

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vdt XXV No. 165, Rajab 22, 1445 AH Saturday February 03, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Pakistan to continue supporting global efforts for a peaceful, stable Afghanistan: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday reiterated that it was upto the Afghan people and their leadership to decide their future and Pakistan as a brotherly and neighbourly country would continue supporting all global efforts for a politically and economically stable Afghanistan.

He said that he did not regard Afghanistan or the Afghan people as any threat to Pakistan. Afghans had their own culture and land, tied with different countries due to various affinities and Pakistan expected that no threat or harm should emanate from their soil.

Pakistan, he said, had very explicitly conveyed its concerns to the Taliban interim government regarding terrorist elements' presence and their involvement in terrorist acts and they had realization of it.

He was responding to different questions in a private TV (Khyber News) talk show programme 'Maraka' - Pashtu acronym for dialogue.

The caretaker prime minister said that Afghans had undergone hard times in four or five decades, they had witnessed different Afghan factions fighting with each other and the invasion of foreign forces.

He said Afghanistan enjoyed a significant position in

the region and as a neighbour, Pakistan wished to enhance that importance by supporting all global efforts for political and economic stability there.

To a question, he said after Swat and Zarb-e-Azb operations, the banned TTP terrorist elements went to Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Kakar said that it was an unsuitable move by the previous set-up to hold negotiations with the TTP, adding that the Constitution of Pakistan was very clear in that regard and anyone who preferred armed insurgency, would be regarded as 'Takfiri' as Ulama had pronounced.

He reiterated that the state would not negotiate with such groups.

About Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman's visit to Afghanistan, the prime minister said it was his private visit and he would not comment over it.

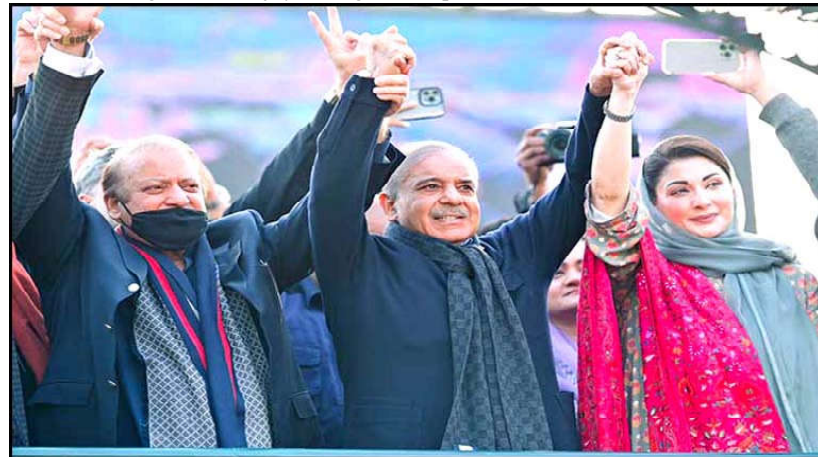
He further said that as a friend and brother, they could give Afghans suggestions and shared opinions, but it was up to them to take their own decisions.

"What we expect from them is that no harm or threats to Pakistan should emanate from their soil," he added.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 9th meeting of the Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council.



FAISALABAD: Quaid Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, President Shahbaz Sharif and Vice President/Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz waving hands towards public during a gathering (Jalsa) at Dhobi Ghat ground

Youth are with PML-N despite propaganda: Nawaz

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif said on Friday the youth were with his party despite vicious propaganda, and they would play a key role in reemergence of the party as the leading political force of Pakistan.

He was addressing a public gathering at historic Iqbal Park (Dhobi Ghat ground), where he asked the participants to raise their hands who were born on or after 1980. As a large number of the participants raised their hands, he said that clearly negated the propaganda that the youth were with some other political parties, he added.

He said he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants in the public meeting. He said, "I

have reliable friends and colleagues in Faisalabad since 1980." He particularly named Chaudhry Sher Ali, Abid Sher Ali, Talal Chaudhry, Mian Farooq and Rana Sanaulah and said they were still steadfast and refused to succumb to any pressure to change their allegiance. He said that his tenure was marked with maximum facilitation to masses. All commodities were cheap and available to everyone during his tenure as the prime minister. He said gold was available at Rs. 50,000 per tola and parents did not face any problem in the marriage of their daughters. "At that time when we were fighting against the twin menace of terrorism and load-shedding, others were observing sit-in to achieve their ulterior motives," he recalled.

Pakistan, EU agree to solidify relations under strategic engagement plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the European Union on Friday agreed to further deepen their relations in line with the Strategic Engagement Plan (2019).



The agreement was reached in a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell Fontelles.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed global and regional issues, emphasizing the vitality of diplomacy in resolving disputes.

They also highlighted the need to develop partnerships to tackle global challenges.

Efforts afoot to ensure fair, peaceful elections on February 8: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz Friday reiterated his government's commitment for fulfilling the duty of conducting free, fair and transparent elections, saying the caretaker setup would remain fully impartial in the entire electoral process.

"Equal opportunities are being provided to all political parties, there will

be no discrimination against anyone," he said while talking to a Private news channel. "All available resources will be provided to all provincial governments for holding transparent and peaceful elections", he added.

The Minister urged the public to vote for their future and to maintain the democratic process in the country.

Train service to resume from Quetta today after four days suspension

Independent Report
QUETTA: The train service is going to be resumed from Quetta railway station today (Saturday).

According to the authorities of Pakistan Railways, the train service would be resumed for Peshawar (Jaffar Express) and Karachi (Bolan Mail) from Quetta today.

The operation of Jaffar Express and Bolan Mail remained suspended for four days due to the situation in Mach area.

However, the Pakistan Railways decided to resume the train service after four days' suspension.

The Jaffar Express is scheduled to leave Quetta station for Peshawar at 09:00 AM while Bolan Mail would depart for Karachi at 10:00 AM.

Bomb blast destroys election office in Quetta, injured 1

QUETTA (APP): At least one person was critically wounded after a bomb exploded outside the office of a political party in Mulla Khel Abad in Quetta on Friday afternoon.

According to details, Police informed that unknown persons had lobbed a grenade at the party's election office and injured one, a private news channel reported.

Emergency services reached the site of the incident and initiated a rescue operation.

The walls and windows of the office were also badly damaged.

The law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area and opened an investigation into the cause of the blast.

24 terrorists killed in Mach operation, four soldiers martyred

RAWALPINDI (Online): On night 29/30 January 2024, terrorists attacked Mach and Kolpur Complexes in Balochistan. Law Enforcement Agencies deputed on security offered stiff resistance and forced the attackers to repulse.

These terrorists were then hunted down in the ensuing sanitisation and clearance operations which have now been concluded after clearing and securing the area.

During the fire fights and sanitisation/clearance operations, in last three days, twenty four terrorists

have been sent to hell. Terrorist Shehzad Baloch, Attaullah, Salah Uddin, Abdul Wadood and Zeeshan are key terrorists among the dead. Identification process of remaining terrorists is in process.

However, during intense exchange of fire, four brave members of Law Enforcement Agencies, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat along with two innocent civilians.

Effective response by Law Enforcement Agencies is a testament of their unrelenting resolve in fight against terrorism.

Bilawal vows to block conspiracy to put Nawaz back in PM Office

From Our Correspondent

SHIKARPUR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto averred on Friday that the public was



aware that only his party could address the prevailing challenges in the country.

Addressing a party election rally in Khanpur tehsil, Bilawal emphasised that the PPP would not let Mian Nawaz Sharif to become prime minister for the fourth time, referring to it as a "conspiracy".

The PPP chief promised to generate employment opportunities for the youth and affirmed that the PPP would collaborate with the people to find solutions to their problems.

Acknowledging the country's critical economic crisis, Bilawal highlighted that the people of Pakistan wanted a government capable of addressing the pressing issues, such as unemployment and inflation.

Faces of those demanding bodies of terrorists involved in Mach terrorism incidents exposed: Jan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the faces of those demanding dead bodies of terrorists killed in Mach terrorism incidents have been exposed.

These are the companions of those terrorists who were sitting on protest dharna in Islamabad and were trying to prove the terrorism as missing ones.

In an official statement issued here on Saturday, the caretaker Provincial Minister said that the missing

persons whose pictures carried by the protesters in Islamabad included three missing persons were actually the terrorists and killed in the operation of security forces. He also said that our security forces foiled the conspiracy hatched by India.

The so-called missing persons had come for terrorism and their nefarious agenda was to harm the innocent citizens. Jan Achakzai asserted adding that the designs of Mah Rang and her "terrorist associates" have been exposed to the nation.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai expressing his views during current affair program of PTV

Apex body lauds 'Whole of Govt. Approach' to realise SIFC's envisioned dividends

PM Kakar urges incoming govt to ensure continuity of economic policies by capitalising on the positive momentum, established by SIFC, in the larger interest of the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday showed profound satisfaction over the overall progress of the SIFC and appreciated 'Whole of Government Approach' in realising the envisioned dividends.

The 9th meeting of the SIFC Apex Committee met under the chair of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar which reviewed various initiatives being

steered through the forum. The meeting was attended by the Chief of Army Staff, federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers and high-level government officials.

The ministries presented progress on the projects and policy initiatives, and gave plans for subsequent endeavours to attract the investment.

The Apex Committee reviewed progress on various measures and appreciated the contribution made

for improving macro and micro-economic conditions of the country.

The body commended the steps taken to build a sustainable ecosystem for nurturing latent potential and attracting investments, with special emphasis on the cross sectoral policy interventions, human resource development, infrastructural uplift and strengthening of domestic dispute resolution mechanism.

It may be mentioned here that four citizens were martyred and six others were injured in the blast occurred at Iqbal Chowk Sibi.

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Justice Shahid Jamil resigns as LHC judge

LAHORE (Online): Justice Shahid Jamil Khan of Lahore High Court (LHC) has decided to resign.

Justice Shahid Jamil Khan has sent his resignation to president Arif Alvi.

Justice Shahid Jamil was appointed as judge in LHC in 2014. He was to retire in 2028. His number in senior list was 11.

NADRA's Dy Assistant Director abducted in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Unknown abductees kidnapped National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) Deputy Assistant Director, Najeebullah in federal capital. A spokesman of Islamabad Police said on

Friday that Najeebullah has gone missing since last night when he left home and did not return. According to a private news channel, a case of abduction of NADRA's officer was registered at Ramna police station.

Diplomats briefed on HIOJK situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahead of the Kashmir Solidarity Day, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui Friday briefed the Islamabad-based diplomats on the developments in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (HIOJK). He underscored the legal, security and human rights dimensions of the situation in HIOJK.

ASI injured in bomb attack on police station

QUETTA (INP): An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) was injured when some unidentified persons lobbed a hand grenade on Shalkot police station in Quetta on Friday, according to police, the grenade fell inside the police station and exploded with a bang. As a result, ASI Ghulam Raza received severe injuries. He was rushed to a hospital for emergency treatment.

Caretaker CM announces financial compensation for citizens martyred in Sibi blast

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has announced to pay financial compensation to the bereaved families of those who martyred in the bomb blast occurred in Sibi recently.

According to an official notification issued here by the Chief Minister secretary on Friday, the caretaker Chief Minister has issued orders for payment of the compensation to the heirs of martyrs.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Sibi has been directed to complete the necessary formalities for payment of the compensation to the heirs.

According to the notification, financial compensation would also be given to the injured of the blast.

It may be mentioned here that four citizens were martyred and six others were injured in the blast occurred at Iqbal Chowk Sibi.

JUI-F to continue struggle for protection of Islamic values in society: Fazal

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has stated that his

party will continue to work to make Pakistan an Islamic state after winning the Feb 8 general elections.

Addressing a party election rally in Tank on Friday, Fazl expressed his determination to continue struggle for the protection of Islamic values in society.

Fazl emphasised the right of political parties to present their ideologies to the nation, stating that each political entity possessed its own ideology.

He asserted that the JUI-F had an enduring commitment to politics of tolerance and perseverance.

Educational institutions to remain closed from February 6 to 9

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Education Department, Government of Balochistan has announced vacations in all the educational institutions of the summer zone of the province from February 6-9, 2024.

According to an official notification issued here on

Saturday, the vacations have been announced due to engagement of the education department staff and teachers in elections.

It may be mentioned here that the educational institutions in winter zone of the province are already closed on account of the long winter vacations.

Over 20m first time voters get ready to cast votes in general election

ISLAMABAD (INP): As Pakistan braces itself for the upcoming general elections, an unprecedented wave of enthusiasm is sweeping over more than 20 million young individuals who are set to cast their votes for the very first time. Recognizing the potential influence of this substantial voting bloc, it becomes crucial to educate these new voters on the correct procedures for participating in the democratic process.

When heading to the polling booth, the initial step involves the verification of the original national identity card by the polling officer. Details entered in the electoral roll will be scrutinized, and names and serial numbers will be called aloud for confirmation. A thumb impression and an indelible ink mark on the thumb will follow, marking the completion of this first phase.

Moving on to the second stage, Assistant Presiding Officers will distribute green-colored ballot papers for the National Assembly and white-colored ballot papers for the Provincial Assembly. These papers, signed and sealed at the back, are then handed over to

voters. Behind the privacy of the voting screen, individuals are encouraged to stamp their ballot papers correctly with the electoral mark of their chosen candidate.

Green ballot papers are designated for the National Assembly, to be placed in the corresponding green-lidded ballot box, while white ballot papers for the Provincial Assembly should be deposited in the white-lidded ballot box.

Before heading to the polling station, it is crucial for voters to adhere to specific instructions. Bringing the original National Identity Card is mandatory, and even an expired card will be acceptable. Maintaining the confidentiality of the vote is stressed, and it's emphasized that mobile phones and cameras are strictly prohibited within the polling station. The voting process is scheduled to commence at 8 am and conclude at 6 pm. Importantly, voters within the polling station will be allowed to cast their votes even after the official closing time.



ISLAMABAD: Indian and Pakistani tennis players pose for photos during the draw ceremony of the Davis Cup World Group I play-offs between Pakistan and India at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



QUETTA: Independent candidate of PB-44 Agha Abdullah Shah announcing to withdraw in favour of Haji Atta Muhammad Bangulzai

Pak, Belgian FMs discuss cooperation in trade, education sectors

BRUSSELS (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Friday met with Belgian counterpart Hadja Lahbib wherein they discussed cooperation in trade, education and people-to-people contacts.

Foreign Minister Jilani is currently on an official visit to Brussels to attend the 3rd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum.

In the meeting, the two foreign ministers reviewed Pakistan-Belgium bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on their positive trajectory. Both sides agreed on the importance of continued engagement and collaboration to strengthen bilateral relations.

