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Bilawal rejects power-sharing formula offered to PPP

Asif Zardari will be PPP's candidate for presidency, reiterates ex-foreign minister

THATTA (INP) – Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), on Sunday stated his party was proposed a powersharing arrangement in which the prime minister's position would be alternated between two parties.

Speaking at a rally in Thatta, Bilawal revealed, "I was offered to let one party hold the prime ministership for three years, and then the other could take over for the remaining two years.

Rejecting the proposal, the PPP chief said, "I refused because I don't want to attain the prime ministership through such means. If I were to become the prime minister, it would be through the man-date of the Pakistani people

Bilawal reiterated that his party would not take any ministries in the cabinet of the coalition govern- found guilty.

the Federal Capital.

ment [being cobbled by the PML-N], but would vote for [its candidate for] the prime minister in the Cen-

"If you want PPP's vote, then don't ask us to be part of the cabinet, just give projects for the people of Sindh.

Bilawal, however, announced that Asif Ali Zardari would be PPP's candidate in the presidential election.

He urged all political parties to work within the constitutional framework and contribute to the nation's progress. He cautioned against divisive politics based on religious, ethnic or sectarian lines.

Challenging political figures Pir Pagara and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Bilawal invited them to present all their election documents (Form 45s) to him. He pledged to contest elections against them if

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visiting different roads and shopping centers of Quetta city

Caretaker CM pays surprise visit to Quetta city: **Ours' constitutional obligation** to provide peace to traders & general public: Domki

Expresses satisfaction over law & order situation and normal life in metropolis; emphasizes upon adopting legal course for removing any of the reservations

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has insisted that the Ouetta, legal course should be adopted to remove any of the reservations in accor-dance with the country's laws. He said that it is our constitutional obligation to provide peace to the traders community and general public, and for the purpose, all available resources are being mobilized by the in-

terim government.

accompanied by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair tropolis. Jamali, Commissioner Muhammad

Hamza Shafqaat and Addi-tional Inspector General of Police, Jawad Ahmed Dogar. Mr. Domki visited different main roads and bazaars including Jinnah road, Zarghoon road, Mission road, Gulistan road, Prince road, Bacha Khan chowk, Mannan chowk, Liaquat bazar and reviewed the routine life there

The caretaker Chief Minister was on surprise United the course of venience to the general pub-lic is not fair.

in different parts of the me-He was also satisfied that general public and traders didn't become part of

any illegal action or course, which is a welcoming. He on the occasion stressed the need to adopt legal course to remove any reservation in accordance

with the country's laws. He said that the legal and peace course is solution to all issues. The Chief Minister also said that no such act that causes incon-

taken for restoring law and

PTI demands judicial probe into electoral rigging following ex-commissioner's 'confession'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has called for an investigation into alleged irregularities and alterations in electoral outcomes by a judicial commission.

During a press conference, PTI leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Omar Ayub claimed that their party secured 180 seats across the country, but their majority in Punjab was minimised.

Citing the admission of rigging by former Rawalpindi commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha on Saturday, Gohar demanded the establishment of a judicial commission to investigate his confession, asserting that the former commissioner spoke out according to his conscience.

Omar Ayub, PTI's nominee for the position of prime minister, insisted that the judicial commission's report should be made public. He stressed that individuals mentioned by the former commissioner should not be part of the investigation, further suggesting that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja remain separate from the proceedings.

Ayub maintained that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's admission regarding the engineered noconfidence vote against the former PTI government, along with Liaquat Ali Chatta's confession regarding electoral malpractices, corroborated PTI's stance.



ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Umar Ayub addresses press conference.

Parliamentary group of PML-N Balochistan's meets; discusses about formation of government

Independent Report QUETTA: The parliamentary group of Pa-kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan met here in Quetta the meeting, a commitother day.

chair.

government

cided to bring the candidate for slot of Minister Chief Balochistan from within the party. During the course of tee was also formed According to the for talks with the in-

sources

metropolis.

He expressed the hope

public would not be used for any individual interests. In the meantime, the

caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Additional Inspector General of Police, Jawad Ahmed Dogar briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the overall law and order situation besides the steps taken for

restoration of peace in the The caretaker Chief

Minister expressed satisfaction over the measures

support: Sarfraz Bugti

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Pakistan People's Party

Sarfraz Bugti addressing a press conference in

PPP to form govt in

Balochistan with PML-N's

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): the Bilawal Bhutto-led Amid prevailing political uncertainty regarding the formation of government in the Centre, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sarfraz Bugti Sunday claimed that the party would form its government in Balochistan with the support of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). "The PML-N would be our ally in Balochistan [as it has] given us a clear signal to form our government [in the province]," Bugti said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad along with party's parliamentary committee members Haji Malik Shah and Sardar Sarbuland Khan

N bagged 10 seats. Despite engaging in a war of words in the run-up to the elections, both parties, who have previously served as close allies during the Pakistan Democration Movement's government. are on the way to once again emerge as key political stakeholders following the PPP's announcement to back the PML-N's candi date for the prime minister's post after none of the two parties managed to secure a

simple majority in the His remarks come as polls. Shehbaz Sharif calls for unity for nation's rebuilding

same

PML-N

LAHORE (INP): Former would be his priority as prime minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has said on Sunday that instability in the country will benefit none, and dangers to the country's economy call for con-certed efforts to build Pakistan.

Talking to the newly elected independent candidates from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shehbaz said that previously, too, the PML-N governments had saved the we intend to do is to country from default, save the country from and this time too it crises.

party is in pole position to form its government in the country's western province after securing 11 seats in the 51-member provincial as-sembly, whereas the PML-

tariat

of public importance.

Five passengers killed in Lasbela bus collision LASBELA(INP): At least

five people were killed and several others sustained injuries when two

the prime minister of the country to do the Lasbela district of Those bent upon

spreading anarchy in the country are still doing the same thing they curred at the Coastal Highhad been doing in the past," he said. PML-N president

was of the view that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the supremo Nawaz had always preferred national inter-ests to his own. "What

visit to the Quetta city on Sunday afternoon. He was witnessing the normal life witnessing the normal life that the traders and general order situation.

President summons

senate session ISLAMABAD (APP) President Dr. Arif Alvi has summoned a session of the

Senate to be held on Febru-ary 19 (Monday) at 3 PM. The president summoned the session of the Senate in the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution, said a notification issued by the Senate Secre-

The Senate is likely to take up questions, calling attention to notices. legislative business, and matters

passenger buses were collided on Coastal Highway Kund Malir area in the

Balochistan on Sunday. According to rescue officials, the collision oc-

way Kund Malir, a popular tourist spot. The victims were immediately transported to the DHQ Hospital for medical treatment, a private news channel reported. According to a Police source, one bus was heading from Karachi to Gwadar whereas the other from Gwadar to Karachi.



