

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No. 169, Rajab 26, 1445 AH Wednesday February 07, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

Inauguration

on 06 Feb, 20

Best arrangements made to ensure peaceful election, PM Kakar tells international observers

Says now it is the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote; Caretaker government has fulfilled its responsibilities.

ary, 2024.

meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet, in the Federal Capital.

Thanks to caretaker Chief Minister

Computerized arm licenses

and succession certificates

launched in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that despite numerous challenges, the best possible arrangements had been made to ensure peaceful and seamless conduct of elections on polling day, across the country.

He was talking to a delegation of the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG), led by former President of Nigeria Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was part affairs of the state and creof the COG's interaction with various stakeholders ate a conducive environ-ment ahead of the elections. ahead of the upcoming gen-eral elections on 8th Febru-

The prime minister welcomed the COG delegation and said that Pakistan was proud to honour its commitment as a Commonwealth member state by inviting independent international observers to witness the general elections.

He also highlighted that the caretaker government throughout the country to had fulfilled its responsibili- observe the election proties to run the day-to-day cess

Now it was the turn of the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic right to vote, he added. Goodluck Ebele

taker prime minister and conveyed best wishes of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland. He said the COG delegation would be visiting various polling sites





The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday approved the restructuring of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on the recommendation of he Privatization Division. The cabinet, in its pre-

vious meeting approved the appointment of a financial advisor for financial and administrative restructuring of the airlines

ing chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was told that the financial advisor had formulated a financial restructuring plan of PIA in line with international precedents under which the airlines will be divided into two companies, Top-Co

and Hold-Co. monitor Pakistan's

and properties will be incorporated in Hold-Co. These measures will help attract capital investors to PIA The cabinet also directed the cabinet sub-committee on Privatization to deal with the matters re-

lated to settlement of government-owned enterprises with PIA as soon as possible On the recommendation of the ministry of Privatization, cabinet also

OGRA scales up gas tariff ISLAMABAD (Online) OGRA has scaled up sui gas tariff enormously.

Tariff of Sui Northern has been increased by 35.1 percent from February 02 and Sui Southern by 8.5

OGRA has sent notification on enhancement of tariff to government for implementation.

According to notification the average cost of gas has been increased from Rs 1238.68 to Rs 1673.82 per MMBTU on Sui Northern system

Sui Northern has been allowed to recover more Rs 180 billion from consum ers

OGRA has enhanced tariff of Sui Southern by 8.5 percent.

The average cost of Sui Southern gas has been increased from Rs 1350.68 to Rs 1466.40 per MMBTU. Sui Northern has been allowed to reover Rs 48 billion more

ting gas theft ratio reduced

Security forces

kill two

terrorists in

N. Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (Online)

Two terrorists including

terrorist ring leader Ayubullah alias Mansoor

were killed in an intelligence

based operation by security

forces in North Waziristan

weapons, ammunition and

According to the ISPR,

from sui gas companies.

CM inaugurates Chinese funded projects: Solarization & computer lab projects in educational institutions, libraries and health centers completed on the occasion.

Addressing the inaugu-

ral ceremony, caretaker

Chief Minister said that the projects completed with

assistance of China would

be helpful for welfare of the

people. He said that there

is a strong bond of friend-

ship and neighbourhood be-

tween Pakistan and China.

He said that the biggest

This is a strong chain

Independent Report UETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki formally inaugurated different projects of solarization and computer labs completed with assistance of China, here on Tuesday. The solarization and computer labs have been completed in the educational institutions as well as the public libraries and healthcare

This relationship going to be strengthened further with passage of time, he added. The Chief Minister centers in 12 different dissaid that the relations betricts of the province. The caretaker Provintween the two countries

cial Minister for Home, Mir are seven decades old and Zubair Jamali, Chief Secrethese are well routed. tary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief investment of China had Minister, Rashid Razzaq, been started in Pakistan in Additional Chief Secretary form of the CPEC projects. Home, Zahid Saleem, Chairof the sustainable relations man Friends of China Fobetween the two countries rum, Bayazeed Kasi besides other high ups were present he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing a press conference, in Islamabad.

Gohar Ejaz pledges to ensure robust security for upcoming polls-2024

Over 120mln to exercise right of vote to elect representatives: Solangi

Continued on page 2 PIA's core operations

The cabinet, in a meet-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a US continuing to

electoral process

closely: State Dept ISLAMABAD (APP): dling, cargo, flight kitchen and training will be incor-porated into Top-Co while other entities such as Precision Engineering Complex, PIA Investment Limpercent. ited and others subsidiaries

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Secretary to Chief Minis-Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has inaugurated the computerized arm licenses and succession certificates in the province in order to facilitate the people in getting the legal documents.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Home Department Balochistan and NADRA high ups.

Also present on the occasion were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional documents. Chief Secretary Home,

Nawaz vows to make Pakistan 'Asian Tiger'

KASUR (INP); Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML N) chief Nawaz Sharif says he will make the country an 'Asian Tiger' as the youth is supporting the former ruling party.



Addressing a rally on the last day of the election campaign in Khudian, the former prime minister said, "If our government were in power, every person here would have a job." "We have to come out of this era; we have to make

the country an 'Asian Tiger'. Shehbaz Sharif should utilise this passion for Pakistan and change the country's des-

tiny," said Nawaz. The PML-N leader said that their government would build roads in Khudian better than those in Paris; there should be universities for the youth here, and they should have laptops and computers in their hands.

Nawaz Sharif said that their government would provide jobs to the youth of Khudian.

Supply of ballot papers completed in all districts: Conduct of free, fair & peaceful election to be made successful at every cost, maintains CS

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the interim provincial government is fully ready to conduct the general elections in the province.

He reiterated the government's resolve to make conduct of the free, fair and peaceful elections

or Pakistan' tions, the United States is ter, Rashid Razzaq, Direccontinuing to monitor the tor General NADRA, Mir country's electoral process Alam Khan and other high 'quite closely", a State Department spokesperson Expressing delight over

aid Monday launch of the computerized The department's Prinarm licenses and succession cipal Deputy Spokespercertificates, the caretaker son, Vedant Patel, said. Chief Minister said that the We're continuing to moniprocess has been started tor Pakistan's electoral profrom now. This would crecess quite closely, and as we ate easiness for the people have said, we want to see to get these legal docuthat process takes place in ments, he said adding that a way that facilitates broad prevention of the fake docuparticipation with respect mentation would be enfor freedom of expression, sured about the same beassembly, and associasides ensuring prompt tions. online verification of the

Patel stressed that Pacistanis are entitled to free and fair elections. "Pakistanis deserve to exercise their fundamental right to choose their future leaders through free and fair elections without fear, violence. or intimidation, and it is ultimately for the people of Pakistan to decide their

With just two days to go

political future," the spokesperson said.

Bodies of two abducted coal miners found, two still missing DUKI (INP): Bodies of two kidnapped coalminer were found here on Tuesday while two others

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor were still missing. Balochistan, Malik Abdul Two days earlier, four Wali Khan Kakar has recoalminers were abgretfully pointed out that ducted by unknown abour collective nature probductors from natural area lems are aggravating due to of Duki in Balochistan.

ever increasing population **Bullet riddled bodies** and human needs. of two miners identified Under the given situa-Bahuddin and tion, there is a need to pre-Shafiqur Rehman were pare comprehensive strat-

found while two were still egy to create balance bemissing. tween the human needs It should be menand resources as we can tioned here that unmove ahead by ensuring known miscreants have better use of the resources accelerated activities of and discipline, stressed the kidnapping and killing Governor while speaking coalminers Balochistan.



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (Chairman JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, called on Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud during his official visit to KSA.

CJCSC. Saudi Defence Minister discuss strategic issues, defence cooperation

RAWALPINDI (INP): countries came under the Chairman Joint Chiefs of discussion during the meet-Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad

The meeting of Gen Saudi Arabia in connection fence Show.

tegic, security issues and opportunities to enhance defence cooperation beand inaugurated Al-Fatah-II Missile stall at the event tween the two brotherly

to be removed by using

proper resources: Governor

Tuesday.

past

Service Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. with the Second World De-According to the military's media wing, stra-The CJCSC also visited stalls of different organisations from Pakistan

explosives were also recovered from the terrorists who Mirza called on Saudi De-Sahir Shamshad Mirza with remained actively involved fence Minister Prince the Saudi Defence Minisin numerous terrorist activi-Khalid Bin Salman Bin ter was held during his offities including target killing Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Inter cial visit to the Kingdom of as well as extortion and ab-

the Governor House on

duction of innocent civilians Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist in the area

Locals of the area appreciated the operation and **Backwardness**, poverty issues expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

4.4 earthquake

adjoining areas The Governor said QUETTA (INP): An earththat the situation is worst quake measuring 4.4 on the and complex just by ignor-Richter scale jolted ing the issues of poverty Khuzdar and its adjoining and backwardness in the areas on Tuesday, no causalities were reported so far.

He spoke at length about the importance and utilization of the ongoing of the earthquake was 24 development projects by kilometers, while the epithe federal and provincial center was southwest of governments, and said that Khuzdar, a private news the public issues are inchannel reported. People creased manifold if the came out of their houses in projects are not completed fear by reciting Kalma-ewell in time on one hand, Tayyaba. However, no loss of life or damage to property has been reported from any part of Khuzdar so far.

tremors felt in Khuzdar, According to the seismological center, the depth

OUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the overall situation of security has remained satisfactory during the election campaign except few subversive here on Tuesday, the care-

while on the other hand, the to different delegations cost of projects are also inwho called on him here at creased manifold

QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about arrangement for holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in the province

ISLAMABAD (APP): from the consumers. Caretaker Interior Minister, According to notification OGRA failed in get-

Speaking at a joint press conference, he out-Dr. Goher Ejaz, on Tueslined the government's day expressed his commitcomprehensive preparament to ensure robust security for upcoming general

Continued on page 2

When a person from

'People should give

held on February 8.

Politics of 'hate' puts country into trouble: Bilawal Bhutto

LARKANA (INP): Paki- better get rid of this traditional politics. stan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Larkana becomes the prime Zardari said on Monday old minister, the country bepoliticians put the country comes a nuclear power and in danger by involving in the the country developes by politics of hate.

elections scheduled to be

He made this remark leaps and bounds. while addressing an electoral rally. The former forme votes as the country has not seen a Larkana PM for eign minister added that the



people of the city have ala long time," he added ways stood with the Bhutto family

The PPP chief men-

In a statement issued

taker Minister Information

said that the election cam-

paigns were run in peaceful

ince except few incidents of

cluded on Tuesday mid-

of Election Commission of

Pakistan, the elaborate ar-

rangements have been made

for the elections and espe-

cially the polling day on

While the election cam-

law and order.

did not know anything be-

The PPP chief said the economy suffered immeasurably due to the stubtioned that old politicians bornness and ego of the old politicians as they have insides divisionary politics, troduced th adding the people should in politics. troduced the abuse culture

Peaceful polling to be ensured on Election Day: No guideline issued to suspend internet services at govt. level, Jan Achakzai Independent Report

February 8, Jan Achakzai maintained

The Minister Information said that the peaceful environment would be ensured on the polling day so that the voters may use right of franchise freely.

He said that the local administration has given the authority to call Frontier Corps (FC) and other law enforcement agencies as the need arises on the polling day.

manner all over the prov-The Minister Information made it clear that no guidelines has been issued paign is going to be conto suspend the internet service at the government night as per the directions level

However, the administration can restrict the Internet from security point of view in their areas, he maintained.





Daily _____oice of Masse Independent Quetta

Wednesday February 07, 2024

Miscellaneous

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Pak envoy urges int'l community role to end India's HR abuses in **IIOJK, implement UN resolutions**

OTTAWA Pakistan's High Commissioner in Canada Zaheer A. Janjua has urged the international community to stop India's massive human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, rescind the unilateral and illegal measures and implement the 13 resolutions passed by the United Nations.

The high commissioner, in his video message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day activities held by the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa and its three consulates in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, said Jammu and Kashmir remained the most militarised region in the world, said a press release on Tuesday.

