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Fazlur Rehman rejects poll results, invites PML-N to join **JUI-F** on opposition benches

JUI-F chief announces initiating a country-wide protest movement to press for approval of their demands

ISLAMABAD (INP) -The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) on Wednesday rejected the election results, announcing countrywide protests against the alleged

rigging in the Feb 8 polls. Addressing a press con-ference, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the parliament had lost the credibility after the 'rigged' elections.

The veteran politician invited the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo to join the opposition in the National Assembly. He said that the JUI-F would not join the coalition government.

JUI-F is not ally of any party," clarifies Fazlur

Maulana Rehman criticised the Election Commission of Pakistan, alleging its role had been questionable since the beginning. He mentioned that the commission dismissed petitions submitted by JUI-F candidates against Lahore on March 5. JUI-F rigging. The JUI-F leader stated that the party would his party would play its fulfill its parliamentary du- parliamentary role but ties and join the assemblies with reservations.

Hinting at potential protests, he expressed concerns that decisions may be taken outside the parliament.

Additionally, he outlined a series of upcoming meetings scheduled by the party in various regions. Maulana Fazl outlined

the party's upcoming stratthe US.

Fazlur egy, mentioning plans for provincial general council meetings in Balochistan on February 25 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on February 27, along with additional meetings scheduled in Karachi on March 3 and chief Fazlur Rehman said would become a part of the assemblies with reserva-

tions. "Defeating the JUI-F through poll rigging was a conspiracy of anti-Islamic elements. Our fault is that we played our role in mending the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is not acceptable to



ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Mr Asif Mahmood Jah, presenting FTO's Annual Report 2023 to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwani-Sadr.

FTO decides Rs 17,742.16m refund claims in 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has addressed the grievances of the taxpayers by processing 8,963 cases with an implementation status of 94.07% during 2023 as compared to 73.29% last year.

Likewise, requests for refund claims were also de-cided to the tune of Rs 17,742.16 million in 2023 and the due amount was paid to the aggrieved tax-payers by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). This was highlighted

by the Federal Tax Om-budsman Asif Mahmood Jah, who called on President Dr Arif Alvi and presented FTO's Annual Report 2023 at Aiwan-e-Sadr

on Wednesday. The Federal Tax Ombudsman briefed the president about FTO's overall performance and its key initiatives to facilitate tax-payers and expeditiously address their grievances against maladministration

of tax officials. He stated that concerted efforts were undertaken to enhance FTO's outreach by launching awareness campaigns and opening up regional offices stated.

had appointed leading businessmen as Honorary Advisors from various Chambers of Commerce and Industries to facilitate the business com-

munity. "To ensure prompt response against the maladministration of tax authorities, a mobile App has been developed enabling aggrieved complainants to lodge complaints and check their status using mo-bile/smart devices", he

He apprised that highly informative training sessions had also been con ducted to enhance the professional skills and exper and the Philippines. tise of Ombudsman in He added that FTO tutions in the country. tise of Ombudsman insti-

SC seeks govt's assurance over no army role in business

Army should do its work and courts will do their job, remarks CJP Oazi Faez Isa

which the dispute started

belonged to his client. He

added that the allottees sold

the land based on fake

documents and now a five-

story building sits there. At this, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar

remarked that the ETPB

was a bystander when the

five-story building was be-

However, CJP Isa ob-

"The Karachi sub

On this point, the di-

CJP inquired how many

ing constructed.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has sought assurance from the attorney general that the army would only work on defence-related matters and not run any business.

The assurance was sought from CJP Isa during a hearing of a petition filed against commercial activity being done on military land.

served that it would not During the hearing, CJP Isa remarked that the army have been possible withwas conducting business out the involvement of and had set up marriage halls on military lands. He the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA). then sought assurance from He then further remarked that the assets of the attorney general that the army would remain the officers above the rank of inspector at the SBCA "protector" and not do any should be checked. business.

"Can you get this as-surance?" CJP Isa asked the registry's assets should also attorney general. He also added that everyone should be audited by the FBR. The residents of demolished work as per their mandate. buildings should receive money from all assets be-yond means," said the CJP. "The army should do its own work and courts will do their job," said CJP He also added that the Sindh government would Isa

never do an inquiry on this. In response, AGP Mansoor Usman Awan stated that as per principle, everyone should do their rector general of the SCBA appeared in court and the

However, CJP Isa ininspectors and officers sisted that if the AGP had were part of the departthe directives then he ment should give the assurance to the court.

The DG informed the court that currently there On this point lawyer are 1,400 employees with for the Evacuee Trust the SCBA out of which 600 are building inspec-Property Board (ETPB) tors and 300 are senior intervened and told the court that the building from inspectors.

ISLAMABAD: President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman addresses a media talk at G-6/4.

CJCSC discusses bilateral **Provision of** quality healthcare ties with Turkish Army's facilities top

NA session to be summoned |

in the country. He informed that Hon-orary Advisors had also been appointed abroad to facilitate overseas Pakistanis in the USA, Canada, Sweden, UAE, Hong Kong

deputy chief

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: General Irfan Ozsert, Deputy Chief

of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi on Wednesday. During the meeting, matters related to bilateral

military engagements and cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to forge deeper strategic ties. The dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pagovernment.

kistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism.



Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour' to the visiting dignitary.

Non accepting PM slot does not mean Nawaz is parting ways with politics: Maryam

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N chief organizer and nominated Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz has said non accepting the slot of Prime Minister (PM) by Nawaz Sharif does not mean he is going to forsake politics. Nawaz Sharif will not only do forceful politics in next five years but will also patronize PML-N governments in center and Puniab.

She said in her tweet that Nawaz Sharif has made it clear he will not become part of any coalition govern-ment. The people who know about Nawaz Sharif they too know about his principled stance.

Meanwnhile ormer prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif discussed names for the federal cabinet during a meeting here on Wednesday.

According to party sources, the junior Sharif briefed his elder brother on the meetings with various allies.

They said that after formation of the government, a 25-member federal cabinet is likely to be formed. It is likely that the MQM will get three to five ministries, they added.

Two killed, 13 injured in firing during recount on PB-21 seat

HUB (INP): In a shocking incident, two people were killed and thirteen others sustained injuries in an armed clash between two groups during a vote recount on the PB-21 seat of the Balochistan Assembly. The unconfirmed and unofficial results from PB-21 showed the candidate of Balochistan National Party (BAP) Muhammad Saleh Bhutani victory with 30,910 votes. According to Senior Superintendent (SSP) HUB Manzoor Buledi, an armed clash erupted between two groups during a vote recount on the PB-21 seat of Balochistan Assembly from Hub.

The firing incident was reported last night outside Civic Centre, where the vote recount was going on the provincial assembly seat, said SSP. Getting information about the firing incident, the police party reached the spot and arrested three suspects with Kalashnikov.

priority of govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): SLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for In-Caretaker Federal Minister formation, Broadcasting for National Health Serand Parliamentary Affairs vices, Regulations and Co-Murtaza Solangi on ordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan Wednesday said that the Wednesday said that the inaugural session of the new provision of quality medi-National Assembly would cal facilities to the public be summoned in accordance was a top priority of the with the law.

