naenenieni

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 30 Shaban 05, 1445 AH Friday February 16, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Imran Khan was ousted on Gen Bajwa's directives: Fazlur Rehman

"I was personally against the no-confidence move," JUI-F's chief says

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman said Thursday that the no-confidence motion that ousted former prime minister Imran Khan was tabled on the directives of ex-army chief General (re-

tired) Qamar Javed Bajwa. In an interview on a private news channel, Fazl, who was the chief of the multi-party alliance Paki-stan Democratic Movement (PDM) responsible for removing Khan, said: "I was personally against the no-confidence move [...] but if I had said no despite insistence of other parties, then an impression would've been given that I 'saved' the PTI founder."

The PDM removed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

party alliance ruled the country for 16 months before handing over the reins to the caretaker set-up.

At first, Khan insisted that the US had him removed — a claim that the Joe Biden administration vehemently rejected. However, the ex-prime minister later shifted the blame to Gen Bajwa.

In an interview in February last year, Khan, citing an apparent conversation of the retired general with a journalist, said General Bajwa had "accepted and clarified that he was behind our government's

After he became the first prime minister to be ousted via a no-trust motion, Khan continued a tirade against the establishment; however, politicians Insaf (PTI) government in April 2022 and led by Shehbaz Sharif, the multi-



KARACHI: Caretaker Home Minister Brig (retd) Haris Nawaz meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran

Shehbaz apprises Nawaz of progress in talks with allies over formation of govt

LAHORE (Agencies): Pa- held on the possible names kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif apprised three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday about the progress in the negotiations with the allies, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the centre.
Shehbaz Sharif called

on the PML-N supremo at Jati Umra. On this occasion, both leaders discussed the latest political position of JUI-F supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman. A meeting of PML-N

bigwigs was also held under the chairmanship of meeting, consultation was

of the Punjab cabinet. The possible names of the Punjab assembly speaker and deputy speaker were also considered

The consultations were also held regarding the inclusion of allies in the provincial cabinet and their possible ministries in Punjab.

In the meeting, Ishaq Dar, while giving a briefing on the joint meeting of the coordination committees of the PML-N and PPP, said, "There has been progress in matters regarding government formation, while the third meeting of the coordina-Nawaz Sharif. During the tion committees will be held on Friday.

Sindh Police chief visits KATI

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Thursday paid a visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), accompanied by Additional IGP Karachi, AIGP Admin, SSP Korangi, and other police officials. Upon arrival, Deputy Pattern-in-Chief of KATI, Zubair Chhaya, along with President Syed Johar Ali and other office bearers, warmly welcomed the IGP Sindh, said a news release.

During the visit, KATI office bearers provided a comprehensive briefing on neighbourhood care/community policing and security measures in place at KATI.

The IGP Sindh examined proposals to establish Korangi Industrial Area as a model zone for community policing and issued further directives accordingly. He announced the al-

location of an additional 200 police personnel to en-

hance security at KATI, underscoring the importance of leveraging technology for robust security measures.

Highlighting the significance of technology in modern security frame-

pledged to facilitate the sharcriminal infiltration and ensure industry security. Ad-

Riffat Mukhtar Raja affirmed the commitment of Sindh Police to bolster community policing efforts, emphasizing the importance of addressing the needs of the business community as a top priority.

works, he advocated for the establishment of a digital data center for Korangi industries to manage employee records securely. Moreover, the IGP

question about the exclusion of a major political ing of facial recognition technology with KATI to deter party from the coalition government. number of countries that dressing societal attitudes have parliamentary systems of government, where towards law enforcement, he stressed the importance of regular awareness camno party has established a paigns to foster respect and majority—vou see the kind of coalitions that are compliance with the law. formed," he said at his



PTI announces nationwide protest campaign on Saturday

Imran picks Omar Ayub as PTI's candidate for prime minister, Mian Aslam Iqbal as Punjab CM

PPP contact &

coordination committee

meets Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): media on Thursday, Barris-In a significant development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has officially nominated former provincial minister Aslam Iqbal as its candidate for the chief minister position in Punjab. This announcement came from PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, signalling PTI's intent to solidify its leadership in the province. Speaking to the

Cabinet

approves

Syed Tariq's

appointment as

PBM MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet on Thursday approved the appointment of Syed Tariq Muhammad ul Hassan as

Managing Director of Pakistan Baitul Maal (PBM).

tion of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Se-

curity, according to a press

release issued by the Prime

Minister House Media

ister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

presided over the cabinet

tion of the Ministry of

Commerce, the cabinet ap-

proved the transit/transfer

of vehicle spare parts and new tires used by the Coun-

try Office of the United

Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) in

Afghanistan from Karachi

US calls formation

of government

Pakistan's

'internal matter'

WASHINGTON (APP)

The United States has called

the efforts being made to

form a coalition government

in Pakistan in the wake of

general elections as the

country's "internal mat-

ter," saying it looks forward

to working with the govern-ment that the Pakistani

mately an internal matter,'

State Department Spokes-

person Mathew Miller told

reporters in response to a

daily press briefing on

not a decision for the

United States to make. It's

a decision for Pakistan to

"Ultimately that's

Wednesday.

"Look, that is ulti-

"You see this in a

people have elected.

Port to Kabul.

Caretaker Prime Min-

On the recommenda-

The decision was

ter Gohar also disclosed that PTI has put forward Salar Khan Kakar as its candidate for the chief minister position in Balochistan.

Moreover, the PTI has announced its plans for a nationwide protest sched-uled for Saturday. "We will protest peacefully all over Pakistan on Saturday," Barrister Gohar added.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The members of the con-

tact and coordination com-

mittee of Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP) Thursday met

with the party Chairman of

Bhutto about their meetings

with the other political par-

ties, said a press release is-

sued by the party secre-

tariat. Qamar Zaman Kaira,

Syed Murad Ali Shah,

Nawab Sanaullah Zehri,

Shuja Khan, Saeed Ghani,

They briefed Bilawal

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

peaceful nature of the protest, the PTI leader asserted that the demonstration aims to convey a strong message against what the party perceives as electoral irregularities, particularly the alleged theft of 80 seats.

'According to records, the PTI has won 180 seats. Nobody has the right to form a government with a fake mandate," he insisted, the adding that in the protest,

Nadeem Afzal Chan and

Bahadur Khan Sehar were

PPP also met with former

Governor of Punjab

Chaudhry Mohammad

Sarwar at Zardari House in

which the political situa-

Gillani, Syed Naveed

Meanwhile, Chairman

Syed Yousuf Raza

present in the meeting.

they will give the message that 80 of their seats have been stolen. "The protest will be peaceful, and there should be no arrests," Barrister Gohar asserted. Addressing concerns over potential power-sharing arrangements, Barrister Gohar firmly stated that PTI will not engage in any such agreements with parties like the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$ 13.149 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan slightly increased to US\$ 13,149.1 million in the week ended on February 9. 2024 while foreign reserves held by State Bank reached \$ 8,056.5 million. The State Bank of Pa-

kistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 13 million to \$ 8,056.5 million during the week



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the troops onboard PN ship during exercise SEASPARK 2024

PPP entrusts mandate to PML-N for Govt formation, says Kaira

ISLAMABAD (INP): the Parliament and the as-People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the PPP has delegated mandate to the PML-N for formation of government.