Highways remained block on different locations; general public including women & elderly persons as well as transporters suffer due to blockade of roads across province

THATTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses

Independent Report

QUETTA: The wheel jam strike was observed on almost all national highways of the Balochistan province on Sunday

The call for observance of the wheel jam strike was given by the 4-Parties Alliance comprising Balochistan National Party (BNP), Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), National Party and Hazara Democratic Party (HDP) against the alleged rigging in the results of general elections in Balochistan.

Following the wheel jam strike, the highways connecting Quetta to interior parts of the province and country remained blocked at different locations

The workers of four parties mainly BNP, PkMAP and NP created hurdles and staged dharnas on different highways blocking the main road arteries of the province.

The Quetta-Chaman-Pishin-Muslim Bagh-Killa Saifullah and Loralai highway was blocked by the workers of four parties near Baleli and Kuchlak. Simi-

larly, the Quetta-Kolpur-Mach-Sibi highway was blocked by BNP workers at Darakhshan Scheme suspending the traffic leading to Jaccobabad, Sukkur and then Punjab. Moreover, the Quetta-Mastung-Karachi and Quetta-Taftan highway was blocked near Sona Khan police station located in the outskirt of Quetta

near western bypass. The Quetta-Khuzdar Karachi highway was also

blocked at Kalat while Quetta-Harnai and Harnai-Punjab highway was blocked at different points in Harnai area

Three laborers killed during well cleaning in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Three laborers were died on Sunday while cleaning a well at Sabzal Road Uzbek Chowk cluding a high-value target in Quetta alias Badar Mansur and

According to the private news channel, the incident occurred due to gas filling during the cleaning of

Tank District. ers have been identified as conducted in the South Abdul Baki and Abdul Wali.

Waziristan District, after an tracted from the well and intense fire exchange, seven shifted to the nearby Bolan terrorists were sent to hell.

PML-N sources, the elect and other pomeeting of party's parliamentary group was held with its prolitical parties. The vincial president, Sheikh Jaffar Khan

quoted the party's provincial president saying that Mandokhail in the as smaller parties and independent mem-The meeting decided the matters bers are wanting to about formation of support the candidate of PML-N for in the slot of Chief Min-Balochistan. In this regard, it was de- ister Balochistan.

Wheel jam strike of four-parties alliance failed: Jan Achakzai Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Infor- \widetilde{m} ation, Jan Achakzai has stated that the wheel jam strike of the four-parties alliance has been failed in the province.

In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the caretaker Minister Information said that all important highways remained open, however, flow of traffic remained lesser on some highways due to the closed holiday, Sunday. Jan Achakzai said that the Sardars and Nawabs have been punishing the common men for rejecting them in the 2024 general elections. However, they should not harm the welfare of general public, but should go for the legal forums, adding he stressed.



LAHORE: Newly elected MPA from Balochistan Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with President PML (N) Shahbaz Sharif.

Nine terrorists killed in two separate IBOs in KP

(ISPR), two terrorists in-

identified as Rehmat Ullah

Amjad alias Babri were

killed in an intelligence-

based operation conducted

by the security forces in

In another operation

Weapons, ammunition.

RAWALPINDI (Online): and explosives were also re-Nine terrorists were gunned covered from the killed terrorists, who remained acdown by the security forces tively involved in numerous during two separate intelliterrorist activities in the gence-based operations conducted on February 16 and 17 in Khyber area against the security forces as well as extortion Pakhtunkhwa Province. and target killing of inno-According to the Inter Services Public Relations

cent civilians. However, during the operation, a brave son of the soil, Sepoy Shahzeb Aslam (age 29 years; resident of district Haripur), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom)

"Security forces of Pa-kistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.



QUETTA: A view of traffic jam on the national highways due to Char Jamaati Ittihad protest against the alleged interference in the elections.

Three die in motorcycle, car collision in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Three dren, were injured in the persons were killed in a incident. collision between a mo-Similarly in Daska torcycle and car on Air-

port Road in Quetta on killed while another sustained serious injuries in Three die in road aca road accident.

dent in Uthal

unday

In yet another road ccident in Balochistan, three people were killed when two passenger buses collided with each a wedding. other on the Coastal Highway near Uthal city of

the province. Muaz, Danish and Talha Several others, inwhile the injured as cluding women and chil-Ahsan

Punjab, four friends were The tragedy took place on Daska-Sambiral Road when their car

the well shop while returning from Two of the three labor-

The deceased were identified as Bilal Ahmad, The bodies were ex-

Medical Complex Hospi-

rammed into the wall of a

Page 02

nominate

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse, 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, has strengthened the demands for an immediate and independent audit of election results. The senior officer, while expressing regret for "facilitating" the rigging of election results, asked to be punished while also holding the respective heads of the judiciary and ECP responsible for "the theft of the people's mandate"

Lending credence to allegations that have been made by scores of contestants from different political parties over the past 10 days or so, Mr Chattha said that, on his orders, candidates who were winning with large margins in the constituencies of the Rawalpindi division were made to lose, while the losing candidates were declared victorious.

I am taking responsibility for this wrongdoing and telling you that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice are also completely involved," he alleged.

A commissioner is no ordinary officer. They are some of the most powerful bureaucrats in service, handpicked by the state to oversee entire administrative divisions. By virtue of their position, they exercise immense power and influence over the machinery of the state. It is, therefore, no surprise that Mr Chattha's 'confession' has caused quite a storm. It has been widely extolled as an example of a bureaucrat resisting pressures from powerful quarters and choosing to stand on the right side of history.

However, one must also remain wary of confirmation bias. Humans have a tendency to believe anything that affirms what we already hold to be true. For this reason, it is in everyone's best interest that Mr Chattha's claims are immediately and thoroughly investigated and that any supporting evidence that is unearthed be brought before the public. The claims he has made cannot be dismissed; at the same time, however, one must exercise increased prudence during times of growing uncertainty.

These elections will be remembered as perhaps the most controversial electoral exercise held in the last few decades. The credit for this unforgettable ignominy will accrue mainly to the ECP, which, despite being empowered by the law in every possible manner to conduct "free, fair, impartial and inclusive" polls, betrayed its mandate in the worst possible way. Its failure to ensure transparency in the vote-counting process, in particular, has caused unaffordable chaos, with multiple stakeholders now unwilling to accept the results given how stark the irregularities seem. Instead of addressing the public's apprehensions or assuring them that issues in results tabulation will be promptly looked into, the ECP has chosen to stay mum. Now, much more serious allegations are being levelled against senior officials of the state. The commission must wake up. Its silence is causing irreparable harm.

