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Caretaker PM vows to continue making efforts to solve problems confronting country's economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said that the caretaker government had resolved major long-standing problems in a short span of time to move the country towards economic stability. He said the caretaker setup also provided all possible facilities on priority to the international investors and business community to attract maximum foreign direct investment in the country. He emphasized that the caretaker government was committed to continue its efforts to resolve the problems facing the country's economy till its last day of working.

Chairing a meeting to review various issues of Karachi Electric (K.E), the prime minister said that the government was trying to solve all the remaining problems as soon as possible to remove all obstacles in the way of uninterrupted supply of electricity to the residents of Karachi. The prime minister directed to find out solutions on priority basis to the issues faced by the Karachi Electric. The delegation of K.E thanked the prime minister and his team for resolving the long awaited issues of Karachi Electric. The prime minister also hailed the signing of the interconnection agreement between National Trans-

mission and Distribution Company (NTDC) and Karachi Electric (K.E) held the other day. The CEO of Karachi Electric paid tribute to the caretaker PM and the government officials for solving the problems faced by the company on priority basis. The prime minister directed that NEPRA and Karachi Electric should jointly find a solution to these problems on a priority basis and submit a report in this regard as soon as possible. Caretaker minister for energy Muhammad Ali, Chief Executive Officer of K.E and concerned high officials participated in the meeting.

SC fixes for hearing petition seeking nullification of Feb 8 election

ISLAMABAD (Online): The petition seeking nullification of February 8 general election has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC). A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case on Feb 19. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali are included in the bench. Important legal and constitutional questions have been raised in the petition. Summon notices have been issued to the respondents. It is pertinent to mention here a citizen Ali Khan had filed this petition in SC four days earlier.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a review meeting regarding Karachi Electric.

Incoming coalition govt won't last 10 months, says Pir Pagara

HYDERABAD (INP) – Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leader Pir Pagara has said the new government will go no longer than eight or ten months and there may be martial law or emergency afterwards. The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) on Friday staged a sit-in in Jamshoro against alleged rigging in the general elections held on Feb 8. Addressing the protesters, GDA leader Pir Pagara said, "If Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder is a thief, then everyone is a thief."

"There has been buying and selling in the election on large-scale." "Where was the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Feb 8? If you do not give justice to the people, they will take their

own decision," Pagara said, adding Pak Army is our own military and we cannot leave it alone. GDA leader Liaquat Jatoi said Zardari had been given Sindh for the fourth time in the result of rigged elections. "We are not orphans, we have fought for 15 years against the oppressive system," he stated. GDA leader Saira Bano said after the mega election rigging, the chief election commissioner should go home.

She said her leadership had spread the message of love but those who saw Pakistan with evil eye, their eyes would be plucked out. GDA leader Arbab Ghulam Rahim stated the people joined the sit-in as per their own will and wish due to their love for the PTI founder. "As per Forms 45, the PTI has the majority to form the governments in the centre as well as Punjab. Our protest will continue till our constitutional demands are met," he added. Barrister Saif said that in the meeting with QWP leadership, the PTI delegation conveyed party founder Imran Khan's message. He said that Aftab Ahmad Sherpao was requested to join hands with the PTI to devise a joint strategy against rigging in the elections.

PTI decides to play opposition's role in Centre, Punjab

Barrister Saif says PTI took this decision as it wants "harmony and environment of reconciliation" in country

PESHAWAR (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to sit on opposition benches in the centre and Punjab on directives of the party founder, said Barrister Saif. Speaking to media persons after meeting Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chief Aftab Ahmad Sherpao, Barrister Saif reiterated that the PTI's mandate was stolen in the General Elections. "As per Forms 45, the PTI has the majority to form the governments in the centre as well as Punjab. Our protest will continue till our constitutional demands are met," he added. Barrister Saif said that in the meeting with QWP leadership, the PTI delegation conveyed party founder Imran Khan's message. He said that Aftab Ahmad Sherpao was requested to join hands with the PTI to devise a joint strategy against rigging in the elections. Speaking on the occasion, QWP leader Sikandar Sherpao said that the political situation is getting complicated day by day. "It is a good sign that political parties are engaging with each other," he added. Uncertainty looms over Pakistan's political future as none of the major political parties – PML-N, PPP or the PTI-backed independent candidates – secured a simple majority in the National Assembly in the February 8 general elections. Political stakeholders were making efforts to forge alliances and secure 169 seats in the 336-member lower house of parliament. PTI-backed Independent candidates consolidated their lead in the general elections 2024 over mainstream political parties, especially in the National and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies, throughout the result announcement process. According to the results announced so far, independent candidates have managed to win 101 seats. It is worth mentioning that out of these 101 independent candidates, 92 are supported by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf while nine are general independent candidates.



