

Independent

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Sindh Cabinet approves increase in Abiana, water charges to meet M&R expenditures

KARACHI (APP): The provincial caretaker cabinet in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Bqar has made some decisions, including increasing the rate of Abiana and water, surveying unsurveyed land, rewriting the record of rights, and agreeing that the land of Pakistan Steel Mill can be used for industrial purposes by the federal government. The meeting was held at CM House on Tuesday and was attended by provincial cabinet ministers, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, Chairman P&D Shakil Mangnejo, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatwi and others. The cabinet agreed that the land of Pakistan Steel Mills could be used by the federal government for establishing an Export Processing Zone. However, there is a condition that the land must be used only for industrial purposes. It should be noted that during 1973-74, the Sindh government granted land to Pakistan Steel Mill. At present, Pakistan Steel Mills is using/controlling 13344.34 acres of land. Minister for Irrigation, Ishwar Lal told the cabinet that the Abiana Rate and Water Supply Rate needed to be gradually increased to meet the Maintenance & Repair (M&R) requirement of irrigation infrastructure. The Abiana (water charges) recovery is much less than the M&R expenditure for reasons, including Abiana are very much on the lower side and were revised in the year 1999.



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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reassuring the government's all-out support to the investors, said the effective utilisation of human as well as mineral resources would lead to a stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan. "Our human resource is more important than our mineral resource. The human resource coupled with the mineral resource will lead to stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan," he said addressing the signing ceremony of a joint venture agreement between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and the US-based Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc for establishing a dedicated facility for crushing and packaging of pink salt for the export purposes. Managing Director of the PMDC Asad Ahmed and President of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc Ahmed Nadeem Khan signed the agreement that was witnessed by the Prime Minister Kakar, Energy Minister Muhammad Ali and relevant senior authorities. The prime minister said the practice of exporting raw materials should come to an end as the export of the products after value addition was direly needed. "This is the path for Pakistan. This is the right step. We will be exporting the quality product in the coming days. Pakistan will get rightful branding for its product.



KARACHI: First Lady Samina Alvi distributing certificate during 'Teachers Appreciation Day' organized by Behbud Girls College and Higher Secondary School at Behbud Association.

Teacher's role vital in the development of society: Samina Alvi

KARACHI (APP): First Lady Samina Alvi on Tuesday said that role of the teachers was vital in the development of a society. Addressing at Teachers Appreciation Day, ceremony organized by Behbud Girls College and Higher Secondary School at Behbud Association Karachi, she said that teacher's appreciation was vital. The First Lady said that the teachers were the backbone of the school. She said that the teachers work very hard for the better future of the students. Samina Alvi said that they should be encouraged for the better education of the students. She said that volunteers were also working on education. "We should bring change through education. The provision of education was significant", she said adding that the empowerment of girls and women was everyone's responsibility. She stressed the need for educating girls. The First Lady said that as a nation, we had a challenge of low literacy rate. Literacy rate of women was low as compared to the men in this country, she said. "I was also working on breast cancer," she said. She further said that the President was working on education. Over 200 million children were out of schools in this country, she lamented.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Bqar presides over a cabinet meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

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

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has clarified that Governorship in Sindh was right of the party and it will not give up. According to details, MQM-P assuring Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of its support in formation of government has sought support on three-point constitutional amendment which includes despotism if local bodies institutions. Sources said that PML-N delegation has assured the MQM-P of extending all support regarding constitutional amendments in this connection. The MQM-P further stated it hasn't desire to become part of federal cabinet neither it would blackmail PML-N regarding government's formation like other political parties.

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

LAHORE (INP): The Election Commission has stirred controversy by issuing a notice to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif following a request from PTI-backed independent candidate Yasmin Rashid in NA-130. The Election Commission's directive comes amidst allegations of electoral misconduct, with Yasmin Rashid's lawyer and PTI leader, Advocate Ahmed Owais, decrying what he calls "the worst rigged elections in the history of Pakistan." Owais, speaking at a press conference at Lahore Press Club, cited discrepancies, alleging that Shari had hastily secured a difference of 74,000 votes.

