# naenenieni

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### PML-N, PPP deliberate on 'sharing PM's Office for 3, 2 years each'

Monitoring Desk in principle to cooperate for the country's political stabiland the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have deliberated on the possibility of Party (PPP) have deliberated on the possibility of PPP Chairman Bilawalappointing prime ministers Bhutto Zardari and former from their parties for a threeand two-year term under a power-sharing formula

The idea of appointing a prime minister for half the term was discussed during their first huddle on Sunday following the February 8 elections as part of their efforts to form a coalition government in the Centre and provinces, according to sources privy to the development. The same powersharing formula was chalked out by the PML-N and the National Party (NP) in Balochistan in 2013 when two chief ministers from the two parties held office for half of the five-year term.

In the Sunday meeting at the Bilawal House in Lahore, the two sides agreed

prime minister Shehbaz Sharif from the PML-N.

According to a joint statement issued after the huddle, the meeting was held in a cordial environment, which expressed commitment to putting the nation's interest and wellbeing above everything.

The leaders of both

parties engaged in substantive discussions regarding the prevailing political landscape and the imperative of collaborative efforts for the betterment of the country. The PML-N delegation included Azam Nazir Tarar Ayaz Sadiq, Ahsan Iqbal Rana Tanvir, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Malik Ahmad Khan, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Sheza Fatima



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar talks to National and foreign media in a press conference.

### Shah Faisal mosque to be renovated: Gohar

ohar Ijaz on Monday said that 40 years ago, the government of Saudi Arabia gave a gift of Shah Faisal Mosque to Pakistanis, now the mosque would be renovated to make it more beautiful. He expressed these views on the occasion of visiting Shah Faisal Mosque along with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki. Federal Interior Secretary, Aftab Akbar Durrani, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and CDA officials were also present at the occasion.

The minister along with the Saudi Ambassador offered Zuhr prayer and latter visited the main hall

ISLAMABAD (APP): and spacious courtyard of Caretaker Federal Minister the mosque. Talking to the for Interior and Commerce media persons, the minissumed charge of the minister, he offered Jumma prayer at the mosque and latter he met with the Saudi ambassador and informed him that the mosque needed to be renovated.

> "We are grateful to the Saudi Ambassador who took personal interest and decided to renovate the Shah Faisal Mosque, which will begin soon" the minis-

Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki said that the Shah Faisal Mosque was given as a gift to Pakistanis by the Saudi government.

Now the renovation work of this mosque would be started soon, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz addressing the media along with Saudi Ambassador to H.E. Nawaf bin Saeed Al Malkiy at the Faisal Mosque.

### **Following poll routs** Tareen exits politics, Siraj quits as JI chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): Just four days after the general election, Jahangir Tareen announced that he will step down as chairman of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and leave politics altogether. Jamat-e-Islami Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq also also tendered their resignations as chief of the Jamate-Islami. However, Pervez Khattak denied news that he is set to step down from his party.

Tareen's announcement came through a post on X, four days after he was defeated in the general election. "I have immense respect for the will of the people of Pakistan. Therefore. I have decided to resign from my position as Chairman IPP and step away from politics altogether," he wrote.

He also congratulated his opponents on their win and thanked party workers

for their support. "By the Grace of Allah, I will continue to serve my country to the best of my ability in a private capacity," he wrote.
"May the next few

years see Pakistan prosper

Jamat-e-Islami Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq has tendered his resignation over the performance of his party in the general elections.

Siraj-ul-Haq wrote in his resignation that the party had made energetic efforts in the election but results did not materialise.

The JI failed to win a single seat in the National Assembly in the 2024 election, where PTI-backed independent candidates emerged as the bigeest group

Haq tendered his resignation on Monday, but it was not accepted immedi-



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chairing PPP Central Executive Committee (CEC) at Zardari House in the Federal Capital.

### Allegations of rigging 'contrary to ground realities'

### Won't investigate alleged electoral fraud at behest of any country: PM

For me, demand of countrymen is more important than US, UK, EU combined; Level playing field enabled independent candidates to emerge as single largest group in general elections: Congratulates nation for peaceful elections despite heavy challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): country's democratic his- dreamt of during 2018," he Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that the caretaker set-up had pro-vided a level playing field to all political parties during the currently concluded polls and being a 'free and fair' process, a large number of independent candidates backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerged as the largest single group on the national and

provincial assemblies seats. He stressed that allegations of rigging were generated through social media which were based upon misconceptions and contrary to the ground realities, and said that throughout the

#### SC accepts federation's appeal for hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday accepted the intra-court appeal (ICA) of the Federation for the hearing, that pertained to the proceedings in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against the retired judges.

A five-member larger bench, headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan, took up the ICA for the hearing.

The court decided to appoint amicus-curiae ir the case and asked the Attorney General of Pakistan to suggest the names in this

#### JI challenges result of 4 SA seats

KARACHI (Online): JI has challenged result of four constituencies of Sindh Assembly (SA) in Sindh High Court (SHĆ). JI Junaid Mekati has

challenged election result of PS-104 as Muhammad Dainiyal of MQM had won this seat JI has challenged suc-

cess of Abdul Basit of MQM from PS-124. Muhammad Akbar of

JI has challenged success of Abudl Wasim of MQM from PS-123. Nusrat Ullah of JI has

challenged election result of Muhammad Iftikhar Alim of MQM from PS-126.

#### Five independent candidates join PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Five independent candidates, who emerged victorious in the general election. called on Pakistan Mus-League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif, here on Monday.

Sardar Shamsher Mazari who won the election from NA-189, Imran Akram from PP-195 Sohail Khan from PP-240, Khizar Hussain Mazari from PP-297, and Sahibzada Muhammad Ghazain Abbasi from PP-249 were among those who met with the PML N President.

Caretaker Prime Minister tory, people had always questioned the electoral

> Such results indicated the transparency and noninterference by any quarters, he emphasised.

> Addressing a presser at the PM House, the prime minister said that there might be shortcomings or other minor issues, but by and large, the elections were held in a manner in which the entire nation and the law enforcement agencies deserved kudos despite various security

challenges.
"Where the PTI has public support, it got that any threats to integrity of der 'a pressure free envi-

said, adding that the loyalists of jailed PTI leaders were emerged as returned candidates in the general elections but no one was appreciating that aspect of the neutrality of the care-

taker government. The prime minister, to a question, said that despite various threats prior to the February 8 election day and two terrorist attacks in the Balochistan province, all the stakeholders deserved appreciation over the 'big achievement' for peaceful conduct of the

protests and agitations held by certain parties, saying "it is an absurd chronology" to relate the situation with Dhaka during 1971

'These are the mere rhetoric. Pakistan is a very stable and responsible country. Holding of a peaceful protest is the democratic right of the people," he said however, hastened to add that no government could allow the situation leading to chaos or anarchy.

Responding to a query, he maintained that over 60 million voters had exercised their constitutional right to elect their He also brushed aside favourite candidates un-



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Chief, Sibghatullah Shah Rashdi aka Pir Pagara addresses to media persons during press conference, at the residence of Pir Sadderuddin Shah Rashidi in Karachi.

