

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Commonwealth Observer Group for General Election H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan along with the delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Best arrangements made to ensure peaceful election, PM Kakar tells international observers

Says now it is the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote; Caretaker government has fulfilled its responsibilities.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Nigeria Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was part of the COG's interaction with various stakeholders ahead of the upcoming general elections on 8th February, 2024. The prime minister welcomed the COG delegation and said that Pakistan was proud to honour

its commitment as a Commonwealth member state by inviting independent international observers to witness the general elections. He also highlighted that the caretaker government had fulfilled its responsibilities to run the day-to-day affairs of the state and create a conducive environment ahead of the elections. Now it was the turn of

the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote, he added. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan thanked the caretaker prime minister and conveyed best wishes of the Commonwealth Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland. He said the COG delegation would be visiting various polling sites throughout the country to observe the election process.

Now it was the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote, he added. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan thanked the caretaker prime minister and conveyed best wishes of the Commonwealth Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland. He said the COG delegation would be visiting various polling sites throughout the country to observe the election process.

## Gohar Ejaz pledges to ensure robust security for upcoming polls-2024

Over 120mln to exercise right of vote to elect representatives: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, on Tuesday expressed his commitment to ensure robust security for upcoming general elections scheduled to be held on February 8. Speaking at a joint press conference, he outlined the government's comprehensive preparations in place for the upcoming elections. The minister was flanked by Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, and Federal Secretary for Interior, Aftab Akbar Durrani. Highlighting the security measures, Dr. Ejaz assured that there would be no compromise on maintaining law and order during the elections. He underscored the collaboration between security agencies and the administra-

tion to prevent any unlawful interference. Dr. Ejaz emphasized the presence of trained commandos in Balochistan and the support of the armed forces in ensuring the safety of the electoral process. Providing an overview of the election preparations, the interior minister shared that out of 90,777 polling stations across the country, 44,000 were declared normal, 29,985 deemed sensitive, and 16,766 labeled as highly sensitive. He reassured the public that security would be deployed in three levels, with 7 to 8 law enforcers stationed at each polling station. Despite concerns and challenges, Dr. Ejaz expressed hope for a "transparent", and peaceful elec-

tion. He urged the public to exercise their right to vote with confidence, acknowledging the dedication of the 511,000-strong police force guarding the polling stations. The minister recounted his visits to Karachi and Balochistan, addressing specific challenges in each region. In Sindh, he noted the absence of enmity between political parties, while in Balochistan, he highlighted the disruptive actions of terrorists tarnishing Pakistan's image. Dispelling rumors surrounding the elections on February 8, Dr. Ejaz clarified that, as of now, no decision had been made to shut down mobile or internet services.

## Nawaz vows to make Pakistan 'Asian Tiger'

KASUR (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif says he will make the country an 'Asian Tiger' as the youth is supporting the former ruling party.

Addressing a rally on the last day of the election campaign in Khudian, the former prime minister said, "If our government were in power, every person here would have a job." "We have to come out of this era; we have to make the country an 'Asian Tiger'. Shehbaz Sharif should utilise this passion for Pakistan and change the country's destiny," said Nawaz. The PML-N leader said that their government would build roads in Khudian better than those in Paris; there should be universities for the youth here, and they should have laptops and computers in their hands.



Nawaz Sharif said that their government would provide jobs to the youth of Khudian. The former prime minister also promised to build stadium in Khudian. He said that he would bring Shehbaz Sharif to inaugurate it, and they would play the opening match in this stadium. He said, "Those who used to say that the youth will get 10 million jobs, where are those jobs and where have the houses gone?"

## Federal Cabinet approves restructuring of PIA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday approved the restructuring of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on the recommendation of the Privatization Division. The cabinet, in its previous meeting approved the appointment of a financial advisor for financial and administrative restructuring of the airlines. The cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was told that the financial advisor had formulated a financial restructuring plan of PIA in line with international precedents under which the airlines will be divided into two companies, Top-Co and Hold-Co. PIA's core operations of engineering, ground handling, cargo, flight kitchen and training will be incorporated into Top-Co while other entities such as Precision Engineering Complex, PIA Investment Limited and others subsidiaries and properties will be incorporated in Hold-Co. These measures will help attract capital investors to PIA.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Lhab Mohamed Hassan Ambassador of Egypt at Naval Headquarters.

## Indian actions in Kashmir constitute 'crimes against humanity': Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Monday termed India's repressive actions in Kashmir as crimes against humanity, and called on the international community to save the Kashmiri people. "The Kashmiris are the most disenfranchised people on the face of the earth; they are victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing," he said at a special event to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington, DC. "We feel the pain of our Kashmiri brothers and sis-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing a press conference, in Islamabad.

## US continuing to monitor Pakistan's electoral process closely: State Dept

ISLAMABAD (APP): With just two days to go for Pakistan's general elections, the United States is continuing to monitor the country's electoral process "quite closely", a State Department spokesperson said Monday. The department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel, said, "We're continuing to monitor Pakistan's electoral process quite closely, and as we have said, we want to see that process takes place in a way that facilitates broad participation with respect for freedom of expression, assembly, and associations." Patel stressed that Pakistanis are entitled to free and fair elections. "Pakistanis deserve to exercise their fundamental right to choose their future leaders through free and fair elections without fear, violence, or intimidation, and it is ultimately for the people of Pakistan to decide their political future," the spokesperson said.

## Egyptian Envoy lauds services of PN for regional peace, stability

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad on Tuesday. The Egyptian Envoy called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during the visit. In the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral collaboration between Pakistan and Egypt came under discussion. Ambassador Dr. Ihab Mohamed lauded the efforts of Pakistan Navy for ensuring peace and stability in the region.

## Security forces kill two terrorists in N. Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (Online): Two terrorists including terrorist ring leader Ayubullah alias Mansoor were killed in an intelligence based operation by security forces in North Waziristan. According to the ISPR, weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities including target killing as well as extortion and abduction of innocent civilians. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist in the area.