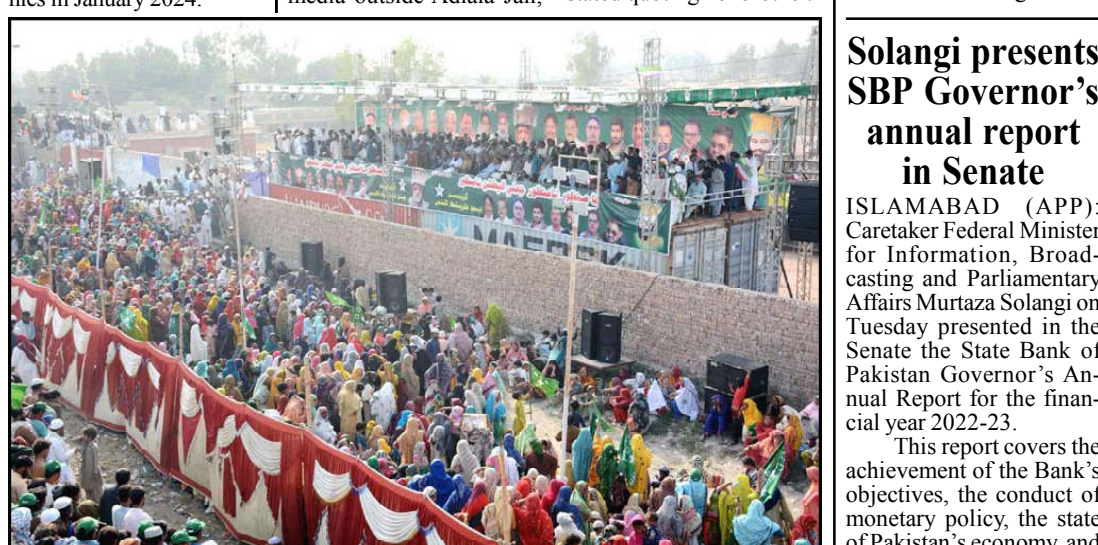
Another massive hike in electricity tariff likely

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is expected to increase the electricity prices in Pakistan on account of fuel cost adjustment, says in media reports. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has filed a plea with NEPRA seeking an increase of Rs7.13 per unit in the electricity prices from next month. If the demand is approved by NEPRA, the increase would put an additional burden of Rs66.77 billion on inflation-bitten consumers. CPPA in its petition said 7.93 billion units were distributed to power distribution companies in January 2024.

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

Monitoring Desk

RAWALPINDI: PTI's founder Imran Khan has said that the "mother of all rigging" must end now because Pakistan has become a laughing stock globally, as per his sister Aleema Khan. What exactly does he mean by "mother of all rigging"? It was dismantling the PTI, snatching its iconic election symbol of bat, not allowing the party's candidates to submit nomination papers, coercing candidates into withdrawing from elections and denying the party the right to canvass. While speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, where Imran is incarcerated, Aleema Khan said that her brother wants the culture of impunity to end and the mandate of the people must be respected to salvage the country's reputation internationally. Imran also ridiculed his arch nemesis, the PML-N, "which willingly bartered away its narrative to grab power. "Instead of honouring the vote, the 'selected ones' have honoured the boot," Aleema quoted Imran. "The selection was so blatant and blind that corruption cases were dropped by the selectors against the 'selected ones'," she further stated quoting her brother.



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

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

Justice Isa says ZAB case gives opportunity to institutions to disassociate from wrongdoing to these individuals

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Qazi Faez Isa, underscored on Tuesday that the imposition of martial law is not an action taken by the army as a collective body but rather by specific individuals. His remarks came during the hearing on the presidential reference filed by former president Asif Ali Zardari on April 2, 2011, under Article 186 of the Constitution, aiming to review the trial of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's murder. "Martial law is not implemented by the army as a whole. Certain individuals act independently. Perhaps it's time for a fresh start. Could this be a way for institutions to disassociate themselves by attributing wrongdoing to these individuals?" CJP Isa remarked. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah highlighted the significance of due process in the court proceedings. CJP Isa emphasised the clarity of the court's jurisdiction, asserting that a case cannot be reviewed multiple times. During the session, attention was drawn to remarks made in an interview by a judge, indicating pressure while announcing the verdict. Responding to this, CJP Isa emphasised the importance of bearing pressure and maintaining impartiality on the bench. The discussion delved into the procedural aspects of the case, with Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raising questions on how to proceed under Article 186 and the admissibility of evidence. Justice Jamal posed inquiries regarding external pressures and requested relevant records. The CJP also highlighted the need for the prosecution to maintain transparency. The hearing was adjourned until February 26, as the Supreme Court continues to deliberate on the matter.



