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President lauds high

female voter turnout

in general elections

crunch, to make difficult

decisions, to repair, and to

heal the bitterness of the

past. We must celebrate

this effervescent new focus

and show it to the outside

brilliant future has been

strengthened as the people

have not only spoken but

have shouted out their

"Nothing can crystallise unless this huge

mandate of my citizens is

respected and recognized.

Politicians, their parties,

and our institutions must

embrace this God sent opportunity. Allah is defi-

nitely very gracious to Pa-

kistan. Come rise my

sults of the general elec-

tion conveyed to the re-

spective assemblies offi-

ments would be dissolved

when the elected Prime

Minister and Chief Minis-

ters would take oaths of

their positions, he added.

rior had responded to the

The caretaker govern-

The Ministry of Inte-

"My confidence in our

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Sun-

day congratulated people

on taking part in the voting process during the general

said he must congratulate the people of Pakistan,

specially the women for

coming out in huge numbers and strengthening democ-

racy.
"The youth deserve a

special mention, and I praise them for having de-

cided to take charge of the

country by participating peacefully in the voting pro-cess. They have put their faith in democracy. This

belief is very precious, it will write history and must

In a statement on X, he

elections.



LAHORE: President PML (N) Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meeting with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party

Independents grab 101 NA seats

PML-N emerges as largest party with 75 seats

dependent candidates have Awami Party, Balochistan two each. emerged as the front-runners with winning 101 National Assembly seats in the General Election 2024 held Z) have won one seat each. on February 8.

The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) becomes the single largest party in the NA by grabbing 75 constituencies, according to the unofficial results of 264 out of 266 constituencies announced by on February 15. In the Elections in two out of the Election Commission Punjab Assembly, out of total 115 KP Assembly of Pakistan (ECP).

Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) has secured 54 seats, and Muttahida Qaumi Labaik Pakistan one each, Movement-Pakistan while the election for PP-(MQM-P) 17 seats.

The Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) has managed to win four, the Pakistan Muslim League of the 130 Sindh Assembly Party four, National Party (PML) three, and the seats withheld due to re-three, Awami National Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Balochistan Na- stations, the PPPP leads the National Party, Balochistan tional Party (BNP) two chart by winning 84 seats, National Party (Awami), seats each. The Majlis-e-followed by the MQM-P Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Paki- with 28, independent can- and JI-P one each. Indepenstan, Pakhtunkhwa Na- didates 13, and the Grand dent candidates also Party,

Awami Party (BAP), National Party and Pakistan

Muslim Loggie 75 (DM) Muslim League-Zia (PML-

sults of NA-88 were not announced as re-polling would be conducted at 15 Pakistan (ECP). 297 seats, independents se-The Pakistan Peoples cured 138, PML-N 137, PPPP 10, PML eight, and IPP, of candidates, while the re-PML-Z, and Tehreek-e-266 Rahim Yar Khan could

> candidate's death. Democratic Alliance and

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan

independent candidates have grabbed 90 seats out Elections for an NA of 112 constituencies general seat (NA-8) were whose results have been postponed due to the death declared. The JUI-P seof a candidate, while the re- cured seven seats, PML-N five, PPPP four, JI-P three, Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf Parliamentarian two and

constituencies have been postponed due to the death sult of one was withheld due to vandalism. In the the Balochistan Assembly, the PPPP and the JUI-P lead not be conducted due to a the tally with 11 seats each, followed by PML-N with With the results of one 10, Balochistan Awami

be recognized," he added. He said, "A true manpeople, unite, put everything together, repair and date is essential to come out build. The world awaits of the severe financial you," he concluded Caretaker govt fulfills its constitutional responsibility by holding polls: Solangi grabbed six seats. speakers would call sessions of all the assemblies Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting as soon as the official re-

and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said the government had fulfilled its constitutional responsibility by holding free, fair and transparent elections in a peaceful man-Speaking in a TV talk

show on private media, the minister said the caretaker government had extended all-out facilitation to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the polls.

The results of the elections were a testament to the transparency of the

elections, he added. To a query, Solangi said there was a procedure

for the transfer of power under the constitution and

queries about the suspension of mobile service on election day, he said, adding the citizens' lives were of paramount importance for the state. There were threats to

the citizens and polling staff, he said in response to another query. "It was important for us to ensure that there was no hindrance to the people's mobility on the election day.

He said the incumbent **Capital Police enhances** security measures in **High Security Zone**



Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police heightened the security measures in the High Security Zone aimed to swiftly respond to any untoward incidents, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Police has bolstered its efforts to intensify checking on entry and exit routes, ensuring a proactive approach to maintaining security and promptly handling any disruptive

situations

Moreover, the Capital Police remains vigilant and ready to address any potential disruptions. In case of any unlawful activities, legal actions will be taken promptly, underscoring the importance of adhering to

Respect for the law is imperative for everyone. All measures are being taken to ensure the safety of citizen life and property, along with maintaining the overall se-

curity of the city. Citizens are requested to dial"Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 App" regarding any suspicious per-

PML-N, PPP agree to cooperate for Pak stability

Leadership of both parties express commitment to putting nation's interest and well-being above everything

stability following the general elections. This understanding between the parties was reached

during a high-profile meeting, where top leaders from both parties convened to discuss the current political landscape and chart a course for collaboration. The meeting, which took place at Lahore's Bilawal

House, saw the participation of key figures including PPP President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, and former prime minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif of the PML-N. According to a joint statement, the meeting, held in a

cordial environment, expressed commitment to putting

LAHORE (Agencies): The leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) held a crucial meeting in Lahore as the elders of both parties principally agreed to cooperate for Pakistan's and the imperative of collaborative efforts for the betterment of the country.
Reflecting a spirit of consensus-building, the leaders

acknowledged the importance of establishing a framework for sustained political cooperation between the PML-N and PPP, laying the groundwork for a stronger, more united approach to addressing the challenges facing

The statement added that key points of discussion included the assessment of Pakistan's overall situation, deliberations on future political strategies, and the exchange of recommendations aimed at promoting stability



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, representing Pakistan, in a group photo with other delegates during the 7th Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue. Pakistan is the current Chair of Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

Five NA, two PA independent candidates join PML-N

LAHORE (INP): Newly-'elected' seven independent candidates of National and -Nawaz (PML-N)

Independent candidates Raja Khurram Nawaz from NA-48, Barrister Aqeel Malik from NA-54, Pir Zahoor Hussain Qureshi from NA-146, Sardar Shamshir Mazari from NA 189 and Barrister Mian Khan Bugti from NA-253 announced joining the

Similarly, Khurram Wark from PP-48 and Muhammad Sohail from PP-240 also joined the PML-N.

Barrister Aqeel in video message congratulated his supporters and said his seat belonged to Nawaz Sharif, adding, " congratulate our leadership Mian Nawaz Sharif, Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz.'

Raja Khurram Nawaz said he joined the PMLN for the stability of Pakistan and said he would be the part of the new government.

PTI workers stage sit-in outside RO office Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insat (PTI) backed candidate of NA 47, Barrister Shoaib Shaheen Sunday staged a sit-in outside the Returning Officer (RO) office Islamabad, demanding transparency in the electoral process.

Accompanied by his supporters and party workers, Shaheen staged demonstration outside the office to register protest against alleged rigging in the Feb 8

The demonstration which unfolded outside the RO office, witnessed chants and slogans against the retuning officer's alleged discrepancies in the electoral

Shaheen, along with party workers, highlighted the importance of fair and impartial elec-

They observed that sit-in was staged in reaction as the Islamabad police did not allow them to stage a peaceful demonstration.