It is to be mentioned here that Kaira has been a member of the six-member committee of the People's Party that had been entrusted for talks with other political parties.

Kaira said that the PPP will not get ministries but field its candidates for have no reason.

sembly offices. 'We would have also

work with the PTI, but the party's founder has closed that door," PPP leader said. "He has said that the PTI will not hold talks with three parties," Kaira said. Kaira stressed that Pakistan required collective decision-making.
He said Maulana

Fazlur Rehman's antagonism towards Asif Zardari

Naval Chief oversees conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday visited naval ships at sea, creeks areas on the coastal belt of Sindh and coastal areas of Balochistan to oversee the conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024 and meet the deployed troops in the exercise. Exercise Seaspark 2024 is a major maritime exercise of Pakistan Navy (PN) which is regularly conducted after every two years on two force concept i.e. Blue Force (own force) and Orange Force (enemy force). The purpose of the exercise is to plan and conduct naval operations as per wartime procedures to

check operational readiness,

major mobilisation of personnel and practice coordination between various elements of PN to undertake complex operations, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the operations at sea, the PN warships and aircraft also detected Indian Navy ships, submarines and aircraft, attempting to covertly observe the exercise and interpret PN war plans. Accordingly, necessary safeguards were taken by the PN. During the visit of Maritime Headquarters at Karachi, the Chief of the Naval Staff was given a briefing by the Orange and Blue Naval Force Commanders on the conduct of operations by the respective forces.

KMC Council to meet on Feb 22

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will chair the general body meeting of the council of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation on February 22, at 2:30 pm in the council hall of the KMC Building.

The agenda of the meeting has the approval of various matters including awarding of Tamgha-e-Karachi with cash reward to those who have extraordinarily served this city, improvement in the services of hospitals of KMC under public-private partnership, renovation of parks and installation of solar systems in the KMC

Re-polling held in polling station of Ghotki's **PS-18: ECP** KARACHI (APP): The

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said the polling was held at polling station No.162 of PS-18 Ghotki in a peaceful man-

In a statement, ECP spokesman rejected the media reports regarding halt in polling process and said that such rumours are base-

According to Returning officer of PS-18 polling process was underway

He said an aerial firing was noted outside the polling station after which security measures were adopted, the RO said

Caretaker govt raises tariff by 67%, effective from Feb 1 SLAMABAD: In a move crease will apply to conthat has stirred public out-

Gas bomb:

cry, the caretaker government has greenlit a 67% increase in gas prices, effectively burdening consumers with higher costs of living starting from February 1.

The decision, approved in a meeting of the federal cabinet led by caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, follows the recommendation of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) to raise gas prices by a stag-gering 67%. This sharp hike in rates will apply to both protected and non-protected customers, translating to a surge of Rs100 and Rs300 per MMBTU (million British thermal units), respectively.

sumption charges, there will be no increase in fixed charges for both categories of consumers. However, bulk gas consumers will bear the brunt of a significant surge, facing a whopping increase of Rs900 per MMBTU. Furthermore, the CNG sector is set to face its own set of challenges, with prices anticipated to surge by Rs170 per MMBTU. Collectively, these price hikes are expected to impose an additional burden of Rs204 billion on all

The decision has sparked widespread criticism, with many decrying the government's imposition of further financial strain on an already beleaguered populace.



Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi speaking during Full Court Reference on the eve of retirement of Mr. Justice Nadeem Akhtar Honable Senior Puisne Judge Sindh High Court at the Court room of high court of Sindh Karachi.

Full court reference to honor Justice Nadeem Akhtar

KARACHI (APP): Sindh court participated in the full High Court (SHC), on court reference while judireference in honour of Senior Puisne Judge, Justice Nadeem Akhtar to bid him farewell on the eve of his

retirement. High Court Justice Aqeel Phulpoto.

Thursday, held a full court cial officers, court officials and lawvers representing SHC Bar Association and other bars were also in attendance. Chief Justice SHC

Chief Justice Sindh Justice Aqeel Ahmad n Court Justice Aqeel Abbasi, while addressing Ahmad Abbasi. Justice the reference, lauded the Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, services of Senior Puisne Justice Naimatullah Judge Nadeem Akhtar and Justice said that one of the best Salahuddin Panhwar and judges of Sindh High Court other judges of the high was retiring on the day.

Sherry confirms nomination of Zardari for presidency

senior leader Senator Sherry Rehman clarified on Thursday that no formal discussions have taken place with Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) regarding coalition government formation.

Talking to a private news channel, Senator Rehman emphasized that while there have been discussions with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) regarding government for-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) mation, no such talks have occurred with the PTI. occurred with the PTI.

Sherry Rehman expressed openness to dialogue with all parties, stating, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) seems to be confused; PPP's doors are open for everyone for dis-

Furthermore, she highlighted the ongoing formation of provincial committees and the process of provincial government formation with allies.

LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Suhail Anwar Siyal addresses to media persons during

press conference, at Larkana press club. ECP dismisses Nawaz's

plea against defeat in NA-15 Mansehra

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday binned the plea League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif against his NA-15 defeat in Mansehra.

According to unofficial and unconfirmed results from all polling stations in the constituency,

backed independent candidate Gustasap Khan won the of Pakistan Muslim seat with 105,249 votes, while Nawaz Sharif remained second with 80,382 votes. Following defeat in the constituency, Sharif challenged the victory notification of Shahzada Gustasap from



Siddiqui along with other leaders and party workers addressing a press conference, at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Staged show

The country barely survived the trailer; now, it appears, a full five-year show has been penned for PDM 2.0. There is little that can be considered new or improved, and there are very few changes in the cast: the PML-N will once again take the lead under Shehbaz Sharif, with the PPP content with reprising its supporting

There will be the usual favourites — parties that were first herded into the PTI government, and then into the PDM: MQM, PML-Q and BAP, as well as familiar faces from the IPP. The directors will continue calling the shots, especially on critical matters like the economy and foreign affairs.

Their 'backing' will be the glue that holds the rickety government together, with legislation likely to be reduced to an on-demand farce. This ragtag bunch of 'patriotic' politicians will soon resume their mission of 'saving' Pakistan, despite making a hash of it the first time around.

It will be grating not only to PTI sympathisers, who voted for change, but also PML-N supporters how this arrangement has come to pass. The latter were told that these elections would usher in Nawaz Sharif's fourth term as PM. Instead, it seems like his party ended up using his name and stature to strengthen another candidate's hand.

Mr Sharif may have had an idea he was not the 'preferred choice', which could be why he did not campaign as aggressively as he was expected to. The manner in which his victory in this election was announced also seemed designed to put him in a corner. It is puzzling, though, why the seasoned politician did not refuse to play once it became clear he was being manipulated.

His decision to, instead, give the government to Shehbaz Sharif was a sad reminder of all that he had achieved and was made to lose over his career. Still, he has ensured that his daughter will get a head start. The Sharifs have deemed Maryam Nawaz ready to take over as Punjab chief minister— a major responsibility. It remains to be seen how successful she is in regaining lost ground.

Meanwhile, the PPP has emerged as the most astute of the lot. It is likely to secure several constitutional posts despite refusing to carry the PML-N's baggage.

The other parties will also be accommodated, most likely through various ministries: the PDM's last term, too, had featured an obscenely bloated cabinet. But how will the alliance address the country's challenges this time around?