Janjua, who also inaugurated a photo exhibition that was attended by a large number of Pakistani diaspora, highlighted the Indian brazenness subjecting the defenceless Kashmiris to endless atrocities

The high commission and three consulates arranged a series of programmes including pic-

(APP): torial exhibitions, seminars, ultra vires to their own condocumentary screening, stitution as consent of the demonstrations and media Jammu and Kashmir Legisinteractions to highlight the lative Assembly was rehuman rights violations in quired, which currently the Indian Illegally Occutood dissolved. pied Jammu & Kashmir and "This is a clear maniexpress solidarity with festation of the Indian Kashmiris facing the worst judiciary's surrender of its

kind of oppression under own legal and ethical stanillegal Indian occupation. dards to the demands of the High Commissioner Hindutva regime," he re-Janjua underscored that the marked. The envoy reiterannulment of Articles 35 ated that the endorsement (A) and 370 had added of the ultra-nationalist complexities to the Kash-Modi government's illegal mir dispute, plunging the measures, including abrogaregion into perpetual turtion of the Indian moil. This move has not Constitution's Article 370, only altered the indepenhad no legal or political imdent status of Jammu and pact on the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir but also exacerbated demographic dispariresolutions 91 and 122 of ties, particularly impacting the UN Security Council the Muslim-majority reexplicitly declare that no gions under Indian control,

he added.

unilateral step taken by any of the parties to the dispute He said that relentless would constitute a final dissuppression of dissent and position of the State of

blatant disregard for human Jammu and Kashmir. rights did not only sow in-On the occasion, the security among Kashmiris messages of the president but also contributed to a and the prime minister of nefarious strategy aimed at Pakistan were read out, beachieving control and domisides screening and broadcasting various documenta-He said the actions of ries and songs dedicated to

the Modi government were the Kashmiris' struggle.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Istanbul ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack targeting the Courthouse complex in Istanbul.

'We extend our heartfelt condolences to the brotherly people and government of Turkiye and pray for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in this heinous attack Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

According to Turkish media, two shooters attempting to attack a checkpoint outside a courthouse in Istanbul were captured dead. "Today, there has been an attempted terrorist attack at the security checkpoint in front of the C Gate of Caglayan Courthouse," Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X after the attack that left six people injured, including three police officers.



SAUDI ARABIA: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (Chairman JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, while on official visit to KSA, in connection with 2nd World Defence Show called on His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Minister of Defence, KSA and discussed strategic / security issues and opportunities to enhance defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

PM AJK stresses development of technical education

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that despite the financial constraints, the government will provide all possible financial support for the development of modern technical education institutions in the state.

The AJK premier said this while addressing an inaugural function at the Technical Vocational Training Authority Complex in the state metropolis on Tuesday. The grand complex has been established in the New Prime Minister's House in the state capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the AJK PM said that technical education was a pressing need at the moment. "The young generation has to be attracted to digitalization," he said, adding that the basic purpose of handing over the new building of the Prime Minister's House to the TEVTA administration was

tax money on the public.

measures to eliminate corruption, besides promoting

measures were being taken to attract the young generation towards skilled education. He said that it was high time that the young generation should make modern, especially skilled, education their motive.

"The dream of real development could only be materialized through skill development and technical education," he added.

On this occasion, AJK PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq inaugurated the TEVTA's website and inspected the stalls of local handicrafts set up by the officials of the TEVTA.

Pakistani diplomatic missions celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day worldwide

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani diplomatic missions around the world observed Kashmir Solidarity Day, yesterday, to show support for the self-determination right of the people of Indian illegally occupied

Jammu and Kashmir. In Dallas, USA, a seminar organized by "Friends of Kashmir" brought together Kashmiri expatriates, local dignitaries, and Sikh community members to express solidarity.

Similarly, in China, Pakistani embassies organized events to highlight the plight of Kashmiris, alongside discussions on global peace and security.

Meanwhile, in Abu Dhabi, the Pakistani embassy arranged a ceremony attended by a significant number of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora members. emphasizing

Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support for Kashmiris. In Tehran, a gathering at the Pakistani embassy saw the Ambassador

shedding light on the atrocities committed by Indian forces in Kashmir and urged adherence to UN resolutions for a peaceful resolution. In Cairo, during a semi-

nar organized under the auspices of the Pakistani embassy on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, attendees vehemently condemned the Modi-led Indian government's hostile actions against Kashmiris

and Muslims. They emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized people for their Muslim disputed territory, and India has unilaterally revoked brethren in occupied Kashits special status. Particimir.

members of civil society, journalists, students, and members of the Pakistani community, gathered to de-nounce the atrocities committed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The seminar featured speeches highlight-ing the ongoing human rights violations by Indian forces and called for immediate international attention to address the situation. Ambassador Sajjad Bilal commended the organizers for raising awareness about the Kashmir cause and urged the global commu-

pants, including scholars,

nity to intervene to end Indian state-sponsored oppression. He underscored that expressing solidarity with Kashmir represents the support of the Egyptian

Shazia Mari calls for fair elections. condemns violence

HYDERABAD (APP): orous election campaign in The Pakistan People's every district, she added. Party's Central Information

ited Shazia further stated Secretary and PPP candi- that PPP was the only political party that initiated the

election campaign first and

ever desires to conspire will

not be allowed to succeed

She also strongly con-

demned the cowardly attack

in the citv

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

being briefed about completed projects of solar energy with the help of China

Federal Cabinet... Continued from page 1 approved the privatization to promote technical eduof First Women Bank Limcation The cabinet on the rec-

He said that the government was committed to ommendation of the Minsustainable development. istry of National Health Referring to the austerity approved the proposals remeasures taken by the government, the PM said that the basic purpose behind savings schemes and austerity policies was to spend He said that the government would take all possible

accountability. In order to eliminate the sense of deprivation amongst the masses, the AJK PM said that all available resources would be spent on public welfare projects. He said that effective

date for NA 209 Sanghar I, Shazia Atta Mari has demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ensure peaceful and transparent conduct of general elections in district Sanghar

during an inauguration ceremony

and across the country. She said that the ECP should also ensure the protection of voters' lives and property. She expressed these views while holding a press conference at Birani House on Tuesday.

Shazia said we believe that the first stage of democracy is holding general elections and people have the right to choose their representatives according to their opinion. There was an enthusiastic election campaign on behalf of PPP across the country, while Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Asifa Bhutto Zardari, Asif Ali Zardari and PPP leader- on PPP candidate Zulfiqar ship have conducted a vig-Ali Shah.

demanded the ECP to anwhich were not included in nounce the election date. the national list of essen-The Peoples Party has been tial medicines. demanding a level plaving field since the beginning. She prices of medicines other said a historic rally was held than essential medicines in in Karachi under the leaderthe national list will be exship of Bilawal Bhutto, the empted from the Drugs people of Karachi gave him Act, 1976 and necessary a historic welcome. The amendments will be made people of Karachi want to in the Drug Pricing Policy see progress and prosperity

2018. Furthermore, the Paki-To a question about the stan Medical and Dental possibility of joining hands with the PML (N) after the Council will ensure that doctors will not prescribe elections she replied that vitamins, multivitamins, if democratic means are minerals and over-theadopted then consideration counter products to the can be given to working together. She stated that whopatients

garding de-regulation of the

prices of the medicines

Under these proposals,

The Drug Regulatory Authority will compile a list of vitamins, multivitamins, minerals and overthe-counter products as per the prevailing international standards and will also be in touch with the provincial governments in this regard.

The cabinet also approved the decisions taken n the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee held on February 01, 2024. multiple sectors.

Meanwhile the cabinet approved the appointment Lt. General Tahir Hameed Shah as a member and chairman of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories Board on the recommendation of the Ministry of De-

PPP believes in politics of principle: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central leader Qamar Zaman Kaira on Tuesday highlighted the party's commitment to principles and service rather than seeking votes based on community or division.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized the importance of political ethics and criticized the transformation of politics into mere rivalries.

He highlighted that throughout his election campaign, he refrained from criticizing any political party or opponent, adhering to "Bhutto's values.".

Pak, Azerbaijan emphasize enhanced cooperation in agri trade, rice farming

BAKU (APP): Pakistan and At the meeting, they Azerbaijan on Tuesday emreiterated the successful phasized enhancing the growth of friendly and turnover of agricultural brotherly relations between products besides strengththe two countries in a variening collaboration in other ety of areas, including agriculture. The bilateral ties were

such a scenario.

needed, the PPP, with its

experience in running coali-

tion governments, would be

well-equipped to handle

discussed in a meeting beimportance of enhancing agtween Ambassador of Paricultural product trade turnkistan in Baku Bilal Hayee over and strengthening coland Azerbaijan's Minister laboration between our for Agriculture Majnun countries in areas such as Mammadov held here, the animal husbandry, rice farming, and cotton cultivation," the minister added.

Expressing concern

LANDIKOTAL: Long queues of loaded trucks have been waiting for clearance to cross the Torkham border to move into Afghanistan, at Michni in

no compromise on main-

collaboration between se-

any unlawful interference.

the presence of trained

commandos in Balochistan

armed forces in ensuring

Providing an overview

process

ing station.

Dr Ejaz emphasized

He underscored the

ing the elections.

Conduct of free...

province, here at the Provincial Control Room on

The Chief Secretary visited the Provincial Conformation trol Room established in the Information Department for monitoring of the elections in Balochistan.

Those who were present in the meeting were the Provincial Election Commissioner taining law and order dur-Muhammad Farid Afridi, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Seccurity agencies and the adretary IT Department ministration to prevent Ayaz Mandokhail, Secretary Local Government Noor Ahmed Pirkani besides the divisional Commissioners, Deputy Comand the support of the missioners, Deputy Inspector Generals of Police the safety of the electoral and Senior Superintendents

Addressing the meet ing, Chief Secretary vowed of the election preparathat we have to make contions, the interior minister duct of the free, fair and shared that out of 90,777 peaceful elections success polling stations across the country, 44,000 were de-

rected to install the CCTV cameras at highly sensitive polling stations.

was informed that as it many as 65,521 security personnel would be deployed for conducting elections in peaceful manner in

They are included 19,082 from Army, 31,895 from Police, 14,544 from evies and 5,094

Similarly, CCTV cameras are being installed at most sensitive, sensitive and normal polling stations all over the province.

It was further informed that supply of ballot papers would be completed in all districts of the province by

Meanwhile, the Divibilities for Pakistani sional Commissioners briefed the meeting about arrangements made for elections in their respective di visions

Continued from page 1 tion He urged the public to tions in place for the upexercise their right to vote coming elections.

Gohar Ejaz pledges to...

with confidence, acknowl-The minister was edging the dedication of the flanked by Caretaker In-511,000-strong police Minister force guarding the poling Murtaza Solangi, and Federal Secretary for Interior, stations. Aftab Akbar Durrani.

The minister recounted his visits to Highlighting the secu-Karachi and Balochistan, rity measures, Dr. Ejaz asaddressing specific chalsured that there would be lenges in each region.

In Sindh, he noted the absence of enmity between political parties, while in Balochistan, he highlighted the disruptive actions of terrorists tarnishing Pakistan's image.

Dispelling rumors surrounding the elections on February 8, Dr. Ejaz clarified that, as of now, no decision had been made to shut down mobile or internet services.

However, he emphasized that, if necessary, considerations would be made based on security requests from specific districts or provinces.

clared normal, 29,985 Meanwhile Caretaker Federal Minister for Infordeemed sensitive, and mation, Broadcasting and 16,766 labeled as highly Parliamentary Affairs sensitive. He reassured the Murtaza Solangi on Tuespublic that security would be deployed in three levday said that on February els, with 7 to 8 law enforc- 8 over 120 million Pakistanis would cast their ers stationed at each pollvotes to elect public representatives of their choice Despite concerns and challenges, Dr. Ejaz exto run the affairs of the state as envisaged in the pressed hope for a " transparent", and peaceful elec- Constitution

CORRIGENDUM With reference to advertisement published in daily Newspapers vide PRQ No. 1386/26.01.24 where in opening of bids for Provision of Medical Gases (Cylinders) 2023-24 was scheduled to be held on 06th February 2024, due to some unavoidable circumstances/reasons the due date for the opening of bids is extended to 13th February 2024 at 01:00pm in the office of the Medical Superintendent, Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta. NOTE: All the Terms & Conditions of Tender will remain same. Phone no: 0819202639 Email: ms.sph2013@gmail.com MEDICAL SUPERINTEND

SANDEMAN (PROVINCIAL) HOSPITAL QUETTA. PRQ No.1413/06-02-2024 🌍 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔽 @dpr_gob 💿 dpr.gob 🖪 @dgpr.bal

media persons during press conference, in Quetta. Ignite inks agreement with PSL Hashoo Group

fense Production.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ig- country's economic GDP nite National Technology Fund, a Company incorporated under the Ministry of Information Technology (IT) & Telecom on Tuesday signed an agreement with Pakistan Services Limited (PSL) Hashoo Group.