All about women

Muna Khan again and again in deal-making. What disapunderstand that politics s the art of compromise, points me the most is the but why must women's women who support this. I'm talking about bo--dies be sacrificed at the altar of deal-making? the party supporters This question who blast 'feminists' for weighs heavily on my not standing up for a

mind, but I've accepted host of issues related to this is just the way PTI but stay silent when things are going to be women are thrown under here. Men accused of the bus by their party sexual assault, for exleadership. ample, will be awarded Gandapur should

seats because that crime not be the hill anyone won't be considered as wants to die on. It is possible to sup-

grievous as their opponents' loot maar. I was report a party and criticise minded of just how little its policies. PTI has some value is placed on of the most passionate women when news of women supporters and Imran Khan's decision to leaders, many of whom Amin do not subscribe to Gandapur broke. these horrendous views. understand

I hope they will take enough politics to know co--urage and denounce that you won't find a anti-women rhetoric. perfect candidate or one Unfortunately, that will appeal to vari-Gandapur is not alone in ous stakeholders. How-

the brazen display of miever, since Gandapur's sogyny but how can we name was announced, make it unacceptable to many questions were hold such views, at least raised across prime time in public office? You shows, leading with his can't eradicate mialleged role in May 9 viosogyny but surely there lence. It would be is another road away grossly unfair to reward from systems built on a him with such a high seat disregard for women's when people are imprisparticipation in public oned on the same life.

charges. Many people This is why lanbrought up his sexist reguage matters, espemarks made at jalsas cially if they frame poliabout Maryam Nawaz, cies. Remember when we saying she spent Rs80m celebrated Afghans for on taxpayers' money on having 'broken the shackles of slavery'? It cosmetic surgery. (It was not denounced by the demonstrated a lack of party leadership or supthought to the conseporters.) What few menquences the Taliban's retioned on mainstream turn to power will have media, but it figured on on women. Today, there social media, were the is no indication when the allegations Taliban will lift a ban on about his alleged supsecondary education for port to the perpetrators girls, or working in govof a crime where a teenernment or travelling far age girl was stripped and without a male relative or paraded naked in his naeven going to parks. Sotive D.I. Khan in 2017. He those healthcare sector, are in

charges That the chairman cost to this ban on thought it more important to send a certain the country's progress. message to the country The UNDP put a figure with Gandapur's nomination is the reminder I per cent of the country's needed about women GDP

being sacrificial lambs Perhaps one way forward is to stop thi-nking of issues as women's issues. No issue only impacts women — be it her health or her freedom of movement. Women's issues impact everyone; they require urgent redressal, which won't happen if their well-being is an after-thought; if she herself perceives her safety, health, access to services was not taken into

consideration when creating XYZ policy. We should stri--ve to live in a cou-ntry where people think twice before saying something sexist for ratings or giggles. Inst-e--ad, we live in a country where the portrayal of toxic masculinity, dom-estic violence and regressive female roles are considered ratings gold. Our pace of reforms towards

gender equality is pain-fully slow. We ranked 142 out of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap report in 2023; it was 145 out of 146 in 2022. This is nothing to cheer. The small optimist

in me says things don't have to be this way. Pakistan doesn't have to keep featuring in lists of worst co--untries for women's rights. That there is more to women than their reproductive abi---lity or place in the family or ties to power. I understand the new

government has the economy as its foremost priority but stability cannot come if half the country's demographic is ignored. Policies must include contributions women can make in stabilising Pakistan. Investments must be made in sectors that will enable cial services, like the their full participation, starting with health and a dire state. There is a education, which will lead to an increase in the labour women's participation in force. All TV analysts are saying the new government has to take tough on it: an estimated five decisions. I hope they will make the right ones, too. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

GB without rights

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Mohammad Hussain, who hails from Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and has been working in a household in Lahore, watched in despair as the whole of Pakistan, except for his own fellow Baltis, went to vote reluctant to give it confor their preferred candidates in the Feb 8 election. Hussain asked his boss why his folks were not allowed to vote. He could not understand

the complex answer to

this simple question. GB's political fate has been hanging in the balance for the past seven decades, even Gilgit Agency and many other northern areas, who had hardly accepted the suzerainty of the Dogra rulers, ex- mainly because the inpressed their wish to join Pakistan. However, the political fate of these territories got linked to the dispute between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir. Ever since, the territories of Gilgit, Skardu, Diamer, Ghanche, Astore, Ghizer, and Hunza have been under Pakistan's administrative control. Their people join the civil and armed services, carry Pakistan national identity cards, and for all practical purposes are Pakistanis. Yet, they cannot join our National Assembly and Senate to participate in

Pakistan's governance. Successive governments have tried to enhance GB's administrative autonomy, particu-larly in 2009 and 2018, but have fallen well short of what the people of GB have repeatedly demanded: full integration into Pakistan. In January 2019, the Supreme Court extended its jurisdiction to GB, creating an anomaly, because constitution-

sembly unanimously adopted a resolution demanding provisional provincial status with representation in the tremely low. If that is the constitutional bodies of Pakistan. Further, GB residents feel that while Pakistan took from the resources of GB, it was stitutional status.

There is political consensus in Pakistan to admit GB as a provisional province. Under prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the Sartaj Aziz Committee recommended in 2016 giving and su--bject to the fi-GB a provisional provincial status. Prime minister Imran Khan's govthough on the eve of ernment had also an- other fa--ctors that must partition, the people of nounced in 2020 that GB not be ignored. Firstly, would be granted a provisional provincial status. And yet, the status quo is so hard to break, ations. tegration of these territories into Pakistan could undermine the

UNSC resolutions calling for determining the political fate of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir through a plebiscite under UN auspices. So, for nearly 76 years, the people of GB tional protection to have been waiting for

the plebiscite. likely to happen anytime soon? The ground reality is that India has consistently and brazenly refused to implement UNSC resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. The Modi government went a step further to ers in India have sharpannex the occupied territory in August 2019, and is currently engaged in demographic and electoral engineering to change the Muslim-majority status of India-occupied Kashmir in blatant violation of the UNSC resolutions.

However, given India's large market and strategic partnership with the US, there is no real pressure of the in- settlement of the Kashally GB was not a part of ternational community mir dispute. -- Cour-Pakistan. In March 2021, on India to fulfil its obli- tesy Dawn

the GB Legislative As- gations under the resolutions. So, in practical terms, the prospects of India agreeing to hold the plebiscite are exground reality, then the people of GB wonder how much longer they have to wait to get their right to self-determination recognised.