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

'No Deadlock' in talks with PML-N: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Tuesday that there was no significant deadlock in the talks between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Speaking to media, he said that while there may be minor issues to look at, discussions within the coordination committees of both parties were advancing positively. With several weeks remaining until the scheduled oath-taking on February 29, Kaira said that there was still ample time to address any remaining issues and finalize arrangements.

Solangi presents SBP Governor's annual report in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday presented in the Senate the State Bank of Pakistan Governor's Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23. This report covers the achievement of the Bank's objectives, the conduct of monetary policy, the state of Pakistan's economy, and the financial system, under section 9A(2) of the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956.

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

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

LAHORE (Online): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said if martial law is imposed in the country then there will be "damadam mast Qalandar. "People of Pakistan has not given mandate to any political party. Those who claim to be of largest party they have not to talk to any one. Later we decided to talk to PML-N. The only way to steer out of prevailing situation is that we should sit together. Historical case is pending with Supreme Court (SC). The justice will be delivered to the grand son if not to daughter. We want history is set right, he said this while talking to media men outside SC here Tuesday. He went on to say today once again the hearing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has been held. I think it is an historical case. Dictatorship ruled during the 50 percent of history of the country. Powers of parliament and power are linked to it. This judiciary will administer justice to founder of constitution. Judicial murder of Bhutto took place in dictatorial regime. We hope judiciary will give us justice and wash the taint. We hope this presidential reference will help set right history so that we could draw a line that wrong was done in the past.



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

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded "immediate resignation" of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for 'failing' to hold general elections 2024 in a free, fair and transparent manner. "Incumbent CEC [Sikandar Sultan Raja] has now become a controversial personality as he failed to stop rigging in elections; PTI demands CEC Raja to resign immediately," Barrister Gohar Ali Khan told journalists after meeting party's founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. He further said that all the inquiries into election discrepancies should be impartial and without any interference. "We want the election results to be in accordance with the mandate of the public," Gohar added. He also demanded that the polling authorities issue election results in line with Form 45 after several political parties alleged discrepancies in the results based on Form 47. Gohar Ali Khan pointed out that former Rawalpindi Commissioner's revelations affirmed the PTI's stance regarding rigging in the elections, saying that "non-transparent" elections could also hamper International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme with Pakistan. "The Election Commission has failed to fulfill its responsibility", he regretted, also demanding an investigation into Liaquat Ali Chatha's allegations and conduct of Feb 8 elections.



KARACHI: Jam-at-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Best possible arrangements to be made on Shab-e-Barat: Murtaza Wahab

KARACHI (INP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said on Tuesday that lighting, cleanliness and other possible arrangements will be made inside the boundaries and routes of the cemeteries to facilitate the citizens going to the graveyard for Fateha khawani on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Addressing a meeting held in his office regarding the arrangements for Shab-e-Barat, he said that a facilitation centre will be established at all the graveyards with deployment of city wardens, 1122 ambulance a fire tender and tanker of drinking water and a team of city wardens will be deployed for the movement and parking of vehicles outside the cemeteries. Municipal Commissioner S.M. Afzal Zaidi, Director General Technical Services, Director General Parks, Senior Director Coordination, Director Municipal Services, Director Cemetery, Director City Warden, Chief Fire Officer, Chief Engineer Electrical and other officers were also present on the occasion. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that a large number of citizens come to the graves of their relatives and friends to offer Fateha on Shab-e-Barat, so keeping in view the past experiences, all arrangements should be made including cleaning of the roads around the cemeteries, lighting and water supply. He directed the Senior Director Municipal Services to visit all graveyards, especially, Mohammad Shah Graveyard, Sakhi Hasan, Mewa Shah, Azempura.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Open the books

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will the Supreme Court Nullify the Elections 2024?

By Qamar Bashir

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



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

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

case concerning the election appeal.

