Inachentent

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Broadcasting, addressing at seminar on "Political participation and empowerment of Youth, women, transgender and cultural minorities" organized by PID.

Bilawal urges people to bury politics of hatred, division with their votes

HYDERABAD (APP): Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the people to defeat the politics of division and hatred by supporting his party in the upcoming general elections.

Addressing a large public meeting in Hussainabad area here on Sunday evening, Bilawal blamed Pakistan Muslim League-(PML-N), Nawaz Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and other parties for continuing to sow division and hate for political gains.

"If any city has seen the politics of hatred, divide and terror, Hyderabad is one such city whose people have suffered

itself in the politics of hate public. and divide at the center, MQM-P was doing the same in Hyderabad and Karachi.

The PPP's chairman added that those parties had turned politics into personal revenge, a deed which had always resulted in losses to the country, democracy, federation and the public.

"But they aren't worister for the fourth time,"

"But the peaceful they should consider which Chairman of Pakistan people of Hyderabad did political party could serve not back out or surrender to those tactics for which I them without discrimination. Bilawal said the PPP want to salute you," he only wanted to tackle the problems like poverty, in-He alleged that while the PML-N had indulged with the support of the

> Revisiting the PPP's 10-point charter of economy, he promised to double the income of Pakistan's people; to build 3 million homes for poor families with ownership rights for women; and supply up to 300 units free solar electricity. He assured the women that he wanted to serve them the way a son served his mother. Accordried about it. They just ing to him, the PPP's govwant to become prime min- ernment at the center would not only enhance grants

Pakistan to become strong, prosperous when minorities given equal rights

Solangi says

taker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that minorities play an important role in the nation-building process and Pakistan will become strong and prosperous only when the minorities are given equal rights as envisaged by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Consti-

tution Delivering his speech at a seminar organized by the Press Information Department (PID) regarding elections 2024 he said only those nations that have made rapid strides towards development and prosperity believed in di-

versity.
"Pakistan will be strong only when we give equal civil rights to minorities" Murtaza Solangi said. He remarked that the he maintained.

LAHORE (APP): Care- creation of Pakistan in itself was the negation of the concept of majoritarian rule as All India Congress leadership wanted to impose the will of a certain group over the other people on the basis of the majority.

Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has

said that India's illegal and

unilateral actions of 5 Au-

gust 2019 in IIOJK were a

blatant violation of interna-

tional law including the UN

Charter, 4th Geneva Con-

vention and the relevant UN

Security Council resolu-

tions. "India has since been

He said that minorities had played a significant part in the achievements of Pakistan, especially as they were playing an active role in the health and education system.

The minister said that the present caretaker government was a constitutional and legal set-up which would ensure the conduct of free and fair elections in the country on February 8.
In the preamble of the

Constitution of Pakistan, it is written that this country will be run by its elected representatives who come to power through elections,

engaged in efforts to further he added. entrench these illegal mea-The prime minister sures through a series of said that Pakistan had consteps aimed at altering the sistently maintained that a lasting solution of the demographic structure and political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir dispute was possible only in ÎIOJK," the prime minister said in a message on the accordance with the relobservance of Kashmir Solievant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of darity Day on February 5. the Kashmiri people. "Pa-He said that the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was annukistan will continue to exally observed on the 5th tend its unstinted moral, February to express diplomatic and political support for this just cause," Prime Minister Of-Pakistan's unwavering support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for realization of their right to fice Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. He furself-determination. It was ther said that the relevant also an occasion to pay rich tribute to the sacrifices UN Security Council Resomade by their Kashmiri lutions provided that the fibrothers and sisters during

PM Kakar says:

India's Aug 5, 2019 illegal,

unilateral actions on IIOJK

violate int'l laws, UN charter

made in accordance with the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Na-

However, the caretaker prime minister said, over the last seventy-six years, India had carried out a relentless campaign to intimidate and suppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kash-

In IIOJK, the ironfisted Indian approach frequently manifested itself in extrajudicial killings, arbinal disposition of Jammu trary detentions and custo-



and Kashmir would be

LAHORE: President PML (N) Mian Shahbaz Sharif alongwith other party leaders addressing a Press conference.

Karachi rains enough to compare performance: Shehbaz to Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): PML-N had for Nawaz Sharif - the should be forgiven, he as-President Shehbaz Sharif three-time prime minister serted. on Sunday mocked PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari over his repeated invitation for a live debate, as he cited the example of heavy rain in Karachi which has paralysed life in the megacity, which, he said, was enough to the compare the performance

the last seventy-six years,

of two parties. Media persons were reporting just few weeks ago that the PML-N leadership could not face the people and had decided to stay at home, he recalled and noted that the massive rallies held in different towns and cities were a proof of how much love and support the masses

who is eyeing a record fourth stint in office. Addressing a press conference, he said it seemed that the people would give a clear mandate

to the PML-N to govern

the country for the next About the alleged political victimisation of the PTI founder, Shehbaz said the same person used to claim that he won't spare anyone and send everyone to prison, as the rivals were booked in bogus cases, at a

sorted to corrupt practices. Democracy doesn't mean that a person involved in illegal activities

time when he himself re-

in response to a ques-

Millions of voters would decide their future through use of ballot on February 8 which his party was going to accept Shehbaz said, as he listed the achievements of his party under Nawaz Sharif's government in the

Shehbaz said Pakistan witnessed billions of dollars of investment - he largest in the country's history during elder Sharif's 2013-17 government, but the corruption perception index measured by the Transparency International came down

ECP to wrap up delivery of 260M ballot papers to 859 constituencies by today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is set to conclude the ongoing distribution of 260 million ballot papers to the Returning Officers (ROs) of 859 constituencies nationwide by Monday.

An ECP spokesperson said in a statement that the Commission has concluded the printing of ballot papers in three government printing presses for the upcoming Feb 8 elec-

Reprinting of ballot papers in particular controversial constituencies has been finalized, following the directives of the superior judiciary in specific court

Envoys of Pakistan, Japan discuss ties

SLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan's ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir on Sunday held meeting in Tehran with Japanese Ambassador Tsukada Tamaki and discussed matters of mutual respect.

In a post on X, he said 'I met Japanese Ambassador HE Tsukada Tamaki today We had excellent exchange of ideas on a range of global & regional issues with a view to promote greater understanding & explore views to help promote peace & develop-

MULTAN: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Chairman Jahangir Tareen addressing a press conference.

Ready to work with Nawaz Sharif: Jahangir He emphasized the

MULTAN (INP): Jahangir Tareen, the Chairman of the Istehkam-ePakistan Party (IPP), declared at an election rally in Multan that in the event of the government formation, he will collaborate with Nawaz Sharif, who will serve as their leader.

Addressing the crowd, Tareen, rooted in Multan, expressed his commitment to improving the local economy, ensuring salary increments for workers, and working collectively to allegations of corruption

need for prayer and unity, stating that regardless of political affiliations, everyone must work together for the nation's betterment. Tareen predicted economic growth, job creation, and national development under Nawaz Sharif's leadership, aiming for a brighter future post-February 8. Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League-N President and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif countered make the country prosper. during a press conference.

ANP, QWP announces seat adjustment in Charsadda PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) and

Qaumi Watam Party (QWP) on Sunday announced seat adjustment in Charsadda for general elections 2024.