### GDA rejects poll results, announces vacating Sindh Assembly seats

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) chief Pir Sibghatullah Shah, popularly known as Pir Pagara, announced on Monday the forfeiture of the two Sindh Assem-

bly seats won by the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) - a coalition of political parties in Sindh – in the 2024 general elections, alleging electoral rig-

Describing the elections as "unfair", Pagara, during a press conference, called for a peaceful protest against the rigging and announced plans for a sit-in on Feb 16 near the Hyderabad Bypass Road

He alleged that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had been unfairly assigned constituencies

won by the GDA, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Ìslami (JI).

Pagara recalled an incident a few months ago when he was approached by an individual, whom he referred to as "a friend" to disband his party and offered two to three national and provincial constituencies. "When I refused the offer, citing my loyalty to my party members, I was warned of potential losses in the elections.

Pagara criticised the allocation of entire constituencies to Asif Ali Zardari, suggesting it was in exchange for his supposed obedience. Pagara stated that the GDA

would stage a sit-in outside the Sindh Assembly on the day the



KARACHI: Women activists of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

#### Nawaz Sharif makes telephonic contact with Maulana Fazl

AHORE Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif has once again made telephonic contact with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman .

Both the leaders exchanged views on political situation. They have agreed on an early meeting.

According to sources during the meeting between Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, overall political situation of the country and matters related to government making were discussed in the meeting. During the telephonic

talk both agreed on early meeting for completing process of consultation fo government making.

#### Two terrorists killed in Mardan, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Mardan District on reported presence o terrorists. During the conduct of

exchange, two terrorists were killed. Weapons, ammuni

operation, after intense fire

tion and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization opera tion is being conducted to eliminate any other terror ist found in the area.

### Fissures in PPP over forming coalition govt with PML-N ISLAMABAD (INP): Dif- down well with the PPP

ferences have developed within the PPP on Monday over the terms and conditions the party should set for the formation of governments both at the Center and

According to reports, some of the party members are of the view that the PPP can only get along with the PML-N if the latter agrees on making Bilawal Bhutto the country's prime minister, and that there can be no alliance with the PML-N unless this condition is

On the other hand, some senior PPP members have advised that the party should never form govern-ments with the PML-N and it should better sit on the opposition benches, because any partnership with the PML-N will not go

However, the final decision will be taken at the party's central executive committee meeting scheduled to be held at Zardari House in Islamabad.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has reportedly offered a 'lucrative package' to the PPP in a bid to secure its support for the formation of governments at the Center and Punjab.

The PML-N offered the PPP - Presidency, National Assembly (NA) speakership and Senate chairmanship at a meeting held between the delegations of both the parties in Lahore yesterday.

The PML-N is interested in getting the premiership and the seat of Punjab chief minister.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddom, and others cutting the cake during National Day of Iran ceremony at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

### Tessori attends 45th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution celebrations

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori attended the celebrations on the occasion of the 45th anni-

versary of Iran's Islamic Revolution in Isľamabad. On the occasion, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam welcomed the Sindh Governor, said a statement issued by the spokesperson of the Governor here on Monday. The Governor also cut the cake with the Iranian Ambassador.

### **Aneeq Ahmed says:** Hajj pilgrims would be provided exemplary facilities this year

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious affairs and interfaith harmony Aneeq Ahmed has said that this year Haj expense had been reduced from 1175000 Rs. to 1075000 Rs. to facilitate the intending Haj pilgrims. He expressed these views while addressing the First Hajj training programme organized by the Directorate of Haj Karachi

here on Monday. Federal Minister said that this Haj was taking place in our interim setup

provision of best facilities to Hajj pilgrims which were not provided in the past.

He said that year aspirant pilgrims who were embarking for performing Hajj were fortunate and guests of Almighty Allah. He said that the Ministry of Religious affairs and interfaith harmony every year organize such Hajj training programmes in major cities ike Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and this programme arranged in Hyderabad would also be helpful to edu-



### the intending pilgrims during 1st training program. PTI independents in Karachi challenge

election results

fairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addressing

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supported runner-up candidates have filed petitions against election results in Karachi, says in media reports.

A lawyers group headed by Jibran Nasir Advocate has filed petitions in Sindh High Court seeking suspension of winning candidates' notifications. Petitioners said that according to Form 45, they have bagged more votes than the candidates' declared win-

ners in election. PTI-supported candidates Aftab Jahangir, Tariq Hussain, Rabistan Khan, Salehzada, Sherzaman, Ramzan Ghanchi, Iviui Dawa Khan Sabir,
Qadir Ghanchi, Murad Shaikh,

Ghulam Qadir, Faheem Khan, Syed Faisal Ali, Shakeel Ahmed, Bashir Sodhar, Abdul Qadeer, M. Yasir and Shafeeq Shah have challenged the election results. The victories of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's Mustafa Kamal and Dr Farooq Sattar on MNA seats were challenged in the Sindh High Court (SHC) earlier on

## Daily soice of Masse Independent

### Glaring irregularities

Frantic negotiations have started behind closed doors over the possible configurations of power, and some quarters will be eager to see the election chapter closed, with results accepted as fait accompli. However, the citizenry — of which many braved a long campaign of intimidation and navigated several hurdles to exercise their vote — seems in no mood to meekly move on. It has good reason not to.

There were significant irregularities in this election that voters must be given answers for, and it is important that their concerns are promptly addressed by the ECP. The most pressing issue is what seems to be the outright theft of the public mandate in some parts of the country, as evidenced by the large discrepancies between various reported

There are growing voices of concern, including in the international community, over why some of the ECP's announced results differ so widely from the personal tallies kept by the candidates as well as the unofficial, parallel counts maintained by TV channels through their independent sources.

Observers' suspicions have been further strengthened by some obvious anomalies in the Form 47s released by ROs for certain constituencies, as well as the inordinately long time it has taken to 'finalise' results.

It is strange that, for most parts of the country. the results reported by the channels seem to closely match the results announced by the ECP much later; however, in many major urban constituencies, where media presence and resources are, in fact, the strongest, the divergence is extremely large. Clearly, something went awry during the results tabulation process in these constituencies, which needs to be promptly investigated and addressed. Though investigations will get tricky in places where candidates were never given Form 45 — a serious irregularity that has been highlighted by several poll observers — there seem to be quite a few candidates who are in a position to mount a strong challenge.

These include, among others, several PTIbacked independents in Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Islamabad, some of whom saw comfortable victories turn into overnight defeats. At least one, Salman Akram Raja in Lahore, has already contested his RO's result in court, and others will likely follow

Before things get messier, the ECP should take action. The present CEC had taken strict and principled action over the February 2021 rigging of the Daska by-poll, starting with withholding its result. Similar action is needed right now, especially in constituencies where losing candidates have evidence to make a strong claim.

Moreover, wherever the rules call for it, the ECP must allow a recount. It should also release any information that can help auditors cross-check its results. This is an opportunity for the institution to restore its credibility. With international pressure growing, it must act quickly.

### **Indigenous wisdom**

#### Muhammad Hassan Dajana

Tuesday February 13, 2024

As the world struggles with the increasingly severe effects of climate seeds, these seed banks change and experiences also act as important arrapid disruptions, we chives for indigenous must prioritise the issue. The planet and our survival depend on it. It is no longer a matter of whether we should act, but rather how we should respond with all-encompassing, inclusive solutions to minimise and adapt to the effects of climate change, which have dramatically increased in frequency and

There is a rich source of wisdom that is frequently disregarded. This is indigenous knowledge, which refers to the collective knowledge, ideologies, customs, ways of life, and values that have been down through the generations through rituals, suring their preservation and continuity.

