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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 3rd edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for financial inclusion of weaker segments of society through digital transformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday called for enhancing the inclusion of deprived sections of society, especially women and persons with disabilities, in the mainstream economy through digital transformation of the financial sector for socio-economic development.

The president was addressing the third edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, and recognize the contributions of companies working in the sector.

The ceremony was attended by businessmen and diplomatic community members, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a news release.

The president said that the Pakistani people

were a vibrant nation, and the country, blessed with abundant natural resources, needed to invest in their intellectual development and capacity building.

He also highlighted that Pakistan could not progress without the inclusion of 26.2 million out-of-school children in the education system.

Educating such a large portion of the population would require thousands of new schools and additional resources, he observed, adding, "If left unaddressed, Pakistan would export raw labour without any value-addition."

The president cited the example of China which had lifted millions of its people out of poverty by investing in their education and health.

He said that financial inclusion was not possible without politi-

cal inclusion of the people.

He opined that technology should be utilized for internet voting (i-voting) and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The president also hailed millions of young voters who had expressed their confidence in the democratic system.

He highlighted the need for setting priorities, making good decisions and efficiently utilizing human resources for progress of the country.

President Alvi said that the low tax-to-GDP ratio was a perennial problem in Pakistan, adding that overcoming that issue would help reduce its reliance on foreign loans.

He said that banks were offering business loans for women on easy terms and conditions, however, there was a lack of awareness about mi-

cro-credit facilities for women.

He urged the banks to enhance their outreach by introducing cashless banking in far-flung areas through customized products and services.

CEO of Transforming Hub Iftikhar Hussain highlighted that BizNet was an ecosystem that had brought together the best minds by promoting increased collaboration, commitment and innovation.

He underlined the pivotal role played by the banking sector in adopting the latest financial solutions paving the way for user-friendly banking transactions.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO of Airlinks Communication Muzaffar Piracha apprised the audience that digitization of the economy was the first

step towards financial inclusion which was not possible without advancements in the mobile industry.

Chief Digital Officer of Jazz Aamir Aijaz said that Pakistan had a large un-documented economy that was undermining the whole financial system as businesses/transactions were not registered.

Financial inclusion through formal banking channels and proper payment mechanisms (gateways) could effectively address such issues and empower people particularly women at the grassroots level, he added.

Earlier, the president also gave away shields to companies in recognition of their services for enhancing financial inclusion through technological and digital transformation.

State to defend civil servants, act against 'violent trolls': PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday vowed that the State of Pakistan would defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties and act against those "violent trolls" involved in blackmailing and pressuring them.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the people of Pakistan had spoken with a clear voice on February 8 and had given

a split mandate.

"Some elements with a proven track record of violent behaviour and vigilantism (however) are now using different tricks, including weaponisation of social media in blackmailing, vigilantism and pressuring civil servants to switch their loyalties from the State of Pakistan to the violent gang," he added. Such action, he said, was a clear violation of the Article 5 and other articles

of the Constitution and the laws of the land.

"The State of Pakistan shall defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties, act against these violent trolls and ensure exemplary punishment to them."

Prime Minister Kakar said that there should be no doubt about the government's commitment to the noble civil servants serving the State and the people of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) addressing a Press conference.

PTI's Haleem Adil meets GDA delegation to discuss Sindh protest plan

KARACHI (INP): PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has met a delegation of the Grand Democratic Alliance in Sindh to discuss their joint action plan of protests against alleged rigging in the February 8 polls.

In a post on Facebook, the PTI also shared a video of the said meeting. The PTI's Karachi secretary general Ali Ahmed Palh and MPA-elect Agha Arsalan Khan were also present during the meeting, wherein they discussed the prospects of forming a "strong alliance" to hold protests in the province.

Senate throws out bill seeking public hanging of rape convicts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate rejected a bill seeking to publicly execute those convicted of rape with a majority vote on Monday, with parliamentarians strongly opposing the idea as a "counter-effective measure in deterring sexual crimes".

The upper house of parliament rejected the move to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, through the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 with a 24-14 vote.

The bill presented by Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Senator Mushtaq Ahmed was supported by Senators Mehr Taj Roghani, Kamran

Murtaza, Maulana Faiz Muhammad, Hafiz Abdul Kareem, Kamal Ali Agha, Abdul Qadir, and others.

The senators who had voted against the bill called for improved prosecutions, investigations for combating sexual crimes, and a better jail environment to ensure that such heinous crimes are averted in the future.

Defending his proposal after it had been defeated, JI's Mushtaq said the senators did not talk about the "basic issue" and noted that the lawmakers spoke about "brutality" becoming rife due to public executions, but it's already rife.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with American Business delegation led by Ahmed Nadeem Khan, Chairman and President of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. USA during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

Produce petitioner who wanted to get Feb 8 elections cancelled: SC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Monday ordered the officials to present the petitioner before the court after he sought to withdraw his plea through which he had demanded declaring the Feb 8 elections null and void and adjourned hearing till February 21.

The chief justice ordered the SHO concerned to trace Brig Ali Khan and present him before the three-member bench which also comprises Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

Making it clear that the country's top court will hear the matter, Chief Justice Isa remarked whether such persons filed petition only to get instant fame.

While noting that Brig Khan had requested to withdraw the petition on

Feb 13, the very day it was filed, the court questioned as if publicity was the sole goal by resorting such tactics.

The application was shared the entire world through media, the chief justice noted, adding that he should come and the court would hear the matter.

In a report, the apex court was informed that the petitioner could neither be approached through the address given in the plea nor the WhatsApp service.

Later, the three-member bench issued the necessary orders which read that they would not allow anyone to use the Supreme Court for ulterior motives and issued a notice to the petitioner through the defence ministry, while adjourning further hearing till Feb 21 (Wednesday).

US, Chinese diplomats calls on Shahbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chinese and American diplomats have separate meetings with President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.

According to the sources privy to development, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the newly formed government in Pakistan and the possible challenges it would face and to inform about the support required to fight it.

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated to increase the pace of CPEC and to provide diplomatic and economic support to the newly formed government.

The Chinese ambassador assured full support for Pakistan, in regional security and foreign infiltration in Pakistan.