"I need to sign the sum-Talking to a Private mary for the NA session as news channel, the minister I also hold the portfolio of said that the government Minister for the Parliamenwas introducing health retary Affairs," Solangi said forms to cover essential while responding to the primary healthcare services queries of media-persons and secondary-level hospiregarding the procedure for tal care. He said all possible the summoning of new Naresources were being utitional Assembly, outside lized for lessening the the Election Commission of economic burden and Pakistan. raising the living standard The minister said in acof deprived segments of so-

cordance with the law the ECP was required to issue He underlined that the official results within 14 remarkable initiative of the days of the elections. government will tangibly reduce the burden on hos-

the quality of service delivery across the health sys-KARACHI (PR): Achiev-He said that the goving another milestone in inernment also promoted a digenous submarine develculture of research in the opment project at Pakistan, healthcare sector, adding the Keel Laying Ceremony that Pakistan needs more of second HANGOR Class efforts towards providing Submarine was held at high-quality, cost-effective Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW).

healthcare. Last session of Senate summoned Guest on February 19

ISLAMABAD (Online): Last session of Senate has been summoned on February 19. Chairman Senate Sadiq

pitals and thus will improve

ciety

Sanjrani will preside over the session According to parlia-

mentary sources summary being built at KS&EW unhas been sent to the presider Transfer of Technology dent for summoning last (ToT) agreement. This is session of Senate. the 2nd Submarine to un-The senators will make dergo Keel Laying at farewell speeches in last KS&EW. Earlier, in Dec session of Senate.

as per law: Solangi As per the Constitu-

tion, he stated, the president could convene the National Assembly's session within 21 days of the polling date.

'The last date for convening the NA session is February 29 and it can be summoned on any day before it

Solangi said that any member of the National Assembly could contest the elections for the positions of prime minister speaker and deputy speaker. To a query, he said legal forums were available for redressal of grievances regarding elections and justice should prevail if any violations were committed.

Those who had complaints in that regard should reach out the legal forums for justice, he added.

Indigenization is a top policy of naval headquarters: CNS

Submarine was successfully undertaken and currently it is at advanced stage of construction. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that it is a matter of great pride to witness the Keel Laying of HANGOR Class Subma-Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf rine at Karachi Shipyard in graced the occasion as Chief collaboration with China

Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co. Ltd (M/s As per the defence agreement between Pakistan and China for devel-CSOC). He lauded the joint opment of 08 x HANGOR efforts and performance of Ministry of Defence Produc-Class Submarines, 04 submarines are under construction, Pakistan Navy, Karachi tion at Wuchang Shipbuild-Shipyard (KS&EW) and M/ s CSOC for construction of ing Industry in China whereas remaining 04 are these Submarines. Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted that indigenization is a top priority of Naval Headquarters policy which is being manifested by construction of these state of the art Submarines at KS&EW

A view of consultative meeting of the nominated representatives of Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan People's Party held in Islamabad

CJP directs police to handle blasphemy cases

with more care

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday directed the police to handle blasphemy cases more care and ensure that the religion should not be used for personal gains. A three-member SC

bench headed the CJP and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Justice Musarrat Hilali heard the bail case of a blasphemy accused. The SSP and SP Islamabad police appeared before the court.

During the course of proceedings, the CJP remarked that the Superintendent of Police (SP) should to do investigation in the blasphemy case himself. Whether the court should suspend the SSP or SP on the illegal act, he asked.

The court observed that the police should not enter someone's home without permission or warrants. It noted that there was a five-year imprisonment sentence in Police Order 2002 for entering a house without the warrants. The court remarked that the blasphemy case was regis tered on basis of a picture.

JI rules out alliance with **PTI on govt formation** (APP): while expressing readiness PESHAWAR Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on for cooperation at the national level across Paki-Wednesday made a signifistan. In the repercussion of this refusal, PTI may not cant move by rejecting to enter into a political coalisecure any of the reserved tion and support Pakistan Tehreek-e-Însaf (PTI), which had sought assis-

from the tance religiopolitical party to accommodate its independents who emerged victorious in the February 8 elections for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. Talking to media per-sons here, Deputy Emir of

JI, Liaqat Baloch, announced that after thorough consultations within the party, they have decided not to comply with PTI's request. Baloch revealed that

PTI had approached JI solely for assistance in forming the government in of the parties that con-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

> Gas prices likely to surge again

ISLAMABAD (INP): Consumers, both protected and non-protected, are poised to face a significant uptick in gas prices, according to the sources within the industry.

The media reports indicate that protected consumers can anticipate a Rs. 10 per mmbtu ĥike, while their non-protected counterparts will see a steeper increase of Rs. 300 per mmbtu.

Crucially, there will be no adjustment to fixed charges for either group, although heavy gas users can expect a substantial Rs. 900 per mmbtu rise in prices.

The impact of this price adjustment extends to various sectors, including the CNG industry, where prices per mmbtu will climb by Rs. 170. Engro Fertilizer, among other entities, will also feel the pinch with increased gas rates, effective from March 1st.

These adjustments come into effect retrospectively, with the increased prices slated to apply from February 1st. Overall, consumers are bracing for a collective burden of Rs. 204 billion due to the escalation in gas prices, a change that will also affect captive power plants.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf laying the Keel of 6th NANGOR Class Submarine at Karachi Shipyard.

seats -26 for women and four for minorities – in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly unless it finds an alternative solution. PTI faces a challenge after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) stripped the party of its "bat" symbol, compelling it to field candidates as in-

dependents who contested on various symbols. Consequently, despite securing seats in the provincial legislatures of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PTI may tures not obtain reserved seats for women and minorities unless its members align with one tested the recent elections. Page 02

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

Hard to 'move on'

The caretaker prime minister recently asserted that the nation has "accepted" the election results and that we must, therefore, "move on". With all due respect, this seems like an overly optimistic take on a terribly messy situation.

As is evident from the slew of petitions being filed against the results, very few seem interested in 'moving on'. In fact, the results are so unacceptable to certain stakeholders that, in some instances, political rivals are setting aside their differences to challenge them as one.

Similarly, the PM's dismissal of concerns over tampered results, based on the simplistic assertion that people "believe that rigging was committed because the mobile service was suspended and results were delayed by 36 hours", is a fallacious framing of a highly serious matter. The rigging accusations have much more to do with the suspicious conduct of many returning officers, which the PM conveniently glossed over in his eagerness to prove critics wrong.

Whether or not he feels it to be his "moral duty", the PM should not be defending the ECP and its decidedly poor management of the election exercise. Nor does it seem appropriate for him to be summarily dismissing the concerns over election rigging, especially when the complaints are being taken to election tribunals and courts.

It also seems irresponsible of him to blame political parties for "failing to enact effective legislation" as the reason why the polls became controversial, instead of letting them take the matter up with the ECP. It is also strange that Mr Kakar is still having trouble deciding what 'free and fair' means.

The night before the election, he told a foreign interviewer that he "could not guarantee" free and fair polls because the idea was "very subjective". Now, he is insisting that the "process" was free and fair and that anyone who disagrees with this assessment is wrong.

Such unwarranted self-assurance and disregard for consequence would perhaps be more easily overlooked in a popularly elected leader secure in their office. However, they seem more than a little jarring when coming from an individual entrusted with the office to do just one job. The nation will, indeed, move on in good time. The political system will work through its present challenges and evolve.

However, the people will not be gas-lit into accepting less than what they deserve. The ECP will be held accountable for its failure to organise a smooth transfer of power from one elected government to the next.