Understandably integrating GB could have implications for Pakistan's legal position on the Kashmir dispute. Hence, the suggestion has been to keep the integration provisi-onal nal settlement of the Kashmir di--spute. How-ever, there are the people of GB have a right to self-determination, which is a fundamental right that overrides other consider-

Secondly, given the salience of our relationship with Beijing, GB provides the vital geographical link to China and is central to the implementation of CPEC. Formally integrating GB will give full constitu-CPEC-related and other international invest-Is such a plebiscite ments in GB. Thirdly, ignoring the consistently expressed desire of the people of GB to join Pakistan is creating a sense of alienation in GB, which could be exploited by the detractors of Pakistan. As it is, BJP leadened their rhetoric of claim on these territories. In view of these arguments, it is a strategic imperative that GB be integrated into Pakistan as a provisional province without further delay and its people be recognised as citizens of Pakistan with full rights admissible under the Constitution of Pakistan, pending a final



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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): \$1,064.579 million last computer software services Pakistan earned US year to US \$1,174.481 surged by 2.79 per cent, \$1,454.881 million by million during July- from \$302.376 million to providing different December 2023-24.

Information Technology (IT) services to various services, the exports of countries during the first software consultancy six months of the current services witnessed a fiscal year 2023-24. nominal decrease of 180 This shows a growth per cent, from US \$3.394

of 8.98 per cent as compared with the US \$1,334.969 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

however decreased by During the months 39.15 per cent from UŠ under review, the export of \$1.530 million to US computer services grew by 10.32 per cent as it \$0.930 million whereas the

surged from US export and imports of million. **Tetra Pak demonstrates**

She

to US \$404.875 million.

surged by 2.79 per cent, from \$302.376 million to

\$310.807 million. Among the computer Meanwhile, export of information services during the months under review dipped by 19.72 per cent from US \$2.180 million to US million to US \$3.333 \$1.750 million.

the

million this year while the export of hardware Among information services, the consultancy services surged by 3.401 per cent, from US \$391.570 million exports of informationrelated services increased by 3.64 per cent, from US \$0.687 million to US The export of repair \$0.712 million whereas the and maintenance services exports of news agency services however decreased by 30.48 per cent, from US \$1.493

million to US \$1.038

The export telecommunication services increased by 3.89 per cent as these went down from US \$268.0210 million to US \$278.650 million, the

data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 12.14 per cent during the months as its exports increased from US \$107.006 million to US \$119.994 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services witnessed a decrease of 1.58 per cent, from US \$161.204 million to US \$158.656 million during this year, the PBS data revealed

Fly Jinnah inaugurates first Intl flight connecting Islamabad and Sharjah

Sharjah, UAE with a dual ceremony at Islamabad International Airport before departure and at Sharjah International Airport, where the aircraft

Jinnah's senior leadership along with a group of travel agents, media, and social media personalities among

inaugural flight of its first International Airport was international flight after a international route from welcomed with a successful year of domestic Islamabad, Pakistan, to traditional water cannon operations. salute and followed by a welcome ceremony at serves as a perfect Sharjah Airport attended by Pakistan's Ambassador Arab Emirates with its in the UAE, Faisal Niaz proximity to the rest of

> Commenting on the occasion, Fly Jinnah's forward to expanding our

ISLAMABAD (APP): others said a news release. significant milestone for Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low- The inaugural Fly Jinnah as we cost carrier, celebrated the ceremony at Sharjah inaugurated our first

Sharjah's location gateway to the United apon arrival. The inaugural flight International Airport and to providing carried onboard Fly Air Arabia.

AISALABAD (APP)

travel options as we look spokesperson said: "Yesterday marked a said: network to more exciting destinations"

packaging circularity at Euro Village 2024 visited the Tetra Pak booth Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak and engaged with company representatives. showcased its commitment

appreciated Tetra Pak to packaging circularity at Euro Village 2024, hosted showcasing its innovative approach of repurposing by the European Union in used cartons Islamabad. The event promoting the idea of provided an excellent platform for Tetra Pak to packaging circularity to foster demonstrate its ongoing а environment in Pakistan. efforts towards creating a Tetra Pak Pakistan sustainable future.

Distinguished also highlighted its local dignitaries and guests, partnership with Green Earth Recycling, which has including the Ambassador and Head of the Delegation been successfully increasing of the European Union to its recycling targets Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka annually since 2014.

Furniture industry direly needs skilled workforce LAHORE

Pakistan's

(APP): 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, repute and profitability.

Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian exceeds the available Kashif Ashfaq stated this workforce.

while talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Faryad Ahmed Raza here Sunday. He said, woodworking skills are fundamental in the furniture manufacturing process, from crafting intricate designs to ensuring the

structural integrity of pieces. However, the demand for skilled woodworkers in Pakistan

and greener

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 Trtra Pak cartons at the Euro Village 2024 festival.

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 two months with the help of railway police and train staffers.

'Around 58,446 passengers found travelling without tickets in different trains and collected the said amount from them, which is deposited in the official bank account of the department," sources in the Ministry told APP.

They said that it was not the first time that action was taken on a large scale against ticket-less passengers, adding that these types of crackdowns had taken place daily. The sources said that ticketless travelling was illegal, and those who were caught without a ticket were charged a ticket price for the whole journey of the train besides the penalty. Those who do not pay are handed over to the railway police. To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways Police claimed to have arrested a total of 3,923 accused due to their involvement in violations of rules and laws and also registered some 3,625 cases against them in eight Railways divisions over one year.

SCCI meeting review Farmers advised for timely industrial exhibition plantation SIALKOT (APP): A Sialkot (WCCIS) President of rose plants

meeting was held at the Dr. Mariam Nouman said Sialkot Chamber of that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) auditorium regarding the industrial exhibition to be held on 2nd and 3rd March, 2024 at Living Dreams Maruqee, Sialkot Cantt, organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS).

Addressing the meeting, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry in business," she added.



The agronomists of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Sunday advised promote and encourage

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 new women entrepreneurs to 15 days.

ndependent

Monday February 19, 2024

National News

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Governor pays rich tribute to Nawab Sadiq for education contributions

Governor of Punjab and and Chairman of the Board of cooperation." Governors of Sadiq Public School, Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, attended the traditions and remarkable 70th Founders Day past. (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 continue to produce unparalleled institution for great educational purposes and maintain the highest and contributed with

words

take pride in its glorious Prominent personalities who have longstanding. As the graduated from this Chairman of the Board of personalities who have institution have excelled in Governors, it is a heavy every field of life. Even responsibility for him to today, I see many outstanding individuals in

acquired education from this great alma mater." "All this is due to the significant historical role of The governor this school, which the emphasized the importance nation expects will individuals of high caliber

standards of moral.

CM chairs cabinet

meeting, reviews

PSL-9 security plan

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Caretaker Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi presided

over the 41st provincial

cabinet meeting at CM

granted an approval to

were endorsed in the

meeting. The cabinet also

reviewed law & order in the

The Punjab cabinet

amend the Punjab property of p Highway Patrolling Police the province.