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

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

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

The futility of the petition became evident as major parties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

insufficient reason to petition the supreme court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

Farhadov vows to foster Azerbaijan-Pak trade relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

CCP approves acquisition of Fauji Cereals business by Fauji Foods limited

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

The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of the Fauji Cereals Business by M/s Fauji Foods Limited through a Business Transfer Agreement. M/s Fauji Foods Limited is a publicly listed company incorporated in Pakistan, primarily focused on the production and sale of dairy and allied products. CCP's assessment of the pre-merger application indicated that there were no overlaps between the merging parties in the areas of business activities such as Breakfast Cereals and Wheat, Barley & Porridge. Therefore, the CCP concluded that market conditions will remain unchanged post-transaction.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pakistan's regional exports increase 21.68% in 7 months

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan's exports to

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

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

SMBR reviews reforms for Revenue Academy

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

DGAARI inaugurates early cotton cultivation

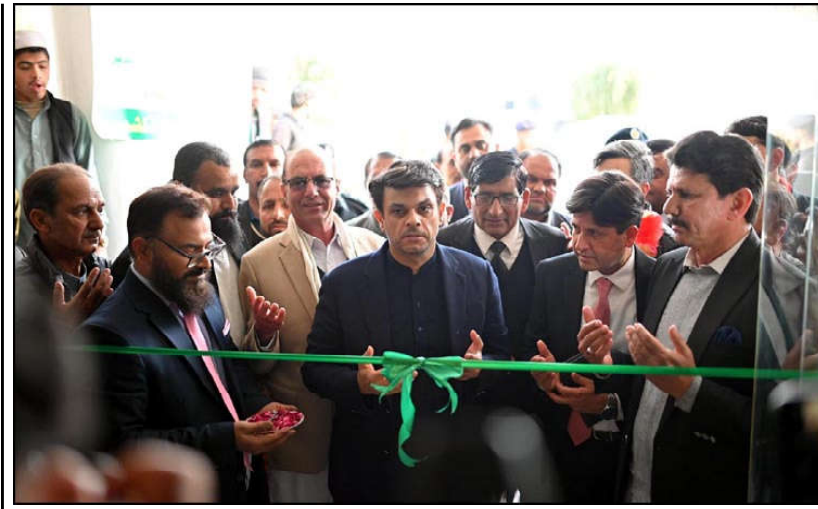
FAISALABAD (APP): Ayub Agricultural Research Institute's (AARI) newly appointed Director General (DG) Malik Allah Bukhs has inaugurated early (Aget) cotton cultivation here on Tuesday and said that early cultivation would play a pivotal role in obtaining bumper production.

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

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

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

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated three new programs for education and training of children at Children's Library Complex Lahore. Secretary School Education, Muhammad Ahsan Waheed, Chairman Board of Governors Children Library Complex Dr Nasir Javed, Managing Director Punjab Textbook Board, Naveed Shehzad Mirza, Managing Director Children Library Complex, Ahmed Khawar Shehzad and other personalities were present in the ceremony. Governor Punjab inaugurated Knowledge Value and Skill Based Education, Space Race Pakistan and Virtual Reality Platform. Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that it is very important to focus on the character building of children along with education and training. He said that the future of the country and the nation hinges on good education of children. The Punjab Governor said that the increase in the number of out of school children is alarming. He emphasized that we all have to forget our petty differences and play a role to address this issue. He said that management of Children Library Complex deserves appreciation for promoting educational and recreational activities by organizing national and international days, exhibitions and festivals. Governor Punjab said that Children Library Complex is providing educational.



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

CM inaugurates upgraded Mayo Children's Hospital

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by children Masooma Fatima and Ibrahim suffering from kidney disorders, inaugurated the upgraded Mayo Children's Hospital, here on Tuesday. The upgradation of Mayo Children's Hospital has been completed in record time, showcasing exceptional speed and quality. The hospital's bed capacity has been increased to 360 beds. The CM inspected various wards of the state-of-the-art hospital and commended the high-quality work of the upgradation. The Secretary Communication and Works provided a briefing on the project, while the Secretary Health highlighted the improved treatment facilities. Talking to media after the inauguration, Mohsin Naqvi stated that the first phase of the upgradation, totaling 360 beds, has been completed. The Mayo Children's Hospital was part of the Mayo Hospital Upgradation Plan, which has a total cost of Rs 10 billion. He mentioned that Mayo Hospital currently has 2,484 beds and 1,763 doctors, and human resource problems have been addressed by Secretary Health Ali Jan.