Indigenous communities have long been closely tied to their lands and environments. Their traditional knowledge of local ecosystems, resource management, and sustainable practices enables them to detect with water-related diffisubtle variations in culties by building and weather, seasons, ecological balance, and the lection systems such as behaviour of plants and animals. Collaboration with indigenous communities is essential for re- tables and enhance waorienting human-nature interactions and foster- this area are built to suring resilience to protect around 80 per cent of the facing east to take advanworld's biodiversity.

amples of indigenous als. The cultivation of wisdom and practices crops like khejri and prefbeing harnessed for ef- erence for camel, goat, fective climate action and sheep rearing over

and conservation are buffalo are examples of given here. In Chitral, groups indigenous to the area

two percent target, while

allowing the US economy

to fly, avoiding a hard

first time, marking its 10th

Apple and Microsoft.

The S&P 500 finished

But Asian investors

Tokyo, Hong Kong,

were a little less

Bangkok, Mumbai and

Wellington falling while

Jakarta and Manila edged

Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Singapore and Kuala

Lumpur were all closed for

holidays. Oil prices dipped after Friday's

geopolitical worries linked

to the Middle East crisis.

gains

fuelled

enthusiastic, with Sydney,

landing.

tional seed types well- enous signals to foresuited to local condi- cast the weather and tions. In addition to collecting, storing, and distributing indigenous knowledge, providing people access to resilient crop varieties that can resist climate shocks, improve their access to food, and ensure their preservation and availability for future generations. The Burusho

people, one of the indigenous groups in the Hunza Valley, use strategies including terracing, tree planting, and organic farming to prevent soil erosion, increase biodiversity, ensure food security, and advance sustainable agriculture. To save endangered species and advance biodiversity preservadeveloped and handed tion, they have also developed communitymanaged conservation storytelling, and per- areas. This has resulted sonal experiences, en- in increased water availability, soil fertility, and forest cover while promoting the community's well-being.

In northwest India, indigenous tribes have created intricate knowledge systems to respond to climate change. They have successfully dealt safeguarding water-colponds, johads, and nadis that not only collect rainfall but also refill water ter balance. The homes in vive the harsh climate, remaining tage of the cool morning sunshine and employing Some successful ex- cooling building materi-

rearing practices. In Africa, smallhave established seed holder farmers have trabanks to preserve tradi- ditionally used indig- Courtesy Dawn

agricultural and animal-

guide farming decisions. Their decisions regarding agricultural procedures, such as planting time and crop selection, include animal and plant behaviour, weather cues, and human ailments. Indigenous conservation techniques, including intercropping, crops, crop rotation, and agroforestry, are successful in boosting agricultural yield, preserving water, minimising erosion, and improving soil

health. Community-managed natural forests (or village common woods) in Bangladesh support regional biodiversity preservation and improve essential community services. The Hawaiian native community's restoration of a sustainable loko ia, or fishpond system, has the possibility of annually producthousands pounds of sustainable protein, while reducing coral bleaching, beach erosion, overfishing, and other imbalances in the marine ecosystem.

Finally, it is crucial to acknowledge that indigenous communities are usually marginalised in climate conversations. Due to the uneven distribution of resources and unsustainable land practices, indigenous knowledge is not only lost but the community's adaptive capacity is also diminished

Peaceful cohabitation with local ecosystems is a sign of the valuable insights they hold. They also provide wise advice, creative solutions, and an extensive viewpoint based on interconnection.

For a sustainable and equitable future, it is crucial to involve indigenous experts in meaningful discussions, incorporate their expertise into policies and action plans, and promote collaboration.

### Marital rape

#### Sahar Bandial

A recent judgement passed by an additional district and sessions criminal liability for nonjudge in Karachi is being celebrated as recognition of marital rape as a criminal offence under Pakistani law. The court found the accused husband guilty of Section 377 (unnatural of-

fences) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for the judge, the husband and liberty. The deciforcefully subjecting his wife to sodomy, and sentenced him to imprisonment for three years and a fine of Rs30,000. Although

strictly qualify as a conviction for rape — a separate offence defined in Section 375 of the PPC — it is significant in possibly being a first judicial pronouncement in our jurisdiction on the criminal consequence of forced sexual between relations spouses in a marriage. The United Nations Population Fund has reported that around 40 per cent of women in Pakistan are victims of spousal violence. Details on the incidence of marital rape and sexual little known. Complaints of marital rape are rare; convictions for marital rape — non-existent. This is so, despite the fact that the law provides space for criminal prosecution of marital Section 375 of the

cently in 2021) defines rape as the penetration of a bodily orifice of a person (who may be a transgender) by an obconsent. The expanded definition of rape now includes sodomy within its ambit.

the offence of rape court, after having been

erned by the Hudood Ordinances, a husband consensual sexual intercourse with his wife. The exemption was removed when the offence of rape was re-legislated into the PPC through a criminal law amendment In the case before

could, in principle, have

been convicted for rape

under Section 375 for his forced act of sodomy with his wife (depending section(s) of the PPC the judgement does not FIR was registered). A tion 375 would invite preme court) held that graver penalties/ punishments; rape is punsentence of imprisonment for the remainder common law fiction, for significant in another aspect as well: criminal culpability would be countries based on the forceful marital rape as a crimiand non-consensual na- nal offence, though the ture of the sexual en- exact nomenclature counter between the adopted in their laws husband and wife, as may be different. For inopposed to arising out stance, Indonesia's of the act of sodomy (be sexual violence law clasviolence within mar- it consensual or non- sifies "forcing sexual inriages are, however, consensual), which is tercourse ... on people per se culpable under Section 377 of the PPC.

note that the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has main- definition of "sexual astained the marital rape sault" in Article 102 of exception in the definition of rape. Exception 2 to the Section 375 of the criminalises rape within Section 375 of the IPC reads: "Sexual inter-PPC (as amended recourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape." This exception is woman or based on the understanding that a woman aggrieved women seekiect, body part or mouth upon marriage irrevocaof another person, in the absence of meaningful relations with her husrelations with her husband. The question of the subject, therefore, constitutionality of the are critical as are legal marital rape exception in education and judicial the IPC is pending be-Prior to 2006, when fore India's supreme the law governing rape.

(zina-bil-jabr) was gov- determined by the high courts of two states. The exception is being was exempted from challenged on the ground that it violates women's right to equality by depriving them of the equal protection of the law, amounts to discrimination on the basis of marital status, and in denying women bodily agency and autonomy violates their right to life sion of the Indian supreme court is awaited.

The marital rape exception was also undone in English law of course on under what through judicial intervention. In 1991, the House of Lords (predeconviction under Sec- cessor of the UK suthe marital rape exemption was not a statutory ishable by a maximum provision but an anachronistic and offensive of a convict's natural which no room exists in life. A conviction under modern times where Section 375 would be marriage is a partnership

recognise who live within the It is interesting to household"as "sexual violence". Similarly, the the Turkish Penal Code all purposes

a marriage Whilst the law recognises and makes provision for marital rape, cultural norms and pressure may in fact be the primary hurdle to ing protection of the law. Public conversation and awareness-raising on training on the scope of -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

### Asian markets mixed ahead of US inflation data

APP): Markets were mixed in Asia on Monday in holiday-thinned trade as market bets on a series of investors look ahead to the cuts this year starting in release of crucial US inflation data due this

Another record close for the S&P 500 in New helped by the belief that boosted by surges in tech York did little to inspire while rates remain titans including Amazon, buying on a day when most of the region is closed for the Lunar New Year break. Wall Street welcomed

revised data showing the US consumer price index (CPI) came down onmonth in December.