They also explored new avenues of cooperation for mutual prosperity.

4th meeting of BoS of Chemistry Department at UoT convened

independent Report

TURBAT: The 4th meeting of the Board of Studies of the Chemistry Department at the University of Turbat (UoT) was convened at UoT under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Haroon, the Department's Chairperson. Dr. Hameedullah, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry BUITEMS participated in the meeting via video link as subject expert.

Other members include Dr. Naeem Ullah, Dean of Science, Engineering, and IT at UoT, Dr. Roohullah, As-



sociate Professor at the Chemistry Department of UoT, Mr. Najam Ud Din, Lecturer at the Chemistry Department of UoT, Mr. Meraj Hameed, Lecturer at the Atta Shad Degree College Turbat, and other lecturers at the Girls Degree College Turbat including Miss Huma Akbar, Miss Hina Akbar, and Miss Hani Abid.

The major purpose of the meeting was to align the courses of BS and AD programs of Chemistry with the revised HEC Undergraduate Policy 2023. The Board addressed various agenda items, resulting in fruitful resolutions after thorough discussions. Notably, the suggestions and recommendations from expert member were endorsed by the participants of the meeting. In the closing remarks, the Convener of the Board, Dr. Muhammad Haroon thanked the members of the meeting for their active participation and valuable suggestions.

Bartlett's debut 4-fer downs West Indies

MELBOURNE (Online): Debutant Xavier Bartlett starred with the ball for Australia, finishing with 4-17 in his first international game, to help the hosts begin the ODI series with a facile victory at the MCG on Friday (February 2). Bartlett's excellent bowling performance restricted West Indies to 231 before Josh Inglis (65), Cameron Green (77*) and Steve Smith (79*) scored half-centuries to help Australia win by 8 wickets with 11.3 overs to spare.

Australia had an early setback in the chase as Matthew Forde got Travis Head to edge to the 'keeper in the opening over. Josh Inglis then got

the hosts going with regular boundaries, targeting the inexperienced Forde. He also went after Shane Thomas, striking two fours and a six, before hitting three fours off Forde en route to a 28-ball fifty. The introduction of spin did little to contain Australia as Inglis scored boundaries off Gudakesh Motie and West Indies also lost a review going upstairs for a leg-before shout. But they did use the DRS successfully a short while later, with replays confirming that Inglis got a bit of glove when he tried a reverse-sweep off Motie and the ball lobbed to first slip.

Five labourers laid to rest amid sobs and tears

MUZAFFARGARH (APP):

The five out of nine labourers hailing from tehsil Alipur, who were martyred in Sistan-Balohistan province of Iran laid to rest after collective funeral prayers were offered here Friday.

The prayer was held at ground of Government High School amid the presence of hundreds of people hailing from different walks of life. The heinous kind of incident caused the tragic death of the labourers had unfolded on the night of January 26 and 27, near the Panjgur district of Pakistan.

The deceased included Ghulam Muhammad Jan, Muhammad Akmal, Muhammad Abu Bakr, son of Ghulam Yasin, Shehryar, son of Ghulam Hussain, Shabbir Ahmed, son of Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Nadeem, son of Gulzar, Muhammad Shahzad, son of Abdul Malik.

Apex body...

Continued from page 1

The Committee reviewed and appreciated the progress on the level of economic engagements with friendly countries and underscored the need to efficiently realise investment commitments into economic dividends.

The Apex body also accorded in-principle approval for Strategic Canals Vision 2030 and FBR Reforms. The Chief of the Army Staff assured firm resolve of the Pakistan Army to support the government's initiatives for the economic stability of the country and the socio-economic well-being of its people.

In the end, the prime minister appreciated the role of SIFC, ministries, departments and affiliated stakeholders in accomplishing the major economic milestones as part of the interim government and setting the pace for future endeavours.

He also urged the incoming government to ensure continuity of economic policies by capitalising on the positive momentum, established by SIFC, in the larger interest of the country.



QUETTA: People warm their hands on bone-fire to save themselves from cold waves after downpour of winter season, in Quetta.

Ahead of election Govt. seals plan to sell national airline

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahead of elections next week, Pakistan's caretaker administration is making binding plans for a new government to sell loss-making Pakistan International Airlines, according to the minister in charge of the process and other officials.

In the past, elected governments have shied away from undertaking unpopular reforms, including the sale of the flag carrier. But Pakistan, in deep economic crisis, agreed in June to overhaul loss-making state-owned enterprises under a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$3 billion bailout.

The government decided to privatise PIA just weeks after signing the IMF agreement.

The caretaker administration, which took office in August to oversee the Feb. 8 election, was empowered by the outgoing

parliament to take any steps needed to meet the budgetary targets agreed with the IMF.

"Our job is 98% done," Privatisation Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad told media when asked about the plan to sell the airline.

"The remaining 2% is just to bring it on an excel sheet after the cabinet approves it."

Fawad said the plan, drawn up by transaction adviser Ernst & Young, will be presented to the cabinet for approval before the tenure of the administration ends following the election. The cabinet will also decide whether to sell the stake by tender or through a government-to-government deal, Fawad said.

"What we have done in just four months is what past governments have been trying to do for over a decade," Fawad said. "There is no looking back."

Maryam says: Vote PMLN to power for country's development

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Chief Organizer and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz urged people on Friday to vote the PMLN to power to put Pakistan on the growth trajectory.

During a public meeting at historical Dhobi Ghat ground (Iqbal Park) here, she said she was surprised by the massive gathering, adding that huge participation in the public meeting showed people love the PML-N, which had served them during its previous tenure.

She also saluted the commitment of Talal Chaudhry and appreciated the allegiance of Rana Sanaullah Khan to the party. She said, "We tagged him as 'Hakeem Sanaullah', who prudently tackled the situation by promoting unity among the PMLN cadres." She said that when

Rana Sanaullah was implicated in a fake drug-smuggling case, she went to see him. He was wearing a mask marked with the symbol of tiger. When asked, Rana Sana Ullah replied that if he was only 2 per cent with Nawaz Sharif, after that case he was turned into a man 1000 times with Nawaz Sharif because of oppressive and illegal act of the ruling party.

She said that the people of Faisalabad fully honored commitment of Rana Sanaullah by making the gathering a historic one. "It seems that people still love Nawaz Sharif, as he was always among them," she added. She said "we believe in the politics of service instead of indulging in insulting political opponents". She said Nawaz Sharif was ousted from power thrice, but he never compromised over national solidarity and integrity.

AB de Villiers expresses admiration for Babar Azam, desires on-field partnership

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a delightful exchange on X (formerly Twitter), former South African cricket sensation AB de Villiers revealed his admiration for former Pakistan captain Babar Azam. The interaction unfolded during a viral X-Space session initiated by Babar Azam, inviting fans to engage in a Q&A session.

Babar Azam's tweet garnered significant attention, with AB de Villiers' response stealing the spotlight. The explosive South African batsman expressed his desire, stating, "I would have loved to play with Babar Azam."

Responding to the compliment, Babar Azam, during the Twitter space session, labeled AB de Villiers as one of his favorite cricketers and referred to the South African legend as his dream batting partner. Despite not sharing the field frequently, the duo had encounters during the Pakistan Super League (PSL), where de Villiers represented Lahore Qalandars, and Babar played for Karachi Kings.

Last night's XSpace event provided Babar Azam's fans with a unique opportunity to connect directly with the Pakistani cricket sensation. The interactive session allowed followers to pose questions directly to the talented batsman.

Pakistan kicks off Davis Cup tie against India

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan tennis ace Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi said Friday he was motivated by the rise of his former doubles partner Rohan Bopanna, ahead of a historic Davis Cup clash against arch-rivals India.

India's Bopanna rose to number one on the ATP rankings after winning the Australian Open last month, becoming the oldest player ever to snag the top spot at the age of 43.

Qureshi and Bopanna, dubbed the Indo-Pak Express, paired over a decade ago to break into the top 10 and reach the 2010 US Open final.

"Becoming world number one and winning the Australian Open is a massive achievement and in a way it motivates me as well and inspires a lot of people," 43-year-old Qureshi told reporters ahead of a first Davis Cup tie against India on home soil since 1964.

"I feel very proud of him, obviously I started my doubles career with him and we made a breakthrough together," he said, adding their "friendship will remain forever".

Bopanna is not part of the visiting Indian camp, having retired from the Davis Cup last year.

The last tie between the two countries, which have fought three wars since they were forged out of violent partition 76 years ago, took place in neutral Kazakhstan in 2014 with India winning 4-0.

"The Indian team just reaching Pakistan is already a win for me," Qureshi said. "I'm happy and proud to be a part of it—that tennis might play a role in mending the ties with India."

India are the strong favourites on paper, but both camps said they expected a competitive clash.

Indian captain Zeeshan Ali—whose father was part of the 1964 team—described coming to Pakistan as "emotional." "The last time India played against Pakistan 60 years ago my father was on the team and he played three of the matches which he won," Ali said.

"For me to be back here in Pakistan as captain of the Indian team is an emotional moment."

Ali added that he

hoped the tie would prove positive for tennis.

"If we can help in any way to spread good friendship and the game of tennis then we would have achieved our goal."

Political differences over Kashmir mean sporting teams from each side rarely visit the other unless taking part in sanctioned multi-national events.

Indian player Yuki Bhambri told AFP the pressure of playing against Pakistan disappears once you step on the court.

"There's already a lot of pressure when playing for your country... I don't think there is any scope for adding more."

Asked if Bopanna had considered coming out of retirement to play against Qureshi, Bhambri said: "I think if he had known before (retiring) that there was a possibility I'm sure he would have liked the chance to come here and play."

Two singles fixtures are scheduled for Saturday with one doubles and two singles matches on Sunday in the Group 1 playoff on the grass courts of the Pakistan Sports Complex in Islamabad.



QUETTA: Former Nazim, Hashim Khan Baraich along with tribal leaders addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Pakistan to continue supporting...

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"There are huge opportunities which can serve as a win-win situation for all," he said, adding that regional connectivity projects like the tans-railway line, TAPI and other projects, would equally benefit both countries and the entire region.

About the repatriation of illegal Afghans, he said that there was no other solution and "one document regime was final".

To another question, he said during their interim government's short tenure, they had tried to steer the country out of different challenges, particularly the economic woes.

He said when they took reigns of the government, it was a difficult task as the country was facing different pressures due to its geographical location.

"Of most, the economic challenge was a complex and difficult," he shared and mentioned issues related to Afghan Transit trade and depletion of foreign exchange reserves.

However, he said that they were successful by turning things around owing to the institutional support and expressed satisfaction that their efforts yielded very good outcomes as the country was now heading towards the right

destination.

The caretaker prime minister said that they were assisting the Election Commission to hold elections in the country.

He said that international observers and foreign media would monitor the elections and would report it, adding that as a transitional democracy, there might be shortcomings, but the system would be strengthened with the passage of time.

The basic responsibility of the caretaker setup was to ensure free, fair and transparent polls so that people should elect their government, he added.

Responding to a query about a political party, he said that those appeared to be administrative issues and categorically maintained that the interim government had not given any instruction over any party, moreover, the ECP and the judiciary were working and anyone who had complaints could approach them.

The prime minister said that he had already conveyed his feelings and thoughts about the law-and-order situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces and stood by his words.

He said there were conspiracy theories over the law and order situation by linking it to delaying the

elections.

He also expressed his dismay that a set of people even did not make a difference between the job of a prime minister and that of a district-level and provincial-level responsibilities.

Replying to a query, he said Pakistan had never troubled Iran and the missile attack initially shocked them and they conveyed their feelings to the Iranian side, which was followed by a swift response.

Now, he said, Pakistan hoped the bilateral mechanism between the two countries would be restored.

The caretaker prime minister declared that whenever there was any attack on Pakistan's sovereignty, it would be given a swift response.

He maintained that educational institutions like universities were good fora for holding healthy debates.

The prime minister, responding to a question, said that he was vehemently criticized on social media, but they were tolerant and created space for dialogue.

Expressing disapproval over use of foul language, he said that concerns could be conveyed in decent words and not in an abusive manner. He opined that a hysteria-like feelings had permeated in the society, and it would take time to return to normality.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of International Chess Federation calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Alvi for promoting chess at grassroots levels and organizing tournaments

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has called for promoting chess in the country, especially at the grassroots levels, through collaborations with international chess organizations, the private sector, and organizing chess championships in the country.

The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The delegation included President FIDE and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr Arkady Dvorkovich, President of

the Asian Chess Federation and son of the late President of UAE, Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al-Nahayan, Managing Director FIDE, Ms Dana Reznicec-Ozola, British Chess Grandmaster, Dr Nigel Short, Secretary General of Asian Chess Federation, Mr Hisham Al Taher, Chief Patron of Chess Federation of Pakistan, Mr Jauhar Saleem, and members of FIDE, Asian Chess Federation, Chess Federation of Pakistan, FIDE Chess in Education Commission, Islamabad Scrabble Association, and Pakistan Scrabble Association.

Talking to the delegation, the President highlighted the need to promote healthy activities, including chess in the country. He stated that chess had mental and educational benefits, and it needed to be included in the education system. He further said that the game of chess could help relieve stress, besides enhancing intellect as well as boosting mental faculties.

The President highlighted the need to encourage chess by organizing chess competitions and tournaments in the country. He also stressed the need for developing collaborations among the public and

private sectors to patronize and promote chess in Pakistan.

The delegation briefed the President about the role of the International Chess Federation in promoting chess in the world. The delegation highlighted that there was great potential to expand chess-related activities in Pakistan. It was appreciated that a large number of people in Pakistan were fond of the game. The delegation suggested that chess should be promoted at the primary level in schools, adding that chess players could also participate online in World chess tournaments.

Dr. Saqib says: BISP holds prominent position as global leader in Social Protection Programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Friday emphasized that BISP holds a prominent position as a global leader in Social Protection Programs.

Addressing a presser, the chairman stated that BISP is serving 9.3 million families in a dignified manner through the compassionate provision of financial support. Dr. Saqib said that the transparency and efficiency of BISP have gathered recognition from its International Developmental Partners, owing to

the program's credible database and robust payment mechanism.

Chairperson BISP mentioned that, within a short span, BISP, in collaboration with partner organizations and stakeholders, initiated numerous new projects.

Addressing concerns raised during the distribution of quarterly funds under the sponsorship program, where women complained of not receiving the full amount, BISP introduced a new banking system for payments.

Initially handled by only two banks, the coun-

try has now been divided into 15 clusters, with more than eight banks assigned to reduce complaints of deductions.

