu religion structed in 1934. It was fulfilled. would be interesting to know if the temple hope the region's Lord Krishna. The that spurred the Mus-Keshavdeva temple, lim fervour to build peace and interact as part of a complex built the mosque over- neighbours do, into mark Krishna's night, with shops on stead of waiting for janamasthan, was de- the ground floor, is their mortal remains anywhere to be found to be united with the Aurangzeb's orders, today. One is re- soil their ancestors minded of Jamal called home? Varia-

we have all done to Bulleh Shah, the The question is if wrong or have been 18th-century Sufi: -it will stop there. So brainwashed into be- Courtesy Dawn

far, as political expe- lieving stuff that diency goes, it has to. does not reflect the The BJP reclaims the whole truth. The dethree sacred sites of struction wrought by fighting over places Hin-duism it consid- Mahmud of Ghazni, ers were usurped, including the sack of the Somnath temple. is still taught in

Most readers Mandir in Ayodhya just counterproduc- would know that famous Indian author Khushwant Singh The ambition of wished to be buried projecting itself as a in Hadali, a town in global power must be Khushab, Pakistan. tempered with inclu- where he was born in sion and restraint. All 1915. A plaque outthe gilded mandirs side his school comworldwide would not memorates its illustrimake India shine if it ous student who, allowed exclusion's among his other caretaker is said to be dark shadow to scholarly achievements, wrote one of The controversy the most comprehensive histories of the known but worth evolution of Sikhism. The plaque has Mr Singh's ashes mixed in it. Very few would know that Jaswant Singh, a one-time BJP Kashi The Muslims insisted stalwart, a member of that a mosque be the Lok Sabha, leader Varanasi, which is made on the adjacent of opposition in the venerated as a place plot. The matter was Rajya Sabha; a man where Lord Shiva taken to the British who held the portfotaken to the British who held the portfolios for external afence. The temple had it that the Muslims of fairs, defence, and fithe area overnight nance through times destro-yed many built a mosque to as tough as the times in history, the trump any adverse Pokhran nuclear court order. Since the tests, Ka--rgil, the Aurangzeb's direc- mosque was made Kandahar hijacking, tives. The current without the requisite the scuttled Agra permission of the mu- peace summit, attacks an adjacent site by nicipal committee, it on Kash-mir and the Ahilyabai Holkar, a was razed by the Indian parliament; wished for his ashes The quaint little to be released into Mathura, also in mosque one sees the Hingol river in presently was con- Balochistan. His wish

Is it too much to people could live in tions of the following Let us admit that verse are attributed

Commerce News

President Alvi underscores need to promote creativity

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday underlined the need for nurturing the 'intellect ability' and competition, needed such innovative ideas' of the an environment where educated youth to achieve the required goals of national progress and

prosperity.

"Pakistan does not solutions [to confronted issues] but the doers," he said while addressing the award distribution ceremony of the grand finale-III of the country's biggest ideas competition held under the National Idea Bank (NIB) vision, organised by the

He said the ideas, shared by the youth in the these could be transformed into qualitative and competitive products, enabling the country to increase its exports and reduce imports.

had been proponent of exploring innovative ideas youth could be engaged to seek innovative ideas.

"This is era of human the country should have to National University of resource and innovation so make similar and effective

Technology (NUTEC) and ASPIRES Pakistan. the intellectual ability is the most important in this ranking in other areas as regard," he added.

of the country's data management on scientific lines coupled with ideal civil-military cooperation during COVID-19, he said Pakistan was declared the third best performing country in the world, while President Alvi said he its neighbouring countries were far behind in this index. He said Pakistan had for the last 15 years. He utilised the experience and said this was the best data collected during forum through which the countrywide anti-polio drives to properly manage the disease spread. He said

well. He said some 26.2 Sharing success story million children were currently out of school across the country.

The president pointed out that this area too needed proper attention as without developing human resource, the country could not compete with the world. He also raised questions about the validity of the recent polls, asserting that the introduction of electronic voting machines (EVMs) could have averted the chaos surrounding the election results.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners and organizers of the National Idea Bank Season III, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) and Industrialists of KP led by Senator Noman Wazir call on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PCJCCI for Pakistan-China cooperation in mulberry seeds

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and (PCJCCI) Industry President Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that Pakistan is importing silk worth Rs 67 billion and it produces more silk locally, it will provide employment to 600,000 people mostly the rural

added that Mulberry is one leaves can be harvested

in Pakistan.