QUETTA: Civil Secretariat Officers Welfare Asso-

ciation President, Abdul Malik Kakar addresses to

The agreement led a consortium that includes Fauji Foundation, Telenor Pakistan, Change Mechanics, CyberVision International and Founder Institute to manage the National Incubation Center Islamabad for the next 5 years, said a news release

This initiative underscores a collective commitment through public-private partnerships to further bolster the startup ecosystem in Pakistan, with a special focus on nurturing direct and indirect jobs, gentechnology startups that promise to elevate the

and generate employment lion. opportunities for its youth.

In his welcome address, CEO Ignite Adeel Aijaz Shaikh apprised the audience about the overall impact of Ignite's nationwide network of National Incubation Centers that has incubated more than 1480 startups which have created more than 188,000 direct and indirect jobs while attracting committed investment of Rs 23 Billion and

Billion so far.

investment of Rs 7.88 bil-NIC Islamabad is

poised to build upon the success of its predecessor by offering an enhanced array of services designed to empower startups. These services encompass stateof-the-art workspaces, access to venture capital, mentorship from industry leaders, UI/UX design labs, makers spaces, and a focus on pivotal technological sectors such as Artificial Intelgenerated revenue of Rs 16 ligence, Internet of Things, Robotics, Health, and Aug-

Dilating upon the parmented/Virtual Reality. Special emphasis is ticular success of NIC provided on creating invest-Islamabad, Adeel said, that since its inception, it incument opportunities for bated 295 startups includstartups and the consoring 136 female founders tium and its supporting partners include leading inthat have created 23,597 cubators, accelerators and erated revenue of Rs 7.05 venture capitalists such as billion with a committed Founder Înstitute, Mass

celerator, Loyal VC, Zayn Capital, Sarmayacar, 47 Ventures, FCD Capital and Pak Launch.

NIC Islamabad will also have an extensive focus on building health-tech startups, Aga Khan University and Hospital along with Rehman Medical Institute Peshawar are core Health Track Partners along with 10+ other renowned health institutions as supporting partners.

Red Buffer will be mentoring and providing support to Deep-tech startups as a specialized vertical

The supporting partners also include leading Academic Institutions which ensures quality mentorship and access to University labs and specialist faculty to advise the

startups on technical is-These institutes in-

the country

of Police.

ful at every cost.

"We emphasized the

He on the occasion di

Earlier, during briefing, clude GIKI University, Institute of Space Technologies, Foundation Univer-

sity, NUST Business School, Bahria Innovation the province. Center and others. With the new management, NIC Islamabad rep-

resents a crucial advancement in enhancing Pakistan's digital landscape. Through creating a sup-

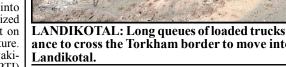
portive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship, the joint efforts of PSL-Hashoo Group and Fauji Foundation, Ignite,

MoITT, and additional key stakeholders are set to Tuesday night. open up numerous possi-

startups and propel economic development and technological progress in

minister wrote on his X timeline. Challenge, International Ac-





outcome, Kaira suggested Tuesday. that no party would secure a clear majority. He asserted that if

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Mushaal highlights India's role for regional instability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has highlighted India's role in regional instability, attributing it as a major obstacle to economic progress within the region.

She was addressing an event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) held in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day. The event was also addressed by President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawar, Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed, Vice President ICCI Engr. Azhar-Ul-Islam Zafar and many other dignitaries.

Focal person to SAPM Sabien Hussein Mullick and members of the executive committee of ICCI also attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, SAPM appreciated the unwavering support of Pakistan's business community for the just and noble cause of the Kashmiri people.

Raising concerns over India's engagement in gross human rights violations and courts and prevented from Jammu and Kashmir. atrocities against innocent

civilians living in IIOJK, being represented by legal she said that the implemen- counsel. tation of oppressive laws by India has created serispite widespread global public support for the op-

pressed populations. She urged the world com-SAPM also high- munity to designate RSS as lighted her recent meeting a terrorist organization and with the Ambassador of South Africa, in which she commended his country's principled stance on Israel's ongoing negative role led mob of Hindu extremagainst Palestinians. She ists martyred 500-year-old lauded the efforts of the Babri Masjid. She further Ambassador for inviting global attention to human rights issues through Inter-

national Court of Justice. She urged the international community to similarly address India's geno-cidal actions in IIOJK.

She criticized the Modi's authoritarian tactics for unjustly incarcerating Kashmiri political leaders under fabricated charges. The SAPM said that despite court orders mandat-Kashmiri leadership was being unlawfully denied

Mushaal described RSS as a parallel state ous problems for the within India, propagating people of IIOJK. She la- Hindutva policies and exmented the silence of the panding its terrorist networld leaders regarding the work around the world. She deteriorating situation in IIOJK and Palestine, de-ror operations in various countries including the US, Canada, UK, and Australia.

> impose economic and financial sanctions to dismantle its transcontinental terror activities. She said that BJP stated that building Ram Mandir on the site of Babri Masjid was part of Modi's plan to erase Muslim heritage from India. Mushaal appreciated

the establishment district level Kashmir committees and Kashmir centres in different universities across Pakistan and AJK. The event concluded with a reminder to the United Nations and the international community to address the ing their appearance, the longstanding Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the aspiraphysical access to the tions of the people of



A new era of enhanced

learning experiences awaits students in Islamabad

commendable effort towards enhancing the educational landscape, Deputy (DC)Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Memon, on Sunday paid a comprehensive visit to various schools alongside Special Education, Secretary Mohiuddin Wani. As government schools in the federal capi-

tal undergo a transformative journey, led by the vision of DC Irfan Memon and supported by the Ministry of Education, a new era of enhanced learning experiences awaits students.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a This concerted effort re- of this upgradation enflects a commitment to prodeavor is to create an optividing a modern and conmal learning environment ducive environment for for students. During their education in the heart of the school visits, Memon and capital. The ICT spokes-Wani keenly reviewed the man while talking to APP advancements being made said that the focal point of in equipping these educatheir visit was to assess the tional institutions with progress of the ongoing upgradation process in gov-

ernment schools across the city. Under the vigilant leadership of DC Irfan Nawaz Memon, a remarkable initiative is underway to elevate the standard of gov-

commitment to ensuring that these institutions meet

Bushra Bibi resorts to IHC

Bushra Bibi has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) against declaring home of PTI founder Imran Khan in Bani gala as sub jail.

Adiala jail at 10 a.m and in-Bushra Bibi has reformed superintendent jail quested in the petition that she has come to present herself for arrest. Bushra Bibi notification issued on January 31, 2024 on declaring was asked to stay in wait-Khan House sub jail be aning room from 10.am to 9 nulled. Orders be issued to p.m. At 9 p.m Bushra Bibi was asked she was being shifted to some other jail. It was further said in the application that no request

She has taken plea in the petition Bushra Bibi was made by Bushra Bibi was awarded 14 years senfor declaring Khan house tence on January 31 in sub jail and shifting her to crucial for human health.

modern facilities. He said that an essen tial aspect of the initiative is the concerted effort to construct government schools in alignment with contemporary standards. The DC expressed his

modern requirements.

Barley, powerhouse recommended tions, 275 women from by medical various political parties will be contesting on the general experts

APITAL

seats. "111 political parties ISLAMABAD (APP) Medical experts from the have nominated 275 women Punjab Medical Council candidates to contest the endorse barley as an essenupcoming elections on gential food supplement, higheral seats, making up for 4.6 lighting its numerous health percent of the total of 6,037 benefits. Speaking to a pricandidates they have vate news channel, medical fielded", Free and Fair Elecexperts emphasized the imtion Network (FAFEN) portance of incorporating said in a statement. barley into the diet as a versa 206 of the Elections Act, tile and nutritious food source. Experts recommended barley 2017 (Selection for Elective products such as flour, bread, Offices), each political porridge, water, and satu as party is required to ensure alternatives to wheat flour. at least five percent repreoffering a range of nutrients sentation of women candidates for general seats for

ICCPO inaugurates firing range in Security division Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, the Islamabad

Capital City Police Officer

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

Khan visited the Diplo-

matic Enclave and inaugu-

rated the firing range in the

Security Division, a public

Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs, and Chinese diplo-

mats were also present.

relations officer said.

hancement of security measures at the embassies. Emphasizing the need

Page

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for effective monitoring on both internal and external routes of the diplomatic enclave, the ICCPO stressed the importance of ensuring effective surveillance through the Safe City centralized camera systems.

He said that, during He further said that the the visit, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Islamabad Capital Police Nasir Khan interacted with remains steadfast in its comofficers and officials of the mitment to maintaining a Islamabad Capital Police peaceful environment and entrusted with the security of the diplomatic enclave ensuring the protection of the lives and property of and inspected construction



work. On this occasion, the the citizens within the fed-CPO Security Division, eral capital. Citizens are urged to SSP Security Division, DG

cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities or items by dial-He issued directives ing the helpline "Pucar 15" to senior officers for the en- or at "ICT-15" app.

275 women to contest upcoming elections on general seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): In elective offices, including the upcoming general elec- membership of the Majlise-Shoora (Parliament) and Provincial Assemblies, through a transparent and democratic procedure. FAFEN analysis is

based on the List of Contesting Candidates (Form-33) for National and Provincial Assemblies.

Out of 111 political parties, 30 parties have fielded five or more than five percent women on general seats, while four political parties have fielded between 4.50 and 4.99 percent of women candidates on general seats (that is statistically rounded-up to five percent), and the remaining 77 have fielded up to 4.50 dates while selecting candi- percent women candidates on general seats.

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Syed Asif Hussain, Secretary ECP met Mr. Andrie Maximox, Chairperson of Civic Chamber along with election observers at ECP Secretariat.

plague the territory. Atroci

Over 96,290 lives lost in IIOJK as Intl silence prolongs

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- their lives since the erup-Jammu and Kashmir is of resistance against ings, arrests, disappearances and crackdowns at the hands of Indian occupation forces in a bid to terrorism that continues to

of resistance against marred by decades of kill- India's illegal occupation in 1989. The report sheds light on the relentless Indian state

from taking action against Aleema till next hearing

SLAMABAD (Online) slamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped FIA to take action against Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder Imran Khan till next hear-

IHC stops FIA

transfer Bushra Bibi from Khan House Bani Gala to Adiala jail.

ernment schools in Islamabad The primary objective against declaring home in Bani Gala as sub jail ISLAMABAD (Online): Toshakhana reference.

Bushra Bibi reached Adiala jail and presented herself for arrest. Bushra Bibi reached

crusn tne Kashmiri people's persistent struggle ties, torture, cordon and for right to self-determination, guaranteed by the United Nations.

A comprehensive report released by the Kashmir Media Service, on Tuesday, removes the lid from the gravity of the deepening human rights crisis in the occupied territory. The figures speak volumes, with more than 96,290 Kashmiris, spanning across generations, having lost imposing a military siege.