## Politics of 'hate' puts country into trouble: Bilawal Bhutto

LARKANA (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Monday old politicians put the country in danger by involving in the politics of hate. He made this remark while addressing an electoral rally. The former foreign minister added that the people of the city have always stood with the Bhutto family. The PPP chief men-

Larkana becomes the prime minister, the country becomes a nuclear power and the country develops by leaps and bounds. "People should give me votes as the country has not seen a Larkana PM for a long time," he added. The PPP chief said the economy suffered immeasurably due to the stubbornness and ego of the old politicians as they have introduced the abuse culture in politics. He said,



"people are well aware who wants to become PM for the fourth time despite getting enough opportunity to provide people the basic necessities."

## ICCPO inaugurates firing range in Security division

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan visited the Diplomatic Enclave and inaugurated the firing range in the Security Division, a public relations officer said. He said that, during the visit, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan interacted with officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police entrusted with the security of the diplomatic enclave and inspected construction

enhancement of security measures at the embassies. Emphasizing the need for effective monitoring on both internal and external routes of the diplomatic enclave, the ICCPO stressed the importance of ensuring effective surveillance through the Safe City centralized camera systems. He further said that the Islamabad Capital Police remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining a peaceful environment and ensuring the protection of the lives and property of



work. On this occasion, the CPO Security Division, SSP Security Division, DG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chinese diplomats were also present. He issued directives to senior officers for the en-



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (Chairman JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, called on Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud during his official visit to KSA.

## CJSC, Saudi Defence Minister discuss strategic issues, defence cooperation

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza called on Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. According to the military's media wing, strategic, security issues and opportunities to enhance defence cooperation between the two brotherly

countries came under the discussion during the meeting. The meeting of Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza with the Saudi Defence Minister was held during his official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in connection with the Second World Defence Show. The CJSC also visited stalls of different organisations from Pakistan and inaugurated Al-Fatah-II Missile stall at the event.

## PTI files review petition in SC against decision on withdrawal of poll symbol

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has filed review petition in Supreme Court (SC) against decision on withdrawing the election symbol of bat from the party. PTI while praying the court to review January 13 decision regarding intra party election requested that Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision be restored. PTI has filed petition seeking review of SC decision on PTI intra party election and symbol of bat. It has been said in the petition that intra party elections were held as per party constitution.



LAHORE: A convoy of army personnel patrols along a road in the city to develop a sense of protection among the masses and maintain law and order situation during the General Election 2024.

## OGRA scales up gas tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): OGRA has scaled up sui gas tariff enormously. Tariff of Sui Northern has been increased by 35.1 percent from February 02 and Sui Southern by 8.5 percent.

OGRA has sent notification on enhancement of tariff to government for implementation. According to notification the average cost of gas has been increased from Rs 1238.68 to Rs 1673.82 per MMBTU on Sui Northern system. Sui Northern has been allowed to recover more Rs 180 billion from consumers.

OGRA has enhanced tariff of Sui Southern by 8.5 percent. The average cost of Sui Southern gas has been increased from Rs 1350.68 to Rs 1466.40 per MMBTU. Sui Northern has been allowed to recover Rs 48 billion more from the consumers. According to notification OGRA failed in getting gas theft ratio reduced from sui gas companies.

## Eight-member Russian poll observers visits ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The eight-member Election Observer Group from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, led by Chairman Andrey Maximov, visited the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to meet with Secretary Dr Syed Asif Hussain and others. Secretary ECP, Syed Asif Hussain, extended a warm welcome to the members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation upon their arrival in Pakistan to observe the elections. The secretary briefed them on the preparations and arrangements made by the commission for conducting the elections in Pakistan.

# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

## Terrorism challenge

The new government that takes over after Thursday's general election will have the briefest of honeymoon periods, with the immediate task of formulating a cogent counterterrorism policy lying before it. Acts of terrorism continue unabated, particularly targeting police and military personnel, as the attack on the Chaudhwan police station in KP's D.I. Khan early on Monday shows. At least 10 police personnel were martyred in the attack, which officials say was launched from multiple directions by over 30 terrorists.

A military check post in nearby Daraban was stormed by militants last December, causing over 20 fatalities. That was apparently the deadliest single attack on military men last year. The Daraban atrocity was claimed by the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan, an alibi used by the banned TTP, which emerged last year.

This particular part of KP, as well as neighbouring areas of Balochistan and Punjab, were beset by terrorist violence throughout 2023. The new administration needs to ensure this grim trend does not continue in the current year. Overall, 2023 was a blood-soaked year, with some figures citing over 1,500 terrorism-related fatalities.

The challenge is two-tiered: to secure Pakistan and ensure no part of the country is available for terrorist outfits to establish themselves, while the other goal must be to prevent militants from creating sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

The new government, together with the security establishment and provincial set-ups, must hammer out a failsafe plan to secure the country, particularly those parts of KP and Balochistan suffering from frequent terrorist attacks.

The basic structure exists in the form of the National Action Plan. The key is to update it as per the requirements of the day, and implement it. Furthermore, dealing with militancy should be a one-window operation, preferably led by Nacta with input from all stakeholders.

As for the issue of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan, the UN has validated Pakistan's concerns about training camps on Afghan soil used by Al Qaeda and the TTP to foment trouble in Pakistan. The Afghan Taliban need to shut down these facilities, or else bilateral ties will suffer. Either the Taliban should stop the attacks or relocate terrorists away from the Pakistani border so that they are not able to spill blood in this country. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson recently remarked that the Afghan Taliban need to "firmly combat all forms of terrorist forces". This is the message that should be communicated from Islamabad, Beijing and all other regional capitals to Kabul's current rulers. Unless the new dispensation in Islamabad tackles terrorism head-on, economic stability and social cohesion will be very difficult to achieve. The security forces should also dedicate all their energies to eliminating the terrorist threat, and protecting the lives of civil and military personnel on the front line.

## Will of the people

Rida Hosain

In his autobiography Friends Not Masters, Ayub Khan wrote "our people are mostly uneducated and our politicians not so scrupulous. The people are capable of doing great things, but they can also be easily misled. Unfettered democracy can, therefore, prove dangerous". As is the case with most dictators, the field marshal held deep disdain for politicians, as well as the judgement of the masses.

This utterly misguided narrative carries on, the essence of which is that the people simply do not know what is good for them.

