

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 42 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Wednesday February 21, 2024, Shaban 10, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Chief Justice of Pakistan says

Zulfikar Bhutto reference an opportunity for judiciary, army to restore reputation

Decision to impose martial law rests with individuals, not army as institution

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has wondered whether the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto reference is an opportunity for the Supreme Court and armed forces to rectify their past mistakes and restore their reputation.

"Isn't this an opportunity for both institutions to get rid of the accusations hurled against them," the top judge remarked on Tuesday during a hearing of a presidential reference related to the death sentence awarded to the former PM Bhutto in 1979.

The apex court larger bench—led by CJP Isa and comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice

Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Musarrat Hilali—heard the presidential reference seeking to revisit the "controversial" death sentence awarded to former PM Bhutto in 1979.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and amicus curiae with expertise on the criminal and constitutional sides attended today's hearing.

CJP Isa also said that imposing martial law is a decision of an individual and not of an institution of the army.

"Isn't the verdict in the Bhutto reference draw a line for the judiciary and the

army," he added.

The Supreme Court also decided to hear the heirs of the late PPP founder and complainant Ahmad Raza Kasuri in the presidential reference.

CJP Isa directed all respondents to keep their arguments short and said that the top court wanted to conclude the hearing of the case before the retirement of a judge part of the larger bench. Amicus Curiae Makhdoom Ali Khan told the bench that the interviews of former judges Naseem Hassan Shah, Dorab Patel, and Aslam Riaz were on record to prove the biases of the judges who awarded capital punishment to the PPP founder.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses the signing ceremony between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. (USA) for joint venture agreement for the value addition and export of pink salt.

Utilisation of human, mineral resources will lead to a stable, rising Pakistan: PM

PMDC, American firm sign agreement to increase value of Himalayan Pink Salt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reassuring the government's all-out support to the investors, said the effective utilisation of human as well as mineral resources would lead to a stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan.

"Our human resource is more important than our mineral resource. The human resource coupled with the mineral resource will lead to stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan," he said addressing the signing ceremony of a joint venture agreement between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and the US-based Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc for establishing a dedicated facility for crushing and packag-

ing of pink salt for the export purposes.

Managing Director of the PMDC Asad Ahmed and President of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc Ahmed Nadeem Khan signed the agreement that was witnessed by the Prime Minister Kakar, Energy Minister Muhammad Ali and relevant senior authorities. The prime minister said the practice of exporting raw materials should come to an end as the export of the products after value addition was direly needed. "This is the path for Pakistan. This is the right step. We will be exporting the quality product in the coming days. Pakistan will get rightful branding for its product.

This will pave the way for further opportunities," the prime minister remarked who also distributed awards

among the individuals who played a key role in the joint venture agreement.

Calling the US a "most valued" trading partner of Pakistan, he said the agreement symbolized the investment climate in the country that would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries and the people.

He said the decision of the US-based firm to invest \$200 million in Pakistan was a resounding vote of confidence in the government's economic policies. Prime Minister Kakar said the investment was not just about the pink salt rather it was about trust, partnership and shared prosperity. He told the gathering that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was playing an important role in creating an enabling environment for foreign direct investment.

Bilawal Bhutto says If martial law is imposed then there will be damadam mast qalandar

Calls for political parties to come together to steer country out of difficulties

LAHORE (Online): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said if martial law is imposed in the country then there will be "damadam mast Qalandar."

"People of Pakistan has not given mandate to any political party. Those who claim to be of largest party they have not to talk to any one. Later we decided to talk to PML-N. The only way to steer out of prevailing situation is that we should sit together. Historical case is pending with Supreme Court (SC). The justice will be delivered to the grand son if not to daughter. We want history is set right, he said this while talking to media men outside SC here Tuesday.

He went on to say today once again the hearing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has been held. I think it is an historical case. Dictatorship ruled during the 50 percent of history of the country. Powers of parliament and power are linked to it. This judiciary will administer justice to founder of

constitution. Judicial murder of Bhutto took place in dictatorial regime. We hope judiciary will give us justice and wash the taint. We hope this presidential reference will help set right history so that we could draw a line that wrong was done in the past.

He thanked Asif Ali Zardari that he sent reference. The justice will be provided to grand son if not to daughter. Points are there in legal and constitutional perspective.

Any question of Qasas stands ruled out. There is one way of judicial reference. I am seeing if there is no way in judicial reference. Bhutto reference is among the one of those reference who have been heard first after election.

I will give votes to PML-N on my terms.

To a question he said Supreme Court will return this reference why. It does not seem at this stage that president will do some thing.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with media persons after the attending hearing of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto case at Supreme Court in the Federal Capital.

PTI demands CEC Raja to step down over rigging in Feb 8 polls

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded "immediate resignation" of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for "failing" to hold general elections 2024 in a free, fair and transparent manner.

"Incumbent CEC [Sikandar Sultan Raja] has now become a controversial personality as he failed to stop rigging in elections; PTI demands CEC Raja to resign immediately," Barrister Gohar Ali Khan told journalists after meeting party's founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail.

He further said that all the inquiries into election

discrepancies should be impartial and without any interference. "We want the election results to be in accordance with the mandate of the public," Gohar added.

He also demanded that the polling authorities issue election results in line with Form 45 after several political parties alleged discrepancies in the results based on Form 47. Gohar Ali Khan pointed out that former Rawalpindi Commissioner's revelations affirmed the PTI's stance regarding rigging in the elections, saying that "non-transparent" elections could also hamper International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme with Pakistan.

Terrorist killed in DI Khan IBO: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): Security forces killed a terrorist in an exchange of fire during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail (DI) Khan district on Tuesday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted the IBO in Dera Ismail Khan District based on the reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct

of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists as a result of which terrorist Muhammad Sohail was killed," the ISPR said.

It added that he remained "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including target killing of innocent civilians". Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from him



LAHORE: Independent candidate from Balochistan Haji Wali Khan Noorzai and Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai announcing to join PML(N) during a meeting with Shahbaz Sharif.

'Mother of all rigging' has made Pakistan laughing stock globally, says Imran

Monitoring Desk RAWALPINDI: PTI's founder Imran Khan has said that the "mother of all rigging" must end now because Pakistan has become a laughing stock globally, as per his sister Aleema Khan.

What exactly does he mean by "mother of all rigging"? It was dismantling the PTI, snatching its iconic election symbol of bat, not allowing the party's candidates to submit nomination papers, coercing candidates into withdrawing from elections and denying the party the right to canvass.

While speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, where Imran is incarcerated, Aleema Khan said that her brother wants the culture of

impunity to end and the mandate of the people must be respected to salvage the country's reputation internationally.