The formal announcement of seat adjustment was made in a joint press conference by ANP's Provincial President Aimal Wali Khan and Aftab Ahmad Sherpao chief of QWP. The seat adjustment between the two parties took place in Charsadda's two national constituencies, NA-24 and NA-25. n NA-24, ANP's candidate Irfan Alam withdrew in favor of QWP's candidate Aftab Sherpao while in NA-25, QWP's candidate Qaisar Jamal withdrew in favor of ANP's candidate Aimal Wali Khan.



HYDERABAD: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a elec-

Justice Minallah calls for holding 'genuine elections'

LONDON (INP): Justice credibility in the eyes of the Athar Minallah of Supreme Court has maintained that freedom of speech was the basic human right and without it progress of a society start to diminish, reported on Sunday

Justice Minallah remarked that Pakistan lost her arm due to lack of freedom of speech in 1971.

Addressing a moot on Future of Pakistan here, Justice Minallah opined that Pakistan should hold 'genuine elections" and not just for the sake of elections.

Justice Minallah said it is a test case for the courts

The apex court judge observed that missing per sons issue would be highlighted as an issue had it been surfaced in Punjab. Since the issue has emerged in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so it is not considered as an issue, he analysed. Justice Minallah said the Constitution was abrogated several times in Pakistan but no one was

punished for it. He said he cannot speak about actions and performance of the courts but he expressed the hope that

Govt, people of Pak condole demise of President

ISLAMABAD (APP):The

"President Geingob will always be remembered for his services to the Namibian nation and his distinguished legacy as a leader of the Global South. Our heartfelt condolences to President Geingob's family and the people of Namibia," she added.

of Namibia

government and the people of Pakistan were deeply saddened at the passing of President Hage G. Geingob of Namibia, said a Foreign Office Spokesperson in a statement on Sunday.

She said, "President Geingob was a visionary statesman, a leading icon of the liberation struggle of Namibia and the chief architect of the Constitution of Namibia.3

Azadi is destined to succeed, InshAllah. **SAPM** inaugurates welfare projects worth Rs 1.8 bln for Balochistan

Armed forces pay

tribute to Kashmiris

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Armed Forces of Pakistan.

CJCsSC & Services Chiefs paid rich tribute

to people of Kashmir for their resolve & val-

iant struggle, consistently braving grave hu-

man rights violations and inhumane

lockdown in IIOJK under Indian occupation

solved issue on UN agenda since 1948. The

issue has to be resolved as per the aspira-

tions of the people of Kashmir and in accor-

dance with UN Resolutions providing for their

tion forces have failed to diminish the spirit

of the Kashmiri people and their legitimate freedom struggle. The night is indeed the

darkest before dawn - the heroic struggle for

Decades of atrocities by Indian occupa-

right to self determination.

Kashmir remains a long pending unre-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik on Sunday inaugurated a series of welfare projects worth Rs 1.8 billion for Industrial and Mine workers in Balochistan.

He said these initiatives, funded by the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), are poised to significantly enhance living standards and educational opportunities for mine and industrial workers across the province, said a news release issued here.

He further said the cornerstone of these projects is the establishment of a

Residences in Muslim Bagh, Balochistan, designed to provide quality education to the children of 5,605 mine and industrial workers, symbolizing a substantial leap towards gender inclusivity and educational accessibility in the area.

Constructed over 63,000 square feet and with an investment of Rs 700 Million, the school and residences represent a beacon of hope for the future generation of Balochistan, he said and stressed on ensuring that the project is completed within 24 months.

Addressing the pressing need for adequate housing, Malik also laid the foundation stone for 100 worker residence quarters in Mus-



to get their verdicts implemented and restore their changes to the system. People reject who ruined country: Sherpao Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab guided the youth and provoked them to attack the

Àhmad Khan Sherpao on Sunday said the people must not vote for the ones, who undermined the country and ruined its Addressing a gathering at Gandheri Union Council in Charsadda, he

forget the ones, who staged attacks on the government buildings and military installations. Criticising the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said its leadership po-

said the nation must not

ated divisions. He said the PTI had turned political differences into personal vendetta.

larized the society and cre-

"Imran Khan mismilitary installations," he

Calling for reconciliation, Aftab Sherpao said that after the election the political parties should join hands to come up with a common agenda to revive the economy and put the country on the path to development.

He said the country could not afford political instability as enough damage had been done by indulging in politics of ha-

He said the poor were grappling with a host of issues, including skyrocketing inflation and unemployment

Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

Last leg

We are now in the home stretch. This past week saw a flurry of political activity as parties started to dig in and brace for their final showdown, scheduled for next Thursday.

Though we had not seen the same level of feverish campaigning that usually precedes general elections in Pakistan, there was some welcome improvement over the last few weeks, even if it has seemed at times that it is just two parties swapping the limelight between them.

The PTI, the third main contender, remains absent from TV screens. There has been very little it has been allowed to do, and jalsas would have been out of the question with the state trying to suppress it. The smaller parties, too, seem to have largely avoided expending much time or effort on elections 2024. This lack of enthusiasm has left the polls looking like a three-way fight — albeit one in which one of the main contenders has been handicapped.

How will the results shape up? It is anyone's guess. A number of factors are in play, going for and against each party. The PML-N and PPP look strong on paper. Their traditional networks within the zaat-biradari system and the state apparatus are active. The state is keeping the PTI in check. The two can also campaign freely: they may put up banners, organise corner meetings, hold jalsas, get TV airtime and, most importantly, seek votes with the help of recognised poll sym-

The PML-N enjoys the further advantage of being perceived as the 'favoured' party, which is expected to boost its prospects in areas where thana-katcheri politics rule the day. The PTI meanwhile, is banking mainly on public sympathy to turn the tide. It is tapping into public discontent against the status quo and hoping the youth vote can swing the election in its

A lot will also depend on voter turnout: a high turnout is expected to favour the PTI. Will it be able to get its voters out? How each party manages election day activities will also matter. Can they mobilise and ferry enough voters to the booths? Can polling agents protect their candidates' votes during the counting process? Given how vitiated the pre-poll process has been, should we expect a changed atmosphere on polling day? There is a lot riding on these elections, and the path to power, as ever, lies through Punjab.

Will we see a new victor emerge? The PML-N is looking to break out of central Punjab and make inroads in the north and south. The PPP is hoping to regain the ground it lost a decade ago. And the PTI is refusing to back out of the fight. It promises to be a contest that will be remembered for a long time

Fight to forgive

Could you forgive your daughter's murderers, and then hire two of the organisation set up in her name?