The decisions of the asserted

39th meeting of the compromise would be caretaker Punjab cabinet made on upholding the rule

of law

Office here on Sunday.

rules

province.

of education that are the hallmark of Sadiq," the "His

connection with Sadiq Public School play a role in the betterment of this

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

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

Bandit killed during police encounter RAWALPINDI (APP): A

bandit was killed during the police encounter in the jurisdiction of Dhamyal police station here on Sunday.

According to police spokesman, the bandits opened fire on the raiding police party, injuring PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leaders, Constable Inam Ali, who Taimur Khan Jhagra, Shandana Gulzar addressing was shifted to the a press conference, at Peshawar press club.

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 Nabil Muhammad Khokhar, rushed to the crime scene upon receiving undertake all essential information about the incident protection of life and

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

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

IG Police Doctor

for

that

the

Naqvi

nc

Usman Anwar gave a briefing about the law &

order in the province. The CM directed to

property of people across

Mohsin

measures

BAHAWALPUR (APP): resources, effort, steps, intellectual, and physical "This institution can governor said. He said,

this ceremony who have institution.3

DERA ISMAIL KHAN sacrifices of the Pak Army (APP): Commander

Muhammad Amir on also assured their full Sunday praised Derapolice cooperation with the law for fighting against enforcement departments 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 Oaisrani

Both the officers also met with the local dignitaries. The local people eulogized the

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.

prevention and citizen

LAHORE (APP): Experts 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

8,000 metres last year. She also became the only months.

In recent outgoing becoming the first years the empowered Pakistani women to

International News

tall Pakistan's

one-day format. climbed 10 peaks above

Pakistani to ascend seven peaks above 8,000m in six Likewise, Samina Baig attained the feat of

Ñanga Parbat. 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

Earlier, in the same year wicketkeeper-batter winner Sharmeen Obaid-Muneeba Ali became the Chinoy was announced as the director for the latest first Pakistani woman to score a T20I century and Star Wars film, making her only the sixth to score one the first woman and in a T20 World Cup.

person of colour to direct Pakistani women in a film in the franchise. the walk of social or performing arts, did not different category among shy away from exhibiting the 'firsts', women and Pakistani women have summit the world's ninth- their love for modern arts minorities in Pakistan made Jazeela Aslam, to the role.

highest peak, the 8,125m- and media either as they significant endeavors, set new records. Arooj Aftab last year

Shifting focus to a

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

said there were genuine ef-

forts led by Arab countries

to revitalise the Palestinian

Authority so it can be more

effecting in representing the

'Virtually every Arab

The top US diplomat

Palestinian state.

Palestinians

≤ 1

China to step

up patrols near

Taiwan after 2

killed in deadly

boat incident

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China on Sunday

said it would step up law

enforcement patrols in wa-

ters near Taiwan after two

Chinese nationals died in a

boat incident involving

Taiwan's coast guard.

performed at ceremony of Grammy Awards 2023 in Los Angeles, US- and became the first Pakistani justice on April to win the prestigious

similarly the Lahore High Court Bar Association got its first woman secretary since its inception in 1893 following Sabahat Rizvi's

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,

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi presides over the 41st Provincial Cabinet meeting. **Station Commander for ECP notifies names of 93**

eliminating terrorism with candidates returned to KP people's cooperation

PESHAWAR Khan from PK-115 DI (APP): Election The Khan. The

Commission of Pakistan candidates were former (ECP) on Sunday notified the names of 93 opposition leaders in the candidates who returned provincial assembly Lutf the Khyber ur Rehman from PKto Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. 114, DI Khan, Aftab Haider from PK-111, DI

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

KP assembly were: Suriya Bibi, Fateh ul Mulk, Sharaft Ali, Ali Shah, Akhtar Khan, Fazl Hakim Khan, Amjad Ali, Habib ur Rehman, under Sultan Room, Gul Ibrahim 106 of the constitution. Muhammad The PPP candidates

included Ahmed Karim Azam Khan, Hamayun Kundi from PK-112, DI Khan, Shafiq ullah, Khan and Ehsan ullah Ubaid ur Rehman,

independent candidates to join a political party within three days of the notification proviso of sub-clause-C of Clause-3 of Article

Muhammad

Lower.

Shakoor Khan.

toward achieving parity with men.

Liaqat Ali, Hamid un

Ahmed, Musavir Khan.

Riaz Khan, Syed Fakhar

Jehan, Abdul Kabir

Khan, Fazal Haq, Sajjad

Ullah, Muhammad Riaz,

Taj Muhammad, Munir

Hussain, Zubair Khan,

Zahid Chenzeb, Ikram

ullah, Nazi Ahmed, Raja

Ayub, Malik Adeel,

Aqibullah, Abdul Karim,

Faisal Khan, Murtaza

Khan, Zarshad, Tufail

Anjum, Amir Farzand,

Muhammad Zahir,

Abdul Salam, Tariq

Mehmood, Iftikhar Ali

Ihtesham Ali, Khalid

Khan, Arshad Ali,

Iftikhar Ullah, Fazal

Shakeel

Ahmed,

Rehman,

Khan, and Sajjad Ullah Barber Munir Swati, from PK-32, Kohistan Zahid Chenzeb, Ikram

candidates returned to Akbar Ayub, Arshad

Khan,

Yamin,

Anwar,

The independent Ali, Mushtaq Ghani,

Rangez

Justice Musarrat Hilali took oath as Peshawar High Court chief

In February 2023, and Grammy Award, she also became the first artist from the country to perform at the Grammys. Oscar-

election.

terrorists on each and every front as the safety of people's lives and property was the top of priority these institutions. On this occasion, the **Empowered women – elevating nation, beaming with pride**

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

The visiting officers

met with policemen on

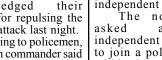
duty at the police station

including the station house

Station and police in the war

in this regard.

Dera against terrorism. They



Ethiopia-Somalia friction boils over at AU summit

Monitoring Desk 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" re-

ferred 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 conti-nent 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 the coast

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 memoran dum 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

Afghanistan special envoys

Monitoring Desk EW DELHI: National and egional 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 Faliban authorities would join the closed-session event.

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 cargo to bases on the Moon. remained unclear. Though the Afghan foreign ministry did not

before, and I've never felt immediately respond to reso relieved," said Hiroshi quests for comment on Yamakawa, president of plans to attend

Navalny's 'killers' refusing to hand over body: allies Monitoring Desk Wes-tern leaders and his supporters. Alexei Navalny's supporters on

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. Ôn Saturday,

ADDIS ABABA: Outgoing chairperson of the African Union (AU) and Presi-

dent of Comoros, Azali Assoumani, congratulates the newly elected AU chair-

person, President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. Also seen are

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the

Navalny's 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.

