



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Chaos unfolding

It seems there will be no avoiding the inevitable for the ECP. Rawalpindi commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha's Saturday press conference, during which he dropped bombshell allegations against the CEC...

All about women

Muna Khan

I understand that politics is the art of compromise, but why must women's bodies be sacrificed at the altar of deal-making? This question weighs heavily on my mind...

GB without rights

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

the GB Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution demanding provisional provincial status with representation in the constitutional bodies of Pakistan...

Commerce News

Pakistan's earns \$1,454m from IT services' export in 6 months



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Rahim Agha is addressing the seminar organized by All Balochistan Restaurant and Hotel Association against the increase in gas prices and taxes, at Quetta press club.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$1,454.881 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first six months of the current fiscal year 2023-24.

Fly Jinnah inaugurates first Intl flight connecting Islamabad and Sharjah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, celebrated the inaugural flight of its first international route from Islamabad, Pakistan, to Sharjah, UAE with a dual ceremony at Islamabad International Airport...

Tetra Pak demonstrates packaging circularity at Euro Village 2024

ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak showcased its commitment to packaging circularity at Euro Village 2024, hosted by the European Union in Islamabad. The event provided an excellent platform for Tetra Pak to demonstrate its ongoing efforts towards creating a sustainable future.



Dr. Riina Kionka, the Ambassador and Head of the delegation of the European Union to Pakistan and Noor Aftab, the Head of Public Affairs and Government Relations at Tetra Pak Pakistan posing next to a children's play swing made from recycled Tetra Pak cartons at the Euro Village 2024 festival.

SCCI meeting review industrial exhibition

SIALKOT (APP): A meeting was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) auditorium regarding the industrial exhibition to be held on 2nd and 3rd March, 2024 at Living Dreams Marquee, Sialkot Cantt, organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS).

Farmers advised for timely plantation of rose plants

FAISALABAD (APP): The agronomists of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Sunday advised farmers for timely completion of planting rose plants. They said that for the proper growth of the plants, the farmers should dig a hole in wet sand or soil and keep them upside down in the ground for 10 to 15 days.

Furniture industry direly needs skilled workforce

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's furniture industry is grappling with a severe shortage of skilled woodworkers that has triggered significant delays in the timely shipment of export consignments, posing challenges to the industry's efficiency, reputation and profitability.

PR collects Rs 74.8 mln from ticketless passengers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has collected an amount of Rs 74.8 million from ticket-less passengers in a crackdown during the three months with the help of railway police and train staffers.

## Governor pays rich tribute to Nawab Sadiq for education contributions

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor of Punjab and Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sadiq Public School, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Founders Day (Platinum Jubilee) of Sadiq Public School here.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman was also the chief guest on the occasion.

In his address, he mentioned, "Sadiq Public School reflects the vision, dedication, and determination of Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi, who is a great humanitarian responsible for the establishment of this unparalleled institution for great educational purposes and contributed with resources, effort, steps, and words of cooperation."

"This institution can take pride in its glorious traditions and remarkable past. Prominent personalities who have graduated from this institution have excelled in every field of life. Even today, I see many outstanding individuals in this ceremony who have acquired education from this great alma mater."

"All this is due to the significant historical role of this school, which the nation expects will continue to produce individuals of high caliber and maintain the highest standards of moral, intellectual, and physical education that are the hallmark of Sadiq," the governor said.

He said, "His connection with Sadiq Public School is longstanding. As the Chairman of the Board of Governors, it is a heavy responsibility for him to play a role in the betterment of this institution."

"Sadiq has played a crucial role in bringing me to this position," he added.

The governor emphasized the importance of both curricular and extracurricular activities in his speech. Additionally, Governor Punjab stated, "Today's event,



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi presides over the 41<sup>st</sup> Provincial Cabinet meeting.

## Station Commander for eliminating terrorism with people's cooperation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Station Commander Dera Muhammad Amir on Sunday praised Dera police for fighting against terrorism bravely and said the menace of terrorism would be eliminated from society with the help of people.

He stated this during the visit to Chaudhwan police station where the police repulsed a terrorist attack last night. On this occasion, the station commander was accompanied by District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani.

Both the officers also met with the local dignitaries. The local people eulogized the sacrifices of the Pak Army and police in the war against terrorism. They also assured their full cooperation with the law enforcement departments in this regard.