Imran also ridiculed his arch nemesis, the PML-N, which willingly bartered away its narrative to grab power. "Instead of honouring the vote, the 'selected ones' have honoured the boot," Aleema quoted Imran. "The selection was so blatant and blind that corruption cases were dropped by the selectors against the 'selected ones,'" she further stated quoting her brother. "Instead the PTI chairman was sentenced to 32 years in jail after marathon trials on trumped up charges."

ECP issues notice to Nawaz amidst rigging allegations in NA-130

LAHORE (INP): The Election Commission has stirred controversy by issuing a notice to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif following a request from PTI-backed independent candidate Yasmin Rashid in NA-130.

The Election Commission's directive comes amidst allegations of electoral misconduct, with Yasmin Rashid's lawyer and PTI leader, Advocate Ahmed Owais, decrying what he calls "the worst rigged elections in the history of Pakistan."

Another independent lawmaker from Balochistan joins PPP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Another independent newly-elected lawmaker from Balochistan, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday.

The development came after Kakar called on PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari. Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Sarfaraz Bugti, Sadiq Umrani, Malik Shah, Jamal Raisani, Aijaz Jakhriani, and Ali Madad Jattak.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a National Price Monitoring Committee meeting to review prices of essential commodities.

Formation of govt: Shehbaz meets Nawaz, Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif held separate meetings on Tuesday with three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

Sources divulged that Shehbaz called on Nawaz Sharif in Murree to discuss the matters in line with the formation of government in the centre and Punjab.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Ishaq Dar and members of the coordination committee. The PML-N's committee had briefed the bigwigs about the talks with the PPP.

Meanwhile, Shehbaz had also held a meeting with Bhutto-Zardari on his return to Islamabad.

Both leaders had held talks over moving forward on the talks in line with the formation of a government.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman, Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo along with independent candidate Bakht Muhammad Kakar, who won from Balochistan provincial constituency PB 39 after joined the PPP, in Islamabad.

Senators demand probe for fair elections, respect of public mandate

Ji's Mushtaq Ahmed demands CEC's resignation, demands a legal proceeding should be carried out against the CEC under Article 6 of the constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the Upper House of the Parliament on Tuesday demanded the forum to hold a probe of the general elections results to ensure free and fair polls and establish respect for public mandate.

The Senators while addressing the adjournment motion moved by Senators Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, Mushtaq Ahmed, Syed Ali Zafar and others regarding the situation arising out of the results of General Elections-2024 as a matter of national importance.

of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) demanded that there were 858 total seats of national and provincial assemblies that had almost 160,000 From-45 (essential document to tabulate a provincial or general assembly constituency poll result) that should be verified through audit to establish the credibility of the General Elections-2024 as free and fair polls.

"The victor of the polls after the probe should be announced at the floor of the Senate and the PTI will accept that party's mandate who soever and I make this commitment on behalf of my party," he said.

Senator Taj Haider of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said the country was at the crossroads of history with two clear pathways one leading to violence and chaos and the other to unity and wisdom whereas the latter is propitious. He urged that it was high time for all the political parties to give up emotionalism and opt for rationalism in their political struggles.

Senator Haider added that the PPP had submitted over 60 complaints in writing to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and all with proofs including video evidences

claiming polling of fake votes. "We request the other political parties to abstain from violence and take legal course of action for redressal of their grievances," he added.

Senator Aon Abbas of PTI wished all the best to the retiring senior senators.

He thanked the senators from the treasury benches for supporting PTI on the motion that sought production orders of detained PTI Senator Ejaz Ahmed Chaudhry.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, independent, said the Elections held on February 8th were historic yet contentious as it

had transformed the political scenario and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), PPP and PTI has emerged as the largest political parties of the country and they should now unite for the country. He proposed a three-point way forward citing general amnesty for all political prisoners including missing persons of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), inclusion of all into the political process and formulation of a national government to safeguard democracy and the political system to circumvent any crisis-like situation.



SUKKUR: Leaders and supporters of Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, at Moro National Highway road in Sukkur.

Senator Saif Ullah Abro

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Open the books

The knocking on its doors keeps growing louder. How long can the ECP ignore it? Over the weekend, Pakistan's most prominent elections monitoring body as well as its top human rights watchdog have added their voices to calls for an audit of election results.

On Saturday, the same day a senior bureaucrat had 'confessed' to his involvement in results tampering, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan expressed its reservations regarding the "integrity and credibility" of the Feb 8 exercise, noting a range of issues that it said had "cast a shadow over the democratic process".

A day later, the Free and Fair Election Network urged the ECP to take immediate action and address complaints regarding illegalities committed in the compilation of election results. It also proposed a three-phase process to comprehensively address the widespread allegations of rigging, which is based on an audit of each step in the results consolidation process.

In Pakistan, it is almost customary for election candidates to refuse to acknowledge their defeat. Except a few, most are generally quick to cast aspersions and question the integrity of any election which does not go in their favour.

This time, however, certain irregularities have been so widespread that even otherwise impartial observers are joining the chorus of voices demanding a recount and investigation into the post-poll results compilation process.

For example, there are ample witnesses to the fact that both election laws and the rules governing how vote counting and compilation is supposed to be done were not adhered to by many returning officers on election day. Many independent observers, candidates and accredited media personnel reported being excluded or evicted from the Form 47 compilation process which was completed at ROs' offices, indicating that the most important check on the process was bypassed without any convincing explanation being given.

Compiled behind closed doors, many results later issued by ROs did not match the consolidated results from Form 45s issued to different candidates' polling agents. Fortunately, there is an extensive paper trail for each constituency, which can still be used to verify them. Fafen has called for an audit led by the ECP that starts by closely examining this paper trail. The monitor notes that the ECP still has power to adjudicate results "before the expiration of 60 days after publication of the name of returned candidate in the official gazette". It suggests that independent observers as well as election candidates be invited to participate in this audit, so that all controversies can be resolved satisfactorily. As such, these suggestions are not unreasonable or outside the law. They might show the ECP a way to redeem its image. Will it choose to assert itself as an independent, principled body, or continue to look the other way?

Will the Supreme Court Nullify the Elections 2024?

By Qamar Bashir

Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



Today, both the Supreme Court and the Islamabad High Court voiced their profound concern over separate yet crucial issues. The Supreme Court took a stern stance regarding a petition filed to declare the 2024 Elections null and void, emphasizing the gravity of such a legal move and expressing dissatisfaction with the subsequent withdrawal of the appeal. Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court addressed the disappearance of 12 Baloch students from Islamabad, expressing deep frustration and dismay over the violation of their fundamental human rights enshrined in the constitution and the law of the land.