Historically, those interfering in the democratic process always find a justification, ie, political and economic stability, good governance, peace and order, or the 'genius' of the people. Every supposed 'reason' is a cover for undemocratic interventions, whether overt or covert.

There is no past wrong which justifies the dismantling going on today. The Constitution guarantees that every citizen shall have the right to form or be a member of a political party. The courts have held that the right to form a political party includes the right to function as a political party. In violation of these rights, across provinces, there has been a crackdown on PTI workers. Attempts have been made to disrupt the election campaign of PTI candidates. Even virtual events have been met with internet disruption.

The maintenance of public order laws have been used to keep politicians in custody. In the detailed judgement setting aside various detention orders, Justice Babar Sattar observed that between May and September 2023, the "over-

whelming majority" of detainees were either leaders or members of the PTI. "Of the detention orders that were challenged before Islamabad High Court, not one order has been upheld as having been passed in accordance with law," per Justice Sattar. Not one detention order. Either the deputy commissioner would withdraw the detention order, or the court would set it aside, or the detention period would lapse.

For anyone living in Pakistan this past year, it would be no surprise that the ECP took particular interest in the PTI's intra-party elections. The Peshawar High Court rightly restored PTI's election symbol, and held that the ECP could not question the intra-party election process. Instead of accepting the decision of the Peshawar High Court, the ECP was so determined that it took the matter right up to the Supreme Court.

Then, in a quest to supposedly uphold democracy within political parties, the Supreme Court was seen to undermine the electoral process in the country. It found that PTI failed to hold intra-party elections, and would, therefore, lose its election symbol. The most inexplicable part of this decision was that the law does not expressly contemplate depriving a political party of its election symbol on account of intra-party elections. This decision has done nothing except hurt the ordinary voter. This was not a case about an individual or a political party, it was about the disenfranchisement of millions of voters. Weeks after this regrettable decision, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was entirely correct in holding, "electoral laws must be interpreted in favour of enfranchisement rather than disenfranchisement".

Mere days before the elections, convictions in one case after another are being announced. In the cipher case, Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were denied the right to be represented by the counsel of their choice, and, instead, represented by state counsel. In the Toshakhana reference, the judge closed the right to cross-examine witnesses. At the heart of a fair trial is the right to be represented by the counsel of one's choice, and to properly defend oneself. Hearings have been conducted well past court hours, and the great urgency with which these convictions are being announced is beyond any reasonable justification. It is clear that there has been no fair, impartial process in these cases.

The conviction in the 'unlawful marriage' case manifests the tragic extent of the weaponisation of justice. Unjustifiable aspersions have been cast on a woman's character, and individuals have been forced into a courtroom to defend private decisions they made. The decision attacks the right to dignity, which the Constitution and the Supreme Court distinctly provide is an absolute right. There can be no restrictions on the right to dignity. Those adamant on overriding the will of the people continue with their dismantling, instil fear, mock the voter, and make it seem that it is not worth one's while to exercise their right to vote. But everyone must cast their vote on Feb 8. It is the day the people have a chance to make their voice heard, and for the future of our country, it is something we must all do. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Poll manifestos

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Elections can rejuvenate nations if they are fair, parties present strong ideas and teams to the masses competitively and the winners have a strong mandate to take the country forward. Thursday's polls may be among our most rigged, more so after Imran Khan's dubious convictions last week. Opinion polls suggest a hung assembly. Thus, we may have a rigged and weak new government. This leaves the issue of whether parties have strong ideas and teams.

To convince discerning voters, party manifestos must present an in-depth analysis of why people suffer on account of major issues and the best way of addressing them permanently. In the current scenario, where we face huge economic and security challenges and, with the rest of the world, the impact of climate change, there must be a special focus on these areas. I reviewed the 2024 manifestos of the PTI, PML-N and PPP on such key points. All three were issued days before the elections, reflecting the limited role ideas play in our polls as against catchy slogans and patronage flows. But all are better than their 2018 iterations in terms of length, presentation and coverage. This is especially credible for the PTI, which has the longest and most comprehensive one, despite the state crackdown it faces.

The shortest is the PML-N's, much of it wasted on large Sharif photos. It is bereft of any in-depth analysis of the root causes of our long-term or current problems, jumping straight into sectoral promises. The PTI's and PPP's contain preambles that mention inequities as a root cause

of our problems and reflect on our economic and security problems. As expected, the PTI's reflects heavy religious ideology, but without linking it to concrete policies. The PPP's reflects no ideology despite its pro-poor rhetoric, its socialist origins mixed long ago.

The PPP's is the weakest on concrete economic ideas. It promises the sky on increasing income, social services and housing, and aims to increase investment and tax revenues for this purpose. But it hardly contains any concrete ideas on how it would do so. The other two present more meso-level concrete ideas in some economic areas. The PML-N talks rightly of merging investment, industries and commerce to create a ministry of economy, which must also include planning and IT. The PTI and PML-N both have some concrete proposals for exports, investment, industry, etc. However, they fall short of a new and coherent economic strategy that can remove the threat of default and high inflation to attain sustainable and equitable progress. All three lack strong economic teams to translate ideas into successful strategies. The PTI has lost its capacity due to the crackdown it faces, while PML-N has alienated talent by its family-centric politics.

The three say little on our second biggest threat, insecurity due to terrorism by TTP and Baloch militants, or their root causes such as societal extremism and genuine Baloch complaints. The PPP talks of its Balochistan package that proved inadequate even the last time. But there is little talk by the parties on solving Baloch complaints or talking to Baloch groups or end-

ing societal extremism. On the mother of all our problems — civilian supremacy — the PML-N has removed the mild talk of its 2018 manifesto but now PTI includes it mildly. Our Constitution needs an overhaul as many anomalies have been unearthed in it in recent years. But the three only mention limited changes. Lack of space does not let me review the other areas in their manifestos. Readers must read them to form informed views.