Third time lucky Japan launches next-gen rocket **Monitoring Desk**

space agency JAXA. The latest launch fol-TOKYO: Japan's space lows Japan's successful agency toasted a successful landing last month of an blast-off for its new flagship unmanned probe on the rocket on Saturday, making Moon — albeit at a wonky it third time lucky after years angle — making it just the fifth country to land a craft of delays and two previous on the lunar surface. The H3 launched The next-generation

H3 has been mooted as a from the Tanegashima rival to SpaceX's Falcon 9, Space Center in southand could one day deliver western Japan at 9:22 am. Cheers and applause could "I've been in the space inbe heard from the JAXA dustry for a long time, but I've never felt so happy control centre after the agency's live stream an-nounced the H3's engines had successfully burned.

A Chinese boat was carrying four people when mother, 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.

> 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 criti-Moro by the Marxistcally injured and sick patients that are inside the hospital," WHO spokes-Leninist Red Brigades in 1978 is burned into the naperson Tarik Jasarevic said. tional psyche, although the largest number of the esti-'There is an urgent

need to deliver fuel to ensure mated 400 victims of the the continuation of the properiod were killed by neovision of life-saving services.

'Extraordinary' chance for Israel to integrate into region: Blinken **Monitoring Desk**

Security Conference.

'Ánd 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 country now genuinely called for a temporary truce in Gaza for a potenwants to integrate Israel tial prisoner swap deal. He into the region to normalise said he had held "extenrelations...to provide secusive" conversations with rity commitments and assurances so that Israel can feel more safe," Blinken Israel's Prime Minister Ben-jamin Netanyahu on said during a panel discus-sion at the annual Munich this and negotiations were "underway".

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

Monitoring Desk bloody period ended, and after a crackdown on mafias ROME: Italy may be the land that launched Cosa which pushed them into Nostra, but today it is one less violent financial crime. of the safest countries in the murder rate plummeted. Back in 1990, there Europe, with a murder rate were 34 murders per one

well below its neighbours. million inhabitants in Italy, From the mid-19th cencompared to 24 in tury through to the 1990s, neighbouring France, acthousands of people died in cording to UN figures. In 2021-22, this had fallen to mafia violence, from rivals or traitors cast in cement or 5.5 per million in Italy and fed to pigs, to judges, priests and witnesses killed for dar-11 in France, eight in Germany and 10 in the UK. ing to defy the mob. There were also the traumatic In Europe, only Nor-'Years of Lead" from the way and Switzerland have end of the 1960s to the a murder rate lower or equal 1980s, when armed groups

assassinations.

to Italy's, while Latvia, the from the extreme left and worst, has a rate 6.5 times extreme right brought terror higher. to Italy with bombings and "Homicides in general have decreased in the last The brutal murder of 25 years, especially the former prime minister Aldo

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 fascists. But when this crime.

UNRWA: agency chief Palestinian refugees will be GENEVA: Israel is waging resolved once and for all and with it, the right of rea concerted campaign aimed at destroying UNRWA, the turn. There is a much larger head of the UN agency for

LONDON: Pro-Palestinian activists wave flags

Tel Aviv out to destroy

and carry placards during a march.

Monitoring Desk

"Right now we are dealing

with an expanded, concerted

campaign by Israel aimed at

destroying UNRWA," he

told the Swiss newspaper

litical goal because it is be-

lieved that if the aid agency

is abolished, the status of the

"It is a long-term po-

Saturday.

group Tamedia.

political goal behind this. "Just look at the num-Palestinian refugees said in ber of actions Israel is tak-ing against UNRWA," the an interview published on Philippe Lazzarini said calls for his main aid body in the Gaza resignation were part of the Strip, he said. Israeli government's push.

He cited measures in the Israeli parliament, moves to remove the agency's VAT exemption and orders for contractors at Israel's port of Ashdod to "stop handling certain food deliveries for

UNRWA". "And all these demands come from the government.

The two-day meeting,

failed attempts.

MOSCOW:

Arctic prison on Friday after spending more than three years behind bars.



prompting outrage and condemnation from

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

African Union Commission.

Daily **Independent**, Hub

Monday February 19, 2024

Govt achieves 13 goals, out of 15, set to promote IT sector within brief period: Dr. Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif has said the caretaker government had successfully achieved 13 goals, out of 15, set to promote the IT sector and increase its exports within a brief period of 5 months under the caretaker setup.

In a video message, he said, "We have achieved 13 out of 15 important targets for the promotion of the IT & telecom sector in a short period of 5 months in the caretaker set-up. The forum of SIFC will prove to be a great support for the upcoming elected government in the process of building and developing the country, and the elected government will also reap the benefits of the measures we have taken during the caretaker period."

"We worked with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention, allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars in an account in Pakistan and make their inter- proach will lead to faster national expenses without any restrictions from this tion of disputes, contributamount," he further ex-

plained. He said that with this decision, allowing the retention of 50 percent in dollars, the country's IT exports have increased by 32 percent in the last 60 days.

Dr. Umar Saif highlighted that the establishment of the Telecom Tribunal fulfills a longstanding demand of the telecom sector. The specialized Tribunal will now handle telecom sector disputes and cases instead of the High Courts, aiming to expedite the resolution of legal issues and

facilitate rapid progress in the telecom sector. According to the minister, the Ministry of Law will nominate the chairperson and members of the Tribunal.

Chairperson The must be a Judge of the High Court or a lawyer with 15 years of experience, he said. Similarly, the Tribunal will have 2-member technocrats, whose number may be increased or decreased from time to time.

The minister believes that this specialized apand more efficient resoluing to the overall advance-

ment of the telecom industry. He said, "The effective implementation of the Right of Way Policy, the Special Investment Council has removed all departmental hurdles, and all decisions in the interest of the country and the nation have been

approved without delay. He said that the ministry is concurrently establishing a research and development fund to support mobile phone manufactur ing companies and facilitate the growth of the mobile phone manufacturing sector. Dr. Umar Saif said that the first standardized qual-

ity test for the 75,000 information technology graduates will be conducted soon. He highlighted significant decisions made to revamp IT education in collaboration with various entities, including HEC, the National Computing Accreditation Council, the Examination Testing Council the Pakistan Software Export Board, and the Pakistan Software Houses As-

sociation Dr. Saif said students who successfully pass the test will be offered job opportunities through the Industry Placement Program

QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Khan Jamali, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat and Additional Inspector General Police Jawad Dogar meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

PML-N leader fears another May 9-like incident in Pakistan

LAHORE (INP): Those involved in the May 9 violence haven't learned anything, said PML-N leader Rawalpindi - on social media by sharing not only Malik Ahmad Khan on Sunday, adding that the campaign launched against their images and home addresses but also of the fam-Pakistan from abroad was ily members. continuing unabated.

tice.

rorists in Chaman.