Within 24 hours of the Chinese ambassador's meeting, American ambassador Donald Bloom also met with Shahbaz Sharif.

In the meeting, it was assured to provide all possible support for the situation arising after the election and the challenges faced by the newly formed government.

Missing Baloch Students Case: IHC expresses dismay over absence of Caretaker PM

Court summons care taker PM, Defence minister, Interior minister once again

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ruled that the caretaker prime minister should be removed from his office as he failed to answer in the missing Baloch students' case.

The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar didn't appear before the court in person for second time in the case pertaining to the non-recovery of Baloch students.

"The Prime Minister

didn't appear in the court for second time. He was summoned because he was answerable for all this," Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked.

Earlier, Justice Kayani had remarked that death sentence should be handed down to those behind forced disappearances.

The people involved in such disappearances should be awarded death sentence twice, he said during the last hearing.



KARACHI: Residents of Orangi Town area block road as they are holding protest demonstration against prolonged sui-gas load shedding in their area during heavy winter season, held at Johar Chowk in Karachi.

Verification of KMC employees' data started

KARACHI (APP): The process of verifying the data of KMC employees for transfer to PIU Click Sindh Local Government department under the SAP application system has started, on the direction of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

In this regard, the pay sheet clerks of all departments have been summoned on February 20 at the KMC Head Office with the paid bills of their departments for January 2024 so that those department data of active employees can be updated and verified, said a statement on Monday.

All drawing and disbursing officers and heads of departments of KMC have been directed to maintain full coordination with the KMC Payroll Section, Information Technology department and complete the data verification process of the employees of the concerned department

within three days.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab had shifted the disbursement of salary and pension of KMC employees to SAP application in August 2023.

KMC is the first local body in Pakistan where employees salary and pension has been shifted to SAP application to ensure transparency in employees data, which would not only improve the salary and pension data but also due to the implementation of this method, the payment of double salary will also be resolved.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that by transferring all the data related to salaries of employees working in various departments of KMC and pension of retired employees to SAP, this record has been improved and secured and if required, any information regarding officers or other employees will be readily available.

Election 2024: IHC suspends victory notifications of three PML-N NA candidates

Tariq Fazl Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel, and Raja Khurram Nawaz's notifications suspended

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday suspended the victory notifications of three Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidates of the National Assembly.

A two-member bench of the IHC — comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir — issued the order against PML-N's Tariq Fazl Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel, and Raja Khurram Nawaz.

Chaudhry had won with 102,502 votes, as per

unofficial results from the NA-47 constituency, but his victory was challenged by his rival candidate.

Aqeel had secured victory from the NA-46 constituency and bagged 81,958 votes. However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed independent candidate Aamir Mughal challenged it.

The court also suspended the notification of the victory of Raja Khurram Islamabad's NA-48 constituency, which was challenged by the PTI-backed candidate Ali Bukhari.

Terrorists attack police vehicle on security of polling in Tank

TANK (APP): The armed terrorists here on Monday attacked police armoured vehicle on security of polling in NA-43, Tank cum Dera Ismail Khan.

According to initial reports shared by the police spokesman, some armed terrorists attacked police armoured vehicle on security duty for polling station at Kot-Azam in Tank.

The polling process was halted for some time due to the attack.



KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident at a candle manufacturing factory as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on Korangi Ibrahim Hyderi area in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

PML-N challenge

On Friday night, PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique took to X to highlight the challenges facing politicians in forging a new government in Islamabad in the absence of a clear mandate for any single party. "No party has [an] absolute majority in the National Assembly," he reminded other stakeholders, largely the PPP. Therefore, he said, "the formation of government is the joint responsibility of all the parties in the parliament, [and] not just PML-N". Alternatively, he suggested that PTI-backed independent members form a government with PPP support.

Although it is unclear whether Mr Rafique's words reflect his own or his party's position, the gist of his message posted after a party huddle reportedly chaired by Nawaz Sharif is that governing the country would be akin to wearing a crown of thorns amid chaotic political and economic conditions, and that his party had no desire to claim it.

He is not the only PML-N politician to hint at stepping back from the party's initial stance of entering into a coalition with the PPP and others as spelled out by Mr Sharif in his post-election speech after it became clear that the N-League hadn't won enough seats to make a government on its own.

Many are understood to have advised their leader against forming a minority government at the centre, especially after Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced support for a PML-N-led set-up in exchange for the top constitutional offices and a PPP government in Balochistan.

It may be a unique experience for Pakistan but parliamentary democracies everywhere have seen minority governments supported by other parties function quite well. In India, the Congress supported the minority Janata Dal government in the 1990s. If the PPP is demanding too much, PML-N can negotiate a deal. Give-and-take is essential as the PPP also has much to lose if the system is derailed. Even a rowdy PTI would not want to rock the apple cart of democracy once it has made its point on rigging. Governing a politically and economically distraught nation would indeed be tough for the PML-N without sufficient numerical strength in parliament.

Divergent political interests might occasionally thwart or slow down legislative and economic reform. But should these hold back the three-time PM from accepting the challenge because of fear of the unknown, or losing the support of the PPP and others at some point? That hardly makes sense. The people have given a split verdict. Now it is time for all political stakeholders to respect it. The biggest responsibility rests with the PML-N. Mr Sharif should not only put away his fears to form a minority government, he must also realise that the nation has deep wounds to heal. A politician of his stature can overcome hurdles. It is a challenge he should accept.

Young voters

Huma Yusuf

A general election is like a democratic health check. In its wake, comes the prognosis: will Pakistani democracy live or die? The widely discredited polling process points to terminal illness. But many pro-democracy Pakistanis believe we have identified a possible cure in the form of the youth vote.

The local and international media has a clear narrative: the triumph-against-all-odds of PTI-affiliated candidates was delivered by social media savvy young voters; their engagement with TikTok videos and AI-generated rallying cries has checked the excesses of elite institutions and vested interests. Ahsan Iqbal attributed polling results to a "youth rebellion against traditional politics" and called for "older parties... [to] create spaces for these segments in their party structures".