Aamir Farooq heard two search operations, house petitions of Aleema Khan raids, and harassment have on Tuesday. become a harrowing norm, rendering the lives of Anti Terrorism wing had Kashmiris in a perpetual issued separate notices.

state of tragedy and trauma. The situation has worsened since August 5, 2019, when the Modi-led Hindutva Indian government violated international week. laws by dividing IIOJK into two union territories and

World urged to pay attention towards Kashmiris' sufferings

and 1949.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a Kashmir Solidarity Symposium have underlined the urgent need for global attention and support towards sufferings faced by the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The symposium, organize to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was hosted by the Jammu Kashmir Peace & Justice Organization in Muzaffarabad, according to press statement received here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Jammu Kashmir Peace & Justice Organization, Tanveer-ul- Islam expressed profound gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan and peace-loving individuals worldwide for their solidarity with the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Observing Kashmir Solidarity Day every year disputed region.

on February 5 is a potent kistan Meteorological Dereminder of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri cause," he partment (PMD). said, highlighting the day's significance in sending a resolute message of support to Kashmiris across the

"Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country while very cold in upper parts", the PMD said. However, rain wind-Line of Control. The historical roots of thunderstorms with snow-

fall over mountains are exthe Kashmir conflict, datpected at isolated places in ing back to the partition of British India in 1947, were northeast Balochistan and outlined by Tanveer. Gilgit Baltistan. Cold winds are likely He lamented on de-

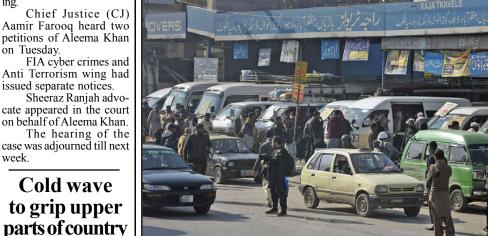
in upper Punjab during the cades of tension, wars, and human rights violations and evening/night.

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Shallow fog is likely to unfulfilled promise of a plebiscite mandated by persist at isolated places in plain areas of Punjab dur-United Nations Security ing morning hours. Council resolutions in 1948

As per the synoptic situation, continental air He highlighted the importance of beefing up supwas prevailing over most port for Kashmir cause parts of the country.

through diplomatic chan-A shallow westerly wave was likely to affect nels, calling for practical north-eastern parts of assistance to address the Balochistan and southern humanitarian crisis in the Punjab in the next 24 hours



Cold wave will continue ISLAMABAD: People stands at a bus station at Faizabad in the Federal Capigripping upper parts of the country during the next 24 tal due to travelling their home towns for cast their votes during general hours, according to the Paholiday for general election 2024 head on 28 Feb in all over the country.

Public complainants ECP'24 hours central control room service to monitor polls, helpline 111-327-000: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Additional Director grievances, adding, these General (DG) of Election control rooms will continue Commission of Pakistan, to function till the results Haroon Shinwari Tuesday of the elections are declared said that the ECP is fully and the officers in the cenconfident and prepared for tral control room will monithe peaceful conduct of tor the election process elections, and safe delivery along with the monitoring of polling materials where team. He said that the con-24-hour central control trol room will maintain room service will address communication with relpublic grievances on priorevant personnel and stakeity. Talking to a private holders, including preliminews channel, he said that nary findings, Returning district-level central control Officers and District Returning Officers. He said apart from rooms have been set up for

strict monitoring of the elec-**Comprehensive security** measures unveil for polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a Akbar Nasir Khan will perstrategic move towards ensonally oversee all security suring the safety and integarrangements.

rity of upcoming general The officers received elections 2024, Islamabad comprehensive briefings on Capital Police Chief, Dr. adherence to regulations set Akbar Nasir Khan, led a by the Election Commiscrucial meeting with key sion of Pakistan, with a stern law enforcement officials, emphasis on zero tolerance which was attended by difor any violations. visional CPOs, SSPs, He further emphasized

DPOs, SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, that strict legal actions await admin officers, and those engaging in the dis-Muharars, focused on complay of arms, engaging in prehensively planning secuaerial firing, or inciting riots.

According to the ICP To facilitate a seamone less electoral process, standout initiative involves measures will be implethe establishment of a cenmented to ensure smooth tral control room in Safe traffic flow and efficient City Islamabad, where Dr. parking

rity protocols.

spokesperson,

tion process and redress of WhatsApp, the complaints can be submitted through email

com-plaints@ecp.gov.pk, or the dedicated helpline 111-327-000.

The Election Commission has also been issuing warning notices to several candidates for violating the electoral code of con duct, he said, adding, the district monitoring teams appointed by the Election Commission in the provinces and federal capital Islamabad are also performing duties actively.

> Int'l workshop on 'ethical research in clinical trials' to start today ISLAMABAD (APP) Two-day International workshop on 'Ethical Research in Clinical Trials' will be held under the auspices of COMSTECH and UEARS from February 7-9, to address the challenges of research integrity in clinical trials in low-middle-income countries and propose the best suitable guidelines to improve the quality of research in this domain. The workshop to be held in Cairo, Egypt, is aimed at imparting knowledge and training about research.

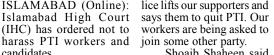
IHC orders for not harassing **PTI candidates**, workers

ISLAMABAD (Online): lice lifts our supporters and harass PTI workers and join some other party. candidates. Shoaib Shaheen said

According to Section

The petition seeking court orders for allowing PTI nominated candidates to run election campaign and restraining the police from harassing them came up for hearing before IHC Wednesday. The petitions filed by Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bokhari advocate was heard in single bench of IHC led by the Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq. CJ IHC Aamir Farooq issued

orders on these petitions. During the hearing of the case the lawyer Shoaib Shaheen told the court po-



they say to us by telephone that if we hold public meeting then case will be registered against us.

The lawyer Ali Bokhari told the court what election and public meeting were to be held these have been held. Today is last day and our poling agents are being intimidated through telephone calls. Counsel for Election

Commission (EC) said EC took the action on all the applications on the very day these were received therein



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan People's Party installed a party symbol 'Arrow' on his vehicle during an election campaign rally last day of campaign, at a road in the Federal Capital.

Traffic plan during general elections for **Capital finalized Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, a meeting was

held at traffic headquarters

regarding traffic arrange-

ments for the general elec-

tions 2024, a public rela-

the meeting the traffic ar-

rangements for general

elections 2024 were re-

viewed and the traffic plan

for Islamabad was final-

zonal DSPs were directed

to ensure the implementa-

tion of traffic laws in the

Federal Capital Islamabad,

and also ensure the strict

legal action against those

During the meeting, all

He said that, during

tions officer said.

ized

from accidents.

To improve the flow of traffic in the city on the day of general elections, special measures should be taken to ensure the implementation of traffic rules so that all possible travel facilities are available to the citizens

Adequate parking arrangements should be arranged outside the polling stations. All the officers and officials were instructed to perform their duties diligently

The zonal in-charge will be responsible for their beat and strict departmental action will be taken against those who show who violate traffic laws in negligence and dereliction of duty. order to protect citizens



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) installed party symbol 'Lion' on his vehicle during an election campaign rally last day of campaign, at a road in the Federal Capital.

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OPINION

Daily Independent



Wednesday February 07, 2024

Terrorism challenge

The new government that takes over after Thursday's general her whip hand. election will have the briefest of honeymoon periods, with the immediate task of formulating a cogent counterterrorism policy lying before it. Acts of terrorism continue unabated, particularly targeting police and military personnel, as the attack on the Chaudhwan police station in KP's D.I. Khan early on Monday shows. At least 10 police personnel were martyred in the attack, which officials say rassed friends? was launched from multiple directions by over 30 terrorists.

A military check post in nearby Daraban was stormed by militants last December, causing over 20 fatalities. That was apparently the deadliest single attack on military men last year. The Daraban atrocity was claimed by the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan, an alibi used by the banned TTP, which emerged last year.

This particular part of KP, as well as neighbouring areas of Balochistan and Punjab, were beset by terrorist violence throughout 2023. The new administration needs to ensure this grim trend does not continue in the current year. Overall, 2023 was a blood-soaked year, with some figures citing over 1,500 terrorism-related fatalities.

The challenge is two-tiered: to secure Pakistan and ensure no part of the country is available for terrorist outfits to establish themselves, while the other goal must be to prevent militants from creating sanctu-

the new crop of BJP's urban feel-good supporters. **Jawed Naqvi** One wonders whether

not watching TV news and The moments come to not visiting Khan Market mind when tutored political perceptions got laid low impedes the view of a safby the electoral vagaries of fron wave in India. It re-India. Indira Gandhi didn't mains invisible to some, just foresee the rout she faced the same. For, if indeed a when calling the 1977 elecsurge exists, where is it to tions, believing she had be found other than where tamed the opposition with the staged and co-opted TV cameras take us?

Rajiv Gandhi, with a Some friends would record 400-plus seats in the say that shunning TV news 984 Lok Sabha, never is akin to the ostrich-dodghoped to sit in the opposiing reality. A cartoonist tion as he did in 1989. A.B. may have come closer to Vajpayee's 'India Shining' the truth. "This priest gambit in 2004 looked tolooks familiar," says a man tally invincible but ate dust, to another, observing a and Manmohan Singh rebare-chested, dhoti-clad felturned for a surprise seclow running helter-skelter ond term in 2009, underwith a sandalwood mark on the forehead. "He's no priest. He's a TV anchor," mining nationalist narratives of failing to challenge Pakistan on the Mumbai came the reply

carnage of November 2008 Where else has the Could the so-called Modi Modi wave been spotted? wave be different to what Was it evident in the mayone keeps hearing from haoral elections that even neutral observers say were Yes, one has studirigged by the BJP last week ously shunned Indian news against a joint candidature channels in recent years of the Aam Aadmi Party because they only purvey and Congress party in Chandigarh? Or was the unadulterated hate. And fervour revealed in the there haven't been the usual visits to Delhi's Khan Marsomersault the Bihar chief ket, usurped by parvenue minister took to court the tal shoppers, a voluble base of BJP, because the opposi-

tion didn't tap him as probable prime ministerial candidate?

Looking for signs of a Modi wave

There's a risk of conflating common opportunism and desperate rigging in an innocent mayoral election as signs of a wave, silent or raging. Was there a wave in

Chhattisgarh or Rajasthan or even Madhya Pradesh for the BJP or against the Congress recently? Then how did so many opinion polls miss it? Does a dif-

ference of three per cent votes count as a wave? Let's accept it. Changes can happen quietly, unannounced and that's something we could discuss about the elections due in May. Which means the door for a shock verdict remains open? Several friends -

Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist — have been feeling low after watching the massively televised inauguration of the new temple to Lord

Ram in Avodhya last month. Hundreds of thousands are visiting the temple every day, notes an anxious anchor of an otherwise courageous news por-

Liking Ram means

loving Modi? The anchor would remember the times when hundreds of thousands sat religiously glued

Doordarshan's Ramavana serial every Sunday morning in the 1980s, including in Lahore. A friend, who has earned respect in the trade union movement over decades. seemed overwhelmed by the surge in saffron flags and slogan-shouting hordes in the neighbourhood, magnified by openly right-wing TV anchors

The 78-year-old says he is happy not to be around for too long to see the decimation of the India he loved and nurtured. Another friend of about similar age was on Facebook to announce his trauma. The malaise seems widespread, and the victims are mostly blameless even if their perception of reality is conditioned by their daily intake of toxicity whether through TV or at the club.

The housing society where Mani Shankar Aiyar's daughter staged a fast to protest the Ayodhya event wants the family to move out. Pervasive communalism is no wave. Delhi authorities demolished a 700-year-old mosque last

cares for architecture as heritage, the mosque would have been revered as a symbol of Hindu and Muslim

artisanship. Does the demolition signal a wave? The Babri Masjid was demolished criminally. The supreme court said so. Then, for rea-

sons not very clear, the site of the razed mosque was handed to a religious body to build a temple on. The prime minister of India hijacked the verdict

favouring a trust. He rushed to inaugurate an incomplete temple to time with the polls, something the high priests of Hinduism have questioned. We saw Amitabh Bachchan and Mukesh Ambani in a queue of the well-heeled from Mumbai greeting the prime minister with folded hands at the Ayodhya event. A wave?