This is what Linda the stoning and stabbing of their daughter Amy by a mob in Cape Town in 1993. Amy, then 26 and a Fulbright scholar, was helping educate previously disenfranchised voters 1994 elections that would see Nelson Mandela become president. Four men were found guilty of Amy's murder but they applied to the Truth and Reconciliation Com- or institutions that mission for amnesty. Amy's parents, who attended the hearing, did not object to their release in 1998. Later, they met two of the forced to say sorry to murderers and then hired them to work in the foundation they created in Amy's name to continue her dream of imagining a world where reconciliation

In September last year, the Amy Biehl Foundation marked 30 years since her murder at one of the schools they've built in Cape Town. Linda was there along with two of her daughter's murderers, who continue to work with the foundation; one of them told the media
his relationship with the
Biehls allowed him to
headen the person hair become the person he is today and also allowed him to forgive himself. They have all shown what reconciliation looks like, and how it can extend to, and then allow, a community to

was possible.

move forward But getting there is difficult process. In order to learn how to let is both online and on go of hurt feelings, I the streets. have been practising

therapy and reading an- journalists unable to

Muna Khan much to learn from our

The Buddhists, for them to come work for example, say forgive- porter showing viewers and Peter Biehl did in mind, to let go of the South Africa following pain you carry. Most

religious teachings echo similar sentiments. No one advocates holding on to anger unless they find gain in it, and that thinking is not beneficial for societies. I believe we, as a naahead of the historic tion, desperately need to let go of anger, resentment and hurt caused by a myriad of leadership failings and mistrust

> The challenge is to forgive the very people caused the mistrust in the first place. It is comespecially plicated. when no one is asking for forgiveness or, they are avoid punishment and then banished. This hapnens with one-time favoured groups who run afoul of the powerful; their 'crime' is a damnation until it is not, and then all is forgotten. This script is old and tiresome but there are too many players who happily acquiesce in going along

> they power.Forgiveness will not work without accountability. But who has the power to forgive? What is deemed forgivable?

> who studies forgiveness and punishment, told Vox in 2022 that 'forgiveness is most fundamentally a release from blame and anger".

There is certainly a lot of that in Pakistan right now and it is proving a stumbling block to our progress. The anger but one worth attempt-

alternative forms of folks share videos of Courtesy Dawn

cient texts. We have contain their excitement at the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif in 2017.

The video of a reness ends suffering. It the inside of the former is ultimately for your- prime minister's fridge self, for your peace of resurfaced as did the video of a journalist in a tub. 'Do they feel shame now that Imran Khan has been convicted,' screamed half of Twitter?

I don't know what answer — or apology, if it came — could have pacified the outraged

Does social media cause this anger or does it reveal it, as Allais herself asks. We've seen how quickly a mob comes together to 'cancel' people in social media trials. There is no room for atonement in the virtual world while in the real world, the judicial system seems to be failing people.

In this atmosphere, can one even talk of forgiveness and reconciliation? We are days away from elections whose results will be rejected by X percentage of the population. This is the self-perpetuating cycle that does not allow room for reconciliation. Those to blame can also offer a

These stakeholders

must reckon with their

past and accept that the only way forward is to come together as leaders invested in Pakistan's progress, with different ideas on how to get there. They can teach us how to disagree without being disagreeable. People tend to assume the best of themselves and the worst of their opponents. "We need to see people as potentially better than the worst things they've done,' says Allais. It is a tall ask ing. We will eventually streets. get it right. This hope is I watched a lot of worth fighting for. --

Securing borders

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Pakistan's national secu-

rity has lately been under threat on its eastern soon after, nine Paki- projects and Chinese naas well as western borders. On the eastern frontier, India's attitude towards Pakistan has unfortunately hit a new low. The Modi regime is constantly prickly ways to assert its growing hubris in the neighbourhood and beyond. Its latest practice is to deploy assassins on foreign lands to kill socalled anti-India elements. The evidence shows that Indian intelligence operatives managed to have not only Mohammad Riaz and Shahid Latif assassinated on Pakistani soil, but many more Pakistani citizens too, for which investigations are underway. This is in line with what Indian operatives did in Canada and the US when they targeted Sikhs calling for an independent state

Using assassins to kill on foreign soil is a variant of the earlier policy of sending in Indian operatives, such as Kulbhushan Jadhav, who would enter Pakistan under fake identities to destabilise the counof regional peace will not be served if India continues to commit state terrorism while accusing Pakistan of cross-border terrorism. Both countries would do well to eliminate transnational terrorism through cooperation rather than confronta-

Khalistan.

Pakistan's western frontiers are also in the grip of cross-border terrorism. Last month, Iran attacked a target inside Pakistan, ostensibly to eliminate an alleged hideout of Jaish al-Adl, an anti-Iran Sunni militant group active in Sistanresponded with a strike Chinese nationals work-

visited Pakistan to calm tensions. Ultimately, the root cause, which is the innovating alleged presence of terrorist elements on both sides of the border, would need to be addressed to avert the recurrence of such inci-

Ever since the

Kabul in 2021, the TTP has been reinvigorated. The group had been beaten in operations in Swat, South Waziristan and North Waziristan as well as the countrywide neighbours but also other intelligence-based operation Raddul Fasaad. The TTP's resurgence resulted from the Afghan Taliban rulers' release of TTP prisoners in the name of facilitating talks collaboration with two with Pakistan. A tentative ceasefire was agreed to, leading to senior TTP leaders being freed from prisons in Pakistan and the resettlement of hundreds of TTP fighters in

the country Instead of appreci-TTP used the opportutry. However, the cause nity to regroup and resume its attacks against targets in Pakistan, particularly the security forces. Despite this setback, Islamabad has, prudently, maintained its contacts with Kabul at multiple levels to stress better served if Kabul restricted the space given to the TTP for cross-border terrorism, and reoriented its policies to focus on peace and devel-

since the Ever launch of CPEC in 2015, Pakistan's detractors have tried to carry out against Baloch terrorist ing on CPEC projects tesy Dawn

elements in the border here. At the request of town of Saravan. Both China, Pakistan's steadgovernments swiftly re- fast friend, the governsolved the matter ment constituted a strong through diplomacy. But force to safeguard CPEC stanis were murdered in tionals. This has im-Saravan. The Iranian for- proved the security situeign minister has since ation, although occasional terrorist attacks still occur.

All this requires an in-depth review of our security and foreign policies. An opportunity will arise when a new government is elected this month. After holding consultations with think tanks, academia, and in-Taliban came to power in telligentsia, the elected government must institute a mechanism to undertake such a review on a new agenda of peace that should be pursued with not only our powers of relevance to Pakistan.

Recently, a national conference was convened in Islamabad by the Sanober Institute in partners from academia and the think tank community to prepare a strategy manifesto for the new government with recommendations for Pakistan's security and foreign policies. Similar efforts are currently unating the gesture, the derway in several universities and think tanks, born of a desire to see our country achieve the glory that Pakistan's founder had envisioned for it. Based on the Quaid's advice, and the imperative to stabilise its borders, Pakistan must address the internal and that Afghanistan's stra- external reasons of militegic interests would be tancy. Internally, militant, extremist, sectarian and sub-nationalist forces need to be dealt with politically first, and kinetically later if required. Externally, we should engage with all neighbours such that it builds their stakes in Pakistan's stability. In the medium to long term, this approach Baluchestan. Pakistan acts of terrorism against can ensure border stability and progress. -- Cour-

Commerce News

Governor KP says: Gemstones is a valuable sector, need development through comprehensive planning

the development of natural resources like minerals, tourism, gemstones, the province can be taken out of the backwardness and made a major contributor to the country's economy, Khyber Governor Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said during his visit to All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) in the city of Namak Mandi.

The Governor, during his visit met with the business community dealing in precious stones, representatives of APSIA, the people of the area and urged upon of making a comprehensive planning and police for this valuable

Pakhtunkhwa economic stability can be brought only by the provision of facilities to all the business community of promotion of business and industry in the province.