But has democratic backsliding truly met its generational match? In some ways, this election was bound to belong to the youth: our country's median age is 22.7 years, and more than 56.8 million eligible voters were under 35. But will young voters remain engaged in a sustainable way?

An election is chaotic. This year's polls invited acts of defiance, which suited Imran Khan's politics of disruption. Were the youth votes cast akin to an expletive against entrenched political actors and institutions? Or do they signal a revival of political engagement in the sense of policy development, institution building and service delivery?

The signs do not breed optimism. Firstly, the key issues that matter to young Pakistanis — inflation, education, employment — received only scant attention in parties' manifestos. As

service delivery falters, young voters will be disappointed.

Indeed, while they may have cast votes, young Pakistanis have been voting with their feet for the past few years. A survey from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics last year found that 67 per cent of young Pakistanis want to leave the country in pursuit of employment. The number of Pakistanis emigrating tripled between 2021 and 2022, with the trend continuing last year.

Youth electoral fervour is also disengaged from Pakistan's political economy and structural challenges, which must be addressed as a prerequisite to democratic revival. A VOA/Ipsos survey in the run-up to the elections found that 74pc of young voters trust the military, while 58pc rank the Supreme Court as the second-most trusted institution. Such beliefs are hardly the precursor to a status quo shake-up.

Research from the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Future of Democracy may shed light on the youth phenomenon in these elections. The 2020 Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy report (which maps global trends) found that satisfaction with democracy is declining most rapidly among 18-34 year olds, with 55pc of global millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) expressing dissatisfaction. This is largely driven by the inability of democratic governments to address youth unemployment, wealth inequality and other forms of 'economic exclusion'.

That said, the report identified an interesting quirk: countries with populist leaders like Khan logged a 16 percentage point jump in satisfaction with democracy among voters aged under 35 years during the first few years of a populist's tenure. This turnaround effect was noted irrespective of whether the populist leader was left- or right-wing. And it occurred despite the polarising effects of populist politics, which should be anathema to democracy.

But the report also found that an uptick in youth satisfaction with democracy under populist politicians is short-lived, with satisfaction de-c-lining gradually after four years, and precipitously after two terms. In other words, as populists either turn authoritarian to preserve power, or temper their excesses in order to succeed as mainstream politicians, they lose their youthful support, and democracy suffers again.

The conduct of Imran Khan and his supporters in opposition will steer the nature of youth political engagement, with perceptions of complexity a key risk. In all scenarios, it would be a shame for all parties and democracy champions not to seek to sustain youth participation.

We need more data to better understand Pakistan's demographic political trends. This should include tracking various forms of political engagement beyond casting ballots. Everything from social media engagement and protest to consumer boycotts counts, and acknowledging this will help clarify how to sustain youth engagement. We must also nuance the debate: the youth bloc is not a monolith, and grassroots circumstances will shape differently young voters differently. Giving them due respect at a granular level — through participation in local government bodies — is likely to be a key step in sustaining engagement. -- Courtesy Dawn

Let students thrive

Neda Mulji

We've had a history of academic pressure to chase marks in tests, good grades at the end of the term and, in many schools, students still get ranks that benchmark them against their peers. Most assessments test the preparation of content; they do not test understanding of concepts. Students select the more 'important' content they know they will be tested on, and memorise that. Studying skills aren't necessarily taught, which means students must learn these skills on the go. Those that haven't mastered the art of preparation or the ones who haven't managed to develop the endurance to focus and write material from memory do not manage to get good marks as they have not mastered test-taking skills.

When teachers are truly skilled, they aren't only great at teaching but also guiding and monitoring. Traditionally, the teachers who have made a lasting impact on their students are the ones who focus on holistic development — those that are skilled enough to teach, motivate students and enable them to thrive.

Usually, these teachers empower students with a level of self-confidence that makes them able and willing to learn. They teach them the ropes to break down tasks to make it easier for themselves and they encourage them to plan ahead of time so they can acquire greater control on the mountain of work that comes their way. Most successful teachers keep a close eye on the students' studying habits, their turning in of assignments, their responses in class and their interest in their own progress.

Thriving is not just about learning but also about the willingness to do better and the innate drive to accomplish the next big task. Student motivation is key to learning. However, unfortunately, most teachers manage to kill motivation by warnings and threats of failure and disaster. How teachers connect and communicate with students may be the key to enabling students to thrive. A teacher's positivity and belief in the student's ability can turn the tide towards progress.

Most students need health and wellbeing programmes at school to support them through their academic journey. Back in 1995, when WHO, Unesco and Unicef jointly introduced the 'health promoting schools' approach, 90 countries around the world adopted it. Pakistan was not one of them. Ninety per cent of countries now provide at least one meal during the school day. Pakistan is not one of them.

Clean water and sanitation, eye-testing services, a doctor on the premises and vaccine administration and monitoring facilities, counselling were all part of the health programme. In 2010, Pakistan collaborated with Unesco after a report established that 61pc of government schools in Pakistan lacked drinking water and a staggering 56pc were without toilet facilities. A decade later, basic facilities are available in a fragmented and inconsistent manner, if at all.

The global Education 2030 agenda, initiated by Unesco, reiterates a set of eight Global Standards to help improve the lives of one billion school-going children. Pakistan has committed to these goals and yet, given the scale of the improvements needed, we may well miss this bus too.

In the absence of such programmes across the board, teachers have an all-encompassing role at school where they have to plug in their expertise to fill in many gaps. They have to screen students for bad eyesight by using their own judgement in class, they write to parents to monitor nutrition when the child doesn't bring in a healthy snack, they act as first-aid respondents when children are hurt and they provide emotional support in the absence of school counsellors. The list is endless and the teachers' duties go far beyond their basic job description. In many schools, teachers find themselves having to don their superwoman capes to take care of every contingency, and this can well take them away from their core work as a subject specialist. While every school year presents new challenges, it also opens new opportunities for growth. Relaxing the controlling grip on children may help them find learning fun. Instead of forcing them to read from their books, reading to them may help. Letting them teach whatever they know may help them get more involved in learning. Enabling them to track their own progress and set goals helps them take responsibility and develop a work ethic.