HYDERABAD: Hundreds of thousands supporters of Grand Democratic Alliance and Hur Jamat participate in a sit-in protest against rigging in general election 2024, at M-9 Motorway near Jamshoro. (Inset) GDA Leader and spiritual leader of Hur Jamat Pir Sahib Pagara addressing to sit-in protest.

President directs Rs3.46m payment to heirs of two insurance policyholders

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed two private insurance companies to pay the death insurance claims of Rs 3 million and Rs 4,60,000 to the legal heirs of the deceased policyholders. He issued these directions while deciding two separate representations, filed by Adamjee Life Assurance Company Limited and EFU Life Assurance Limited against the decisions of Wafaqi Mohtasib, asking them to pay the death insurance claims to the respective claimants, a President Secretariat press release said.

As per details, Zahid Nasreen's deceased sister had obtained an insurance policy from Adamjee Life Assurance Company for the sum assured of Rs 3 million against an annual premium of Rs300,000 in 2021. After her sister died in 2022, the company refused to pay the death insurance claim on the pretext that the deceased had hidden her pre-insurance ailment of acute kidney injury and chronic liver disease at the time of obtaining the insurance policy. Similarly, Memoona Naeem's husband obtained an insurance

policy from EFU Life Assurance Limited for the sum assured of Rs 460,000 against an annual premium of Rs 23,000 in 2015. Her husband died the same year and when she filed the death insurance claim, it was repudiated on the ground that the deceased had not disclosed his pre-insurance ailment of hypertension at the time of obtaining the policy. Feeling aggrieved, the claimants separately approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib to seek relief, which passed the orders in their favour and directed the respective insurance companies to honour their claims.



Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting inaugurating the publication of the newsletter titled "PTV Times" at PTV centre, Islamabad.

People's decision to be implemented by summoning NA session soon: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday said that the decision made by the people in general elections would be implemented by summoning the first session of new National Assembly (NA). "We will implement the verdict given by the people of Pakistan and the NA session will be convened as soon as the Election Commission of Pakistan forwards the official results to the Assembly's Secretariat," he said while addressing the launching ceremony of the newsletter of the Pakistan Television (PTV). He said it was a commendable initiative of the PTV to issue a newsletter that would eventually promote reading and writing habits among the youth. The minister recalled that he started his professional journey with print reporting as part of the launch team of The News that carried his first by-line news story on February 11, 1991. He said modern trends in journalism had not only created opportunities but also big challenges especially related to voice cloning, deep fake and Artificial Intelligence. Solangi underlined the need for the PTV to align itself with the modern technologies for its progress as well as addressing the challenges associated with such technologies. In addition to live broadcast, the PTV would have to create quality products in the digital landscape, he added.

Two terrorists killed, cop martyred in Tank joint operation

PESHAWAR (INP): Two terrorists were killed and two injured but fled while a cop was martyred in joint operation of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and security forces in Tank on Friday. SSP CTD Najamul Hassan said that on an intelligence tip-off regarding presence of wanted terrorists, a joint operation was launched in Tank. During operation, cross firing took place between the security forces and the terrorists. In exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed while their two accomplices were injured but managed to escape. A cop Zahid was also martyred in the fire exchange. The killed terrorists belonging to the banned organization TTP Betni Parake group.

18th Round of Pak-Turkiye HLMDG meeting successfully held from 13-16 February

RAWALPINDI (Online): 18th Round of Pakistan-Turkiye High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) meeting was successfully held in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi, Pakistan from 13-16 February 2024. Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Secretary Defence, Government of Pakistan led Pakistan's delegation while Turkish delegation was headed by General Irfan Ozsert, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff. Prior to holding of Plenary Session, General Irfan Ozsert, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff had a meeting with Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Secretary Defence. During the HLMDG meeting, matters of mutual interest including whole spectrum of bilateral defence co-operation came under discussion. Both leaders expressed satisfaction on the pace of defence cooperation and pledged to take it to new heights. The issues like security, counter terrorism and prevailing regional as well as geopolitical environment also came under discussion. In addition, delegation took stock of the progress made so far since holding of HLMDG meeting in Turkiye last year.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. General Irfan Ozsert, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff called on Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Secretary Defence, at Ministry of Defence.

Maulana Fazl retracts from blaming Gen Faiz for PTI govt's ouster

Monitoring Desk vote of no-confidence (VONC), the efforts for which were led by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of parties led by the PML-N. For its part, the PTI had accused the PDM of colluding with the US and hatching a regime change conspiracy to topple Imran's government and blamed the military, which was led by Bajwa at the time, for letting the then-disputed in Islamabad go ahead with the alleged conspiracy. The US has repeatedly denied any interference.