It will not be easy to tackle economic despair, social fragmentation, deep political polarisation and having to please allies while governing with a dubious mandate. Another big challenge will be to demonstrate some stability to international lenders. Has it learned from experience, and will it do a better job?

A lousy election

F.S. Aijazuddin

Pakistan is the only faux-democracy that holds general elections yet learns nothing from each experience.

Many remember the general elections of December 1970 — the first (and some say only) free and fair elections in our history. The electoral mood then bordered on the euphoric. President Ayub Khan's ham-fisted experiments with Basic Democracy had been relegated to oblivion. His renegade ex-foreign minister, Z.A. Bhutto, had launched his PPP. country, mustering support for his home brand

of social democracy. At the time, I happened to be in Gambat, in the interior of Sindh, managing our family textile mill. Political loyalty in that area was sharply divided between the progressive Mr Bhutto.

Both sought to call on me to raise election contributions. My family was divided: the eldest brother followed Pagaro, another Bhutto. I was told to receive Pir sahib. During our discussions, Pir sahib predicted victory for his

After the results came in, I called on Pir sahib at Pir jo Goth to congratulate him on the thrice PM Nawaz Sharif victory of his candidate (his brother Sain Nadir Shah) over his PPP rival. Seeing me, Pir sahib crowed: "We have won by a margin of 35,000 votes." I replied: "Pir sain, by my calculation, you've actually lost by 95,000 votes. If in your own stronghold of Sanghar, so many dared vote for the PPP and not you, you have actually lost by that number."

Fifty-four years later, the scenario of 1970 has been repeated. Mujibur Rehman was in "They are all the same our democracy? -- Courjail in West Pakistan. Yet, in the fact that they will tesy Dawn

in distant East Pakistan, never be the same." his Awami League swept 160 of the 162 general seats.

Adiala jail. No stone has been left un-hurled at him and his wife, even the charge of adultery. Yet, his PTI nominees – bat-less, denied an uneven playing field, hamstrung and harassed rode the crest of his popularity and secured 100-plus NA seats for him, more than any other single party.

In cricket, that number carries a special aura of success. For the He crisscrossed the other main political parties and their invisible people. Poli-tical leadsponsors, that number reeks of their failure.

Jahangir Tareen's coffers funded Imran Khan's PTI's fledgling years. He left it, founded a new party feudal Pir Pagaro and the (IPP), and lost in two constituencies. PML-N's Saad Rafique endured victimisation and jail only to be defeated by PTI's Latif Khosa (until only three months ago a PPP diehard). The Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq lost. Former prime minister Yousuf too soon fulfil the Raza Gilani won by only 104 votes. PTI's Dr Yasmin Rashid from her Adiala jail cell gave the PML supremo and a run for his money. She

secured 115,643 votes in his PML-N stronghold. Even before the ballot papers had been distributed, Nawaz Sharif had warned his sponsors that he would not accept the premiership if he was not given a clear majority. His ambition has been scuttled. His PML-N with 73-plus seats must now cohabit with the PPP's 54-plus in a coalition euphemistically labelled a 'national unity govern-

Even before the results have been sanctified by the Election Today, the PTI chief Commission, President Mr Imran Khan is in Dr Alvi regretted that ballot papers were behand-counted when the ECP/ Nadra

> has had the last five years to perfect the electronic voting machine system. Even as the political parties jostled for supremacy, the COAS (speaking for the establishment) cautioned them: "Elections are not a zero-sum competition of winning and losing but an exercise to deter-

mine the mandate of the

ership and their workers

should rise above self-

The results have interests and synergise yielded inexplicable sur- efforts in governing and serving the people.' Such a belated homily notwithstanding, many Western pundits believe that the election results are an indictment of hybrid democracy. They foresee an uneasy alliance between the same parties whose last PDM coalition removed Imran Khan's PTI government two years ago. The new coalition may all prophecy made by a 17th-century Royalist to his Roundhead cap-

fight among yourselves Following the 1970 electoral impasse, Dr Henry Kissinger met Gen Yahya Khan on July 8, 1971. He recalled: "Am I a dictator?" Yahya Khan asked every American and Pakistani present. Naturally, everyone protested that he was not. When Kissinger's turn came, he told Yahya bluntly: "I don't know, Mr President, except that for a dictator you run a lousy election." How many more elections will Then, the Bengali leader ment'. As one wit put it: be needed to delouse

have done with us, go

House of Lord

Shahzad Sharjeel

It is not for the first time that people are of worship; and unfortunately, it appears not to be the and moves on. Pushcration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya recently, Varanasi, or Banaras, as it was known historically, has become the focus of another masjidmandir controversy. A court has ordered that the mosque's basement be opened to Hindu worshippers. The Muslim concerned about a Babri Masjid-like fate. Ayodhya-Kashi-

Mathura is the BJP/ RSS ambition in terms nay Bharat, for Hindus. The Gyanvapi the Vishwanath temple in been attacked and being temple was built on female Maratha ruler,

UP, is important in because it is considered the birthplace of stroved and the Shahi Idgah

mosque is believed to Ehsani's couplet:

have been built on its

decla-res a victory, last. After the conse- ing it any further schools. would be more than tive; it would be stupid

eclipse it at home.

behind it is wellsummarising. Around of reclaiming India, 1922, Lahore's Hindu community built a temple in the Shah mosque is adjacent to Alam neighbourhood. manifested his pres- court, and legend has government.

the Hindu religion structed in 1934. It was fulfilled. would be interesting to know if the temple hope the region's Lord Krishna. The that spurred the Mus-Keshavdeva temple, lim fervour to build peace and interact as part of a complex built the mosque over- neighbours do, into mark Krishna's night, with shops on stead of waiting for janamasthan, was de- the ground floor, is their mortal remains anywhere to be found to be united with the Aurangzeb's orders, today. One is re- soil their ancestors minded of Jamal called home? Varia-

we have all done to Bulleh Shah, the The question is if wrong or have been 18th-century Sufi: -it will stop there. So brainwashed into be- Courtesy Dawn

far, as political expe- lieving stuff that diency goes, it has to. does not reflect the The BJP reclaims the whole truth. The dethree sacred sites of struction wrought by fighting over places Hin-duism it consid- Mahmud of Ghazni, ers were usurped, including the sack of the Somnath temple. is still taught in

Most readers just counterproduc- would know that famous Indian author Khushwant Singh The ambition of wished to be buried projecting itself as a in Hadali, a town in global power must be Khushab, Pakistan. tempered with inclu- where he was born in sion and restraint. All 1915. A plaque outthe gilded mandirs side his school comworldwide would not memorates its illustrimake India shine if it ous student who, allowed exclusion's among his other caretaker is said to be dark shadow to scholarly achievements, wrote one of The controversy the most comprehensive histories of the known but worth evolution of Sikhism. The plaque has Mr Singh's ashes mixed in it. Very few would know that Jaswant Singh, a one-time BJP Kashi The Muslims insisted stalwart, a member of that a mosque be the Lok Sabha, leader Varanasi, which is made on the adjacent of opposition in the venerated as a place plot. The matter was Rajya Sabha; a man where Lord Shiva taken to the British who held the portfotaken to the British who held the portfolios for external afence. The temple had it that the Muslims of fairs, defence, and fithe area overnight nance through times destro-yed many built a mosque to as tough as the times in history, the trump any adverse Pokhran nuclear court order. Since the tests, Ka--rgil, the Aurangzeb's direc- mosque was made Kandahar hijacking, tives. The current without the requisite the scuttled Agra permission of the mu- peace summit, attacks an adjacent site by nicipal committee, it on Kash-mir and the Ahilyabai Holkar, a was razed by the Indian parliament; wished for his ashes The quaint little to be released into Mathura, also in mosque one sees the Hingol river in presently was con- Balochistan. His wish

> Is it too much to people could live in tions of the following Let us admit that verse are attributed

Commerce News

President Alvi underscores need to promote creativity

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday underlined the need for nurturing the 'intellect ability' and competition, needed such innovative ideas' of the an environment where educated youth to achieve the required goals of national progress and

prosperity.