If the larger parties lack strong ideas, what is the alternative? The manifestos of small left-out outfits like the Awami Workers Party, National Democratic Movement and Haqooq-i-Khalq party provide detailed analysis of the root causes of deprivation due to inequities embedded in capitalism. But as small and new parties with limited resources, they need more time to develop concrete ideas and field large numbers of candidates who can win. So, their impact on these polls will be minimal, though I will still vote for them. Readers are encouraged to look more closely at such parties. Thus, we may get a weak and rigged new regime that lacks strong ideas and teams and is heavily dependent on the security establishment and other elites. It will lack the strong links to or mandate from the masses to challenge elites and make fundamental changes in our elite-dominated political and economic order. So, we may go from one weak and rigged hybrid regime to another that adds to our mounting problems and kicks the can further into the future. This cannot go on forever and ultimately there may be a crash landing. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

## Minister inaugurates country's first e-Rozgar Center

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday inaugurated the country's first e-Rozgar Center in collaboration of Excel Consulting Services.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Umar Saif said that with the establishment of the center, the project of setting up 10,000 e-rozgar centers across the country now begun officially. "We have also

fulfilled another promise made to the people, where a significant number from the existing 1.5 million and upcoming new freelancers can work independently at very low rates" the minister said.

He said, the best facilities including high-speed internet, UPS, training centers, individual cabins, meeting rooms and separate office rooms for start-ups had been provided to freelancers. The minister said that with the completion of the



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a group photo with the organizers and participants of the event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif inaugurates Pakistan's First Private Sector E-Rozgaar Center managed by EC Services in association with NTS.

## Zong 4G holds Annual Business Conference to set strategic roadmap for 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): During the Annual Business Conference, focused on the theme "Elevate Core Capabilities, Strive for Excellence," Zong 4G celebrated its notable accomplishments in 2023 and revealed its strategic roadmap for 2024. The Chairman and CEO, Huo Junli praised the employees for their exceptional efforts that resulted in the company's positive growth, creating over 47 million satisfied and happy customers.

Huo Junli reaffirmed that Zong 4G's industry success is attributed to the unwavering commitment and resilience of its employees,

## FESCO to ensure uninterrupted power supply on election day

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has chalked out a plan to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all polling station areas on general elections 2024. FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said on Tuesday the company had set up a monitoring cell at FESCO Headquarters where Chief Executive Officer Engineer Muhammad Amir would monitor all electricity related issues. He said that circle officers and SEs of all circles were issued necessary directions to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across the region on election day.

## 'Safer Internet Day' PTADG stresses public awareness to protect info on digital accounts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Ahmed Shamim Pirzada Tuesday on 'Safer Internet Day' emphasized to create media awareness among the general public for the responsible and safe use of social media platforms.

ensuring a safer internet that meets their educational needs and promotes positive online interactions, adding that the public urged to refrain from clicking on links from unknown numbers as well as unknown senders.

Talking to the PTV news, he said that while acknowledging the digital impact on children, the PTA is dedicated to

"Keeping the digital safe is a shared responsibility, and all the stakeholders need to come together to keep the dialogue alive on creating a safer space for children," he added.

## Pak earns US \$280m from travel services' export in Jul-Nov

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$280.981 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a decrease of 19.03 percent as compared to the US \$347.001 million worth same services provided during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, personal travel services also decreased by 19.80 percent, from US \$344.211 million last year to US \$276.071 million during July-November 2023. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure rose by 372.48 percent while the education-related expenditure increased by 83.25 percent.

## President Alvi directs Postal Life to pay Rs 5 mln to heirs of insurance policyholder

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Tuesday directed Postal Life Insurance to pay the death insurance claim of Rs 5 million to the legal heirs of the deceased policyholder within 30 days.

deceased father had obtained an insurance policy from PLI for the sum assured of Rs 5 million against an annual premium of Rs 448,600 in 2010.

He gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) against the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib directing it to pay the death insurance claim, a President Secretariat press release said.

After his father died in 2015, PLI refused to pay the death insurance claim on the pretext that the deceased had concealed material facts about his date of birth and the pre-insurance ailment of diabetes at the time of obtaining the insurance policy.

As per details, complainant Abdul Aziz's son (complainant) filed a

complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib to seek relief. Wafaqi Mohtasib held that the deceased had purchased the insurance policy as per his date of birth mentioned on CNIC and that PLI had issued the insurance policy after accepting the requisite information.

Afterwards, PLI filed a representation against this decision with the president.

## SBP announces public holiday on February 8

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, Tuesday, announced a public holiday on February 8, 2024 to facilitate voters on the polling day. The central bank, in a statement issued here, stated that SPB will remain closed on February 8, 2024 (Thursday) being a public holiday in the country as notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan to enable the voters to exercise their right of franchise freely and conveniently in General Election, 2024.

## PSX stays bullish, gains 796 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 796.10 points, a positive change of 1.26 per cent, closing at 63,799.02 points against 63,002.92 points the previous trading day. A total of 330,921,598 shares valuing Rs 15,195 billion were traded during the day as compared to 263,547,879 shares valuing Rs. 10,730 billion the last day.

Some 336 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 230 of them recorded gains and 79 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 27 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were PIAC(A) with 47,061,500 shares at Rs.10.84 per share, Oil and Gas Development with 23,123,662 shares at Rs.155.57 per share and Cnergyco PK with 21,272,911 shares at Rs.4.15 per share. Marri Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.77.73 per share price, closing at Rs.2,316.57.

## CM chairs meeting on election preparations, emphasises transparency, security measures

**Independent Report**  
**LAHORE:** Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting at the Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday to discuss election arrangements in the province. Addressing the attendees, Naqvi emphasized that internet and mobile services will remain operational throughout the province on election day without interruption. He instructed for the commencement of city cleaning activities immediately after dawn on February 9, with banners and posters to be removed from all areas by the end of the day. Secretaries concerned were tasked with monitoring the

removal process and reporting the completion of the task by evening on February 9. Highlighting the importance of transparency, Naqvi urged district administrative officers to actively oversee election duties in the field. He noted the installation of 32,000 CCTV cameras at polling stations and emphasized the need to complete the installation by midnight. Naqvi commended the Punjab government for saving 1 billion rupees in the procurement of CCTV cameras.

of control rooms and the establishment of an efficient complaint redressal mechanism. He stressed that ensuring peaceful and fair elections is a national responsibility, urging everyone to work together as a team. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Punjab, Inspector General Police, Provincial Election Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary, Interior Secretary, Secretaries from Local Government, Transport, Finance, CCPO, MD Punjab Safe Cities Authority, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner, and other officials.