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Fazlur Rehman on Friday clarified his remarks regarding the role of former Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed – the then-Peshawar corps commander – in the no-confidence vote against former prime minister Imran Khan and the PTI government, saying that he had mistakenly uttered the ex-spy master's name. Pakistan had seen for the first time in its history the ouster of a prime minister through a



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Hafiz Hamdullah addressing a joint press conference along with PTI leader Barrister Doctor Muhammad Ali Saif after the meeting with JUI F chief Fazal-ur-Rehman at his residence in the Federal Capital.

Election tribunals formed for Sindh and Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday announced the formation of election tribunals for Sindh and Balochistan provinces to address the complaints of election irregularities. The tribunals will consist of judges from the high courts and will hear the pleas of the candidates and parties who have challenged the results of the general elections. According to the notification, four tribunals have been set up for Sindh province, while three tribunals have been established for Balochistan province. For the Karachi division, the tribunals comprising Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha and Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry will conduct the hearings. Justice Muhammad Iqbal will hear pleas related to Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions, while Justice Amjad Ali will deal with electoral issues on Mirpur Khas and Hyderabad divisions. Justice Muhammad Saleem will hear election complaints related to Larkana division. In Balochistan, Election Tribunal One will consist of Abdullah Baloch, Election Tribunal Two will consist of Justice Rozi Khan, while Tribunal Three will consist of Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana. The tribunals will start functioning from next week and will dispose of the cases within four months as per the law.



ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Liaqat Baloch talking with PTI leader Asad Qaiser and others during a meeting at Mian Aslam residence in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Hiking gas prices

By increasing gas prices by up to 45pc to recover an additional Rs242bn from all categories of consumers...

While the increase in fuel prices has been made to ensure the timely release of the last tranche of \$1.2bn under the Stand-by Arrangement facility ending in April...

New realities

Faisal Bari

The state or powerful institutions or people within the state using the law to target individuals and social media to undermine...

We have seen these activities recently, and carried out quite openly, in Pakistan. A journalist went 'missing' for three to four months...

On the larger issue of 'missing persons', everyone knows they are not missing and state agencies have even acknowledged as much in the case of some...

progress. Every now and then, a judge of a higher court makes a statement but nothing comes out of it. It is all a badly acted drama...

Then there is the role of social media, which has made it easier for the government to be able to produce and disseminate information and/or propaganda...

citing hate, even violence, against individuals and institutions. Again, we have seen many examples of this. These things are not happening in Pakistan alone...

She was at the receiving end of this treatment by the state in the Philippines. She has a dozen or so cases against her...

The social media campaign against her and her organisation has also made her a target, to the point where she wears a bullet-proof vest when going out in public...

The people have to think of new ways of organising to be able to counter the state's new tactics. Communities have to think through how interactions among its members can be structured...

It will take time to figure this one out. But a keen awareness of the new reality is the first step.

Cultural change for economy

Shahid Mehmood

The topic of Pakistan's non-ending economic quagmire elicits many proposals, some good, some recorded, and some repetitive...

I argue that, for the economic transformation of the country, cultural change is as important as factors like investment, savings, fiscal policy, etc...

Let us start with the sensitive topic of religion. When we talk of the economic performance we would like to emulate, one inescapable conclusion is that religion takes a back seat in the affairs of the state...

Third, Pakistani society and our governments have to give up their 'let's kill the rich' attitude. There is a dire need to realise that not every person in Pakistan who has made his/her way to riches is a haramkhor...

Yes, there is ample corruption as well as leeches who have accumulated wealth through dubious means. But more often than not, we find that the basis of their accumulation is support from governance structures (subsidies, fat contracts, lax application of laws that help them get away, etc.)...

Ironically, it's a form of slavery that religion prohibits, but the same beliefs are cited as a hindrance to accepting instruments like

insurance or savings accounts. This mental outlook needs to change.

The second aspect where a cultural change needs to take root is the acceptance of divergent points of view. Modern economic growth did not come about merely through erecting cemented structures...

Such humility, unfortunately, is largely lacking in Pakistan. Across the country, what one usually encounters is the 'my way or the highway' approach. People frequently give opinions as if they know everything...

Sadly, this attitude extends to the economist community of Pakistan (generally speaking), their senseless grandstanding being based on limited reading and understanding of historical circumstances...

There are enough examples of individuals who have become rich by dint of their hard work, dedication and industriousness.

Yes, there is ample corruption as well as leeches who have accumulated wealth through dubious means. But more often than not, we find that the basis of their accumulation is support from governance structures (subsidies, fat contracts, lax application of laws that help them get away, etc.)...

So let's realise that wealth and wealth creation by genuine means is some-

thing to celebrate rather than scoff at.

Fourth, people need to recognise that there is no substitute for hard work (physical and mental). Shortcuts (jugaar) can only take you so far, and are never a good strategy to gain long-term success and credibility...