That added optimism that the Federal Reserve is on course to get inflation under control, though observers were sceptical as to whether precipitating a recession," officials will cut interest rates as early as markets Research Inc.

Comments from Fed inflation down toward its officials in recent weeks have pushed back against March, with commentators now tipping a first move above 5,000 points for the

Still, sentiment was all-time high this year, elevated, the world's top economy is still strong, with most experts hopeful it will not drop into recession, as had been feared last year.

in May

Eyes are now on the release of January CPI figures, which are forecast show slowdown.

"High inflation rarely has been tamed without said Ed Yardeni of Yardeni

"The Fed has steered

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Board of Investment, meeting with Mr. K. K. Ahsan Wagan Ambassador Designate to Turkmenistan at Prime Minister's office, Board of Investment.

SECP all set to launch "eZfile",

a new corporate registry

comprehensive ease to

its users while doing

incorporation, filing

through built-in checks,

and pop-up guidance

messages.
The SECP has

considerably simplified

### **UAF inks MoU with HBL Zarai Service Limited**

FAISALABAD (APP): Zarai Services. HBL Zarai Services Limited and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have signed an agreement to enter a strategic collaboration to bridge the gap between

industry and academia. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Dera President & CEO – HBL Muhammad Aurangzeb and CEO - HBL Zarai Services Amer Aziz along establish "Farm Research with other senior members from UAF, HBL and HBL integrate these centers.

UAF spokesman said here on Monday that under the agreement. HBL Zarai Services will develop Farm Research & Excellence Centers across Punjab collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad by integrating the concept of HBL Zarai sustainable agriculture. strategic collaboration aims to

& Excellence Centers" and

#### Rupee sheds 04 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Monday weakened by 04 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.32 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.28. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280 and Rs 282, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 78 paisa to close at Rs301.64 against the last day's closing of Rs300.86, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### regulator through end-to-end automation of its regulations and Pak, Iraq explore avenues to increase cooperation in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (Online): business processes.

Exchange Commission of corporate registry with

Pakistan (SECP) is all a user-friendly interface

set to launch a new and several advanced corporate registry, features, is ready to

"eZfile," a more replace the SECP's sophisticated, advanced, existing online filing

sophisticated, advanced, existing online filing and user-friendly online system, 'eServices'.

The

portal

statutory

The Securities and

portal for company

registration and post-

registry is envisioned in

transformation program, namely LEAP—Leading

Efficiency through

Automation Prowess,

launched to position

SECP as a role-model the

The new corporate

digital

incorporation filings.

SECP's

Pakistan and Iraq on X. Monday discussed ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, with a special focus on research

and development. The discussion came during a meeting between Pakistan's Ambassador to Iraq Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed and Iraq's Minister for Agriculture Abbas Al Pakistan's

ISLAMABAD (APP): Embassy in Iraq posted on

Meanwhile, Sheikh Ali Najafi son of Grand Ayatullah Bashir Hussain called Najafi Ambassador Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed.

During the meeting, they discussed issues pertaining to Pakistanis residing in Najaf and Karbala, as well as ways and means of facilitating Pakistani Zaireen

#### **Domestic gold** rates remain unchanged

merging multiple forms,

filling forms from 75 to

single set "Companies

Regulations 2024" is

issued, covering the

regulations for company

incorporation, post-

incorporation

reporting, issuance of

license under Section 42

of the Companies Act,

2017, further issue of

share capital, group

registration, easy exit of

companies, buyback of

shares, registration of

intermediaries, etc.

The consolidated

duplication,

compliance

ensuring clarity.

eliminating

and

eZfile, a modern reducing the number of

"eZfile"

returns

regulatory

offers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs.214,300 in the local market on Monday, the All Sindh Association reported

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat gold remained stagnant at Rs.183,728 and Rs.168,416 respectively whereas per tola and ten gram silver was trade at existing rates of Rs.2,600 2,229.08 respectively.

### **FPCCI congratulates** Mirza Ikhtiar on winning his NA seat of NA-241 Independent Report

Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has congratulated Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig on winning his national assembly seat of NA – 241; and, pinned his hopes in his leadership skills to facilitate business, industry and trade community of Pakistan through advocating for enabling, conducive business and economic policies from the august platform of National Assembly of

Pakistan.

Ikhtiar Baig is not only a KARACHI: Mr. Atif highly-respected former Senior Vice President of FPCCI; but, also a seasoned and accomplished governance leader as he has previously served as Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Textiles. Furthermore, he has been active in social, philanthropic, economic and political circles for the past many decades.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh proposed that the new government should capitalize on his expertise and network in export markets and



LAHORE: FPCCI and Lahore Chamber's Standing Committee for Machinery Manufacturers and importers signed an important memorandum of understanding with the worldrenowned company MEF Machine to ensure the exchange of modern technology, cooperation on mutual and commercial issues.

### **RCCI** hopes new government to bring economic stability

RAWALPINDI (INP): President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Saqib improvement of the consult with confidence of investors.

was facing many challenges

including the IMF program while 40 percent of the population lived below the poverty line and inflation had skyrocketed to more Rafiq, on Monday had skyrocketed to more expressed hope that the than 30 percent. Saqib newly elected government Rafiq demanded that the would work for the new government should economy. In a statement stakeholders to formulate issued here, he said that a a medium and long-term coalition or national economic plan and government would be continuity of policies. He formed through consensus, said "We hope that the new which will restore the government will take immediate steps to solve He said that Pakistan the problems of the business community.

LAHORE: President LCCI Kashif Anwar presenting shield to Director Pakistan Stock Exchange Ahmed Chenai during awareness campaign.

### Punjab Governor says: **Supremacy of merit vital to** stability of institutions and good governance in country

**Independent Report** Chairman Punjab Public Service Commission Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Malik Zafar Iqbal paid a farewell call on Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. Secretary Punjab Public Service Commission Afzal Chaudhry was also with him. Governor Punjab congratulated Lieutenant General (retd) Malik Zafar Iqbal on completing three successfully appreciated performance as Chairman

Punjab Public Service

During the meeting, Chairman PPSC presented

**Independent Report** 

LAHORE: On the directions of Punjab Food

Authority (PFA) Director

General Muhammad Asim

Javaid, efforts have been

stepped up to curb the sale

and purchase of unsafe

food in Punjab including

Asim Javaid said that

PFA DG Muhammad

on sale of unsafe food

nine

the annual report of Punjab institution.
Punjab Service He ur
Commission 2023 to the need to Punjab Governor.

Speaking on this the institution. occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that supremacy of merit is vital to the stability of institutions and good governance in the country. He said that the Punjab Public Service Commission is an esteemed institution that is playing a key role in selecting qualified and competent candidates on merit for government jobs. said that there is a need to efficiency and bring Commission, and its trial improvements in the will be started soon.