The BJP had established its rule in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and some other smaller states, by inducing defections. Now Arvind Keiriwal, the chief minister of Delhi, says he has resisted pressure to join the BJP to evade arrest on read Hitler's 37pc. -- Courspurious charges in what

Did the architects and

week. In any country that resembles raids on other opposition leaders to muster a majority

The tribal chief minister of Jharkhand was arrested without a hearing from the supreme court in a 2009 land deal he denies any knowledge of. He. too. was under pressure to defect but promises to take the BJP head-on. Were Modi really confident of winning, the opposition demand to use ballot paper instead of the disputed EVMs would not be an issue. The BJP holds sway in the cow belt, which can't be taken for granted. In vote-rich Uttar Pradesh, it would struggle if Dalit leader Mayawati joins the INDIA alliance. Rajasthan

and Chhattisgarh saw the BJP evicting Congress with small margins, not a wave. reason enough for Hindutva hordes to return to the mosque-temple disputes in Mathura and Varanasi.

Modi must create a wave where none exists. The opposition on its part needs to coalesce and not be chuffed over the humblelooking 37pc votes Mr Modi commands. The German opposition had mistesy Dawn

Another February general election

Mosharraf Zaidi

Throughout my life, I have sought to avoid dignifying the indefensible. Attacks on the families of public figures are broadly in this domain though there can be legitimate exceptions.

Sometimes the choice of whether some issue or person is fair game or not is a difficult one. The marriage contract of a politician is not a difficult one at all - it should never be in the public domain and should never have seen the light of day in any newspaper or television news ticker or newspaper column.

The most recent court judgement against former prime minister Imran Khan that involves the marriage contract between him and his wife is a deeply troubling development that requires serious reflection. I write a little about this case this week to highlight the most important implication of the case – one that is largely amiss in the public discourse.

complain when they are down – this cycle is not new, nor unique. The public discourse however is not an infinitely elastic entity. There are topics and issues that reflect society's fragility and tenderness. This is the kind of case that breaks society

> The nikkah is a solemn and serious contract between consenting adults and the Lord Almighty. Even if there are legal issues that merit consideration in a nikkah – as there often are – those issues deserve to be treated with the utmost regard for people's privacy, the spirit and letter of Sharia, and perhaps most importantly, with consideration for how a case about the country's most popular politician may affect society at large.

Securing a divorce is an uphill challenge for women in Pakistan even in the best of circumstances. Wealthy, educated and enlightened families often occupy the same social ecosystem as

years. Those that play this that throws the timeline of to exit a marriage, the more a divorce into question is game when they are up, not, in and of itself, necessarily a problem. The pursuit of such a case where one party is the most popular figure in the country, and where the motivation for such a case is largely to enact political vengeance for disobedience is a huge prob-

It is a huge problem because the conduct of the case and its details in the public domain will energize and ignite the imaginations of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of divorced men who seek retribution against women who were once their spouse. This case will have profound implications for women's economic and social mobility-including the freedom of women to choose to exit a marriage

As a Muslim, I am

irrelevant to the implications likely it is that society will of this case for society. experience higher divorce

engineers of the wider ef-The undermining of forts to undo the damage done by adopting Imran Khan as the favoured political flavour of the decade consider how such cases will shape society in the weeks, foundations to this line of months, years and decades to come? This is unlikely. should be about inflation. about economic growth, about human capital and the impact of AI on society. cult for women. Given the social stigma

and often the economic calamity that divorce comes with – there is no reason to avoid a serious conversation about the intricate balance between not wanting to enable frivolous exits from marriage and not wanting to discourage legitimate seekers of divorce from escapover a decade ago, in Octoing unhappy or abusive reber 2011 at Minar-e-Pakilationships stan, then again on August The Imran Khan mar-14, 2014 at D-Chowk, and

riage case does not serve any then again in July 2018. such larger outcome. It only

validates the pursuit of le-

gal action against a woman

who has sought to exit one

marriage and enter another.

The merits of the specific

case against Mr Khan are

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Elections can rejuvenate

nations if they are fair,

parties present strong

ideas and teams to the

masses competitively and

the winners have a strong

mandate to take the coun-

try forward. Thursday's

ception of the Sharifs Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will never be able to summon up the energy and vitality he had when he began his third term as PM in 2013. His political proteges are but a shadow of the strategist and statesman that he could have been

The PPP's track record and character as a fed-This week's general election eral party and a political peacemaker is often attributed to former president Asif Ali Zardari – but the entire skills and education, about edifice was constructed by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir and about Kashmir and Bhutto. The PPP is now Pakistan's place in the trying to place the burdens world. It should be about of two generations of Pakihow those Pakistanis below stani democrats on the shoulders of an urbane 23 years of age -63 million of whom are female – will prince from rural Pakistan. navigate a future in this coun-However impressive try. Instead, it may be not Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is much more than a referenhe bears too much in the dum on the last two years of name of the fathers of rural Sindh's medieval politics. the state's efforts to roll back what the state itself rolled out

Regardless of the intractability of time and the pressures borne by the most widely admired party in the country, we must go out and

and pursue another thereafter. aware of Sharia-adjacent arguments around divorce being an unseemly and 'disliked' social outcome. Legal and social systems should

not, ideally, be constructed

to encourage or promote di-

vorce. It is legitimate to ar-

gue that frivolity in marriage

is a dangerous and deeply

rates. the building block of any society – the family should be a consideration in how we think about divorce collectively. There are solid

thinking. As it happens, in South Asia, a combination of traditional Hindu culture and post-colonial Muslim conservativism has produced social systems in which divorce is not easy at all. It is especially diffi-

aries in Afghanistan.

The new government, together with the security establishment and provincial set- the Pakistani elite have ups, must hammer out a failsafe and competitors over the plan to secure the country, particularly those parts of KP and Balochistan suffering from frequent terrorist attacks.

The basic structure exists in the form of the National Action In his autobiography Friends Not Masters, Plan. The key is to update it as per the requirements of the day, and implement it. Furthermore, dealing with militancy people are capable of do-ing great things, but they should be a one-window operation, preferably led by Nacta with input from all stakehold- gerous". As is the case ers.

As for the issue of terrorist disdain for politicians, as sanctuaries in Afghanistan, the the masses. UN has validated Pakistan's concerns about training camps guided narrative carries on, the essence of which is on Afghan soil used by Al Qaeda that the people simply do and the TTP to foment trouble not know what is good for them. in Pakistan. The Afghan Taliban need to shut down these facilities. or else bilateral ties will a justification, ie, political suffer. Either the Taliban and economic stability, good governance, peace should stop the attacks or reand order, or the 'genius' of the people. Every suplocate terrorists away from the posed 'reason' is a cover Pakistani border so that they for undemocratic interare not able to spill blood in this ventions, whether overt or covert. country.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson recently remarked that the Afghan Taliban need to "firmly combat all forms form or be a member of a that PTI failed to hold inof terrorist forces". This is the political party. The courts have held that the right to would, therefore, lose its message that should be communicated from Islamabad, Beijing cludes the right to func-tion as a political party. and all other regional capitals In violation of these to Kabul's current rulers. Unless the new dispensation in down on PTI workers. Islamabad tackles terrorism head-on, economic stability and social cohesion will be very difficult to achieve. The security forces should also dedicate all their energies to eliminating the been used to keep politi- ers. Weeks after this reterrorist threat, and protecting dide detailed judgement setting tice Mansoor Ali Shah the lives of civil and military peraside various detention sonnel on the front line.

poor, uneducated and con-To be clear, there have servative ones. The stigma been many disgusting and of securing a separation from sickening aspects to the way a spouse is difficult – even for men. It is nigh imposhounded their opponents sible for women.

problematic trend. As it is The pursuit of a case to argue that the easier it is

Will of the people

Rida Hosain

detainees were either leaders or members of the PTI. Ayub Khan wrote "our "Of the detention orders people are mostly uneduthat were challenged before Islamabad High Court, not one order has been upheld as having been passed in accordance with can also be easily misled. law," per Justice Sattar. Unfettered democracy Not one detention order. Either the deputy commiscan, therefore, prove dansioner would withdraw with most dictators, the the detention order, or the field marshal held deep court would set it aside, or the detention period well as the judgement of would lapse.

For anyone living in This utterly mis-Pakistan this past year, it guided narrative carries on, would be no surprise that the ECP took particular interest in the PTI's intraparty elections. The Peshawar High Court Historically, those rightly restored PTI's election symbol, and held cratic process always find that the ECP could not

question the intra-party election process. Instead of accepting the decision of the Peshawar High Court, the ECP was so determined that it took the matter right up to the Supreme Court.

Then, in a quest to There is no past supposedly uphold dewrong which justifies the mocracy within political dismantling going on toparties, the Supreme day. The Constitution Court was seen to underguarantees that every citimine the electoral process zen shall have the right to in the country. It found form a political party inelection symbol. The most inexplicable part of this decision was that the law does not expressly contemplate depriving a political party of its election symbol on account of Attempts have been made intra-party elections. This to disrupt the election decision has done nothing campaign of PTI candiinternet disruption. The maintenance of public order laws have ment of millions of vot-

except hurt the ordinary voter. This was not a case about an individual or a political party, it was about the disenfranchise-

was entirely correct in orders, Justice Babar holding, "electoral laws Sattar observed that be- must be interpreted in do. -- Courtesy Dawn

tween May and Septem-ber 2023, the "over- ment rather than disenwhelming majority" of franchisement".

Mere days before the elections, convictions in one case after another are being announced. In the cipher case, Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were denied the right to be represented by the counsel of their choice, and, instead, represented by state counsel. In the Toshakhana reference, the judge closed the right to cross-examine witnesses. At the heart of a fair trial is the right to be represented by the coun-

sel of one's choice, and to properly defend oneself. Hearings have been conducted well past court hours, and the great urgency with which these convictions are being announced is beyond any reasonable justification. It is clear that there has been no fair, impartial process in these cases.

The conviction in the 'unlawful marriage' case manifests the tragic be a special focus on these of areas. I reviewed the 2024 extent the manifestos of the PTI, PML-N and PPP on such weaponisation of justice. Unjustifiable aspersions have been cast on a key points. All three were woman's character, and issued days before the individuals have been elections, reflecting the forced into a courtroom limited role ideas play in to defend private deciour polls as against sions they made. The decatchy slogans and pacision attacks the right to tronage flows. But all are dignity, which the Conbetter than their 2018 itstitution and the Suerations in terms of preme Court distinctly length, presentation and provide is an absolute coverage. This is especially credible for the right. There can be no restrictions on the right to PTI, which has the longdignity. Those adamant on overriding the will of the people continue with their dismantling, instil fear, mock the voter, and make it seem that it is not

worth one's while to exercise their right to vote. But everyone must cast their vote on Feb 8. It is the day the people have a chance to make their voice heard, and for the future of our country, it inequities as a root cause societal extremism. On is something we must all

est and most comprehensive one, despite the state crackdown it faces. The shortest is the PML-N's, much of it wasted on large Sharif photos. It is bereft of any in-depth analysis of the root causes of our long-

of our problems and re-

term or current problems, jumping straight into is little talk by the parsectoral promises. The PTI's and PPP's contain preambles that mention

flect on our economic and security problems. As expected, the PTI's reflects heavy religious ideology, but without linking it to concrete policies. The mildly. Our Constitution PPP's reflects no ideology needs an overhaul as despite its pro-poor rhetoric, its socialist origins nixed long ago.

go back into the bottles they

came from. The damage the

Azadi dharna and 'Dawn

Leaks' did to the PML-N is

polls may be among our The PPP's is the weakest on concrete ecomost rigged, more so afnomic ideas. It promises ter Imran Khan's dubious the sky on increasing inconvictions last week. come, social services and Opinion polls suggest a hung assembly. Thus, we housing, and aims to inmay have a rigged and crease investment and tax informed views. weak new government. revenues for this purpose. This leaves the issue of But it hardly contains whether parties have any concrete ideas on strong ideas and teams. To convince discernother two present more ing voters, party manifesmeso-level concrete ideas tos must present an inin some economic areas. depth analysis of why The PML-N talks rightly people suffer on account of merging investment, inof major issues and the dustries and commerce to best way of addressing them permanently. In the economy, which must current scenario, where also include planning and we face huge economic and security challenges and, with the rest of the

IT. The PTI and PML-N both have some concrete proposals for exports, inworld, the impact of cli-westment, industry, etc. develop concrete ideas the develop concrete ideas and field large numbers of a new and coherent of candidates who can economic strategy that win. So, their impact on can remove the threat of these polls will be minidefault and high inflation to attain sustainable and equitable progress. All three lack strong economic teams to translate ideas ties into successful strategies. The PTI has lost its capacity due to the crackdown it faces, while

PML-N has alienated talent by its family-centric politics. The three say little on our second biggest strong links to or manthreat, insecurity due to date from the masses to terrorism by TTP and Baloch militants, or their root causes such as soci-

etal extremism and genuine Baloch complaints. The PPP talks of its Balochistan package that proved inadequate even that adds to our mountthe last time. But there ties on solving Baloch complaints or talking to forever and ultimately Baloch groups or ending the mother of all our Dawn

again in July 2018. vote on February 8. It is the Genies once out do not third general election in Pakistan's history to be conducted in February. Whoever wins, maybe, InshaAllah, Pakistan will be permanent - because these third time lucky. -- Courevents altered the self-per- tesy TheNews

> problems — civilian supremacy — the PML-N has removed the mild talk of its 2018 manifesto but now PTI includes it many anomalies have been unearthed in it in recent years. But the three only mention limited changes. Lack of space does not let me review the other areas in their manifestos. Readers must read them to form

If the larger parties lack strong ideas, what is the alternative? The how it would do so. The manifestos of small leftist outfits like the Awami Workers Party, National Democratic Move-ment and Haqooq-i-Khalq party provide detailed analysis of the root create a ministry of causes of deprivation due to inequities embedded in capitalism. But as small and new parties with limited resources, they need more time to mal, though I will still vote for them. Readers are encouraged to look more closely at such par-

> Thus, we may get a weak and rigged new regime that lacks strong ideas and teams and is heavily dependent on the security establishment and other elites.