Mulberry trees, fast-Pakistan. Apart from wide silkworms, which provide Abbottabad, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

climate, the growth period Sharing his views in a of mulberry trees in think-tank session here at Pakistan is about 10 can be processed into PCJCCI Secretariat, he months, which means its mulberry juice, powder,

(APP): of the most popular fruits several times within one year," he said. Ghurki said that it is

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad growing and small to a fruit tree with no part Chamber of Commerce and medium-sized, are being going waste its leaves can cultivated in rural areas of be used as feed for Industry president Fuad Ishaq said there is no doubt that Pak-China friendship is unmatched which is further presence in Punjab, these silk for the textile sector; can also be found in KPK, its branches are used to strengthening with the make different types of passage of time and its baskets that can be seen in example is that events are being held on eve of new "Thanks to the hot almost every rural house of Chinese year across the

Pakistan Its fruit is edible and jam, vinegar, and tea.

Pakistan.

Fuad Ishaq was

contribute 3.1b USD LAHORE (APP): Experts the Information

Pak-China friendship

strengthening with

passage of time: SCCI

Pak IT companies to

Technology Career Fair have said that Pakistan's IT companies based on services and products will contribute 3.1 billion dollars in 2024.

The 13th Career Fair was organized by Punjab University Faculty of Computing & Information (FCIT), Technology sponsored by Dubizzle Labs here on Thursday. More than 65 leading IT companies from the software industry set up their stalls to hire the the crisis." role to get Pakistan out of

graduates of FCIT from a batch of around 500 coming from domains of computer science, software engineering

and information technology. PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, FCIT Dean Prof Dr Shahzad Sarwar, faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, PU VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood said, "We all have to play our

and inauguration of a culture

exhibition, arranged by students of Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto Women University

in connection with China

New Year here on Thursday.

through this event.

members of PALSP including Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak, Abbas Akberali, Javaid Mughal, Gold rates up

industry.

delegation of Pakistan

long steel manufacturers

which included senior

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.211,100 in the local market on Thursday against its sale at Rs. 210,800 on last trading

by Rs.300

Peshawar (SBBWUP), held day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased The SCCI chief praised artwork and by Rs.257 to Rs.180,984 from Rs 180,727 whereas paintings of the students that of 10 gram 22 karat displayed during the gold gold went up to Rs.165,902 from Rs. exhibition and said citizens of Peshawar will get aware 165,666, the All Sindh speaking at an event at china Window Peshawar through this event. Sarafa Jewellers Association reported

PM for assuring support Saqib Riaz, Hussain Agha, difficult period for Zarak Khan Khattak, Hassan Farid and Wajid Iqbal Bukhari- Secretary rocketing cost of inputs

Association of Large Steel Producers (PALŠP) on Thursday met with caretaker Prime Minister General, PALSP. The meeting was also attended for Anwar ul Haq Kakar by senior officials of Finance, FBR, SBP and and acknowledged the government support for NHA, said a press release issued by PALSP here. PALSP delegation delegation included leading member of

Steel industry acknowledge

briefed the Prime Minister about the challenges and most pressing issues of steel sector.

concerns over current support.

industries amid exorbitant interest rates, sky especially electricity prices

In order to bring the Steel Industry out of the current situation, the PALSP delegation urged the PM that the Govt must take effective measures to facilitate steel sector.

PM Kakar keenly heard all the issues of The members of industry and assured govts delegation expressed their full cooperation and

PARC to install solar system for aeroponics seed potatos production

ISLAMABAD (APP): intended to provide Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with the Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) would provide a which will 100-kilowatt solar system strengthen for seed potato production aeroponics technology to boost virusfree seed production in the

country. KOPIA-Pakistan Center also Muhammad Ali.

Pakistan Agriculture about 160,000 tons of certified seed potatoes during the next five years under its Technical Cooperation Project, government's efforts to produce certified highyielding seed potatoes to enhance its output in the country, said Chairman

Ombudsman Punjab plays vital role in by providing justice to the people: Baligh Independent Report of Ombudsman Punjab is Punjab further said that

Independent Report Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman met Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the Ombudsman Punjab Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman informed the Governor Punjab about various steps taken to provide speedy justice to the petitioners.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur complaints in a short last year and all of them Rehman said that the office

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam

Suleman meeting with Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

NACTA delegation,

DG Info KP discuss

media role in peace

PESHAWAR (APP): A capacity and sphere, the

two-member delegation from National Counter established FM radios in

Relations here at his office and discussed matters continued. He said the role

role in maintaining lasting besides informing them

peace in the province. To regarding further improve its responsibilities.

the far-flung areas of the

newly merged districts

from where transmission

in local and Pashto

of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in promoting

national harmony and

cohesion was of the prime

importance adding that the

Info Dept was endeavoring

to render its services in a

best possible manner in

stations of the department

were proving credible

information to the public

He said ten radio

this connection.