Dr. Saqib revealed that BISP has augmented the quarterly instalment of Benazir Kafalat by Rs. 1750 due to rising inflation, resulting in eligible women now receiving Rs. 10,500 per quarter instead of Rs. 8,750.

Additionally, the amounts for Taleemi Wazaif and Nasonuma have been increased by Rs. 500 each. Taleemi Wazaif supports 8.3 million children attending schools.

CW observation team for election briefed about security arrangements

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Commonwealth observation team for election 2024 visited Safe City Islamabad and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a meeting was organized at Command and Center for Election 2024, which was attended by the Commonwealth observation team and senior officers of Islamabad Capital Police.

During the meeting, the Commonwealth observation team was given a detailed briefing on the measures regarding election security in the federal capital, Islamabad.

Chairperson Commonwealth observation team appreciated the efforts of ICCPO and praised the Islamabad Capital Police.

Non provision of level playing field case: IHC stops police from harassing PTI supporters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped police from harassing PTI supporters.

Petition filed by PTI leader and candidate Ali Bukhari had filed petition against hindrances in election campaign.

During the hearing Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bukhari told the court Police are not refraining from harassing. When our people hold corner meeting then police reach behind them. We have told them we are not Qabza group.

The CJ IHC summoned SSP operation and Election Commission (EC) authorities on Tuesday.

CJ IHC Aamer Farooq remarked we call higher authorities and direct them.

The petitioners are senior leaders and senior lawyers of bar.

Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bukhari had filed petition against hindrances in election campaign.



ISLAMABAD: Commonwealth Observation Team for Election 2024 meeting with ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

Two missing boys reunited with their families

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police Industrial Area and Shams Colony police station teams reunited two missing boys with their parents, a public relation officer said.

According to the details, the Industrial-Area police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son, namely Muhammad Ali had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Similarly, the Shams Colony police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son, namely Nawaz Sharif had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Mandatory Hajj ritual training to begin on Feb 12

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first phase of mandatory Hajj ritual training for intending pilgrims of the Government Scheme will commence on February 12 in seven Hajj camps located nationwide.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony said in a statement that over 69,000 government scheme pilgrims will undergo training in two phases in various districts of the country.

The second training phase would be started after the holy month of Ramadan. Details of the training schedule will be communicated to the successful intending pilgrims through mobile messages and the Hajj app. Hajj pilgrims will attend training workshops at their conven-

nient local venues.

The spokesman said the chief hajj trainer while addressing the ministry's 90 officers and official's training workshop, said that special attention in training has been given to Hajj rituals as well as discipline and administrative issues.

The training curriculum has already been finalized by Ahmed Nadeem Khan, Joint Secretary Administration of the Ministry, along with Director General Syed Mushahed Hussain Khalid and Chief Trainer Nasir Aziz Khan.

Hajj training will be conducted across seven Hajj camps situated in various districts. Quoting the trainers, the spokesman said the new extensive training program will cover the 'Pak Hajj' mobile app, guidance for Hajj preparations.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Head of Mission France, Guillaume Dabouis inaugurates 'Burgeoning Icons Exhibition' at Gallery 6.

Hurriyat leader lauds Pakistan's unconditional support to Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Hurriyat Leader Raja Najabat Hussain Friday appreciated Pakistani nation and friends of Kashmir across the globe for unconditional support for Kashmiris fighting for their right to self-determination.

Pakistan is determined to continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmir issue, adding, media is also playing a vital role in highlighting Kashmir issue and Indian atrocities, he said while talking to Radio Pakistan's current Affairs program.

He said Kashmiris on both sides of LoC and across the globe will observe 5th Feb as Kashmir Solidarity Day, adding,

the purpose of observing this day is to ex-

press solidarity with the Kashmiris that are suffering from Indian atrocities.

"We are firmly stands with our Kashmiri brethren facing Indian aggression", he added.

We, as Kashmiris, will be holding meetings, conducting seminars and conferences not only on 5th of February but also do the same on 9th of February on the occasion of the death anniversary of Afzal Guru, he mentioned. We are working closely with all Pakistani and Kashmiri organizations in the European Union and the United Kingdom, he added. The Pro-India Kashmiris are also condemning the Indian brutal activities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he mentioned.

39th MCMC officers visit IPO- Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the National Institute of Management (NIM) consisting of 15 officers of the Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) visited the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) headquarters in Islamabad.

The Chair of IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador @ Farukh Amil, provided a detailed briefing to the delegation about the working of the organization, including intellectual property rights, administrative structure, legal framework, progress, major issues, and challenges, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The delegation also received information about innovation, business, IP rights, trademarks, copyrights, patent inventions, PCT, technological innovation, and Geographical Indications.

PTI intra party election postponed

ISLAMABAD (online): PTI intra party elections have been postponed.

Talking to media men here Friday PTI leader Barister Gohar said intra party elections have been postponed under the directives of PTI founder.

He held candidates and voters are engaged in election campaign at present and intra party elections can divert their attention from general election. Therefore, election are being postponed.

It is pertinent to mention here intra party election of PTI were to be held on February 05.

11 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 11 outlaws including two professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from city. Following these directions, the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Kashif Iqbal and recovered 1018 gram heroin from his possession. The Industrial-Area police team arrested two accused namely Shaifque and Waqas and recovered one 30 bore pistol and 325 gram heroin from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Ms. Shahera Shahid inaugurates the Digital Photography and Painting Exhibition in connection of Kashmir Solidarity Day observes on 5th February organized by Department of Electronic Media and Publications at Information Services Academy.

IWMB celebrates World Wetlands Day at Kinara Park with students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Friday celebrated the international wetlands day at Kinara Park near Rawal Lake with students of schools and universities to create awareness among the young generation on the importance and protection of wetlands for healthy ecosystems.

The theme for this year was "Wetlands and human wellbeing". Its goal is to highlight how all aspects of human well-being "physical, mental, and environmental" are tied to the health of the world's wetlands. The wetlands day emerged on the global calendar after the Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, was ratified which was an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands on February 2, 1971. Since then, the day is observed.

The IWMB regularly celebrates the Day and this time it was held in a unique fashion with students' being sensitized through a special awareness session on the topic and its role in nature conservation followed up a group activity to hold cleanup exercise around the Park and ended up with a quiz and books distribution among the students.

The students from the Scholars School Bhara

Rain-wind, thunderstorm likely in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorm with snowfall over mountains for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

Isolated heavy falls/snowfall is likely in Balochistan during the period.

Heavy rainfall may cause flash flooding in local nullah's of Barkhan, Kohlu, Sibbi, Naseerabad, Dalbandin and Khuzdar on 2nd and 3rd of February.

According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave is affecting Balochistan and Sindh and is likely to approach upper parts from tonight.

During the last 24 hours, cloudy weather prevailed over southern and central parts of the country while rain-thunderstorm with snow over mountains occurred in Balochistan and lower Sindh.

The rainfall recorded was Balochistan: Turbat, Khuzdar 07mm, Kalat 05, Panjgur, Lasbela 01, Sindh: Larkana 02, Hyderabad, Karachi 01mm. The snowfall recorded was 0.4 inches in Astore.

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded were Kalam -14C, Leh -12, Malam Jabba, Astore -07, Gupis -05, Skardu and Rawalakot -04C.

Information Secretary for sensitizing youth about Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid on Friday underlined the need for educating the current and coming generations about historical facts regarding Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK).

"It is our national obligation to sensitize our young generation about Kashmir as well as the current situation there," the secretary said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Digital Photography and Painting Exhibition here at Information Service Academy.

The Directorate of Electronic Media and Pub-

lic organized the exhibition in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The secretary said India abrogated the Articles 370 and 35A of Indian constitution for turning Muslim majority in IloJK into minority. India would not be able to achieve its nefarious designs in IloJK, she added.

She said the United Nations Security Council should hear the Kashmir case on merit. The peace in South Asia region was directly linked to the resolution of Kashmir issue, she added.

Pakistan stood with Kashmiri brothers extending diplomatic, legal and moral support to them, she remarked.

Pakistan Subnational Food System Dashboard to help policy makers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a seminar on Friday termed the recently established Pakistan Subnational Food System Dashboard as a problem-solving advanced solution for the policymakers and academia working in the field of agriculture and food security.

The seminar titled, "Using Digital Platforms for Sustaining Food Systems", was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), said a press release issued here. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member of Social Sciences, Pakistan Agricultural Research

Council (PARC), said though the country had the world's one of the most diverse and beautiful agricultural landscape, it is ranked eighth globally in farm production. The establishment of Pakistan's Subnational Food Systems Dashboard by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and housed in the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), is the critical step towards the provision of easy access to the available data.

"We are going to initiate specific interventions for food system transformation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



ISLAMABAD: A skilled person paints the wall of 7th Avenue underpass near Aabpara Market.



ISLAMABAD: DG FDE Tanveer Ahmed Principal Prof Rozina Faheem awarding Gold medal to a student in 3rd Convocation of FG Home Economics College F11/1.

Wanted member of drug peddler gang arrested; huge cache drugs recovered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Shams Colony police team arrested a peddler and recovered a huge cache of drugs from his possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad

Asif and recovered 1821 grams of heroin from his possession. Case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway.

Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in drug peddling activities.

He emphasized that Islamabad Capital Police will not leave any stone unturned to curb the menace of drugs. "No one would be allowed to play with the precious lives of our young generation" he added.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Saturday February 03, 2024

Date confirmed

The sense of uncertainty that had taken hold between the nights of Wednesday and Thursday stands broken. We have a green signal: elections will go ahead as scheduled on Feb 8.

The prospects of polls being held all over the country on the same day had been thrown in doubt once again after reports that the ECP had requisitioned a high-level moot yesterday over the worsening law and order situation in KP and Balochistan. The announcement had led some to speculate that an election delay in the two provinces might be on the cards.

A senior ECP official had told this publication that the Commission was deeply perturbed over the recent surge in terrorism-related violence and discussed the option of delaying polls in high-risk areas. Another said, "Anything was possible." Meanwhile, a statement issued on behalf of the army had been more reassuring, promising that the armed forces were ready to protect the "quintessential democratic exercise".

All is certainly not well in the country, not with candidates being gunned down or targeted in gun and bomb attacks on their offices, convoys and rallies.

There is a clear and present danger from the myriad terrorist and militant outfits operating in the country, who have made plain their intentions to use this sensitive transitional period as an opportunity to sow more chaos in the country.

There is considerable social unrest, not just due to the extreme political polarisation seen in this election cycle but also because of more entrenched issues, such as the discontent of the people of GB and the enforced disappearance crisis plaguing Balochistan.

It is within this challenging environment that law enforcement and security forces have to operate as they strive to protect a nationwide activity that has the participation of millions of citizens. Commendably, they are rising to the occasion and have reaffirmed their preparedness for the task at hand.

It has been stated before, but bears repeating that our security forces and law-enforcement agencies must now dedicate their energies solely to their core job of protecting the people. Taking a confrontational position against those they are responsible for protecting is not just a violation of their oath of service, it also creates unnecessary risks that may imperil the law-and-order situation. All they should focus on is the safety and security of the public. Law enforcers must remember that they are there to fix problems, not become a part of them. As they make their security plans, policymakers should account for the fact that inimical forces seeking to destabilise the country will try to take advantage of its internal divisions. To counter their designs, LEAs and security forces must affirm that they are there for everyone, regardless of their political affiliations or beliefs.

Faisal Bari

Do party manifestos show intentions? Going by past record, they do not. Hardly ever have parties adhered to manifestos. But manifestos do show what parties want the people to know or think about their intentions.

Should party manifestos be judged on the basis of what is being promised or should there be some assessment of whether or not the promises are realistic and what plans, however rudimentary, have been shared about how promises will be fulfilled?

If we go with promises alone, a party with no intention of fulfilling them can promise the moon in their manifesto. If realism is the test, the more realistic plans will look too modest compared to those promising the moon. The best option seems to be to have some idea of what the promises are, while keeping in mind our current position, and examining the ways parties are suggesting for fulfilling their promises. Since worked-out plans are not shared in manifestos, it remains a bit of a guessing game.

I had the opportunity to look at the education sections of the manifestos of four political parties: the PML-N, PTI, PPP and the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI).

All four have promised they will raise government expenditure on education to four to five per cent of GDP. Current government expenditure is well below 2pc of GDP. So, all of them are promising at least a 100pc increase in education expenditure. Four per cent of GDP is what is usually recommended as minimum expenditure on education that countries should commit to.

But we have never really gone above 2pc, despite many manifestos promising this in the past as well. When the country raises only about 9-10pc of GDP in taxes, how can education spending reach 4pc? Are all parties just parroting what they are expected to say about education expenditure? Seems to be more than a possibility.

The PPP seems to be the only one that has given some thought to the implementation of the right to education. The say they will 'implement Article 25A

of the Constitution in letter and spirit'. And they do talk about ensuring that a primary school can be reached within 30 minutes and secondary school within 60 by every child (however, one is not clear if this is the walking distance or distance travelled by other means).

The PML-N manifesto is disappointing. It does not talk of 25A; it just mentions that it will expand a lot of its initiatives from the Punjab 2013-2018 period including scholarship schemes, Daanish schools and public-private partnerships.

It is good to see the PTI move away from its insistence on having a 'single' curriculum to a 'common core' syllabus. They also mention midday meals and free textbooks. But there is no discussion of 25A.

Ji's manifesto is quite elaborate but the most disturbing as well. They do say they want education to be for all but they also say they will have a uniform system of education for everyone. They do not elaborate on what this means. They want education

to be a federal responsibility and not a provincial subject. They want to put Islamic and Pakistani ideology at the centre of our curriculum and want to ensure that all education is in accordance with the requirements of the Quran and Sunnah. They promise to do away with co-education.

Islamiyat and Pakistan Studies are already compulsory subjects. The PTI's last government added a lot of new content to these subjects. The Single National Curriculum added religious material to the curricula of other subjects such as English and Urdu. Nazara Quranic recitation was made compulsory. For higher grades, the teaching of the Quran with translation was also added.

What more does Ji want? How do we make education more Islamic and Pakistani? There are many educationists who say that we have already turned mainstream schools into madrassahs.

For higher education, it is all about more universities. The PTI and PPP promise a university in each district. There is, again, no discussion on how this

is the best way to serve the cause of higher education. We already have 250-odd universities in the country and a fairly high unemployment rate amongst educated youth. Should improving the quality of existing institutions not be a priority, instead? And if expansions are needed, many of the 250 institutions can expand readily, why are brick-and-mortar commitments so important?

On the whole, the manifestos are a disappointment. The promise to raise education expenditure to 4-5pc of GDP is an old one and has never been implemented. Given our current economic situation, it seems unlikely that any government will be able to do that in the foreseeable future.