**LAHORE:** Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Anwar Chauhan addressing a press briefing in the Provincial Election Office.

## MS chairs meeting regarding general election arrangements

**HYDERABAD (APP):** The Medical Superintendent (MS) of Liaquat University Medical Superintendent Hyderabad Jamsoro has said that regarding the general elections 2024 to be held across the country. Addressing the meeting with In-charges of different departments he said that on the directives of the Director General Health Hyderabad circular has been issued regarding cancellation holidays of all civil

hospitals Hyderabad and Jamsoro doctors, paramedical and nursing staff including other employees of the hospital have been immediately cancelled. Action will also be taken against the staff who are late on duty.

MS Dr Shahid Islam Junejo directed the In-charges of all the departments present in the meeting and said that they should ensure the presence of all the necessary equipment in the accident.

## CS, IGP inspect polling arrangements in Haripur

**PESHAWAR (APP):** To ensure the peaceful conduct of general election, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP, Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Monday paid a visit to Haripur district. On the occasion DPO Haripur, Muhammad Umar Khan, DC Haripur, Khan Muhammad, SP Investigation Haripur, Amjad Hussain and district officers were present on the occasion, said an official press release.

The Chief Secretary and IGP paid a visit to the polling station established at Post Graduate College Haripur and inspected the security arrangements.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administration to ensure a peaceful atmosphere and conduct of free, fair and transparent polling on the election day.



**LAHORE:** Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi being presented "Karpan" by representative of Sikh Community during his visit to Kartarpur.

## CM KP chairs meeting Cabinet takes number of decisions pertaining to issues of day-to-day affairs of Province

**Independent Report**  
**PESHAWAR:** The Caretaker Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met here Tuesday afternoon under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Syed Arshad Hussain Shah took a large number of decisions pertaining to the issues of day-to-day affairs of the Province and of urgent nature.

The meeting was actively participated by the cabinet members, the Chief Secretary and administrative secretaries of

the Province. The cabinet approved the hiring of transactional Advisor / Legal Consultant for negotiations of agreements regarding private public partnerships with different entities and in this regard authorized the office of Advocate General of the Province.

It approved exemption from section 22-A of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act 2012 enabling the Provincial Culture and Tourism Depart-

ment to out-source the PTDC properties under Public Private Partnership mode. As a result of 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 2010 Federal Ministry of Tourism having been devolved to the provinces, 19 different properties of PTDC were handed over to the Tourism Department of the Province. The outsourcing of these properties to local and international investors will be made under the guidance of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

## Dr Jamal inaugurates renovation work of BBH nursing college

**Independent Report**  
**RAWALPINDI:** Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday said that Rs 65 million would be spent on the renovation of the Nursing Hostel while revamping the College of Nursing would be completed at the cost of Rs 40 mln.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the renovation of the Nursing Hostel and College of Nursing at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH). Dr Jamal said that the College of Nursing would be

## ANF recovers 724 kg drugs in 11 operations

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations recovered 724 kg drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 746 grams hashish was recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah from Islamabad Airport.

91 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Dubai from Islamabad Airport.

159 grams hashish was recovered from two passengers going to China at Karachi Airport.

## Mohsin Naqvi visits Kartarpur Corridor

**LAHORE (APP):** Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the Kartarpur Corridor and explored various artifacts related to Baba Gurunanak Dev Ji.

Provincial ministers, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, and senior officers, also accompanied the CM. They were received and warmly welcomed by prominent members of the Sikh community at Gurudwara Sahib, said a handout issued here.

During his visit, the chief minister received a briefing on Gurudwara Sahib Kartarpur and participated in the prayer ceremony, also taking time to observe

the historical well. He was honored and presented with a 'kirpan', and interacted with members of the Sikh community from India, including Lalita Baba Gurunanak Dev Ji. Aggarwal from Delhi, who expressed gratitude for the facilities provided to the Sikh community in Punjab.

Posing for photographs with the Sikh community, the CM extended compassion towards a special person, engaging in a lengthy conversation. He made a special visit to the 'Langar Hall', where he dined with the Sikh community, commending the quality of the food and personally rewarding the cooks.



**MIRO KHAN:** Peoples Party (PPP) Candidate for PS-15 Constituency, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro addresses to gathering during a corner meeting as a part of election campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Miro Khan.

## Preparations complete for general elections in Punjab: Ijaz Chohan

**LAHORE (APP):** Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Punjab Ijaz Anwar Chohan said on Tuesday that all preparations had been finalized for general elections in Punjab.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that printing of ballot papers had been completed and delivered to all district returning officers in the province.

He said that on February 7, the returning officers would ensure the receiving of election material, including ballot

papers, by the presiding officers, besides polling stations' readiness.

He said that security, communication and transport plans had been chalked out for the elections, adding that police and army personnel would perform duties to maintain law and order at polling stations.

He emphasized the Election Commission's commitment to fulfilling its constitutional obligations, highlighting ongoing efforts to enhance the electoral process.

# International News

## Blinken seeks progress on Gaza cease-fire-for-hostages deal in meetings with Egyptian mediators

**Monitoring Desk**  
**CAIRO:** U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Cairo on Tuesday for a meeting with Egyptian mediators that U.S. officials said would concentrate on negotiating a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war in exchange for the release of hostages held by the militants.

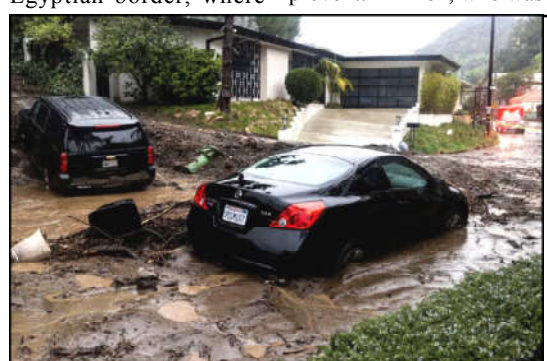
more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have sought refuge and are now living in increasingly miserable conditions. U.N. humanitarian monitors said Tuesday that Israeli evacuation orders now cover two-thirds of Gaza's territory, driving thousands more people every day toward the border areas.

meeting Tuesday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, has said repeatedly that Palestinians must not be forced out of Gaza. During his latest trip, Blinken is seeking progress on a cease-fire deal, on potential normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and on preventing an escalation of regional fighting.