It is only its disastrous mismanagement of the election process that is to blame for the growing controversy over rigging, not the media, which simply fulfilled its responsibility by acting as a check on the counting process. The government should accept this simple fact and move on.



By Qamar Bashir Press Secretary to the

President (*Rtd*); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France;

Former MD, SRBC text, PTI's options to pre-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf vent defections are prima-(PTI) finds itself emrily political rather than lebroiled in a multifaceted gal. They may engage in crisis, grappling with signegotiations or employ nificant challenges that party-level strategies to threaten its political standing and influence in retain their members. It may rely on internal rules both the National and Proor moral suasion to influ-ence members' loyalty. vincial Assemblies. At the heart of this turmoil is a Legally, the party should contentious legal struggle to reclaim seats that PTI ments, if any, or party alleges were unjustly wrested from its grasp, amidst accusations of a biased Election Commission and state machinery ostensibly arrayed against it. This situation is further compounded by the unsetments.

tling trend of PTI-endorsed candidates, who secured their victories largely through the party's support and the charismatic appeal of its former chairman. Imran Khan. now defecting under the pressures of coercion or

the allure of incentives. Faced with this precarious scenario, PTI's defection. Nonetheless, ability to retain its elected the effectiveness of these representatives is selegal measures is uncertain, verely constrained, leaving given the lack of clear the party in a vulnerable statutory provisions adposition. The shifting aldressing post-election party loyalty. In Pakistan's political landlegiances of its candidates not only undermine PTI's legislative strength but scape, such issues of dealso pose profound quesfection and party loyalty tions about party loyalty and political integrity in have historically been more amenable to politi-Pakistan's tumultuous pocal resolutions rather than litical landscape. legal interventions

In response to these In the case of reserve daunting challenges, PTI seats, PTI has limited opmust tread carefully, adtions. Since PTI could not hering scrupulously to the file the initial list submis-

and

that

seats, and shifting loyalties stipulations of the Elec-tions Act, 2017 (Section eventual electoral strength 104). This legal frameor diversity, PTI could exwork, while offering a plore forming alliances or pathway to address grievnegotiating coalition agreeances, also demands mements with other parties. These political maneuvers ticulous compliance and strategic acumen from would involve discussions PTI as it seeks to navigate around policy concessions these turbulent waters. or legislative support in exchange for backing PTI's The party's journey ahead nominees for key posiis fraught with legal, political, and ethical hurdles, tions, thereby indirectly requiring a delicate balance enhancing their represenbetween legal recourse, tation in the assembly. political strategy, and the Such alliances not only maintenance of its core require adept negotiation skills but also a willingness principles and public imto engage in give-and-take, Given this legal conbalancing the party's immediate needs with its long-term policy objec-

> tives. PTI faces formidable challenges in its quest for justice concerning allegations of extensive electoral rigging that ostensibly transformed its potential victories and defeats. The party contends that it is up against an overwhelming adversary, with accusations that the entire Election Commission, along with various state institutions, is determined to thwart PTI's aspirations for a majority government, particularly at the federal level. This perceived alliance against PTI is accused of employing a wide array of tactics, both within and beyond the legal framework, to systematically undermine the party's electoral success and political influence.

The avenues available to PTI for contesting these allegations and seeking redress are notably constrained under these circumstances. The party's battle is not merely legal but also deeply political, entailing a struggle against a network of powerful forces allegedly aligned in opposition. This situation places PTI in a precarious position, necessitating a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond conventional legal challenges. It requires mobilizing public support,

justices. The party's endeavor to overturn the alleged manipulation and secure its rightful place in the political arena is a testament to the turbulent nature of democratic processes in contexts where the impartiality of electoral bodies and state institutions is called into question The electoral frame-

PTI's Challenges: Stolen & reserved

work in Pakistan, as delineated by the Elections Act, 2017, is structured to uphold the sanctity and integrity of the voting process through a series of meticulous procedures and checks. From the initial step of voter identification, which leverages both traditional ID cards and advanced technologies like biometric verification, to the methodical issuance and tracking of ballot papers marked with indelible ink, the system is designed to mitigate the risks of impersonation and double voting. The public announcement of provisional

results, followed by a transparent consolidation process in the presence of contesting candidates or their representatives, further enhances the credibility of the electoral process. These procedural safeguards, coupled with the option for any grievances to be thoroughly investigated by Election Tribunals, including the verification of thumb im-

pressions against electoral rolls, form a robust framework intended to deter and detect malfeasance. However, the effi-

cacy of this system in delivering justice, particularly in the face of allegations of widespread rigging, hinges on the integrity with which these procedures are implemented. While the law provides a comprehensive blueprint to safeguard electoral integrity, its success ultimately depends on the impartial

diplomatic channels to highlight the perceived in-parties, candidates, and civil society.

The provisions for legal recourse and the esdisparities. tablishment of Election Tribunals serve as a critical backstop, offering a pathway to challenge and rectify potential irregularities. This multi-layered approach, combining preventive measures with mechanisms for redress, embodies the legislative intent to create a foolproof electoral system. Yet, the true measure of its effectiveness lies in its application, underscoring the importance of vigilance, transparency, and accountabil-

ity at every stage of the electoral process. In the intricate tapestry of Pakistan's political arena, PTI emerges as the dominant force at other national party. the Centre, yet finds itself short of achieving a simple majority. This scenario necessitates alliances for governance, but ideological rifts with major parties like PPP and PML(N) sharply limit PTI's options, steering it towards a probable tenure in opposition. This position compels PTI to focus on reclaiming what it alleges are its unfairly lost seats, while navigating the complex dynamics of parliamentary politics. Despite the chal-

lenging circumstances, there's a simmering discourse among PTI leaders about the potential for a coalition with PPP. Such a partnership, though fraught with complexities due to fundamental ideological divergences, holds a glimmer possibility.

Realizing this alliance would require exceptional diplomatic vision for the nation, its finesse and a willingness to engage in pragmatic policy compro-mises. For PTI, this path demands a strategic recalibration to for a more transparent international advocacy for execution by election of-fair play, and engaging in ficials and the vigilant with PPP, ensuring that order.

governance is marked by cohesion and effectiveness despite the underlying ideological

Conversely, in provinces like Punjab and Sindh, where PTI is not the dominant force. the party faces a more complex situation. In Punjab, where PML(N) leads, and Sindh, pre-dominantly under PPP control, PTI's prospects for forming a govern-ment are slim. The political dynamics in these regions might compel PTI to adopt a role in the opposition, focusing on legislative influence and preparing for future electoral opportunities. Whereas, Balochistan offers a unique challenge where PTI didn't do well compared to any

Navigating the tumultuous waters of Pakistan's political land-scape, PTI stands at a crossroads, facing daunting challenges that test its resilience, strategic acumen, and ideological commitment. The party's struggle to reclaim its allegedly stolen seats, counter the shifting loyalties of its representatives, and grapple with the complexities of forming alliances underlines the intricate balance between political pragmatism and principled governance. As PTI endeavors to solidify its position, whether in governance or opposition, its actions will not only shape its own future but also have profound implications for the democratic fabric of Pakistan. The path PTI chooses to pursue in this critical juncture will be a testament to its commitment to justice. and its capacity to navigate the intricate interplay of power, loyalty, and ideology in the quest

Commerce News

ments, if any, or party constitutions that candidates may have agreed to, which might include clauses related to party lovalty or penalties for defection PTI could explore enforcing these agree-However, the en-

forceability of such agreements is contingent upon their specific terms and compatibility with Pakistani law. Additionally, PTI could consider filing election petitions if there is substantial evidence of electoral fraud or malpractice associated with the

Project for enhancing domestic pharmaceutical ingredients production inaugurated

for National Health capacity Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Wednesday, Jan, inaugurated a project of expansion and revamping of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturing facility at DrugPharma Chemicals.