In an official state-

ment issued here on Sun-

day, the caretaker Minister

expressed heartfelt grief

over martyrdom of two

personnel of secret agencies

those rendering sacrifice of

their lives for stability and

Jan Achakzai said that

in the firing incident.

nation are our heroes.

at cantt.

The purpose was to Wake Mr Caretaker influence and threaten the Prime Minister, wake up government servants for Mr Caretaker Punjab Chief changing their loyalties to Minister! Another May 9 the PTI instead of state, is about to be carried out. Malik said. Stop it before it happens, he said, adding, "Stop them. Otherwise, they will cause irreparable damage to the state.

Addressing the state, he warned that if no action wasn't taken against the elements running the campaign from outside and inside the country, they would go ahead with the Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Malik said the PTI had a tradition

'May 9 Part II". Blasting the former of not accepting the election results and the latest Rawalpindi commissioner, controversy generated through former Rawalpindi he said Chatha had nothing to do with the election procommissioner Liaquat cess in any capacity and Chatha was part of the pracwas facing multiple inquir-1es Malik said the PTI had

He stressed the need for pre-empting their de-signs, saying they had attacked very foundation of the state as well as its instistarted targeting the civil tutions and values, adding servants – a reference to the that the government wasn't administration officials meant to act after an event,

Jan Achakzai strongly

condemns firing

serving as district returning as pre-empting the nefariofficers (DROs) and returnous designs and planned ing officers (ROs) in violence.

Speaking on the occasion, PML-N Deputy Secretary General Attaullah Tarar questioned whether posting the images of DROs and ROs as well as their family members wasn't terrorism, as he demanded a severe action against those involved in the matter.

Tarar also asked whether the close relationship between PTI social media in-charge Arsalan Khalid and Chatha wasn't established.

In her comments, PML-N Punjab Information Secretary Azma Bokhari said Chatha held meeting with PTI leader Mian Aslam Iqbal before levelling baseless allegations. "An attempt is being made to turn the DROs and the ROs into Liaquat Chatha," she remarked and noted that the country try could not afford the anar-

chy which was being

Political stability vital for economic stability: Kh Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Former nomic stability, but some people were engaged in defence minister and central leader of Pakistan Muslim promoting politics of chaos, anarchy and unrest League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khawaja Muhammad Asif in the country, which could has said that political stanot be well-wishers of the bility in the country is crucountry and the nation in any case. He said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had withdrawn from every slogan that they raised. which was proof of the contradiction in their words and actions. The PML-N leader said all government and party affairs would work under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

He advised that the political community should go beyond their personal interests and sacrifice for the country and the nation. He said that for political stability in the country, structive role even if they sit in the opposition.

In response to a ques-Kh Asif said political tion, he said that there was



JUI's Central Secretary General and newly elected MNA Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri presiding over a meeting of parliamentary members of the party in Islamabad. Newly elected MNAs and MPAs from Balochistan Haji Zabid Ali Reki, Engr. Usman Badini, Mir Zafarullah Khan Zehri and Ghulam Dastagir Badini are also present.

Mushahid hopes Pak can join **BRICS** with Russian support

MOSCOW (Online): Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Senate Defense Committee, is visiting Russia on the invitation of the ruling 'United Russia' Dmitri Medvedev disparty, during which he met cussed Pakistan-Russia re-

former President Dmitri Medvedev, now Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia. Senator Hussain and

Raja declares Chattha as most corrupt magistrate

FAISALABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Raja Riaz Ahmed has declared former Commis-

sioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Chattha as most corrupt magistrate of Faisalabad.

He also said that the people are proud of their secret agencies who remain busy in our protection

The caretaker Minister pledged to eliminate terrorists from the country saying that sacrifices of martyrs would not go waste at all

loss with fortitude.

He expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of the martyrs.

PESHAWAR (APP): As He prayed for the departed souls and bereaved many as four persons were ulies to bear the tragic

cial for economic stability. Addressing a press conference at his residence on Sunday, he said consultations with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for

forming a government in centre was under way currently. "We have majority in Punjab where we are in a position to form the government alone, and the process for the purpose had started already.

He said Shehbaz Sharif would be the PML-N candidate for prime minister's office. He said a coalition government in they should shun party centre would unite people politics and play a conand work for development and prosperity of the coun-

stability in the country is no estrangement from very important for eco- Maulana Fazlur Rehman.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing a Press conference.

ECP yet to notify results in a firing in of majority of independents

ISLAMABAD (INP): In- takes three days for an independent candidates dependent candidate to join backed by the Pakistan a political party after their Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) are victory still in limbo as they await Raja Khurram Nawaz. official notification of their triumphant from NA-48 Islamabad, was the first inelectoral success. Despite more than a week passing dependent candidate to receive notification on Febsince the general elections, ruary 12, after joining the the Election Commission Pakistan Muslim League of Pakistan has yet to issue two days prior. Further successes notifications for the majority of independent candidates who secured seats in were declared on subsethe National Assembly. quent days including former Puniab Governor Out of over 10 victorious independent candi-Mian Muhammad Azhar dates, only 8 have received from NA-129 Lahore and official notifications by Sat-Ghulam Muhammad from NA-93 Chiniot on Februurday evening. Late into the night the Election Commisary 13. On February 15, PTI-backed independent sion announced the success of an additional 33 candicandidate Adil Khan of NA-262 Quetta and indedates. pendent candidate Aqeel According to reports, notifications have been is-Malik of NA-54 Rawalpindi were notified. sued for 154 out of 265 Additionally, Muhammad Ilyas Chaudhry from NA-National Assembly seats, with only 41 independent candidates among them. It 62 Gujarat.

incident in Chaman **Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai round the clock has strongly condemned the incident of firing by ter-

Former President Dmitri lations, the situation in Af-Medvedev (who's number two to President Putin) and Foreign Minister Lavrov.

He also attended the newly-formed International Forum for 'Freedom of Nations' where he was elected as Member of the Forum's 20-member Standing Committee. The Forum was organized by the United Russia party.