It will lack the challenge elites and make fundamental changes in our elite-dominated political and economic order. So, we may go from one weak and rigged hybrid regime to another ing problems and kicks the can further into the future. This cannot go on there may be a crash landing. -- Courtesy

Poll manifestos

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ational ews

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CM Sindh once again reviews police deployment at sensitive polling stations

KARACHI Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar chaired 30th Provincial Apex Committee meeting at CM House to review election arrangements and national action plan tasks.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Brig. (retd) Haris Nawaz, Omar Soomro, Ahmad Shah, Corps Commander Lt. Gen Babar Iftikhar, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, DG Rangers Major Gen Azhar Waqas, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, Advocate polling station, five at a General Hassan Akbar. Chairman P&D Shakil a highly sensitive polling elections. Mangnejo, Home station.

Secretary Iqbal Memon, PG Fayaz Shah, During the Apex committee meeting, the stations, including 95,400 chief minister reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming election. The QRF Police, and 37,108 in

committee was informed that there would be a total the Auxiliary Force. Additionally, the Rangers of 19,008 polling stations, including 5,657 normal, 6,550 sensitive, and 6,801 and Army would be deployed for QRF duties at selected highly sensitive highly sensitive ones. IG Police Riffat Mukhtar shared the police Corps Comm polling stations, in addition

Corps Commander deployment criteria, stating that four police Karachi Lt. Gen. Babar Iftikhar informed the CM personnel would be deployed at a normal that army troops had been dispatched all over the province to serve as the sensitive one, and seven at third tier during the general The chief minister

A total of 143,156 expressed his satisfaction police personnel would be with the deployed at the polling arrangements election and mentioned that he had personally visited the divisional headquarters of the province to review the arrangements. The regional election commissioners present at the meeting also expressed their satisfaction with all the arrangements, including security ones. The CM pointed out

that in November 2023 the situation of street crime was disturbed, on average 265 per day street crimes were reported, Madadgar responses were slow, Police Vehicles were in dismal condition.

handout issued here.

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar presides over a 30th

Provincial APEX Committee meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi being presented "Karpan" by representative of Sikh Community during his visit to Kartarpur.

CM KP chairs meeting Cabinet takes number of decisions pertaining to issues of day-to-day affairs of Province

here Tuesday afternoon under the chairmanship Chief Minister Syed Arshad Hussain Shah took a large number of decisions pertaining to the issues of day-to-day affairs of the Province and of urgent nature.

The meeting was actively participated by the cabinet members, the Chief Secretary and administrative secretaries of the Prov-

the hiring of transactional in 2010 Federal Ministry of its management.

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Care-taker Cabinet of Khyber Thitumkhwa which met Advisor/Legal Consultant for negotiations of agree-ments regarding private public partnerships with Advisor / Legal Consultant Tourism having been deregard authorized the office the Province. Province.

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act 2012 enabling the Provincial Culture and Tourism Department to out-source the PTDC properties under Public Private Partnership mode. As a result of 18th

volved to the provinces, 19 different properties of PTDC were handed over to the Tourism Department of The of Advocate General of the outsourcing of these properties to local and interna-It approved exemp-tion from section 22-A of made under the guidance of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

The Cabinet ap roved a sum of Rs.10 million as grant-in-aid for provision of Safe dignified living conditions in education to the orphans of Muskan Institute Swat against the The cabinet approve Constitutional Amendment demand of Rs.34 million by

Mohsin Naqvi visits Kartarpur Corridor LAHORE (APP): Punjab the historical well. He was Caretaker Chief Minister

honored and presented Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday with a 'kirpan', and interacted with members of visited the Kartarpur the Sikh community from India, including Lalila Agarwal from Delhi, who Corridor and explored various artifacts related to Baba Gurunanak Dev Ji. Provincial ministers, expressed gratitude for the facilities provided to the Sikh community in Chief Secretary, Inspector

General of Police, and senior officers, also Punjab. Posing for photographs with the Sikh accompanied the CM. They were received and community, the CM extended compassion warmly welcomed by prominent members of the Sikh community at towards a special person, Gurudwara Sahib, said a engaging in a lengthy conversation. He made a During his visit, the special visit to the 'Langar Hall', where he dined with

chief minister received a briefing on Gurdwara Sahib the Sikh community, Kartarpur and participated commending the quality of in the prayer ceremony, the food and personally also taking time to observe rewarding the cooks.



LAHORE: Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Anwar Chauhan addressing a press briefing in the Provincial Election Office.

Preparations complete for general elections in Punjab: Ijaz Chohan

CM chairs meeting on election preparations, emphasises transparency, security measures

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting at the Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday to discuss election arrangements in the province.

nce. Addressing the Naqvi from all areas by the end of the day. Secretaries concerned were tasked

removal process and of control rooms and the reporting the completion of establishment of an the task by evening on February 9.

Highlighting the importance of of transparency, Naqvi urged district administrative responsibility, urging officers to actively oversee election duties in the field.

He noted the installation of 32,000 CCTV cameras at polling stations and emphasized the need to complete the installation by midnight. Naqvi commended the Punjab government for saving 1 billion rupees in the procurement of CCTV cameras.

Emphasising adherence to SOPs and the Election Commission's

efficient complaint redressal mechanism. He stressed that ensuring peaceful and fair elections is a national everyone to work together

General

Chief

as a team. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Punjab, Inspector Police, Provincial Election Commissioner, Provincial Additional Interior Secretary, Secretary, Secretaries from Local Government, Transport, Finance, CCPO, MD Punjab Safe Cities

Authority, Commissioner Lahore, code of conduct, Naqvi directed for the activation and other officials.

SHC expresses annoyance over repeated closure of internet service

Also annoyed over SSP on non recovery of missing independent candidates

KARACHI (Online): seems as if the matter will become all right after Sindh High Court (SHĆ) has expressed annoyance over repeated closure and suspension of internet order regarding restoration service across the country. of the internet service

election. The court issued stay The petition filed in uninterrupted across the

with monitoring the **CM** inaugurates initial phase ofAIMTH SIALKOT (APP): An initial phase of the Allama Iqbal Memorial Teaching Hospital (AIMTH) Sialkot had been successfully completed as Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi inaugurated the project. The chief minister also inaugurated the construction and repair of 11-km long Wazirabad-Sialkot, Kashmir Road.

Mohsin Naqvi visited SHC against repeated country besides issuing

attendees, emphasized that internet and mobile services will remain operational throughout the province on election day without interruption. He instructed for the commencement of city cleaning activities immediately after dawn on February 9, with banners and posters to be removed

UI-F will sweep the Shikarpur with the support of vote

By Abdul Sami Bhutto

SHIKARPUR: The Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-JUI (F) Candidates of NA- 193 and PS-07 Shikarpur expressed their suspecting of severe disputes and Blood Shedding during the Election on 08th February 2024 as their opponent



candidates wants to get rigging in Poll, they added. This was stated by the JUI-F Candidates for NA-193 Moulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro and PS-07 Agha Taimoor Khan Pathan during a Joint Press Conference held at Shikarpur Press Club Shikarpur here on Tuesday and allegedly said that they were informed that their PPP opponent candidates wants to destroy the peace as one of most wanted notorious notified bandit carrying RS.05 million bounty is available at Shikarpur House for blood shedding during the Poll. Not only this but they know that at Wazirabad outlaws are busy in setting their weapons and the ammunition is being collected there as to use for destroy the peace and spread fear on Election Day.

They on the occasion said that Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-JUI believes in peace and always played their vital role to maintain and improve the law and order situation in Sindh by following the all rules and regulations and remained peace lover. But their opponent candidates wants to create hurdles during the day of Election through man-aging severe disputes, Blood Shedding and fear.

Moulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro allegedly said that the He tried to contact with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as to inform him to ensure the Free and Fair Election Process peacefully in Shikarpur and wanted to aware him regarding the aims of blood shedding and spreading lawlessness & unrest by their PPP candidates in Shikarpur, but can't contacted and He than He conveyed the same message through PPP central leaders Sohail Anwar Siyal, Jameel Soomro and Nasir Shah to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

inspect polling arrangements

CS, IGP

in Haripur PESHAWAR (APP): To ensure the peaceful conduct of general election, Chief Secretary Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP, Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Monday paid a visit to Haripur district.

On the occasion DPO Haripur, Muhammad Umar Khan, DC Haripur, Khan Muhammad, SP Investigation Haripur, Amjad Hussain and district officers were present on the occasion, said an official press release. DŶO Haripur

Muhammad Umar Khan gave a detailed briefing to the CS and IGP on the security arrangements for the general election.

The Chief Secretary and IGP paid a visit to the polling station established at Post Graduate College Haripur and inspected the security arrangements.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administration to ensure a peaceful atmosphere and conduct of free, fair and transparent polling on the election day. He also issued directives for provision of drinking water, washrooms and other needed facilities to the people on the polling day. The Inspector General of Police KP directed the police officers to ensure implementation of code of conduct issued by the Election Commission.



PESHAWAR: Workers of the Election Commission Office sorting ballot boxes to be sent to polling stations for the upcoming General Elections-2024 at Qayyum Sports Complex.

LAHORE (APP): commitment to fulfilling its Election Provincial Commissioner (PEC) Punjab Ijaz Anwar Chohan said on Tuesday

process. that all preparations had been finalized for general elections in Punjab. Speaking at a press conference, he said that printing of ballot papers had been completed and delivered to all district returning officers in the province. He said that on February 7, the returning government officers would ensure the receiving of election material, including ballot papers, by the presiding returning

officers, besides polling stations' readiness.

He said that security, communication and transport plans had been chalked out for the elections, adding that police and army personnel would perform duties to maintain law and order at polling stations

He emphasized the had set up a coherent Election Commission's system for monitoring.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Election Commissioner, Shamshad Khan addresses to media persons during press conference, in Peshawar.

Command center readied for Election 2024 security

the-clock

upcoming

elections

KARACHI (APP): During briefing highlighted to IGP the session led by Sindh emphasized that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Center not only conducts Mukhtar Raja, a efficient and integrated comprehensive overview security monitoring through security matters, of particularly focusing on the command and control center's role during the upcoming Election 2024, was provided via TV monitoring. Subsequent directives were issued as deemed necessary. The meeting was attended by DIGPs from Headquarter IT, Sindh. and Establishment, alongside other senior officials. The

constitutional obligations, highlighting ongoing efforts to enhance the electoral Chohan commended Chief Election project and interacted with doctors and nurses. Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja for his initiatives aimed at improving the electoral process and ensuring the success of the 2024 general elections. Acknowledging

the support of the provincial caretaker and governmental apparatus, Chohan noted consistent coordination with district officers, commissioners, and police officials since assuming

offices He underscored the importance of regular communication, citing online meetings with key stakeholders, including the chief secretary and inspector general of police.