"Pakistan does not solutions [to confronted issues] but the doers," he said while addressing the award distribution ceremony of the grand finale-III of the country's biggest ideas competition held under the National Idea Bank (NIB) vision, organised by the

He said the ideas, shared by the youth in the these could be transformed into qualitative and competitive products, enabling the country to increase its exports and reduce imports.

had been proponent of exploring innovative ideas youth could be engaged to seek innovative ideas.

"This is era of human the country should have to National University of resource and innovation so make similar and effective

Technology (NUTEC) and ASPIRES Pakistan. the intellectual ability is the most important in this ranking in other areas as regard," he added.

of the country's data management on scientific lines coupled with ideal civil-military cooperation during COVID-19, he said Pakistan was declared the third best performing country in the world, while President Alvi said he its neighbouring countries were far behind in this index. He said Pakistan had for the last 15 years. He utilised the experience and said this was the best data collected during forum through which the countrywide anti-polio drives to properly manage the disease spread. He said

well. He said some 26.2 Sharing success story million children were currently out of school across the country.

The president pointed out that this area too needed proper attention as without developing human resource, the country could not compete with the world. He also raised questions about the validity of the recent polls, asserting that the introduction of electronic voting machines (EVMs) could have averted the chaos surrounding the election results.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners and organizers of the National Idea Bank Season III, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) and Industrialists of KP led by Senator Noman Wazir call on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PCJCCI for Pakistan-China cooperation in mulberry seeds

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and (PCJCCI) Industry President Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that Pakistan is importing silk worth Rs 67 billion and it produces more silk locally, it will provide employment to 600,000 people mostly the rural

added that Mulberry is one leaves can be harvested

in Pakistan.

Mulberry trees, fastgrowing and small to a fruit tree with no part medium-sized, are being going waste its leaves can cultivated in rural areas of be used as feed for Pakistan. Apart from wide silkworms, which provide presence in Punjab, these silk for the textile sector; can also be found in KPK, its branches are used to Abbottabad, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

climate, the growth period Sharing his views in a of mulberry trees in think-tank session here at Pakistan is about 10 can be processed into PCJCCI Secretariat, he months, which means its mulberry juice, powder,

(APP): of the most popular fruits several times within one year," he said. Ghurki said that it is

make different types of baskets that can be seen in "Thanks to the hot almost every rural house of Pakistan

Its fruit is edible and jam, vinegar, and tea.

contribute 3.1b USD LAHORE (APP): Experts the Information

Pak IT companies to

Technology Career Fair have said that Pakistan's IT companies based on services and products will contribute 3.1 billion dollars in 2024.

The 13th Career Fair was organized by Punjab University Faculty of Computing & Information (FCIT), Technology sponsored by Dubizzle Labs here on Thursday. More than 65 leading IT companies from the

graduates of FCIT from a batch of around 500 coming from domains of computer science, software engineering and

information technology. PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, FCIT Dean Prof Dr Shahzad Sarwar, faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, PU VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood said, "We all have to play our software industry set up their stalls to hire the the crisis." role to get Pakistan out of

Pak-China friendship strengthening with passage of time: SCCI The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq said there is no doubt that Pak-China friendship is unmatched which is further strengthening with the passage of time and its example is that events are being held on eve of new Chinese year across the

Pakistan. Fuad Ishaq was speaking at an event at china Window Peshawar through this event.

and inauguration of a culture exhibition, arranged by students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWUP), held in connection with China New Year here on Thursday.

The SCCI chief praised artwork and paintings of the students displayed during the exhibition and said citizens of Peshawar will get aware through this event.

PM for assuring support Saqib Riaz, Hussain Agha, difficult period for Zarak Khan Khattak, Hassan Farid and Wajid

delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALŠP) on Thursday met with caretaker Prime Minister for Anwar ul Haq Kakar and acknowledged the government support for industry. delegation

included leading member of long steel manufacturers which included senior members of PALSP including Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak, Abbas Akberali, Javaid Mughal,

Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.211,100 in the local

market on Thursday

against its sale at Rs.

210,800 on last trading

of 24 karat also increased

by Rs.257 to Rs.180,984 from Rs 180,727 whereas

that of 10 gram 22 karat

gold went up to Rs.165,902 from Rs.

165,666, the All Sindh

Association reported

Jewellers

The price of 10 grams

day.

gold

Sarafa

meeting was also attended by senior officials of Finance, FBR, SBP and NHA, said a press release issued by PALSP here. PALSP delegation briefed the Prime Minister about the challenges and

General, PALSP. The

Steel industry acknowledge

most pressing issues of steel sector.

concerns over current support.

industries amid exorbitant interest rates, sky Iqbal Bukhari- Secretary rocketing cost of inputs especially electricity prices

> In order to bring the Steel Industry out of the current situation, the PALSP delegation urged the PM that the Govt must take effective measures to facilitate steel sector.

PM Kakar keenly heard all the issues of The members of industry and assured govts delegation expressed their full cooperation and

PARC to install solar Gold rates up by Rs.300 system for aeroponics ISLAMABAD (APP): seed potatos production

ISLAMABAD (APP): intended to provide Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with the Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) would provide a which will 100-kilowatt solar system strengthen for seed potato production aeroponics technology to boost virusfree seed production in the

country. KOPIA-Pakistan Center also Muhammad Ali.

Pakistan Agriculture about 160,000 tons of certified seed potatoes during the next five years under its Technical Cooperation Project, government's efforts to produce certified highyielding seed potatoes to enhance its output in the country, said Chairman

Ombudsman Punjab plays vital role in by providing justice to the people: Baligh Independent Report of Ombudsman Punjab is Punjab further said that

Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman met Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the Ombudsman Punjab Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman informed the Governor Punjab about various steps taken to provide speedy justice to the petitioners.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur complaints in a short last year and all of them Rehman said that the office

an easy and effective means initiatives such of providing cheap and and his team for the good work. Governor Punjab said that the office of Ombudsman Punjab is lauded the Ombudman ombudsman Punjab office for redressing the grievance of the

period of time. Governor

the far-flung areas of the

newly merged districts

from where transmission

in local and Pashto

of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in promoting

national harmony and

cohesion was of the prime

importance adding that the

Info Dept was endeavoring

to render its services in a

best possible manner in

stations of the department

were proving credible

information to the public

He said ten radio

this connection.