Interestingly, both cases are intertwined, albeit in different ways, with the establishment. In the Supreme Court case, a retired Brigadier filed the appeal to declare the 2024 election null and void, implicating the country's electoral process. Conversely, in the High Court case, the nation's esteemed spy agencies were implicated regarding the disappearance of individuals. While the issue of missing persons warrants attention, let's delve into the Supreme Court

case concerning the election appeal.

Delving into the motives behind the retired Brigadier's petition before the Supreme Court of Pakistan reveals a concern for the fairness and integrity of the electoral process, especially amidst allegations of widespread rigging. However, in filing the application, the retired Brigadier may not have fully grasped the financial implications of the re-elections to the state, political parties and the candidates, and the complex political dynamics at play within Pakistan, potentially underestimating the nuances of the situation.

He may have overlooked the broader implications of nullifying the elections, such as the potential impact on investor confidence, trade relations with friendly countries, and the stability of the stock exchange. Additionally, withdrawing support from organizations like the IMF and creditors could exacerbate economic challenges, leading to increased inflation and hardship for the common populace.

He might have erred in grasping the dynamics of rigging by PTI, JUI, GDA, and JI which in fact are emblematic of the broader landscape of partisan politics in Pakistan, where accusations of electoral misconduct are commonplace and often wielded as political leverage.

The futility of the petition became evident as major parties

like PML(N), PPP, and MQM accepted the election results. PTI, while forming the government in KP and opting for opposition roles elsewhere, is concurrently engaging in legal and political battles to contest the alleged electoral malpractices. Despite serious reservations about the fairness of the process, parties like GDA, JI, and JUI have refrained from demanding the nullification of the elections. Instead, aggrieved parties are pursuing their grievances through legal avenues, such as Election Tribunals and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, or through political activism.

These realizations may have dawned on the Brigadier later, may be coupled with pressure or intimidation, either personally or from external forces, prompting him to withdraw the petition. Alternatively, he may have reconsidered the implications of pursuing the case further and decided to step back for personal or strategic reasons. However, the Supreme Court's decision to proceed with the hearing indicates that they saw merit in investigating the allegations of rigging, regardless of the petitioner's withdrawal.

Alternatively, the latest confession of the Commissioner Rawalpindi where he implicated the chief election commissioner and the Chief Justice in the alleged massive and blatant riggings

might be the actual reasons which might have prompted to the Supreme Court to take up this petition on its guise discuss the commissioner's confession and allegations in an attempt to clear the chief justice from his alleged involvement in the rigging.

As the legal battle would unfold, the Supreme Court would face the arduous task of navigating complex political terrain. Though the petitioner's plea raises fundamental questions about the credibility of the electoral outcome, none of the political parties, the legal fraternity or civil society have ever voiced their intention to declare the elections null and void. All of them have preferred to resort to the legal battle and wage democratic campaigns to seek justice.

In this scenario, if the supreme court proceeds with the hearing, it might first determine the competency of the retired Brigadier to file any appeal to nullify the elections. This typically involves demonstrating a personal stake in the outcome of the election, such as being a candidate who lost due to the alleged irregularities.

Moreover, the petition must be based on specific and verifiable grounds, such as evidence of widespread irregularities, rigging, or violations of electoral laws. The court may consider mere dissatisfaction with the elections as

insufficient reason to petition the supreme court.

The Supreme Court may also take into account that major political parties like PPP, PTI, PML(N), or MQM have accepted the election results and may be hesitant to become parties to the petition. Conversely, smaller parties that were marginalized in the elections, as well as individuals or civil society organizations advocating for electoral transparency and accountability, may step forward to defend the petition. They may argue that the pervasive irregularities have undermined the legitimacy of the results, warranting judicial intervention to nullify the elections.

The aggrieved political parties like PTI, JI, GDA and JUI if summoned by the SC may argue that though the election process was replete with irregularities, the overall integrity of the election was not compromised to the extent that would warrant nullifying the results. Additionally, they may stress the importance of addressing the genuine grievances by alternative avenues such as legal challenges or democratic campaigns.

The Supreme Court after meticulously weighing the arguments may consider various options while deciding the case. If the evidence fails to substantiate widespread rigging or irregularities that significantly undermine the election's integ-

riety, the supreme court might dismiss the petition. And if credible allegations warrant further investigation, ordering a recount or an inquiry in specific constituencies to rectify concerns without nullifying the entire election.

However, in the event of irrefutable evidence of systemic fraud that fundamentally compromises the election's fairness, declaring it null and void may be the necessary course of action, ensuring democratic principles prevail and future electoral integrity is maintained.

The Supreme Court's determination to proceed with hearing the petition, even after its withdrawal, underscores the gravity of the situation surrounding the 2024 elections. It reflects an attempt by the Chief Justice to clear his name and may reflect the Court's commitment to address the widespread allegations of rigging that have garnered attention nationally, regionally, and internationally.

The direction taken by the Supreme Court in this pivotal case could significantly impact the outcome of the controversial elections.

Its findings have the potential to guide the country out of its current political, economic, and financial challenges or further entrench it in political and legal turmoil. Therefore, the Supreme Court's actions carry immense weight and importance in navigating the country's future course.

Commerce News

Farhadov vows to foster Azerbaijan-Pak trade relations

LAHORE (APP): Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov emphasized Azerbaijan's strong commitment to fostering bilateral trade relations with Pakistan during his meeting with business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday.

He highlighted the commencement of direct flights between the two countries since last year by AZAL and PIA, and wished to expand flight connectivity, ultimately aiming for daily flights from various cities. The Ambassador stressed the key role of private sector

in driving economic ties. LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Farhadov and acknowledged the enduring diplomatic, historical, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov expressed optimism regarding the significant increase in trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, attributed to the introduction of direct flights.

He noted a substantial rise in the number of Pakistani students studying in Azerbaijan, underscoring the

importance of private sector engagement in fostering robust economic ties. The Ambassador emphasized the need for market exploration, partnerships, and reciprocal investments between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, citing successful trade relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey as a model. He highlighted Azerbaijan's position as a key international transport corridor and said that Azerbaijan's Socar Trading company provides LNG to Pakistan. Farhadov stressed the importance of people-to-people contact and the accessibility of the

Azerbaijani Embassy, expressing Azerbaijan's consideration in participating in possible joint projects also under Pakistan's SIFC.

He advocated for the establishment of preferential and transit trade agreements between the two countries and identified tourism as a promising area for collaboration, citing Azerbaijan's reception of tens of thousands Pakistani tourists every year. The Ambassador highly appreciated ten times increase in direct and indirect, with contribution of SOCAR Trading, trade turnover in last two years.