Irshad inaugurates child protection unit at Kohat

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Social Welfare, Special Education and Prisons, Justice Retd. Irshad Qaisar on Tuesday inaugurated a child protection unit at Nishtar Special Education Center, Kohat. The function was arranged by the Child Protection and Welfare Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in assistance with UNICEF. The minister on the occasion said the caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government was committed to discharge its national and international responsibility by providing protection to its children and people looking after them. For this purpose, she said all available resources were being utilized. Likewise, she said in collaboration with UNICEF, the provincial government was making efforts to establish child protection committees at district level and devising a comprehensive policy for child protection units besides, working on constancy of helpline 1121 of child protection. She also praised the efforts of UNICEF towards this end. She said the children were our future and providing them with best possible opportunities and welfare initiatives was the need of the hour. She said the KP has surpassed other provinces in child protection endeavors. The function was also addressed by the Chief Protection Officer, Ejaz Ahmad, Child Protection Specialist of UNICEF, Suhail Ahmad, Professor of Kohat University, Mehmood Khattak and Program Manager, Muhammad Wasim.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission (EC) of Pakistan has notified the names of candidates returned on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly constituencies including PK-20 Bajaur II and PK-21 Bajaur III. According to the notification, Anwar Zeb Khan and Ajmal Khan have been returned on Bajaur PK-20 and PK-21 respectively. Anwar Zeb Khan secured 12917 votes while Ajmal Khan secured 16712 votes. The number of votes polled in PK-20 is 40507 and 39827 in PK-21. Both the candidates have contested elections as independents.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali stressed youngsters to divert their attention towards habit of books reading in existing era of social media and said the habit would change mindset and lives of young generation. He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Grand Book Fair in Khyber Medical College as a chief guest. The event was also attended by Dean KMC, Dr. Mehmood Aurangzeb, Chairman Board of Governor, Dr. Umar Ayub, Dr. Fakr-e-Alam, faculty members and students. The governor who inaugurated the book fair said that significance of book reading could not be undermined in existing age of social media and internet adding that students should spare time for book reading keeping in view its importance for their personal grooming. He said that books can change mindset of youngsters besides nurturing their vision and improve capabilities.

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

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



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

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

Independent Report
LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has referred to IG Police Punjab application seeking initiation of action against CCPO Lahore for providing protocol and saluting to PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif on his return from London to Pakistan. The court directed IG police Punjab to take action as per law. Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh heard the petition filed by citizen Kamran whereby the step of not initiating action against CCPO Lahore Bilal Kamyana was challenged. The petition said Nawaz Sharif was convicted and declared proclaimed offender and he was given protocol on October 21 last year. Moreover CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana saluted a convicted person which runs contrary to police rules. He submitted application to the concerned authorities for taking action but it was not addressed.

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

Independent Report
MULTAN (APP): Pak-Korean Nutrition Centre organized a training session aimed at addressing prevalent dietary issues in Pakistan especially malnutrition among kids and, rising trend of diseases. The event was organized under the supervision of Chairman of the Department of Human Nutrition at Baha Uddin Zakariya University, Professor Dr. Tauseef Sultan. Dean Faculty of Food Sciences and Nutrition Dr Saeed Akhtar was special guest at the event. The session focused on equipping students with the necessary skills to tackle societal nutritional challenges and providing comprehensive training on nutritional diagnosis and counseling. The session also emphasized on the importance of dietary management in various health conditions. Addressing the session, Dr Tauseef Sultan stated that Pakistan urged students and other experts to play an important role in highlighting and addressing the issues linked with food.

Traffic restored at Malam Jabba, Lowari Tunnel

Independent Report
SWAT (Online): Traffic has been restored at Malam Jabba and Lowari Tunnel by removing snow from several kilometers of the nearby roads. In this regard, rescue teams of Pakistan Army and district administration remained active throughout the night. Due to heavy snowfall yesterday, many passengers and tourists were also shifted to safe places.