All parties, other than Ji, mention they will use public-private partnerships more extensively for improving educational access and the quality of provision.

This is one area that requires more attention and we have had some success here (the Punjab Education Foundation, Sindh Education Foundation), but there are also

fears that such partnerships might be used by the government to avoid its responsibilities in education provision and/or to introduce privatisation under the guise of partnership. Parties will need to remain vigilant against these dangers.

There is no real commitment to implementing Article 25A other than by the PPP and Ji. The PPP is the only party that makes the commitment explicit. Most of the initiatives mentioned in the manifestos of the PML-N, PTI and PPP are from their respective stints in government. But those initiatives did not do a whole lot for education access or quality improvement even then. How will they do better now?

If these manifestos represent the best thinking of these parties on education issues and proposed solutions, education will remain a neglected area and 26 million children will continue to stay out of schools and the majority of children who are in schools in Pakistan will continue to get poor-quality education. -- Courtesy Dawn

India's hybrid warfare

Amanat Ali Chaudhry

The term 'hybrid warfare' refers to a combination of traditional military means and the use of non-military resources deployed to achieve broader military and strategic objectives. That which cannot be achieved through the use of hard power should be won by all other means.

The decision to employ hybrid warfare as a preferred policy follows the failure of the conventional military force especially in situations of foreign occupation and colonization where the occupying forces are unable to suppress the collective aspirations of an indigenous people.

Two factors stand out. First, hybrid warfare represents the limitations of the military means in protracted conflicts, especially when it seeks to eradicate the idea of self-determination that is rooted as much in history as it is in the socio-cultural, political and religious identity of a colonized people.

Second, it aims to undermine the consensus on the collective ideas of iden-

tity and self-determination by spreading confusion, deepening divisions and manufacturing consent. The principal objective here is to break the will of the nation through the manipulation of information.

The longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute, an unfinished agenda of Partition in 1947, is the most relevant example of the heroic defiance of a people who have refused to bow down to the Indian policy of intimidation, naked use of force, enforced disappearances and occupation.

Dubbed as one of the most militarized zones in the world, which the experts believe is a nuclear flashpoint in South Asia, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is a place where the Indian hybrid warfare model, of which information manipulation is a major plank, is being put to its worst use by the Hindutva-inspired Modi government.

The BJP, which has long wanted to change the ideological orientation of India, is on a mission to re-fashion India as a Hindu-only country. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things to suggest that its actions

in IIOJK that ended the limited autonomy afforded to the state of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 need to be analysed from the perspective of information warfare that is now in full play in the restive valley.

In the contemporary information age, the significance of narrative power cannot be overstated. Hybrid warfare strategically leverages the influence of the information era, employing tactics like disinformation, fake news, cyberattacks, and media manipulation to shape perceptions and twist opinions. A case in point is India's attempt to portray a semblance of normality during the G-20 tourism working group meeting held in IIOJK in 2023.

In 2021, India was caught running a clandestine network of disinformation by EU DisinfoLab. It also arranged stage-managed tours for members of the European Parliament to give an impression of 'normalcy' in IIOJK. The idea here was to sell the notion to the international diplomatic community that the Kashmir Question was settled after the withdrawal of the statehood of Jammu

and Kashmir.

The recent decision by the Indian Supreme Court whereby it legitimized all actions of the Modi government taken on August 5, 2019 is also linked to the same chain, which seeks to present the Kashmir Question as an internal affair of India in an attempt to escape international criticism of its actions.

Modi government's implementation of a controversial media policy in June 2020 granted authorities additional powers to strengthen their control over the narrative, exacerbating the limitations on press freedom. Kashmiri journalists who have braved incarcerations, torture, and dismissals from their jobs serve as stark examples of the ruthless implementation of this information warfare strategy. Even after temporary releases, most of these journalists encountered prompt rearrests, with oppressive measures like the Public Safety Act being utilized to curtail journalistic freedom. This recurrent pattern of intimidation and retribution highlights a troubling state of the press in IIOJK at the hands of Indian authorities. Constraints imposed

on local media outlets serve as a calculated manoeuvre to regulate the dissemination of information. Indian authorities aim to shape a narrative by restricting access to authentic reporting through credible journalists.

Despite claiming leadership in the field of information technology, India has carried out repeated internet shutdowns in IIOJK. It has strictly regulated the flow of information, especially on social media platforms through a series of measures, which involve arbitrary arrests of journalists on terrorism charges, and the shutdown of news outlets remotely seen to be critical of the Modi government. India represents a perfect example of a country that has methodically employed disinformation and fake news to construct an alternate reality to avoid global censure for its systematic erosion of press freedoms.

The disclosure of a substantial data breach, revealing the exposure of personally identifiable information belonging to 815 million Indians, highlights significant weaknesses in data security. The compromised data, which includes Aadhaar card numbers,

passport information, names, phone numbers, and addresses, being offered for sale on the dark web constitutes a severe breach of privacy, prompting serious concerns over the safeguarding of sensitive personal information.

Complementing information warfare is the cunning, nay mischievous, use of Indian cinema to dehumanize Kashmiris. Movies like 'The Kashmir Files' represent a shrewd attempt at curating a narrative along the lines of anti-Muslim prejudice that borders on outright hostility. This increasing trend of highly 'nationalistic' films not only tends to glorify the current Indian leadership but also legitimizes structural and physical violence by equating Muslims with terrorists.

For a society that is plagued by the ever-widening fault lines, these misrepresentations of Muslims in general and Kashmiri Muslims in particular, are revealing the consequences that go beyond the screens and are reshaping the consciousness of people by further poisoning the environment of hate, discrimination and isolation. -- Courtesy TheNews

Why suffering?

Syed Fahim

A stillbirth. A toddler diagnosed with Down syndrome. A teenage case of leukaemia. A rare blood disorder in the 30s. Cancer with a single-digit survival rate in the 40s. Death at wholesale rate in a territory — as if collective suffering somehow makes it easier to bear the burden than individual loss. We are surrounded and baffled by suffering. And what follows then is the biggest question of them all: why me? And why this hardship?

But the question that has confounded theologians and philosophers since the inception of humanity is even more fundamental: why does suffering even exist in a world designed by a kind and benevolent God?

Christianity sees suffering as a consequence of the 'disobedience' of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Islam and Judaism proclaim suffering to be a test of faith from God. Buddhism declares dukkha, a result of material attachment, while Hinduism's karma implies one's current suffering as an aftermath of their actions in previous lives.

Some philosophers argue that suffering is a necessary part of human existence, fostering empathy, personal growth, or moral development. Others opine that suffering is a necessary consequence of free will or that it plays a role in the greater good.

In Man's Search for Meaning, psychiatrist Viktor Frankl provides a thoughtful analogy. He asks whether an ape being punctured repeatedly to develop a vaccine would ever be able to grasp the meaning of its

suffering. The obvious answer is it would not; with its limited intelligence, it could not enter the world of man — which is the only world in which the meaning of its suffering would be understandable. He then follows up with a rhetorical question about humans. Can we really understand the reason and the meaning of our suffering while being part of this material world? "Is it not conceivable that there is still another dimension; a world in which the question of an ultimate meaning of human suffering would find an answer?" he asks.

Interesting, one thinks, but a grand argument does not ease the pain or dilute my misery. And then comes the backup argument — you are not alone! The list of beings afflicted by grief is led by our prophets. And then there are all and sundry, everyone with a story of their own. The variety and the ubiquity still do not relieve one's agony, but maybe they make it more digestible on the accord of it being somewhat democratic. Here is how I try to wrap my head around it.

Everyone must get through it (Quran 2:155, 2:214, 29:2). This is just by design, the way this universe is programmed. If we think someone is spared and they have it all good in every sense, it is more our ignorance than the absence of suffering.

Nobody will have it more than one could bear (Quran 2:286). While everyone is unique and our sufferings appear unbearable, in the grand factory of this world, we are not much different than pieces of metal coming out of a foundry stamped with their unique tensile and yield

strengths.

The Designer knows our limits, and those limits are respected when we are put under these harsh tests.

Every situation is a test. This world around us is a test. Sometimes, the test is of gratitude, and other times the test is of fortitude (Quran 27:40). We feel the burn of the hard situations, but we do not feel the blush of the good times.

If we think we do not deserve such a burdensome test, that is, perhaps, quite true. The Quran says that "if Allah were to impose blame on the people for what they have earned, He would not leave upon earth any creature" (35:45). We are most likely getting much less than we truly deserve.

Our grace in how we deal with it will get us the accolades we need for the later parts of your story (Quran 2:156-157, 2:177). The sufferings of our prophets all had a good ending. But that exactly is the caveat. They graced their sufferings with perseverance, resilience, and patience, which in turn was rewarded by the Lord. Now, does this answer all the questions for me? Maybe not. But perhaps these are not the questions we ought to answer. The question for us is to identify what our test is as we breathe the current breath. Is it the security of our four walls and the roof we shelter under, or the guaranteed next meal?

Or is our test the misfortune that is choking our airways, the one that we did not foresee, and that we feel we did not deserve? The short answer is: all of the above. And our attitude in dealing with them will determine if we are truly worthy of these tests. - - Courtesy Dawn

Grim Islamabad

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Sixty years after it was created, Islamabad is still said to be 10 kilometres from Pakistan proper, an oasis of greenery, prosperity and technocracy insulated from the grime, poverty and chaos of the rest of the country. The city's administrative and propertied elite alike indulgently call it Islamabad the beautiful.

It certainly is — or perhaps it is more accurate to now say, was — a pretty city. For the past few weeks, the Margalla Hills within which the metropole nests have been barely visible, a low-hanging and thick cloud of smog generating debate amongst the chattering classes whether the capital is now beating Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar in the AQI stakes.

Once known for its trees and quiet, Islamabad is increasingly the site of incessant road and real estate-related construction. The city has expanded at exponential rates, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) making billions from land auctions whilst dispossessing historical villages. Gated housing schemes are all you see for miles in suburban geographies, and purchasing a motor vehicle is the only way to get from one end of the metropolis to the other.

Since the turn of the millennium, Islamabad's population has tripled from approximately 800,000 to 2.5 million. The majority of those who have migrated into the capital are young and working class. There are low-caste workers from villages in central Punjab and the Seraiki Wasaib, Pakhtuns who have fled their homes due to the 'war on terror', and any number of Baloch, Sindhi, Gilgit-Baltistani and other young people who have

come to study or find jobs.

There is no public transport for them, while health and education are hostage to the dictates of profit. Potable water is drying up. Those who aspire to white-collar lives survive in rented accommodation, while the wretched of the earth can only find shelter in katchi abadis. This working-class majority is not responsible for destroying the ecosystem — that credit goes to property developers, big contractors and the civil-military oligarchy — but it bears the primary costs of environmental despoliation.

Long before this winter's smog made clear that Islamabad is headed on a similar trajectory to the rest of metropolitan Pakistan, Islamabad's working people routinely dealt with violent dispossession from homes and livelihoods. The irony is that katchi abadi dwellers, young students and youth as well as daily wage workers and street vendors face the big stick of the CDA and Islamabad administration in the name of 'legality'.

Forget the land grabbing and other violations of the law by real estate moguls, propertied classes and khaki-led bureaucratic overlords running the city. There is no democratic institution that exists in the capital, with the sole local government poll in 2016 making almost no dent on the city's bureaucratic temples. There are three National Assembly seats in the capital and most bourgeois parties put up high-profile candidates with little connection to the city's working masses — and that is if one doesn't even account for the farcical nature of the coming (s)election.

Islamabad has certainly grown a reputation for hosting protestors

from across Pakistan, but the recent treatment of Baloch women who led a long march into the city clarifies how genuinely democratic voices are treated in what is supposed to be the symbol of the federation.

For all of its narcissism and lack of concern for working people, Islamabad's — and Rawalpindi's — parasitic ruling class and those who live on its coattails won't be able to fully insulate itself from the downward spiral over which it is presiding. The disaffection felt by Baloch, Gilgit-Baltistani, Pakhtun, Sindhi, and so many young politically conscious people both in their home regions and as migrants in the capital is intensifying. The dastardly killing of a political youth leader in Bajaur shows how little changes in the peripheries. In the capital itself, katchi abadi dwellers and rehri-wallahs are still being ghettoised.

Islamabad's environs are wasting away at the altar of profit and power with no care for the needs of future generations. The tyranny of a socioeconomic order in rural peripheries that forces working people to migrate and massive demographic pressures mean that young people looking for livelihood and dignity will continue to stream into the capital. An ossified administrative centre proudly founded by Gens Yahya Khan and Ayub Khan will continue to benefit from the labour of this mass while grimly refusing to shed its dictatorial essence. Progressive political mobilisation will be the countervailing force and our only hope that Islamabad — and the rest of metropolitan Pakistan — does not become a total graveyard for the working people that make it tick. -- Courtesy Dawn

KP Governor direct varsities to share compliance over 2% admission quota for minorities

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday issued directives to all the public sector varsities for sharing compliance over two per cent quota for minorities in the province.

He issued these directives during a meeting held at the Governor House with a delegation of Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives led by Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager of Blue Veins organization.

Muhammad Rizwan, Provincial Coordinator of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was also present on the occasion along with CSO representatives including Zartasha, Faizan, Aliza Mehfooz and Uruba.

The CSO representatives called on Governor to express their gratitude for the support extended by Haji Ghulam Ali in the enforcement of Section 144 for the imposition of a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes on youngsters below the age of 21 and within the vicinity of educational institutions.

During the meeting,

Qamar Naseem diverted the attention of Governor KP over the non-implementation of 2 per cent admission quota by public sector universities for the minority community.

He informed the Governor that during a survey conducted by Blue Veins in the province, it was found that the majority of universities are not utilizing a two per cent quota for minorities as decided by the government.

Taking notice of the information, the Governor forthwith issued directives to all the universities in the province to share implementation of the decision.

He said the rights of minorities would be protected and implementation of decisions taken by the government in this regard would be ensured at all cost.

He also sought the implementation of a job quota granted by the government to minority communities of the country.

Earlier, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali about benefits of enforcing ban on sale of e-cigarettes and vape

to youngsters in KP.

He said district governments are conducting raids at different commercial markets and taking action over the open sale of newer tobacco products.

In some areas, shopkeepers are educated about seeking identity cards of customers purchasing e-cigarettes to ascertain their age. In some cases, district govt officials have nabbed youngsters and even minors over purchasing e-cigarettes and informed their parents.

He said the courageous and dynamic stance taken by Governor KP made the province the first ever in the country to take this bold decision of banning the sale of newer tobacco products being sold on the basis of false claims of harm reduction. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said what he did was for the benefit of our youngsters and for ensuring better public health.