RAWALPINDI: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the members of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at National Health Summit on Dental Hygiene.



Engagement with Provincial Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on February 20, 2024 for the conduct of 7th integrated digital agricultural census.

CCP approves acquisition of Fauji Cereals business by Fauji Foods limited

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of M/s Fauji Foundation's Fauji Cereals Business by M/s Fauji Foods Limited. The Fauji Foundation, established as a charitable trust for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families, submitted a pre-merger application to the CCP under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010.

The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of the Fauji Cereals Business by M/s Fauji Foods Limited through

a Business Transfer Agreement. M/s Fauji Foods Limited is a publicly listed company incorporated in Pakistan, primarily focused on the production and sale of dairy and allied products.

CCP's assessment of the pre-merger application indicated that there were no overlaps between the merging parties in the areas of business activities such as Breakfast Cereals and Wheat, Barley & Porridge. Therefore, the CCP concluded that market conditions will remain unchanged post-transaction.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships, MSC Spring and Evrialicarrying Containersand Wheat, berthed at Container Terminal and Grain Terminal respectively on Monday. Meanwhile four more ships, Maersk Brooklyn, Siamisam, Stefanost and Agia Eirini Force carrying Containers, LNG Wheat and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours. A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, MSC Spring III and Evriali left the port on today morning, and another ship Haj Mohammad is expected to sail on today afternoon.

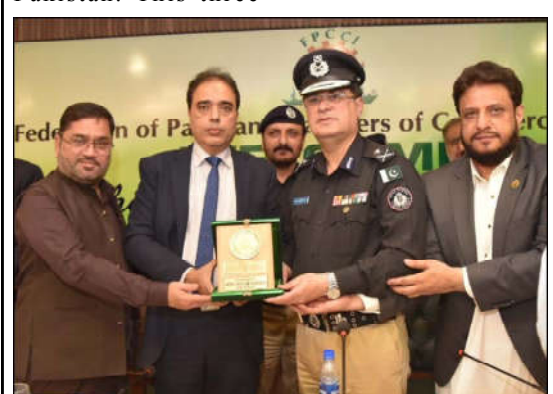
FPCCI, SCWEC jointly organizing trade fair from March 7th to 9th 2024

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) & the SCWEC, jointly organizing a three-day event comprising a trade fair named "SAARC Bazaar" from March 7th to 9th, 2024 at Expo Center Lahore, Pakistan.

The SAARC Bazaar aims to empower South Asian entrepreneurs and SMEs, particularly the women entrepreneurs in the cottage industry of Pakistan. This three-

day exhibition will serve as a platform for women, artisans and craftsmen engaged in cottage industries in South Asian countries to showcase their products.

The Women's Business Conference, themed 'Invest in South Asian Women: A Path towards Regional Progress' will be held on March 7, 2024, on the eve of International Women's Day in Lahore, Pakistan at Pearl Continental Hotel.



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to Mr. Riffat Mukhtar Raja, IG Sindh Police. Mr. Aman Paracha & Mr. Asif Sakhi, VPs FPCCI, were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan's regional exports increase 21.68% in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 21.68 per cent in the first seven months of the financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$2614.021 million, which is 14.54 per

cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$17977.963 million during July-January (2023-24), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives.

Pakistan's exports to

China witnessed an increase of 44.53 per cent to \$1726.679 million in seven months of this year from \$1194.639 million last year while exports to Afghanistan witnessed a nominal decline of 0.08 percent from \$285.177 million to \$284.927 million.

The country's exports to Bangladesh also decreased by 23.27 percent to \$367.776 million this year from \$479.357 million whereas exports to Sri Lanka rose by 24.65 percent to \$227.254 million from \$182.313.

SMBR reviews reforms for Revenue Academy

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing reforms taken for the Revenue Academy during a meeting held here on Tuesday. Revenue Secretary Shafiqatullah Mushtaq provided a detailed briefing to the SMBR, highlighting that over 4,000 employees underwent training at the academy within a year.

DGAARI inaugurates early cotton cultivation

FAISALABAD (APP): Ayub Agricultural Research Institute's (AARI) newly appointed Director General (DG) Malik Allah Bukhs has inaugurated early (Aget) cotton cultivation here on Tuesday and said that early cultivation would play a pivotal role in obtaining bumper production.

During inaugural ceremony at Cotton Research Station Faisalabad, he said that cotton is a precious crop of Pakistan which not only provide raw

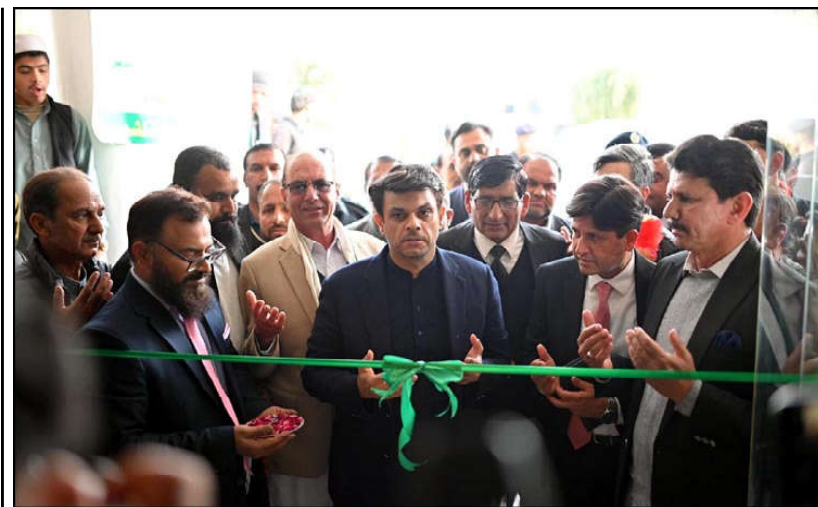
material to the local textile industry but also help in stabilizing national economy by fetching precious foreign exchange up to Rs.30 billion. He said that Agriculture department has activated its entire field staff to persuade and guide the farmers for ensuring early cotton cultivation over maximum space of their lands because early cultivated crops gives maximum production as chances of pest and disease attack on early cultivation are less than the late sowing.