Terrorism Authority

(NACTA) on Thursday

met with Director General

Information and Public

relating to the role of

Information Dept in

promotion of peace in the province. The role of

media, especially the

Radio in providing timely

and accurate information

to the general public was

Muhammad Imran said

the media has played a

pivotal and responsible

DG Information KP,

also discussed in detail.

an easy and effective means initiatives such of providing cheap and and his team for the good work. Governor Punjab said that the office of Ombudsman Punjab is lauded the Ombudman ombudsman Punjab office for redressing the grievance of the period of time. Governor

digitization of quick justice to the people. Ombudsman Punjab office He said that he appreciates and mobile app for the Ombudsman Punjab resolving the problems of overseas Pakistanis are commendable.Ombudsman Punjab Major (retd) Azam Sulaiman said that research playing an important role and development wing has in the improvement of the been established in the system by providing office of the Ombudsman. justice to the people. He He said that the received a record number of 35,139 applications in the

Friday February 16, 2024

were disposed of. **Health Deptt** issues working days for MTI hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department issued a declaration of days for working in MTI hospitals on Thursday with the approval of Health Advisor Dr. Riaz Anwar.

The days were approved in light of MTI recommendations according to the official

letters."Working days will be implemented at MTIs Hospitals and its affiliated colleges," according to the notification issued in this connection by the health department KP.

Fire erupts in residential house in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): A fire suddenly broke out in the house of a person, namely Faheem Khan, in Yousafabad Dir Colony here Thursday, said an official of the Rescue 1122. He disclosed that the fire erupted due to a short circuit, and as soon as the information was received, the fire vehicle of Rescue 1122 reached the accident site and started extinguishing the fire; however, no casualties were reported as a result.



the meeting of the steering committee on Power department at CM

KP govt signs MoU for digital skills training

Independent Report memorandum

understanding was signed between the Higher Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and China-Pakistan Corridor Economic Cultural Communication Center on Thursday to increase the skilled workforce in the province.

The signing ceremony of the memorandum took place at the Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, says a handout.

Court dismisses bail petitions

of two co-accused in Gujrat

development projects case

LAHORE (INP): An heard bail petitions filed by

In addition to the

accountability court on

Thursday dismissed bail

petitions of two co-accused

in a case of alleged corruption

in Gujrat's development

projects against Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf President

Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. The

court dismissed bail petitions

of co-accused, Muĥammad

Khan Bhatti, former

principal secretary to chief

minister.

Mehmood

and

Accountability Court

Najibullah, and Dr. Qasim employment opportunities Jan, relevant officials of the in provincial government also participated.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, participated in the ceremony via video link. According to the memorandum understanding,

hundred thousand students from the province's public colleges will be trained in various fields of digital

Students receiving provincial ministers Dr. training in digital skills will

the accused and announced

the verdict on completion of

arguments by the defence

counsel and prosecution. The

National Accountability

Bureau had filed a reference

against Parvez Elahi and 13

others on the charges of

"misusing authority and

receiving kickbacks" in Gujrat's development

projects. The bureau had

accused the former chief

minister and others of receiving

Rs1.2 billion as kickbacks in

domestic international markets.

Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that the memorandum understanding between the provincial government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Communication Center is a major success for the current provincial government. Minister said that this partnership will prove to be crucial in fulfilling the requirements of digital skills in the province.

Two minor sisters burn to death as hut

catches fire MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two minor sisters burn to death while another girl sustained injuries as hut of wood caught fire in Basti Goram Pitafi chowk on Thursday. According to Rescue officials, three minor girls including two sisters were present into their house when suddenly fire erupted in hut made with wood near Basti Goram Pitafi chowk Mondka road. As a result, seven years old Hijab d/o Ansar and 8 Nayyab d/o Ansar burn alive while 8 Dua Fatima d/o Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani 116 development projects. Abid sustained serious.

Over 10,000 students to get eco-friendly electric bikes in Punjab: Minister

Independent Report

Transport Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad Thursday said that his government has inaugurated a landmark project to distribute over 10,000 electric bikes among students from various educational institutions where such students in Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, and Rawalpindi would be the primary beneficiaries of this initiative.

Around 7,000 electric bikes would be allocated to male students, while 3,000 will be designated for he added

female students, he said while talking to a Private news channel

He said that these students must have a driving license while such an eco-friendly initiative will reduce environmental pollution, adding, that electric two-wheelers will offer long-term financial advantages to these students and would overcome their financial expenditures.

The launch of electric bikes can overcome the problems of exertion and would not take much time to reach their destinations,



LAHORE: The pilgrims of Hajj are being guided with all possible efforts by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on the styles of medical camp and training camp in Haji Camp.