Significant development can be made possible in this sector, he added. He said, in this context, the business community associated with the Gemstones sector

sector development that should get the support of could play a key role in students who have Pakistan economy in graduated from universities general and Khyber who are familiar with Pakhtunkhwa in particular. modern technology, so that Governor Khyber the youth can get htunkhwa Haji employment with the Ghulam Ali said that precious stones of the province

Exports can be increased along with introducing tourism at the the province, including global level, the Governor those associated with the said, during his visit to the gemstone sector, and the office of All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) located in Namak Mandi, a congested area of inner city Peshawar.

During the meeting with the representatives and officials of the present association.

Economists pilloried for getting forecasts wrong

(AFP/APP): Economists are taking flak after missing the mark on inflation, failing to anticipate disruptions in global supply chains and forecasting a recession that has not materialised.

European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde joined the chorus of criticism at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last month.

"Many economists are actually a tribal clique," she said, referring to a lack of openness to other scientific disciplines.

"They quote each other-men more than women but that's another story," the former IMF chief and French finance minister said. "But they don't go beyond that world because they feel comfortable in that world.3

get out of their comfort zone of Excel spreadsheets and rigid models, some economists say about their own kind.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to Gem Stone traders during his visit to All Pakistan Commercial Exporter Association at Namak Mandi. Pak economic prospects look promising: Meher

Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman, Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said the future economic prospects of Pakistan look promising but their actual realisation would depend on successful integration into the global economy, sound macro-economic policies and close coordination between academia, industrialists and policymakers at all levels in addition to political stability and good governance. Speaking here at a workshop on "Impact of Tripartite Collaboration for Economic Growth", he said under a constellation

(APP): conditions, it would be inister of possible to add 2 to 2.5 percent points to the current trend growth rate whereby per-capita income would double in next decade. Meher said Pakistan's future direction should focus analytically examining the issue by bringing together government industries and academia, co-evolving economic systems and focusing on industries core role in the development process.The Coordinator said Pakistan's geographic location has not been cashed effectively for intra-regional trade and investment, to realise its of these favourable future potential.

Political stability guarantees sound economy: Malik

LAHORE commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar pre-requisite for sound economy which will promise greater weal for the people from different

strata of the society. Talking to

(MEPCO) teams have raided and caught 51 more of confrontation and violence is not the solution. He said time has changed as now the influential nations are paying more attention to

financial warfare to continue their dominance. These countries are successfully using their weapons of economic destruction to weaken economics of poor nations to achieve their unholy designs. "It is indeed important to increase our uninterrupted stable exports and for that purpose we need to reduce our cost of doing business so that our products remain

Korea to provide seed potato to Pakistan for producing virus-free seed ISLAMABAD (APP): four

The Republic of Korea under its Technical Cooperation Projects supplying a cold store and (TCP) would provide 100,000 tons of certified meet goals would also be seed potatoes to Pakistan during five years.

The availability of virus-free seeds potatoes and contributing significantly to the agreement, said development, Pakistan to the agricultural sector Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

51 power

pilferers

netted across

MEPCO region

MULTAN (APP): Multan

Electric Power Company

power pilferers in a day

during ongoing operation

across the region on

have raided at various

places and got registered

27 new cases against

power pilferers and

caught three more power

pilferers with red

fine was imposed on power pilferers. Rs 31.3 million

was recovered from

running and dead defaulters

in a day.

The recovery from

domestic, commercial, industrial and tubewell

defaulters was made during

the ongoing operation.

Over Rs 2.7 million

The taskforce teams

Sunday

handed.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that

greenhouses, screenhouses established.

The PARC) in initiative collaboration with Korean maiming at to ensure the Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) was technology, which will transform Pakistan's potato production, he added. PARC-KOPIA were

self-sufficiency in potato

that only 2% of Pakistan's potato seed requirement was being fulfilled locally and we relied on importing

98% of its seed demand.

With implementation of this cutting-edge facility, Pakistan is poised to working on aeroponic achieve self-sufficiency in potato seed production, he added.

Dr Ali said that the aeroponic technology, which can yield 50 to 60 also working for achieving potato seeds per plant compared to just five seeds, which would reduce from conventional

the reliance on imported methods. **KPBOIT inks MoU** with Chinese group for investments in KP

of Khyber sector Pakhtunkhwa, Memorandum

Understanding has signed by Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade Engr. Said Mahmood and Mr. Jianxin Hou, Chairman Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation, China.

The MoU signing ceremony was held the other day, in Shandong in China, and was witnessed shared various matchmaking meetings.

PESHAWAR (APP): In opportunities in value order to enhance addition in the mines and investment opportunities minerals sector for in mines and minerals Chinese investors and ensured full facilitation from the KP government Through this MoU

both parties may, to the best of their mutual endeavor and capabilities, strive to enhance investment in value addition in the mining sector of KP Province, provide specific product/ project information, identification of joint venture by the high profile public facilitating procedural and business community matters with respective of the province. On this authorities remaining occasion during his within respective legal speech, the Vice mandate. Similarly, Chairman of KP-BOIT partners may conduct

weekly bazaar in Provincial Capital. **Livestock Dept issues 20** licenses to businessmen

LAHORE: People are busy is buying warm clothes

and jackets in Landa bazaar at Shadman Sunday

MULTAN (APP): Livestock Department's counter at the Business Facilitation Center (Multan) successfully issued 20 licenses within one week of inauguration, facilitating the Livestock and Poultry business community.

The ceremony chaired by Director Muhammad Ashraf, attended by elated license holders, showcased commitment to streamlining processes and reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

Multan Division, Dr visits to various offices.

Muhammad Ashraf, revealed that since its inception, the Livestock Department's counter received 57 applications, marking a significant milestone.

Expressing gratitude, license holders namely Farman Ali, Muhammad Akram. Akhtar Hussain, Mohsin Raza, Liaqat Ali, Ghazanfar Abbas, Muhammad Kashif department's and others commended the efficiency of the new system, highlighting the elimination of time-Director Livestock consuming and costly

Economists need to

SAARC chamber of Ali Malik Sunday said that political stability is

delegation of traders, he said that at present, Pakistan cannot endure political turmoil or instability, asserting that democracy is needed for sustained economic growth to cope with the multiple challenges in the

competitive in the world markets," he added.

Chairs 39th cabinet meeting

CM Punjab approves upgradation of Bab-e-Azadi

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab
Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 39th Punjab cabinet meeting at CM Office, here on Sunday.

Another national and historical decision had been taken in the Punjab cabinet meeting which pertains to Azadi at Wahga border crossing, which would be redesigned on the pattern of the Lahore Fort. The cabinet granted an approval for extension and

Cultural Minorities".

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Murree, Agha Zaheer

Abbas Shirazi, has said that

the traffic management plan

is being implemented to

facilitate tourists and avoid

gridlock on the roads of

Murree.He said that 13

tourist facilitation centers

were established at different

places in Murree, and a

control room had also been

made fully functional.