Important to focus on character building of children along with education and training: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated three new programs for education and training of children at Children's Library Complex Lahore. Secretary School Education, Muhammad Ahsan Waheed, Chairman Board of Governors Children Library Complex Dr Nasir Javed, Managing Director Punjab Textbook Board, Naveed Shehzad Mirza, Managing Director Children Library Complex, Ahmed Khawar Shehzad

and other personalities were present in the ceremony. Governor Punjab inaugurated Knowledge Value and Skill Based Education, Space Race Pakistan and Virtual Reality Platform. Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that it is very important to focus on the character building of children along with education and training. He said that the future of the country and the nation hinges on good education of children. The Punjab

Governor said that the increase in the number of out of school children is alarming. He emphasized that we all have to forget our petty differences and play a role to address this issue. He said that management of Children Library Complex deserves appreciation for promoting educational and recreational activities by organizing national and international days, exhibitions and festivals. Governor Punjab said that Children Library Complex is providing educational.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik Inaugurating First Protectorate Offices in Bagh and Rawalakot, AJK.

Irshad inaugurates child protection unit at Kohat

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Social Welfare, Special Education and Prisons, Justice Retd. Irshad Qaisar on Tuesday inaugurated a child protection unit at Nishtar Special Education Center, Kohat. The function was arranged by the Child Protection and Welfare Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in assistance with UNICEF.

government was making efforts to establish child protection committees at district level and devising a comprehensive policy for child protection units besides, working on constancy of helpline 1121 of child protection. She also praised the efforts of UNICEF towards this end. She said the children were our future and providing them with best possible opportunities and welfare initiatives was the need of the hour. She said the KP has surpassed other provinces in child protection endeavors. The function was also addressed by the Chief Protection Officer, Ejaz Ahmad, Child Protection Specialist of UNICEF, Suhail Ahmad, Professor of Kohat University, Mehmood Khattak and Program Manager, Muhammad Wasim.

EC notifies names of candidates returned from PK-20, PK-21

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission (EC) of Pakistan has notified the names of candidates returned on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly constituencies including PK-20 Bajaur II and PK-21 Bajaur III.

According to the notification, Anwar Zeb Khan and Ajmal Khan have been returned on Bajaur PK-20 and PK-21 respectively. Anwar Zeb Khan secured 12917 votes while Ajmal Khan secured 16712 votes.

The number of votes polled in PK-20 is 40507 and 39827 in PK-21. Both the candidates have contested elections as independents.

Governor stresses students of read books, play role for country's development

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali stressed youngsters to divert their attention towards habit of books reading in existing era of social media and said the habit would change mindset and lives of young generation.

He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Grand Book Fair in Khyber Medical College as a chief guest. The event was also attended by Dean KMC, Dr. Mehmood Aurangzeb, Chairman Board of Governor, Dr. Umar Ayub, Dr. Fakr-e-Alam, faculty members and students. The governor who inaugurated the book fair said that significance of book reading could not be undermined in existing age of social media and internet adding that students should spare time for book reading keeping in view its importance for their personal grooming. He said that books can change mindset of youngsters besides nurturing their vision and improve capabilities.

PTI decides to move HC against closure of social media website X

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (Online): PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan has decided to resort to high court against closure of social media website X. Ali Muhammad Khan has said in a statement it is fourth day since the closure of social media platform X. I being a lawyer am going to challenge the dictatorial act of this fascist regime in Islamabad High Court (IHC) because this dictatorship is not acceptable. He said freedom of expression is basic human right. These dictatorial tactics of previous century can not run in this modern era. Closing internet or social media platform is not solution to problems.

Traffic restored at Malam Jabba, Lowari Tunnel

Independent Report
SWAT (Online): Traffic has been restored at Malam Jabba and Lowari Tunnel by removing snow from several kilometers of the nearby roads.

In this regard, rescue teams of Pakistan Army and district administration remained active throughout the night. Due to heavy snowfall yesterday, many passengers and tourists were also shifted to safe places.

CM inaugurates upgraded Mayo Children's Hospital

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by children Masooma Fatima and Ibrahim suffering from kidney disorders, inaugurated the upgraded Mayo Children's Hospital, here on Tuesday.

The upgradation of Mayo Children's Hospital has been completed in record time, showcasing exceptional speed and quality. The hospital's bed capacity has been increased to 360 beds.

The CM inspected various wards of the state-of-the-art hospital and commended the high-quality work of the

upgradation. The Secretary Communication and Works provided a briefing on the project, while the Secretary Health highlighted the improved treatment facilities.

Talking to media after the inauguration, Mohsin Naqvi stated that the first phase of the upgradation, totaling 360 beds, has been completed. The Mayo Children's Hospital was part of the Mayo Hospital Upgradation Plan, which has a total cost of Rs 10 billion. He mentioned that Mayo Hospital currently has 2,484 beds and 1,763 doctors, and human resource problems have been addressed by Secretary Health Ali Jan.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan giving away shield to Retired Secretary Excise and Taxation GB Momin Jan at CM Secretariat.

Providing protocol Nawaz LHC sends application to IG Punjab seeking action against CCPO Lahore

Independent Report
LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has referred to IG Police Punjab application seeking initiation of action against CCPO Lahore for providing protocol and saluting to PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif on his return from London to Pakistan.

The court directed IG police Punjab to take action as per law. Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh heard the petition filed by citizen Kamran whereby the step of not initiating action

against CCPO Lahore Bilal Kamyana was challenged.

The petition said Nawaz Sharif was convicted and declared proclaimed offender and he was given protocol on October 21 last year. Moreover CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana saluted a convicted person which runs contrary to police rules. He submitted application to the concerned authorities for taking action but it was not addressed.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating Grand Book Fair Festival at Khyber Medical College.

Pak-Korean Nutrition Centre holds training on dietary issues at BZU

Independent Report
MULTAN (APP): Pak-Korean Nutrition Centre organized a training session aimed at addressing prevalent dietary issues in Pakistan especially malnutrition among kids and, rising trend of diseases.

The event was organized under the supervision of Chairman of the Department of Human Nutrition at Baha Uddin Zakariya University, Professor Dr. Tauseef Sultan. Dean Faculty of Food Sciences and Nutrition Dr Saeed Akhtar was special guest at the event. The session focused on equipping students with the necessary skills to tackle societal nutritional challenges and providing comprehensive training on nutritional diagnosis and counseling. The session also emphasized on the importance of dietary management in various health conditions. Addressing the session, Dr Tauseef Sultan stated that Pakistan urged students and other experts to play an important role in highlighting and addressing the issues linked with food.

International News

WHO completes second Gaza hospital evacuation amid fighting

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The World Health Organization said on Tuesday it had completed a second evacuation mission from Gaza's Nasser Hospital but voiced concern for nearly 150 patients and medics who remain at the site amid continuing fighting.

The Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest, stopped working last week after a week-long Israeli siege followed by a raid, the U.N. agency said. WHO staff and other aid groups have so far evacuated a total of 32 critical patients including injured children and those with paralysis, but

the agency is concerned for those left behind with supplies dwindling. "WHO fears for the safety and well-being of the patients and health workers remaining in the hospital and warns that further disruption to lifesaving care for the sick and injured would lead to more deaths," the WHO said on the social media site X, saying those remaining included 130 patients and 15 medics.

Israel says Hamas, the Islamist group that has run Gaza since 2007, uses hospitals for cover. Hamas denies this and says Israel's allegations serve as a pretext to destroy the healthcare system.



Displaced Palestinians gather to receive food at a government school in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, amid ongoing strikes by Israeli forces.

"It's very difficult to see these scenes of people just being cut off," he said, saying food supplies were limited. "It's heartbreaking to see that there are people in health facilities who are not able to be treated correctly," he said.



Ambassador of Qatar to Russia Sheikh Ahmed bin Nasser Al Thani and Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights Maria Lvova-Belova (unseen) interact with Ukrainian children, at the Qatari embassy in Moscow.

Germany summons Russian envoy over death of Navalny

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: The German Foreign Office is summoning the Russian ambassador on Monday over the death of Alexei Navalny, a ministry spokeswoman said.

The politically motivated proceedings against Navalny and numerous other critics of the Russian government, as well as the inhumane prison conditions, show how brutally the Russian judiciary acts against dissidents and the means used by President Vladimir Putin to suppress freedom of expression, the spokeswoman said.

"We condemn this in the strongest possible terms and expressly call for the release of all those imprisoned in Russia for political reasons," she said.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's spokesman separately called on Russia to fully clarify the circumstances of Navalny's death in a Siberian prison camp and also to release his body to his family.

Beijing criticizes proposed US sanctions

Independent Report
BEIJING (Online): Beijing has responded to reports that Washington is planning to impose "broad" sanctions on the country, vowing to defend Chinese businesses from measures intended to target firms for allegedly helping Russia.

The proposed sanctions were discussed on Monday by CNBC, which interviewed a number of Congress members about the plans. Democrat Gerald Connolly, who sits on the House Committee on Foreign Relations, claimed "the very threat" of sanctions from the US and potentially the EU "ought to clarify

South Africa asks World Court to find Israeli occupation illegal

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: South Africa on Tuesday urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue a non-binding legal opinion that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal, arguing it would help efforts to reach a settlement.

Representatives of South Africa opened the second day of hearings at the ICJ, also known as the World Court, in the Hague. The hearing follows a request by the U.N. General Assembly for an advisory, or non-binding, opinion on the occupation in 2022.

German defence minister calls Red Sea mission 'important signal'

Monitoring Desk
RED SEA: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius has emphasized the importance of the planned deployment of a German frigate in the Red Sea as part of an EU naval mission to protect shipping from Houthi militants in Yemen.

"We will protect international security and freedom of navigation. The impact will not be underestimated," the minister told public broadcaster ZDF on Tuesday. The deployment is a "very important signal

Swedish PM to visit Hungary on Friday ahead of NATO vote

Monitoring Desk
HUNGARIAN: Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson will travel to Budapest on Friday ahead of the hoped-for approval from the Hungarian parliament, the last holdout, for the Scandinavian nation's entry into NATO. At the invitation of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Kristersson will visit the Hungarian capital, the Swedish government announced on Tuesday. The agenda for the two leaders includes talks about security and defence policy cooperation.

Palestine urges ICJ to declare Israel's occupation of their territory illegal

Independent Report
HAGUE (Online): Palestine urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to declare Israel's occupation of their territory illegal to pave the way for a two-state solution to the conflict for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told the 15-judge ICJ panel in the Hague that his people have been suffering colonialism and apartheid under the Israelis.

Israel's open-ended military occupation has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest and the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and has imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid, say the Palestinians.

"This occupation is annexation and supremacist in nature," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki said on Tuesday.

He called on the court to uphold the Palestinian right to self-determination and declare that "the Israeli occupation is illegal, totally and unconditionally".

Oral proceedings continue at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Belgium present early arguments.

Putin promotes high ranking prison officer after Navalny's death

Monitoring Desk
GAZPROM ARENA: Russian President Vladimir Putin has promoted a high-ranking prison officer several days after the death of leading opposition figure Alexei Navalny.

Prisoners can normally use their money to supplement their own meagre rations in the prison shop.

According to Zhdanov, the newly appointed colonel general was also responsible for further harassment of Navalny.

Boyarinev's promotion became known on Monday when the presidential decree was published in the legal database. In addition to Boyarinev, three other law enforcement officers were promoted to the rank of general. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied any connection between Navalny's death and the promotions, downplaying it as a normal procedure.

Navalny, 47, died on Friday in a Siberian prison camp. Weakened by repeated solitary confinement, Navalny is said to have collapsed during a tour of the icy prison yard and died despite attempts at resuscitation.

President underlines need for combined efforts to overcome education, health, economic issues

RAWALPINDI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the entire nation had set a precedent in the world with their collective efforts during Covid-19 pandemic and stressed that such a display of unity was critical to address disconcerting issues in education, health and economic sectors.

Addressing a National Health Summit organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), the president said that during Covid-19 pandemic when the deadly wave was hitting the globe, Pakistan emerged as the third best performing country in the world to avert the damages in health and economic sectors.

He said it was all possible due to the collective efforts and cooperation of the people and all stakeholders who displayed union in their efforts to ward off the spread of the pandemic.

"That precedent has carved a path for the future which can guide us in

our endeavours to overcome the contemporary challenges," he opined.

Highlighting the importance of physical hygiene, the president said that from the Islamic teachings, it stood proved that personal hygiene was linked with spiritual purity.

He said about 90 percent dental cases could be cured if prevention habits were developed by the people including regular brushing of teeth, similar was the case with communicable diseases.

The president urged all the stakeholders and the business community to play their parts in creating awareness among the masses over health-related issues including mental stress and population growth.

The serious issue of 26 million out-of-school children required combined efforts and mosques could be utilized to impart education to these children, he added.

The president mentioned Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka where the

literacy rate among the children was higher than Pakistan. He also cited the precedent of China that lifted about 700 million people out of poverty by focusing on health and education sectors.

"The State can show the path but it is the responsibility of all stakeholders of the society to share the responsibility by addressing issues in the education and health sectors," he added.

President Alvi further stressed upon focusing on priorities and continuity of policies which required public involvement.

The provincial governments in the country only spent 25 to 30 percent on education out of their allocated budgets which was not sufficient to address issues in this sector, he added.

Referring to population growth, he stressed "the demographic transition" involving all segments of society to realize the significance of the matter.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif cutting ribbon to inaugurate Data Center at PTA Headquarters in Islamabad.