ATC orders to seize property of PTI leaders declared POs

Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has ordered to seize the property of PTI leaders who have been declared proclaimed offenders.Court has ordered to seize their moveable and immoveable properties. Under this order 2 residential plots and one bank account of former provincial minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, 5 agriculture lands of former federal minister Hammad Azhar and 4 bank accounts, one residential property and one insurance policy will be seized. It has been told that order has been issued to seize 2 bank accounts and one vehicle of Murad Saeed Gandapur involved.

LAHORE (Online): Anti and 3 agriculture land, one residential property, 2 vehicles and 35 horses of Ali Amin Gandapur residential properties, bank accounts and 2 vehicles of Andleeb Abbas will be seized.Order has been issued to seize 2 agriculture lands, residential properties, 5 bank accounts, one vehicle 3 plots flats, 51 percent shares in Swati Enterprises and properties in US and Dubai of former federal minister Azam Swati Decision has been taken to arrest 9 newly elected members of assembly including Ali Amin

International News

Asif

At least 11 civilians, including children, killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Online): At least the strikes. 11 people, including children, have been killed in Israeli strikes on villages in southern Lebanon, according to a report.

A hospital director and three Lebanese security sources told Reuters that 11 people, including six children, were killed during strikes the Israeli military carried out against villages across southern Lebanon on Wednesday.

The Tel Aviv regime said in a statement that it had responded to an earlier rocket attack conducted by the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement that killed an Israeli trooper. The resistance group, however, did not announce any operations on Wednesday.

Initial reports had said four civilians were killed in

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading near daily cross-border fire since the occupying regime waged a deadly war on Gaza on

Hezbollah, whose constant rocket fire has prompted tens of thousands of Israeli settlers to flee from the northern areas of the occupied territories, says its operations are meant to support Gaza's

Two security sources said that a woman and her two children had been killed in an Israeli strike on the village of al-Sawana on Wednesday.

Another strike on a building in Nabatieh claimed the lives of four more children, three women and a man, according to the

director of the town's hospital, Hassan Wazni, and sources. Wazni further said that seven people were also

Sources also said that four Hezbollah fighters were also killed in separate

Hezbollah has warned would expand the anti-Israel front in the south if the occupying regime escalated its acts of aggression against the Lebanese territory and the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The resistance group has vowed to keep up its retaliatory operations as long as the usurping entity continues its aggression against Gaza, which has so far killed more than 28,500 Palestinians, women and children.

Thailand warns of high pollution in capital, officials to work from home

BANGKOK (Internews): Thai authorities warned that pollution levels in Bangkok and surrounding provinces had hit unhealthy levels on Thursday, ordering government employees in the capital to work from home for the next two days and urging others to do the same.

Air pollution is caused by a combination of crop-related burning, industrial pollution and heavy traffic, and a smoky haze covered the Bangkok's skyline. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told reporters that crop burning was the main culprit behind the spike, but added that around quarter of the pollution was from vehicles, a factor "we can control". Swiss air quality tracking website IQAir said the level of fine inhalable particles in the city was 15 times higher than the recommended level by the World Health Organization, making it the world's 8th most polluted city on Thursday.



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi meets with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss the latest developments in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Ittihadiya presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Hezbollah says Israel will 'pay price' after deadly day

Hezbollah said on Thursday Israel would pay "the price" for killing 10 people including five children in southern Lebanon, the deadliest day for Lebanese civilians in four months of hostilities across the Lebanese-Israeli border.

An Israeli strike killed seven people in the city of Nabatieh late on Wednesday, including three children, sources in Lebanon said. It followed an earlier attack that killed a woman and her two children in the village of al-Sawana at the

The enemy will pay the price for these crimes, Hezbollah politician Hassan Fadlallah told media. "The resistance will continue to practice its legitimate right to defend its people.'

Several of the armed Lebanese group's fighters were also killed in separate strikes on Wednesday, including on Nabatieh, according to the group and security sources.

Asked about the Nabatieh strike, a spokesperson for the Israeli army

Democrats UNRWA funding freezes risk 'aiding' deaths in

Putin says European greens

capitalising on

climate fears

MOSCOW (Internews) Russian President Vladimir Putin criticised the green movement in Europe for capitalising on peoples' fears about climate change, while questioning Germany's commitment to

phasing out coal. Long demonized by Germany's Green party, which leads some of the government's top ministries, coal was due to be phased out by 2030, but Russia's conflict with Ukraine and gas export curbs brought coal back into favour.

pick up seat in **US** House as Suozzi wins in New York

NEW YORK (Internews): Democratic former congressman Tom Suozzi won a special U.S. House of Representatives election in New York on Tuesday, narrowing an already razorthin Republican majority that has struggled to pass legislation. The seat became available after the House took the extraordinary step of expelling Republican George Santos, whose dizzying array of lies about his biography led to his indictment on fraud charges.