However, the sit-in also faced opposition from Islamabad police. A heavy contingent of police was also deployed outside the RO office. The police also took the prisoner van out side the RO office.

Malicious propaganda about Pakistan Army stands exposed

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The fabricated and malicious propa-

duty has been exposed. According to the details, some miscreant political elements are misguiding their supporters for political gains and after inciting the security troops, deployed for elections duty, recording videos of riots and anti-army propaganda on social media

Similarly, from the Elections Day till today, various anonymous propaganda accounts have been creating chaos and agitation in the country.

By spreading lies, propaganda disinformation, these antinational elements aim to create chaos and instability in

Provincial Assemblies ganda related to the army YouTubers, sitting outside joined Pakistan Muslim deployment on election the country, are leading this anti-Pakistan disinformation campaign. Such malicious elements who are engaged in this propaganda on social media are being identified and the relevant institutions have started work to take strict disciplinary action against them as per the law. It is pertinent to men-

tion that according to the notification of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Ministry of Interior, troops of the Army and Civil Armed Forces are required to provide security outside the offices of ROs until the election process is completed.



ers of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) who came to protest against rigging in General Election 2024, at Liberty Chowk in Lahore.

U.S lawmakers tell Biden not to accept Pakistan election results

WASHINGTON (INP): Both Democratic and Republican politicians in the United States have urged President Biden not to accept Pakistan election results until the investigation of alleged regularities. Claims of interference

or fraud should be fully investigated "a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department stated in a statement, voiced worries on the interference in the election pro-

"We join credible international and local election observers in their assessment that these elections included undue restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly," the statement

Congressman Brad Sherman, a prominent member of the influential House of Foreign Affairs Committee stated that" press organizations in Pakistan ought to have liberty to disclose vote tallying and there should not be any needless postponement in declaring the outcome".

Rashida Talib a congresswoman said that we must stand with the Pakistani people because their democracy is seriously at risk. In addition to that the U.S. must make sure the tax monies don't go to anyone who undermines their right to freely choose their lead-

They should be able to do so without intervention or meddling. Another congresswoman Ilhasn Omar asked the State Department that there should be independent bodies who conduct investigations regarding the alleged interference in the electoral process until they refrain from recog-

nizing the results. She further said that I am deeply troubled by the news of meddling and interference in the election



PESHAWAR: President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan alongwith other party leaders addressing a Press conference at Bacha Khan Markaz.

Daesh ring leader killed in **Khyber operation: ISPR**

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Sunday killed a high-profile terrorist ring leader, associated with the banned extremist organization Daesh, in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Khyber District. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the security forces conducted the operation in the Khyber District on the reported presence of terrorist Surat Gul alias Saif Ullah of Daesh, who was killed durfire. Weapons, ammunition rorism," the ISPR said.

and explosives were recov ered from the killed terrorist commander, who remained actively involved in terror activities, including target killing of innocent civilians as well as extortion. He was highly wanted by the law enforcement

agencies. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support for the security forces to ing an intense exchange of eliminate the menace of ter-

Barrister Gohar warns against defections, affirms commitment to electoral integrity

ISLAMABAD (INP): Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, a senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has strongly reacted to the decision of PTI-backed independent Member of the National Waseem Qadir, to join the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Assembly, He further asserted that

In his statement, Khan emphasized that all independent candidates supported by the PTI have remained in contact with the party. He clarified that there had been no communication with Waseem Qadir regarding his decision

to join the PML-N. The PTI leader cautioned against the consequences of changing loyalties after benefiting from someone's support, citing the fate of those who had done so in the past.

the people had rejected leaders like Mehmood Khan and Pervez Khattak. He emphasized that the PTI did not coerce anvone into submitting affidavits or resignations, expressing concern over the possibility of some individuals switching alle-

FO rejects reports regarding killing of 9

Pakistanis in Iran ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has rejected the news reports regard-ing the killing of nine Pakistani nationals in Iran.

In a post on social media platform X, she termed the news as fake and recycling of old news of the tragic death of nine Pakistani nationals in Iran last month.

Six people including an ASI killed in firing between two groups in Larkana

.AMABAD (APP): Six people were killed and five injured on Sunday in a firing incident between two groups near Nodero Bypass Larkana. According to the private news channel, a fight between two groups over the issue of voting in Larkana's Nodero turned into violence, with firing and indiscriminate use of sticks by both groups.

According to the police, as soon as the incident was reported, the Mahota police officers arrived at the scene. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Sultan Shah was shot dead, whereas, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Bashir Ahmed Sharand Constable Saddam Hussain were among the injured

Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

More uncertainty

It appears that a coalition government is in the offing, as no single party has enough seats to form a government.

After his 'victory speech' some days ago. PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif said his was the single largest party, and called on other political leaders to initiate discussions and negotiate a way forward. Soon after, there were reports that PPP's Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting, an indication that the two leaders, despite their differences in recent months, are attempting to chart a way forward.

Of course, the role of parties such as MQM-P and other smaller parties, is key as they too will lend support to reach the magic number of seats. The PML-N is optimistic that two dozen or more independents will join their ranks, and is banking on its relationship with different parties to show a victorious front.

As the numbers game plays out, the country once again finds itself in a familiar place – one that is steeped in political uncertainty. In recent months, the PPP and PML-N have had an acrimonious relationship. The PML-N is annoved that PPP distanced itself from the PDM government's decisions, and that it was left to face the brunt of the public's wrath over increasing inflation. Its key members also do not trust Mr Zardari.

Similarly, the PPP has been vocal in its criticism of the N-League, with its chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari taking potshots at Mr Nawaz Sharif during his campaign, and even telling this newspaper in an interview that he was "disappointed" in the former prime minister.

With these misgivings, how will this motley crew sit together in parliament? Whose agenda will take priority? And how will they bring the stability, reforms and leadership the country so badly needs? More importantly, did the public really turn up in large numbers to vote to be ruled by PDM 2.0?

As the wheeling and dealing proceeds, two things are clear: one, that however the PML-N cobbles this coalition together, its 'victory' will be more bitter than sweet. Without the outcome it had hoped for, it is now left to perform that uneasy dance of give and take for political survival. This is certainly not the fantasy Mr Sharif harboured when he returned to Pakistan after four years abroad. The second is that such a government is always vulnerable to outside forces. As we saw previously, the PTI-led coalition government was held together by an external glue, and its days were numbered when that glue did not stick. Forming such a post-election alliance is not unique to Pakistan, as other countries witness similar events and end up having weak governments. But in our case, the vulnerability to external forces further complicates an already fragile democratic process.