It is the second project under endeavor of revival and invigorating domestic production of

KARACHI (APP): The API and at completion of API imports but it will Caretaker Federal Minster the project the production also help reducing the price medicines the of of would improving quality and Drugpharma increase in a phased manner availability of the basic from existing 52000 liters pharmaceutical ingredients to over 105000 liters by in the country. end of the year. He

said The federal minister medicines and other speaking at the occasion pharmaceutical products said that APIs are used as manufactured in Pakistan basic ingredient in were in a great demand in medicines of different Central Asia as well as in disease and their enhanced African countries and we indigenous production will can enhance our exports by not only lessen reliance on ensuring expansion

opportunities the local pharmaceutical sector.

Increase in export of pharmaceutical products will also contribute significantly in ensuring the availability of quality medicines on appropriate prices across the country, he added.

'Since formation of caretaker government, I have pursued a three pronged strategy in health sector with core objectives of health sector reforms.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with delegation of overseas Pakistani business community from UK, Europe, Muscat and Oman led by Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood Hanjara and Tafazul Hussain at Governor House.

Qadir Bakhsh says: Thematic design ideas for new banknote series to be submitted till March 11

government for approval

and the process of issuing

the new series of banknotes

would involves a number

of steps, adding, cash

prizes would be awarded

to top three entries in each

of the current seven

explained that after the art

director

denominations.

The

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Finance of the State Bank Pakistan Qadir Bakhsh Wednesday said that SBP was organizing an art competition to develop innovative and thematic design ideas for new banknotes where local artists, designers and art students would submit their final designs by

competition, the selected March 11. design ideas and themes Talking to private would be shared with news channel, he said that professional banknote the final designs would be designers chosen through a

submitted to the federal competitive process.

Overseas Pak business community can play vital role in stabilizing economy

LAHORE Governor Muhammad play an important role in stabilizing the country's economy by exporting agricultural products to European and other countries. He expressed these views during a meeting with the overseas Pakistani

Shipping

(Online): community delegation sending remittances to Punjab from UK, Europe, Muscat Pakistan. He said that Balighur and Oman led by Rehman has said that Chaudhry Khalid overseas Pakistani Mehmood Hanjara and business community can Tafazul Hussain at Governor House Lahore. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that overseas

the country.

overseas Pakistanis should play a robust role in increasing exports Governor Punjab further said that Pakistan offers conducive business environment to

foreign investors, adding that the government through the Special Investment Facilitation Council has

Pakistanis are the asset of

He said that they are facilitated foreign investors to he overseas contributing to the investin agriculture and other business country's economy by sectors.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 926 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the transacted their shares in Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with builish trend on Wednesday, gaining 926.92 points, a positive change of 1.51 percent, closing at 62,153.84 points against 61,226.93 points the previous trading day.

A total of 303,886,073 shares valuing Rs.14.687 billion were traded during the day as compared to 435,549,576 shares valuing Rs.15.972 billion the last day.

Some 342 companies the stock market; 267 of them recorded gains and 56 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 19 remained unchanged.

The three toptrading companies were K-Electric Limited with 33,417,936 shares at Rs 4.47 per share, Oil and Gas Development with 32,231,367 shares at Rs 122.01 per share and Pak Petroleum with 15,505,464 shares at Rs 107.37 per share.

LAHORE: Chairman of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association Punjab Kamran Arshad addressing a press conference.

EDOTCO Pakistan spearheads sustainable development, community wellbeing in 2023

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: EDOTCO nities, particularly in ar- also as power sources for eas with limited access to neighboring off-grid grid power, culminated in the successful execution derscores the company's of the Tower to Commu- role in driving sustainable nity (T2C) initiative.

The visionary project, centered in Tehsil Kabir Wala, Multan, not community welfare and only supplied clean en-

ergy to adjacent house- tinuous pursuit to comholds but also set a munity welfare, EDOTCO Pakistan, a key player in benchmark in integrating Pakistan also introduced the telecommunications sustainable energy prac- the Occupational Health infrastructure industry tices with societal and Safety (OHS) school marked a significant upliftment. By tapping program, a pioneering stride in its dedication to into solar energy, step in promoting health Corporate Social Re- EDOTCO Pakistan and safety awareness. sponsibility (CSR) in innovatively utilized its The program was piloted 2023. The company's towers not just as telecom in Islamabad and the commitment to enriching infrastructure to connect Mansehra District, reunderprivileged commu- the unconnected, but flecting the company's homes. This initiative unronment.

menting its unwavering School & College in April dedication to enhancing 2023, and subsequently livelihoods. In its con-

MULTAN said on Wednesday that early sowing of cotton was vielding production and the trend proactive stance in creatwas on the rise in the ing a safer and more region health-conscious envi-

Implemented initially development and ce- at the Mansehra Public at the Pehli Kiran Schools

(APP): Sahiwal, Sargodha and Secretary Agriculture Faisalabad divisions. South Punjab Saqib Ateel Saqib

officials to guide farmers on breaking hard soil, triple-gene cultivation, and handsome implementation of the IPM model

While chairing a meeting here, Saqib Ateel said that early sowing increased production by reducing expenditures. The trend of early

sowing was being a short period. witnessed in Multan,

directed

He also stressed the importance of prioritizing national interests over personal gains. He highlighted how cotton, being a unique crop, can

significantly contribute to the country's economy in

Lokoja and Stockholm Eagle, carrying Palm oil LPG, LNG and Coal berthed at Liquid Terminal Engro Terminal, Gas Terminal and Bulk Terminal

respectively during last 24 hours Meanwhile two more ship, Visayas and America scheduled to load/ offload Rice and Containers are also arrived at outer

anchorage of the Port Qasim during the same

period.

Saqib Ateel says: activity at **Port Qasim Early sown cotton** KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity reported at Port Qasim where four yields more production ships namely, Bow Endeavor, Epic Sunter,

ndependent

National News

Page 03

KP Governor inaugurates IT lab at AUST

HAVELIAN (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday inaugurated a free IT lab at Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST) to technological education 10,000 trees. He and promote sustainable underlined the importance practices.

Addressing the gathering, Governor KP emphasized the significance of Free IT Labs in Fourth Generation Universities and applauded Abbottabad University's efforts to obtain projects in Speaking on the information technology occasion, Vice Chancellor obtain projects in information technology from global countries. He

advocated for educational systems that prioritize importance of nurturing skill acquisition over job

pursuit and stressed the province's youth to youth in the present era. He further outlined

plans to beautify the university's vacant land and enhance its foster atmosphere by planting of student involvement in the university's care and

beautification efforts. He urged students to utilize information technology technology responsibly to shape a future for

Prof. Dr. Malik Mujaddad ur Rehman underscored the talent and ability among the

importance of empowering empower them as valuable assets to the nation and society

During the event, it was revealed that AUST has generated approximately \$47,000 from various international-level projects in information technology. Furthermore, nearly 400 deserving and underprivileged students have been provided scholarships that reflect the university's commitment to

inclusive education.Dr. Rahman also highlighted the significant advancements including the resolution of the university's land issue complete and the elimination of the electricity bill through a \$9 million investment in solar energy.