The visiting officers met with policemen on duty at the police station including the station house officer (SHO) and acknowledged their bravery for repulsing the terrorist attack last night.

Talking to policemen, the station commander said the Pak Army and police would fight against terrorists on each and every front as the safety of people's lives and property was the top priority of these institutions.

On this occasion, the

## ECP notifies names of 93 candidates returned to KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday notified the names of 93 candidates who returned to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

The 93 candidates included two candidates from PPP and three from JUIF while all the remaining were independent candidates.

The notification asked all the independent candidates to join a political party within three days of the notification under proviso of sub-clause-C of Clause-3 of Article 106 of the constitution.

The PPP candidates included Ahmed Karim Kundi from PK-112, DI Khan and Ehsan ullah Khan from PK-115 DI Khan.

The JUIF candidates were former opposition leaders in the provincial assembly Lutf ur Rehman from PK-114, DI Khan, Aftab Haider from PK-111, DI Khan, and Sajjad Ullah from PK-32, Kohistan Lower.

The independent candidates returned to KP assembly were: Suriya Bibi, Fateh ul Mulik, Sharaf Ali, Ali Shah, Akhtar Khan, Fazl Hakim Khan, Amjad Ali, Habib ur Rehman, Sultan Room, Gul Ibrahim Khan, Muhammad Yamin, Muhammad Anwar, Azam Khan, Hamayun Khan, Shafiq ullah, Ubaid ur Rehman, Liaquat Ali, Hamid ur Rehman, Shakeel Ahmed, Musavir Khan, Riaz Khan, Syed Fakhar Jehan, Abdul Kabir Khan, Fazal Haq, Sajjad Ullah, Muhammad Riaz, Taj Muhammad, Munir Hussain, Zubair Khan, Barber Munir Swati, Zahid Chenzeb, Ikram ullah, Nazi Ahmed, Raja Ali, Mushtaq Ghani, Akbar Ayub, Arshad Ayub, Malik Adeel, Rangez Ahmed, Aqibullah, Abdul Karim, Faisal Khan, Murtaza Khan, Zarshad, Tufail Anjum, Amir Farzand, Muhammad Zahir, Abdul Salam, Tariq Mahmood, Iftikhar Ali, Ithesham Ali, Khalid Khan, Arshad Ali, Iftikhar Ullah, Fazal Shakoor Khan.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leaders, Taimur Khan Jhagra, Shandana Gulzar addressing a press conference, at Peshawar press club.

## Bandit killed during police encounter

RAWALPINDI (APP): A bandit was killed during the police encounter in the jurisdiction of Dharmyal police station here on Sunday.

According to police spokesman, the bandits opened fire on the raiding police party, injuring Constable Inam Ali, who was shifted to the hospital.

After injuring the constable, the bandits fled the scene but later engaged in another shootout with the police, during which one bandit was killed.

The deceased bandit was identified as Hamad.

Senior police officers, including SP Muhammad Nabil Khokhar, rushed to the crime scene upon receiving information about the incident.

City Police Officer CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani has commended SP Saddar, ASP Saddar, SHO Dharmyal, and their team, affirming that the Rawalpindi Police will not hesitate to make sacrifices in their duty of crime prevention and citizen protection.

## CM chairs cabinet meeting, reviews PSL-9 security plan

LAHORE (APP): Punjab IG Police Doctor Usman Anwar gave a briefing about the law & order in the province.

The CM directed to undertake all essential measures for the protection of life and property of people across the province.

Mohsin Naqvi asserted that no compromise would be made on upholding the rule of law.

The PSL-9 security plan was also reviewed in the meeting.

## Empowered women – elevating nation, beaming with pride

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Sunday said that women's multidimensional empowerment in society is central to realising their rights and enabling them to equally participate in businesses, scientific, social sports and entrepreneur, control over productive resources and economic decision-making.

From risky summits to space while representing Pakistan in global media, making themselves heard worldwide, these equipped women during last two years have been standing historic.

In recent outgoing years the empowered Pakistani women have displayed their best potential in every sphere of life, achieving for the country, by breaking barriers and achieving numerous 'firsts' in their respective fields, APP observed.

To a great surprise, Naila Kiani, renowned mountaineer and the first Pakistani woman, who climbed 10 peaks above 8,000 metres last year. She also became the only Pakistani to ascend seven peaks above 8,000m in six months.