Hope is everything

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Monday February 12, 2024

bad news. While much at work, some of the bad news is also real. Decades of bad governance has shaken the confi- journey. dence of the people in brings them to power. teeming majority wondering if this country can deliver even the basic amenities of life. A vast segment of the population is slipping below the poverty line. The rich are getting richer, the poor deeply polarised. All this bad news has created a sense of despondency.

most, we must recognise mountain ranges, and that whatever has happened is of our own doing. We don't work hard enough to deserve the riches we aspire to. Our political governance has thority of Pakistan, the failed to rise to the expectations of the people. We largest reserves of spend more than we earn marble, the second largand evade taxes. Corruption is rampant. More- largest reserves of coprulers have looked for easy money from outside and vast reserves of the country. All through the decades, we have preferred to leverage our strategic location rather energised population, than build our productive

capacities We also want others to adjust their stance towards us rather than changing ourselves. For India under the British instance, we expect India to reduce its hostility towards Pakistan, Afghanistan to be more friendly than it is, China to invest more, the Saudis to liberally share their abundant wealth with us, and America to maintain a steady part- dom, the hope of mardnership with our country. In short, we want all our key relationships to change in the way we government takes of- prosperity lie within.

is not how inter-state re- morale of the nation by stan which should adjust Pakistan is in the grip of to the evolving global and regional geopolitics, of it is fake because the and not the other way detractors of Pakistan are round. A ship cannot its sails to continue its

That means that a the rulers they elect or change of attitude is even in the system which needed in how we Pakistanis see ourselves as The elite capture of the a nation and how we country has left the view the outside world. The Creator has been more than generous in granting nature's bounties to the territories that constitute today's Paki-

The country is the 10th largest producer of poorer. Society is also rice in the world, the and resources agreed eighth leading producer of wheat, and the fifth largest producer of sug-How did we reach arcane. Our land is home this sorry state? Fore- to the three highest has an irrigation system that is both efficient and extensive.

According to the Trade Development Aucountry has the sixth est salt mines, the fifth over, for far too long, our per and gold, the second largest coal deposits,

With such abun-

we have every reason to be hopeful about the future of our country. Even during the harshest of times for the Muslims of occupation, our founding fathers never lost hope. Allama Iqbal's advice to us was as valid then as it is today. To translate his words: 'Don't despair, as despair is the decline of knowledge and wisi-momin is among the secrets of God'.

As a new elected desire them to. But this fice, it must lift up the Courtesy Dawn

lations work. It is Paki- setting the stage for good governance. First and foremost, we need to stabilise political governance, which is so fractured. A new change the direction of charter of democracy the wind; it must adapt and tolerance is required, which provides for treating political opponents with respect and dignity, for today's opponents could be tomorrow's rulers. No one should consider himself or herself as an angel or a patriot, while treating op--ponents as evil and corrupt.

Second, needs to be a much stronger commitment to local governments. The de--volution of power upon in 18th Amendment should not have stopped at provinces, but needs to reach the grassroots level.

Third a charter of economy is required to forge a consensus among political parties on key economic issues and priorities.

Fourth, national security should be viewed more comprehensively than it was in the past, with equal attention being given to traditional, economic and human securities. To that end, the new government should announce its national sedant wealth and a young curity policy, a sequel to the one issued in January 2022, establish a national security council (not committee), and appoint a fulltime national security

> Fifth, on the external front, we must view all our relationships, inwith cluding neighbours, through the lens of economic benefit to Pakistan and by building stakes in the stability of Pakistan. We must engage with, but not depend on, the outside world, because the fountains of wealth and

'This is us too'

Muna Khan

Imran Khan and his supporters, according to the Twitterati, are 'the worst thing to happen to society' they've ruined tehzeeb, family get-togethers, to think people have tal for democracy to WhatsApp chats, marfriendships, riages, even diets. I am, of cetious, but do you recognise yourself as someone who believes challenge the status this or is perhaps the victim of this rhetoric? Wherever you land, do you believe we can move forward?

I'm here to offer a sliver of hope. In 2013 and 2018,

when I went to vote in

Karachi, I was surporters, excited and assured of victory. Bewhile in line, people got to chatting. There was a lot of disbelief when someone in line said they weren't voting for PTI. Or that they first time. "No educated person could vote for the MQM," the woman in front of me told andestroying Pakistan's voting for Jibran Nasir, a lady told me in 2018. As an aside: I think it's time to retire this 'save Pakistan' idea. We need saving from our misconceptions, nay delusions.

A few days ago, as stood in line to cast my vote, there was a lot of camaraderie as PTI supporters welcomed each other in the line, but when others said they were voting for Jamaat, no one baulked. Everyone agreed you living together peaceshould vote for who fully - commemorating you want. One elderly our different sects' occawoman told another sions for example—than younger woman that engaged in hatred. she wouldn't tell her who she was voting for continues to defy the ticians, reminds me of because "mujhey powerful is the media. As gaaliyan parein ge" (I a keen follower, and will receive abuse). That sometime practitioner, I mony. -- Courtesy Dawn

you don't have to reply, we just have to vote. Even though the mood was defiant, it was also iovial.

decided to reclaim polite discourse, but I do believe this tiny excourse, being a little fa- change points to a stream media, the less people's awakening and then mobilising to quo. I believe the way people came out to vote nalists and analysts who – and for who – is evidence of this, too. sive campaigns, but did ken systems; nothing is working and the impact of polarisation has caused alarm. To be- cheered Imran Khan's little people's choices conviction the way rounded by PTI sup- or heap scorn on them serves no purpose. sured of victory. Be- Having said that, cause we had to wait a today's angry voters must accept that their stolen mandate was, in previous elections, someone else's stolen

mandate. This weren't voting for the across party lines benefits those angling for power at whatever cost, accomplices to help other in 2013. "You're them achieve their goal. This habit of a sprinkle chance of survival by of engineering here, a speck of it there — as happens every time will only take you so far.

This is why I feel hopeful the anger will help bring people to-gether to defy the odds. We've seen glimmers of it in constituencies like Parachinar, where Shias and Sunnis united to vote their opponent out. They rejected the status quo and the hatred that sectarianism has created here. To remind, we have spent more time

woman said no, it was thrilled to watch the should not be like that, reporting and analysis of reporting and analysis of the clear criticism of the election process — there was nothing ambiguous about it. This must be celebrated because an I'm not that naïve independent media is vifunction. The more people see themselves and their issues on mainthey will rely on propagandists on YouTube. A special mention

must be made of the joursuffered from PTI's abu-People are tired of bro- not let that impact their professionalism. I am here to remind party supporters that no one Nawaz Sharif's was celebrated by journalists in kitchens and bathrooms. I will also remind you how everyone slammed the iddat case and conviction, calling it morally reprehensible. It is time for all supporters to frankly grow up and learn to deal with criticism — as has been our way in the past. We must who know they have find our way back to disagreeing without being disagreeable in all fields. Our elders must show us that way

I believe the very platforms that caused polarisation can also reduce it. I see a glimmer of hope there too. Independent candidate Jibran Nasir, who lost this election, has, along with other lawyers, created a 'Safeguard Karachi's Votes' legal cell and is offering aid to candidates across party lines who feel their mandate was stolen. ANP's Samar Bilour taking a bouquet of flowers to PTI's Meena Khan to congratulate him on his win is one example. This inperson exchange, versus the notable congratula-Another group that tory tweets by other poli-

Commerce News

PDM economic management led to sharp rise in per capita debt

ISLAMABAD: A new legally mandated fiscal policy statement has revealed the worst economic management by the coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, resulting in expenditures over Rs2.2 trillion higher than budgeted and a 25% increase in the debt burden

for every citizen. The Ministry of Finance's Fiscal Policy Statement 2024 showed a sharp rise in the debt burden during the fiscal year 2022-23, the period when PDM ruled Pakistan. The debt burden of every citizen increased by 25.2% to Rs271,624 by the end of the previous fiscal year. In absolute terms, every person's debt burden rose by Rs54,500 within one January 31s

the key factors responsible

was Rs216,925, according to the Ministry of Finance report. The statement is Finance has calculated the prepared under the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act (FRDL) and will be placed before the new National Assembly. population census numbers Although the Ministry of Finance has not officially released the statement, the deadline to present it was

jumped to Rs62.9 trillion



LAHORE: Women visiting stall during Faiz Mela

Agri dept to organize sugarcane production contest among farmers

MULTAN (APP): The such as advanced seed Department decided to timely sowing, appropriate organize production use of fertilizers, timely competitions among irrigation, and steps for sugarcane growers.