Petition lands at SC Lahore Registry seeking probe into poll rigging

LAHORE (INP): A petition was moved in the Supreme Court (SC) Lahore Registry on Tuesday seeking investigation into the alleged rigging in the recently-held general elections in the country. The application was filed on behalf of citizen Mian Shabbir Ismail.

The federal government, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the chief secretaries of the four provinces were made respondents in the petition. The applicant requested the apex court to clear the dust regarding rigging allegations and reveal the facts.

It may be mentioned here that a similar kind of petition was first submitted at the apex court in Islamabad. Despite the fact that the mover seeking annulment of the general elections due to complaints of rigging, withdrew his petition on Monday, but Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa insisted he would still hear the case.

"Bring the petitioner back. Dial the cellphone number he has given on his application. We will hear the SHO of the concerned police station after the petitioner did not show up in court.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by the CJP, and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Halali, had been constituted to hear the petition filed by a retired brigadier, Ali Khan.

Calling withdrawal of the petition a 'joke', CJP Isa remarked that he would not allow this to happen again. "Do these people file petitions just for the sake of publicity," he said.

FDE, NH&MP organize road safety awareness lecture

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) in cooperation with the National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Tuesday organized a comprehensive road safety awareness lecture here at the Islamabad Model College for Girls PG Margalla College in F7/4.

The event was headed by Senior Patrol Officer Younus, Senior Patrol Officer Nabeela, and Patrol Officer Asifa.

The collaborative effort aimed to enlighten students on crucial road safety measures by utilizing informative videos and slides. The session, conducted by the esteemed officers, proved to be highly informative and engaging.

The team provided students with valuable insights into road safety, equipped with visual aids and relevant presentations, enlightening the audience about the dos and don'ts of road safety.

PTA launches data center to enhance service delivery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), inaugurated its Tier 3 compliant data center here on Tuesday. The ceremony was attended by Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, said a news release.

The newly established data center is engineered to deliver efficiency and reliability, boasting 24x7 Network Operation Center (NOC) and Security Operation Center (SOC) to ensure seamless operations and robust security measures.

On this occasion, the caretaker Federal Minister said that this initiative aligns with our vision for a digitally stronger Pakistan and underscores the government's dedication to providing advanced and secure digital services.

Chairman PTA, Major General (Retd) Hafeez Ur Rehman, appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the successful establishment of the data center which will serve as a centralized platform for managing and provisioning a diverse range of e-services to consumers and telecom operators.

Aneeq stresses national harmony, positivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed stressed the importance of reducing hate and delivering good news to foster trust and belief among the people.

Talking to PTV, he urged individuals from all walks of life, including political leaders and bureaucrats, to contribute to the country's development and prosperity.

He emphasized the need for a collective effort guided by ethical and religious values.

The minister said that

the ministry made a significant reduction in the Hajj package for 2024, reducing the financial burden on pilgrims.

This reduction, from Rs 11,75,000 to Rs 10,75,000 marked the first time in the country's history that the upcoming Hajj had become cheaper than the previous year's Hajj, he added.

In addition to affordability, the minister highlighted improvements in Hajj facilities, including the introduction of short-duration Hajj, allowing pilgrims to return after completion in 22 days.

35th 'Vision Eye Camp' held to bring sight & hope to almost 600 patients

KARACHI: Vision Eye Care, an international relief

organization dedicated to the prevention of blindness with a footprint in 39 countries around the world, launched its 35th cataract surgery project, the 'Vision Eye Camp,' in Karachi and Lahore. Organized through sponsorships from the Parwaaz Financial Services Limited, CITI Group, Hananum Foundation, Lotte Akhtar Beverages (Pvt) Ltd, Haimont Group, and Galleria Design, the Camp aimed to treat 600 patients and perform 150 cataract surgeries. The Camp was organized with three distinguished ophthalmologists, Dr. Donghae Kim, Dr. Dongkwon Lim, and Dr. Mathew Akashi (Medical Director, UCH Lahore),



services. Having embarked on blindness prevention projects in Pakistan since 2002, Vision Care has played a key role in facilitating patients facing vision impairments. In Karachi and Lahore, the organization initiated public eye health services in 2006. By offering opportunities for sight restoration, Vision Care endeavors to not only conduct cataract surgeries for low-income groups but also implement eye screening programs and provide magnifiers to those who lack access to adequate medical care. Biannually, Vision Care holds the 'Vision Eye Camp' in Pakistan, conducting over 100 cataract surgeries each session.

DC leads crackdown against alms seekers; nabs 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, Assistant Commissioners (ACs) on Tuesday conducted operations against professional beggars and apprehended 11 beggars from different areas of the Capital.

According to Spokesman, Dr. Abdullah Tabassum, Assistant Commissioner of Industrial Area, spearheaded an operation resulting in the apprehension of 11 beggars from Faisal Mosque and its vicinity. These individuals were promptly handed over to Margalla police station for further

legal action. He said that in a concerted effort to address the issue comprehensively, professional beggars were targeted to make the federal capital a liveable place for the citizens. Meanwhile, the underage beggars were also compassionately handed over to the Edhi Center for appropriate care and support, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that these operations are conducted daily under the vigilant oversight of Assistant Commissioners, signaling a sustained commitment to curb begging activities within their jurisdictions.

AIOU to establish training and development center

ISLAMABAD (APP): A "Training and Development Center" is being set up at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) for the professional development of academic, administrative and servicing department employees. The Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has taken this initiative, a press release on Tuesday said.

As a pilot project, an 8-week training workshop was started yesterday to train hostel staff, sanitation workers, gardeners, and naib qasids.

Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Fazal ur Rahman said that the professional development of staff is crucial at present.

He emphasized that the establishment of this training and development centre would mark a new beginning for the university.

Director, Adult Literacy Center, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Chaudhry explained the specifics of the training workshop.

In the first phase, the hostel staff will be trained about the basics of hospitality, in the second phase, the sanitary workers and gardeners will be exposed to the best and modern methods of cleaning and beautifying the campus, while in the last phase, naib qasids, security guards and other employees will be trained about public dealing.



Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training and members of the committee in a group photo with Officials of the Ministry during meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

IHC orders for not harassing, taking adverse action against Sher Afzal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered for not taking adverse action and harassing PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat.

Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz took up for hearing petition filed by Sher Afzal Marwat for issuance of orders by the court for not harassing him besides providing him details of cases against him.

Sher Afzal Marwat requested we cannot make expectation. You please issue order for not harassing and entering into house without warrants.

Later the court while issuing notice to the respondents ordered for providing details of cases against Sher Afzal Marwat, not harassing and taking adverse action against him.