Last year, Amazon suspended thousands of accounts from Pakistan for fraudulent business practices. It never occurred to the perpetrators that their behaviour would not only shunt them out of the large online marketplace, but also severely diminish the chances of other honest entrepreneurs/businessmen in Pakistan trying to establish themselves there...

Put another way, the attempted jugaar may have severely dented our access to one of the largest firms in the world (Amazon's market cap stands at \$1.77 trillion). These kinds of jugaars and rip-offs are common across the country, in every sphere of life, and are basically a reflection of a lack of ethical and moral standing upon which a healthy, trust-enhancing society is built.

The points and issues to ponder are many, but I will end by suggesting that both society and the government need to realise that economic growth and change is not merely about endless amounts of cement, steel, brick and mortar.

Nor would merely increasing the Public Sector Development Programme ensure economic prosperity (an issue to be taken up later). Breaking the cycle of economic backwardness has to be complemented by a cultural change that values ethics, morality and emancipation of mind from the clutches of obscurantism and mediocrity.

Commerce News

Govt urged to frame business-friendly policies for economic stability

PESHAWAR (Online): Members of the business community expressed grave concern over rising gas, electricity prices, and retaining policy rate at highest level and economic and industrial slow-down...

PMO, said in a press release here on Friday. Other members of the delegation include Senator Nauman Wazir, SVP Haris Mufti, and Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan, Executive members Adeel Rauf, Sherbaz Bilour and Zarak Khan.

During the meeting, Governor SBP, Secretary Finance Division, Chairman NHA and FBR, members FBR Policy custom, IR Ops, Custom Ops, Chiefs of FBR Policy customs and IR Ops were also present.

In the meeting, concerns of industrial sector over economic

challenges, higher energy prices and costs pushed on to consumers, all time high monetary policy rate and cost push inflation, credit lending and loan portfolio issues to private business against provincial bank deposits, and implementation of Axle load regime which is mother to higher national fuel bill and commodity costs were extensively dissected and discussed.

Ayub Zakori while speaking on the occasion said prices of gas, electricity and fuel along with bringing policy rate to single digit is essential for flourishing business, trade

and industries and stabilization of the economy.

He urged the government to thoroughly review all decisions and frame policies in the best interest of the national economy.

The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar assured the KP businessmen delegation of taking proactive steps for early resolution of all issues. In this regard, the interim premier on the occasion directed concerned ministries, divisions, secretaries and institutions to resolve highlighted issues.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgi-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the Dasu Hydro power project effecties issue at CM Secretariat.



HYDERABAD: A labourer arranging threads for dry purpose outside Threads factory.

Textile exports earn \$9.738 billion for Pakistan in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$9,738,551 million during the first seven months of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Friday.

compared to the exports of \$10,038,199 million during July-January (2022-23). The textile commodities that witnessed positive trade growth included raw cotton, the exports of which grew by 353.78 percent, from \$12,286 million last year to \$55,752 million this year. Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 49.04 percent, from \$449,418 million last year,

SCCI urges govt to review raise in gas price

PESHAWAR (APP): The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday urged the government review the recent raise in electricity, gas and fuel prices to bring economic stability in the country. The hike in gas tariff would adversely affect the industry and commercial sectors along with business, trade and industrial growth, SCCI President Fuad Ishaq said in a statement.

Envoy assures cooperation for making ICCI BOC successful in Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi Friday said that his Embassy would extend all possible cooperation to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in making the Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) a landmark event.

Talking to President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, who called on him, the ambassador lauded ICCI for organizing the next edition of its BOC in Dubai in the first week of March 2024, said a press release received here today.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan and UAE have great potential to strengthen business relations and set up joint ventures. He stressed that a series of BOC-like events should be organized by the Pakistani Chambers of Commerce in UAE to explore all untapped areas of bilateral cooperation and expand economic relations.

He said that his Embassy would extend all possible cooperation to ICCI in making the BOC a landmark event. Speaking on the

occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that ICCI has already held successful BOCs in Turkey, Malaysia, and Azerbaijan and the Chamber has planned to organize the next edition of BOC in Dubai, which is a hub of business and investment activities.

He said that a 160-member delegation of ICCI representing real estate, construction, IT, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, food processing and packaging, light engineering, logistics, franchising, tourism, and other sectors would attend the BOC and Award Ceremony.

He said that both countries have great potential to further enhance bilateral trade and economic relations.

He hoped that ICCI BOC would provide a good platform for the private sectors of both countries to hold B2B meetings, exchange ideas, develop strong business linkages, and explore opportunities for business and investment collaborations in areas of interest.

Prices of essential kitchen items fall by 0.78 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of essential kitchen items eased as the weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.78 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on February 15, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 315.18 points as compared to 317.65 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 34.25 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.78 percent and went down to 307.99 points from last week's 310.42 points.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 1,147 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 1,147.10 points, a negative change of 1.88 percent, closing at 59,872.96 points against 61,020.06 points the previous trading day. A total of 314,247,768 shares valuing Rs.12,243 billion were traded during the day as compared to 345,126,091.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs.