According to a spokesman for the Punjab Agriculture Department (Multan), sugarcane is a crucial cash crop, and increasing its production per acre is essential. To achieve this goal, he acre had been launched recommended new since the fiscal year production technologies 2019-20

Agriculture varieties, sowing methods. effective prevention of diseases. Under the Punjab

government's Agricultural Emergency Program, a five-vear national program to increase sugarcane production per

year, according to the for this rise are interest statement. A year ago, the payments on debt and the per person debt burden exchange rate devaluation effect.

> per capita debt based on the assumption of a population of 231.5 million people. If the new are considered, then the per person debt burden would be Rs260,387, up by Rs44,462 or 21%.

Pakistan was ruled by The gross public debt the PDM from April 2022 to August 2023—an by June 2023, indicating an alliance of about a dozen increase since then. A more political parties. The large than one-fourth increase in alliance made economic per capita debt in one year decision-making difficult, signifies the speed at and these parties fought which the country is hard for thinning fiscal sinking under the debt resources. A large and unsustainable Public Sector The report stated that Development Programme (PSDP) was also the result.

S&P 500 earnings growth seen at 9%

Monitoring Desk EW YORK: With results in from about two-thirds of companies, fourth-quarter 2023 S&P 500, tab earnings growth is now seen at 0%, almost double a Jan forecast for 4.7% growth, according to LSEG data on

Friday. About 81% of reports are beating analysts' expectations, compared with an average of 76% in the previous four reporting periods, the data

Traders express concerns on dacoities in markets

MULTAN Tanzeem-e-Tajraan Pakistan expressed concerns over rising incidents of dacoities in city's busiest markets and demanded of Punjab government to take immediate notice of the poor law and order situation.

Pakistan fully capable of becoming AI development hub in South Asia BEIJING (APP): CPInS

and Human Resource Development.

Lab Director Dr Wu Jun has said that Pakistan, through further cooperation with China, is fully capable of becoming an artificial intelligence (AI) development hub in South Asia and the wider

The CPInS Lab has been officially established at Pakistan's National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the beginning of year 2022 with joint efforts with the Guangzhou Institute of Technology. At present, various researches are in progress in an orderly

"We have made great he added.

progress in areas such as UAV control systems and AI recognition localization. Our lab is starting the application of smart cities in Pakistan," Dr Wu said in an interview with CEN. "Through this platform, our mature research results could be deeply connected with local projects in Pakistan, providing smart cityrelated products and intelligent solutions according to local conditions. "We are able to effectively implement Software Application core technologies and products such as smart street lights and smart videos to improve local urban governance ability,"

LESCO collects over Rs 8m from 446 defaulters

Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), in collaboration Tehsildars (Recovery), recovered more than Rs 8 million from 446 chronic defaulters in all its five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara on the 147th day of its

campaign A LESCO spokesman told the media here on Sunday that on the 147th day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal, with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun, recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.04 million from 51 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 2.43 million

LAHORE (APP): The from 51 defaulters in Eastern respectively.

Similarly, LESCO nager (Material Manager Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 2.19 million from 63 defaulters in Central Circle, and Rs 0.72 million from 27 defaulters in South Circle; while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Igbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhupura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 0.48 million from 44 defaulters in Nankana Circle and Rs 1.06 million from 62 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle.

Launching New Horizons: 600 Pakistani professionals embark on international careers The initiative, under professionals expressed

the guidance of Mr. Jawad

Sohrab Malik, Special

Assistant to the Prime

Minister on Overseas

Pakistanis & Human

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a landmark moment for employment mobility, 600 Pakistani professionals embarked on have international careers, following the successful negotiation of strategic employment agreements with global partners. This departure marks a significant milestone in the initiative led by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to enhancing global employment opportunities for its workforce.

PFC delegation

off to USA for

Las Vegas Expo

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan

Furniture Council (PFC)

delegation Sunday left for

Las Vegas, USA, to partake

in a three-day expo

commencing on February

13 to showcase the diverse

range of Pakistan's furniture products and to

explore new opportunities

comprises representatives

from various segments of

the furniture sector

including manufacturers,

designers, and exporters, all

poised to highlight the

richness and uniqueness of

Kashif Ashfaq told the

media that with an aim to

bolster the country's

furniture industry on an

international platform, the

delegation was set to

exhibit the craftsmanship.

PFC CEO Mian

delegation

furniture

in the global market.

The

Pakistani

designs

First set of Pakistanis among batch of 600 start Overseas Careers post landmark agreements by Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis

Resource Development, has seen the fruition of agreements signed merely 90 days ago. This effort has opened thousands of job avenues across diverse sectors for Pakistani professionals, reflecting the country's proactive engagement on the international stage.

cities including Islamabad, conduct interviews and Karachi, Lahore, and the daily basis.

gratitude for the seamless process facilitated by the government. departure, witnessed by families and ministry officials, with Mr. Malik personally seeing off Islamabad's contingent, illustrates government's dedication to supporting its citizens aspirations. The initial batch of 600 professionals marks just the beginning. This figure is set to rise substantially as global Departing from major employers continue to

select candidates on a

Abu Dhabi Dialogue focuses on labour issues, enhancing women jobs

(UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday while highlighting the role of Abu Dubai Dialogue said that it was a unique event that brought 17 member states from the Gulf and Asia together with the core objective to address issues pertaining to labour mobility and women's jobs. He said that the platform had a key role in establishing the principle of protecting the rights of migrant workers which was the common responsibility of labour-sending and

labour-receiving countries. The ambassador addressed the Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) here in Abu Dhabi.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is the current Pakistan's Ambassador to chair of the ADD, a press the United Arab Emirates release said. The envoy stressed that the technology was changing demands for various skills and they needed to be innovative in meeting the labour demands. There was dire need for diversifying skill sets and engagement aimed at developing skills mobility partnerships. He also lauded the

efforts of ADD for focusing on women in green jobs and said that women could fill critical skills gaps in industries including renewable energy. "Climate change and natural disasters including floods are the gravest challenges that have emphasized the significance of collective efforts to mitigate losses and build back better.

CM inaugurates FM Radio at P&SHD

LAHORE (APP): Punjab awareness with regard to Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) located at the Birdwood Road Lahore and inaugurated FM Radio 'Sehat Zindagi' by the Health Department.

He inspected the studios and various sections of the FM Radio and recorded a message for the FM Radio Sehat Zindagi. He said that launching of FM Radio was an appreciable step of the Health Department. The people could be provided awareness to save themselves from various diseases and undergo their treatment through the FM Radio. He said that specialists from various medical departments should be invited on Sehat Zindagi radio and people should be provided

health issues and treatment.