The court while adjourning the hearing of the case till February 26 sought report.

one FIR in which I have been granted bail a day before.

Government has started a new job now a days. Several cases are registered against opposition leaders. Details of cases being sought from police and FIA. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz remarked first of all we issue notice and seek reply.

Sher Afzal Marwat requested we cannot make expectation. You please issue order for not harassing and entering into house without warrants.

Later the court while issuing notice to the respondents ordered for providing details of cases against Sher Afzal Marwat, not harassing and taking adverse action against him.

The court while adjourning the hearing of the case till February 26 sought report.

IHC issues non bailable arrest warrant against DC ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrant against Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Irfan Nawaz Memon on non-appearance in contempt of court case in a matter pertaining to the MPO orders for PTI's leader Shehryar Khan Afridi. The court directed the secretary of interior and DG Passport to place the name of exit control list (ECL), so he couldn't flee abroad. The court said that the deputy commissioner has apparently committed contempt of court as he didn't appear even after the dismissal of his request.

PPP to return any seat, if proved won with rigging: Taj Haider

ISLAMABAD (INP): People's Party Senator Taj Haider on Tuesday told the Senate that the party will return any seat if proved to be won with rigging.

"Bring the form 45, we are prepared to return a seat if proved to be won by the party with election rigging," Senator Taj Haider speaking in the house said.

He said the People's Party standing with all those persons whose rights have been usurped at any place. He advised political parties to take a legal path instead of opting for chaos, "we want solution of problems" PPP senator said.

Governorship in Sindh our right, will not give up: MQM-P

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has clarified that Governorship in Sindh was right of the party and it will not give up.

According to details, MQM-P assuring Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of its support in formation of government has sought support on three-point constitutional amendment.

PCP calls on leaders to focus on population-resource balance

By Anila Ejaz QUETTA: The Population Council Pakistan expressed hope that from the outset, both the new Prime Minister and the chief ministers of the four provinces would prioritise addressing the challenge of balancing population growth with available resources, starting

with their inaugural speeches and agendas. At a media meeting by Population Council Pakistan, senior Director Programs Dr. Ali Mir, Project Director Samia Ali, Senior Communication Officer Ikram Ahad, and Central Vice President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Saleem Shahid, along with participants from all provinces stressed the im-

portance of balancing population growth and resources at all government levels.

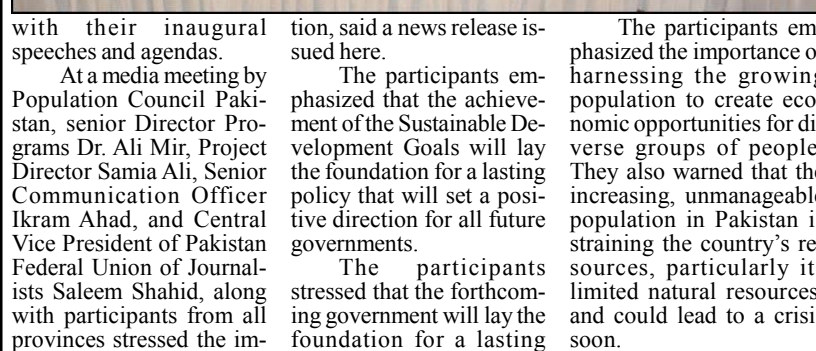
The participants stressed that attaining the Sustainable Development Goals will establish a durable policy framework, guiding all future governments in a positive direc-

tion, said a news release issued here.

The participants emphasized that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will lay the foundation for a lasting policy that will set a positive direction for all future governments.

The participants stressed that the forthcoming government will lay the foundation for a lasting policy towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals which will set a positive direction for all future governments.

The Population Council Pakistan has presented the analysis of the election manifestos of the four major political parties of the country.



Zafar demands issuing of production order of Senator Ejaz Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Ali Zafar ignited a fiery debate in the Senate as he presented a resolution demanding the production order of Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, amidst allegations of election malpractice and unfair treatment towards PTI leaders.

Addressing the Senate on Tuesday, Senator Ali Zafar voiced concerns over what he perceived as injustice against PTI leaders following the recent elections. He highlighted instances of arrests and restrictions on rallies, lamenting the alleged theft of the people's mandate and calling attention to the stifling of media coverage and communication channels. The session witnessed heated exchanges as senators expressed frustration over perceived electoral irregularities.

Warning of dire conse-

quences if electoral grievances remain unaddressed, Zafar underscored the potential for widespread unrest should the legitimacy of the mandate be disregarded.

Meanwhile, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed echoed Zafar's sentiments, demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner over allegations of incompetence and bias. Ahmed criticized the Election Commission for purportedly failing to ensure transparent elections and accused it of facilitating a "fake government" through fraudulent practices. The session witnessed heated exchanges as senators expressed frustration over perceived electoral irregularities, signaling deep-seated concerns about the integrity of the democratic process in Pakistan.

SHC directs early removal of obscene contents from social media

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed the authorities concerned for immediate removal of obscene content from social media. Chief Justice Sindh High Court, Aqeel Abbasi on Tuesday heard the petition against obscene content on social media, during which the petitioner's lawyer in his arguments said that obscenity was being promoted in the name of family v logging. During the hearing, PTA's counsel told the court that PTA does not have the authority to remove content on Facebook, YouTube or any other website, and to remove objectionable content, it has to write to the concerned authorities. Meanwhile, PTA's counsel sought time to submit the reply, on which the court said.



Senator Saadia Abbasi, Chairperson Senate standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

ICT-15 application introduced for IOS users; to ensure safety of citizens

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Under the special directions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police ICT-15 mobile application has been introduced for IOS users, to ensure the safety of citizens.

An ICP public relations officer said on Tuesday that the purpose of this mobile app is to enable citizens to inform the police without any hassle or time delay and ensure immediate police assistance. Through this mobile app, citizens can promptly notify the police of any incidents or emergencies by sending audio messages or images.

Moreover, to utilize this service the citizens should first download the "ICT 15" mobile application from the App Store.

After installation, they need to enter their name, address, and mobile number. In case of an emergency, they can send an alert message along with audio or images. Upon receiving the message, a representative of Islamabad Capital Police will immediately contact the affected individual to gather further details. After registering the complaint, the concerned person's information will be forwarded to the relevant police station and Dolphin (Emergency Response Unit). A police team will be dispatched promptly to provide assistance.

ICCP Dr Akbar Nasir Khan stated that the Islamabad Capital Police are committed to ensuring the security of citizens and will not tolerate any elements to disrupt public safety.



Senator Saadia Abbasi, Chairperson Senate standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.