1 dead, children among 21 injured in Super Bowl parade shooting in US **Monitoring Desk** of the victims had sustained

WASHINGTON: One per-

son was killed and children were among the 21 injured after a mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory rally on Wednesday triggered panic among huge crowds of fans.

Shots rang out mo-ments after jubilant Chiefs players addressed a vast, cheering crowd, sending shocked fans and VIPs fleeing in a tragic end to what had been a joyous morning of celebrating the NFL

Police said three people had been taken into custody after the attack near Kansas City's Union Station, but the motive behind the shooting was still under investigation.

Fire department chief Ross Grundyson told a press conference that many and I hit him from behind.

life-threatening injuries." A local DJ, Lisa

Lopez, was killed in the assault, her radio station said. "This senseless act has taken a beautiful person from her family and this KC Community, KKFI posted on its Facebook page, referring to Kansas City.

Children's Mercy Hospital said it was treating 12 people — 11 of them children, nine for gunshot wounds — after the shooting. A hospital spokesman said all were expected to

Paul Contreras, who was at the rally with his three daughters, said he tackled and disarmed one of the suspected shooters before the police arrived. "I

Special counsel urges US **Supreme Court to rebuff** Trump in immunity fight

WASHINGTON immunity from prosecu-(Internews): The special counsel prosecuting Donald Trump on federal charges involving the former president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday to reject Trump's bid to further delay trial proceedings as he presses his claim of im-

munity.

"The nation has a compelling interest in seeing the charges brought to trial," Special Counsel Jack Smith said in his filing to the justices, adding that "the public interest in a prompt trial is at its zenith where, as here, a former president is charged with conspiring to subvert the electoral process so that he could remain in office." Smith's filing responded to a request by Trump's lawyers on Monday to put on hold a decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejecting the claim of presidential

If the justices do not immediately reject Trump's request, Smith asked that they take up the case and hear it on a fast-track basis.

Smith said Trump's criminal charges reflect an alleged effort to "perpetuate himself in power and prevent the lawful winner of the 2020 presidential election from taking office. The charged crimes strike at the heart of our democracy." A president's alleged criminal scheme to overturn an election and thwart the peaceful transfer of power to his successor should be the last place to recognize a novel form of absolute immunity from federal criminal law," Smith added.

Trump's lawyers asked the justices to halt the trial proceedings pending their bid for the full slate of judges on the D.C. Circuit to reconsider the case, and, if necessary, an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The Netherlands is joining a military coalition with allies including Britain that will supply Ukraine with advanced drone technology and bolster its offensive capabilities in the war against Russia, the

PARIS: Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy

arrives for the verdict on his appeal in the so-called

'Bygmalion' case over illegal campaign financing.

Netherlands joins coalition

to supply Ukraine with

advanced drones

Dutch defence minister said. The pledge from the Netherlands comes in addition to F-16 fighter jets, artillery, ammunition and air

defence systems provided

For the Netherlands,

by the Dutch to Kyiv.

costs on top of 2 billion euros earmarked already for 2024, Dutch Defence Minister Kasja Ollongren told Reuters in an interview ahead of two days of NATO defence minister meetings in Brussels starting on Wednesday.

"We know of course that drones are very important in this war," Ollongren said. "That's why we are joining the drone coalition that Ukraine has started

there may be additional

together with Latvia.

Gaza: Saudi official **Monitoring Desk** RIYADH: Freezing funds to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees risks "aiding" the deaths of civilians in Gaza,

the head of Saudi Arabia's

humanitarian agency told AFP on Tuesday. Several countries including the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan-have suspended funding to the UNRWA agency in response to Israeli allegations that some of its staff members participated in the

October 7 attack by Hamas militants. Last week, as its war

against Hamas entered a fifth month, Israel's military also said troops had uncovered a Hamas tunnel under UNRWA's evacuated Gaza City headquarters.

The UN has sacked the 12 UNRWA staff members accused by Israel of involvement in the October 7 attack and said the tunnel claim should be investigated once the conflict is over.

Pakistan calls for UNSC's urgent intervention to impose ceasefire in Gaza

Security Council (UNSC) to fulfill its responsibility mandated under the UN Charter and to urgently intervene to impose a ceasefire and bring an end to the massacre of the Pal-

estinian people. "The siege of Gaza must be lifted to prevent further deaths and suffering from famine and nonavailability of decent medical care. Pakistan stands resolute in its unwavering diplomatic, moral, political, and humanitarian support to the besieged people of Gaza," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

pend UNRWA's funding, she reiterated Pakistan's endorsement of the OIC's condemnation of ongoing Israeli military aggression against Gaza and the expansion of indiscriminate attacks on the Rafah city.