There is a world of possibilities where different strategies can be applied to achieve targeted outcomes, especially if the tried and tested means are not yielding results. Ignacio Estrada said it aptly: "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

MoU signed to make Pakistan food self-sufficient

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday signed between Green Corporate Initiative and Organic Pakistan to Revolutionize Agriculture to ensure food sovereignty and environmental sustainability in Pakistan.

The Green Corporate Initiative (GCI) and Organic Pakistan (OP) have officially inked MoU to spearhead a transformative journey towards smart and sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and urban farming practices to make Pakistan food self-sufficient.

The agreement signed for ensuring Pakistan to move from food import and dependency to a self-

sufficient food exporting nation.

The partnership is also aimed to improve the status of the farmers by bringing them into the mainstream economic development, particularly the agriculture policy debate.

The MoU, signed at the Green Corporate Initiative Pvt. Limited's head office, establishes a robust framework for collaboration between Green Corporate Initiative and Organic Pakistan, with a shared vision to make Pakistan food self-sufficient.

Through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovation-centric initiatives, both organizations aim to foster resilience, sustainability,

and inclusivity within the agricultural sector.

Commenting on the MoU, Shahid Nazeer, Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Green Initiative said, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to drive smart sustainable development and environmental stewardship in Pakistan. By combining our expertise, resources, and networks, we are poised to create lasting impact and empower communities across the country."

Nadeem Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Organic Pakistan, said, "We are excited to embark on this journey of collaboration with the Green Corporate Initiative."

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 586 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 586.79 points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 60,459.75 points against 59,872.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 261,799,826 shares valuing Rs 9,907 billion were traded during the day as compared to 314,247,768 shares valuing Rs12.243 billion the last day. Some 330 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 170 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 21 remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were PIAC(A) with 21,406,500 shares at Rs 11.06 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 20,034,698 shares at Rs 1.23 per share, and Pak Refinery with 15,164,705 shares at Rs 25.33 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 373.35 per share price.



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE while talking to a Pakistani exhibitor during the Gulf Food Exhibition at Pakistan Pavilion, World Trade Centre.

SECP says: 2,651 new companies incorporated in January

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has registered 2,651 new companies in January 2024, showing an increase of 10 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

The total number of registered companies now stands at 212,108. Total capitalization (paid-up capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies is Rs5.2 billion, said a news release.

In January, around 58 percent of companies were registered as private limited

companies, 38 percent as single member companies, and 4 percent as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships, and foreign companies.

Five foreign companies also registered their place of business in Pakistan. Around 138 foreign applicants were registered through eServices. Almost 99.85 percent of companies were registered online. The information technology sector took the lead with regards to incorporation with 356

companies, trading with 319, real estate development and construction, and services with 277 each, tourism with 145, education with 116, food and beverages with 94, corporate agricultural farming with 93, e-commerce with 72, engineering with 65, chemical with 61, power generation with 58, marketing & advertisement, and textile with 55 each.

Furthermore, pharmaceutical, mining & quarrying with 53 each, healthcare with 48, fuel and energy with 45.

POL import bill shrinks by 12.06% in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 12.06 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July-January (2023-24) stood at \$ 9,332.322

Gold rates increase by Rs 1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs 214,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 213,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24karat gold also increased by Rs 943 to Rs 183,728 from Rs 182,785 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 168,417 from Rs 167,553, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

CDNS attains Rs 1030b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained a target of Rs 1030 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to February, 19.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday.

He said this was a Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will

promote savings culture in the country," he said.

Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.

"At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 55 billion by January 9, 2023-24, through Islamic investment bonds.



LAHORE: People are busy buying secondhand toys at a Landa bazaar in Provincial Capital.

Railways finalize plan to procure 230 passengers coaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is finalizing a plan to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at

the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the Ministry of Railways.

He said Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track along with improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time.

The infrastructure, including the track and signaling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km).



LAHORE: A blacksmith is busy at his workplace cutting large pieces of iron and making molds.

FCCI proposes separate ministry to produce skilled human resources

FAISALABAD (APP): Engineer Ahmad Hassan,

former Vice President and Convener FCCI (Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry) Standing Committee on R&D, has proposed a separate and dedicated ministry to produce highly skilled human resources which could be exported to other countries to almost double the existing foreign remittances.

Addressing a meeting of the standing committee, he said that our current exports are only \$20bn while remittances are

\$30bn but still there is a gap of \$20-25bn.

He said, "We must focus on exporting highly skilled manpower to overcome this trade gap. The economy is facing multiple challenges and fundamental administrative changes are needed to resolve the issues. We are exporting unskilled and semiskilled workers which are sending \$30bn remittances. The proposed ministry may be tasked with identifying the specific needs of each potential country and produce human resources in that particular area."

Equipping students with IT, AI crying need of hour: Governor

MULTAN (APP): Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman has said that equipping students with Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the dire need of the hour.

Addressing a convocation of a private institute here on Monday, he stated in the modern era, acquiring knowledge of modern sciences and arts is essential for progress and success. He informed that hard work and consistency play a crucial role in the journey of progress.

Instead of reacting to false and misleading information on social media, ensure a research-based approach, the governor advised the students adding that reacting against corruption

should be based on real data and facts from international organizations.

Rehman noted that destruction and violent protests were extremely detrimental to the country. He said that determining those who merely talk against corruption and those who take practical actions was imperative.

The governor said success in education is possible through collaboration with the private sector. Honesty and high moral values are the keys to success in practical life, he maintained.

Vice Chancellors (VCs) of public and private universities besides parents and graduating students were in attendance.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of District Bar Association Charsada meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Wani seeks independent probe into mass rape incidents in occupied Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) has demanded an independent and international probe into mass-rape incidents committed by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian-held territory of Jammu Kashmir.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Wani said that the occupation forces deployed in the restive region have been involved

in heinous crimes. Use and abuse of power, harassment and humiliation and sexual abuse, he said, were among the dirtiest war tactics the Indian army has been using to suppress Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said that being a vulnerable segment of society, the Kashmiri women have been the worst victims of Indian belligerence.

Referring to the dreadful incident of

Kunan and Poshpora mass rape, the Hurriyat leader said that the horrific incident was a big blot on the face of Indian democracy and the state that has been using rape as a weapon of war against Kashmiris.