Large industry grows 3.43 percent in Dec

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) increased by 3.43 percent on Year-on-Year (YoY) basis during the month of December 2023 compared to the output of the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Month (MoM) basis, the large industry grew by 15.69 percent in December 2023 compared to November 2023, PBS reported. However, the industry witnessed negative growth of 0.39 percent during the first half of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

KP Govt decides establishment of EZs in tribal districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Industries and Commerce, Mohammad Anwar Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and Manager Business Facilitation Centre (Board of Investment & Trade), Iqbal Sarwar, representatives of HA Consultant and other concerned authorities attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed different aspects of the selected suitable sites for the establishment of economic zones.

The participants of the meeting were given a meticulous briefing on the



HYDERABAD: View of dried part of Indus River as the water level decrease due to acute water shortage which indicating for high risks of shortage of water in future, in Kotri.

ICT admin conducts interviews of childless couples to adopt child

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration on Friday conducted interviews of childless couples eager to welcome a new member into their family through adoption at Deputy Commissioner office here.

As many as twenty-one couples eagerly vied for the opportunity to expand their families through adoption.

Under the guidance of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Abdullah Mahmood, the selection committee conducted interviews and scrutinized data to determine the most suitable candidates.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi witnessing the inauguration upgraded OPD blocked at Children Hospital by Blood Cancer affected children Kainat and Abdul Mufti Hanan.

HEC organizes regional round of Universities Debating Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Regional Centre, Peshawar organized the Regional Round of the Pakistan Universities Debating Championship (PUDC) 2023-24.

The event was organized here at M. Hafizullah Auditorium, Khyber Medical University (KMU) and was attended by guests including Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Vice Chancellor Sarhad University of Science & Technology Peshawar Prof. Dr. Salim ur Rehman.

Salman Raja using pressure tactics: Aoun

ISLAMABAD (APP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Aoun Chaudhry on Friday alleged that his rival independent candidate Salman Akram Raja was using pressure tactics to get himself notified as the winner in the NA-128 Lahore election.

Salman Raja even attacked the office of returning officer for the purpose, he claimed while addressing a press conference. Aoun Chaudhry said he had won the NA-128 election and the Election Commission had rightly issued the notification of his success.

HEC, NCHR sign MoU to work on various academic, research activities on human rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), signed on Friday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) to jointly work under a collaborative arrangement on various academic and research activities in the Human Rights area in the country.

Under the MoU, HEC and NCHR aim to equip academia, researchers, and students with knowledge of human rights laws and instruments, promote literacy through various media channels, introduce courses focusing on marginalized groups, and establish human rights study centers.

Pak mother languages literature festival unveils cultural tapestry

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a celebration of linguistic richness, the 'Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival' (PMLF) kicked off on Friday in Islamabad, drawing together a diverse array of writers, poets, artists, and language enthusiasts from across the country.

The event organized by the Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) and co-hosted by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), the festival promises a vibrant exploration of Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity, with more than 120 participants representing over 20 languages.

International News

Authorities say Alexei Navalny, Russia's opposition leader, is dead

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Alexei Navalny, Russia's most famous opposition leader, died on Friday after collapsing and losing consciousness at the penal colony north of the Arctic Circle where he was serving a long jail term, the Russian prison service said.

Navalny, 47, rose to prominence more than a decade ago by lampooning President Vladimir Putin and the Russian elite whom he accused of vast corruption, avarice and opulence.

The Federal Penitentiary Service of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District said in a statement that Navalny "felt unwell" after a walk at the IK-3 penal colony in Khatanga, about 1,900 km (1,200 miles) north east of Moscow.



Protesting farmers demanding guaranteed crop prices for their produce sit on train tracks at a railway station in Rajpura, India.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy signing security agreements with Germany, France as Kyiv shores up support

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a bilateral security agreement with Germany and planned to sign another with France on Friday, securing a strong signal of long-term backing as Kyiv works to shore up Western support nearly two years after Russia launched its full-scale war.

Zelenskyy met in Berlin with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who said Berlin was providing another 1.1 billion-euro (\$1.2 billion) package of military aid, including 36 howitzers, 120,000 rounds of artillery ammunition and two more air-defense systems.

Top Israeli ministers reject Palestinian statehood as part of post war plan

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Top ministers in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government rejected Palestinian statehood on Thursday following a Washington Post report that Israel's main ally the United States was advancing plans to establish a Palestinian state.

"We will in no way agree to this plan, which says Palestinians deserve a prize for the terrible massacre they carried out against us: a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said.



Governor Oleh Sunyiehubov, firefighters examine the site of Russia's missile attack that hit an apartment building in Kharkiv Region, Ukraine.