Likewise, Samina Baig attained the feat of becoming the first Pakistani woman to summit the world's ninth-highest peak, the 8,125m-tall Nanga Parbat. Pakistan's women cricketers also excelled during the year 2023, while making history by registering their maiden win over New Zealand not just in the first T20 International but also in the one-day format.

Earlier, in the same year wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali became the first Pakistani woman to score a T20I century and only the sixth to score one in a T20 World Cup.

Pakistani women in the walk of social or performing arts, did not shy away from exhibiting their love for modern arts and media either as they set new records.

Arooj Aftab last year performed at ceremony of Grammy Awards 2023 in Los Angeles, US — and became the first Pakistani to win the prestigious Grammy Award, she also became the first artist from the country to perform at the Grammys. Oscar-winner Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy was announced as the director for the latest Star Wars film, making her the first woman and person of colour to direct a film in the franchise.

Shifting focus to a different category among the 'firsts', women and minorities in Pakistan made significant endeavors, toward achieving parity with men.

Justice Musarrat Hilali took oath as Peshawar High Court chief justice on April 11.

In February 2023, and similarly the Lahore High Court Bar Association got its first woman secretary since its inception in 1893 following Sabahat Rizvi's election.

In September last year, the Supreme Court of Pakistan got its first female registrar after sworn-in Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa appointed Additional District and Sessions Judge Okara, Jazeela Aslam, to the role.

## International News

### Ethiopia-Somalia friction boils over at AU summit

ADDIS ABABA: Tensions between Horn of Africa rivals Ethiopia and Somalia boiled over on Saturday on the opening day of an African Union summit in Addis Ababa. The two neighbours — already at odds over a controversial maritime pact — locked horns over Somalia's claims that Ethiopian security tried to block its President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud from accessing the summit venue.

The feud is one of a "litany of difficulties" referred to by AU Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat in his opening address to the gathering in the Ethiopian capital.

Faki painted a "bleak picture" and said leaders of the pan-African body had to step up and tackle the myriad conflicts, coups and political crises blighting the continent of 1.4 billion people. The 55-nation AU, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa, has long been criticised for being ineffectual and taking little decisive action in the face of numerous conflicts and power grabs.

In a sign of the uneasy relations between two member states, Mogadishu accused Addis Ababa of "outrageous conduct" and a "provocative" act over the reported security incident and demanded a full AU investigation.

Mohamud told reporters he had been blocked by Ethiopian security agents as he tried to enter a summit venue, a second time while accompanying Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh. "A soldier with a gun stood in front of us and denied us access to this facility," he said after later attending the summit.

Ethiopia insisted Mohamud was warmly welcomed and that the Somali delegation was blocked when its security detail tried to enter a venue with weapons. Mogadishu has accused Addis Ababa of violating its sovereignty over a January maritime deal with Somaliland, which declared independence in 1991 in a move not recognised by the international community.

Under the memorandum of understanding, Somaliland agreed to lease 20 kilometres (12 miles) of its coast for 50 years to landlocked Ethiopia, which wants to set up a naval base and a commercial port on the coast.



ADDIS ABABA: Outgoing chairperson of the African Union (AU) and President of Comoros, Azali Assoumani, congratulates the newly elected AU chairperson, President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. Also seen are Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

### 'Extraordinary' chance for Israel to integrate into region: Blinken

MUNICH: There is "an extraordinary opportunity" in the coming months for Israel to normalise ties with its Arab neighbours, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Saturday, while also emphasising the need for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The top US diplomat said there were genuine efforts led by Arab countries to revitalise the Palestinian Authority so it can be more effective in representing the Palestinians.

"Virtually every Arab country now genuinely wants to integrate Israel into the region to normalise relations...to provide security commitments and assurances so that Israel can feel more safe," Blinken said during a panel discussion at the annual Munich Security Conference.

"And there's also, I think the imperative, that's more urgent than ever, to proceed to a Palestinian state that also ensures the security of Israel," he added.

The Biden administration has been working to secure a mega-deal that will see ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel normalise. The Saudi as well as other Arab countries are seeking the creation of a Palestinian state as part of the deal.

On Friday, Biden called for a temporary truce in Gaza for a potential prisoner swap deal. He said he had held "extensive" conversations with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on this and negotiations were "underway".



LONDON: Pro-Palestinian activists wave flags and carry placards during a march.