Highlighting the pain and agony of the rape victims, he said that it was disgusting to see that the Indian rulers and their henchmen in the territory have shamelessly tried to cover up and conceal the facts to save the bloody cul-

prits who were directly involved in this beastly act. "The brutality of Kashmiri women were subjected to on the dreadful night of 23 February 1991 finds no place in human history", he said, adding that despite the passage of 33 years, justice continues to elude the victims. Urging world human rights organizations to play their role, Wani said it was high time that culprits involved in this gruesome act should be held accountable.

Ghafoor Baig says: Complaints of federal employees swiftly addressed

PESHAWAR (APP): In-charge Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad, Abdul Ghafoor Baig on Monday said the complaints of federal employees related to misadministration are being addressed on a swift basis and no negligence towards this end is tolerated.

He said to make the general people abreast of the effectiveness and importance of the office of Federal Ombudsman, open katcheries are being held through print and electronic media are released.

Abdul Ghafoor Baig further said within the ambit of law, the Federal Ombudsman Office not only addresses the complaints on an urgent basis but arrange meetings with the authorized officers of the Federal Government for the implementation of its decisions.

He said to facilitate the public, the process of lodging complaints has been simplified and only through an App the complainants forward their applications through an automated online system.

He said the Federal Ombudsman office.



MIRPUR: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Saeed Akram Khan and the judges of the Supreme Court are meeting the bar officials under the leadership of the newly elected President District Bar Association Chaudhry Shakeeluz Zaman.

686,711 students access PITB's Higher Education Portal

LAHORE (APP): The Higher Education Portal (HEP), developed by PITB for the Higher Education Department, is a centralized platform enabling public colleges in Punjab to have daily reporting of essential data. This centralized system facilitates seamless data reporting, fostering enhanced efficiency and transparency in higher education administration throughout the province.

In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousof stated, "HEP signifies a significant stride towards modernizing and digitizing the higher education. Portal encompasses comprehensive features, including the collation of basic student profiles, detailed program information, and in-depth college profiles and facilities. This unified and centralized system facilitates seamless data reporting, fostering enhanced efficiency and transparency in higher education administration throughout the province.



ABBOTTABAD: Rescue officials trying to remove a vehicle stuck in snow covered area after the heavy snowfall of winter season, which more decreases the temperature below in minus degree Celsius, at Nathiagali area in Abbottabad.

Gandapur says: Party leadership to decide joining of political party for formation of KP govt

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf backed independent candidate and nominee of the party for the office of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday said that the party leadership would decide about joining any political party for the formation of the government in the province.

Talking to media here outside Peshawar High Court (PHC) he said a legal team was looking into matters related to joining any political party, however, the final decision would be taken by the party chairman. Gandapur said that after coming to power, he would take measures to make the province financially.

Child falls to death in water tank

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-year-old child was killed after falling into a water tank in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber district on Monday. Police said the incident occurred in Bakarabad area of Jamrud where a three-year-old child, named Hayan, son of Amir fell into a water tank during play.

The area people retrieved the child from the water tank and shifted him to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jamrud.

Doctors at the hospital did their best to save the child however, the child breathed his last at the hospital.

KP Governor lauds lawyers' role in development, prosperity, strengthening of democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that lawyers have an important role in maintaining the rule of law and establishing a justice-based system in society.

"Lawyers have always played a positive role in the country's stability, development, prosperity and democracy. They are the most important part of the judiciary and the delivery of justice," he said during a meeting with a delegation

of Charsadda District Bar Association here at Governor House.

The governor said that the role of a lawyer in any society is very important especially in the provision of justice, adding that the lawyers' community has a great responsibility to uphold the supremacy of law and ensure justice for the poor and middle-class of the society.

He urged lawyers to play an important role in the speedy disposal of cases and the provision of

justice to the victims.

Earlier, the delegation led by the President of the Bar Association Mujibur Rahman Advocate informed the Governor about the problems and difficulties faced by the District Bar Association and requested for his cooperation to solve them.

He especially mentioned that the revenue cases of Charsadda were referred to Peshawar and caused inconvenience for both lawyers and the masses.

International News

Gaza Health Ministry says Over 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: More than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, the territory's Health Ministry said Monday, marking another grim milestone in the deadliest round of violence in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2.3 million people have sought refuge from fighting elsewhere.

The United States, Israel's top ally, says it is still working with mediators Egypt and Qatar to try to broker another cease-fire and hostage release agreement. But those efforts appear to have stalled in recent days, and Netanyahu angered Qatar, which has hosted Hamas leaders, by calling on it to pressure the militant group.

The Health Ministry said 107 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours. That brings the total number of fatalities to 29,092 since the

start of the war. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its records, but says around two-thirds of those killed were women and children. More than 69,000 Palestinians have been wounded, overwhelming the territory's hospitals, less than half of which are even partially functioning.

The Health Ministry is part of the Hamas-run government in Gaza but maintains detailed records of casualties. Its figures from previous wars in Gaza have largely matched those of U.N. agencies, independent experts and even Israel's own tallies.



Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrives at his family compound following his release.

Netanyahu could surprise Israelis with Hamas deal next week

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel has sent negotiators for truce talks in Cairo as requested by U.S. President Joe Biden but they did not go back for further talks because Hamas' demands were "delusional," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

On the other hand, as per unverified online reports, Benjamin Netanyahu could surprise Israelis with a Hamas deal for the release of hostages in the next week.

Israel would not give in to "international dictates" regarding a statehood agreement with the Palestinians, which he said could only be reached through direct negotiations without preconditions.

The Egyptian and Qatari-mediated talks to try to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and secure the release of over 100 Israeli hostages being held in the Hamas-ruled territory have yet to produce results. A round of inconclusive talks in Cairo ended on Tuesday.

Famine becomes latest threat in Gaza's north

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Like many in northern Gaza, Shadi Jenina has resorted to desperate measures to stave off hunger for his five children — grinding up animal feed into flour.

"We're looking for food for birds, animals and livestock... such as barley, corn, wheat and fodder. We grind them and make flour," Jenina, 40, explained.