Bab-e-Azadi would be approximately upgraded on the pattern of to 18,000 after Lahore Fort and the upgradation and the height entrance gate would be of Bab-e-Azadi project designed on the pattern of Alamgiri Gate of the Lahore Fort. Mohsin undertaking the upgradation of the Bab-e-upgradation of the Bab-e-at the Bab-e-Azadi. He said

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

LAHORE: Honorable Mr. Tariq Mehmood Khan,

Executive Director General/PIO, receiving shield

from Ms. Bushra Bashir, Director PID Lahore at

DC Murree says:

being implemented to

facilitate tourists

The DC said that the Rawalpindi Division, district administration had Liaquat Ali Chatta, the

made excellent arrangements administration.

Naqvi ordered to install big accorded in the meeting to excellent facilities would be provided along with undertaking extension of biggest National Flag of the Parade Ground, adding that the parking area would be made further spacious. redesigning project of Babee- Azadi, the Parade during the briefing that corridor. SZMINAR ON PAKISTAN

Ground, along with issuance of funds.

The CM said that Ground would be enhanced

would be approximately 120 feet. Approval for the issuance of funds was undertake remodelling of Liberty Chowk along with making an agreement with the Bank Alfalah for the South Asia and undertaking construction as well as extension of the Lahore Metro Bus Service

Rwp Ring Road project to prove game changer for people:

Commissioner RAWALPINDI (APP) Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that Rawalpindi Ring Road project would prove to be a game changer for the people of Rawalpindi and the plantation drive on both sides of Rawalpindi Seminar on "Political Participation and Ring Road would be started Empowerment of Youth, Women, Transgender and Cultural Minorities". from February 15.

The Commissioner

said that the ring road project would be completed within project would be completed within stipulated time frame as over 20 percent physical work of the ring road project had been completed. After the traffic patrials design to link the Traffic management plan network design to link the ring road with the motorway, work on Thalian Interchange would be started, he added.

Swan Bridge should be completed as soon as possible, he directed the authorities concerned.

built on the ring road would be developed on the pattern of Bhera rest area, Ali Chatta Liaquat informed

informed that the project would be completed before



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates up gradation and renovation of Punjab Dental Hospital.

Steps to ensure for a democratic, peaceful election: Minister

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Minister of Information

and Public Relations for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Feroze Jamal Kakakhel, emphasized the crucial collaboration needed from both candidates and the public to ensure the success of the upcoming general elections.

Speaking at a press conference in Nowshera, he highlighted the need for cooperation with the administration, police, and election commission staff to guarantee security and seamless logistical arrangements. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and Inspector General of Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan, have undertaken comprehensive reviews of security and administrative preparations by visiting various districts across the province. Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, in conjunction with the Chief Secretary and IGP, affirmed the government's dedication

Two women die in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): Two women were killed in a road accident in the area

of Dijkot police station.

A Rescue 1122
spokesman said here on
Sunday that a speeding bus hit a motorcycle near Jahangir Mor on Sammundri Road. As a result, Khalida Perveen (53) and Chashman Shehbaz (21) received serious injuries and died on the spot whereas Rescue 1122 shifted Shehbaz (32) of Chak No.253-RB Islam Nagar to Allied Hospital-II (DHQ Hospital) in a critical condition. The area police took the bodies into custody while an investigation is under progress, he added.

Governor for investing more in education sector

Independent Report
B A H A W A L P U R :
Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that education is pivotal for the development prosperity of a nation and we must focus on

providing quality education to our youth.

Talking to APP, he said that it is the need of the hour to invest more in the education sector. He said that unfortunately, the PTI government gradually reduced funds for educational institutions for four years, affecting the quality of education.

He told that annual grants for Cadet College Hassan Abdal, Lawrence Sadiq Public School

Bahawalpur were planned to be cut down to zero by the PTI government, however, recently the grants of these educational institutions were increased substantially.

He said that a highlevel financial committee has been formed to resolve the financial issues of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

He told that initially grants of Rs 55 million are being planned to be given to the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. In response to another question, Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman told that the Punjab University's annual budget

had a deficit of Rs 2 billion for which suggestions have College Ghora Gali, and been sought by the Sadiq Public School university administration.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman.

Pakistani nation to express solidarity with Kashmiris in their struggle

the country and across the world is observing Kashmir Solidarity Day tomorrow (Monday) to express solidarity with Kashmiris in their struggle for the right to self-determination. Since 1990, the Nation of Pakistan observes February 5th as Kashmir

solidarity with Kashmiris

brethren in their struggle

Solidarity Day. Political parties, The rest area being organizations, lawyers, students and traders are all set to stage rallies and processions to express

Liaquat Ali further October.

PESHAWAR (APP): The support and send a loud Pakistani nation stands people of Pakistan inside and clear message to the world that Kashmiris are not alone in their struggle against the occupying

to conducting peaceful general

elections on February 8.

Talking to APP, Professor Dr Aziz Hilali of the Abasyn University, Peshawar said that Pakistan observes Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 each year to show their support and express solidarity with the people living in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that the nation pays tributes to unparallel commitment with Kashmiris for the for independence from attainment of their determination and draconian laws to oppress action of 5th August 2019, the Indian occupation and legitimate right of self- Pakistan show solidarity the people, who are the removal of the Article reiterate their persistent determination. The entire with those people and innocent and armless. 370 and 35 (A).

with Kashmiris and it is the firm belief of the nation that the Kashmiris will succeed in their struggle to secure freedom from oppression and illegal occupation. Pakistan remains the big freedom supporter of Kashmir since the conflict had begun.

They international community to intervene in the matter of Kashmir and save innocent lives from the

Indian government. Many of the freedom fighters have lost their lives while fighting for the right of self-

Professor Hilali, who an expert on international affairs, said that the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest items on the agenda of UN Security Council and it can be called the unfinish agenda of the partition. The dispute remained unresolved due to India's refusal to honour its commitments and its disrespect for fundamental human rights

international law. He added that Kashmiri people are facing New Delhi's inhuman

observe a national-wide They are using stateterrorism against the Kashmiris including extra-judicial killing and arbitering detentions, fake-encounters, stage crackdown and search operations, custodial torture and enforced disappearance and forced arrest of the Kashmiris leaders using pellet guns and destruction of houses.

As per the statement of the Martin Sugarman, the correspondent of the Daily Loss Angles and Indher Torai that over 900,000 Indian forces made Kashmiris one of the biggest open prison house. India's illegal and unilateral action of 5th August 2019,

International News

society

US retaliatory strikes in Iraq, Syria claim 40 lives

to promote tourism in the

region besides helping and

tourists visit 'Queen of Hills', Murree, to enjoy the

snowfall in winter, he said,

adding that solid steps were

taken by the district

administration to provide

assistance and guidance to

the tourists. He informed

me that on the directives of

Commissioner

A large number of

assisting the tourists.

United States launched air strikes in Iraq and Syria against more than 85 targets linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) and militias it backs, reportedly killing nearly 40 people, in retaliation for a deadly attack on US

The strikes, which included the use of longrange B-1 bombers flown from the United States, were the first in response to the attack last weekend in Jordan by Iranbacked fighters, and more US military operations are expected in the com-

The strikes intensified a conflict that has spread into the region since the Oct 7 Gaza con-

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser

ment the attacks repreturous and strategic miscreased tension and insta-

Iraq summoned the US charge d'affaires in Baghdad to deliver a formal protest.

Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces, a state security force including Iran-backed groups, said 16 of its members were killed, including fighters and medics. The government earlier said civilians were among 16 dead.

In Syria, the strikes killed 23 people who had been guarding the targeted locations, said Rami Abdulrahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which reports on war in Syria.

ment the attacks represented "another advensaid the attacks appeared take by the United States to be successful, triggerthat will result only in in- ing large secondary explosions as the bombs hit 'militant weaponry''

He said the strikes were undertaken knowing that there would likely be casualties among those in the facilities. Despite the strikes.

the Pentagon has said it does not want war with Iran and does not believe Tehran wants war either. even as Republican pressure has increased on US President Joe Biden to deal a blow directly.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said after the strikes that Biden had directed additional action against the IRGC and those linked to it. "This is the start of our response, Austin said.



15 killed as Ukraine shells Russia-held city

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: A Ukrainian attack on the eastern occupied city of Lysychansk killed at least 15 people and wounded 10 others, Moscow-installed authorities said Saturday, adding that there were likely more dead in the rubble underneath a bakery that was struck.

Lysychansk, in the Lugansk region, fell to Russian forces after a brutal battle six months into Moscow's offensive in

that Ukraine had struck a rubble.

building housing a popular bakery and that it believed more victims were buried in

"According to current data as a result of the shelling of a bakery in Lysychansk 15 people died and 10 were wounded with varying degrees of severthe Russian-installed health minister of the Lugansk region, Natalia Pashchenko, said on Tele-

"Rescuers have also Russia's forces said found, preliminarily, around 10 people under the

homes in devastating earthquake hit area

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkey on Saturday handed over keys to newly-completed homes to some of those

left homeless after last year's devastating earthquake, one year after the country's deadliest disaster in its modern history. Powerful quakes on

Feb. 6, 2023 in southern Turkey killed more than 50,000 people in 11 provinces and left millions homeless.

Knife attacker wounds three at Paris train station

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Three people

were injured on Saturday in a knife attack at Paris's Gare de Lyon railway station, a major travel hub, police said, adding that a suspect with psychiatric problems had been ar-

The man, a Malian national living in Italy, went on a stabbing spree at 7.35am (0635 GMT) at the station, which operates domestic trains as well as those heading to Switzerland and Italy.

Israel pummels Gaza cities as air strikes kill 100 Palestinians **Monitoring Desk**

DOHA: Israeli air strikes killed almost 100 Palestinians in the Gaza cities of Rafah and Deir Al Balah on Friday night and Saturday, health officials said, as residents of the enclave feared Israel would expand its ground offensive into those last remaining areas where people have sought shelter.

Rafah is on Gaza's southern border with Egypt and more than half the enclave's 2.3 million people have fled there as the Israeli military presses its fourmonth-old operation against the Hamas group. Health officials said an Israeli air strike on a house in Rafah killed 14 people, including women and children.

Authorities in Gaza said on Saturday that more than 27,000 Palestinians have been confirmed killed since the start of the crisis

on Oct 7, 107 of them in the past two days, with thousands more feared lost amid the ruins

Tens of thousands of people have arrived in Rafah in recent days carrying belongings in their arms and pulling children on carts, since Israeli forces launched one of their biggest assaults to capture nearby Khan Yunis, the

main southern city. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant had said on Thursday forces would now press on to Rafah. "The place turned black, I couldn't see what's in front of me. It was all dust and dirt. I was touching my surroundings, I was looking for my mobile to use the flashlight to look for my children, where are they? I found them under the rubble," said Ahmed Bassam Al Jamal, whose son was killed in Rafah.

Yemen's Houthis vow response after US, **British strikes**

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The

United States and Britain launched strikes against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, in the second day of major U.S. operations against Iran-linked groups following a deadly attack on American troops last week-

The strikes late on Saturday hit buried weapons storage facilities, missile systems, launchers and other capabilities the Houthis have used to attack Red Sea shipping, the Pentagon said, adding it targeted 13 locations across the country.

They are the latest blows in a conflict that has spread into the Middle East since Oct. 7, when the Palestinian militant group Hamas stormed Israel from the Gaza Strip, igniting a war that has drawn Tehranbacked groups into attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets on several fronts.

The Houthi military

spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the strikes "will not pass without a response and consequences.'

"The building I live in shook," said Fatimah, a resident of Houthi-controlled Sanaa, adding that it had been years since she had felt such blasts in a country that has suffered years of war. The Houthis did not announce any casualties.

The Yemen strikes are running parallel to an unfolding U.S. campaign of retaliation over the killing of three American soldiers in a drone strike by Iranbacked militants on an outpost in Jordan a week ago. On Friday, the U.S. carried out the first wave of that retaliation, striking in Iraq and Syria more than 85 targets linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and militias it backs, reportedly killing nearly 40. The violence has added to concerns of the

potential for further esca-

when shelling hit a bakery in Russian-occupied Ukraine **Monitoring Desk** the incident. NEW YORK: Moscow-installed officials say Ukrai-

Security forces inspect a damaged car at the site of

At least 28 people died

a U.S. airstrike in al-Qaim, Iraq.

nian shelling killed at least 28 people at a bakery in the Russian-occupied city of Lysychansk. At least one child was among the dead Saturday, local leader Leonid Pasechnik wrote in a statement on Telegram. A further

10 people were rescued

from under the rubble by

emergency services, he said. Kyiv did not comment on ment Sunday.

Kyiv have increasingly relied on longer-range attacks this winter amid largely unchanged positions on the front line in the nearly 2year-old war.

However, Ukrainian forces have come under intense Russian attack over the past 24 hours, with continuous assaults along the front line, Ukraine's Ukrainian officials in General Staff said in a state-

Both Moscow and 1,500-kilometer (930-mile)

Civilians to replace Indian troops in **Maldives**

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India will remove its troops in the Maldives by May, the

Maldivian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, as the two countries seek agreement on a pullout that has strained ties. The roughly 80 soldiers stationed in the Indian Ocean archipelago will be replaced by civilians, officials from both countries said. As global powers

jostle for influence in the Asia-Pacific region, India and China have wooed the Maldives, which has traditionally been close to neighbour India. New Delhi's ties with Male have under strain since Mohamed Muizzu was elected president of the Maldives last year, pledging to end the country's

'India First" policy.

withdrawal by March 15 of the troops stationed to provide support for military equipment given to the Maldives

He has called for the

S. Korea summons Russian envoy over 'rude' remarks

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korea summoned Russia's ambassador on Saturday to protest "rude and ignorant" remarks after Moscow's foreign ministry blamed Seoul for rising tensions on the peninsula. Nuclear-armed North Korea has this year declared Seoul its "principal enemy", closed agencies dedicated to reunification and outreach, and threatened war over "even 0.001

millimetres" of territorial infringement.