Inspector among 4 cops suspended over

negligence FAISALABAD (APP): City Police Officer (CPO) Captain (retd) Muhammad Ali Zia suspended four police officials including an inspector of Khurarianwala police station on the charge of

AHORE:

memorandum

negligence from duty. Police Spokesman Irfan Niazi said here on Wednesday that Khurarianwala police had caught an accused Amanat, son of Charagh, a resident of Chak No 211-RB, in a terrorism case some time ago. But the accused managed to escape from the police custody when he was being taken to a court

from the police station. Taking serious notice of the incident, the CPO Faisalabad immediately suspended four police officials including Inspector Ahmad Nawaz, Sub Inspector (SI) Akram, Constable Asad and Constable Akbar Ali on the charge of negligence from duty. The CPO also directed the superintendent police (SP) Jaranwala division to probe the matter and submit a report at the earliest so that further departmental action could be

taken against the responsible.

LAHORE (APP): understanding (MOU) for mutual cooperation was signed between the National Information Technology Board (NITB) and the Pakistan Society of International Cardiology

(PSIC) for the prevention and treatment of heart diseases. Under the agreement, the National Information Technology Board (NITB) Technology Dr. Umar Saif.

prevention of heart diseases

Minister for Information

to be played in Rawalpindi, Multan and Lahore. It was facilitation of the people. He directed to timely impart awareness to the citizen about the alternate routes through the media, saying that the institutions concerned and departments by keeping a close liaison should diligently perform their duties. The arrangements should match with the significance of holding a big tournament like PSL. The cricket lovers should be provided a peaceful and secure environment to watch cricket matches

Two dead bodies of boys recovered RAWALPINDI (APP):

Two dead bodies of boys were recovered from an under-construction plaza in Chandni Chowk, Rawalpindi here on

Wednesday. Rescue 1122 teams were immediately rushed to the crime scene. According to the Media Coordinator, Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi Muhammad Usman Gujjar said that there were no apparent injuries on the dead bodies. increase reliability of replaced at 55 locations.

NIA's plea for

death penalty for

Yasin Malik-

Delhi court

defers hearing

NEW DELHI (INP): The

Delhi High Court, today, de-

ferred the hearing on the Na-

tional Investigation Agency's

plea for the death sentence

for Jammu and Kashmir Lib-

eration Front Chairman

Muhammad Yasin Malik.

Previously sentenced to life

Hearing of Ramzan sugar mills reference against Shehbaz, Hamza adjourned

LAHORE (Online): Accountability Court (AC) has adjourned till March 12 hearing of Ramzan sugar mills reference against PML-N president and nominated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz. Ali Zulqarnain Awan,

reference Wednesday.

attendance completed.

Anwar

appear in the court. One day exemption plea from attendance was filed on his behalf. The court accepted the plea. The court while summoning the arguments on the petition of permanent exemption of Hamza Shehbaz from attendance adjourned the hearing till March 12.

judge of AC heard the Shehbaz Sharif and Hussain Hamza Shehbaz are charged advocate representative of with constructing nullah Shehbaz Sharif got

from national kitty. NAB Lahore has filed Hamza Shehbaz did not reference in AC Lahore.



LAHORE: Women police and members of civil society lit candles during candle light vigil to pay tribute to the martyrs of police officers at Faisal Chowk, in the Provincial Capital.

NTDC maintains transmission line to ensure uninterrupted power supply in Ramadan

instruction of its Managing Director Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) is with continuing its comprehensive maintenance

programme for the NTDC transmission lines and grid stations to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the country during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan. NTCD spokesman told media here Wednesday that under the maintenance programme, washing, cleaning, replacement of Disc Insulators and other necessary activities are spokesman elaborated that being carried out by a total of 73,493 disc being carried out by respective NTDC These formations.

LAHORE (APP): Following transmission lines and grid stations and help ensure uninterrupted power supply during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Under this program, shutdowns were also availed on 500kV and 220kV transmission line circuits in the south region. During these shutdowns, he mentioned, the cleaning washing of insulators tightening of nut/bolts of line hardware and replacement of disc insulators with RTV coated disc Insulators on Red Yellow and Blue phases were carried out. The insulators were washed/ cleaned at 459 locations, activities, he added, would 9,804 disc insulators were

FAISALABAD: UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan while CI Chinese Dean Dr Zhou Changming, cutting cake during celebrate Chinese New Year Happy Spring Festival at Confucius Institute (CI) University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) on late night.

KP's CM nominee Gandapur vows to work for uplift of province

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): slot of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's chief minister, on Wednesday, vowed to serve the people of the province regardless of any discrimination.

Ali Amin Gandapur, who has been nominated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, thanked his party's leadership for reposing the federal level, Gandapur trust in him and said that was a member of the KP's he would alleviate the problems of the masses.

Ali Amin federal minister and Gandapur, nominee for the member of the national and provincial assembly was elected in the general elections 2024 as a member of the KP Assembly from PK-113, Dera Ismail Khan. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan from 2018 to

Gandapur, a former Previously, he served as the 2022. Before his stint at

provincial assembly from 2013 to 2018.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for IT and Communication Dr. Umar Saif witnesses an MoU of Treatment And Prevention Of Heart Attack between NHATI (National Heart Attack and Treatment Initiative), Pakistan Society of Interventional Cardiology (PSIC) and National Information Technology Board (NITB). PSIC President Prof. Zubair Akram, Vice President Prof. Dr. Nauman Naseer (Focal Person of the Institute) and NITB Chairman Dr. Babar Majeed Bhatti also participate the signing ceremony.

CM orders foolproof security for PSL-9

Independent Report Punjab informed during the briefing that more than 16,000 Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ordered police personnel will to undertaker excellent perform their security duties during the PSL arrangements to ensure foolproof security for Pakistan Super League matches. A security plan for the matches to be played in (PSL) 9 and for facilitation of cricket lovers. Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan has been chalked out. The matches of PSL-9 Presided over a special meeting with regard to undertaking security and other arrangements to hold

are going to be launched from Feb 17. The CM PSL-9 here on Wednesday, directed to carry out Mohsin Naqvi directed to effective management to

maintain traffic flow during implement the formulated security plan in its true the matches adding that the spirit for the cricket matches traffic closure time should be

MoU signed between **NIT Board and PSIC for**

A will provide digital and technical cooperation to the

Pakistan Society of International Cardiology (PSIC) for data preparation and research for the prevention and treatment of heart diseases, including heart attacks. The signing ceremony for the agreement took place at a local hotel here in the presence of Federal

International News

Gaza truce talks open as Erdogan due in Cairo

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Officials from the US, Egypt, Israel and Qatar met in Cairo on Tuesday in another bid to agree a Gaza truce as calls grew for Israel to hold back on a day (today). planned assault on the enclave's southernmost city, crammed with over a million displaced people.Renewed efforts were underway to secure a truce in a war whose impact has rippled across the Middle East. Egypt's statelinked Al Qahera News said from Gaza. talks had begun involving US, Qatari, Egyptian and Israeli officials.