Mohsin

to be a beneficial project in in their final phases of the health sector. He maintained that the standard of radio industry has definitely declined but FM Radio is listened even today. The broadcast of FM Radio Sehat Zindagi can be listened within approximately 50-km range of Lahore. The P&SHD minister deserved appreciation on successful launch of FM Radio, he said. The Health Department could make an effective awareness campaign through the platform of Sehat Zindagi. The health secretary, despite scarce resources, launched an excellent

project, he added. The FM Radio has to focus only on

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji

Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding

Azma Bukhari says:

PTI in habit of not

accepting its defeat

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan 2013 and created chaos in

Muslim League leader the country. She said, Azma Bukhari said on "Every party talks about

Tehreek-e-Insaf was in the no one talks about the

Bukhari said that PTI could be approached by

Azma

levelled rigging allegations in aggrieved candidates.

Azma Bukhari said on

Sunday that Pakistan

habit of not accepting its

defeat. Talking to the media

here at Model Town, she said, "From where PTI

loses it levels allegation of

constituency".

the Chitral Express way at CM Secretariat.

Naqvi apprised that various hospitals had been Naqvi upgraded in a short span underscored that Sehat of time while upgradation Zindagi radio would prove of few other hospitals was

> completion. The hospitals which have not been upgraded yet, would be upgraded in the next phase. The CM said, "We have provided non-available facilities in the hospitals. We will arrange new operation theatres, MRI machines and other facilities in collaboration with the private sector.'

> The CM also inaugurated Human Resource Information and Management (HRIMS), Information and Service Delivery Unit (HISDU). He inaugurated the van especially being prepared for the video link along



MIRPUR MATHELO: De-

teriorating law and order situation in Ghotki district, abduction, end of tribal conflicts and a protest rally and hunger strike by Jai Sindh Qummi Muhaaz for the recovery of hostages, According to the details, peace and order in Ghotki district. JASQM organized a protest rally and hunger strike at Bhitai Chowk, in which workers and citizens participated in large numbers. On this occasion slogans were raised for the end of tribal conflicts and restoration of law and order in the district. On this occasion, President of Ghotki district of Jasqam, Faqir Ramzan Kalwar, Mir Hassan Lashari, Kamal Mahar, Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, District General Secretary of SUP Akram Mitloo, Jasaf leader Shehryar Khan Marnas, Secretary of Sindhi Literary Sanghat Ayaz Khahawar, Youth League



FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" during his visit to Primary and Secondary **Healthcare Department.**

Azam Nazeer says: PML-N respects mandate of people

respects the mandate of people as it is important to take along all federating units for the solution of economic and other challenges facing the country. Talking to media at Model Town on Sunday, he said that certain elements wanted to create doubts about election results and a hue and cry was being created in this regard.

forming a government in and 160.

LAHORE (APP): PML-N the Centre will be made Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar after conclusion of the has said that his party ongoing consultation process with political parties and keeping in view the ground realities. A coalition government will be formed in the Centre as no party has a clear cut majority," he added.

He said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the PML-N would form a strong government in Punjab and claimed that at present his party had 'A decision of the number between 150

JUI-F demands recounting of votes in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) on Sunday demanded recounting of votes in NA-43 Deracum-Tank. The JUI-F workers

by the party candidate Maulana Asad Mehmood staged a sit-in on the Tank-Wana Road in front the Deputy Commissioner's Office. Dawar Khan Kundi, an independent candidate. succeeded in winning the National Assembly seat

Kashmiri diaspora pays tributes to martyred leaders Butt, Afzal Guru in Brussels

MIRPUR (APP): The Zahid, Shiraz Raj, Faisal gathering in Brussels have paid rich tributes to the great Kashmiri martyrs Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru for the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the liberation of the Kashmir from Indian illegal occupation.

The event was organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU) at its central secretariat in connection with the martyrdom anniversaries of these two martyrs, according to a message reaching and released to the media here on Sunday.

Beside the Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed, Dr.

Rizvi, Imran Saqib, Hafiz Aneeb Rashid, Nadeem Zahidshah, Chaudhry Nasir, Shazia Aslam, Raja Abdaqayyum, and Meher Nadeem were also among the participants of the gathering.

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the martyrdom anniversary of noted Kashmiri Muhammad Afzal Guru on February 9 every year. He was hanged and buried at New Delhi's Tehar prison by the Indian authorities on February 9, 2013.

Kashmiri liberation leader, Muhammad Maqbool Butt, was also hanged and



PESHAWAR: Supporters of the Pakistan Tehrike-Insaf (PTI) political party gather to protest as they allege rigging in the general elections, in Peshawar, Pakistan, 11 February 2024.

Election 2024 signifies people unshakable trust in democracy

by defeating Maulana

Asad.

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election 2024 results have signified the people's unshakable trust in the electoral process as well as the strong parliamentary system and have pinned high expectations on their elected representatives to address their problems besides taking the country forward on the road to progress and development,

experts said. "The people of Pakistan delivered the verdict on February 8, 2024, and now it is up to elected representatives, institutions and political leadership to accept their Junaid Jalbani, Waqar Bozdar decision imperative to and others said that the citizens are very worried about the unrest in Ghotki district

take the country out of the including shabby economic situation," said Professor Dr A.H.Hilali, ex-Chairman Political Science Department, University of Peshawar while talking to

APP on Sunday.

The split electoral mandate which was given to mainstream political parties on February 8 is a manifestation of pluralism in the country's politics besides signifying that people of Pakistan wanted resolution of their problems and country's challenges through a national government represented by all political

carry the ship of "Pakistan is currently democracy forward and facing enormous challenges

parties, he said.

economy, terrorism, security issues, price hike, inflation and climate change and no political party can address it singlehandedly, and that is why people of Pakistan had given split mandate to political parties for resolution of these issues amicably," he said.

By taking lessons from the past; he said that political leadership should immediately sit together and form a coalition government as quickly as possible to take the country out of economic challenges by accepting each other's mandate report.

wholeheartedly.

candidates have so far won 93 seats at the National Assembly, 116 in Punjab Assembly, 11 in Sindh Assembly, 83 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly while PML-N's clinched 77 seats at National Assembly, 137 seats in Punjab, 10 in Balochistan and five seats in KP Assembly.

PPP has secured third position with 54 NA seats, 10 seats in the Punjab Assembly, 84 in the Sindh Assembly, 11 in the Balochistan Assembly and five in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly till the filing of this

In dependent Pakistan will play a key coalition government.

role in the formation of a coalition government in centre after winning 17 NA seats and 28 seats in Sindh Assembly, he said.

Similarly, six seats in the National Assembly, 22 seats in Punjab, 3 in Sindh and 5 seats in Balochistan have been clinched by independent candidates while JUIF bagged four seats in National Assembly, 10 seats in Balochistan and eight seats in KP.

PMLQ has bagged three seats in National Assembly and 7 seats in Punjab Assembly while two each NA seats of Istehkam Pakistan Party and Balochistan National Likewise, MQM Party will also matter in

International News

Red Sea crisis not yet having 'significant' impact on global economy-IMF

respect of their mandate but

respect of PML-N's mandate." She further said

that PML-N was a responsible

party and it does not believe in

politics of lies and agitation. Election tribunal was an

appropriate forum which

WASHINGTON (Online): The Houthi rebel attacks on vessels in the Red Sea have had a significant impact on insurance and shipping rates, but have so far not affected global economic prospects, Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the IMF, said in an interview with the Washington Post

"It adds pressure on point that our projections for inflation globally will be corrected upwards," the million a month. IMF chief said, adding that "for now, this has implicacantly derail growth projec-

tions for the world world economy "bleak."