Suleman meeting with Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

NACTA delegation,

DG Info KP discuss

media role in peace

PESHAWAR (APP): A capacity and sphere, the

two-member delegation from National Counter established FM radios in

Relations here at his office and discussed matters continued. He said the role

role in maintaining lasting besides informing them

peace in the province. To regarding further improve its responsibilities.

Terrorism Authority (NACTA) on Thursday

met with Director General

Information and Public

relating to the role of

Information Dept in

promotion of peace in the province. The role of

media, especially the

Radio in providing timely

and accurate information

to the general public was

Muhammad Imran said

the media has played a

pivotal and responsible

DG Information KP,

also discussed in detail.

digitization of quick justice to the people. Ombudsman Punjab office He said that he appreciates and mobile app for the Ombudsman Punjab resolving the problems of overseas Pakistanis are commendable.Ombudsman Punjab Major (retd) Azam Sulaiman said that research playing an important role and development wing has in the improvement of the been established in the system by providing office of the Ombudsman. justice to the people. He He said that the received a record number of 35,139 applications in the

Friday February 16, 2024

were disposed of. **Health Deptt** issues working days for MTI hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advisor Dr. Riaz Anwar.

The days were approved in light of MTI

place at the Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, says a handout. In addition to the

Independent Report

understanding was signed between the Higher

Education Department of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

Cultural Communication

Center on Thursday to

increase the skilled

workforce in the province.

The signing ceremony of the memorandum took

China-Pakistan

Corridor

memorandum

Economic

Amir Abdullah, Dr. also be provided Najibullah, and Dr. Qasim employment opportunities Jan, relevant officials of the in provincial government also participated.

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over

the meeting of the steering committee on Power department at CM

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, participated in the ceremony via video link. According to the memorandum understanding,

hundred thousand students from the province's public colleges will be trained in various fields of digital

Students receiving provincial ministers Dr. training in digital skills will

KP govt signs MoU for digital skills training

domestic

international markets. Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that the memorandum understanding between the provincial government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Communication Center is a major success for the current provincial government. Chief Minister said that this partnership will prove to be crucial in fulfilling the requirements of digital

skills in the province. Two minor sisters burn to death as hut

catches fire MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two minor sisters burn to death while another girl sustained injuries as hut of wood caught fire in Basti Goram Pitafi chowk on Thursday. According to Rescue officials, three minor girls including two sisters were present into their house when suddenly fire erupted in hut made with wood near Basti Goram Pitafi chowk Mondka road. As a result, seven years old Hijab d/o Ansar and 8 Nayyab d/o Ansar burn alive while 8 Dua Fatima d/o Abid sustained serious.

Over 10,000 students to get eco-friendly electric bikes in Punjab: Minister

Independent Report

Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad Thursday said that his government has inaugurated a landmark project to distribute over 10,000 electric bikes among students from various educational institutions where such students in Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, and Rawalpindi would be the primary beneficiaries of this initiative.

Around 7,000 electric bikes would be allocated to male students, while 3,000 will be designated for he added

female students, he said while talking to a Private news channel

He said that these students must have a driving license while such an eco-friendly initiative will reduce environmental pollution, adding, that electric two-wheelers will offer long-term financial advantages to these students and would overcome their financial expenditures.

The launch of electric bikes can overcome the problems of exertion and would not take much time to reach their destinations,



LAHORE: The pilgrims of Hajj are being guided with all possible efforts by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on the styles of medical camp and training camp in Haji Camp.

ATC orders to seize property of PTI leaders declared POs

Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has ordered to seize the property of PTI leaders who have been declared proclaimed offenders.Court has ordered to seize their moveable and immoveable properties. Under this order 2 residential plots and one bank account of former provincial minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, 5 agriculture lands of former federal minister Hammad Azhar and 4 bank accounts, one residential property and one insurance policy will be seized.It has been told that order has been issued to seize 2 bank accounts and one vehicle of Murad Saeed Gandapur involved.

LAHORE (Online): Anti and 3 agriculture land, one residential property, 2 vehicles and 35 horses of Ali Amin Gandapur residential properties, bank accounts and 2 vehicles of Andleeb Abbas will be seized.Order has been issued to seize 2 agriculture lands, residential properties, 5 bank accounts, one vehicle 3 plots flats, 51 percent shares in Swati Enterprises and properties in US and Dubai of former federal minister Azam Swati Decision has been taken to arrest 9 newly elected members of assembly including Ali Amin

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam

(KP) Health Department issued a declaration of days for working in MTI hospitals on Thursday with the approval of Health

recommendations according to the official letters."Working days will be implemented at MTIs Hospitals and its affiliated colleges," according to the notification issued in this connection by the health department KP.

Fire erupts in residential house in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): A fire

suddenly broke out in the house of a person, namely Faheem Khan, in Yousafabad Dir Colony here Thursday, said an official of the Rescue 1122. He disclosed that the fire erupted due to a short circuit, and as soon as the information was received, the fire vehicle of Rescue 1122 reached the accident site and started extinguishing the fire; however, no casualties were reported as a result.

Court dismisses bail petitions of two co-accused in Gujrat development projects case

accountability court on Thursday dismissed bail petitions of two co-accused in a case of alleged corruption in Gujrat's development projects against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. The court dismissed bail petitions of co-accused, Muĥammad Khan Bhatti, former principal secretary to chief minister. and Asif Mehmood

LAHORE (INP): An heard bail petitions filed by the accused and announced the verdict on completion of arguments by the defence counsel and prosecution. The National Accountability Bureau had filed a reference against Parvez Elahi and 13 others on the charges of "misusing authority and receiving kickbacks" in Gujrat's development projects. The bureau had accused the former chief minister and others of receiving

Accountability Court Rs1.2 billion as kickbacks in Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani 116 development projects.

International News

At least 11 civilians, including children, killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Online): At least the strikes. 11 people, including children, have been killed in Israeli strikes on villages in southern Lebanon, according to a report.

A hospital director and three Lebanese security sources told Reuters that 11 people, including six children, were killed during strikes the Israeli military carried out against villages across southern Lebanon on Wednesday.

The Tel Aviv regime said in a statement that it had responded to an earlier rocket attack conducted by the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement that killed an Israeli trooper. The resistance group, however, did not announce any operations on Wednesday.

Initial reports had said four civilians were killed in

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading near daily cross-border fire since the occupying regime waged a deadly war on Gaza on

Hezbollah, whose constant rocket fire has prompted tens of thousands of Israeli settlers to flee from the northern areas of the occupied territories, says its operations are meant to support Gaza's

Two security sources said that a woman and her two children had been killed in an Israeli strike on the village of al-Sawana on Wednesday.

Another strike on a building in Nabatieh claimed the lives of four more children, three women and a man, according to the

director of the town's hospital, Hassan Wazni, and sources. Wazni further said that seven people were also

Sources also said that four Hezbollah fighters were also killed in separate

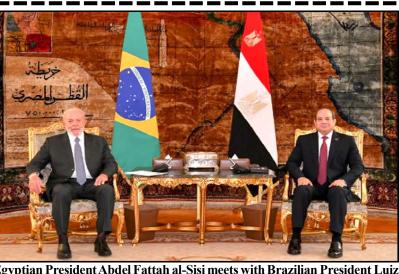
Hezbollah has warned would expand the anti-Israel front in the south if the occupying regime escalated its acts of aggression against the Lebanese territory and the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The resistance group has vowed to keep up its retaliatory operations as long as the usurping entity continues its aggression against Gaza, which has so far killed more than 28,500 Palestinians, women and children.