"The bread is dry and not suitable for humans but we're forced to eat it," he said, adding they struggle to feed their children. The Gaza Strip was already one of the poorest places in the Middle East even before Israel declared a complete siege on the territory.

Though much of Gaza was reliant on food aid, enough of it was entering the territory to largely meet the needs of its 2.4 million inhabitants.

But now, after more than four months of war that has flattened huge swathes of the Strip, Gazans are inching closer towards famine, according to the UN's World Food Programme.



Volunteers distribute rations of lentil soup to displaced Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

US threatens to veto new Gaza ceasefire resolution

WASHINGTON (Online): The United States Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield warned that if the Algerian proposed resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza were to come up for a vote at the UN Security Council as drafted, it would not be adopted by Washington. In a statement Saturday, Thomas-Greenfield said the United States has been working on a deal between Israel and Hamas which would see the release of hostages and bring a pause in the fighting for at least six weeks.

"Over the last week, President Biden has had multiple calls with Prime Minister Netanyahu, as well as the leaders of Egypt and Qatar, to push this deal forward. Though gaps remain, the key elements are on the table," the ambassador said. "We believe this deal represents the best opportunity to reunite all hostages with their families and enable a prolonged pause in fighting, that would allow for more lifesaving food, water, fuel, medicine, and other essentials to get into the hands of Palestinian civilians who desperately need it," she said.

UN special envoys in Doha to discuss future of Afghanistan

DOHA (Online): In less than a year the second UN-gathering with national and regional envoys to Afghanistan are set to meet in Doha on Sunday (today), however, there is still uncertainty about whether Taliban leaders would attend it or not.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres spokeswoman said that the two-day conference, which is being hosted by the secretary general will include stepping up col-

laboration with Taliban-led Afghanistan with a better-coordinated reaction to the country in Central Asia. Taliban administration's participation is still unknown on the eve of the gathering in gas-rich Qatar, which provided a home to the Taliban during years of peace negotiations with the US. After the Taliban leadership refused to attend the first conference in May, the UN has now invited them again to the Doha convention.

Landslide buries houses Nuristan, many killed

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: At least five bodies were retrieved from mud after a landslide buried houses in eastern Afghanistan, local officials said on Monday. The landslide hit at least 20 houses in the Tatin village of the Nurgram district in the eastern Nuristan province, the Kabul-based Hurriyat Radio English reported.

Efforts to recover others are underway, it added. Provincial officials expressed fears that the number of casualties may increase.

UN likely to vote on Gaza ceasefire

WASHINGTON (Online): The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will meet on Tuesday to demand an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

The meeting has been called on a resolution drafted by Algeria.

The UN Security Council resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the United States, Britain, France, China or Russia to pass the resolution. Thousands of people have taken to the streets in Europe to protest against the war in Gaza.

ICJ to hold hearings on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories

HAGUE (Online): International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague will open a week of hearings on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories today.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki will speak first in the legal proceedings.

Meanwhile, at least 127 Palestinians have been martyred in Israeli strikes on Gaza in the past 24 hours. The week-long proceedings, which began at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on Monday, come as Israel continues its devastating war on Gaza.

The assault has killed more than 29,000 Palestinians since October 7.

The case is separate from the genocide complaint South Africa filed at the ICJ

against Israel for its alleged violations in the ongoing war.

It focuses instead on Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since 1967.

The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state.

Palestinian representatives, who speak first on Monday, will argue that the Israeli occupation is illegal because it has violated three key tenets of international law, the Palestinian legal team told reporters on Wednesday.

They say Israel has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest by annexing large swathes of occupied land, violated Palestinians' right to self-determination and imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid.

Don't let Israel attack Rafah, Irish foreign minister warns EU

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The European Union "must do everything possible" to pressure the Israeli government into not attacking Rafah, Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin said on Monday in Brussels.

Martin said the "level of inhumanity that's now happening within Gaza" has shocked the world, referencing Israel's ground and air offensive to defeat Hamas in response to the October 7 terrorist attack.

The Israeli government has been preparing to launch a full-scale ground offensive into Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza near the border with Egypt, despite international fears it will lead to massive civilian casualties.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel said he has warned Israel that the country is in danger of losing "the last sup-

port they have in the world" should they attack.

Martin called on Hamas to release the Israeli hostages taken in the October 7 attack and to surrender their weapons and for a humanitarian ceasefire.

The Irish foreign minister also called for sanctions on Israeli settlers in the West Bank. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the unanimity required among EU member states to impose the punitive measures was still missing.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said tensions were growing in the West Bank and that the violent actions of Israeli settlers against Palestinians must be addressed by the Israeli government. Expressing her support for sanctions, Baerbock said the EU "must make it clear to extremist settlers" that breaking law will not go unanswered.

Pakistan's policy endeavours on track to achieve disaster resilience against floods: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday told the Senate that the country's policy endeavours keeping in view its growing vulnerability due to climate catastrophes were on track to achieve disaster resilience against floods.

Responding to a motion tabled by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Senator Muhammad Humayun Mohmand to discuss the pressing issue of water resources, floods and water mismanagement in Pakistan, especially in the wake of the devastating floods in 2022 and in 2010, the minister provided a brief overview of the country's response to floods through policy interventions.

He said that after three years deliberations post 2010 floods, the Ministry of Water Resources had finalized the National Flood

Protection Plan-IV, which was approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on May 2, 2017.

However, all the four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, after the enactment of Model River Act 2016, were instructed to change and implement the law according to their requirements, he added.

"The Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have implemented the law whereas its approval in the other provinces is in different stages," the minister said.

Solangi noted that under the National Plan for Flood Telemetry Programme, some 707 telemetry stations would be established on different small and big rivers across the country.

The project concept or PC-I had been made, and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) had assured its assistance for developing 45 stations,

he added. The Punjab and Sindh provinces, he said, continued to work rapidly on expansion and innovation of all their barrages, whereas the work had been completed in Punjab and progress on Sukkur and Guddu barrages in Sindh was underway.

Moreover, the minister mentioned that the Rs 27 billion flood damage restoration project was completed in Sindh.