Bakhsh Town and Sagiyan,

respectively and penalized

seven food business

operators (FBOs) with a

total fine of Rs105,000 and

served warning notices to

improvement. He said the

authority took action against FBOs for preparing

breakfast in rusty vessels,

failing to present the

necessary records of oil

eateries

He underlined the need to promote information technology in

Chairman Punjab Public Service Commission Lieutenant General (Retd) Malik Zafar Igbal informed the Punjab Governor about the reforms made to improve the institution. He said that for the first time in the history of PPSC. grade four employees have been recruited on merit through examination and interview. He said that the procedure Governor Punjab further of a computerized testing system has been devised in take steps to increase the the Punjab Public Service

#### LHC moved for **PFA launches crackdown** removal of name of Imran Riaz from ECL

AHORE (Online) Petition seeking removal of name of senior anchor and iournalist Imran Riaz from ECL has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Imran Riaz Khan has filed petition through advocate Azhar Siddique in LHC. The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that information is there



KOTLI: Minister Higher Education Zafar Igbal Malik is presiding over the meeting held regarding power outages and electricity issues. Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Haq Nawaz is also present.



LAHROE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi offering Dua after inaugurating Extension & upgradation Project of State of the Art Medicine Ware House at Gulberg.

### Naqvi inaugurates medicine warehouse up-gradation project

**Independent Report** Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the expansion and upgradation project of the state-of-the-art Medicine Warehouse at Gurumangat Road, Gulberg here on Monday.During his visit, he inspected the facility and reviewed the process of storing medicines. He expressed his satisfaction over the meticulous attention to international standards in medication storage.Secretary Health provided a comprehensive briefing on the project's

PESHAWAR (APP): The

Conference on Climate

hange and Emerging

rends in Civil Engineering

CCETC-2024) began in

Shulam Ishaq İnstitute of

Engineering Sciences and

Technology on Monday.

marked an important

gathering where experts

from around the world

participated to talk about

climate change in the context

of Civil Engineering. The

event brought together

scholars, researchers,

industry leaders, and

policymakers to discuss the

challenges posed by climate

change in civil engineering. sessions.

International

conference

upgradation, emphasizing the importance of maintaining international standards in medicine storage for safe and timely distribution

The CM commended the performance of Health Secretary and his team, affirming the optimal utilization of resources for enhancing the healthcare sector. He highlighted the significant results achieved through government initiatives aimed at improving the health sector Addressing the media, Mohsin Naqvi emphasized a zeroand tolerance policy towards

the Society for the

Promotion of Engineering

Sciences and Technology in

Pakistan (SOPREST) Shakil

Durrani was the chief guest

of the conference whereas

Vice Chancellor of Mehran

University of Engineering

and Technology, Jamshoro

Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali

and Vice Chancellor,

Karakoram International

University Prof. Dr. Atta

Ullah Shah were the guests

of honor. The inaugural day

featured keynote speeches,

workshops, and setting the

knowledge knowledge-sharing

discussions.

for important

# redressal through proper The chief minister

incidents akin to May 9.

stating preparedness to

swiftly address any such

encouraged individuals

with complaints regarding

the Election Commission's procedures to exercise their

legal rights and seek

occurrences.

stressed the importance of maintaining stability development and the welfare of its citizens, expressing hope for ongoing progress and prosperity under the incoming administration.

#### **ANF** recovers **GIKI hosts conference** 340 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 340 kg of drugs and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on

Monday. He informed that 158 kg hashish and 99 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Kohat Road Peshawar.30 kg hashish was recovered from Jeewani Road, Gwadar and 28 kg opium, 4 kg heroin and 2 kg Ice drug were recovered from G.T. Road Nowshera and an accused was arrested during the

### PML-N to announce PM candidate after consensus with allies: Attaullah Tarar

(PML-N) for the prime minister slot will be announced after a complete consensus with allied parties.

Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town on Monday, he said that the party was in a position to form a government in province.

said that discussions were underway with the their triumph by Pakistan Peoples' Party initial announce (PPP) and Muttahida percent result.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Qaumi Movement Muslim League Nawaz Pakistan (MQM-P) for the Deputy Centre. Efforts are Secretary General underway to induct Attaullah Tarar has said more newly elected that his party's candidate members in the party, he mentioned

Attaullah Tarar said that a candidate for premiership would be announced after a proper consensus of all political allies. He said that PML-N was going to form a government in Punjab and he congratulated all PML-Punjab as it had attained a N workers, elected members simple majority in the and leaders. About election results, he emphasized that The PML-N leader certain elements had prematurely celebrated their triumph based on the initial announcement of a 25



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Public Service Commission Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Malik Zafar Iqbal presenting Annual Report 2023 to Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House.

### **Kundi condemns** firing on PPP rally

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary and former deputy speaker of National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi strongly condemning the incident of firing on the PPP rally have called for the arrest of the attackers at the earliest.

In a statement, he said that the tragic incident of firing on the PPP rally in Dera Ismail Khan is deeply regrettable and vowed that the perpetrators of this cowardly act would be supporters were on their brought to justice soon.

Party would be forced to protest if suspects were not arrested. However, Faisal Karim Kundi said that both the IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Regional Police Officer(RPO) had assured the immediate arrest of the suspects.

opponents were perturbed by the progress of the peaceful rally in the Bhud area of Dera Ismail Khan was targeted when way to congratulate.

# International News

stage

on climate change,

emerging trends

### Israel frees two hostages, Gaza officials say 67 killed in assault

**Monitoring Desk** 

Israeli-Argentine hostages held by Hamas in Rafah on Monday in a ferocious rescue operation which killed 67 Palestinians in the southern Gaza city where about one million civilians have sought refuge from

months of bombardments. The mission by the Israeli military, the Shin Bet security service and a special police unit, freed Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Hare, 70, the military said. They were among 250 people seized during the Oct. 7 raid by Hamas militants that triggered Israel's war on Gaza. More than four

is in ruins, with 28,340 Palestinians dead and 67,984 wounded, according to buried under rubble.

says 31 hostages have died ister Benjamin Netanyahu showed that military pressure should continue and he brushed aside international alarm at its plans for a ground assault on Rafah.

"Fernando and Louis, welcome home," he said, saluting the Israeli forces who rescued them. "Only

months on, much of the continued military presdensely-populated strip of sure, until total victory, will land on the Mediterranean bring about the release of all of our hostages." The Gaza health ministry said 67 Palestinians had been Gaza health officials, with killed overnight and the many others believed to be number could rise as rescue operations were under way. The Israeli military A Reuters journalist at the scene saw a vast area of in that time, but Prime Min-rubble where buildings, insaid Monday's rescue destroyed. Israel says many

> woman knelt over the body of a young child nearby.



Palestinians gather at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

### **US** defence chief Lloyd Austin 'admitted to critical care unit': Pentagon

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has been admitted to the critical care unit as he undergoes treatment for a bladder issue, the Pentagon said late on

Sunday, in a statement

citing his doctors. Tonight, after a series of tests and evaluations, the secretary was admitted into the critical care unit at Walter Reed National Military Media and Ukraine.

cal Centre for supportive care and close monitoring," the statement read. Austin'

hospitalisation comes weeks after it emerged that the 70-year-old had kept previous hospital stavs secret and had not immediately informed US President Joe Biden of a cancer diagnosis, sparking criticism as the United States faces crises in the Middle East

cluding a mosque, had been of those killed are militants the Gaza ministry says 70% are civilians. "I've been collecting my family's body parts since the morning, said Ibrahim Hassouna, as a

#### Russia slaps sanctions on **British officials**

MOSCOW: Russia on Monday imposed sanctions on 18 British citizens including several top academics and Russia experts for what Moscow said was an attempt to demonise Russia and fan the war in Ukraine. "We are forced to state that Russophobically charged British representatives do not shy away from trying to discredit the constitutional system and socio-political processes in our country," Russia's for-

eign ministry said. 'The so-called brain trusts operating based on the largest British and Western educational institutions make a significant contribution to the subversive work of London in the Russian direction." Personal sanctions were announced against British Deputy Defence Minister James Cartlidge, Deputy National Security Adviser Sarah MacIntosh and Director of Submarines Simon Asquith. Others targeted included Stuart Peach, the British prime minister's special envoy to the West-

ern Balkans



French President Emmanuel Macron and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk deliver a statement to the media as part of their meeting at Elysee Palace,

### Iran calls for expulsion of Israel from UN

**Monitoring Desk** TEHRAN: Iran marked 45

years since its Islamic revolution with a ceremony on Sunday in which President Ebrahim Raisi condemned arch foe Israel over the Gaza attack and demanded it be expelled from the United

Since Iran's 1979 revolution that overthrew the US-backed Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the region's main power has had deeply hostile relations with Israel, the United States and Britain. Tensions have spiralled further since the bloodiest ever Gaza unrest erupted on Oct 7.