On all three fronts, Blinken faces major challenges. Hamas and Israel are publicly at odds over key elements of a potential truce. Israel has dismissed the United States' calls for a path to a Palestinian state, and Iran's militant allies in the region have shown little sign of being deterred by U.S. strikes.

Blinken's visit also comes amid growing concerns in Egypt about Israel's stated intentions to expand the combat in Gaza to areas on the Egyptian border that are crisscrossed with displaced Palestinians.

Israel's defense minister has said Israel's offensive will eventually reach the town of Rafah, on the Egyptian border, where



**Rain falls over cars stuck by a mudslide, caused by an ongoing rain storm in Studio City, California.**

## Britain's King Charles diagnosed with cancer: Buckingham Palace

**Monitoring Desk**  
**LONDON:** Britain's King Charles has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and the 75-year-old will postpone public-facing duties while he undergoes treatment, Buckingham Palace said on Monday.

Charles spent three nights in the hospital last month where he underwent a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate.

The palace said a separate issue of concern was spotted during the hospital visit but did not give any further details beyond saying the king had a "form of cancer". A royal source said that it was not prostate cancer. "His majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties."

Charles, who became king in September 2022 following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, is "wholly positive" about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible, the palace said.

## UN chief sets up body to probe Israeli allegations

**Monitoring Desk**  
**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres established an independent body on Monday to scrutinize allegations regarding neutrality of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Guterres, in consultation with UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzerini, has assigned the leadership of this crucial review to Catherine Colonna, a former foreign affairs minister of France. The panel will collaborate with three reputable research organizations—the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden, the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Norway, and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In a statement released in New York, the UN chief emphasised the importance of this review, stating, "The Review Group's mandate is to assess whether the Agency is doing everything within its power to ensure neutrality and to respond to allegations of serious breaches when they are made."



**U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Lusail Palace, in Doha, Qatar.**

## Two-state solution only path to peace, Scholz tells Netanyahu

**Monitoring Desk**  
**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a phone call on Monday that a two-state solution with the Palestinians was the only path to lasting peace in the region.

"From the view of the government, only a negotiated two-state solution would open up the prospect of a sustainable solution to the Middle East conflict. This must apply to both Gaza and the West

Bank," Scholz said, according to a statement issued by his spokesman.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with his counterpart from the UAE Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Russia said on Monday.

The presidents discussed the situation around Ukraine and Gaza and agreed on the "further development of friendly relations".

## Police shoot dead two 'terrorists' outside Istanbul court: minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
**ISTANBUL:** Turkish police on Tuesday shot dead a man and a woman belonging to a leftist "terrorist" organisation who attacked a security checkpoint outside Istanbul's main courthouse, injuring six people, officials said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the assailants were members of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C)—a fringe leftist group that has staged periodic attacks in Turkey since the 1980s. The group issued no

initial claim of responsibility. "While the terrorists who attempted to attack were neutralised, six people, including three police officers and three citizens, were injured," Yerlikaya said in a social media statement.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said "heroic police officers prevented a treacherous attack", adding that prosecutors had launched a "multi-faceted investigation". Images from the scene showed two bodies lying on the ground outside the main entrance of the Caglayan courthouse.

## Over 100 Palestinians martyred by Israeli forces in Gaza

**GAZA (Online):** More than one hundred Palestinians have been martyred in unabated Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip during the last twenty-four hours. According to medical sources, thousands of civilians are buried under the rubble, but the Israeli forces are blocking access of ambulance crews and civil defense teams attempting to reach them. They said that the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip had resulted in the deaths.

## UK-owned cargo ship damaged in drone attack off Yemen

**DUBAI (INP):** A British-owned cargo ship was damaged in a drone attack off rebel-held Yemen, a maritime security firm said on Tuesday, the latest in dozens of incidents in the Red Sea.

The Barbados-flagged ship "reportedly incurred minor damage on the port side" in an attack west of Hodeida, British firm Ambrey said, adding that there were no injuries.

## 8 dead, 80 injured in India fireworks factory explosion: officials

**Monitoring Desk**  
**NEW DELHI:** At least eight people died and 80 were injured on Tuesday in a giant explosion at a fireworks factory in India that saw balls of flames soar into the sky, officials said.

Footage on Indian television showed a tower of flame after the explosion at the firecracker plant, with dozens of ambulances and army helicopters called in to evacuate the wounded.

Senior district police official Rajeshwari Mahobia told AFP there were "eight deaths so far and around 80 injured", at the factory in Harda in Madhya Pradesh state, adding that "the death toll is likely to go up".

Images from the factory site showed a wasteland of blackened and smoking rubble.

**Madhya Pradesh**

## Ukraine's Donetsk region pounded by up to 2,500 Russian strikes daily - governor

**Monitoring Desk**  
**DONETSK REGION:** Russia is firing between 1,500 and 2,500 shells and rockets at Ukraine's war-ravaged Donetsk region every day and is targeting critical infrastructure to make it harder for people to remain there in winter, its governor told Reuters.

The eastern province, 57% of which is occupied by Russia, has been at the forefront of war since 2014, when Russian-backed proxies seized the region's capital city, also called Donetsk, as well as many other large towns.

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022, this has been where many of the war's most vicious and protracted battles have occurred.

"The enemy shells (the region) from 1,500 to 2,500 times a day," Governor Vadym Filashkin said in an interview on Friday, adding he believed Moscow was still aiming to capture the entire region.

"The enemy's shelling is this dense, this heavy, almost every day."

The governor said the Kurakhovo power plant, one of the region's few remaining large-scale sources of electricity generation, had been forced to close a week ago due to Russian shelling. He said this was part of a wider campaign.

"The enemy is trying to destroy critical infrastructure objects so that people find it difficult to remain in the region in winter."

Filashkin said the town of Avdiivka, home to the largest coking plant in Europe and the target of a massive Russian assault since October last year, was "95-98% gone." "The enemy dropped about 200 guided aerial bombs on Avdiivka alone over the (last month). They are totally destroying it," he said.

Local authorities say the number of civilians in the town has dwindled to less than 1,000.