Russia has recently

formed closer ties with North Korea, with the South and United States claiming Pyongyang has shipped weapons to Moscow for use in Ukraine. Moscow's foreign

ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said this week the heightened tension on the Korean peninsula was "primarily due to the brazen policy of the United States and its allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan", referring to South Korea by its official

Turkey completes

Kashmir Solidarity Day about sending powerful message of support to resilient people of J&K struggle

ISLAMABAD (APP): against Modi's attempts IIOJK, might be unfairly Special Assistant to Prime to create an Akhand targeted and made a scape-Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that Kashmir Solidarity Day serves as a reminder that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not alone in their struggle against the Indian illegal occupation. She was addressing a press conference along with senior Hurriyyat leaders Farooq Rehmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safi and Mehmood Ahmad Saghar. THe SAPM emphasized the unwavering support of the people of Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora, and the global community for their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for the right of self-determination.

people of Jammu and Kashmir as a barrier political landscape of non-Kashmiris.

Jammu Kashmir (AJK)

powerful recognition of an

social, cultural, and religious

bond between Pakistanis

sages issued on the eve of

they expressed their soli-

In their separate mes-

and Kashmiris.

Bharat. She characterized the Hindutva regime of triumph.

India and the Zionist reShe asserted that Ingime of Israel as significant threats to world peace.

She asserted that both Modi and Netanyahu were in a race, with Modi pursuing a brutal genocide in Kashmir and Netanyahu in Palestine

the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Mushaal said that the authentic political leadership were unjustly incarcerated under various pretexts. She la-mented the Indian government's ban on representative political parties that voice the aspirations of the people in IIOJK. She expressed her fear that her husband She described the Mohammad Yasin Malik, a prominent figure in the

goat for Modi's electoral

dia was actively altering the demographics of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmin (IIOJK) by indiscriminately granting Kashmiri domiciles to non-Kashmiris.

Expressing deep concern over the situation in She emphasized that the move by India was aimed at influencing any potential future plebiscite as outlined in the United Nations resolutions. She highlighted the historical stance of the people of IIOJK in boycotting farce elections in the region. She cautioned that

any potential increase in turnout during the upcoming September elections could be attributed to the illegal settlements and the illegal issuance of Kashmiri domiciles to



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushall Hussain Malik addressing a press conference along with senior Huriyyat leaders Farooq Rehmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safi and Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in Islamabad.

Caretakers leaving, new govt coming after Feb 8 elections: PM To a question, he said,

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday said the caretaker government would be leaving and the new government would be formed after the elections on February 8, putting behind all the speculation and conspiracy theories of the past months.

In an interview with a private television, he said from day one there was no doubt that the elections would be held on time and now this would be happening in the coming days after all the speculations.

The caretaker government performed its duties according to the constitutional mandate and he would take responsibility for all the decisions taken during its tenure, he added. terrorist groups and the law

"Our democracy is evolving and we are a transitional democracy with all its flaws and weaknesses.

Parliament would be formed after the polls and it would take up necessary constitutional and legal reforms to strengthen democracy according to suggestions from different strata of society, he remarked.

The prime minister said terrorism was a serious issue and its surge happened due to the withdrawal of the United States and NATO forces from Afghanistan, who left behind modern weapons which came in possession of ter-

"We have taken up a clear position against the

terrorists with bravery," he

The prime minister perspective to them.

"We signed 10 memo-Economic

Cycle rally held to show solidarity with people of Kashmir platform for community

mir Lobby Group hosted 'Pedal for Peace: Kashmir Solidarity Day Cycle Rally" to show solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The rally, commencing at D Chowk and culminating at the Islamabad Press Club, was organized in commemoration of Kashmir Solidarity Day, seeking to raise awareness for international support in addressing the challenges faced by the Kashmiri population.

The event provided a

leaders, activists, and organizers to address the participants, sharing insightful perspectives on the current situation of IIOJK. All the participants gathered at the Islamabad Press Club where speeches were featured that underscored the broader context of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The participants of the rally collectively conveyed a message that the people and highlight the urgency of Pakistan stand with the people of IIOJK. More than 100 cyclists holding placards in support with

people of IIOJK partici-



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Jamaat -e- Islami Pakistan, Sirajul Haq addressing during a public gathering (Jalsa) at Liaqat Bagh in the city.

Feb 8 must be the day to end corruption from Pakistan: Siraj

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has said that end corruption in the coun-

Addressing a public gathering in connection with the General Elections 2024 in Rawalpindi, he said that the two parties had ruled the country for most of the time during the last 25 years but failed 'miserably' to resolve the public

Sirajul Haq said, "The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party ruled Pakistan many times and now the people have every right to ask them as to why they should be voted once

He said that those who could not deliver dur-

RAWALPINDI (INP): would they resolve the problems being faced by the masses this time 100 million people of Pa- around. "Pakistan has bekistan have been living be- come indebted to the Interlow the poverty line, call- national Monetary Fund ing February 8 the day to due to economic turmoil caused by the former rulers," he added.

The JI chief said that PML-N supremo still believes that he would be the prime minister for a record fourth time.

Taking a jibe at the PML-N and the PPP, the JI Ameer said that the world has stepped on the moon and Pakistan is left behind in the politics of 'two fami-

He urged that this 'family politics' needs to be ended forever on February

Speaking on the Gaza situation and Israel's atrocities in Palestine, Sirajul Haq said that our rulers did not utter a single word in favour of Palestine

steadfastly taking on the

said during his tenure, he represented Pakistan at the United Nations and interacted with the world leaders and explained Pakistan's

He said he also met with the Chinese leadership, policymakers and think tanks at the Belt and Road Forum in China to exchange ideas on achiev ing shared prosperity fo umanity.

randums of understanding with China on increasing cooperation especially on the projects of China-Pakistan Corridor

No entry on motorways for vehicles without M-Tag after Feb 5

ISLAMABAD (INP) The National Highway and Motorway Authority (NHMA) has made M-Tag registration compulsory for all vehicles on motorways

from February 5. According to details, this was being done for motorists convenience and a free flow of traffic through the entrance and exit points of motorways. To get M-Tag the motorists can visit the customer care center with their vehicle registration book/card and CNIC.

No zoo in Islamabad violating IHC verdict please

ISLAMABAD (APP): The concerned citizens and experts have urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to refrain from violating the Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict on the Ìslamabad Zoo. Moving a summary to

the Federal Cabinet to reestablish the zoo in Islamabad will be a sheer violation of the IHC verdict, and it should be challenged in the court.

They said CDA will be opposed for its connivance to cage the wild animals or to chain them again. It is the worst form of cruelty in the absence of technical and financial capacity of the CDA to regain the land to establish the zoo.

An online discussion on the subject was organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) and DTN on Saturday afternoon, a news release said.

The well-known biodiversity expert Z B Mirza Said: CDA cannot fool the cabinet to take a favourable decision on its summary in the presence of IHC verdict that had clearly asked "to end the cruelty against the animals, and free the animals in their habitats". He said the CDA attempt to reestablish the zoo in İslamabad and grabbing the land is "mischievous by the dishonest officials' They know they cannot do it but only after misguiding the Federal Cabinet.