Russia has already fired 24 NK-made ballistic missiles on Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Prosecutor General Andrii Kostin, quoted by Interfax-Ukraine. Quote: "So far, at least 24 ballistic missiles, previously produced in North Korea, have been used during Russian missile attacks on the territory of Ukraine.

In total, between 30 December 2023 and 7 February 2024, the enemy launched at least 12 attacks on seven oblasts of Ukraine with this type of missile.

Greece breaks ground as first Orthodox nation to legalise same-sex marriage

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greece's parliament has shattered traditional norms by legalising same-sex marriage and adoption, positioning the nation as a pioneer among Orthodox countries. The historic decision, championed by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the New Democracy party, comes despite strong opposition from the influential Orthodox Church. The parliament approved a bill that not only legalizes same-sex marriage but also adoption by same-sex families. The bill received overwhelming support with 176 votes in favour out of 245 MPs present, following two days of impassioned debates.

UN estimates 17,000 Gaza children left unaccompanied amid Israel's war

GAZA (Online): UN estimates 17,000 Gaza children left unaccompanied amid Israel's war. More than one million children in the besieged Gaza Strip now require mental health support, UNICEF says.

The United Nations says that at least 17,000 children in the Gaza Strip have been left unaccompanied or separated from their families.

Spokesman for the UNICEF in the Palestinian territories Jonathan Crick told a media briefing in Geneva, via video-link from Jerusalem that mental health of children in Gaza is severely affected by the war.

Global Leaders Converge at the 60th Munich Security Conference

MUNICH (Online): As the frost of February blankets Munich, the city gears up to host the 60th Munich Security Conference, a gathering that over the years has become a cornerstone for global diplomacy and security discussions.

This year, the conference is set against a backdrop of escalating conflicts, shifting alliances, and a world grappling with the post-pandemic order.

US shows 'concern' over reports of intimidation, voter suppression in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States is "concerned" over reports coming out of Pakistan in terms of intimidation and voter suppression and is watching the situation "very closely," Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House John Kirby said.

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, who accused Washington of orchestrating ouster of his PTI government, on Thursday sought America's help through a special message to the US that it should play a role and voice concern about his country's "rigged" general elections.

It was a purported

diplomatic cable - the cipher - that Imran Khan, 71, had waived at a public rally in March 2022 claiming that the US wanted to oust his government, soon after which his political stars took a downhill journey leading to incarceration, conviction in multiple cases and even being disbarred from contesting the polls.

After a meeting of party leaders at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on Thursday, where Imran Khan has been lodged since September last year, PTI leader Asad Qaisar conveyed a message from the former prime minister to the US, which was the highlight of Asad's presser.

"Imran Khan has given a message that the US should raise its voice against the alleged rigging in elections. He also gave a special message with regard to America that the US had not played their role accordingly," Asad Qaisar said. Claiming that Imran Khan's message is that "the US has an opportunity and should keep an eye on rigging in the elections," Asad Qaisar said, "If they are champions of democracy, then they should voice it if they think the elections in Pakistan were not fair."

PTI's counsel Barrister Saif, who also addressed the media with Asad Qaisar, said, "America should take a tougher stance over these elections."



RAWALPINDI: Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, and General Irfan Ozsert, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, chairing 18th Round of Pakistan-Turkiye High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMMDG) meeting.

Aneeq acknowledges Saudi ambassador's role in pilgrim services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, extended gratitude to Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliki on behalf of Pakistani pilgrims for the co-operation and excellent facilities provided by Saudi Arabia. Minister Aneeq Ahmed and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliki discussed finalizing arrangements for Hajj 2024 and expanding the 'Road to Makkah' project during a meeting at the Saudi Embassy.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Pakistani Hajj Mission are maintaining continuous communication with Saudi authorities to ensure timely completion of Hajj arrangements.

PML-N accuses PTI of attempting to 'derail democracy'

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-BNawaz (PML-N) spokesman and newly-elected MNA Attaullah Tatar said that PTI was making attempts to derail democracy in the country by seeking interference from external powers.

Addressing a joint news conference with Marriyum Aurangzeb in Lahore on Friday, Atta Tatar said that there was rigging when the PTI lost in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, but there was no rigging when they won in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said PTI was full of confusions which claimed all forms 45 in KP were correct and but

all these forms in Punjab were fake. Sometimes PTI claimed to win 150 and sometimes 180 seats. Sometimes they announced to contact PPP, sometimes they refused to contact PPP.

Atta further said that PTI tried to derail democracy by making the election controversial, hundreds of fake forms 45 were posted on social media, PTI hastily prepared forms 45, some forms 45 came into my hands which were submitted by the opponents in the office.

Atta Tatar said that billions of rupees were spent on a digital cell to create propaganda, attempts were made to change the results through digital terrorism.