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

International News

WHO completes second Gaza hospital evacuation amid fighting

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The World Health Organization said on Tuesday it had completed a second evacuation mission from Gaza's Nasser Hospital but voiced concern for nearly 150 patients and medics who remain at the site amid continuing fighting. The Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest, stopped working last week after a week-long Israeli siege followed by a raid, the U.N. agency said. WHO staff and other aid groups have so far evacuated a total of 32 critical patients including injured children and those with paralysis, but the agency is concerned for those left behind with supplies dwindling. "WHO fears for the safety and well-being of the patients and health workers remaining in the hospital and warns that further disruption to lifesaving care for the sick and injured would lead to more deaths," the WHO said on the social media site X, saying those remaining included 130 patients and 15 medics. Israel says Hamas, the Islamist group that has run Gaza since 2007, uses hospitals for cover. Hamas denies this and says Israel's allegations serve as a pretext to destroy the healthcare system. The WHO's Tarik Jašarević told reporters in Geneva that WHO staff who were part of the rescue mission had to navigate through pitch-black corridors with flashlights to find patients against a backdrop of gunfire. Help had to arrive on foot because a deep, muddy ditch near the site made the road impassable, the WHO said. "It's very difficult to see these scenes of people just being cut off," he said, saying food supplies were limited. "It's heartbreaking to see that there are people in health facilities who are not able to be treated correctly," he said.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
HAGUE (Online): Palestine urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to declare Israel's occupation of their territory illegal to pave the way for a two-state solution to the conflict for a lasting peace in the Middle East. Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told the 15-judge ICJ panel in the Hague that his people have been suffering colonialism and apartheid under the Israelis. Israel's open-ended military occupation has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest and the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and has imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid, say the Palestinians. "This occupation is annexation and supremacist in nature," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki said on Tuesday. He called on the court to uphold the Palestinian right to self-determination and declare that "the Israeli occupation is illegal, totally and unconditionally". Oral proceedings continue at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Belgium present early arguments. More than 50 states and at least three international organisations will address judges at the United Nations' top court until February 26. A nonbinding legal opinion is expected after months of deliberation by the judges.

Germany summons Russian envoy over death of Navalny

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: The German Foreign Office is summoning the Russian ambassador on Monday over the death of Alexei Navalny, a ministry spokeswoman said. The politically motivated proceedings against Navalny and numerous other critics of the Russian government, as well as the inhumane prison conditions, show how brutally the Russian judiciary acts against dissidents and the means used by President Vladimir Putin to suppress freedom of expression, the spokeswoman said. "We condemn this in the strongest possible terms and expressly call for the release of all those imprisoned in Russia for political reasons," she said. Chancellor Olaf Scholz's spokesman separately called on Russia to fully clarify the circumstances of Navalny's death in a Siberian prison camp and also to release his body to his family.

Beijing criticizes proposed US sanctions

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING (Online): Beijing has responded to reports that Washington is planning to impose "broad" sanctions on the country, vowing to defend Chinese businesses from measures intended to target firms for allegedly helping Russia. The proposed sanctions were discussed on Monday by CNBC, which interviewed a number of Congress members about the plans. Democrat Gerald Connolly, who sits on the House Committee on Foreign Relations, claimed "the very threat" of sanctions from the US and potentially the EU "ought to clarify some thinking in Beijing." However, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Tuesday that Beijing rejects unilateral economic restrictions as a matter of principle and will defend the interests of its businesses. "China has the right to conduct normal cooperation with countries around the world," Mao said during a daily briefing. "We have always opposed unilateral sanctions and 'long-arm jurisdiction' that have no basis in international law and are not authorized by the UN Security Council."

South Africa asks World Court to find Israeli occupation illegal

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: South Africa on Tuesday urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue a non-binding legal opinion that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal, arguing it would help efforts to reach a settlement. Representatives of South Africa opened the second day of hearings at the ICJ, also known as the World Court, in the Hague. The hearing follows a request by the U.N. General Assembly for an advisory, or non-binding, opinion on the occupation in 2022.

Putin promotes high ranking prison officer after Navalny's death

Monitoring Desk
GAZPROM ARENA: Russian President Vladimir Putin has promoted a high-ranking prison officer several days after the death of leading opposition figure Alexei Navalny. The deputy head of the FSIN prison authority, Valery Boyarinov, was promoted to colonel general of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The director of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, which was established by Navalny, wrote on his Telegram channel on Tuesday that Boyarinov was personally responsible for Navalny's torture in prison. "This must be understood as Putin's open reward for the torture," Ivan Zhdanov said of Boyarinov's promotion. In July 2023, an order by Boyarinov to restrict the opposition politician's ability to buy food and daily necessities became known during a court hearing against Navalny. Prisoners can normally use their money to supplement their own meagre rations in the prison shop. According to Zhdanov, the newly appointed colonel general was also responsible for further harassment of Navalny. Boyarinov's promotion became known on Monday when the presidential decree was published in the legal database. In addition to Boyarinov, three other law enforcement officers were promoted to the rank of general. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied any connection between Navalny's death and the promotions, downplaying it as a normal procedure. Navalny, 47, died on Friday in a Siberian prison camp. Weakened by repeated solitary confinement, Navalny is said to have collapsed during a tour of the icy prison yard and died despite attempts at resuscitation.