He said the Commission

ANF recovers 724 kg drugs in 11 operations RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations recovered over 724 kg drugs and arrested

nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 746

hashish was grams recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah from Íslamabad Airport.

heroin-filled 91 capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Dubai from Islamabad Airport.

159 grams hashish was recovered from two Command and Control passengers going to China at Karachi Airport.

installed cameras across various city areas and highways but also promptly communicates with police regarding any suspicious activities or

incidents. Moreover, it was recovered from Orakzai area while 120 kg hashish emphasized that the Command and Control Center will maintain roundvigilance, especially during the genera during the operation.

Memorial Teaching inspecting Hospital, hearing before single bench of SHC led by the Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmad various departments and wards. The chief minister personally assessed quality Abbasi Tuesday. The CJ of work in the upgrade

remarked during the hearing that If our internet does not The ceremony was attended by Provincial run then how will it have ministers Dr Javed Akram

the revamped Allama Iqbal closure and suspension of orders for continuing internet service in the mobile internet service country came up for across the country uninterrupted

The court adjourned the hearing till February 21 due to non presence of PTA SHC counsel. It is pertinent to mention here Independent candidate Jibran Nasir advocate from PS-110 had run any where else. It filed petition.



KARACHI: Huge fire flames and dark smoke rise from burning sheds of local playground stadium after fire broke out incident due to unknown reasons, located on Malir area in Karachi.

Dr Jamal inaugurates renovation work of **BBH nursing college**

would be completed **Independent Report** in April.

RAWALPINDI: provincial minister Caretaker Provincial visited Holy Family Hospital (HFH) along Minister for Primary and Secondary Health, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha.He said that Tuesday said that Rs 65 million would be after the completion b5 million would be spent on the renovation of the Nursing Hostel while revamping the College of Nursing would be completed at the cost of Rs 40 mln of the revamping and renovation work of the immediate were being taken to activate the PEADS and wards of the HFH at

He expressed the earliest. these views while The n inaugurating the informed that as renovation of the many as 100 Nursing Hostel and hospitals had been College of Nursing at renovated across the Bhutto Punjab province. Benazir

Hospital (BBH). He said that Dr Jamal said steps were also being that the College of taken to provide Nursing would be quality health completed in a facilities to the month while the renovation work of people as well as for the welfare of the Hostel medical staff.

Later,

the

hospital,

Gynecology

The minister

steps

mln. 500 grams Ice was recovered from a parcel at Sial Air Cargo Office, Sialkot. 295 kg opium and 7 kg hashish were recovered from Nokundi Chagai area. 97 kg hashish was

and 72 kg opium were recovered from Basharat Road Peshawar and an accused was arrested Nursing

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Minister inaugurates country's first e-Rozgar Center

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday inaugurated the country's first e-Rozgar Center in collaboration of Excel Consulting Services.

of-the-art facilities tailored for freelancers, with plans to expand to 300 workstations in the future. Additional Secretary

MoITT Ayesha Moriani, fulfilled another promise Member IT Syed Junaid made to the people, where would be increased soon Imam, Project Director a significant number from Amir Ahmed, Chairman EC the existing 1.5 million and Services, Nazir Qureshi, officials from MoITT, upcoming new freelancers can work independently at very low rates" the NTS, PSEB and a large number of freelancers were minister said. He said, the best present on the occasion.

Sulting Services. Speaking on the facilities including high-The center boasts occasion, Dr. Umar Saif speed internet, UPS, around 100 workstations said that with the training centers, individual fully equipped with state- establishment of the cabins, meeting rooms and center, the project of separate office rooms for setting up 10,000 e-rozgar start-ups had been centers across the country provided to freelancers. The minister said that

now begun officially. The minister said that "We have also with the completion of the

by \$10 billion annually and under public-private partnership, these centers would also be able to significantly increase the capacity and income of freelancers.He said, the

Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) would be responsible for providing freelancers and required technical support for these centers.Dr. Umar Saif said that as promised, e-rozgar centers in other cities were also nearing completion.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a group photo with the organizers and participants of the event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day in Islamabad.

P EB D

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif inaugurates Pakistan's First Private Sector E-Rozgaar Center managed by EC Services in association with NTS.

Zong 4G holds Annual **Business Conference to set** strategic roadmap for 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): During the Annual Business Conference, focused on the theme "Elevate Core Digital Pakistan. Capabilities, Strive for Excellence," Zong 4G celebrated its notable quality joint development accomplishments in 2023 of the 'Belt and Road' and the 'China-Pakistan and revealed its strategic roadmap for 2024.

The Chairman and CEO, Huo Junli praised the He also empha employees for their exceptional efforts that resulted in the company's positive growth, creating over 47 million satisfied and happy customers.

nationwide Huo Junli reaffirmed Huo Junli reaffirmed Moreover, while that Zong 4G's industry sharing Zong's success is attributed to the sustain a bility unwavering commitment contributions, he stressed and resilience of its that the company remains employees, propelling the committed to reducing the company to greater heights. digital divide and

against dollar SLAMABAD (APP) The Rupee on Tuesday momentum of digital and intelligent transformation

weakened by 02 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.42 against to achieve the vision of a the previous day's closing The commitment of Rs 279.40. extends to actively contributing to the high-

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280.5 and Rs He also emphasized 282 respectively. The price of the Euro

Rupee sheds

02 paisa

Zong 4G's crucial role in providing top-notch network services, dedicated decreased by Rs.3.61 paisa to close at Rs300.48 to ensuring an exceptional against the last day's closing of Rs304.09, according to the State Bank customer experience of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained lost 02 paisa to close at Rs1.88, whereas a decrease of Rs5.56 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound,

Life to pay Rs 5 mln to heirs of insurance policyholder ISLAMABAD (APP): complainant Abdul President Dr Arif Alvi Tuesday directed Postal Life Insurance to pay the insurance policy from complaint with the Wafaqi

President Alvi directs Postal

death insurance claim of Rs PLI for the sum assured 5 million to the legal heirs of Rs 5 million against an annual premium of Rs 448,600 in 2010. the deceased policyholder within 30 days.

He gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) against the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib directing it to pay the death insurance claim, a President Secretariat press release said.

As per details,

MULTAN: Workers spreading corn for drying purpose at the field.

Pakistan, Henan to further promote trade, investment cooperation

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan between Pingdingshan and Ambassador to China, Multan. Ambassador Hashmi Khalil Hashmi and Deputy

Mohtasib to seek relief. Wafaqi Mohtasib held that the deceased had purchased the insurance policy as per his date of birth mentioned on CNIC and that PLI had issued the After his father died in 2015, PLI refused to pay insurance policy after accepting the requisite the death insurance claim information

The Mohtasib held on the pretext that the that the denial by the deceased had concealed material facts about his insurance agency to date of birth and the prehonour the claim of the insurance ailment of complainant amounted to diabetes at the time of maladministration. obtaining the insurance

Afterwards, PLI filed policy. a representation against Feeling aggrieved, the son (complainant) filed a president.

> **FESCO** to ensure uninterrupted power supply on election day FAISALABAD (APP) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has chalked out a plan to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all polling station areas on general elections 2024. FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said on Tuesday the company had set up a monitoring cell at FESCO Headquarters where Chief Executive Officer Engineer Muhammad Amir would monitor all electricity

circle officers and SEs of all circles were issued compared to the US expenditure rose by 372.48 necessary directions to ensure uninterrupted \$347.001 million worth per cent while the same services provided education-related electricity supply across the region on election day. In this connection, the FESCO would also remain in touch with reported.

<u>'Safer Internet Day'</u> PTADG stresses public awareness to protect Info on digital accounts

ISLAMABAD (APP): responsibility, and all the Director General of the stakeholders need to come akistan together to keep the Telecommunication dialogue alive on creating a Authority (PTA), Ahmed safer space for children, Shamim Pirzada Tuesday he added. on 'Safer Internet' Day emphasized to create media

propagation of false awareness among the information via phoney general public for the responsible and safe use of accounts, PTA has strictly instructed social media social media platforms. sites and companies to Talking to the PTV tighten the account

news, he said that while verification procedure, he acknowledging the digital added.He said that PTA has impact on children, the also asked to open their PTA is dedicated to separate offices to bring ensuring a safer internet these companies under law, adding, PTA also that meets their educational needs and promotes online interactions, adding that the public urged to refrain

providing comprehensive educational resources and guides to users, emphasizing best practices for securing their accounts, recognizing phishing attempts, and personal

To prevent the

Pak earns US \$280m from travel services' export in Jul-Nov

ISLAMABAD (APP): under review, personal Pakistan earned US travel services also \$280.981 million by decreased by 19.80 per \$280.981 million by providing different travel cent, from US \$344.211 services in various million last year to US countries during the first \$276.071 million during five months of the current July-November 2023. fiscal year 2023-24.

Among these This shows a decrease personal services, the

related issues.He said that

returning officers.

positive from clicking on links from unknown numbers as well as unknown senders. "Keeping the digital protecting safe is a shared information.

Even in challenging times, Zong's dedication to placing its employees at the forefront of its company's vision for the forefront of its company's vision for operations was strengthened, accompanied by various initiatives for their well-being.

"Furthermore, he said that in 2024, the company life for individuals and sustain

historic move, a joint

delegation of the Small and

Medium Enterprises

Development Authority

(SMEDA) and Punjab

Corporation (PSIC) have

made the first-ever visit of

Ireland to exhibit Pakistani

SMEs at the world's

famous trade fair "Showcase Ireland 2024".

comprising innovative and

dynamic small and

medium-sized businesses,

explored opportunities and

fostered collaborations in

said historical initiative was

planned as well as

materialised by Farhan

Aziz Khawaja, while working as CEO SMEDA

a few months back, and

currently, he is posted as DG Civil Services

Academy, but still instrumental to conclude

the SME development

initiatives launched by him

during his posting at

SMEDA, according to in Dublin, brings together

SMEDA spokesman here a diverse range of

It is notable that the

the international market.

The delegation,

Industries

Small

the businesses across Pakistan **SMEDA, PSIC introduce** Pak SMEs in 'Showcase

Ireland-2024'

company's vision for 2024, Huo shared, "Our primary focus persists on introducing advanced and cutting-edge technologies

that elevate the quality of

They have proposed to

promote Pakistan's Handicrafts in the developed world through

international trade shows,

had opened Pakistan's

SMEs to over 3,350 buyers

from across the world

including Ireland, the UK,

the USA, Europe and the

Far East. Showcase Ireland

2024, a premier trade event

high

Pakistan's

(External

the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Rival increased by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 76.07 and Rs 74.51 respectively.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Silva, Broog, Hafnia Shinano and Sino

Star carrying containers LNG Mogas and Palm oil LAHORE (APP): In a experts have observed that developed countries for berthed at Container being transferred on the Terminal, Elengy Terminal, technology, were facing a dearth of handicrafts in Oil Terminal and Liquid Terminals respectively on Monday, 5th Februarytheir markets that had created an adequate space 2024. for Pakistan's Handicrafts.

Meanwhile two more ships MSC Roma and Simaisma with containers and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 horus.

commissions abroad. The SMEDA Head A total of 10 ships were engaged at PQA Relations berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two Department) Sheharyar Tahir, who represented ships, MSC Silva and SMEDA in the delegation, Encore left the port on has marked the visit as a Tuesday morning and four great source of marketing more ships, ECE Nur Bayraktar, World Crest, opportunities for Pakistani handicrafts. He said that Nord Allegro and Sino Star Showcase - Ireland's are expected to sail on Creative Expo, being one of today afternoon. the Ireland's largest

During last 24 hours stood at 132,159 tonnes, comprising 109,894 tonnes imports cargo and 22,265 tonnes export cargo including containerized cargo carried in 1,985 containers (693 TEUs imports and 1,292731 TEUs export) was handled



ISLAMABAD: Vendors are selling bananas on their loading trucks in fruits and vegetable market in the Federal Capital.