Thailand warns of high pollution in capital, officials to work from home

BANGKOK (Internews): Thai authorities warned that pollution levels in Bangkok and surrounding provinces had hit unhealthy levels on Thursday, ordering government employees in the capital to work from home for the next two days and urging others to do the same.

Air pollution is caused by a combination of crop-related burning, industrial pollution and heavy traffic, and a smoky haze covered the Bangkok's skyline. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told reporters that crop burning was the main culprit behind the spike, but added that around quarter of the pollution was from vehicles, a factor "we can control". Swiss air quality tracking website IQAir said the level of fine inhalable particles in the city was 15 times higher than the recommended level by the World Health Organization, making it the world's 8th most polluted city on Thursday.



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi meets with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss the latest developments in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Ittihadiya presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Hezbollah says Israel will 'pay price' after deadly day

risk 'aiding' deaths in

Gaza: Saudi official

Hezbollah said on Thursday Israel would pay "the price" for killing 10 people including five children in southern Lebanon, the deadliest day for Lebanese civilians in four months of hostilities across the Lebanese-Israeli border.

An Israeli strike killed seven people in the city of Nabatieh late on Wednesday, including three children, sources in Lebanon said. It followed an earlier attack that killed a woman and her two children in the village of al-Sawana at the **UNRWA** funding freezes

The enemy will pay the price for these crimes, Hezbollah politician Hassan Fadlallah told media. "The resistance will continue to practice its legitimate right to defend its people.'

Several of the armed Lebanese group's fighters were also killed in separate strikes on Wednesday, including on Nabatieh, according to the group and security sources.

Asked about the Nabatieh strike, a spokesperson for the Israeli army

into favour. **Democrats US** House as

NEW YORK (Internews): Democratic former congressman Tom Suozzi won a special U.S. House of Representatives election in New York on Tuesday, narrowing an already razorthin Republican majority that has struggled to pass legislation. The seat became available after the House took the extraordinary step of expelling Republican George Santos, whose dizzying array of lies about his biography led to his indictment on fraud charges.

Putin says

climate fears MOSCOW (Internews) Russian President Vladimir Putin criticised the green movement in Europe for capitalising on peoples' fears about climate change, while questioning Germany's commitment to

European greens

capitalising on

phasing out coal. Long demonized by Germany's Green party, which leads some of the government's top ministries, coal was due to be phased out by 2030, but Russia's conflict with Ukraine and gas export curbs brought coal back

pick up seat in Suozzi wins in New York

1 dead, children among 21 injured in Super Bowl parade shooting in US of the victims had sustained

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: One per-

son was killed and children were among the 21 injured after a mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory rally on Wednesday triggered panic among huge crowds of fans.

Shots rang out mo-ments after jubilant Chiefs players addressed a vast, cheering crowd, sending shocked fans and VIPs fleeing in a tragic end to what had been a joyous morning of celebrating the NFL

Police said three people had been taken into custody after the attack near Kansas City's Union Station, but the motive behind the shooting was still under investigation.

Fire department chief Ross Grundyson told a press conference that many and I hit him from behind.

life-threatening injuries." A local DJ, Lisa

Lopez, was killed in the assault, her radio station said. "This senseless act has taken a beautiful person from her family and this KC Community, KKFI posted on its Facebook page, referring to Kansas City.

Children's Mercy Hospital said it was treating 12 people — 11 of them children, nine for gunshot wounds — after the shooting. A hospital spokesman said all were expected to

Paul Contreras, who was at the rally with his three daughters, said he tackled and disarmed one of the suspected shooters before the police arrived. "I

Special counsel urges US **Supreme Court to rebuff** Trump in immunity fight

WASHINGTON immunity from prosecu-(Internews): The special counsel prosecuting Donald Trump on federal charges involving the former president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday to reject Trump's bid to further delay trial proceedings as he presses his claim of im-

munity.

"The nation has a compelling interest in seeing the charges brought to trial," Special Counsel Jack Smith said in his filing to the justices, adding that "the public interest in a prompt trial is at its zenith where, as here, a former president is charged with conspiring to subvert the electoral process so that he could remain in office." Smith's filing responded to a request by Trump's lawyers on Monday to put on hold a decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejecting the claim of presidential

If the justices do not immediately reject Trump's request, Smith asked that they take up the case and hear it on a fast-track basis.

Smith said Trump's criminal charges reflect an alleged effort to "perpetuate himself in power and prevent the lawful winner of the 2020 presidential election from taking office. The charged crimes strike at the heart of our democracy." A president's alleged criminal scheme to overturn an election and thwart the peaceful transfer of power to his successor should be the last place to recognize a novel form of absolute immunity from federal criminal law," Smith added.

Trump's lawyers asked the justices to halt the trial proceedings pending their bid for the full slate of judges on the D.C. Circuit to reconsider the case, and, if necessary, an appeal to the Supreme Court.

PARIS: Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy arrives for the verdict on his appeal in the so-called 'Bygmalion' case over illegal campaign financing.

Netherlands joins coalition to supply Ukraine with

advanced drones

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The Netherlands is joining a military coalition with allies including Britain that will supply Ukraine with advanced drone technology and bolster its offensive capabilities in the war against Russia, the

Dutch defence minister said. The pledge from the Netherlands comes in addition to F-16 fighter jets, artillery, ammunition and air

defence systems provided

For the Netherlands,

by the Dutch to Kyiv.

costs on top of 2 billion euros earmarked already for 2024, Dutch Defence Minister Kasja Ollongren told Reuters in an interview ahead of two days of NATO defence minister meetings in Brussels starting on Wednesday.

"We know of course that drones are very important in this war," Ollongren said. "That's why we are joining the drone coalition that Ukraine has started

there may be additional

together with Latvia.

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Freezing funds to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees risks "aiding" the deaths of civilians in Gaza, the head of Saudi Arabia's

humanitarian agency told

AFP on Tuesday. Several countries including the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan-have suspended funding to the UNRWA agency in response to Israeli allegations that some of its staff members participated in the

October 7 attack by Hamas militants. Last week, as its war

against Hamas entered a fifth month, Israel's military also said troops had uncovered a Hamas tunnel under UNRWA's evacuated Gaza City headquarters.

The UN has sacked the 12 UNRWA staff members accused by Israel of involvement in the October 7 attack and said the tunnel claim should be investigated once the conflict is over.

Pakistan calls for UNSC's urgent intervention to impose ceasefire in Gaza

kistan on Thursday called upon the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to fulfill its responsibility Charter and to urgently intervene to impose a ceasefire and bring an end to the massacre of the Pal-

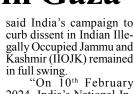
"The siege of Gaza must be lifted to prevent further deaths and suffering from famine and nonavailability of decent medical care. Pakistan stands resolute in its unwavering diplomatic, moral, political, and humanitarian support to the besieged people of Gaza," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

ate reversal of the decision

pend UNRWA's funding, she reiterated Pakistan's endorsement of the OIC's condemnation of ongoing Israeli military aggression against Gaza and the expansion of indiscriminate attacks on the Rafah city.