He said the young generation gets impressed by advertisements on social media and involve in smoking which ensues in their indulgence in intoxication and wrong practices.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi offering Dua after inaugurating Multan University of Science and Technology.

Naqvi inaugurates Multan university of Science & Tech

CPSP delegation commends Punjab CM for reforms in health sector

Independent Report
MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, formally inaugurated the Multan University of Science and Technology and inspected various sections of the university.

He said, "I am very happy to see the teaching of modern sciences and research facilities at Multan University of Science and Technology". He appreciated the role of the university in promoting technology-based higher education.

The university needs to increase the number of nurse admissions as nurses are in high demand in Pakistan, Mohsin Naqvi said, adding that the government was ready to cooperate

with the university in this regard.

On this occasion, Provincial Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, the Inspector General of Police, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Construction and Communications, the Additional Chief Secretary of South Punjab and concerned officials were also present.

Meanwhile, a delegation of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) met with Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore on Friday.

CPSP President Prof Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof Mahmood Ayaz, Prof Amir Zaman Khan, Prof Abrar Ashraf, Prof Muhammad Tayyab and

Prof Mustafa Arain were included in the delegation.

The delegation of CPSP paid tribute to the services of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi for the extraordinary reforms in the health sector of Punjab in a very short time.

No elected government can compete with the speed of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his speed put the coming government in a lot of trouble, said CPSP delegation.

You visited five hospitals in a day and improved the condition of the hospitals in a short period of time, said delegation CPSP. The CPSP delegation briefed about the issues regarding the King Edward Medical University Kala Shah Kaku Campus.

Provincial govt prepared for conducting polls on Feb 8: Sindh Info Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister of Information, Minority Affairs and Social Security, Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Friday, said that general elections were going to be held on February 8 and all the provincial governments were fully prepared for the polls.

He addressing a press conference at Sindh Assembly building regarding the election arrangements and law and order situation, said that all the necessary arrangements were being made according to the instructions of the Election Commission of Pakistan and Sindh government had released funds for all requirements of the elections.

The entire government and all the institutions were extending the fullest cooperation to the Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting general elections 2024 in a free, fair and transparent manner, he added.

Ahmad Shah stated that preparations for the polls had been going on for many months including the measures to improve law

and order and a security plan was in place and a backup plan was also envisaged. He informed that the total number of polling stations in the province is 19006, among them 5989 are declared normal, 6531 are sensitive and 6496 are highly sensitive polling stations.

As many as 1,22,030 police personnel will be deployed for ensuring security and maintaining law and order during the elections while 7000 personnel of Police Quick Response Force along with 550 of Sindh Excise Police would also be deputed on election security duties.

Besides provincial law enforcement agencies, Rangers and Pakistan Army would also be available for the security, he said and added that Pakistan Army would be deployed at sensitive polling stations from February 5 to February 10.

More than 6000 CCTV cameras will be installed on polling stations and in case of any untoward situation, the data will be preserved and available.



PESHAWAR: Minister Information and Tourism Barrister Feroze Jamal Kaka Khel visiting picture exhibition in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Nishtar Hall.

LGH equipped with modern MRI, CT scan machines

Independent Report
LAHORE: In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare facilities, Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram inaugurated modern MRI and CT scan machines at the Lahore General Hospital (LGH), with a total investment of Rs 720 million. During the inaugural ceremony on Friday, the minister emphasised the government's commitment, under the vision of CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, to provide cutting-edge medical equipment to public hospitals. He underscored the capacity and quality of the newly installed machines, asserting their significance in delivering optimal healthcare services.

Later, while addressing a press conference, the minister outlined the caretaker Punjab government's extensive efforts, allocating Rs 96 billion for the revamp of over 100 government hospitals. He expressed

gratitude towards the leadership of the CM, affirming his dedication to serving the people and leaving a lasting positive impact.

Principal of Ameeruddin Medical College Prof. Al-Fareed Zafar highlighted the crucial role the new machines would play in timely diagnosis and treatment, particularly for trauma cases. With these latest additions, patients no longer need to seek such diagnostic services outside the hospital premises.

Prof. Al-Fareed Zafar commended the relentless efforts of the caretaker government in overseeing the renovation projects, leading to substantial improvements in healthcare infrastructure across the province. He underscored the exemplary dedication of the chief minister and his team, whose tireless commitment ensured swift completion of numerous welfare and development initiatives.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Education Minister, Mansoor Qadir giving a shield to a participant after the D.M.S cores organized by Management Professional Development Department, at a local hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

Commissioner Karachi cancels polling staff leaves, seeks action against absentees

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Division Muhammad Saleem Rajput has cancelled the leaves of all the polling staff and directed them to report back immediately, in case of failure to comply with these directives the absentees could be placed under suspension, besides initiating disciplinary proceedings against them.

Commissioner Karachi has directed the District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) of all Karachi divisions regarding the cancellation of undue exemptions/ leaves allowed to polling staff for the upcoming general elections in 2024.

Commissioner Karachi observed that it has come to his knowledge that certain polling staff have been granted exemptions/ leaves without cause. This

has caused considerable apprehension that this unwarranted action may cause a shortage of polling staff on Election Day, he added.

It is very important to note that onerous efforts at the highest level have gone into fulfilling the 67,420 polling staff requirement for Election duties in Karachi Division, the Commissioner observed.

He directed that services of all of the staff as provided by the Election Commission of Pakistan through the respective District Election Commissioners (DECs) shall be utilized for the February 08 elections.

He said that no exemptions shall be provided except those allowed under the relevant rules. All exemptions granted till date shall be cancelled immediately.

Minister takes notice of outdated custom of 'Ghag'

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged District Affairs, Industries, Commerce Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah Friday took notice of the complaints about the outdated custom of 'Ghag' in some tribal areas and directed the concerned authorities to take concrete steps for eradicating the heinous crime.

In a dispatch issued by the office of the caretaker minister to the respective Divisional Commissioners, Regional Police Officers (RPOs), Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and District Police Officers of the merged districts and former Frontier Regions (FRs) here, it has been stated that under 'Ghag Act' it has been declared a non-bailable and cognizable offense which under Section 4 of the Act, imprisonment for a term of 3 to 7 years with a fine of Rs 500,000 or both.

The minister directed that such matter should be

dealt with only in accordance with the relevant legal provisions contained in the Ghag Act and that such persons who are guilty of violating the said Act shall be prosecuted under this Act.

The cases should be registered immediately. The minister further directed that such cases should be diligently followed up so that the violators could be brought to justice as soon as possible while appropriate measures should be taken to protect the victims.

He said that no negligence should be tolerated in such matters and law-breaking elements would be dealt with iron hands.

It should be cleared that the issue of committing the crime of 'Ghag' will be resolved by the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) means of Jirga.

He said that even after the enforcement of the Act, complaints of the continuation of the custom are being registered.



FAISALABAD: Prof Dr Zill-e-Huma Nazli Vice Chancellor (VC) Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCUWF) is leading a walk organized by Department of Sociology GCUWF in connection with Kashmir Solidarity week.

Control room for election 2024 setup

PESHAWAR (APP): An Emergency Control Room has been established here at Chief Minister's Secretariat for holding peaceful upcoming General Elections 2024.

The Emergency Control Room will be functional from February 7 to 9.

It will coordinate all kind of activities and information and emergencies with relevant stakeholders; and bring the information into the notice of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till the finalization of the General Elections.

According to a notification issued here, Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat Mohsin Iqbal has been nominated as focal person of the Emergency Control Room.

ANF recovers 36 kg drugs in 8 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 36 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 6 kg heroin was recovered from a parcel being sent to UK from a cargo office at Lahore Airport while an accused was also arrested.

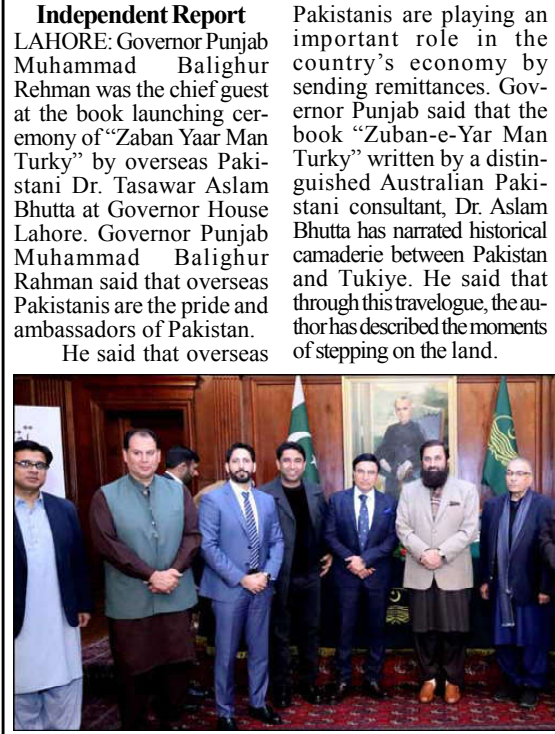
In second operation, 1 kg Ice drug was recovered from a Bahrain-bound passenger netted at Faisalabad Airport. 750 grams hashish and 448 grams Ice were recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pakistanis playing important role in country's economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman was the chief guest at the book launching ceremony of "Zaban Yaar Man Turkey" by overseas Pakistani Dr. Tasawar Aslam Bhutta at Governor House Lahore. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that overseas Pakistanis are the pride and ambassadors of Pakistan.

He said that overseas

Pakistanis are playing an important role in the country's economy by sending remittances. Governor Punjab said that the book "Zuban-e-Yar Man Turkey" written by a distinguished Australian Pakistani consultant, Dr. Aslam Bhutta has narrated historical camaraderie between Pakistan and Tukiye. He said that through this travelogue, the author has described the moments of stepping on the land.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants during book launching ceremony of "Zaban Yaar Man Turkey" by overseas Pakistani Dr. Tasawar Aslam Bhutta at Governor House.

Asifa Bhutto says: PPP pursuing pro-people agenda

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party leader Asifa Bhutto Zardari has said that it was only the PPP which was pursuing the pro-people agenda while other parties were in the field for power.

Addressing a public gathering in Kandiyari city, Sanghar district on Thursday night, Asifa Bhutto said that improving the health sector was the PPP's top priority.

Everyone, whether rich or poor, needed better medical treatment facilities and that was why the PPP

government had established hospitals providing free of charge treatment, she added.

"We have built the best hospital for treating liver disease in Gambhat where free treatment was being provided to the patients not only from Sindh but also from all over the country and abroad," she said.

The PPP had planned to establish a hospital Karachi's National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Sanghar, Asifa said.

Minister urges people to cast vote on Feb 08

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Information on Friday urged people to come out of their homes on February 08 and use their democratic right to vote for a better future. Talking to the media here, he said the mandate of the caretaker government was to conduct clean and transparent elections. It is the responsibility of the government to provide a level playing field to all the political parties. Referring to the killing of an independent candidate in Bajaur.



Two dacoits killed in police encounter in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Two dacoits were killed in an alleged police encounter in Singer Chowrang Korangi Karachi. According to the private news channel, dacoits arrived at Singer Chowrang following the event, where police personnel severely injured the robbers who attempted to flee during the exchange of fire. The rescue team reached the spot and took the injured dacoits to the hospital when they died on the way. According to the police, weapons, mobile phones and motorcycles were recovered.

Election 2024: Great enthusiasm witnesses among voters in merged tribal districts

KHYBER (APP): With only six days left in general election 2024, electioneering reached to its peak in all seven merged tribal districts (erstwhile Fata) where candidates started approaching large tribes seeking their support besides busy in election rallies and door to door meetings to attract voters. From South Waziristan to Bajaur and Khyber to North Waziristan tribal districts, the candidates of different political parties and their supporters were gearing up to elect their representatives for national and KP assemblies for next five years on February 8, 2024.

Tribal people started gearing up for another historic moment to poll their votes for the first time in their history for both National Assembly and KP legislature seats taking place simultaneously at South

Waziristan, North Waziristan, Kurram, Khyber, Orakzai, Mohmand and Bajaur tribal districts on February 8, 2024.

"I am eagerly awaiting for the February 8 election to cast my first vote," said Asghar Afridi, a voter of tehsil Bara Khyber tribal district.

Besides his area's people, he said they would go in groups to polling stations along with families and friends to fulfil the national obligations. Like Asghar, great enthusiasm is being witnessed among voters in these tribal districts.

The earlier election milestone had been achieved in 2019, when 16 seats of the tribal districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were contested for the first time following their merger with the province.

The inaugural elections for the provincial assembly seats from the merged districts took place on July 18, 2019 - a year after the general polls of July 25, 2018. Bajaur had two NA seats in the 2018 general elections that had now been reduced to one following the delimitation of constituencies last year.

Independent candidates dominated the provincial polls by securing six seats, followed by the PTI with five in 2019 elections. The candidates of the JUI-F bagged three seats while the ANP and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) both won one each respectively.

Three independent candidates joined the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and formed a new parliamentary party in the province. Of the four reserved seats for women from the merged districts,

the PTI secured two while the JUI-F and BAP both acquired one each while the lone reserved seat for minorities was also bagged by the PTI.

Dr. A.H.Hilali, ex chairman political science department, university of Peshawar said that February 8, 2024 would be historic movement for tribal people of merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would exercise their right of franchise for the second time to elect their representatives for next five years.

He said merged tribal districts have a different political culture than settled districts where large tribes play a key role in deciding the fate of candidates.

Dr Hilali said that literacy rate in merged tribal districts were significantly improved and expected high turnout in this election compared to last election.

In the 2019 polls, Anwar Zeb Khan of PTI had won PK-100 Bajaur-I and Ajmal Khan of the same party was elected from PK-101 Bajaur-II. Similarly, JI's Sirajuddin Khan from PK-102 Bajaur-III, ANP's Nisar Ahmed from PK-103 Mohmand-I, independent candidate Abbas Rehman from PK-104 Mohmand-II, and independent candidate Shafiq Afridi from PK-105 Khyber-I were also elected.

Others who emerged victorious included independent candidate Bilawal Afridi from PK-106 Khyber-II, independent candidate Mohammad Shafiq from PK-107 Khyber-III, JUI-F's Muhammad Riaz from PK-108 Kurram-I, and PTI's Syed Iqbal Mian from PK-109 Kurram-I.