She said that the OIC had raised alarm on expansion and escalation of the pace of the Israeli aggression and warned against an tinian people from their

"Israel's merciless onslaught against the 1.4 million displaced people in Rafah is a blatant defiance of the provisional measures outlined by the Interna- to end intimidation and per-

Highlighting the Kashmir issue, the spokesperson said India's campaign to curb dissent in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IÎOJK) remained

in full swing "On 10th February 2024, India's National Investigation Agency (NIA), conducted multiple raids on 5 properties of Jammat-i-Islami, Kashmir in different unacceptable attempt to cities. These raids were part forcibly displace the Pales- of an ongoing crackdown against the Kashmiri political organizations. Jamaat-i-Islami is one of the six political organizations already proscribed by India," she said. The spokesperson urged the Indian authorities

ties, also calling for the release of all Kashmiri political prisoners and activists. "As far as Yasin

Malik is concerned, we have expressed our serious concerns about his prolonged and continued imprisonment. We have condemned the illegal and fictitious cases in which he has been framed and we have also rejected the basis of awarding him the death penalty," she added. "Pakistan will con-

tinue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council

President Dr Arif Alvi on

Thursday said that the co-

operation between public

and private sectors was

inevitable to educate

around 26 million out-of-

school children in the

meeting with a delegation of

Read Foundation - a non-

profit organization - led by

Muhammad Shafiq Khan,

said that the education and

self-dependence of the or-

of the crucial electoral pro-

cess. As the term of the cur-

rent Senate nears its end on

March 11, the anticipated

Senate elections slated for

the first week of March

face uncertainty, with

speculation mounting over

a delay until the establish-

ment of all provincial governments. Media reports

suggest that the delay in the

country's general elections

has cast a shadow over the

scheduled Senate elections.

raising doubts about their

timely occurrence. With the

election schedule spanning

a month, Senate elections

might be deferred until the third week of March, pend-

ing the completion of nec-

essary electoral procedures.

In preparation for the conclusion of the current

Senate term, a final session

has been convened on Feb-

against him.

Thursday.

Dr. Oadir Bakhsh and other officials are also present.

Qazi Faez Isa took up plea

the judges should be cau-

tious while giving observa-

tions against a person in

his absence. If judges have

to give observations against

any one, they should issue

notice to him first of all. We

hope Judges will be cau-

The court remarked

for hearing Thursday.

ruary 19, presided over by cal landscape.

SC accepts appeal plea

of Raja to expunge

observations against

The president, in the

President for enhancing

phan children were essen-

tial for an inclusive society.

try achieve progress.

resource development.

QUETTA: Agroup photo of Director PID Abdul Manan

Babar during a luncheon hosted by him in honour of

APS Press Information Department Muhammad

Concerns loom over

timely conduct of

Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Sadiq

Concerns loom over the timely conduct of Senate Sanjrani. Senators are expected to bid farewell dur-

Amidst legislative dis-

cussions, the Senate Stand-

ing Committee on Finance.

chaired by Senator Salim

Mandvi, convened to ad-

dress pressing economic is-

sues. Senator Sadia Abbasi

raised concerns over exor-

bitant gas bills burdening

citizens, attributing the

surge to pressure from the

IMF. Senator Kamil Ali Agha questioned the influ-

ence of the IMF on national

policies, prompting Chair-

man Saleem Mandviwala to

clarify that gas price hikes

fall under the purview of the

petroleum division, not the

Ministry of Finance. As

debates intensify over eco-

nomic policies, the impend-

ing Senate elections remain

contingent upon the resolu-

tion of electoral complexities,

underscoring the critical junc-ture facing Pakistan's politi-

Yasin Bangulzai on eve of his retirement.

Similarly, he also called



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of READ Foundation call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Calling for an immeditional Court of Justice in its secution of the Kashmiri

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with other leaders and party workers addressing a press conference, at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

JI announces to issue white paper on rigging in election

while announcing to issue white paper on the result of general election has said we will go to Election Commission (EC) and court against election rigging.

'The seats won by JI in election were snatched from it through worst rigging. We demand of chief election commissioner to resign, this was said by Naib Amir JI Liaqat Baloch while addressing a press conference here in Mansoora Thursday.

He said election 2024 also remained controversial. The entire nation rejects the result of the election

LAHORE (Online): JI tion 2024 are both worried This election is in continu-

ity of past election. The politics in Pakicies and these results are imposed on the entire na-

He remarked Pakistan was dismembered through

Every time they talk of puncture, some time opening boxes and some time placing them again.

of form 45 is changed on

stan has become a game. Engineering is done for government making. The desired results are achieved by targeting 30, 35 constituen-

election rigging in 1977.

He remarked the result

He went on to say the winners and losers of elec47.