China offers backing to Hungary in security matters, law enforcement

Monitoring Desk
HUNGARY: China has offered long-term support to Budapest in the security field, expanding mutual ties beyond economic cooperation, Reuters reported on Feb. 19 after Chinese Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong's visit to Hungary. Wang met Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Feb. 16 as the two countries aim to deepen their friendship and "strengthen communication and coordination in international and regional affairs," the Chinese state-owned news agency Xinhua said. Under Orban, Hungary has been fostering close ties with authoritarian regimes like China or Russia, much to the dismay of its EU and NATO partners. Wang reportedly said he hopes to open a new level of cooperation with the Central European country in areas such as combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

German defence minister calls Red Sea mission 'important signal'

Monitoring Desk
RED SEA: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius has emphasized the importance of the planned deployment of a German frigate in the Red Sea as part of an EU naval mission to protect shipping from Houthi militants in Yemen. "We will protect international security and freedom of navigation. The impact will not be underestimated," the minister told public broadcaster ZDF on Tuesday. The deployment is a "very important signal to the attacking Houthi and the organisations and states behind them." On Monday, EU foreign ministers approved the mission, which involves sending European warships and airborne early warning systems to the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and surrounding waters. The vessels will have orders only to fire on the militants if they attack first and will not be authorized to shoot pre-emptively.

Swedish PM to visit Hungary on Friday ahead of NATO vote

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

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

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

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

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

"That precedent has

carved a path for the future which can guide us in our endeavours to overcome the contemporary challenges," he opined.

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

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

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

The serious issue of 26 million out-of-school children required combined efforts and mosques could be utilized to impart edu-

cation to these children, he added.

The president mentioned Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka where the literacy rate among the children was higher than Pakistan. He also cited the precedent of China that lifted about 700 million people out of poverty by focusing on health and education sectors.

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

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

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



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

Senators demand probe for fair elections, respect of public mandate

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

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

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

Senator Saif Ullah Abro of Pakistan Tehreek-

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

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

Senator Taj Haider of

Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) said the country was at the crossroads of history with two clear pathways one leading to violence and chaos and the other to unity and wisdom whereas the latter is propitious.

He urged that it was high time for all the political parties to give up emotionalism and opt for rationalism in their political struggles. Senator Haider added that the PPPP had submitted over 60 complaints in writing to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and all with proofs including video evidences claiming polling of fake votes.

Sunni Ittehad Council approaches ECP for allocation of reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): After inclusion of PTI-backed Independents, the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) has approached the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for allocation of reserved seats.

An application has been submitted in the ECP for this purpose by the SIC. The SIC has taken the stance that at least 50 PTI-backed Independents had joined the SIC. These Independents should now be considered as SIC lawmakers.

The SIC pleaded to the ECP that seats reserved for women and minorities should be allotted to the SIC. It may be recalled that on Monday PTI-backed Independents had announced to join the SIC.

Earlier, a dressing a news conference along with



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

Aneeq Ahmed stresses national harmony, positivity

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

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

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

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

This reduction, from Rs 11,75,000 to Rs

Excise dept confiscate 246 defaulting vehicles during tax recovery campaign

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Excise and Taxation Department on Tuesday, confiscated 246 defaulting vehicles while documenting of 280 vehicles were also seized across the province on the first day of the road during a checking campaign for collection of outstanding taxes.

Director General (DG) Excise and Taxation Aurangzeb Panhwer informed media through a statement issued here that a total tax of more than Rs 2.6 million was collected on the first day of the campaign that the campaign would continue till March 07, 2024.

He informed that teams constituted by Excise and Taxation department



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of District Korangi in Karachi.

Three Panels Contest for Hyderabad Gymkhana's Elections

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Gymkhana's annual elections are set to take place on February 24, 2024. Preparations have reached their peak as three panels have emerged to contest for victory this year.