Solangi said that the CCI also approved Water Policy in 2018 and the Federal Flood Commission had made the framework of the policy and submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Commenting on the 2022 floods, he said the meteorological department predicted that there would be 40% more rain in June 2022 than the previous years. "All these assumptions proved wrong as over 175% rain on average occurred across the whole country."



KARACHI: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi in a Group photo with participants after distributing awards and certificates of appreciation among the members of Floral Art Society of Pakistan who won the Bloom Oman competition.

First Lady advocates floral art therapy

KARACHI (APP): First Lady Samina Arif Alvi Monday emphasized that floral art transcended mere hobby status, asserting its therapeutic benefits for mental well-being.

Speaking as the chief guest at an award ceremony for the Floral Art Society of Pakistan (FASP), celebrating their triumphs in the Bloom Oman competition in Muscat, Oman, she highlighted the stress-relieving and mood-enhancing qualities of gardening and floral cultivation.

Addressing the gathering, the first lady underscored the collective responsibility to nurture both environment and mental health, noting that a significant portion of the country's population grappled with mental health challenges, with many unable to seek professional help.

She advocated for the regular organization of floral art events to not only beautify surroundings but

also engage younger generations in health-promoting activities.

Recognizing the FASP's remarkable achievement of securing 11 awards for Pakistan in the Bloom Oman competition, she praised their contributions to elevating the country's standing.

Samina Arif Alvi urged attendees to raise awareness about early breast cancer detection, a cause she has championed, leading to a notable reduction in related mortality rates over the past five years. Further, she called for advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities and mental health, emphasizing the importance of inclusive awareness efforts. Concluding the event, the first lady distributed awards and certificates of appreciation to FASP members, recognizing their invaluable contributions to Pakistan's success in the floral art competition Bloom Oman.

China congratulates Pakistan for holding elections smoothly

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Monday congratulated Pakistan for holding general elections of the national and provincial assemblies in a steady and smooth manner and hoped that the political parties in Pakistan could work together to form a new government after the polls.

"We noted that general elections in Pakistan were held in a generally steady and smooth manner, and we offer our congratulations," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing which resumed here after a 10-day pause in the wake of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays.

"As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choices of Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that relevant

parties of Pakistan will work together to uphold the political solidarity and social stability after the elections," she added.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners and China hoped to work with Pakistan to build on the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in various areas and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries. In response to a question about the delay in forming a government, she said that the Chinese side noted that the Pakistan election was generally steady and smooth and China respected the choice of Pakistani people.

Rs 35.6 bln program being launched to eradicate fatal diseases: Jan

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that a mega project worth Rs35.6 billion was being launched to eradicate fatal diseases including sugar, HIV AIDS and hepatitis in the country.

He said that a Rs six billion program has been prepared for the control of sugar disease besides projects were being launched for the eradication of AIDS HIV.

He was addressing a function after inaugurating a modern labour room at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Kotkay in Charsadda district. The minister said that providing the best healthcare facilities to patients at their doorsteps was the top priority of the government.



JAMSHORO: VCLUMHS Prof. Dr Ikram Din Ujjain giving white Coat to Student during first year BDS Batch 2023,2024 white Coat ceremony at LUMHS.

Ambassador Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at World Trade Center Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi Monday inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the World Trade Center Dubai.

On this occasion, he visited various stalls and had detailed discussions with the Pakistani exhibitors.

According to the Press Counselor of Pakistan in Dubai, the Pakistani ambassador to the UAE also spoke to media after inaugurating and visiting the pavilion set up by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

Ambassador Faisal

Niaz Tirmizi said that almost a hundred Pakistani companies associated with the food industry have gathered here, which is a welcome sign. He said that Pakistan's exports especially rice and meat have increased significantly compared to last year.

Expressing pleasure over his interaction with the organizers and representatives of TDAP, he said that Pakistan is the third largest country in terms of milk production in the world adding that Pakistan, for the first time has entered the market of Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia.

KDA decides to auction land

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Development Authority (KDA) has decided in principle to auction its land from next month.

The money collected from the auction will be used to improve the administrative affairs of KDA and pay dues to the officers and employees, said Director General KDA Naveed Anwar while presiding over a high-level meeting at Civic Center Conference Room here on Monday.

He issued instructions to the concerned officials that a detailed report of the steps taken for the auction of government land last year should be submitted as soon as possible.

He said that land for auction should be identified and practical steps be taken

for auction of land within the legal framework.

He further said that the KDA lands in Sarjani Town, Federal B Area and Korangi Town will be identified and auctioned, in this regard, the concerned officials should inform the public through advertisements in various newspapers and through social media. An awareness campaign should be conducted so that more citizens can participate in the auction, he added.

Senior Director Land Raza Qaim Khani, Director Land Muhammad Shahid, Director IT Kamal Siddiqui, Director State and Enforcement Arshad Abbas, Additional Director Jameel Baloch, concerned executive engineers and other officers participated in the meeting.



KARACHI: A Pakistani religious student of the Jamia Binoria Aalamia Islamic educational institute takes the seminary final exams.

131 Constables of Shikarpur District were promoted as Head Constables

By Abdul Sami SHIKARPUR: On the directions of IG Police Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja and DIG Police Larkana Range Nasir Aftab Khan, the 131 Constables of Shikarpur District were promoted to the rank of Head Constables through Departmental Promotion Committee-DPC.

According to Press Release issued from SSP Office Shikarpur that the head of Departmental Promotion Committee-DPC Muhammad Imran Khan accompanied with his other DPC team members including DSP Headquarter Muhammad Ali Soomro, PDSF Syed Hajar Shah, DSP Complaint Cell Khalid Hussain Dreho and Sheet

Clerk Mumtaz Ali Awan while rechecking of service sheets and other documents of presented Constables and promoted the 131 Constables to Head Constables.

As per further details that 116 and 02 Ladies Constables from list of C-1 and 13 Constables of C-2 were promoted from the rank of Constable to Head Constable in BPS-09 respectively.

In the last SSP Shikarpur Dr Muhammad Imran Khan appreciated their good services and wish them best of luck with the advice to keep continue their duties with honesty and hard work as to provide due relief to the people without any discrimination and affiliations.



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE inaugurates the Pakistan Pavilion during Gulf Food Exhibition at World Trade Centre.