### Afghanistan special envoys meet in Doha

NEW DELHI: National and regional special envoys to Afghanistan convened in Doha on Sunday in the second UN meeting of its kind in less than a year, though it remained unclear whether Taliban authorities would join the closed-session event.

The two-day meeting, hosted by the UN secretary general, was due to discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the Central Asian nation.

In the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021, the international community has wrestled with its approach to the country's new rulers.

On the first day of the convention in gas-rich Qatar, which hosted the Taliban during years of peace talks with the United States, the Kabul government's participation remained unclear.

Though the Afghan foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on plans to attend.

### Navalny's 'killers' refusing to hand over body: allies

MOSCOW: Alexei Navalny's supporters on Saturday accused Russian authorities of being "killers" who were "covering their tracks" by refusing to hand over his body, as the Kremlin stayed silent despite Western accusations and a flood of tributes to the late opposition leader.

The 47-year-old Kremlin critic died in an Arctic prison on Friday after spending more than three years behind bars, prompting outrage and condemnation from West-tern leaders and his supporters.

His death, which the West has blamed on the Kremlin, deprives Russia's opposition of its figurehead just a month before elections poised to extend President Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

On Saturday, Navalny's mother, Lyudmila and his lawyer were refused access to his body, after arriving in the region of the remote prison colony where he had been held, his spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said.

### China to step up patrols near Taiwan after 2 killed in deadly boat incident

BEIJING: China on Sunday said it would step up law enforcement patrols in waters near Taiwan after two Chinese nationals died in a boat incident involving Taiwan's coast guard.

A Chinese boat was carrying four people when it capsized on Wednesday near the Kinmen islands while pursued by the Taiwanese coast guard.

All four on board were thrown into the water and two of the crew later died.

### Italy, home of the mafia, now one of Europe's safest countries

ROME: Italy may be the land that launched Cosa Nostra, but today it is one of the safest countries in Europe, with a murder rate well below its neighbours.

From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through to the 1990s, thousands of people died in mafia violence, from rivals or traitors cast in cement or fed to pigs, to judges, priests and witnesses killed for daring to defy the mob. There were also the traumatic "Years of Lead" from the end of the 1960s to the 1980s, when armed groups from the extreme left and extreme right brought terror to Italy with bombings and assassinations.

The brutal murder of former prime minister Aldo Moro by the Marxist-Leninist Red Brigades in 1978 is burned into the national psyche, although the largest number of the estimated 400 victims of the period were killed by neofascists. But when this bloody period ended, and after a crackdown on mafias which pushed them into less violent financial crime, the murder rate plummeted.

Back in 1990, there were 34 murders per one million inhabitants in Italy, compared to 24 in neighbouring France, according to UN figures. In 2021-22, this had fallen to 5.5 per million in Italy and 11 in France, eight in Germany and 10 in the UK.

In Europe, only Norway and Switzerland have a murder rate lower or equal to Italy's, while Latvia, the worst, has a rate 6.5 times higher.

"Homicides in general have decreased in the last 25 years, especially the percentage of men" — who previously were the main victims of mafias, noted Raffaella Sette, a sociologist at the University of Bologna. Just 10 per cent of murders each year are now blamed on organised crime.

### Tel Aviv out to destroy UNRWA: agency chief

GENEVA: Israel is waging a concerted campaign aimed at destroying UNRWA, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said in an interview published on Saturday.

Philippe Lazzarini said calls for his resignation were part of the Israeli government's push. "Right now we are dealing with an expanded, concerted campaign by Israel aimed at destroying UNRWA," he told the Swiss newspaper group Tamedia.

"It is a long-term political goal because it is believed that if the aid agency is abolished, the status of the

### Third time lucky Japan launches next-gen rocket

TOKYO: Japan's space agency JAXA.

The latest launch follows Japan's successful landing last month of an unmanned probe on the Moon — albeit at a wonky angle — making it just the fifth country to land a craft on the lunar surface.

The H3 launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan at 9:22 am. Cheers and applause could be heard from the JAXA control centre after the agency's live stream announced the H3's engines had successfully burned.

### World Health Organization trying to get access to Gaza hospital after raid

GENEVA (Internews): The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday it was trying to get access to biggest functioning hospital in Gaza, the Nasser Hospital, after an Israeli raid.

"There are still critically injured and sick patients that are inside the hospital," WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic said.

"There is an urgent need to deliver fuel to ensure the continuation of the provision of life-saving services.