She said that the OIC had raised alarm on expansion and escalation of the pace of the Israeli aggression and warned against an unacceptable attempt to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from their

"Israel's merciless onslaught against the 1.4 million displaced people in Rafah is a blatant defiance of the provisional measures outlined by the International Court of Justice in its interim order," she re-



2024, India's National Investigation Agency (NIA), 5 properties of Jammat-icities. These raids were part of an ongoing crackdown against the Kashmiri political organizations. Jamaat-i Islami is one of the six political organizations already proscribed by India," she

urged the Indian authorities to end intimidation and persecution of the Kashmiri political activists and parties, also calling for the release of all



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Ullema Council, Hafiz Muhamnad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi along with the representatives of Private Hajj Tour Operators addressing a press conference, in Islamabad.

JI announces to issue white paper on rigging in election

LAHORE (Online): JI while announcing to issue white paper on the result of general election has said we will go to Election Commission (EC) and court

against election rigging.
"The seats won by JI in election were snatched from it through worst rigging. We demand of chief election commissioner to resign, this was said by Naib Amir JI Liaqat Baloch while addressing a press conference here in Mansoora Thursday.

result of the election.

He went on to say the winners and losers of election 2024 are both worried. This election is in continuity of past election.

The politics in Pakistan has become a game. Engineering is done for government making. The desired results are achieved by targeting 30, 35 constituencies and these results are imposed on the entire na-

He remarked Pakistan was dismembered through election rigging in 1977.

time placing them again.

Shujaat, Elahi discuss politics, family matters in Adiala Jail meeting

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chaudhry family, including Chaudhry Wajahat, Chaudhry Salik, Muntaha Ashraf also present in meeting

In a significant development, senior Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) leaders held a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at

Adiala Jail. The meeting, which lasted for nearly three hours, delved into various aspects of the country's political landscape and

Among those present at the meeting were promi-

Chaudhry Chaudhry Chaudhry Salik, and Muntaha Ashraf. Discussions centered around the overall political situation in the country and pertinent

family issues. Notably, PTI President Elahi and Chaudhry Shujaat engaged in a private meeting that lasted for two hours and 40 minutes. The meeting took place in the conference room of Adiala Jail, where the leaders exchanged views on a range of topics, including the health and facilities pro-



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-

Court bars repatriation of Afghan's transgenders

PESHAWAR (INP): The Peshawar High Court on Thursday issued a temporary order barring the repatriation of 16 Afghan transgender women and directed authorities to stop harassing registered Afghan transgender migrants

residing in Pakistan. The order came in response to a writ petition filed by the transgender women against their potential deportation under a government decision to repatriate all Afghan nationals. Their lawyer argued that their lives would be in danger if they were sent back to Afghanistan, where persecution of transgender individuals is

Justice Shakeel Ahmed and Justice Waqar Ahmed heard the petition, acknowledging the precarious situation of Afghan transgenders in their home country. However, the court also clarified that foreign nationals do not have the same rights as Pakistani citizens and can only stay if they have valid visas.

Despite this, the judges noted that even registered Afghan refugees with valid documentation, including Proof of Registration (POR) cards, were being harassed by authorities. They deemed such actions unacceptable and damaging to Pakistan's international reputation.

The spokesperson



KARACHI (INP): Paki-stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has been released from Central Jail Karachi after spending over five months behind bars in cases pertaining to May 9 riots and land grab-

According to details, the PTI Sindh chief's release order was issued after he obtained bail in dozens of cases from different courts. Haleem Adil Sheikh was arrested on 30th August 2023 from He said election 2024
Also remained controversial.

The entire nation rejects the

Every time they talk of puncture, some time opening boxes and some opening boxes and some opening boxes and some opening boxes. bail to prevent the arrest aftermath of the 9th May

> On the occasion of his release, PTI workers were also present outside the Central Jail Karachi

PTI Sindh Spokesman said that Haleem Adil Sheikh has obtained bail in all 40 cases registered in different police stations on charges of land grabbing and the May 9 riots.

Haleem Adil Sheikh also contested the elections from NA-238 from behind bars and finished as runner-up with 36875 votes. The seat was won by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's Sadiq Iftikhar with 54884 votes.

Edhi ambulance driver injured in Karachi firing incident

KARACHI (INP): A driver of Edhi Foundation sustained injuries in a firing incident at the ambulance of the welfare organization in Al-Asif Square.

The firing incident took place around 4am wherein two unknown accused on a motorcycle wanted to stop the ambu-

The Edhi Foundation claims that the driver was fired upon for not stopping. Police said investigations are underway.

SSP Sukkur held **Open Court**

SUKKUR (APP):SSP Sukkur, Zubair Nazeer held Shaikh open court at his office here on Thursday listened to public grievances and ordered early resolution of these problems.

He said that the basic purpose of these open courts was to provide speedy justice and early resolution of public grievances at their door-

Provision of justice was the topmost priority of police department and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard, he added.

A large number of people from different walks of life including police officers were present in the open court.



Private Hajj bookings set to commence today: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Thursday announced that the private Hajj organizers would start booking for the Hajj 2024 from Friday, February 16, nationwide.

Addressing a press conference along with Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Chairman Jamal Khan Tarakai, Vice Chairman Haji Sanaullah and other representative, said the intending pilgrims within the country and abroad could grab this sacred opportunity till February 25

Ashrafi who is also

Ulema Council expressed optimism about the possibility of extending the application submission deadline by a month through private Hajj organizers platform. He revealed that Hajj quota allocated to the private Hajj organizers was 89,604 pilgrims, with fifty percent quota of 44,802 pilgrims is reserved for Sponsorship Hajj Scheme.

Ashrafi urged the government to provide all possible assistance to the intending Pakistani overseas pilgrims for smoothly remitting their funds in the local financial institutions. He proposed that it would be far better if they could be allowed to send their money into the private Hajj organizers' accounts in Saudi Arabia through International Bank

the chairman of Pakistan Accounts Numbers (IBAN). currency exchange **Election process** in Pakistan is its

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) has said election process in Pakistan is its internal matter.

internal matter: FO

We have welcomed foreign observers and Common Wealth observers. We discharge our constitutional obligations forcefully. Political leaders are being targeted in Occupied Kashmir. Pakistan wants Kashmir issue is resolved as per aspirations of people of Kashmir in accordance with UN resolutions, this was said by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch here in weekly

press briefing Thursday. She mentioned that Pakistan welcomed foreign observers, including a group from the Commonwealth, demonstrating country's commitment to transparency in the electoral process.

She said Pakistan takes its constitutional obligations seriously. It is the right of Pakistanis to enjoy freedoms and democracy. She said any step that Pakistan takes in this regard is in conformity with its own constitutional obligations and not influenced by external advice.



protest against alleged vote-rigging in some constituencies in the parliamentary elections, outside of the Pakistan Election Commission office, in provincial capital.

Ahmad Jawad appointed convener of **FPCCI** agri committee

KARACHI (APP): President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has appointed Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad as Convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Agriculture for the year 2024-25. The appointment of Ahmed Jawad was made in view of his vast experience in the field and he will succeed Chaudhry Muhammad Zaka Ashraf in the slot, a notification in this regard issued on Thursday.

The FPCCI president hoped that under the leadership of Ahmad Jawad, prompt recommendations will help FPCCI to address agriculture sector problems before the government.