She noted that in Janu-

ary 2024, traffic through the Suez Canal, a critical maritime trade route connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, plunged January. However, according to Georgieva, the impact of this drop in traffic is more "localized," and most severe for Egypt, which rewaterway traffic and is currently losing roughly \$100

Still, Georgieva warned that "surprises" tions, but not of the magni- like the Red Sea shipping tude that would signifi- crisis are making long-term growth prospects for the

The IMF recently slightly updated its economic projections, and now expects the global economy to grow by 3.1% this year, but, according to Georgieva, this figure is still "weak by hisby nearly a half versus last torical standards" if compared to the average growth of 3.8% in the decade before the Covid-19 pan-

"It is a signal that we prices, but not yet to the lies on revenues from the are in a more shock-prone world – surprises of this type... mean we have to be in better position to face these repetitive shocks, she warned, suggesting that fiscal authorities around the world should build "buffers" to withstand crises.

> Amazon founder Jeff Bezos sold around 12 million shares of the online retail and cloud services firm for roughly \$2 billion, according to a company filing, soon after laying out a plan to sell his shares over the next

The sale took place on Wednesday and Thursday, the filings showed.

said that Bezos would sell up to 50 million shares in

is subject to certain conditions, was adopted on Nov. 8, 2023, and would be completed by Jan. 31, 2025, according to the company's latest annual report.

stepped down as the company's chief executive and took over as executive chairman in 2021, founded

He is currently the world's second richest person with a net worth of \$200 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires



Palestinians brace for Israeli assault on their last refuge in Gaza

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Israeli air strikes killed 117 Palestinians during the past 24 hours, the health ministry in Gaza Strip said on Saturday as over a million Palestinians cramming into the border city of Rafah await a full-blown offensive, with nowhere left to run.

Unlike in previous Israeli assaults on the besieged territory's cities, when the military ordered civilians to flee south, no other relatively unscathed area remains in the tiny Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said it had ordered the City home.

military to develop a plan to destroy "four Hamas battalions dep-loyed there", despite repeated warnings from several countries and aid agencies that civilians in large numbers could die.

With the latest addition of 117 killings over the past 24 hours, the death toll in the besieged territory has surpassed 28,000 during the past four months.

'Any Israeli incursion in Rafah means massacres, means destruction. People are filling every inch of the city and we have nowhere to go," said Rezik Salah, 35, who had to flee his Gaza

At least five dead after soldier opens fire at military base in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (INP): At armed forces. least five people, including Somali military officials and a United Arab Emirates (UAE) soldier, were killed on Saturday after a soldier opened fire at a military base in the capital Mogadishu, an army officer and hospital staff told re-

The UAE's defence ministry, however, said three members of its armed forces and one Bahraini officer were killed in a "terrorist act" in Somalia while they were training Somali

Two more were in-

statement. The ministry did not give other details about the attack but said the UAE "continues to coordinate and cooperate with

also shot dead at the Gorby the UAE, said the army officer, who gave his name only as Ahmed

Britain's King Charles attends church in first public outing since cancer diagnosis announced

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Britain's King Charles attended church on Sunday in his first public outing since announcing last week he had been diagnosed with cancer and would postpone some engagements to undergo treatment.

The king, wearing a brown overcoat and carrying an umbrella, waved as he arrived with his wife, Camilla, at St Mary Magdalene church in Sandringham in eastern

Panama denies ex-president safe passage to Nicaragua **Monitoring Desk**

PANAMA CITY: Panama denied its scandal-plagued former president Ricardo Martinelli, who has taken refuge at the Nicaraguan embassy, safe passage out of the country on Friday, following his granting of asylum by Managua.

Martinelli, who was president from 2009 to 2014, was found guilty last vear of using stolen public money to buy a stake in a publishing house.

He also received a \$19 million fine.

Trump comments on Russia, NATO 'appalling and unhinged' -White House WILMINGTON White House spoke

(Internews): The White person Andrew Bates, as "appalling and unhinged.

Trump, appearing to recount a meeting with NATO leaders during a political rally in South Carolina on Saturday, quoted the president of "a big country" that he did not name as asking, "Well sir if we don't pay, and we're attacked by Russia - will you pretest us?" protect us?"

"I said: 'You didn't pay? You're delinquent?' He said: 'Yes, let's say that happened.' No I would not protect you. In fact I would encourage them to do what-ever the hell they want. You gotta pay.'

House on Saturday rejected asked about Trump's comcomments made by former U.S. President Donald invasions of our closest al-Trump about not protecting NATO allies from a lies by murderous regimes is appalling and unhinged potential Russian invasion and it endangers American national security, global stability and our economy at The NATO treaty

contains a provision that guarantees mutual defense of member states if one is attacked.

Trump, frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, was a fierce critic of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization when he was president, repeatedly threatening to pull out of the alliance. He cut defense funding to NATO and frequently complained that the United States was paying more than its fair share.

Indonesia presidential frontrunner skips press freedom event

JAKARTA (Internews): Two of Indonesia's three presidential contenders pledged to protect press freedom in the world's third-largest democracy at a weekend event that frontrunner Prabowo Subianto didn't attend.

The event came just days ahead of the Feb. 14 poll, and as some Indonesians raise concerns over an erosion of the country's hard-won democratic freedoms. Criticism over political interference has been levelled especially at outgoing President Joko Widodo, who has given tacit support to Prabowo.

In the past, incumbents wrapping up their second term as president have remained neutral.

On the last day of campaigning, ex-Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan and ex-Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo signed National Press Council's written declarations to uphold democracy democracy.'

It was unclear if Prabowo, represented at the Saturday event by the

signed the declaration. His campaign did not respond to queries on the matter. Prabowo is projected by some opinion surveys to pip the 50% threshold

head of his campaign team,

needed to win the election in a single round. The former special forces commander, who is making his third run at the

presidency, has long faced allegations of rights abuses during his time in the military. He denies the accusations, but critics have questioned Prabowo's commitment to protecting human

Prabowo's campaign chief, Rosan Roeslani, said at the event: "Freedom of the press is something that we absolutely must maintain and improve ... because it is one of the spearheads of our

Rescuers carry a body bag as search and rescue

operations continue in the landslide-hit village of Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro, Philippines.

Hamas official survives Israeli attack in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: A senior Hamas officer survived on Saturday an Israeli assassination attempt in Lebanon, Palestinian and Lebanese security sources said, with officials reporting two killed in the attack south of Beirut.

Israeli forces and the Lebanese movement Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, Lebanese have traded near-daily fire since Oct 7. But the Israel-Lebanon violence has been largely contained to the border area, and Saturday's strike was the second-farthest deadly attack from the frontier in four months of

run National News Agency (NNA) said an Israeli drone struck a car in the coastal town of Jadra, about 40 kilometres from the border.

The Palestinian source said the strike "was a failed attempt to assassinate a senior official in the (Hamas) movement".

A Lebanese security official identified the target as Hamas recruitment officer Bassel Saleh. Shortly after the initial strike on Saleh's car, a second Israeli drone hit the same location, killing two people, the official said. Hezbollah said one of its hostilities. Lebanon's state- members had died.