On this occasion, Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the PML-N was a responsible party, to counter PTI propaganda all the evidences were there.

She said in the past they used to say America brought down their government, but now America's help was being sought to gain their vested interests.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that if there are any objections, go to the Election Commission of Pakistan. She claimed PTI was a conspirator group. She further said that the impression was being given that their Form 45 was correct, in fact it was fake.



LAHORE: Independent Candidate from Punjab announcing to join PML-N during meeting with Marium Nawaz Chief Organizer PML-N and nominated candidate for CM Punjab.

Over 100 PTI candidates present Form 45 before foreign media

ISLAMABAD (INP): Over 100 candidates belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) presented the Form 45 before the foreign media during a press conference on Friday.

Talking to the media, PTI spokesman Rauf Hassan said that their 150 candidates had won, but they were given only 92 seats. "Our candidates have complete Form 45. The candidates declared winners in the Form 45 have been shown the winners in the Form 47," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Salman Akram Raja said that it was not mere election fraud, but an attack on democracy. "What is the good of elections if fake results are to be made?" Candidates, including Ayaz Amir, Tahir Sadiq, Khurrum Sher Zaman and Shaukat Basra, said that declare on oath that they were the winners.

Asad Qaisar says: PTI not in favor of any external interference in internal matters of Pak

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has made it clear that it is not in favor of any external interference in internal matters of Pakistan.

PTI leader Asad Qaisar said in his message on social media website X that the media has presented out of context media talk by him and barrister Saif after his meeting with Imran Khan in Adiala jail. Due to it a wrong impression is being taken.

I want to say in unequivocal terms his party has objections on election results. They want justice from election commission and courts.

He held his party is not in favor of statements by foreign elements related to internal matters of Pakistan and election. PTI demands justice only from election commission and Pakistan judicial system.

Salman Raja using pressure tactics: Aoun

ISLAMABAD (APP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Aoun Chaudhry on Friday alleged that his rival independent candidate Salman Akram Raja was using pressure tactics to get himself notified as the winner in the NA-128 Lahore election.

Salman Raja even attacked the office of returning officer for the purpose, he claimed while addressing a press conference. Aoun Chaudhry said he had won the NA-128 election and the Election Commission had rightly issued the

notification of his success. He would soon present the facts before the media, he added. He cited a report of Senior Superintendent of Police Lahore that the workers of Salman Akram Raja had manhandled the employees of Metropolitan Corporation Lahore.

Even a first information report was also lodged against him for kidnapping the MCL employees.

He cited another report that around 50 to 60 lawyers stormed the RO's office on the night between February 8 and 9, to get issued the desired result.



LAHORE: Muslim League (PML-N) Leaders, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Atta Tarar addressing a press conference, in Lahore.

Consultation process between JI, PTI stands restored once again

LAHORE (Online): The consultation process between JI and PTI has restored once again. According to JI spokesperson PTI leader Sardar Latif Khosa has made telephonic contact with JI Naib Amir Liaqat Baloch.

Sardar Abdul Latif Khosa while talking to Liaqat Baloch said Siraj ul Haq has principled stand on alliance. We think alliance should be forged not only at the level of KP but at federal level as well.

Ji Naib Amir Liaqat Baloch said the door to talks between the political parties remains open always.

PTI leader Amir Dogar contacted JI spokesperson Qaisar Sharif. Amir Dogar said PIA negotiation team under Asad Qaisar wants to meet JI leadership.

ICT admin conducts interviews of childless couples to adopt child

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration on Friday conducted interviews of childless couples eager to welcome a new member into their family through adoption at Deputy Commissioner office here.

As many as twenty-one couples eagerly vied for the opportunity to expand their families through adoption.

Under the guidance of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Abdullah Mahmood, the selection committee conducted interviews and scrutinized data to determine the most suitable candidates.

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Abdullah Mahmood assured that a thorough evaluation of the shortlisted couples' interviews and data will take place, signaling the final steps towards adoption. It is pertinent to mention here that the ICT Administration had sought applications from childless couples to adopt an orphan child through adoption.

Six independent candidates join PML-N

LAHORE (Online): Six more independent candidates, who emerged victorious in the General Elections 2024 announced to join the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

According to details, MNA-elect from NA-92 Rasheed Akbar Noorani and five newly elected members Punjab Assembly met PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz and expressed 'full confidence' in the Nawaz Sharif-led party. The MPAs-elect who joined the PML-N included Irfanullah Khan Niazi from PP-90, Muhammad Amir Inayat from PP-92, Muhammad Akbar Hayat from PP-205, Asghar Hayat from PP-212 and Rana Abdul Manan from PP-272. Maryam Nawaz welcomed all the independent candidates in the PML-N's fold. She said that the people of Punjab



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Aun Chaudhry addressing a press conference at National Press Club, in the Federal Capital.