Ahmad Jawad said to feed the ever-growing population, Pakistan needs around five percent consistent annual growth in the agriculture sector and the FPCCI hopes the incoming government will address agriculture issues in the federal budget. He said that to meet challenge of achieving national food security and economic prosperity, a two-prong approach is required, i.e. vertical growth by increasing per acre yield of crops and horizontal growth by bringing more area under cultivation through corporate farming.

He noted that Paki-

stan has the potential to bring around 22 million acres under cultivation by combining both vertical and horizontal approaches. He said that currently

country's per acre yield was far less than the global average due to limited access of farmers to modern machinery and digital support services as Artificial Întelligence (AI) can revolutionize and revitalize the local agriculture sector, es-



HYDERABAD: Residents of Baldia Colony are holding protest demonstration against killing of Zeeshan Jatoi and demanding justice for him, at Hyderabad press club.

AJK ECP issues arrest warrants of Ali Amin

MUZAFFARABAD (Online): Azad Kashmir Election Commission has issued arrest warrants of former minister for Kashmir affairs and nominated Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur

Petition on violation of election code in AJK general election 2021 by Ali Amin Gandapur was filed against him.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) D.I Khan has been ordered to present Ali Amin Gandapur in Azad Kashmir as he has not appeared despite being sum moned by election commis sion repeatedly.

Ali Amin Gandapur be arrested and presented on February 28.

FIA arrests accused involved in illegal

KARACHI (APP): The

Corporate Crime Circle of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Karachi has intensified its efforts to combat illegal currency ex change and hawala/hundi operations.

According to the spokesman on Thursday, in a recent crackdown, an individual named Saeed Ahmed Sheikh was apprehended from the Jodia Bazar area.

Sheikh stands accused of engaging in unauthorized currency exchange activi ties, including hawala/hundi transactions and foreign currency exchange without proper licensing.

During the operation, FIA officials seized a significant amount of currency, totalling millions of rupees, rom Sheikh's possession Additionally, records pertaining to telegraphic transfers were confiscated as evidence. Despite the recovery of 2.9 million rupees, Sheikh failed to provide.

CAA announces transfers and postings of officers

KARACHI (INP): Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced transfers and postings of various officers and officials on Thursday

Mohsin Ghori was transferred and appointed as the Deputy Airport Manager of Peshawar Airport. Sajjad Haider was made Airport Manager Gilgit-Baltistan. Ayaz Afridi appointed as Manager Airside Islamabad Airport, Muhammad Arshad as Deputy Director Airport Services Quetta Airport.

Ghazala Siddiqui was transferred from CAA headquarters to Karachi Airport. Ûzma Parveen was appointed as Deputy Director Airport Services CAA Headquarters Karachi. After the approval of Director General Civil Aviation Authority, human resource department issued the notification of transfers and postings.

One killed an other received injured

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: One more was killed and other received serious injured in the Katcha area of Rustam of Kot Shahoo Police Station on Thursday. According to reports reached here that some group of armed men opened fires on two villagers coming back to their village Anwar Baddani on Rekshaw. As a result of firing, One Ali Hassan Baddani was killed on the spot. While other his relative Papoo son of Iqbal Badani received serious injured.

The dead body of deceased Ali Hassan Baddani was brought to Taluka Hospital Khanpur for Medico Legal formalities.

The cause behind the murder was said to be an ongoing old enmity between two rival groups of Baddani and Misrani communities developed over

President for enhancing public-private partnership to educate out-of-school children

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that the coand private sectors was inevitable to educate around 26 million out-of-school

children in the country. The president, in the meeting with a delegation of Read Foundation - a nonprofit organization - led by Muhammad Shafiq Khan, said that the education and self-dependence of the orphan children were essential for an inclusive society. Similarly, he also called

try achieve progress.

for a special focus on girls' education to make the coun-

The president lauded the services of the Read

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foundation in the fields of education and welfare.

He said that the eduoperation between public cational institutions played a key role for the human resource development.

In the briefing about the Foundation's contributions, it was told that the organisation was running over 400 schools and colleges across the country.

It was informed that the Read Foundation was striving for promotion of quality and result-oriented education as well as for enhancing the access to free or low-cost education. The Foundation was also taking measures for education and upbringing of the orphan children, it was told.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori offering Dua after inaugurating road from Boat Basin to Oil Installation Area

Caretaker Federal **Interior Minister visits** FIA headquarters

Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz along with Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani on Thursday visited Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters. On arrival at the headquarters, Director General FIA Ahmad Ishaq

comed the Minister. The Minister presided over a high-level meeting of FIA officials where he was briefed on institutional issues. All Additional Director Generals, Directors and other senior officers of FIA

Jahangir along with senior

officials of the Agency wel-

attended the meeting. In the briefing, the report on the annual perfor-

preciated the performance of Wings saying that the FIA ??has a very important leading role in homeland security and safety.

The initiation of projects to modernize FIA is welcoming, said the minister adding that the importance of modern technology has increased to cope with the modern day challenges and effective use of technology to prevent human trafficking and cyber-crime

is the need of the hour. It is also very important to enhance the capacity of investigators and align them with modern requirements, said the minster adding that the overseas Pakistanis are our valuable mance of all the wings was asset who are playing an presented to the Federal important role in the Minister. The minister ap- country's development.

Steps being taken for financial stability of **KDA: DG KDA**

KARACHI (APP): All possible measures are being taken to bring Karachi Development Authority (KDA), on the track of economic stability on a permanent basis.

These views were expressed by Director General KDA Naveed Anwar while reviewing the renovation and ongoing development works of Civic Cen-

ter Building. On this occasion, DG KDA Naveed Anwar issued orders to Chief Engineer Tariq Rafi to repair the sewage system, lights, and washrooms in the building, construct the footpath around the building and en-

The Chief Engineer DA while briefing DG KDA said that one Assis-

tant Executive Engineer and two Sub Engineers have been posted on every three floors while Executive Engineer Building and Executive Engineer Mechanical Civil are responsible cleaning and maintenance, who wiill submit progress report of maintenance and ongoing development works on

daily basis. The DG KDA issued orders to install signboards on the ground floor and gate numbers and logos at the entrances and exits of Civic



HYDERABAD: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Leader, Safdar Abbasi along with others leaders addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

Rs600m tax evaders escape Gulberg police custody; case registered KARACHI (INP): Two their apprehension and sub-

prisoners jailed for evading taxes worth Rs600 million have managed to escape from police custody, raising serious concerns about the competence of law enforcement agencies, particularly the Gulberg Police.

The fugitives were apprehended by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in Karachi before being handed over to the Gulberg Police for further investigation.

The escape of the accused has highlighted glaring lapses in the handling of high-profile cases by the Gulberg Police, prompting widespread criticism and demands for accountability. The suspects were facing charges related to tax evasion amounting to a staggerscoring the significance of cial crimes.

sequent legal proceedings. Following their es-

cape, a case was registered against police Muharrar Bilal and the two absconders. In response to the escape, authorities have initiated swift action, with a special team of police officers dispatched to Karachi in pursuit of the fugitives. The location of the escaped individuals is believed to be in Karachi, as per the police, intensifying efforts to track them down and ensure their apprehension.

The incident has not only exposed the incompetence of the Gulberg Police but has also reignited concerns about the prevalence of tax evasion and the need for stringent enforcement ing Rs600 million, under- measures to combat finan-