Support for the Palestinian cause and harsh criticism of the United States - often dubbed the "Great Satan" in Iran — and Israel dominated ceremonies marking the anniversary.

In Tehran, Raisi accused the "Zionist entity", Iran's term for Israel, of committing "genocide" in Gaza with the support of the United States and other Western countries. Supporters chanted "Down with the United States", "Down with Israel" and "Down with the United Kingdom" at the square, where Iranian-made missiles and other military hardware were on display.

### Four Emirati soldiers, Bahraini officer killed in Somalia attack

**Monitoring Desk** 

DUBAI: Four Emirati soldiers and a Bahraini officer were killed following an attack in Somalia, where they were training the Somali national army, the United Arab Emirates announced. The soldiers were "exposed to a terrorist act" while "performing their work duties in training and qualifying the Somali Armed Forces", the UAE's defence ministry said in a statement on Saturday, adding that three Emirati soldiers and a Bahraini officer were killed. A fourth Emirati sol-

dier, who was among two injured in the attack, "passed away upon arrival" in the UAE on Sunday, the official WAM news agency said, raising the overall death toll. The corpses arrived in the UAE capital Abu

Dhabi on board a military aircraft, according to WAM, which carried footage of three coffins draped in Emirati flags being carried on a red carpet across the tarmac.

#### **Philippines** landslide toll jumps to 54 Monitoring Desk

MANILA: The death toll from a massive Philippine landslide near a gold mine abruptly rose to 54, with the recovery of 19 more bodies from beneath the rubble in the southern mountain village of Masara on Sunday, local officials said. Sixty-three other miners and residents still missing, said the municipality of Maco, and provincial disaster official Randy Loy.

The landslide buried a bus terminal for employees of a gold mining firm and 55 nearby houses on Tuesday night, leaving 35 people dead and 32 others injured.

#### **Body of Gaza** girl trapped under Israeli fire found after 12 days

GAZA (INP): Relatives found the body on Saturday of a six-year-old Palestinian girl who had begged Gaza rescuers to send help after being trapped by Israeli military fire, along with the bodies of five of her family members and two ambulance workers who

had gone to save her. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) accused Israel of deliberately targeting the ambulance it sent to rescue Hind Rajab

#### affect prisoner swap talks, Hamas warns **Monitoring Desk** of the Gaza Strip's 2.4 milof an Israeli incursion into

Rafah incursion will

Gaza's southernmost town of Rafah persisted on Sunday, but Ĥamas warned Tel Aviv that such an offensive into the city, crowded with displaced Palest-inians, would threaten talks about the release of prisoners. Though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "safe passage" to civilians displaced in Rafah, a leader in the Palestinian group told AFP, "Any attack by the occupation army on the city of Rafah would undermine the exchange negotiations".

In an interview, Mr Netanyahu reiterated his intention to extend Israel's military operation against Hamas into Rafah. Despite international alarm over the potential for carnage in a place crammed with more than half

lion people, he told ABC News: "We're going to do it". 'We're going to do it while providing safe passage for the civilian population so they can leave," he said. Mr Netanyahu's an-

nouncement set off a chorus of concern from world leaders. "The people in Gaza cannot disappear into thin air," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock wrote on social media platform X. adding that an Israeli offensive on Rafah would be a "humanitarian catastrophe in the making." Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry warned on Saturday of "very serious repercussions of storming and targeting" Rafah and called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting, while UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron said he is "deeply concerned" about the prospective offensive.

### US Senate forges ahead on Ukraine, Israel aid as 'Putin is watching'

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The US Senate on Monday will attempt to steer a \$95.34 billion package containing aid for Ukraine and Israel to passage this week following months of delays, even as it lacked any guarantee that the House of Representatives will support the measure. On Sunday, the bill got a boost when the Senate voted 67-27 to move it past an important procedural hurdle. Also over the weekend, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer set a course

On Monday, the Senate is expected to cast a procedural vote that, if successful, would keep the bill moving forward.

for passage by Wednesday.

Having kept senators working during rare backto-back Saturday and Sunday sessions, Schumer wrapped up for the night saying, "Our friends abroad are watching closely how we vote in the upcoming days. Ukrainian fighters are

watching and you can be sure (Russian President) Vladimir Putin is watching the Senate, too.

Since last August, Democratic President Joe Biden has been urging Congress to hurry new aid to Ukraine. Following Hamas' Oct 7 attack on Israel he also requested funds for the US ally along with humanitarian aid for Palestinians in Gaza. Congress' haltingly slow response to Biden's call comes as Ukrainian officials have warned of weapons shortages at a time when Russia is pressing ahead with renewed attacks

"There's no good reason to delay the security and humanitarian assistance ... any longer," Senate Foreign Committee member Brian Schatz, a Democrat, said during Sunday's debate of the bill.

'Ukraine is running dangerously low on munitions on the eve of the second anniversary of Putin's invasion," added Schatz.

Munir Akram says:

### Pakistan makes 'significant progress' towards polio elimination by 2026

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A senior Pakistani diplomat has UNICEF's Executive Board that Pakistan has made 'significant progress" towards complete eradication

of polio, despite challenges. 'We remain committed to the complete eradication of polio within the set timeline for its elimination by 2026," Ambassador Munir Akram said during the Board's special session

on Polio eradication. The Executive Board reviews UNICEF activities and approves its policies, country programmes and budgets. It comprises 36 members, representing the

NATIONS United Nations. Its work is coordinated by the Bureau, comprising the President and four Vice-Presidents, each officer representing one of the five regional

> In his remarks, the out that the unprecedented 2022 floods in Pakistan had adversely affected its polio vaccination drives. Despite that, he added, due to the concerted efforts by the government and our global polio were detected last

This year, Ambassador Akram said the Pakistani government has set a target five regional groups of to immunize 45 million chil-stages in the fight against member states at the dren, and the caretaker polio," he told delegates.

Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, had already kick-started this campaign. The Pakistani envoy

said dedicated efforts will be made to achieve that target. To do so, he said, Pakistan will require technical Pakistani envoy pointed and financial cooperation from all its relevant global partners, adding that \$ 205 million was required for polio programmes in 2024, but noted there was shortfall of \$95 million.