Senator Hussain Co-Chaired the Forum's plenary session where Foreign Minister Lavrov spoke and Senator Hussain had a comprehensive exchange with goodwill' for Pakistan.

ghanistan, the war in Gaza and the 'unlimited possibilities for Pakistan-Russian collaboration in the region, particularly on energy & economic connectivity adding 'Pakistan core interests are linked to this region, where Russia is a key factor'. Senator Hussain told Mr Medvedev that the probable election of President Trump in the US Presidential elections in November 2024 would qualitatively change the region's

geopolitics. Senator Hussain said he found 'tremendous

press conference in Faisalabad on Sunday, he said that the allegations leveled by Chattha were baseless and out context. Raja Riaz said that the former Commissioner Rawalpindi served for 20 years in Faisalabad and set worst examples of corruption. He said that Liaquat

While addressing a

Chattha's accusation regarding rigging in election came when he was nearing superannuation. He said that PTI put money where they lost and started making accusations

Pneumonia kills 13 more children in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Thirteen more children succumbed to pneumonia in the last 24 hours on Sunday, bringing the total toll from the disease to 392

The Punjab Health QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leaders, Zain-ul-Department highlighted a Abideen Khilji, Faisal Dahwar and others concerning surge in pneumonia cases, particularly during the dry cold spell. Within a single day, 622 new patients were reported across Punjab. with Lahore bearing a significant brunt, recording 131 new cases, including

puterized

regard.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Levies With this, the registration of computerized FIRs has been started in differforce has been put on modent Levies thanas of the disern lines in Pishin district. The credit of putting trict the Levies force on modern Meanwhile, the lines goes to the Deputy

SIALKOT: Former Minister Defence Khawaia

Asif, addressing media persons at his residence

1st computerized FIR

registered as Levies force

put on modern lines

Risaldar SHO of Levies Commissioner Pishin, Cap-Thana Huramzai, Itar Khan registered the first Computtain (Retd) Jumma Dad erized FIR in the concerned Khan Mandokhail who Thana. took special interest in this It may also be mentioned here that SHO of

The laptops and printers have been provided Headquarter Levies Muhammad Younas has to all Levels thanas for making the FIR system comalso registered a computerized FIR in the district.

PTI leader claims people of Karachi have given their mandate to PTI, JI only

KARACHI (INP): Alleging Naeemur Rehman for relinwidespread rigging in the general elections in Sindh, quishing his seat, saying it belonged to a PTI candisenior PTI leader Halim date. He said that had the Adil Sheikh said on Sun-ROs been taken from judiciary, such a massive rigday that only two parties, ging could have been prethe PTI and Jammat-e-Islami (JI), enjoyed the vented. "In fact, it was the mandate of the people of beginning of rigging in the country," Sheikh said, add-Karachi

the courts, lamenting that Addressing a press conference here, he saluted democracy in Pakistan was toral symbol of 'bat' was buried beneath the results

was a last nail into the party's coffin.'

third majority in these elections. "And all those blue-eyed boys, Nawaz Sharif and others have

PTI leader said that despite the fact that so much was done during the last two years to break up the PTI, the party had still managed to win a two-

ing, "And when the elec-

QUETTA: Independent MPAs Malik Asfandyar Kakar, Maulana Noorullah and Haji Liaquat Lehri

meeting with former Chief Minister Balochistan and leader of PPP Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri.

killed as a result of firing in the Wazir Qala area of Peshawar here on Sunday, Daudzai Police confirmed the incident.

Four killed

Wazir Qala

According to details, the firing took place in the limits of Daudzai Police Station.

The firing started after the hot words exchange over a property dispute between two groups Haider Haji and Jameel. After the firing was started as a result Nawaz Khan, Haider, Saleh and Azad were killed on the spot, Police said.

The bodies have been shifted to the hospital for post-mortem, Police said. Police have started

raids to arrest the accused.

Four killed, one injured after car collides with the wall of mart SIALKOT (APP): Four

persons were killed and one got injured after a car collided with the wall of Mart, due to overspeed at Daska-Sambrial Road late last night.

According to a rescue spokesperson, the accident occurred at Daska-Sambrial Road near Adam-Kay Stop, late last night where a speedy car collided with the wall of the Mega Mart after hitting the divider

Pir Pagara has no social media

accounts, GDA KARACHI (ÍNP): Pir Pagara has no social media accounts, the Grand Democratic Alliance spokesperson said on Sunday.

In a statement, spokesperson Sardar Abdul Rahim denied Pir Pagara having any accounts on Facebook or X, formerly called Twitter.



BAGH: Skiers take part in the Ganga Choti Winter Sports Festival' near Bagh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Rawalpindi division's DROs reject ex-boss' charges, seek ECP inquiry

about massive rigging in

press conference, claimed

elections were held as per

by the Election Commis-

to Rawalpindi, Jhelum,

Chakwal and Attock also

former commissioner.

sion of Pakistan.

general elections 2024.

RAWALPINDI (INP): and performed duties and Newly-appointed responsibilities without Rawalpindi Commissioner any pressure," the DROs Saif Anwar Jappa has retold the media. All the DROs dejected the allegations lev-

elled by former commismanded the chief election sioner Liaqat Ali Chattha commissioner complete probe of the allegations leveled by Chattha. DROs After assuming his of-Chakwal, Jehlum, Attock fice, Saif, in a late-night claimed that all the arrangements were made in transthat clean and transparent parent manners. DRO Chakwal Quratul Ain said the rules and regulations set elections in Chakwal were conducted under the Election Act, and all processes The district returning adhered to the oath. She deofficers (DROs) belonging manded an independent investigation into the allegations. Similarly, DROs joined the press conference Attock and Jhelum, Rao Atif Raza, and Captain Sami also to ratify the version of the denied any pressure during new commissioner and reject the allegations of the the February 8 polls, asserting that the elections in their "We managed the genrespective districts were eral elections with honesty conducted transparently.

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addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club. Siraj wants immediate resignation of CEC Raja over most tainted election one fatality. LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e- rigging, there had been a no-Islami chief Sirajul Haq has ticeable silence from those who benefitted from it, he

lar in this regard.

He expressed regret

that returning officers were

appointed from within the

administration instead of

of the Feb 8 elections.

demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Elecadded. The Jamaat chief criticised the role of former tion Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, referring to the Rawalpindi commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha, de-Feb 8 elections as the most tainted with rigging in the scribing him as a mere country's history. pawn, suggesting that all Addressing a press commissioners were simi-

conference in Mansoora, Siraj announced plans to protest against rigging in Peshawar on Feb 23 and to hold a conference in Islamabad on Feb 25.

The Jamaat chief stated that while governments were typically formed after elections worldwide, in Pakistan, the government was formed first, followed by decisions about elections. This the country's progress for unique process contributed to an increase in corruption after elections, a phenomenon observed only in Pakistan, he added.

Siraj pointed out that the elections held in 1970 were not accepted, and simiaccepting temporary happilarly, this trend persisted ness would hinder the nation's today. Despite widespread path to achieving true.

JI Karachi Ameer Hafiz snatched from the PTI, it failed," he said. Siraj voiced concern that the issues arising from this election would hinder a period of five years. He also highlighted reservations regarding the delimitations and the rushed closure of cases in the courts. Siraj called for unity to address the country's crises, warning that