2024 Elections: ECP achieves milestone with completion of ballot paper printing

ISLAMABAD (APP): original ones set for destruc-The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has successfully completed the closed that this time, a toprinting of 260 million ballot papers for all constituencies in the country ahead

of the 2024 elections. According to ECP spokesman, "National Assembly ballots are identifiable by green paper, whereas Provincial Assembly ballots are printed on white paper. Except for 31 districts, the distribution of printed ballot papers has been finalized across the

Printing, which commenced on January 14, concluded by February 3. In compliance with a Supreme Court directive, ballot papers for 11 National Assembly and five Provincial Assembly constituencies underwent reprinting, with the

ECP officials distal of 260 million ballot papers were printed, reflecting a 54.74% rise in candidates compared to the 2018 elections. Despite a 195% surge in demand for special paper, effective management led to a reduction from 2400 tonnes to 2177

The distribution of printed ballot papers comprises 5% single-column, 0% double-column, 30% three-column, 11.15% fourcolumn, and 2.4% five-column formats, gearing up for the scheduled February 8 polls. Political parties and independent candidates are actively participating in campaigns, with the election drive slated to conclude on February 6 at 12 pm.



Rehman is addressing the election rally.

Pakistan's aid to Gaza continues, meeting urgent humanitarian needs

The National Disastér Management Authority (NDMA), following the government's directive, in coordination with Al-Khidmat Foundation dis- Foundation attended the patched fifth tranche of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.

The tranche, transported by a Pakistan Airforce C-130 aircraft, marks Pakistan's ongoing

The officials of Min-

try of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), NDMA, Pakistan Air Force and representatives of Al Khidmat send-off ceremony at Nur Khan Airbase on Sunday. The humanitarian as-

sistance flight destined for Gaza will land in Al-Arish, Egypt, where the Pakistan's Ambassador will take charge commitment to supporting of the supplies and oversee the people of Gaza, a news their transportation.

Solution of public problems always remained priority of PPP: Asif Zardari

TALAGANG (INP): chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Asif Zardari has said that resolving the public problems always remained top priority of PPP and it paid special heed towards highlighting the social development work.

While addressing a public gathering in Talagang on Sunday, he promised the people a chance to earn money in Pakistan instead of going abroad.

Asif Ali Zardari said we will give you the chance to earn here adding that he Bilawal Bhutto to become would give them their due agricultural earnings.

He highlighting how he served the people during his tenure said that the

PPP always paid heed to the voice of the poor. "We made a card in the name of Benazir Bhutto to help poor women," he pointed

the people of Talagang needed water, infrastructure, passport offices, and also a place to visit the commissioner and his deputy. 'The love you showed me for two days will never be forgotten," he vowed.

Earlier, Asif Ali Zardari said that the PPP could enter in alliance with any party after elections.

In an informal conversation with journalists, Zardari said that he was working on a strategy for prime minister of the coun-

"It has been decided that the party that will win the majority, will be offered first opportunity to form its government," PPP cochairman said.

'The independents would become important for all parties," Zardari said.

DC directs crackdown on alms seekers in Federal capital

decisive move led by Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates took robust action against beggars across Islamabad on Sunday. The ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said that thirteen beggars were apprehended in various city areas and promptly handed over to Kohsar police sta-The initiative targeted

professional beggars who

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a underage children found begging were compassionately directed to the Edhi Center. This ongoing operation, orchestrated by Assistant Commissioners, aimed to curb the pervasive issue of begging. Under Memon's watchful eye, the crackdown demonstrates a commitment to maintaining order and upholding the law. The relentless effort

to address the beggar predicament showcased the administration's dedication to fostering a secure environment also faced detention, while for Islamabad's residents.

Wanted members of snatcher & bike lifter gang arrested; cash and valuables recovered **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Khanna and Shams Colony police team have arrested two wanted members of notorious snatcher and bike lifter gang involved in numerous snatching and bike lifting activities and recovered snatched cash and motorbike from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr.

Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. Following these directions, the Khanna police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a notorious snatcher gang involved in numerous snatching activities in various areas of Khanna police sta-

ren in their struggle for the gizing tributes to the right to self-determination. **ICP** conducts grand operation against encroachment and double parking in rural areas

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special directions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police conducted a grand operation against encroachment and double parking in the rural area, a public rela-



tions officer said.

He said that the locations where actions were taken include Lehtrar Road, Tramari Chowk, Ali Pur, Sultana Foundation, Khanna Pul, Bara Kahu, and surrounding

Islamabad Capital Police has formed a special squad comprising officers and officials, which is conducting uninterrupted operations on major roads and markets at various times, issuing tickets, and impounding multiple vehicles in different police stations for legal action.

Moreover, during the operation, illegal encroachments were removed, vehicles parked on the road were shifted to designated parking areas using forklifts, and owners were warned to avoid parking vehicles on footpaths and roads; otherwise, strict legal action will be

DRO visits NA-47, NA-48 polling stations

recent general election oversight, District Returning Officer (DRO) Irfan Nawaz Memon on Sunday undertook a comprehensive visit to various polling stations within capital's National Assembly Constituencies

spection featured a collabo-

ers for NA-47 and NA-48, Assistant Returning Officers, law enforcement representatives, and various stakeholders. Memon's focus was on fortifying security measures, and his meticulous review prompted NA-47 and NA-48. him to issue precise instruc-According to ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah tions for enhancements. The visit showcased a collective Tabasum, the electoral incommitment to ensuring a

robust and secure electoral

said, would be celebrated rificed their precious lives President Barrister Sultan in AJK with a renewed Mehmood Chaudhry and commitment to strengthen Prime Minister Chaudhry the ongoing freedom Anwarul Haq on Sunday struggle. belligerent military occupa-They assured the tion and its sledgehammer

Kashmir Day, they Kashmiri martyrs who sac-

ISLAMABAD: Participants take part during a cycle rally in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, outside National Press Club in the Federal Capital.

Kashmir Solidarity Day reflects

powerful recognition of bond

between Pakistanis, Kashmiris

Kashmiri people on the age-old and unbreakable other side of the line of control (LoC) that the people of Pakistan and AJK would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them till they achieved their cherished goal of freedom from India's occupa-

Kashmir Solidarity Day, darity with the people of the Indian Illegally Occu-Kashmiris' resilience and pied Jammu and Kashmir courage, they said, "Time (IIOJ&K) and said that the is not far away when the people of IIOJ&K will government and people of AJK stand shoulder to achieve their cherished goal shoulder with their breth-

They also paid eulo-

unwavering support to

ing Indian atrocities. A.M. Shahid expresses concern over the lack of global response to the human rights violations in IIOJ&K, calling for serious consideration of the Kashmiri

Kashmir: Shahid ISLAMABAD (APP) Shahid on Sunday high-

against

Kashmiris, the president

and prime minister noted

that India has miserably

failed in its attempts to

break the Kashmiris' re-

solve despite using all pos-

sible means of oppression

have used all means of op-

pression and suppression

Kashmiri people, but they

stood firmly to their ground

with the utmost courage

and resilience," they fur-

Pak to continue

"The Indian forces

subdue innocent

and suppression.

ther added.

Former ambassador A.M lighted the prolonged sufferings of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), emphasizing Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri brethren. Talking to Radio Pakistan, he underscores the 76year-long suffering of the people in IIOJ&K, endur-

people's plight.
A.M. Shahid criticizes

India's move to revoke articles 35-A and 370, asserting that it aimed to change the dynamics of the occupied valley. He highlights the determination of Kashmiris to achieve their right to selfdetermination despite brutal acts by Indian forces. The former ambassador asserts that the Modi regime, post the August 5 move, has struggled to control the situation.





ISLAMABAD: NDMA coordinated and dispatched the fifth tranche of humanitarian assistance to Gaza