Mushahid appreciates Russian President's stance on Islamophobia

MOSCOW (Online): Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on the invitation of United Russia Party (Ruling and Largest political party in RF) paid a visit to Moscow to participate in the Constituent Meeting of the Forum of Supporters of the Struggle Against Modern Neocolonialism Practices for the Freedom of Nations.

As part of the visit program Senator MHS participated as a panelist in the Forum and held a tete-a-tete with Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia/Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Global Forum Against Neocolonialism and for Freedom of Nations Mr. Dmitry Medvedev (Former President of Russian Federation), says a press release issued here Friday.

During the visit Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed also delivered a lecture at the Russian Diplo-

matic Academy. The topic of the talk was Pakistan and the changing regional scenario. Senator Hussain during his talk also highlighted the growing relations between Pakistan and Russia especially in the field of energy, connectivity, regional security including Afghanistan and cooperation at multilateral fora including SCO and UN. He also appreciated President Putin's stance on Islamophobia.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session from the students of the diplomatic academy. Senator Chizhov of the Russian Federation Council also graced the occasion.

Post the lecture the Senator held a meeting with the Rector of the Diplomatic academy to exchange views on the emerging trends in global politics as well as on bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

NASA to launch new mission to study ultraviolet sky, stars, stellar explosions in 2030

ISLAMABAD (INP): The new mission of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to survey ultraviolet light across the entire sky with an aim to learn how galaxies and stars evolve will be launched in next six years, the agency said.

The space telescope, called UltraViolet Explorer (UVEX), was targeted to launch in 2030 as NASA's next Astrophysics Medium-Class Explorer mission.

In addition to conducting a highly sensitive all-sky survey, UVEX will be able to quickly point toward sources of ultraviolet light in the universe.

Capt Safdar 'welcomes' PTI getting closer to Maulana Fazl

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Captain (retd) Safdar Awan said on Friday that it was a good omen the PTI has realigned JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman was a political force. In the past Imran Khan humiliated the Maulana on the stage but now PTI was sitting in his feet. Talking to media men in Islamabad, Safdar said political people meet each other, this is the beauty of democracy. He said he was happy that PTI restored the honour of a religious leader.

JUI-F's Fazl benefited most from no-confidence move against Imran: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has strongly rejected the allegations levelled by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman that former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and then ISI DG general Faiz Hameed asked the PPP to initiate no-trust move against PTI founder chairman and then-prime minister Imran Khan. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said that General Faiz Hameed had nothing to do with the no-confidence move against PTI government. He said at the time of vote of no-confidence Faiz Hameed was not ISI director general, he was Corps Commander Peshawar.

He further said that Maulana Fazl was the head of the Pakistan Democratic Movement at the time and could have stopped the no-confidence move, adding the JUI-F chief benefited the most from the move.

Kundi claimed maximum benefits of the no-confidence move were cherished by the JUI-F chief but now the Maulana had realized that the PTI chief was punished wrongly.

The PPP leader claimed that Maulana Fazl was a "spent cartridge" in the politics. He said public saw big change in PTI and JUI-F when both parties made compromises on their stances and joined hands to protest together against the alleged irregularities in general elections. The PPP leader further said that the Maulana was raising hue and cry over the defeat of his son from Tank constituency. Kundi maintained that a PTI delegation had visited the JUI-F chief yesterday. He said Maulana Fazl had alleged that his party's mandate was stolen. "If it was stolen, then who was it given to? To the same delegation who visited him yesterday." Responding to a question, Kundi said the party will field its own candidates for president, National Assembly speaker.



ISLAMABAD: Resident of the Council and Chairman of Pakistan Sweet Home Zamrad Khan Halal Imtiaz pose for a group photo with the delegation of Pakistan Paramedics Lahore.

Rehana claims results 'tampered' for Khawaja Asif's victory

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independent candidate Rehana Dar on Friday claimed results were 'tampered' at the RO office to ensure Khawaja Asif's victory. According to unofficial results of 353 polling stations, PML-N candidate Khawaja Asif was declared the winner with 118,566 votes whereas Rehana Dar secured 100,272 votes.

Addressing the international and national media at a private hotel during PTI's program to expose alleged rigging in polls, Rehana Dar said the people of Silakot voted for PTI but the results were changed.

PTI founder resorts to IHC against his conviction in CIPHER case, Toshakhana

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) against his conviction in cipher case and Toshakhana reference.

The appeal pleas have been filed through Sardar Latif Khosa advocate in IHC. NAB, FIA and subordinate court have been made respondents in the appeal pleas.

The petitioner has taken plea the norms of justice have not been met in the cases. Transparent trial which is guaranteed by the law and constitution has been violated. In haste it was not allowed even to cross examine the witnesses.