Director Information chairs Divisional accreditation card committee meeting

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairman divisional accreditation committee and Director Information Irshad Ali Chandio presided over a meeting of accreditation committee at Shahbaz Hall, Shahbaz Building on Monday. Meeting decided that after every three months meeting would be held to review the process of accreditation cards issued and other matters.

Meeting also decided that suspicious data submitted for accreditation card would be issued after the verification by police.

The meeting reviewed in detail the list of accreditation cards issued last year while journalists transferred from one department to another were asked to submit documents attested by their concerned department while unnecessary accreditation cards were cancelled and the next issuance was

barred. The Director Information said that application forms for accreditation cards were being issued therefore all journalists should submit their data so that accreditation cards could be issued to them. The accreditation committee assured that every possible cooperation would be extended to all District Information officers.

On this occasion Fatcha was also offered on the death of journalist Sultan Mehmood Zai, Zahid Kalhor and mother of Press Club Hyderabad president Sajid Khanzada.

Meeting was attended among others by President Hyderabad Press Club Sajid Khanzada, Lala Rehman Samon, Ali Hassan, Abdul Hafeez Abid, Zafar Hakro, photographer Ali Wahid, Camera man Naeem Shah and Information officer Imam Bux Raja.

Newports Institute wins Master Oil University champions league season two

KARACHI (APP): In a thrilling finale, Newport Institute of Communication and Economics clinched victory against Dewan University to become the champions of the Master Oil University Champions League Season Two.

In a decision that proved crucial, Newport Institute chose to bat first and set a formidable target of 179 runs in their allotted 20 overs, with standout performances from Haider Abbas, who scored 54 runs, and Abdullah Alam, who contributed 45 runs, said a news release on Monday.

ACE starts probe of Rs 41 million alleged embezzlement of SIDA's funds

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Anti Corruption Establishment has begun an investigation of the matter of alleged embezzlement of Rs 41 million funds by a female officer, BPS-18 Sociologist Shakeela Laghari, of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA).

According to details, an Inspector of the ACE Agha Hussain has written a letter addressed to SIDA in that regard.

The official has sought complete details of the entire project of rehabilitation of the Akram Canal including its component of compensating the people owning residential or commercial properties which were demolished.

Construction work on Judo Academy, Resource Center underway at SAU Tandojam

HYDERABAD (APP): Under the supervision of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad and the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Program, construction work on the Judo Academy and Resource Center is underway at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam.

The foundation stone was laid jointly by HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, and Director Sports HEC Engineer Javid Ali Memon. On this occasion, HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stated that Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, focuses on promoting both academic and research activities along with healthy sporting activities.

ECP committee kicks off probe into Liaquat Chattha's allegations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) high-level investigation committee on Monday initiated its inquiry into the allegations raised against the former commissioner of Rawalpindi, Liaquat Ali Chattha.

Sources privy to the matter said that the committee has taken the initiative by reaching out to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to acquire the transcript of Liaquat Ali Chattha's recent press conference.

On the other hand, six district returning officers (ROs) from Rawalpindi Division have already furnished their written statements, categorically refuting the allegations leveled by the former commissioner.

Furthermore, the committee plans to extend its scrutiny to encompass statements from ROs across 13 constituencies of the National Assembly and 26 constituencies of the provincial assembly within the Rawalpindi Division.

The inquiry stems from a series of startling events, notably former commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha's resignation on Saturday, citing election irregularities.

Addressing the media at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Chattha expressed remorse over his actions, acknowledging wrongdoing and advocating for accountability. "I have done injustice in Rawalpindi Division; I should be punished for it, along with others involved," he stated solemnly.

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HYDERABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Dr. Mustansar Billa addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

Provincial Ombudsman inaugurates district office Sanghar

HYDERABAD (APP): The Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Aijaz Ali Khan has said that to provide quick and inexpensive justice to the people in government departments, the offices of the Ombudsman have been established in every district so that complaints can be redressed immediately. He expressed these views while addressing a gathering held here after inaugurating the Regional Office District Sanghar. He further said that the public should register their complaints with the district ombudsman with a simple application on blank paper, and the district office will address the grievances of the public by summoning the concerned officers. He stated that for this

purpose, we have a mechanism under which the performance of the district officers is also evaluated from time to time, so that the problems of the people can be solved. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Regional Director Ombudsman Sanghar, Fazal Muhammad Sheikh said that Sanghar district consists of vast land, and its Khipro taluka is bigger than many districts of Sindh, yet we have solved the problems of the people, and we are receiving thousands of cases from all over Sindh. On this occasion, Regional Directors of Tharparkar, Dadu, Larkana, Ghotki, Additional Deputy Commissioner I, Saleem Jatoi and other officers were also present.



HYDERABAD: People filling their pots with clean water from hand pump at Hatiri area.



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at Main Korangi road in Karachi.

Injured or dead, to be examined by Medico Legal Officer on duty; SHC

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh High Court while taking notice of complaints about forgery in the medico-legal certificates has ordered that the attachment of coloured photographs and countersigning by multiple officers will have to be followed as the necessary procedures.

The bench of Justice Amjad Ali Sahito at Hyderabad Circuit on Monday ordered that besides a Medico-Legal Officer, the Police Surgeon and the Medical Superintendent of the concerned health facility would have to countersign the certificate.

In absence of the two officers, the Additional Police Surgeon and the Additional MS could sign the legal document.

The order has been given in a petition filed by Muhammad Siddique and others of Tando Allahyar district who challenged a medical certificate in a criminal case to be a fabricated one.

The court observed that efforts were made to protect the innocent persons from the cases being registered on the basis of false and fabricated medical certificates against them.

The judge stated that it had been noticed that most of the medical certificates and postmortem reports issued by the MLOs were challenged by the litigants before the medical boards.

Referring to the February 16 office order of the Sindh Health Department, Justice Sahito said the Secretary Health had rightly taken the efforts in the light of the observations of the court.

"... in the light of the observations of the court, it is hereby directed that henceforth all injured victims shall be examined and autopsy of the dead bodies shall be conducted by the Medico Legal Officer or Medical Officer on duty," reads the office order.