Ambassador Akram partners, only 6 cases of urged all donors and partners to contribute generously to the polio eradication efforts and ensure that children were vaccinated "We have entered the final

to Imran' oath

for election

winners

SLAMABAD (INP)

Alarmed at the flight of some of its newly elected

lawmakers to other politi-

cal parties soon after the

general elections, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on

Monday chalked out a

strategy to prevent any fur-

party had decided to take

oath from its winning can-

didates that they would re-

Sources said that the

ther defections.



A delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, comprising of Mr. Raoof Hassan and Mr. Umair Niazi, called on President Dr. Árif Álvi, at Áiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

lions of people who used

their franchise right on the

polling day, recalling that he had been forcibly removed

from the office of the RO

(returning officer) so that

the results could be ma-

turned a lead of 0.1 million into 12,000," the electoral

candidate questioned, asserting that the election was

rigged and "we know how

it was done". According to

Salman Akram Raja, he won

the election with a lead of

at least 90,000 votes

[against Istehkam-e-Paki-

stan Party candidate Awn

Saglain Chaudhry]. He said

he would take legal action

and challenge this decision

ing me the seat in charity.

He said worst rigging was

had reservations over the re-

sults. He said seats were

doled out in Karachi. He fur-

ther alleged that MOM lead-

ers including Mustafa Kamal faced defeat in elec-

tions but they were declared

winners. The JI emir said his

opponents were hell bent

destroying Karachi. The JI

leader said he had the moral

courage to accept the defeat. He urged the ECP to declare

the real winners as returned

candidates. He said he had

written to the chief justice

of Pakistan to take notice of

the rigging in election.

Naeem said his party

made in recent elections.

"What kind of magic

nipulated.

### PML-N undermining democracy to seize power, says Salman Akram Raja ging) an insult to the mil-

Slamming the PML-N led by Nawaz Sharif, Salman Akram Raja, a PTI-backed independent candidate from Lahore's NA-128 constituency, on Monday asserted that those who once advocated for the integrity of the vote were now aiming to seize power by undermining the very essence of de-

The senior lawyer, while speaking to media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office, alleged that the election was rigged, stating that he was winning by a wide margin according to the Form 45, but his victory was turned into defeat the following day.

Raja called this (rig- at every forum.

KARACHI (INP): In a sig-

nificant development,

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami

Karachi Hafiz Naeemur

Rehman on Monday abdi-

cated his provincial assem-

bly seat PS-129 (Karachi)

saying PTI-backed Inde-

pendent candidate had se-

cured more votes than him.

returned successful on PS-

129 (Karachi Central-VIII) by bagging 26,296 votes. Out

of the seven provincial as-

sembly seats of Korangi dis-

trict three were won by in-

dependent candidates, two

by MQM-P and one each

sons, he said they were giv-

Addressing media per-

by the PPPP and the JI.

JI's Naeemur Rehman

PTI candidate secured more

votes than me, JI's Naeem

withdraws from PS-129 seat

#### No accused can be arrested from courts' premises: IHC ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday said that

no accused could be arrested from the premises of high court and lower courts, and barred the authorities from this act. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the

case pertaining to the arrest of a woman by the capital's police from the court's premises. SSP Investigation Rukhsar Mehdi appeared before the court. The court asked the

police official to prepare an SOP after a meeting with the Inspector General of Police regarding the arrests of accused.
It said that no accused

could be arrested from the premises of the high court, session courts or civil courts. The SSP tendered the apology to the court and said that the sb-inspector (ASI) involved in the arrest of a woman, had already been suspended.

#### Karachi has immense sports talent: Dr. Junaid

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Sports Dr. Junaid Ali Shah has said that the performance of Karachi teams had proved that there was immense talent in Karachi.

He said that the play ers won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, T20 and U-19 tournaments with their excellent performance, a communique said here on Mon-While speaking as a

chief guest in the celebra-

tion ceremony for the won-derful victories of the Karachi region held at the local hotel, Dr. Junaid Ali Shah appreciated President of Regional Cricket Association Karachi.
On the occasion, the
Minister distributed Rs1.5

million cash prize and shields to the players and team officials. Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, Test cap-

tain Shan Masood and others were also present in the ceremony.

#### MOM-P Hafeezuddin's victory challenged in court KARACHI (INP): Elec-

toral controversy unfolds in NA-245 Karachi, with the success of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) candidate Hafeezuddin now facing a legal challenge in the Sindh High Court (SHC).

Independent candi date Attaullah filed a petition against the "irregularities" in election results, claiming success in the constituency with 38,000 votes as per Form 45.

Attaullah said that Hafeezuddin had secured only 15,000, alleging that the results were changed in Form 47 and fourth-numcandidate Hafeezuddin was declared successful. Form 47 should be declared null and void," the petitioner requested.

#### Two alleged robbers arrested KARACHI (APP): Dis

trict Kemari Police on Monday arrested the accused reportedly involved in street crime along with illegal weapons. The arrested accused

identified as Muhammad Sharif and Ikram Iqbal, said police sources on Monday. Two illegal pistols

with rounds were recovered from the possession of the accused at the time of ar-

The accused are allegedly involved in looting from vehicles on roads located in Rais Goth

Mochko. The cases under the

Sindh Arms Act have been registered against the accused and further investigation is being conducted.

### ECP directs re-polling in 7 polling stations of NA-253, PB-9 Kohlu on Feb 16

Pakistan (ECP) has notified the conduct of re-polling in 7 polling stations in NA-253 and PB-9 Kohlu on Feb

According to a notification, the polling in these constituencies was delayed due to law and order situation. The commission has instructed the chief secre-

The polling in these constituencies was postponed due to a law and order issue. The commission has instructed the chief secretary of Balochistan, the Inspector General of Balochistan, and other law enforcement agencies to undertake essential measures to guarantee fair and impartial elections.

Following the hearing of election petitions, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has in-

ISLAMABAD (APP):The structed Returning Officers from six National and Provincial assembly constituencies to refrain from announcing final results.

A two-member commission bench led by Nisar Durrani, along with Member Balochistan Shah Muhammad Jatoi, presided over the hearing of a petition challenging election results. The bench has restrained the announcement of final results for two provincial assembly constituencies: PP-14 Naseerabad, PP-44 Quetta, PP-33 Gujrat, PP-126, and PP-128 Jhang.

Babar Awan, representing PTI, urged for stringent punishments for the returning officers found to have violated their oath. Furthermore, he pressed for a recount in NA-106 Toba Tek Singh and requested the relevant returning officer to furnish a report.



Jan meets with US Ambassador in Pakistan.

### Shazia Mari vows to surpass past development records in Sanghar

with the ticket for the na-The Pakistan Peoples Party's Central Secretary Information, former Federal minister and successful candidate from Aational Assembly Constituency NA-209 Sanghar I, Shazia Atta Mari has expressed gratitude to the people of

ing her victorious. In a statement issued here on Monday, she said that despite many challenges, people proved their commitment to democracy by supporting the Pakistan Peoples

her constituency for mak-

Party on February 8th. She also thanked her tional assembly. She said this is a big constituency, and her party will continue to serve the people of this constituency.

Shazia Mari highlighted the developmental projects undertaken by the Pakistan Peoples Party in the Sanghar district over the past decade and vowed to surpass previous records in terms of developmental

She said despite various challenges, party workers and the public supported peace and democracy during the General leadership for entrusting her Election 2024.