Independent candidate Syed Ghazi Ghazan

Jamal secured a win from PK-110 Orakzai. PTI's Muhammad Iqbal Khan from PK-111 North Waziristan-I, independent candidate Mir Kalam Wazir from PK-112 North Waziristan-II, JUI-F's Hafiz Isamuddin from PK-113 South Waziristan-I, PTI's Naseerullah Khan from PK-114 South Waziristan-II, and JUI-F's Muhammad Shoab from PK-115 Ex-Frontier Regions. The door to door campaign was underway in all tehsils and towns besides villages of these tribal districts where candidates were making last efforts to attract voters.

Dr Hilali urged people of all walks of life to unite for the general election and elect competent representatives with a will to address their problems and put the country on the path of democracy.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad administers the signing of Financial Services Agreement for Roosevelt Hotel transaction.

Boosting US investments in Pakistan remains govt 's top priority: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, told Pakistani-American businessmen Thursday that the present government was facilitating and offering attractive incentives to financiers to invest in all areas of the country's economy.

"Promoting Pak-US bilateral trade and enhancing US investment in Pakistan is the foremost priority," he said in the course of a virtual meeting with the leadership of California-based Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce (PACC), which is headed by its Chairman Waqar Ali Khan.

Other members of the Chamber—Dr Sana Khan, Fawad Ismail, Zubair Rao,

Maqsood Chaudhry, Dr Salahuddin and Mr Farrukh—also took part in the meeting.

In addition, Pakistan's Consul General in Los Angeles, Asim Ali Khan, and Trade and Investment Counselor Quratulain Fatima were present.

In his remarks, Masood Khan said, "The newly established Special Investment Facilitation Council is taking practical steps to remove hurdles in the way of foreign investors undertaking profitable business ventures in Pakistan," Masood Khan said.

Appreciating the role of PACC in promoting trade activities and connecting business communities of the two countries, the Am-

bassador underscored the need for greater collaboration between various chambers and trade organizations working across the United States to boost Pak-US trade and investment ties.

"By investing their resources back home, Pak-American investors would not only be reaping huge dividends but would also be contributing towards the socio-economic progress of their motherland," the Ambassador said.

PACC Chairman Waqar Ali Khan briefed the Ambassador about various activities of the chamber, especially the successes achieved in promoting trade activities in the health, food and textile sectors.

Financial advisory services agreement signed Roosevelt Hotel's development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Privatization Commission on Friday signed a financial advisory services agreement with a consortium led by Jones Lang La Salle Americas Inc (JLL) for joint venture development of Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States, a property owned by the Pakistan International Airlines Investment Limited (PIAIL).

Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad witnessed the signing of the agreement, a news release said. Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed the Pakistan Government's

commitment for developing the historic and landmark site in the heart of financial capital of the world as an iconic structure with the most modern development features and standards.

He expressed his full confidence in the ability and expertise of the Financial Advisory Consortium to find the best possible partners and realize its maximum potential value.

In a subsequent meeting, a detailed road map and time bound milestones were also agreed leading to identification and selection of the potential joint venture partners for the project.

Cargo goods between Pak & Afghan PAJCCI for issuing special passes to truck drivers

PESHAWAR (APP): Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has suggested issuing special passes to truck drivers transporting cargo goods between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In a press statement issued here on Friday, Zia Sarhadi said the suggestion is based on streamlining and smoothing of Pak-Afghan trade which was recently halted for ten days over

condition of visas by truck drivers. Around 1000 truck drivers will be issued special passes instead of visas for carrying their goods with ease between Pakistan and Afghanistan, he added.

He said these trucks should be registered with Customs and Transport Departments in Pakistan and Transport and Gumrak in Afghanistan. The owners of heavy vehicles should also be charged a nominal fees for issuance of special pass.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,400 and was sold at Rs 217,700 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs. 216,300 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,201 to Rs.186,643 from Rs.185,442 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 171,089 from Rs. 169,989.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor arranging and displaying caps to attract the customers outside Masjid at Aabpara, in the Federal Capital.

PSX stays bullish, gains 609 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Friday, gaining 609.18 points, a positive change of 0.98 per cent, closing at 63,002.92 points against 62,393.74 points the previous trading day.

A total of 263,547,879 shares valuing Rs 10,730 billion were traded during the day as compared to 270,537,523 shares valuing Rs. 11,625 billion the last day.

Some 336 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 217 of them recorded gains and 92 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 27 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 26,580,417 shares at Rs.4.68 per share, PIAC(A) with 25,838,500 shares at Rs.10.94 per share and Pak Petroleum with 18,483,443 shares at Rs.114.34 per share.

New tech, ranking system should be introduced in cold storage sector: Zaki

LAHORE: Regional Chairman and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zaki Aijaz said new technology and ranking system should be introduced in the cold storage sector. Racks and pallet systems should be used instead of manual procedures for loading and unloading. He expressed these views while addressing the annual general meeting of the All Pakistan Cold Storage Association (APCSA) at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

Zaki Aijaz further said that approved gases should be used instead of using hazardous health gases. Cold storage should be divided into small rooms where different products can be preserved at different temperatures. Solar systems should be used. These measures can also

make the cold storage sector energy efficient.

He further said that the FPCCI will play its full role in solving the cold storage association's problems.

Chairman of All Pakistan Cold Storage Association, Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, said that tariffs on electricity and inflation have significantly increased. The interest is also high, and there has been no reduction. Due to electricity, inflation, and interest rates, cold storage costs have increased by more than 30%.

He further said that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has made a unilateral decision, and the cold storage sector has been shifted from the industry tariff to commercial tariffs. Our appeal to the government is that the cold storage sector be transferred from commercial tariff to industry tariff.

mobiles labeled as 'Manufactured in Pakistan' exported to the African market in December 2022.

The Device Identification and Blocking System (DIRBS), introduced by the PTA, have provided a level playing field for foreign investments in the mobile device manufacturing industry in Pakistan.

In addition to promoting local manufacturing, DIRBS has been a source of revenue generation for the government, collecting Rs 48.8 billion in Customs duties in the individual category from January 15, 2019, to October 25, 2023.

This revenue stream remained untapped before the implementation of DIRBS.

Leveraging this system, PTA has blocked 758,113 International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs) reported as stolen.



LAHORE: Regional Chairman and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zaki Aijaz in a group photo with participants during general meeting of the All Pakistan Cold Storage Association (APCSA) at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

Alvi urges equal opportunities for businesswomen to improve economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan urged that businesswomen should be provided equal opportunities to grow in the business field that would pave the way for better development of the economy and bring prosperity to the country.

He said that enhanced participation of women in business and other fields is so important to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development of the country. He stressed that the government should create better opportunities for the economic empowerment of women and focus

on providing them with a safe and conducive workplace environment. He said this while addressing the award ceremony for businesswomen and young entrepreneurs organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President Dr. Arif Alvi lauded the efforts of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce for organizing an award ceremony to recognize the role of businesswomen and young entrepreneurs and said that other chambers of commerce should also work for the economic empowerment of

women and youngsters.

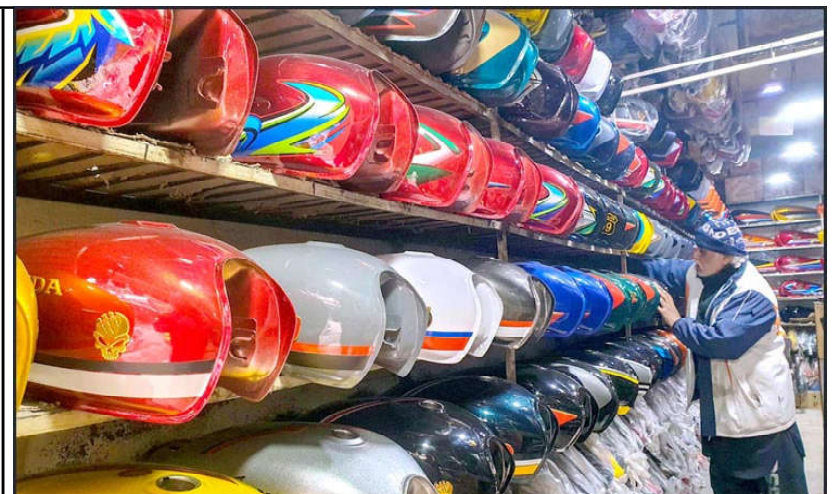
He urged the Chambers of Commerce to support businesswomen in getting cheap loans from banks. He said that 20 to 40 percent of employees in SBP and private commercial banks are women, so chambers of commerce should also encourage their member companies to provide jobs to more women and special persons in their business institutions.

He said that over 20 million children are out of school in Pakistan, and more than 50,000 schools are needed for their enrollment. However, as an alter-

native, mosques can be used to educate out-of-school children. Similarly, mosques can also be used as primary health centers.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that to ensure the development and prosperity of the country, it is important to empower women in every sphere of life.

ICCI is working hard to empower women and youth. He said that women are 50% of our population, but their participation in business is meager.



RAWALPINDI: A shopkeeper displays motorcycles fuel tanks to attract the customers at his display center.

Rupee gains 07 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Friday gained 07 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.40 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.47.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280 and Rs 281.7 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs.2.71 paise to close at Rs 304.09 against the last day's closing of Rs301.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Pak envoy says: Kazakhstan invited to benefit from SIFC framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ambassador to Kazakhstan Nauman Bashir Bhatti on Friday said Kazakhstan had been invited to benefit from the favorable investment opportunities being offered by Pakistan under the framework of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

"I must highlight that Pakistan has established a SIFC and has opened priority sectors for investments. We have invited Kazakhstan to benefit from the favorable investment opportunities offered under the SIFC framework," he said in response to a question in an interview with 'Kazinform', an international news agency.

Highlighting Pakistan's strategic location, the envoy mentioned that his country also provided the shortest route for Kazakhstan's access to the Arabian Sea. "Pakistan remains keen to strengthen its connectivity with Kazakhstan in multiple

ways and through multiple channels. The two sides are already working towards this end."

In response to another question, he agreed that the shortest and cheapest route for connectivity and transportation of goods between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was through China and Kyrgyzstan using the Karakoram Highway.

"It is also known as the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement between Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan or the QTTA Route. Goods can be transported through this route on trucks and containers directly from Karachi, Pakistan, to Almaty, Kazakhstan, and back, without the need to change trucks."

Ambassador Nauman mentioned it was the safest, most reliable, and economical route. However, currently, the route cannot be kept operational due to the closure of the Khunjerab Pass for four months in winter.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Navios Constellation, Eva Tokyo, Ullswater and Bi Jia Shan, carrying Containers, Chemicals, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal, Sui Southern Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Golden Curl and Eva Tokyo are left the port on today morning and another containers ship, Navios Constellation is expected to sail on same day.

A cargo volume of 115,911 tonnes, comprising 70,354 tonnes imports cargo and 45,557 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,427 Containers (1,399 TEUs are import and 2,028 TEUs are export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 39.45 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.85 percent and went down to 310.42 points from last week's 313.09 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs. 29,518-44,175 and above Rs. 44,175, decreased by 0.71 percent, 0.53 percent, 0.41 and 0.06 percent respectively.

During the week, out

of 51 items, prices of 12 (23.53%) items increased, 17 (33.33%) items decreased and 22 (43.14%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included tomatoes (18.28%), eggs (7.77%), onions (6.99%), LPG (1.53%), tea packet (1.29%), potatoes (1.25%), pulse masoor (0.80%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.36%) and mustard oil (0.28%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included petrol (5.20%), chicken (1.88%), diesel (0.95%), energy saver (0.70%), bananas (0.68%), salt powdered (0.55%), pulse moong (0.34%), mutton (0.33%), gur (0.21%), beef (0.15%), tea prepared (0.14%) and georgette (0.10%). On a year-on-year basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included onions (15.10%), mustard oil (10.86%), bananas (10.15%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (3.58%), LPG (1.63%) and vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.80%).

The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included gas charges for q1 (1108.59%).



RAWALPINDI: A woman purchases handmade baskets from a roadside vendor at Rahmanabad.

Weekly inflation dips by 0.28 pc

ISLAMABAD (INP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.28 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on February 1st, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 317.65 points as compared to 318.55 points during the past week.

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BAHAWALPUR: Artisan preparing traditional curtains on roadside.

Mobile industry booms with production of 84.4 mln units

ISLAMABAD (APP): The local companies have produced 84.4 million mobile devices reflecting the industry's phenomenal growth that created thousands of jobs in last five years. According to annual report of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), 25 million smartphones were among the total devices produced from January 2019 to September 2023.

It said 33 local and foreign companies locally established manufacturing plants under the Mobile Device Manufacturing (MDM) Regulations introduced in 2021.

These companies, operating both as standalone entities and through joint ventures, obtained a 10-year MDM authorization.

The country also initiated export of locally manufactured handsets, with 120,000 SEEGO brand

mobiles labeled as 'Manufactured in Pakistan' exported to the African market in December 2022.

The Device Identification and Blocking System (DIRBS), introduced by the PTA, have provided a level playing field for foreign investments in the mobile device manufacturing industry in Pakistan.

In addition to promoting local manufacturing, DIRBS has been a source of revenue generation for the government, collecting Rs 48.8 billion in Customs duties in the individual category from January 15, 2019, to October 25, 2023.

This revenue stream remained untapped before the implementation of DIRBS.

Leveraging this system, PTA has blocked 758,113 International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs) reported as stolen.

Trudeau condemns attack on Canada mosque, says Islamophobia 'has no place' in country

Monitoring Desk
QUEBEC: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday condemned an attack on a mosque in the city of Mississauga in Ontario province, which is being probed as a hate crime and which rights advocates described as being part of a rise in Islamophobia.

Police said someone threw two rocks through the window of a Mississauga mosque on Sunday, on the eve of the anniversary of a mosque attack in Quebec City that killed six people in 2017.

CBC News said no one was injured in the incident.

"Islamophobia has no place in any of our

communities," Trudeau said on X, formerly called Twitter.

"The attack against a Mississauga mosque earlier this week on the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia is cowardly, disturbing, and unacceptable. I condemn it in the strongest terms possible," he said.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims said the attack was "part of an alarming rise in Islamophobic hate across the country."

In November, authorities in Toronto said the number of antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate

crimes in Canada's largest city had spiked significantly since the start of Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

Rights advocates have noted a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in many parts of the world since October 7 when Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel and killed 1,200, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, Israel has militarily assaulted the Gaza Strip, killing 27,000, according to Gaza's health ministry, and flattening most of the densely populated enclave where nearly all of the 2.3 million population is displaced.



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg leaves Westminster Magistrates Court in London after the hearing.

Hamas says it's studying Gaza cease-fire proposal, but appears to rule out key provisions

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Hamas officials said Friday that the group is studying a proposed cease-fire deal that would include prolonged pauses in fighting in Gaza and swaps of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, but at the same time appeared to rule out some of its key components.

Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas official in Beirut, said the group remains committed to its initial demands for a permanent cease-fire.

Hamdan also said the group seeks the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners being held for acts related to the conflict with Israel, including those serving life sentences. He mentioned two by name, including Marwan Barghouti, a popular Palestinian uprising leader seen as a unifying figure.

Hamdan's comments on the prisoners were the most detailed demands yet

to be raised by the group in public.

The insistence on large-scale prisoner releases and an end to the fighting in Gaza put the group at odds with the multi-stage proposal that officials from Egypt, Israel, Qatar and the United States put forth this week. The proposal does not include a permanent cease-fire.

"There is no way that this will be acceptable by the resistance," Hamdan told Lebanon's LBC TV on Friday, referring to proposed successive pauses in fighting.

Israeli leaders have said they will keep fighting until Hamas is crushed, even while agreeing to long pauses that are accompanied by the release of hostages.

Hamas and other militants captured about 250 hostages during their deadly Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war.

Thunberg goes on trial in London for oil protest

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg went on trial on Thursday for a public order offence related to a protest outside an oil and gas conference held in London last year.

Thunberg, who became a prominent campaigner worldwide after staging week-long protests in front of the Swedish parliament in 2018, was arrested on Oct. 17.

She and others had been protesting outside a hotel where the Energy Intelligence Forum was hosting oil and gas industry leaders.

The 21-year-old appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Thursday alongside four other defendants, aged between 19 and 59, who have pleaded not guilty to a single offence under the Public Order Act.

The five are accused of failing to comply with a condition imposed by senior police officers to move their protest to designated area near the conference.

Election officials in South Africa rush to register 100,000 prisoners to vote

Monitoring Desk
PRETORIA: South African election officials have visited prisons across the country as part of an ambitious project to register at least 100,000 inmates to vote in this year's national election.

The country's constitution guarantees every adult citizen the right to vote — meaning there are no restrictions on prisoners taking part in elections, a stark contrast to most other African nations. The date for the vote has not yet been announced, but it's expected to be held between May and August.

The Electoral Commission of South Africa hopes to register a record number of inmates in the 240 correctional facilities across the country as voters. Around 15,000 prisoners voted in the last national election in 2019.

South Africa has

about 157,000 inmates currently in prison, according to authorities. The country struggles with one of the highest crime rates in the world. The commission said that though it was concluding its visit to all 240 prisons by the end of Thursday, it still could not say how many prisoners countrywide had registered.

At the all-male Zonderwater Correctional Centre on the outskirts of the capital, Pretoria, prisoners in orange uniforms lined up Thursday in a hall to register as first-time voters or update their details on electoral rolls if they have been recently incarcerated.

Guards kept a close watch. A banner with the words "Ensuring Free and Fair Elections" was pinned to a prison wall. Other inmates ignored the process, chatting to each other or getting on with their work preparing lunch in the cafeteria.



People participate in a rally hosted by the 'Take Back Our Border' trucker convoy against migrants crossing from Mexico, in Dripping Springs, Texas, U.S.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visits the military equipment of IRGC Navy in Bandar Abbas, Iran.

China tells Ukraine to remove its firms from 'sponsors of war' list

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: China demanded on Thursday that Ukraine immediately remove more than a dozen Chinese companies from a list of firms designated as "international sponsors of war", saying it wanted Kyiv to "eliminate negative impacts".

The remarks came after Reuters reported that China's ambassador in Kyiv had told senior Ukrainian government officials last month that the inclu-

sion of the companies on the list could hurt bilateral ties.

"China firmly opposes the inclusion of Chinese enterprises in the relevant list and demands that Ukraine immediately correct its mistakes and eliminate negative impacts," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson told Reuters after the report was published. It did not specify what those impacts may be.

Indian Muslim leaders urge government to end mosque-temple disputes

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Top Muslim leaders in India called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Friday to end disputes over mosques and Hindu temples, saying the minority Muslim population was feeling under threat and their places of worship should be protected.

In the latest such contentious case, a court this week allowed Hindus to pray in a 17th-century mosque, which Hindus say was built after the destruction of a temple.

"Many people in the country are claiming that some of the historic

mosques were constructed after the destruction of temples, but these are false accusations," said Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board.

"We urge the government to put an end to such disputes and save the secular fabric of the nation," he told reporters, flanked by other leaders and clerics. The Muslim community was feeling "threatened and suffocated" in their own country, he added.

The home ministry did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.



FRANKFURT: Travellers wait at Frankfurt airport after a strike by aviation security workers.

Massive fire set off by gas explosion in Kenya's capital kills at least 3 people and injures over 270

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: A vehicle loaded with gas exploded and set off an inferno that burned homes and warehouses in Kenya's capital early Friday, killing at least three people and injuring more than 270, with the death toll expected to rise.

Many residents were likely inside their homes when the fire reached their houses late in the night in the Mradi area of the Nairobi neighborhood of Embakasi, government spokesman Isaac Mwaura

said. The truck explosion ignited a huge fireball, and a flying gas cylinder set off a fire that burned down the Oriental Godown, a warehouse that deals with garments and textiles, Mwaura said. Several other vehicles and businesses were damaged by the inferno that started around 11:30 p.m. Thursday. At the scene after daybreak, several houses and shops were burned out. The shell of the vehicle believed to have started the explosion was lying on its side.

China's top court executes man, girlfriend for killing his two children to start new family

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: In China, a couple was put to death for tossing their two kids from the fifteenth story of a tall apartment building in Chongqing.

On January 31, Zhang Bo and Ye Chengchen, his girlfriend, were put to death. The horrific act that was perpetrated in 2020 has been denounced nationally.

Zhang's partner killed his two-year-old daughter and one-year-old son because they appeared to be 'obstacles'.

Zhang met Ye online and the two were having an affair. He kept his two children a secret from her.

The reason for this is that Ye had informed him that if he had kids, she would not live with him. He had consented to a divorce from Chen Meilin, the mother of his children and wife. But soon, she found out about Zhang's children.

Early in 2020, Zhang and Ye started preparing to murder his children. They had talked on how to execute the murders over WeChat, a well-known Chinese messaging app.

They had made up their minds to pretend the deaths were an accident. When their mother was not around, Zhang flung his kids out the apartment window in November 2020.

More than 100 Myanmar migrants flee Malaysian detention centre, one dead

Monitoring Desk
KUALA LUMPUR: An undocumented migrant from Myanmar has died in a road accident while fleeing an immigration detention centre with over a hundred others in Malaysia late Thursday, officials said.

The incident was the second reported breakout from a Malaysian detention centre in as many years. In April 2022, 582 ethnic Rohingya refugees from Myanmar escaped.

UN's Palestinian agency nominated for Nobel Prize

Monitoring Desk
OSLO: A Norwegian politician said on Thursday that he has nominated the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, embroiled in a controversy over the alleged involvement of employees in the Oct 7 raid on Israel, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Labour MP Asmund Auksrust told the Dagbladet newspaper he had nominated the UN Relief and Works Agency "for its long-term work to provide vital support to Palestine and the region in general".

"This work has been crucial for over 70 years, and even more vital in the last three months."

North Korea fires multiple cruise missiles into West Sea

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles into the West Sea on Friday, Seoul's military said, continuing a fresh streak of weapons testing as Kim Jong Un's regime ramps up "war preparations".

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military had "detected at around 11am (0200 GMT) the firing of multiple unidentified cruise missiles" into the sea off the country's west coast.

The South Korean military has "stepped up surveillance in close coordination with the United States", the JCS said in the statement.

The military is "closely monitoring for signs of additional activity" by the North Korean army, it said, adding they were "closely analysing" the launch.

The Friday launch comes three days after the nuclear-armed North conducted what it said was a test-fire of a strategic cruise missile.

On Sunday, Kim also oversaw the launch of two Pulhwasal-3-31s, a new type of strategic cruise missile, purportedly from a North Korean submarine.

Pyeongang has also claimed this month to have tested an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile.

Unlike their ballistic counterparts, the testing of cruise missiles is not banned under current UN sanctions on Pyongyang.

Cruise missiles tend to be jet-propelled and fly at a lower altitude than more sophisticated ballistic missiles, making them harder to detect and intercept.

EU approves \$54 billion package for Ukraine after appeasing Hungary

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union (EU) leaders unanimously agreed on Thursday to extend 50 billion euros (\$54bn) in aid to Ukraine, overcoming weeks of resistance by Hungary.

Leaders from Western countries have reacted over the aid announcement for the Ukraine.

European Council President Charles Michel said, "We have a deal. All 27 leaders agreed on an additional 50bn support package for Ukraine within the EU budget. This looks in steadfast, long-term, predictable funding for Ukraine. The EU is taking leadership and responsibility in support for Ukraine; we know what is at stake."

Reacting on the EU aid announcement, the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, "Grateful to Charles Michel and EU leaders for establishing the 50bn Ukraine Facility for

2024-2027. It is very important that the decision was made by all 27 leaders, which once again proves strong EU unity.

"Continued EU financial support for Ukraine will strengthen long-term economic and financial stability, which is no less important than military assistance and sanctions pressure on Russia."

Meanwhile, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that "We received an offer, and negotiated a control mechanism that guarantees the reasonable use of funds and we also received guarantees that Hungary's money (that the commission has not yet released) cannot go to Ukraine. After a lengthy negotiation we accepted this offer."

In addition, EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen said, "Agreement! The European Council delivered on our priorities."

Protests expected over NZ indigenous policies on national day holiday

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: Crowds at this weekend's anniversary of New Zealand's founding document signing in the town of Waitangi are expected to be their biggest in 30 years as indigenous Maori plan to discuss and protest proposed policies that some say will disadvantage them.

The main celebrations will be held on Feb. 6, marking the day in 1840 when the Treaty of Waitangi was first signed between the British Crown and more than 500 Maori chiefs.

Politicians, Maori leaders and members of the public are set to start arriving in the small seaside town in the north of the North Island on Saturday.

Pita Tipene, chairman of the Waitangi National Trust board which organises the event, said they expected upwards of 60,000 people to attend Waitangi Day events. That would make it the largest

such gathering, which includes concerts and stalls as well as political meetings and speeches, since at the least 1990.

"It is a place of discourse. There will be increased numbers because people want to come and listen. People also want to come and express their frustration and anger at what they see coming out of government policies," he said.

New Zealand's centre-right coalition, which took office late last year, is promising to undo policies of previous governments, particularly those promoting the official use of the Maori language and seeking to enhance Indigenous living standards and rights. The government has also said it will introduce, but are not committed to passing, a bill that would reinterpret the Treaty of Waitangi. Critics say the moves are the most significant step backward for Maori rights in decades.

Protests erupt in Argentina as lawmakers debate Milei's sweeping reform bill

Monitoring Desk
BUENOS AIRES: Argentine police fired rubber bullets on Thursday to disperse protesters gathered outside Congress as lawmakers debated the new president's sweeping economic, social and political reform package.

Opposition legislators stormed out of the building at one point to observe and denounce the police action, but later went back inside to take their seats and the debate resumed.

The drama unfolded on the second day of what is expected to be a marathon debate on libertarian and self-described anarcho-capitalist President Javier Milei's reform plans.

The 53-year-old outsider won a resounding election victory late last year on a wave of fury over decades of economic crises marked by debt, rampant money printing, inflation and fiscal deficit.

Milei began his term by devaluing the peso by more than 50 percent, cutting state subsidies for fuel and trans-

port, reducing the number of ministries by half, and scrapping hundreds of rules so as to deregulate the economy. His massive reform package with hundreds of articles touches on all areas of public and private life, from privatisations to cultural issues, the penal code, divorce and the status of football clubs.

Argentines who elected him are already up in arms and even staged a strike less than two months into his term. Opposition lawmakers walked out of the chamber as police put down the protests outside.

TV footage showed police firing rubber bullets and water cannons at hundreds of demonstrators opposed to the reform package. "We cannot hold a session under these circumstances," leftist lawmaker Mariano Del Cano said as he and others left the building. Myriam Bregman, a leftist lawmaker and former presidential hopeful, told reporters that a group of some 40 legislators urged police to stop the violence.

Mind games important for fostering physical, mental growth in youth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday emphasizing the importance of sports, particularly mind games, in fostering both physical and mental development of youth, said that the chess game helps to instill discipline in individuals' thought processes. Addressing the launch of the Prime Minister's National Mind Sports Initiative, the prime minister highlighted the positive impact of such mind games on mental well-being and said the youth engaged in such healthy activities would become successful professionals in the future. He said these games promote cognitive activity and critical thinking among the players.

The prime minister said he was happy that he made a commitment to this special cause, and he will also continue to support and promote this cause in the future. He said every school in the country should have access to this game. Acknowledging the

contribution of the federal minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Fawad Hassan Fawad PM Kakar said that due to his personal efforts, the launch of this initiative became possible.

Fawad Hassan Fawad, on the occasion, informed that, under the initiative, the facility of mind games would be provided at 10,000 public schools across the country.

"We are going to take it across all the public schools in Pakistan, and we are also engaging the corporate sector and inviting the private schools to have this in every single school in the country," he added. The minister said that in the first month, some 100 schools in Islamabad would be given the facility. The minister also recalled the tremendous performance of late Mir Sultan Khan, a native chess player from Sargodha, who won the British Chess Championship in 1929, 1931, and 1932.

To acknowledge the performance of Mir Sultan

Khan, President Arkady Dvorkovich presented an award to Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who received the award on behalf of Mir Sultan Khan.

The President of the International Chess Federation, speaking on the occasion, said that besides being a mind game, chess was a lot of fun too. He said this game was very important for a country like Pakistan, where millions of young people were growing up.

He said, "Some 600,000 kids in 10,000 schools in Pakistan will have the chance to get access to this game. He said the federation will support and train the teachers, who will then train kids."

The Managing Director (MD) of the International Chess Federation, Dana Reznicec-Ozola, President of the Asian Chess Federation, Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, and President of the Pakistan Chess Federation, Muhammad Hanif Qureshi, were also present.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar receives an award conferred upon Late Mir Sultan Khan, a Chess player, posthumously from the President of International Chess Federation Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich and President Asian Chess Federation Mr. Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan.

KIIR calls on UN to halt illegal campaign launched by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani, called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to halt the illegal profiling campaign disguised as a census by Indian troops in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

In a joint letter addressed to the UN Secretary General and other UN Special Rapporteurs, Altaf Hussain Wani underscored the move is illegal, unconstitutional, and human rights violations.

He expressed concerns about the lack of transparency in the cam-

campaign initiated without formal announcements from competent authorities, further unsettling the already anxious residents.