CIA director William two sides. Burns met Mossad chief David Barnea in Cairo for a new round of talks on a Qatari-brokered plan to temporarily halt fighting in exchange for Hamas freeing

hostages. The two intelli- initiative that achieves an end to aggression and war," a Hamas official told AFP gence chiefs were joined by Qatar's prime minister and Egyptian officials, while on condition of anonymity. Turkish President is due in ceasefire comes after the Cairo for talks on Wednes-

United States and the A Palestinian official United Nations warned Issaid, "The sides are look- rael against carrying out a ground offensive into Rafah, the southernmost ing for a formula that will be acceptable to Hamas, Gaza city where more than who says it is only possible to sign a deal once it a million Palestinians are is based on an Israeli comtrapped. The official said

The quest for a

mitment to ending its war Hamas had told the particiand pulling out its forces pants it does not trust Is-A proposal thrashed rael not to renew the war if out with Israeli negotiators the Israeli prisoners being in Paris last month has gone held by Palestinians are reback and forth between the leased.

The prisoners have "Hamas and the been detained by Hamas [other] factions are awaitsince Oct 7 to pressurise ing the outcome of the Israeli forces to stop unending assaults on the people Cairo meetings, and Hamas is open to discussing any of Palestine

> Microsoft says it caught hackers from China, Russia, Iran using its AI tools

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Statebacked hackers from Russia, China, and Iran have been using tools from Microsoft-backed OpenAI in the Gaza Strip. "Maybe after this catato hone their skills and trick their targets, according to a report published on Wednesday.

Microsoft said in its report it had tracked hacking groups affiliated with Russian military intelligence, Iran's Revolutionary Guard, and the Chinese and North Korean governments as they tried to perfect their hacking campaigns using large language models.

Those computer programmes, often called artificial intelligence, draw on massive amounts of text to generate human-sounding responses.

The company an-nounced the find as it rolled out a blanket ban on statebacked hacking groups us-ing its AI products. "Independent of whether there's any violation of the law or any violation of terms of service



President Tayyip Erdogan meets with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo, Egypt.

Dismantling UNRWA a 'disaster' for Gaza: chief

Monitoring Desk now to genuinely find a po-GENEVA: Dismantling the UN agency for Palestinian litical solution, and it would be a disaster that, just before it, we get rid of... UNRWA," Lazzarini told refugees would be a disaster, its chief said Tuesday, as pressure rose after Israel reporters. UNRWA is the said it had found a Hamas main aid organisation in the tunnel beneath its Gaza headquarters. UNRWA Gaza Strip, which is now gripped by a serious humanichief Philippe Lazzarini tarian crisis due to the war. called for an independent in-Earlier, Israel's foreign

imprisonment, Yasin Malik, minister called Saturday for faces allegations of involve-Lazzarini, who said the ment in what legal experts Rafah situation was "deeply concerning", with term as fake cases. Some observers even fear that the people "anxious and in Modi government aims to exfear" of a major military ecute the Kashmiri leader for clysm which has hit the re-gion in Gaza, it might be time assault "in the middle of a sea of displaced people". political gains in the upcoming elections in India.

Putin signs law to confiscate Jailed Thai ex-PM to be freed, says minister **Monitoring Desk** BANGKOK: Jailed former

Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is to be freed, the kingdom's justice minister said Tuesday, possibly as soon as the weekend — just six months after returning from 15 years of self-imposed exile.

The controversial billionaire, twice elected pre-

NATO chief hails record defense spending and warns that Trump's remarks undermine security

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: NATO Secre-

tary-General Stoltenberg said Wednesday that European allies and Canada have ramped up defense spending to record levels, as he warned that former U.S. President Donald Trump was undermining their security by calling into question the U.S. commitment to its allies. Stoltenberg said that U.S. partners in NATO have spent \$600 billion more on their military budgets since 2014, when Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in Ukraine prompted the allies to reverse the spending cuts they had made after the Cold

"Last year we saw an

unprecedented rise of 11%

across European allies and

War ended.

sk defense ministers in Brus-sels. In 2014, NATO lead-ers committed to move toward spending 2% of their gross domestic product on defense within a decade. It has mostly been slow going, but Russia's invasion of Ukraine two years ago fo-cused minds. The 2% figure is now considered a minimum requirement.

This year I expect 18 allies to spend 2% of the GDP on defense. That is another record number and a six-fold increase from 2014 when only three allies met the target," Stoltenberg said. On Saturday, Trump, the front-runner in the U.S. for the Republican Party's nomination this year, said he once warned that he would allow Russia to do whatever it wants to

NATO members that are Canada," Stoltenberg told "delinquent" in devoting 2% of GDP to defense. reporters on the eve of a meeting of the organization's

Ukrainian military says it sank a Russian landing ship in the Black Sea

military

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine's military said Wednesday it used naval drones to sink a Russian landing ship in the Black Sea, a report that has not been confirmed by Russian authorities.

The Caesar Kunikov amphibious ship sank near Alupka, a city on the southern edge of the Crimean Peninsula that Moscow annexed in 2014, Ukraine's General Staff said. It said the ship can carry 87 crew members.

Sinking the vessel would be another embarrassing blow for the Russian Black Sea fleet and a significant success for Ukraine 10 days before the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022. Kremlin spokesper-

mier and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was jailed for son Dmitry Peskov refused eight years on graft and abuse to comment on the claim of power charges in August, during a conference call with but within days had his senreporters Wednesday. He tence cut to one year by King said questions should be Maha Vajiralongkorn. addressed to the Russian

Ukraine has moved onto the defensive in the war, hindered by low ammunition supplies and a shortage of personnel, but has kept up its strikes be-hind the largely static 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line.

It is the second time in two weeks that Ukrainian forces have said they sank a Russian vessel in the Black Sea. Last week, they published a video that they said showed naval drones assaulting the Russian missile-armed corvette vanovets.

Ukraine's Military Intelligence, known by its Ukrainian acronym GUR, said its special operations unit "Group 13" sank the Caesar Kunikov using Magura V5 sea drones on Wednesday.

Explosions damaged the vessel on its left side, it said, though a heavily edited video it released was unclear.



President Joko Widodo and First Lady Iriana cast their ballots at a polling station during the general election in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Indonesia counts votes in presidential race amid calls for clean election

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Indonesian authorities were counting votes cast on Wednesday in the world's biggest singleday election, headlined by the race to succeed President Joko Widodo, whose influence could determine who takes the country's helm.

The race to replace Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, pits two former governors, Ganjar Pranowo and Anies Baswedan, against across the country.

controversial frontrunner Prabowo Subianto, the defence minister and a former special forces commander feared in the 1990s as a top lieutenant of Indonesia's late

strongman ruler Suharto. Initial indications of the result are expected to emerge later on Wednesday, based on independent pollsters' 'quick of publicly counts' counted votes from a

sampling of stations

assets of those convicted of discrediting the Russian army lower house, Vyacheslav President Vladimir Putin signed a law Wednesday

Volodin, said the measure includes harsher punishment for "traitors who sling mud at our country and our that will allow authorities troops" and would "strip to confiscate money, valuthose scoundrels of honorary ables and other assets from people convicted of spreading "deliberately

titles, confiscate their assets, money and other valuables." **Russian** officials have false information" about the used the existing law country's military. The bill against "discrediting" the sailed through the lower and military that covers of-

upper houses of the Rusfenses such as "justifying sian parliament, and was terrorism" and spreading unanimously endorsed by "fake news" about the the upper house last week. armed forces. The speaker of the

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Russian

vestigation once the con-

flict is over, looking into the

tunnel allegations and the

destruction of UN premises

Thursday February 15, 2024

Daily **Independent**, Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi chairs a meeting. The meeting was attended by DG FDE and senior representatives from HEC in addition with senior officials from Ministry of Education.