# Mushaal highlights India's role for regional instability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has highlighted India's role in regional instability, attributing it as a major obstacle to economic progress within the region.

She was addressing an event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) held in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day. The event was also addressed by President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawar, Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed, Vice President ICCI Engr. Azhar-Ul-Islam Zafar and many other dignitaries.

Focal person to SAPM Sabien Hussein Mullick and members of the executive committee of ICCI also attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, SAPM appreciated the unwavering support of Pakistan's business community for the just and noble cause of the Kashmiri people.

Raising concerns over India's engagement in gross human rights violations and atrocities against innocent

civilians living in IIOJK, she said that the implementation of oppressive laws by India has created serious problems for the people of IIOJK. She lamented the silence of the world leaders regarding the deteriorating situation in IIOJK and Palestine, despite widespread global public support for the oppressed populations.

SAPM also highlighted her recent meeting with the Ambassador of South Africa, in which she commended his country's principled stance on Israel's ongoing negative role against Palestinians. She lauded the efforts of the Ambassador for inviting global attention to human rights issues through International Court of Justice.

She urged the international community to similarly address India's genocidal actions in IIOJK.

She criticized the Modi's authoritarian tactics for unjustly incarcerating Kashmiri political leaders under fabricated charges. The SAPM said that despite court orders mandating their appearance, the Kashmiri leadership was being unlawfully denied physical access to the courts and prevented from

being represented by legal counsel.

Mushaal described RSS as a parallel state within India, propagating Hindutva policies and expanding its terrorist network around the world. She shed light on RSS terror operations in various countries including the US, Canada, UK, and Australia. She urged the world community to designate RSS as a terrorist organization and impose economic and financial sanctions to dismantle its transcontinental terror activities. She said that BJP led mob of Hindu extremists martyred 500-year-old Babri Masjid. She further stated that building Ram Mandir on the site of Babri Masjid was part of Modi's plan to erase Muslim heritage from India.

Mushaal appreciated the establishment district level Kashmir committees and Kashmir centres in different universities across Pakistan and AJK. The event concluded with a reminder to the United Nations and the international community to address the longstanding Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed DG FIA Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

# A new era of enhanced learning experiences awaits students in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a commendable effort towards enhancing the educational landscape, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Memon, on Sunday paid a comprehensive visit to various schools alongside Special Secretary Education, Mohiuddin Wani.

As government schools in the federal capital undergo a transformative journey, led by the vision of DC Irfan Memon and supported by the Ministry of Education, a new era of enhanced learning experiences awaits students.

This concerted effort reflects a commitment to providing a modern and conducive environment for education in the heart of the capital. The ICT spokesman while talking to APP said that the focal point of their visit was to assess the progress of the ongoing upgradation process in government schools across the city. Under the vigilant leadership of DC Irfan Nawaz Memon, a remarkable initiative is underway to elevate the standard of government schools in Islamabad.

The primary objective

of this upgradation endeavor is to create an optimal learning environment for students. During their school visits, Memon and Wani keenly reviewed the advancements being made in equipping these educational institutions with modern facilities.

He said that an essential aspect of the initiative is the concerted effort to construct government schools in alignment with contemporary standards.

The DC expressed his commitment to ensuring that these institutions meet modern requirements.

# CDWP recommends Rs 23.8b project for automated indus basin irrigation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), has recommended Rs 23.8 billion project for automated Indus Basin Irrigation system.

The CDWP was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

Currently, the Indus Basin Irrigation water management system operates on manual procedures. Decisions regarding water distribution rely on manual calculations at barages and information obtained through traditional means like phone or fax. The absence of automated monitoring system has led to a situation where gate positions are unknown, causing control issues for provincial irrigation departments and potential inter-provincial disputes.

The CDWP discussed vital projects related to the energy, transport and communication, and water resource sectors. The forum also recommended the revised PC-1 titled Installation of Telemetry System for Real Time Discharge Monitoring at 27 key sites on Indus Basin Irrigation system, presented by the Ministry of Water Resources with a total cost of Rs. 23,834.707 million, to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration.

Indus Basin Irrigation system is proposed to be financed through PSDP. Rs.500 million would be

To address these challenges, IRSA plans to install state-of-the-art telemetry equipment at 27 key locations.

# 275 women to contest upcoming elections on general seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the upcoming general elections, 275 women from various political parties will be contesting on the general seats.

elective offices, including membership of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and Provincial Assemblies, through a transparent and democratic procedure.

"111 political parties have nominated 275 women candidates to contest the upcoming elections on general seats, making up for 4.6 percent of the total of 6,037 candidates they have fielded", Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) said in a statement.

According to Section 206 of the Elections Act, 2017 (Selection for Elective Offices), each political party is required to ensure at least five percent representation of women candidates while selecting candidates for general seats for

Out of 111 political parties, 30 parties have fielded five or more than five percent women on general seats, while four political parties have fielded between 4.50 and 4.99 percent of women candidates on general seats (that is statistically rounded-up to five percent), and the remaining 77 have fielded up to 4.50 percent women candidates on general seats.

# IHC orders for not harassing PTI candidates, workers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered not to harass PTI workers and candidates.

The petition seeking court orders for allowing PTI nominated candidates to run election campaign and restraining the police from harassing them came up for hearing before IHC Wednesday. The petitions filed by Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bokhari advocate were heard in single bench of IHC led by the Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq. CJ IHC Aamir Farooq issued orders on these petitions.

During the hearing of the case the lawyer Shoaib Shaheen told the court po-

lice lifts our supporters and says them to quit PTI. Our workers are being asked to join some other party. Shoaib Shaheen said they say to us by telephone that if we hold public meeting then case will be registered against us.

The lawyer Ali Bokhari told the court what election and public meeting were to be held these have been held. Today is last day and our polling agents are being intimidated through telephone calls.

Counsel for Election Commission (EC) said EC took the action on all the applications on the very day these were received therein.

# Bushra Bibi resorts to IHC against declaring home in Bani Gala as sub jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) against declaring home of PTI founder Imran Khan in Bani Gala as sub jail.

Bushra Bibi has requested in the petition that notification issued on January 31, 2024 on declaring Khan House sub jail be annulled. Orders be issued to transfer Bushra Bibi from Khan House Bani Gala to Adiala jail.