Wani emphasized the fear and insecurity prevailing in Occupied Kashmir since the Modi's government revoked the region's special status, saying it is a blatant violation of UNSC resolutions. The Chairman Wani revealed that the census conducted by Indian troops was extracting sensitive information, including family details, ages, and contact information of residents and their family members living outside the region.

The distributed "census forms" sought exclusive

data such as Aadhar numbers, vehicle registration numbers, and information about CCTV cameras, along with inquiries about family members involved in the freedom struggle. Residents were even asked for photographs and geo-tagging coordinates of their residences. The letter highlighted the invasive nature of the campaign, causing serious concerns among Kashmiri people already living under excessive surveillance. Wani pointed to the Indian security forces' growing interference in residents' private lives, citing databases created since 2019 targeting journalists, academicians, civil society

AC issues Toshakhana case's written order

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Accountability Bureau (AB) of Islamabad on Friday issued its written order regarding the 14 years imprisonment sentence to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case.

AC Judge Muhammad Bashir, in his 44-page detailed judgment, said that the court had testified a total of 16 witnesses during the trial.

The order said that the PTI's founder and his wife received a total of 108 gifts from abroad.

It further said that the PTI founder's wife received a gift of jewelry set as a gift from the Saudi Crown Prince, which was reported but not deposited into the Toshakhana.

The judgment said that the two accused used influence on the private expert who determined the value of the gift. They acquired the gift jewelry set after paying only Rs 9 million while its actual value was over Rs 3.16 billion.

According to Sohaib Abbasi, who determined the value of said gift, he estimated the value of the gift lower on the instruction of the PTI's founder. The

NAB (National Accountability Bureau) had served five notices to Bushra Bibi and the founder of PTI and asked them to come with the gift jewelry set to determine the price but both did not bring the gift.

It said that the attitude of PTI's founder during trial was very inappropriate. The accused had been changing the defence lawyers repeatedly and they were not even willing to cross-examine the witnesses. The court shared a questionnaire with the PTI's founder but he did not answer it.

The defence lawyers were aware about the hearing date but they did not arrive court, it added.

The court said that the accused did not properly determine the actual value of the gift. The founder of PTI and Bushra Bibi did not even give the information about the gifts.

The verdict said that NAB contacted Imran Bashir, a Dubai-based expert on jewellery and antiques, who estimated the price of set from various dealers. He reported that the value of jewelry set was Rs 3.160 billion.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Candidate for PB-45 Constituency, Ali Madad Jattak inaugurating the election campaign in connection of upcoming General Election 2024, in Quetta.

Domki, Jan & Jamali grieved over death of mother of Zahir Khan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed condolence and sorrow over the death of mother of journalist Zahir Khan Nasar.

In a condolence statement issued here on Friday, the caretaker Chief Minister prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace

and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of her death.

Meanwhile, in separate condolence messages issued here on Friday, the caretaker Provincial Ministers Jan Achakzai and Mir Zubair Jamali have expressed grief and sorrow over the death of mother of Zahir Khan Nasar. They also prayed for the departed soul.

PNS SAIF visits Sri Lanka during regional maritime security patrol

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Navy's PNS SAIF visited Colombo, Sri Lanka during its Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) deployment on Friday. Upon arrival at the port, the ship was received by officials of Pakistan Embassy and Sri Lankan Navy, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the stay at the port, the Commanding Officer of PNS SAIF called on senior naval and military officials of Sri Lanka.

During the interaction, matters of mutual interests were discussed and enhancement of bilateral ties in all spheres was reaffirmed.

The Commanding Officer also conveyed good wishes of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf for the people of Sri Lanka in general and the Sri Lankan Navy in particular.

During stay at the port, the ship's crew visited different Sri Lankan Navy training facilities, and the Sri Lankan Navy officers and men also visited the Pakistan Navy ship.

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QWP Chairman calls for fair elections to address challenges

PESHAWAR (APP): Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Attab Ahmad Khan Sherpao emphasized the importance of ensuring free, fair, and peaceful elections to address the challenges facing the country. Speaking at a gathering Charsadda district, he highlighted various issues such as inflation, poverty, law and order concerns, and unemployment.

He stressed that whichever political party comes to power must focus on revitalizing the economy and promoting development.

He lamented that political instability and high inflation have hindered the country's progress and

urged political forces to unite for political and economic stability.

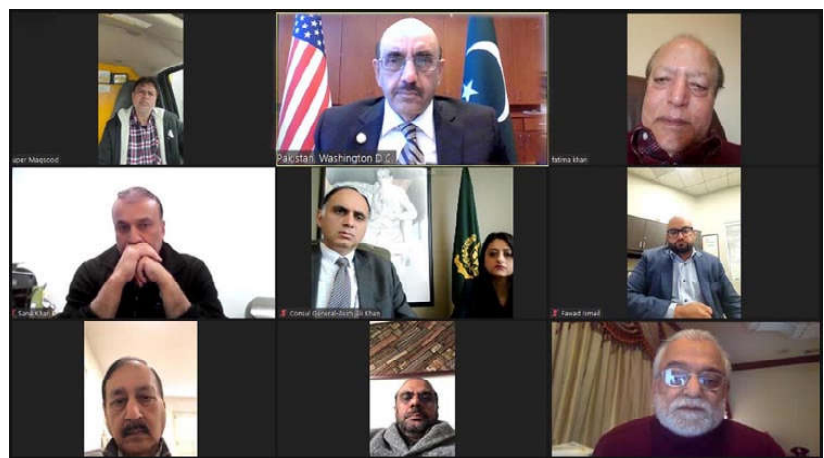
He expressed dismay over the neglect of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that the province has been left behind in development due to previous governments neglecting its rights.

He criticized the excessive load shedding of electricity and gas in KP despite the province's self-sufficiency in these resources, promising to fight for the province's rights.

Sherpao assured that the QWP would fulfill its promises and work tirelessly for the development and welfare of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Central Leader, Dr. Nashan Lehri along with Abdul Shakoor Marri, Leader Muslim League (PML-Q) addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan in a virtual meeting with the leadership of Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) led by its Chairman aqar Ali Khan. Other members of the Chamber included Dr. Sana Khan, Fawad Ismail, Zubair Rao, Maqsood Chaudhry, Dr. Salahuddin and Farrukh, Consul General of Pakistan in Los Angeles Asim Ali Khan and Trade and Investment Counselor Quratulain Fatima, attended the meeting.

Faisalabad still citadel of PMLN: Shehbaz

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif termed Faisalabad the citadel of PML-N on Friday and said that enthusiasm of people clearly indicated that they love Nawaz Sharif from the core of their hearts. Addressing a public gathering at Iqbal Park (Dhobi Ghat ground) here, he said PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif always considered Faisalabad as his second home, and when he was voted to power earlier, he launched major development projects for the city and transformed it into a dynamic city.

He said that he had visited Satiana Road in 1997 for construction of the road. He said he always remained committed to development of the city. He said he asked people whether they wanted metro or ex-

pressway, and they opted for an expressway, and Nawaz Sharif directed him to give the city what people were demanding.

He termed the youth asset to the country and power of society, adding that they would be fully accommodated by providing the best quality education at their doorsteps.

"We would also offer scholarships and restart distribution of laptops among talented students, so that they could exploit their quality of head and heart to build Pakistan on modern lines," he added. He promised to provide the city with metro bus service, and said that if the PML-N candidates would be voted to power from Faisalabad, the party would set up a state-of-the-art Arfa Kareem IT University in this city after forming its government.

Furnace Ignition in SMELTER SAINDAK

NOKUNDI (Online): On February 2, the reverberatory furnace of Smelter MRDL, Saindak was ignited and started.

The company's leadership team, Chinese and Pakistani HODs, and key personnel of Smelter attended the ceremony and jointly witnessed the beginning of the 23rd production cycle of Smelter.

Based on the basic reality of Saindak's industry, MCCT (MRDL's superior company) is striving to create a development path that is in line with the local of Pakistan as well as taking the lead in the non-ferrous industry in Pakistan.

"Long live China-Pakistan friendship!" Pakistani brothers at the site cheered. Mining industry revitalizes the economy and brings happiness. MRDL's blueprint for the development of surrounding areas is becoming a reality.

Pak desires to strengthen ties with Mongolia: FS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi Friday met the new Ambassador of Mongolia to Pakistan Tuvshin Badral and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Congratulating Ambassador Badral on his appointment, the foreign secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further deepen Pakistan-Mongolia relations, and strengthen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Pneumonia claims seven more lives in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): Seven more children fell victim to pneumonia in Punjab over the past 24 hours, bringing the total tally to this infectious disease to 303 this year, according to Punjab Health Department on Friday.

A total of 764 new pneumonia cases emerged, with Lahore alone registering 178 fresh cases during the said period, a private news channel reported.

The cumulative toll of pneumonia cases in Punjab has now surpassed 18,000.

The health experts are attributing the rapid rise in pneumonia cases and fatalities to environmental pollution exacerbated by winter smog.

FM urges close cooperation to deal with global challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Friday urged close cooperation and multidisciplinary international partnerships to deal with global challenges.

He was speaking at the 3rd Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum, in Belgium at the invitation of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell.

The foreign minister also joined the Roundtable on 'Shared Prosperity, Eco-

conomic Resilience, and Investments'.

In his remarks, he outlined the future trajectory of global partnerships.

He underlined the need for shared responsibility to move away from divisive bloc politics and notions of great power contestation.

The FM proposed a three-tier approach involving development of international digital cooperation hubs, mechanisms for combating climate change and South-South Triangular Cooperation.

Envoys underscore commitment to peaceful, stable Afghan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi Friday held here a meeting with Chinese Special Envoy on Afghanistan Ambassador, Yue Xiaoyong and discussed issues related to Afghanistan.

They underscored their commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination for regional stability.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Government Teachers Association Haji Mujeebullah Gharsheen meeting with Caretaker Education Minister Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch.

Balochistan govt sets medical sector on top priority: Abdullah

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan on Friday said that the government was attaching priority to the medical sector to provide the best healthcare facilities to the masses.

Chairing a meeting held here on Friday regarding the migration policy of medical colleges, he said that the health sector was important while medical education played the role of backbone in the health sector.

Abdullah Khan said that the government was attaching priority to the medical sector, adding that the contribution of all departments in the educational field of the province was inevitable, enabling students of the province to

seek admission to higher educational institutions of the country. The meeting was attended by Principal, Bolan Medical College, Quetta, Professor Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar, Additional Secretary, Health Department, Abdul Hameed Zehri, Principal Jhalawan Medical College, Khuzdar, Dr. Samad Gichki, Additional Secretary, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Syed Naseer Shah, Additional Secretary, Higher and Technical Education Department, Shakeel Ahmed, Technical Advisor, Health Department, Dr. Amin Khan Jozgazi, Section Officer Colleges, Aftab Admn Officer, Bolan Medical College, Quetta, Hamdullah and others.

Mushahid stresses 'healing touch' for stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Defence Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Friday underscored the urgent need for a "healing touch" in the country. Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized the critical role of national unity and urged political leaders to act responsibly to foster stability in the country. Mushahid remarked that the political parties had been transformed into "family business franchises". He called for learning lessons from the past, cautioning against turning political rivalries into personal enmities. Addressing the root causes of political instability, he pointed out that politicians had not set rules of the game.

Change only through power of vote: We would not let anyone spoil peaceful elections in Chaman, other areas: Asghar Achakzai

Independent Report QUETTA: The provincial president of Awami National Party (ANP) and its candidate on PB-51, Chaman and NA-263, Quetta-II, Asghar Khan Achakzai and other party candidates contesting election on different seats have stated that we would not let succeed any conspiracy of spoiling the peaceful elections in Chaman.

He said that public service is the hallmark of followers of the Bacha Khan.

The provincial president of ANP and others were addressing different events including the inaug-

uration ceremony of the election cells of the party as well as workers convention and different public gatherings marking the election campaign in Chaman and different other areas and constituencies on Saturday.

Others who addressed the events were included candidate of the party for PB-50 and PB41, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, candidate for PB-1, Sardar Aminullah Khan, candidate for PB-2, Allaiddin Mandokhail, candidate for PB-3, Malik Amanullah Kakar, candidate for PB-5, Dr Atta Gul Hamzazi, candidate for PB-6, Izzat Khan Nasar, candidate for PB-7, Wali

Dad, candidate for PB-38, Malik Naeem Khan Bazai, candidate for PB-39, Malik Taj Muhammad, candidate for PB-40, Abdul Ahad, candidate for PB-46, Sanaullah Kakar, candidate for PB-47, Abdul Bari Kakar, candidate for PB-48, Ubaidullah Abid, candidate for PB-49, Asghar Ali Tareen, candidate for NA-252, Shazia Watanpal, candidate for NA-253, Fareedullah Dummar, candidate for NA-265, Abdul Rasheed Nasar and candidate for NA-266, Mohibullah Kakar besides others.

They in the occasion welcomed all those who joined the party.



QUETTA: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater due to poor sewerage system caused by downpour of winter season, at Zarghoon road in Quetta.

Mir Hassan Zehri says: Dureji also fell into the hands of vested interests

Independent Report HUB: Today's grand gathering proved that Dureji also went by your hands, Bhutanese Sahib. These views were expressed by the senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and the president of Hub district and spokesperson of Asif Ali Zardari for Balochistan, candidate PB-21 Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, while addressing the rally held at Goth Jameel Bareja in Dureji. Meanwhile, Jameel Bareja, Fayyaz Bareja and a large number of people welcomed Mir Ali Hassan Zehri. On this occasion, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri and other dignitaries were presented with traditional turbans and gifts. Under the leadership of Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, Jameel Ahmed Bareja and thousands of people from different communities joined the Peoples Party regularly, including Ghulam Haider Bandijo, Abdul Razzaq Chhata, Khamisa Khan Chhata, Muhammad Rafiq Chhata, Ghulam Rasool

Chhata, Dr. Muhammad Khan Zehri and thousands of colleagues joined the Pakistan Peoples Party as a rule. On this occasion, Pakistan Peoples Party General Secretary Hub Sharif Palari, Usman Koh Baloch, Syed Iqbal Shah, Hamal Khan Marri, Saeed Mengal and party leaders and a large number of workers were present. Pakistan Peoples Party Central Leader Iqbal Shah, District General Secretary Hub Sharif Palari and Jameel Bareja also spoke on this occasion.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said in his address that the era of Waderas, Jams and nawabs is gone and now is the era of youth and new thinkers. He welcomed and congratulated those who joined the Pakistan Peoples Party, who expressed confidence in us and the top leadership of the party and joined by listening to the voice of their conscience. On this occasion, Jameel Bareja in his address said that we and thousands of our colleagues.