Education body acknowledges support of members, officials

Independent Report ISLAMABAD : Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, Senator Irfan Siddiqui in a final meeting of the committee before dissolution held Wednesday acknowledged the unwavering support of both committee members and officials from the education ministry and HEC over the past three years.

The chair conveyed to committee members that this marks the final meeting of the standing committee before its dissolution.

Expressing gratitude, the committee members commended the chair for ensuring the smooth func-



posed

LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed talking with persons after visiting Haji Ĉamp, in the Provincial Capital.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa says People of GB unaware of their constitutional status

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ex- ries

tioning of the standing comthe education ministry to devise plans for teacher mittee proceedings. The committee adtraining encompassing

dress code, moral values, dressed the agenda item related to a starred question and teaching acumen. A point of public imby Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi portance concerning the during the Senate Session on absence of a service struc-5th January 2024. The question inquired

about government-established institutes for teacher special training. The Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training informed the committee about two such institutions in Islamabad.

Senator Tangi urged international training for teachers to expose them to

rected the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and ture for university teachers was discussed. The HEC Federal Directorate of Edu-Chairman reported on the cation (FDE) to accelerate committee's formulation of policy and progress, and the chair diexecution of ongoing rected the HEC to submit projects. an interim report by Friday He made these direc-The committee also tions while chairing a meetdiscussed a starred quesing held here which was tion from Senator Mushtaq also attended by DG FDE

Ahmed regarding the number of students studying "A" and "O" levels under the Cambridge system in Pakistan.

> **Two missing** kids reunited with family

SLAMABAD (APP) Aabpara police on Wednesday reunited two missing kids including a boy and a girl with their family, a public relations officer said. According to the de-

tails, the police team renual cleaning work of ceived an application from Khanpur Dam Canal has a citizen in which he stated been started by the Water that his daughter namely Supply Department of the CDA which will be com-Ayesha and Son Rehan had been missing and pleted by the end of this could not be traced demonth.



Minister directs HEC, FDE to accelerate policy formulation process

fessional Training Madad

Ali Sindhi Wednesday di-

ISLAMABAD (APP): senior officials from the Caretaker Minister for ministry. Federal Education and Pro-

The minister was briefed by HEC representatives about the consideration of the Private Members Bill "The Smart Institute of Science and Technolog (Amendment) Bill 2023". HEC had been deliberating on developing a service structure and promotion policy for the

university's teachers, they added. The minister was told

and senior representatives about imparting training to from HEC in addition with the teachers of FDE.

CDA starts cleaning work of Khanpur Dam Canal

ISLAMABAD (APP): the residents of Sectors G-The Water Supply Direc-torate of the Capital Devel-10, G-11, F-10, F-11 and D-12 of Islamabad, and due opment Authority (CDA) to the annual cleaning camis working rapidly on sevpaign of Khanpur Čanal, the water supply will be reduced by 50% in these eral projects to meet the shortage of water in the city so that the citizens could sectors. The shortage of not face any kind of diffiwater in these sectors will be fulfilled by Sangjani Wa-In this regard, the anter Works including Simli Dam. After which water supply will be restored in the said sectors as per

schedule It should be noted that due to lack of sufficient rains in monsoon and win-Since water is being ter, the water level in the dams has become very low.



kistan

bating organized crime and General FIA Ashraf Zubair strengthening the rule of eral Investigation Agency law, said a press release on

(FIA) and the Sustainable Wednesday Signing ceremony held Social Development Organization (SSDO) have enat FIA headquarters in tered into a Memorandum Islamabad, this collaboration was hailed by Director of Understanding (MOU) General FIA Ahmad to collaborate on various initiatives aimed at raising Ishaque Jehangir as a significant step towards effecawareness, building capactive partnership, while Di-rector-AHS recognized ity, campaigning, and coordinating stakeholders to address transnational orga-SSDO's efforts in combating trafficking in persons nized crime, with a specific focus on Trafficking in Per-(TIP) and smuggling of migrants in Pakistan, highsons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Palighting the importance of strategic cooperation between law enforcement and civil society organizations to increase public awareness and enhance the capac-

tribution agreement be-

tween India and Pakistan,

as he underscored the need

to address the looming wa-

mand, coupled with climate

change impacts, creates the potential for trans-bound-

ary water disputes in sev-

eral parts of the world," Am-

bassador Munir Akram told

the UN Security Council's

high-level debate on the

impact of climate change

and food insecurity on in-

Waters Treaty," the Paki-

stani envoy stressed in the

course of the day-long de-

bate, which was convened

by Guyana, the president of

the Security Council for

February. Nearly 90 coun-

aims to reinvigorate the

Indus River basin — the

largest contiguous irrigation

system in the world, which

provides food security to

Pakistan, he added,

tries took part.

"Increasing water de-

ter crisis.

rity.

Siddiqui, Deputy Director

AHS Rai Nasrullah, focal person TIP unit Shireen Malik Sher, Senior Direc-tor SSDO Muhammad Shahid Khan, and Director Programs SSDO Maryam Jawad were also present at the ceremony. SSDO's Executive Director, Syed Kausar Abbas, emphasized the organization's history of initiatives aimed at combatting TIP and SOM, including capacity building of relevant stakeholders such as law enforcement officials, building coordination of all relevant stakeholders and awareness raising of citizens on these crimes. The MOU is expected to ity of relevant officials on further facilitate the mutual tor Syed Kausar Abbas, the TIP and other transnational objectives of SSDO and FIA implementing Additional Director frameworks against TIP. Pak urges 'strict' implementation

Ashrafi commends institutions for ensuring law, order during elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Wednesday commended the significant role of all institutions, including the Pakistan Army, security agencies, and police for their efforts in ensuring law and order, especially during the recent general elections held on February 8, across the country Addressing a joint

press conference along with other prominent religious scholars and leaders, he acknowledged that despite

tions to strengthen the nation. Acknowledging elec-tion results, he emphasized on utilizing legal channels such as the Election Commission of Pakistan and courts to address grievances and ensure fairness

forts had been thwarted.

leading to the successful

Ashrafi called on major political parties to unite and foster an environment

conducive to reconciliation and dialogue. Pakistan's progress and prosperity," he added.

disrupt the peaceful con-duct of elections, their ef-Emphasising the importance of maintaining peace and stability within completion of the electoral process. Ashrafi who is the country, he announced that a high-level delegation also the chairman of Pakifrom the Pakistan Ulema stan Ulema Council said in Council would engage with light of the current political and religious landscape, all major political parties to foster understanding and there was a pressing call for cooperation. Ashrafi also urged the unity among Pakistan's political and religious fac-

and prioritize the nation's well-being. He, raising conleadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, to prioricerns regarding external commentary on Pakistan's tize national stability and elections, emphasized on engage in dialogue for the the importance of respecting national sovereignty and betterment of the country. He reiterated that negotiademocratic processes. tions were key to resolving all issues encouraging political parties to engage in constructive dialogue. "A

Ashrafi said Pakistan Ulema Council would observe a day of condemnation against Israeli aggresstrong government with a sion on Friday

robust opposition is deemed essential for

was a pressing need for

political parties to forge a national pact for the better-

ment and stability of Pakistan. He urged all parties to

set aside personal interests

He opined that there



ISLAMABAD: FIA Director Anti Human Smuggling (AHS) Israr Ahmed Khan and SSDO Executive Director Syed Kausar Abbas exchanges the documents after signing the MoU at FIA headquarters.