She has taken plea in the petition Bushra Bibi was awarded 14 years sentence on January 31 in

Toshakhana reference.

Bushra Bibi reached Adiala jail and presented herself for arrest.

Bushra Bibi reached Adiala jail at 10 a.m and informed superintendent jail she has come to present herself for arrest. Bushra Bibi was asked to stay in waiting room from 10.am to 9 p.m. At 9 p.m Bushra Bibi was asked she was being shifted to some other jail. It was further said in the application that no request was made by Bushra Bibi for declaring Khan House sub jail and shifting her to

# Barley, powerhouse recommended by medical experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Medical experts from the Punjab Medical Council endorse barley as an essential food supplement, highlighting its numerous health benefits. Speaking to a private news channel, medical experts emphasized the importance of incorporating barley into the diet as a versatile and nutritious food source.

Experts recommended barley products such as flour, bread, porridge, water, and sat as alternatives to wheat flour, offering a range of nutrients crucial for human health.

# Over 96,290 lives lost in IIOJK as Intl silence prolongs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir is marred by decades of killings, arrests, disappearances and crackdowns at the hands of Indian occupation forces in a bid to crush the Kashmiri people's persistent struggle for right to self-determination, guaranteed by the United Nations.

A comprehensive report released by the Kashmir Media Service, on Tuesday, removes the lid from the gravity of the deepening human rights crisis in the occupied territory. The figures speak volumes, with more than 96,290 Kashmiris, spanning across generations, having lost

their lives since the eruption of the ongoing phase of resistance against India's illegal occupation in 1989.

The report sheds light on the relentless Indian state terrorism that continues to plague the territory. Atrocities, torture, cordon and search operations, house raids, and harassment have become a harrowing norm, rendering the lives of Kashmiris in a perpetual state of tragedy and trauma.

The situation has worsened since August 5, 2019, when the Modi-led Hindutva Indian government violated international laws by dividing IIOJK into two union territories and imposing a military siege.

# IHC stops FIA from taking action against Aleema till next hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped FIA to take action against Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder Imran Khan till next hearing.

Chief Justice (CJ) Aamir Farooq heard two petitions of Aleema Khan on Tuesday.

FIA cyber crimes and Anti Terrorism wing had issued separate notices.

Sheeraz Ranjiah advocate appeared in the court on behalf of Aleema Khan.

The hearing of the case was adjourned till next week.

# Cold wave to grip upper parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cold wave will continue gripping upper parts of the country during the next 24 hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

"Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country while very cold in upper parts", the PMD said.

However, rain wind-thunderstorms with snow-fall over mountains are expected at isolated places in northeast Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan.

Cold waves are likely in upper Punjab during the evening/night.

Shallow fog is likely to persist at isolated places in plain areas of Punjab during morning hours.

As per the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country.

A shallow westerly wave was likely to affect north-eastern parts of Balochistan and southern Punjab in the next 24 hours.



ISLAMABAD: People stands at a bus station at Faizabad in the Federal Capital due to travelling their home towns for cast their votes during general holiday for general election 2024 head on 28 Feb in all over the country.

# Public complainants ECP' 24 hours central control room service to monitor polls, helpline 111-327-000: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Additional Director General (DG) of Election Commission of Pakistan, Haroon Shinwari Tuesday said that the ECP is fully confident and prepared for the peaceful conduct of elections, and safe delivery of polling materials where 24-hour central control room service will address public grievances on priority. Talking to a private news channel, he said that district-level central control rooms have been set up for strict monitoring of the elec-

tion process and redress of grievances, adding, these control rooms will continue to function till the results of the elections are declared and the officers in the central control room will monitor the election process along with the monitoring team. He said that the control room will maintain communication with relevant personnel and stakeholders, including preliminary findings, Returning Officers and District Return Officers.

He said apart from

WhatsApp, the complaints can be submitted through email at [com-plaints@ecp.gov.pk](mailto:com-plaints@ecp.gov.pk), or the dedicated helpline 111-327-000.

The Election Commission has also been issuing warning notices to several candidates for violating the electoral code of conduct, he said, adding, the district monitoring teams appointed by the Election Commission in the provinces and federal capital Islamabad are also performing duties actively.

# World urged to pay attention towards Kashmiris' sufferings

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a Kashmir Solidarity Symposium have underlined the urgent need for global attention and support towards sufferings faced by the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The symposium, organized to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was hosted by the Jammu Kashmir Peace & Justice Organization in Muzaffarabad, according to press statement received here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Jammu Kashmir Peace & Justice Organization, Tanveer-ul-Islam expressed profound gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan and peace-loving individuals worldwide for their solidarity with the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Observing Kashmir Solidarity Day every year

on February 5 is a potent reminder of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri cause," he said, highlighting the day's significance in sending a resolute message of support to Kashmiris across the Line of Control.

The historical roots of the Kashmir conflict, dating back to the partition of British India in 1947, were outlined by Tanveer.

He lamented on decades of tension, wars, and human rights violations and unfulfilled promise of a plebiscite mandated by United Nations Security Council resolutions in 1948 and 1949.

He highlighted the importance of beeping up support for Kashmir cause through diplomatic channels, calling for practical assistance to address the humanitarian crisis in the disputed region.



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) installed party symbol 'Lion' on his vehicle during an election campaign rally last day of campaign, at a road in the Federal Capital.

# Traffic plan during general elections for Capital finalized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent Report to the details, a meeting was held at traffic headquarters regarding traffic arrangements for the general elections 2024, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during the meeting the traffic arrangements for general elections 2024 were reviewed and the traffic plan for Islamabad was finalized.

During the meeting, all zonal DSPs were directed to ensure the implementation of traffic laws in the Federal Capital Islamabad, and also ensure the strict legal action against those who violate traffic laws in order to protect citizens from accidents.

To improve the flow of traffic in the city on the day of general elections, special measures should be taken to ensure the implementation of traffic rules so that all possible travel facilities are available to the citizens.

Adequate parking arrangements should be arranged outside the polling stations. All the officers and officials were instructed to perform their duties diligently.

The zonal in-charge will be responsible for their beat and strict departmental action will be taken against those who show negligence and dereliction of duty.

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