KP to become Afghanistan's Tora bora under Gandapur **CM tenure: PMLN**

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chapter spokesperson Akhtiarwali Khan on Thursday rejected the results of KP and alleged that KP to become Afghanistan's Tora bora

with Gandapur as CM. It is pertinent to note that Tora Bora is linked to the battle of Tora Bora on December 3-17 2001 wherein a U.S.-led coalition attacked the cave complex of the White Mountains at

Tora Bora in Afghanistan. He alleged that the PTI founder adopted the anti-

state agenda by appointing Ali Amin Gandapur as the Chief Minister.

"If Ali Amin Gandapur becomes the CM, a situation similar to Balochistan will arise in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTI is plotting to make Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tora-Bora,' he alleged. He said PML-N rejected the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa election re-

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has nominated Ali Amin Gandapur as the Chief Minister candidate of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at Quetta-Karachi Highway road near Winder in Hub.

Court bars repatriation of Afghan's transgenders

PESHAWAR (INP): The Court also clarified that for-Peshawar High Court on eign nationals do not have Thursday issued a temporary order barring the repatriation of 16 Afghan transgender women and di-rected authorities to stop harassing registered Afghan transgender migrants residing in Pakistan.

The order came in response to a writ petition filed by the transgender women against their potential deportation under a government decision to repatriate all Afghan nationals. Their lawyer argued that their lives would be in danger if they were sent back to Afghanistan, where persecution of transgender individuals is widespread.

Shakeel Justice Ahmed and Justice Wagar Ahmed heard the petition, acknowledging the precaritransgenders in their home country. However, the spect.

eign nationals do not have the same rights as Pakistani citizens and can only stay if they have valid visas.

Despite this, the judges noted that even registered Afghan refugees with valid documentation. including Proof of Registration (POR) cards, were being harassed by authorities. They deemed such actions unacceptable and damaging to Pakistan's international reputation.

Therefore, the High Court directed authorities to halt the repatriation of transgender women and keep their deportation on hold until further proceedings. The Court also ordered to end the harassment of registered Afghan transgender migrants as they are protected under ous situation of Afghan Pakistani law and must be treated with dignity and re-

ATC declares 11 PTI leaders proclaimed

AHORE (INP): An antiterrorism court (ATC) on Thursday declared 11 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insat (PTI) leaders proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of torching a container at Kalma Chowk, during May The leaders include

offenders

Azam Khan Swati, Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi, Murad Saeed, Hammad Azhar, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Imtiaz Ahmad Sheikh, Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, Musarrat Cheema and Jamshed Cheema

ATC Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal passed the orders while allowing an application, filed by the police for the pur-

The investigation of-ficer had filed the applica-tion for declaring the PTI leaders proclaimed offenders, stating that hectic efforts were made for the arrest of the accused but they could not be arrested as they went into hiding to avoid arrest.

PPP contact & coordination committee meets Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP) The members of the contact and coordination committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Thursday met with the party Chairman of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

They briefed Bilawal Bhutto about their meetings with the other political parties, said a press release issued by the party secre-

Qamar Zaman Kaira, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Shuja Khan, Saeed Ghani Nadeem Afzal Chan and Bahadur Khan Sehar were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Chairman PPP also met with former Governor of Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Zardari House in which the political situation of the country was discussed.

Re-polling in six polling stations for **NA-43** on Monday

SLAMABAD (APP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed to conduct re-polling in six polling stations of NA-43, Tank-cum-Dera Ismael Khan, on February

19, (Monday) According to ECP spokesperson, re-polling in these six polling stations, initially planned for Feb 17, has been moved to Feb 19. The polling on Feb 8 was interrupted because of the law and order situation.

him in court decision ISLAMABAD (Online): tious in future while giving Supreme Court (SC) has acobservation against any cepted appeal plea of

A single bench of Islamabad High Court former Prime Minister (PM) Raja Pervez Ashraf to get expunge observations (IHC) gave observations against Raja Pervez Ashraf SC has ordered to exin 2012. According to NAB punge observations against

nothing was proved against Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in connection with Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision Raja Pervez Ashraf in NAB inquiry. Care should be taken while giving observa-A 3-member bench of tions at the level of inquiry. Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of IHC had given SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan(CJP)

observations against Raja Pervez Ashraf in Gujjar Khan road case in 2012. Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui had declared Raja Pervez Ashraf corrupt in

road contract case. IHC had ordered NAB to hold inquiry against Raja Pervez Ashraf

public-private partnership to educate out-of-school children tions, it was told that the organisation was running over 400 schools and col-

for a special focus on girls' leges across the country. education to make the coun-It was informed that the Read Foundation was striving for promotion of The president lauded quality and result-oriented the services of the Read Foundation in the fields of education as well as for eneducation and welfare. hancing the access to free He said that the eduor low-cost education.

cational institutions played The Foundation was a key role for the human also taking measures for education and upbringing of In the briefing about the orphan children, it was the Foundation's contribu-

There is option of reserved seats allocation for PTI: Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (INP) Kanwar Dilshad has said that there is option of the allocation of the NA reserved seats for the PTI.