According to details, the annual elections of Hyderabad Gymkhana will be held on February 24, 2024 under the supervision of Convener of the Election Committee, Major (Retired) Omar Farooq. Three groups, namely Progresso, Democrats, and Javed Junejo Panel, are in the fray. The



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar along with his cabinet and Chief Secretary Dr. Fakhre Alam offer Dua after launching the Spring Tree Plantation campaign, held at Polo Ground in Karachi.

SHC directs immediate removal of obscene contents from social media

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed the authorities concerned for immediate removal of obscene content from social media.

Chief Justice Sindh High Court, Aqel Abbasi on Tuesday heard the petition against obscene content on social media, whatever the petitioner's lawyer in his arguments said that obscenity was being promoted in the name of family v logging.

During the hearing, PTA's counsel told the court that PTA does not have the authority to remove content on Facebook, YouTube or any other

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

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

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

He said the People's Party standing with all those persons whose rights have been usurped at any place.

He advised political parties to take a legal path instead of opting for chaos, "we want solution of problems," PPP senator said.

"We didn't demand ministries in talks with the PML-N but seeking various projects," he added.

SMIU VC addresses the Orientation Day

KARACHI (APP): The Vice Chancellor Sindh Madressatul Islam University Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai has said that students must keep their minds open and have a vision as to achieve multiple goals in their lives.

Addressing the Orientation Day organised by Directorate of Students Affairs and Counselling of SMIU for newly enrolled students in the session of Spring 2024, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium, Dr Mujeeb Sahrai welcomed the students at the Alma-Mater of Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and said in our country besides other resources there is a youth energy that must be properly used for progress of the country and its people.

Sufi singer Abida Parveen remembered on 70th birth anniversary

HYDERABAD (INP): Abida Parveen, one of the most illustrious Sufi singers of the subcontinent was remembered on her 70th birth anniversary here on Tuesday. Born in Larkana on February 20, 1954, she inherited musical talents from her father, Ustad Ghulam Hyder, a renowned singer and music teacher who provided her with invaluable training.

The journey into the world of music of Abida Parveen began in the early 1970s, initially performing at local festivals. However, it was in the early 1990s that she emerged as the most prominent Sufi singer.

HEC Sindh asks varsities to initiate intra-provincial exchange programs for students

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Sindh Higher Education Commission Professor Dr S.M. Tariq Rafi (TI) on Tuesday said that our universities should initiate intra-provincial exchange programs for the students so that they could learn from each other's experiences and interact with faculty members of other provinces.

He expressed these views during an inaugural session of the first day of the two-day international conference on the transformation of ideas in Pakistan's political culture. The event was jointly



KARACHI: Participants and guests sit on stage during the two day Annual Conference of Fem Consortia, an alliance of twelve Women's Rights Organizations and five Alliances from across Pakistan, held at local hotel in Karachi.

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

Independent Report (Pvt) Ltd, Haimont Group, KARACHI: Vision Eye Care, an international relief Camp aimed to treat 600



organization dedicated to the prevention of blindness with a footprint in 39 countries around the world, launched its 35th cataract surgery project, the 'Vision Eye Camp,' in Karachi and Lahore. Organized through sponsorships from the Parvaaz Financial Services Limited, CITI Group, Hananum Foundation, Lotte Akhtar Beverages



LARKANA: Vice Chancellor Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University Professor Dr. Syed Nusrat Shah giving away Best teacher award to teacher Misbah-ul-Ain during Launching Ceremony of Annual School Magazine (Mohenjo Daro) supported by CHATGPT, Teachers and Students at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Dhamrah Village.

Experts stress urgent action to address food shortages and malnutrition in Pakistan

HYDERABAD (APP): National and international experts have emphasized the need for practical measures to address the shortage of food and nutrition in the country, stating that pregnant women and children under five years of age could be severely affected by the lack of food.

All stakeholders must expand nutrition awareness programs at the university level to prevent post-harvest losses in agriculture, alleviate poverty, research



JAMSHORO: Vice Chancellor LUMHS Professor Dr Ikram Din Ujjan giving white Coat to Student of first year BDS Batch 2023,2024 during white Coat ceremony, at LUMHS.

SPSC cancels paper of Secondary School Teacher to maintain transparency

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) has cancelled the paper for the post of Secondary School Teacher (BS-16) scheduled on February 20 over the credible information of the leakage of the question paper.

In statements issued by the Secretary and Controller Examination SPSC, the Chairman has ordered an inquiry of the matter.

All candidates have been advised to remain calm as Sindh Public Service Com-