FIA, SSDO join hands to address human trafficking, migrants smuggling

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Fed-

pressing surprise that the their constitutional status, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday suggested holding a referendum or a plebiscite in GB and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

three-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC), headed by the CJP, heard the petition filed against the appointment of judges to the top court of GB.

The additional attorney general (AAG) said that it was the job of the United Nations to hold a plebiscite in these territo-

The CJP replied that people of Gigit-Baltistan (GB) still had no idea about babter that a masking you whether this is possible.'

The AAG told the apex court that the govern-ment wanted to make GB part of the federation, but some international conventions were stumbling blocks in its way. The chief justice said

that India had devoured the state of Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing its special status. He then asked whether the federal government had been formed after the elec-

tions. "Who has been elected as the prime minis-



ter?

ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in construction work of bridge on under construction 10th Avenue during development work in Federal Capital.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking **Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

MCB Baffa Doraha Shinkiari Road Mansehra Branch (Plaintiff)

Versus

(1) Shahzad Traders and Fertilizer Dealer, Mohalla Noghazi near Katchery opposite Election Office Safaida Road Mansehra City through proprietor Muhammad Shahzad S/o Rafique (2) Mr. Rasheed S/o Ameer (3) Shaheed Bibi W/o Mr. Rasheed R/o Tarneen P/o Dhodial Tehsil and District Mansehra.

(Defendants)

sd/

Larkana.

Whereas the MCB Baffa Doraha Shinkiar Road Mansehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 2435675/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (26-01-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realiza tion of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 28-02-2024.

JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.



culties during summer.

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference at Maaz bin Jabal (Markazi Jamia Masjid) I-8/3.

Four more **Excise to facilitate citizens** independent for vehicle registration under MPÂs elect **ICT doorstep initiative** join PML-N

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISLAMABAD (APP): In Four more independent a move to streamline sermembers of the Punjab vices and bring them closer Assembly joined the Pa-kistan Muslim League to the community, the Excise department on Wednes-Nawaz (PML-N) on day is providing civic facili-Wednesday, as indepenties to residents of the feddents continue to flock to eral capital to get their vehicle registration as well as the party.

access to various essential MPAs-elect, includservices at Rose and Jasing Sultan Bajwa of PPmine Garden under the ICT 132, Hanif Patafi of PPdoorstep initiative. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the excise staff would be stationed at the park's parking lot from 3.00 to 5.00 pm, ICT Spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum said. This initiative aims to

Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif. They also felicitated Shehbaz Sharif for his nomination as prime minister of Pakistan.

PTA escalates

efforts to combat illegal SIM activation

SLAMABAD (APP): Pa-Akbar Nasir Khan, the kistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Islamabad Capital Police is using all available resources Office Sukhar, in close colto ensure the peace and laboration with the Federal tranquility within the fed-Investigation Agency (FIA) eral capital, a public rela-

Cyber Crime Circle Wednesday conducted a successful raid against tions officer said. He said that the Islamabad Capital Police a franchise involved in ensured data registration, the illicit activation of SIMs identification documents at Ratodero, district and effective search of citi-During the raid, 25 Active SIMs were discovzens entering the high se-

curity zone on a regular basis. Moreover, action ered. Furthermore, the against 1491 vehicles and Franchise owner and one other Kiosk person were 432 motorcyclists over trafalso taken into custody fic rules violations on variby the FIA team, said a ous checkpoints of high senews release issued here. curity zone was also taken.

provide ease to the public Muhammad Ali, Secre-tary (Petroleum Division) regarding vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax procedures, he added.

In addition to the vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax services, the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle will also be offering the following services: domicile certificate, birth certificate, power of attorney, international driving permit, fuel permit (domestic/commercial), and Motor vehicle registration.

cratic processes and get evand Jasmine Garden park-

streamline processes and ing lot today.

ICP ensuring foolproof security arrangements in High Security Zone Independent Report

the Islamabad Capital Po-ISLAMABAD: Following lice removed tinted glasses the special directions of

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr.

high security zone checkpoints to exercise their duty with full responsibility. The protection of important public and private property and embassies located in the high security zone is of paramount importance. The police officials were further directed

to ensure the data entry of all citizens entering the high security zone, the identification documents

and fancy number plates from 1414 vehicles, impounded 77 vehicles without documents. Strict directions have been issued to police officers and officials performing their duties in

During the last week,

(ISGS) Nadeem Bajwa signed the historical docu-The citizens are urged not to miss this opportument The pipeline project is a testament to the comnity to simplify bureauerything done at the Rose

mitment of the Petroleum Division and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Machike-The Thallian-Taru Jabba White Oil Pipeline (MTT-WOP) aims to complement the oil pipeline backbone from Karachi to Peshawar apart from achieving the energyefficient movement of pe-troleum products.

100 signifies a commitment to joint efforts in com-

MoU signed for

Machike-Thallian-

Tarujabba White

Oil Pipeline

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a

landmark achievement, the

signing ceremony of the

MoU between the Stake-

holders on Consortium For-

mation (SCF) for the Machike-Thallian-

Tarujabba White Oil Pipe-line Project was held here

witnessed by Minister for Power and Petroleum

Momin Agha, and Secre-tary SIFC Jameel

Qureshi, said a news re-

The heads of consor-tium entities i.e. MD Paki-stan State Oil (PSO) Syed

Muhammad Taha, DG

Frontier Works Organiza-tion (FWO) Major General

Abdul Sami, MD Interstate

Gas Systems Pvt. Ltd

The ceremony was

on Wednesday.

of Indus Waters Treaty, an Indo-Pak water-sharing pact

UNITED NATIONS has launched the multi-di-(APP): A top Pakistani mensional Living Indus diplomat Tuesday called projects," Ambassador Akram told the 15-member for "strict" implementation of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a World Bank-negotiated water-dis-Council.

Noting that the disputes over water - at the state, sub-national and localcommunity levels – were rising, he said competing claims to agricultural and animal pastures, especially in Sub-Sahara and Central Africa, were being exploited by terrorist groups and criminal gangs.

"The scramble for exploitation of fisheries and fishing rights, and potentially for seabed minerals and resources, is causing increased friction between neighbouring coastal countries," he pointed out.

ternational peace and secu-"Addressing the loom-"Pakistan attaches ing water crisis will be critihigh priority to the strict cal," Ambassador Akram implementation of the Indus added

Extreme temperatures, he said, were melting Pakistan's glaciers at an alarming rate, and together with heavier monsoons, lead to massive foods, like the 2022 epic floods which devastated the country, causing damage amounting to over US\$ 30 billion. "Urgent action is required to preserve the Himalayan glaciers and adapt to the impacts of glo-bal warming," the Pakistani envoy told delegates from around the world.

over 225 million people. "To this end, Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: The signing ceremony of MoU between the Stakeholders on should be thoroughly Consortium Formation for Machike-Thallian-Tarujabba White Oil Pipeline Project at SIFC Secretariat, PM Office.

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