Jeff Bezos sells roughly \$2 billion of Amazon shares

NEW YORK (INP):

Last week, Amazon

The sale plan, which

Jeff Bezos, who Amazon as a bookseller in

jured, the ministry added in

the Somali government in investigating" the act. The gunman, a newly trained Somali soldier, was don military base managed

ECP bars ROs to issue final results of 10 NA & 16 PAs seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of 79, PK-80 and PK-82. PTI Pakistan (ECP) has barred the Returning Officers (ROs) to issue the final results of several National Assembly and provincial assembly seats. A fourmember bench headed by chief election commissioner held the hearing of alleged alteration in the election re-

sult of NA-48. "We were ahead with the lead of 50,000 votes as per the Form-45 but the Returning Officer issued the Form-47 and changed our victory into defeat," the counsel of PTI candidate Ali Bukhari argued.
The ECP issued no-

tice to the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party backed candidate Raja Khurram Nawaz and barred the RO to issue the final notification of NA-47 and NA-48.

backed Taimoor Jhagra and Kamran Bangash had challenged the results from PK-79 and PK-82 respectively.

Moreover, the results of NA-28, NA-49 Attock, NA-50 Attock, NA-55 Rawalpindi, NA-63 and NA-65 were also challenged in the ECP.

Talking about the seats of provincial assemblies, the results of PB-1, PP-11, PP-20, PP-14, PP-16, PP-31, PP-33 and PP-59 were also challenged in the ECP. The ECP barred the

ROs to issue the final results of 10 NA and 16 provincial assembly seats. Meanwhile, the ECP

also barred the RO to issue the final result of NA-15 Mansehra from where PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif was defeated by a Meanwhile, ECP also barred the ROs to issue the candidate.

ECP directs re-polling at 53 polling stations in three constituencies on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Election Commission of Pakistan has directed a re-polling at 53 polling stations in three constituencies of national and provincial assemblies on Thursday.

According to an ECP spokesman, the commission has withheld the results in NA-88 Khushab, PS-18 Ghotki-I, and PK-90 Kohat-I constituencies due to the wastage of polling materials. he results of these constituencies will be announced after 15th of this month.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people in queue to get free food at F-11.

Roadmap made for promotion of digital economy for next govt: Saif

to US\$ 1.455 billion during

July to December 2023 of

FY2023-24, compared to

US\$ 1.335 billion reported

for the same period last

year. In December 2023, he

added, ICT services export

remittances surged to US\$

303 million, marking a re-

markable increase of

2023, ICT services export

remittances increased by

US\$ 44 million in Decem-

ber 2023, representing a

month-to-month increase

ful protest within the law

is everyone's right. In this

regard, citizens are re-

quested to avoid being part

of illegal activities. Respect

for the law is mandatory for

everyone. Legal action will

also be taken in case of any

taken for the convenience,

protection, and security of

the citizens. Moreover, to

ensure the safety of lives

and property of citizens, all

resources are being utilized

via the "ICT-15 App" re-

and sorrow of the bereaved

families and express soli-

darity with our brothers and

sisters in this difficult

hour", the press release quoted Ambassador Tirmizi

shared the pain of the

mourning families, and

Expressing his sympathies and solidarity, he said that he and his countrymen

Citizens are requested

by police.

All measures are being

disturbance to peace.

The minister further

of 16.99%

Section 144 imposed in

Islamabad; to enhanced

security measures

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif has said that that a roadmap has been made for the promotion of the digital economy for the upcoming govern-

Addressing the Town Hall meeting arranged by IT Association (PASHA) in Karachi he said, the country could generate billions of dollars in revenue if the upcoming government continues the initiatives taken by the caretaker government in the IT sector.

He said the SIFC forum has also proven to be a great support for the upcoming elected government in the process of building and developing the country, and the elected government will also reap the benefits of the measures the by the caretaker government. "We are confident that

with the presence of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the upcoming government will also be able to make timely decisions for the country's development and public interests because we mustn't compromise on our economic stability and public interests," he said. The minister said,

We need to avoid departmental obstacles. Instead of unnecessary delay tactics, quick and effective decisions must be taken in the interest of the country and the nation. For this purpose, SIFC is the most effective forum.' Dr. Umar termed IT

and telecom sector as a backbone of the country's

He said that in the past 60 days, the policies of the out of 15 important targets

ISLAMABAD (INP): Fol-

lowing the special directions

of Islamabad Capital City

Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr

Akbar Nasir Khan, the

Islamabad Capital Police

further strengthened the

security of Islamabad to

control any potential unrest

promptly, a public rela-

Islamabad, empowering the

officials to take legal action

in response to any unlaw-

ful activities. Adherence to

the law is mandatory, and

legal proceedings will be

He said that, section

is imposed in

tions officer said.

IT ministry have led to a record 32% increase in IT exports. Furthermore, he mentioned that ICT export caretaker set-up. Chairman of PASHA remittances have increased by US\$ 64 million (8.99%)

Zohaib Khan, expressed gratitude to Dr. Umar Saif for his unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the IT sector. He lauded Dr. Saif's initiatives, which have instilled renewed con fidence within the industry and paved the way for un precedented export growth

22.67% compared to US\$ 247 million in December 2022. Compared to the previous month of November for Pakistan.

Ayesha Morani, Additional Secretary MOITT, Nadeem Malik, General

period of 5 months in the

Khan noted, "Dr

Umar Saif's visionary leadership and strategic fore sight continue to chart a course toward a vibrant and prosperous digital future

Secretary PASHA, and a representative from the IT Industry were also present at the event.

Asma Jahangir remembered on her 6th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): To-day (Sunday) is the sixth death anniversary of Asma Jahangir Advocate, great human rights champion. She died on February 11, 2018. Asma Jahangir. who was born on January 27 1952, in Lahore, had earned numerous honours, including the Right Livelihood Award, Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Ramon Magsaysay Award, Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, and the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights

Abdullah area of Balochistan.

essential facilities.

resolved yet.

officials.

lated tasks, including the

collection of exam materi-

als. Having personally hired

taxis to transport materials

PTI alleges Form 47 of 18 NA seats falsely changed by returning officers

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The PTI said on Sunday that the Form 47 of 18 National Assembly (NA) seats allegedly won by the party were "falsely changed" by returning officers (RO).

Thursday's general election had seen mobile services suspended and a delay in the announcement of the preliminary results, an exercise which was extended till the weekend.

On Friday, following the victory of candidates with its support, the PTI had claimed it had become the single largest party in the Centre and two provinces and vowed to get back its iconic 'bat' sym-

In an AI-generated message on Imran Khan's official X account, a message attributed to the erstwhile party chief congratulated supporters on winning the 2024 general elections and securing a Islami and Tehreek-itwo-thirds majority. The gations of rigging, claim- against alleged rigging in ing that the party was the polls.

winning "170 seats" according to Form 45s. Separately, PTI Cen-

tral Information Secretary Raoof Hasan had lamented that when the results started pouring in late on Thursday night and the trend clearly showed that PTI was taking a clear lead in the Centre, KP, and Punjab, the "poll manipulators" first slowed down the process of announcement of results and subsequently halted the process altogether to "tamper with the results"

"PTI candidates were clearly winning with a huge margin in several constituencies, including Islamabad at night, but ironically, their clear victory was converted into defeat in the morning because political engineering was going on behind the scenes," he had said. It should be mentioned that political parties, including PTI, Jamaat-i-Labbaik Pakistan, have message also echoed alle- also been staging protests

Capital Police continues its campaign to check traffic rules violations

Independent Report paign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike ride. Police teams remain present on all important

roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Police has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city. Those violating traffic rules will be fined and a safer road environment would be ensured through constant



ISLAMABAD: Labourers along with their tools sitting on roadside waiting for clients to be hired for work during morning time.