### **Regional Head Federal** Ombudsman holds open court in Larkana

special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SPECO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in open court held at the Provincial Ombudsman's Of-

fice, on Monday. Revenue Officer SEPCO Larkana, R.O SEPCO Kambar-Shahdadkot, Executive Engineer (Rural) SEPCO and other related officers, while on behalf of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Deputy Chief Manager Larkana, other officers of

SSGC Larkana and peti-

LARKANA (APP): On the tioners also appeared and presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction.

Regional Mahmood Shah reviewed the 26 complaints received against SEPCO in which 22 complaints were decided on the spot and the rest were given a date in 06 application/complaint. However, 25 complaints were received against SSGC, and 22 were reviewed and decided. While the date was given in applications.

Syed Mahmood Ali Shah directed the officials of SEPCO and SSGC that their overbilling should be deducted and their problems and grievances should be resolved within 30 days.



Medical University Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah distributing shields among the Professors during the 1st International Conference on Emerging Trends in Basic Medical Sciences held at Chandka Medical College in Larkana.

### Advocate Jalaldeen Soomro shot dead

By Abdul Sami Bhutto SHIKARPUR: The former General Secretary of District Bar Association Shikarpur and Senior Advocate Jalaldeen Soomro was shot dead in the jurisdiction of New Faujdari Police Station here on Monday. According to initial reports reached here that Senior Advocate Jalaldeen Soomro was gunned down by his brother search of murderer to Athar Ali Soomro, Police

while receiving the

incident directed the ASP City Muhammad Usman Khan to respond the incident immediately and arrest the involved murderer at earliest. Later the big police party led by ASP City Muhammad Usman Khan reached at the spot and collected the evidence and started the arrest. Police cordoned the nearby area and started SSP Shikarpur Dr search operations at Muhammad Imran Khan various places to arrest the

information about the

LAHORE: Newly elected independent candidates meeting with President PML (N) Shahbaz Sharif on eve of their joining the party. PTI plans 'loyal

### **DGKDA** reviews ongoing uplift works

KARACHI (APP): Direc- works while he issued ortor General of Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Naveed Anwar reviewed the ongoing renovation work in the Civic Center Building and the ongoing development work around the building.

On the occasion, he said that the process of renovation of Civic Center Building should be completed as soon as possible, in this regard, the relevant authorities should immediately use all resources to complete the development works, said a statement on

ders to Chief Engineer Tario Rafi to complete the development works with in the stipulated period by increasing the manpower and

machinery. He further said that a Vigilance Center has been set up in Civic Center Building to prevent suspicious activities whereas all departments of KDA are being monitored on daily basis. Moreover, DG KDA directed the Electrical and Mechanical Executive Engineer that cleaning and sanitation should be performed on a daily basis in the civic

main loyal to the former prime minister and ex-PTI chairman Imran Khan. The affidavit given to DG KDA Naveed Anwar was briefed about the ongoing development on a daily basis in the civic center building, in this regard no negligence will be tolerated. PTI's Shahid Khattak, who had been elected as MNA from NA-38, Karak, read that he would not join any party, including the PML-DC Larkana chairs N and the PPP, sources dis-

### **MQM-P winning** candidate rejects allegations of

rigging HYDERABAD (APP): The winning candidate of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) from PS-62 Latifabad, Sabir Hussain Oaimkhani, on Monday rejected the allegations of rigging levelled by

the opponents.

Qaimkhani, in a state-He directed the officment, said that the people of Hyderabad had always ers of the district health department to make all-out supported his party.

He claimed that the efforts to eradicate Polio

from the District. The DC has given polling agents of MQM-P were assaulted at many strict instructions to the officials of the health depolling stations and due to partment to make the 7-day suspension of the mobile polio eradication campaign phone networks they could not even contact the party's local leadership. in Larkana district, a success and said that no child should be deprived of vac-

#### Woman dies, three injured in separate accidents in Hyderabad

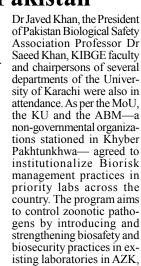
YDERABAD (APP): A voman lost her life while a man and his daughter inaccidents in Hala Naka and Qasimabad areas here on

According to the Hatri police station, a truck hit a motorbike in Hala Naka and ran over the woman, who was riding on the pillion seat. The deceased identified as 40 years old Nusrat Sajjad Kaloi, a resident of GOR Colony. The police impounded the vehicle but the driver managed to escape. In another incident, in the limits of GOR police station a car struck a motorbike on Sindh Museum road, leaving a man and his daughter wounded.

KARACHI (APP): The

However, drizzle thunderstorm is forecast in Karachi and its surrounding areas.

Mainly, cold and dry in the Sindh province.



KPK, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. Under this program, the ABM will work with laboratories within veterinary hospitals and medical facilities as well as research centers and universities that deal with

#### meeting of DEPI & Polio **Eradication Committee** (APP): He urged the officers of the Health Department, elected representatives,

NGOs, teachers, scouts,

students and social work-

ers to play their role in ad-

ministering the anti-polio

drops to children, aged 5

years, during the anti-polio

campaign, from February

26,2024 up to March 03

LARKANA Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa presided over a meeting of the District EPI & Polio Eradication Committee, here at his office on Monday.

The previous polio round was discussed in the meeting, while the strategy for the next polio round starts on February 26, was

also formulated. While addressing the meeting, the DC said that polio is a crippling disease from which every child up to 5 years of age must be administered OPV against polio. All arrangements should be completed for its elimination campaign so that no child is left behind to administer oral polio drops during the polio cam-



KARACHI: Activists of Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM-H) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, at Karachi press club.

### Int'l scholars present research papers on maternal, neonatal diseases

LARKANA (APP): The the sessions were held sifirst international conference on Emerging Trends in Basic Sciences was organized at Chandka Medical College in collaboration with SMBB Medical University and Sindh Higher Education Commission where international scholars presented research papers on maternal and neona-

The inaugural cer-

emony of the conference

was presided over by

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr.

Nusrat Shah and on the

a press release issued here on Monday.

first day of the conference and Engineering.

The said sessions were related to medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, and physiotherapy.
Speaking on the oc

multaneously in five dif-

ferent seminar halls, said

casion, an expert from Ja-pan Prof. Dr. Yoshiaki Takaya said that diabetes can be controlled by consuming strawberries. Professor Shahjahan Katpar said that Dentistry should also have its council just like Nursing, Pharmacy,

**Drizzle forecast** for Karachi

Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted cold and dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

weather is likely to prevail

Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com

across Pakistan KARACHI (APP): The Dr Javed Khan, the President University of Karachi and of Pakistan Biological Safety the Association for Biorisk Association Professor Dr Management-Pakistan Saeed Khan, KIBGE faculty signed the memorandum of and chairpersons of several understanding to launch a departments of the Univercollaborative effort for sity of Karachi were also in attendance. As per the MoU, the KU and the ABM—a implementing the Pakistan Biorisk Management (PBMP) Program to connon-governmental organizatrol zoonotic pathogens by tions stationed in Khyber introducing and strengthen-Pakhtunkhwa— agreed to ing biosafety and biosecurity practices in the institutionalize Biorisk management practices in biological laboratories of the priority labs across the

University of Karachi. KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the Executive Director of ABM-Pakistan Dr Asghar Ali inked the MoU documents during a ceremony at the conference room of the KU Dr A. Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE), said a spokesperson of the KU

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz

Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during

KU, ABM inks MoU to

institutionalize Biorisk

management practices

press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

on Monday. The Program Director

and Health Security Partners pathogens and toxins.

HYDERABAD: Employees of Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, out-

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