Talking to a private TV channel, Dilshad, a former secretary of the ECP, said that the election commission could seek a way out on the PTI's petition. "There

are past instances of such facilitation," he said. "Hopefully the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will give consideration to the request, Kanwar Dilshad said.

timely conduct of Senate elections due to the unresolved status of the Elections due to the Elections due to the unresolved status of the Election commission about an agreement with a sum
The PTI submits petition to the election commission about an agreement with a green and a gr official said. "If the electoral body rejects the request, the Supreme Court could resolve the issue," he was opined.

He said the lawyers should leave their politics and go to the election com-

Kaira says: **PPP** entrusts mandate to PML-N for govt formation

ISLAMABAD (INP): People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the PPP has delegated mandate to the PML-N for formation of government.

It is to be mentioned here that Kaira has been a member of the six-member committee of the People's Party that had been entrusted for talks with other political parties.

Kaira said that the PPP will not get ministries but field its candidates for the Parliament and the assembly offices.

We would have also work with the PTI, but the party's founder has closed that door," PPP leader said "He has said that the PTI will not hold talks with three parties," Kaira said. Kaira stressed that Pakistan required collective decision-

He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman's antagonism towards Asif Zardari have no reason. "The PPP extending its reach to the JUI as well as other political parties," he said.
"When the parties

contest elections they criticize policies of other parties," he said.

"If the People's Party or the PML-N will stay away from government formation, Pakistan will enter into a new crisis," Qamar Zaman Kaira said

Sherry confirms nomination of Zardari for presidency

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Senator Sherry Rehman clarified on Thursday that no formal discussions have taken place with Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) regarding coalition government formation.

Talking to a private news channel, Senator Rehman emphasized that while there have been discussions with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) regarding government formation, no such talks have occurred with the

logue with all parties, stat- country's progress.

ing, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) seems to be confused; PPP's doors are open for everyone for discussion. Furthermore, she high-

lighted the ongoing formation of provincial committees and the process of provincial government formation with allies. Senator Rehman said

that peaceful protest was the the democratic right of everyone, but apolitical sitins and mob demonstrations could undermine national stability.

She underscored the Sherry Rehman ex- importance of political and pressed openness to dia- economic stability for the

Private Hajj bookings set to commence today: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Thursday announced that the private Hajj organizers would start booking for the Hajj 2024 from Friday, February 16, nationwide.

Vice Chairman Haji Sanaullah and other representative, said the intending pilgrims within the country and abroad could grab this sacred opportunity till February 25.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council expressed optimism about the possibility of extending the application submission deadline by a month through private Hajj organizers' platform. He revealed that Hajj quota allocated to the private Hajj organizers was 89,604 pilgrims, with

44,802 pilgrims is reserved for Sponsorship Hajj

Ashrafi urged the government to provide all possible assistance to the intending Pakistani overseas pilgrims for smoothly remitting their funds in the local financial institutions. He proposed that it would be far better if they could be allowed to send their

Ashrafi informed that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony had established a dedicated helpline in collaboration with HOAP for further convenience of the pilgrims. He expressed gratitude to the government of Pakistan and as well as Saudi Arabia for making state-of-the-art arrange ments for the intending pilgrims in advance.

Ashrafi said this year. due to the special efforts of COAS Syed Asim Munir and Caretaker PM Anwaarul-Haq Kakar, the cost of fifty percent quota of Hajj had been reduced.



QUETTA: Mir Behram Baloch and Mir Behram Lehri presenting proposed Right to Information Law to Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran

Caretaker Federal **Interior Minister visits** FIA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz along with Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani on Thursday visited Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquar-

On arrival at the headquarters, Director General FIA Ahmad Ishaq Jahangir along with senior officials of the Agency welcomed the Minister. The Minister presided over a high-level meeting of FIA officials where he was briefed on institutional issues. All Additional Director Generals. Directors and other senior officers of FIA attended the

In the briefing, the report on the annual performance of all the wings was presented to the Federal

The minister appreciated the performance of Wings saying that the FIA ??has a very important leading role in homeland security and safety. The initiation of

projects to modernize FIA is welcoming, said the minister adding that the importance of modern technology has increased to cope with the modern day challenges and effective use of technology to prevent human trafficking and cyber-crime is the need of the hour.

It is also very important to enhance the capacity of investigators and align them with modern requirements, said the minster adding that the overseas Pakistanis are our valuable asset who are playing an important role in the country's development.

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance Amjad Rasheed presiding over a meeting

regarding financial issues of Balochistan's public sector universities. Caretaker Education Minister