PR putting maximum efforts retrieve 13,972 acres land

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has accelerated the efforts to retrieve the major portion of around 13,972 acres of land worth billions of rupees found under the illegal occupation of private individuals and different government departments across the coun-

"Around 5,809 acres were occupied in Punjab, 1,181 acres are under encroachment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,948 acres in Sindh and 1,034 acres land occupied Balochistan," an official in

the Ministry told APP. He said the category of land under illegal occupations included commercial, residential, agricultural and various persons or de-

Giving details of the land, the official said that around 769 acres were commercial in all the provinces, 3,309 residential, 5,512 acres agricultural and 4382 were under encroachment of various persons or depart-

cided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations which were using it for residential, commercial and agriculture purposes for de-

cades.
"The joint procedure orders have been issued to all Divisional Superintendents of Pakistan Railways to retrieve the railway land from encroachers," the official added

Accordingly, he said the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached Railway land all over the Railway network are being initiated by the concerned divisions and notices are issued to encroachers under the Possession Ordinance 1965 for vacation of Railway land/

structure within 14 days. The official said that Pakistan Railway Police, District Administration and law enforcement agencies are informed of necessary The official said the assistance in anti-encroachdepartment had also de- ment operations.

ICYF Asian group's vice president

ISLAMABAD (APP): During the 5th General Assembly of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) held in Istanbul, Türkiye, Fsahat Ul Hassan has been elected as the Vice President for the Asian Group, marking the first representation from Pakistan in the executive board of ICYF. Fsahat Ul Hassan secured a two-thirds majority vote of the general assembly, surpassing the delegate from Malaysia, said a

news release issued. Expressing his gratitude to the members of the general assembly, Fsahat Ul Hassan affirmed the commitment to support and contribute to the vision and mission of ICYF in his capacity as the vice president.

He emphasized his dedication to closely collaborate with members of the Asian Region to foster youth development and unity within the ummah. Taha Ayhan, who was unanimously reelected from Türkiye, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Fsahat Ul Hassan on his election and wished him success in the new job.

It should be noted that garding any suspicious perincitement to illegal activi- son or activity. Pak envoy condoles over death of UAE officials in terrorist attack in Somalia

initiated in the case of any to dial"Pucar-15" or report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday extended his deepest condolences to the families of those Emirati officials who were martyred in a terrorist at-

tack in Somalia. The statement was shared by Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi after the UAE Ministry of Defense confirmed via X post that three of its officials along with a Bahraini officer were martyred during an attack in Somalia.

firmly stood with the people and government of UAE. He further said that

Pakistan, being a victim of this menace, was against sin Somalia. terrorism in its all forms 'We share the grief and manifestations.

Afghani smuggler winning election become questionable

By M.Ilyas

PESHAWAR- Sensational revelations have emerged about Jalal Khan Afghan, the Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) elected from Pakistan Muslim League (N) KPK 79. Allegations suggest that he has been involved in human trafficking in several foreign countries, with the assistance of a senior police officer from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The said police officer, who was previously the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) in Peshawar, allowed reportedly smuggled goods into the market, leading to his expulsion from the province. Reports indicate that when the Islamabad Police arrested the individuals involved in human trafficking, they were taken to Polyclinic Hospital and released in a dramatic manner, allegedly facilitated by the aforementioned police officer and his special

This incident led to a conflict between the In- plexing narrative in itself.

spector General (IG) of Islamabad and IG of Punjab, highlighting the former's considerable influence in the government of Imran Khan. Police sources reveal that during the officer's tenure in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), he collaborated with Jalal Khan to send numerous Afghans abroad by providing them with Pakistani ID cards and passports, resulting in substantial financial gains.

Despite subsequent actions by intelligence agencies, the officer reportedly evaded consequences due to the protection of a high-ranking brother with ties to the People's Party. Additionally, it is noted that one of the officer's relatives previously served as the Finance Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suggesting financial motivations behind these illicit activities.

The manner in which an Afghan national secured an assembly seat and took oath in the Pakhtunkhwa assembly remains a per-

phasized that neither taxi the Federal Directorate of fares nor transport facilities Education (FDE) gears up have been provided by the for the centralized exams of primary and middle stan-"Moreover, I am ex-

dard scheduled to begin on pected to conduct exam Monday, female teachers duties daily starting Monassigned to conduct exams day, with no transport fahave raised concerns over cilities provided. The daily taxi fare to and from the unpaid remuneration for the past three consecutive school where I am deputed years and the absence of amounts to Rs. 2000, a cost I am compelled to bear per-Despite repeated atsonally for the entire 15tempts to address these day examination period concerns with FDE authoriwhich is hard to manage ties, the teachers claim that during the prevailing price

QUETTA: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are burn tires and blocked

road as they are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in

General Election 2024, at Syed Hameed Crossing Bridge located on Qila

Female teachers annoyaned

over unpaid remuneration, lack

of facilities for exam duties

their issues have not been hike situation", the teacher Teachers complained "It is disheartening that they haven't been paid that the authorities not only for their exam work for the fail to pay our pending remuneration but also neglect last three years in spite of assurances by the concerned to provide essential transport facilities", the teacher

Expressing their grievances under the condition Talking to APP, many teachers emphasized the of anonymity, several teachers disclosed a history lack of financial support for of unfulfilled promises and purchasing essential mateneglect by FDE authorities. rials such as clothes, seal-Despite assurances of ing wax, thread, and packpayment for exam duties, ing material required for teachers lamented that they

packaging answer scripts. They criticized the have not received remuneration for the last three years. absence of paper collection A teacher highlighted facilities provided by the the financial strain incurred authority, exacerbating lowhile performing exam-re-

gistical challenges. Highlighting additional challenges, another teacher shared, "I have to purchase essential materials such as clothes, sealing wax, thread,

pack the answer scripts daily, but no funds have been provided for these expenses. Moreover, there is no paper collection facility provided by the FDE. cannot afford cab fare for transportation of answer scripts to FDE daily.'

A headmistress of a school stated, "Teachers have recently undertaken exhausting election duties, sacrificing sleep for two nights. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, teachers perform additional duties like census duties, election duties, invigilation, and deworming duties. Despite their contributions, teachers feel neglected and under-supported by FDE authorities, who have been unresponsive to their repeated pleas for assistance". The headmistress emphasized that the FDE authorities should acknowledge and facilitate their efforts. At least their pending dues of three years should be released.

When contacted, a senior official of the concerned authority said that the teachers are paid a specific amount for performing duties during the centralized exams of Class V and VIII. However these payments were pending

IWMB safely rescued female leopard cub from AJK's Dhirkot tehsil

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Sunday safely rescued a female cub of leopard from the scenic Dhirkot Tehsil of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) which is known for its deodar jungle. The Wildlife Spokesperson told the media that the female leopard cub was five to six months old and was rescued from Dhirkot area as the AJK Wildlife Department lacked the wildlife rehabilitation facility and requested the IWMB for assistance.

He added that the local people broke the teeth and fractured the legs of the female



ISLAMABAD: Elder woman carrying dry wood branches on her head for