Mayor of Pingdingsnan province have agreed to further advance trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and

Henan Shaoge, Deputy Mayor of Pingdingshan, a dynamic city in Henan province. Productive conversation on further advancing trade and investment cooperation exchanges

formerly known as twitter. Ding Shaoge led a delegation to Pakistan

between Pakistan and Henan including through between business delegation," the ambassador posted on 'X' in 2021. According to details,

Embassy in Beijing, China for an in-depth discussion on further developing the friendship city relations

expressed his support for city in China's Henan both cities to engage in exchange and cooperation across various fields. 'We hope that both sides will further promote

practical cooperation in the "Glad to meet Ding construction of friendship cities, textile industry and trade of agricultural products," he added.

Ding Shaoge said that the establishment of friendship city relations between the two cities was solidified through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Emphasizing the significance of the textile industry as a shared sector, Ding Shaoge expressed optimism about expanding textile trade between the two cities, with a specific focus on cotton.



QUETTA: All Pakistan Mazda Truck Goods Transport Chairman, Mir Nawab Mengal along with others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Pakistan garments exports to China rise by 3% in 2023

BEIJING (APP): The (CEN). amount of clothing that Pakistan exported to China, In addition, Pakistan enjoys a competitive both for men and women, advantage in land trade significantly increased in with China and zero tariffs under the Free Trade the past year.

Agreement between the Based on available data, the export of men's two countries. and women's clothing from 'In the year 2023. Pakistani men's garments exports to China touched Pakistan to China increased by 3% between January to December of 2023, said \$28.66 million. Women's Ghulam Qadir, Commercial garments exports from Counsellor at the Pakistani Pakistan to China reached

Embassy in Beijing. The strong demand for Pakistani textiles in the Chinese market is reflected in this increase in exports. Pakistani men's and women's clothing has been sought after in China due garments to its quality and competitive prices, he told

China Economic Net

during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan

Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

expenditure increased by 83.25 per cent.

In addition, the other personal services witnessed a decline of

During the months 22.31 per cent.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Secretary Babar Khan presides over the meeting of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund.

SBP announces public holiday on February 8 KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, Tuesday, announced a public holiday on February 8, 2024 to facilitate voter on the polling day. The central bank, in a

statement issued here, stated that SPB will remain closed on February 8, 2024 (Thursday) being a public holiday in the country as notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan to enable the voters to exercise their right o franchise freely and conveniently in General Election, 2024.

Consequently, all the banks and financial institutions in the country will also remain closed on February 8 on account of the public holiday.

Gold rates up by 300

ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.215,100 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.214,800 on the last trading day.

to

Jewellers

The price of 10 grams \$10.46 million while last of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.257 to year in the same period it was \$9.44 million, Rs.184,413 from Rs184,156 whereas the representing a rise of The overall exports of prices of 10 gram 22 karat

men's and women's gold went up to Rs.169,046 from Rs crossed \$39.12 million and 168,810, the All Sindh increased by 3% in the Sarafa year 2023, he added. Association reported

PD rejects news about 25% gas price hike approval by CCI ISLAMABAD (APP): commercial basis from 10 The Petroleum Division (PD) on Tuesday rejected

a news item appearing in a section of media titled "CCI approves 25pc hike in sale price of gas," terming it 'incorrect and contract to facts.'

In a press statement, the Petroleum Division clarified that there was no decision made regarding gas prices in the CCI. The statement further

addressed the paragraph indicating that the CCI had approved an increase in the sale price of natural gas to be misconstrued as a price third parties on a increase.

percent to 35 percent. The clarification said

that the Council of Common Interests (CCI) had indeed considered the Ministry's proposal for a 50 percent share of gas sale to third parties.

However, the CCI ultimately decided to increase the sale of gas to third parties from the existing 10 percent to 35 percent on a competitive basis. The Petroleum Division said that this increase in share should not

PSX stays bullish, gains 796 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): them recorded gains and 79 The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 796.10 points, a positive change of 1.26 per cent, closing at 63,799.02 points against 63,002.92 points traded during the day as compared to 263,547,879 shares valuing Rs. 10.730 billion the last day. Some 336 companies

transacted their shares in

the stock market: 230 of

sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 27 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were PIAC(A)

with 47,061,500 shares at Rs.10.84 per share, Oil and Gas Development with

Mari Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.77.73 per share price, closing at Rs.2,316.57.

the previous trading day. 23,123,662 shares and total of Rs.155.57 per share and Rs.155.57 per share and the previous training any. A total of Rs.155.57 per snate and 330,921,598 shares valuing Cnergyico PK with Rs 15.195 billion were 21,272,911 shares at traded during the day as Rs.4.15 per share. Mari Petroleum

Daily Joice of Masse, Wednesday February 07, 2024 International News

Blinken seeks progress on Gaza cease-fire-for-hostages deal in meetings with Egyptian mediators

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: U.S. Secretary of million people have sought State Antony Blinken was in Cairo on Tuesday for a meeting with Egyptian leaders that U.S. officials said would concentrate on negotiating a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war in exchange for the release of hostages held by the miliareas. tants.

Blinken's visit also comes amid growing concerns in Egypt about Israel's stated intentions to expand the combat in Gaza to areas on the Egyptian border that are crammed with displaced Palestinians.

Israel's defense minister has said Israel's offensive will eventually reach the town of Rafah, on the Egyptian border, where

more than half of Gaza's 2.3 meeting Tuesday with million people have sought Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, has said rerefuge and are now living in increasingly miserable conpeatedly that Palestinians ditions. U.N. humanitarian must not be forced out of monitors said Tuesday that Gaza. During his latest trip, Israeli evacuation orders Blinken is seeking progress now cover two-thirds of on a cease-fire deal, on po-Gaza's territory, driving tential normalization of rethousands more people evlations between Israel and ery day toward the border Saudi Arabia, and on preventing an escalation of re-

gional fighting. On all three fronts Egypt has warned that an Israeli deployment along the border would Blinken faces major chalthreaten the peace treaty lenges. Hamas and Israel are the two countries signed publicly at odds over key over four decades ago. elements of a potential Egypt fears an expansion of truce. Israel has dismissed combat to the Rafah area the United States' calls for could push terrified Palesa path to a Palestinian state, tinian civilians across the and Iran's militant allies in border, a scenario Egypt the region have shown little has said it is determined to sign of being deterred by prevent. Blinken, who was U.S. strikes.



Rain falls over cars stuck by a mudslide, caused by an ongoing rain storm in Studio City, California.

Britain's King Charles diagnosed with cancer: **Buckingham Palace**

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Britain's King Charles has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and the 75-year-old will postpone public-facing duties while he undergoes treat-ment, Buckingham Palace said on Monday.

Charles, who became king in September 2022 following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth, is "wholly positive" about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full

cer. "His majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties,7 the palace said. "Throughout this pe-

riod, his majesty will continue to undertake state business and official paperwork as usual.'

Prince Harry, King Lazzarini, has assigned the Charles' younger son, has leadership of this crucial spoken with his father review to Catherine about the cancer diagnosis Colonna, a former foreign and will travel to the UK to affairs minister of France



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Lusail Palace, in Doha, Qatar.

spokesman.

Two-state solution only path to peace, Scholz tells Netanyahu Bank," Scholz said, accord-

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a phone call on Monday that a two-state solution with the Palestinians was the only path to lasting peace in the region.

From the view of the government, only a negoti-Monday. ated two-state solution would open up the prospect of a sustainable solution to the Middle East conflict.

velopment of friendly rela-This must apply to velop both Gaza and the West tions"

Police shoot dead two 'terrorists' outside **Istanbul court: minister**

Monitoring Desk UN chief sets ISTANBUL: Turkish poup body to lice on Tuesday shot dead a man and a woman belongprobe Israeli ing to a leftist "terrorist" organisation who attacked allegations a security checkpoint out-Monitoring Desk side Istanbul's main court-NITED NATIONS: UN house, injuring six people,

Secretary-General António officials said. Guterres established an in-Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the assailants dependent body on Monday to scrutinise allegations were members of the Revoregarding neutrality of the lutionary People's Libera-United Nations Relief and tion Party-Front (DHKP-Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). C) — a fringe leftist group that has staged periodic at-Guterres, in consulta-tion with UNRWA Comtacks in Turkiye since the 1980s. The group issued no missioner General Philippe initial claim of responsibility. "While the terrorists

TH

were neutralised, six people, including three police officers and three citizens, were injured," Yerlikaya said in a social media statement.

Yilmaz Tunc said "heroic police officers prevented a treacherous attack", adding that prosecutors had launched a "multi-faceted

investigation' the ground outside the main entrance of the Caglayan biggest trials.

courthouse entrances as a who attempted to attack security precaution.

8 dead, 80 injured in **India firework factory** explosion: officials Chief Minister Mohan

tions"

Page

07

Yadav said reports of the

explosion were "very sad

news" and said medics at

burn units in nearby major

hospitals were called to

make "necessary prepara-

"Ambulances are be-ing rushed to Harda from

the surrounding areas, and

the army has been con-

tacted to arrange for heli-

copters," Yadav said in a post on X, formerly Twit-

ter. At least 20 ambulances

were at the site, with 50

more being sent to help

those injured, he added

Manish Sharma, a surgeon

at the Harda district hospi-

tal, said the centre was

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: At least eight people died and 80 were injured on Tuesday in a giant explosion at a firework factory in India that saw balls of flames soar into the sky, officials said.

Footage on Indian television showed a tower of flame after the explosion at the firecracker plant, with dozens of ambulances sent and army helicopters called in to evacuate the wounded. Senior district police

official Rajeshwari Mahobia told AFP there were "eight deaths so far and around 80 injured", at the factory in Harda in Madhya Pradesh state, adding that "the death toll is likely to go up". Images from the fac-

flooded with a stream of casualties. "We have eight deaths at our hospital, a total of 90 people were adtory site showed a wasteland of blackened and smokmitted here so far and we have referred 15 of them to ing rubble.

Monitoring Desk

1,500 and 2,500 shells and

rockets at Ukraine's war-

ravaged Donetsk region ev-

critical infrastructure to

its governor told Reuters.

57% of which is occupied

by Russia, has been at the

forefront of war since

2014, when Russian-backed

proxies seized the region's

reaching out to develop for-

country's foreign minister

plans to maintain its exist-

ing relations with Taiwan.

country is one of a handful

of Taiwan's remaining al-

lies, as countries increas-

ingly side with the world's

second largest economy

China, which claims demo-

cratically-ruled Taiwan as

tinue working with Taiwan

at the levels we have been

doing," Foreign Minister

Carlos Ramiro Martinez

said in an interview. "But

the president has pointed

"We are going to con-

its territory.

termath.

ing speeches.

more than 50,000 people in Turkey, some 5,900 in

In the southeastern

In the main square of

the city of Hatay, located

in the province, some

chanted, "Can anybody

The Central American

other large towns.

The eastern province,

Madhya Pradesh a bigger hospital. Ukraine's Donetsk region pounded by up to 2,500 Russian strikes daily - governor

"The enemy's shelling is this dense, this heavy, DONETSK ŘEGION: Russia is firing between almost every day.'

The governor said the Kurakhove power plant, one of the region's few reery day and is targeting maining large-scale sources of electricity generation, make it harder for people had been forced to close a to remain there in winter, week ago due to Russian shelling. He said this was part of a wider campaign.

"The enemy is trying to destroy critical infrastructure objects so that people find it difficult to remain in the region in winter

capital city, also called Filashkin said the Donetsk, as well as many town of Avdiivka, home to the largest coking plant in Europe and the target of a massive Russian assault since October last year, was "95-98% gone." "The en-emy dropped about 200 guided aerial bombs on Avdiivka alone over the (last month). They are totally destroying it," he said.

Local authorities say the number of civilians in the town has dwindled to less than 1,000

Justice Minister

Images from the scene showed two bodies lying on

courthouse, which has been used for some of Turkiye's Police sealed off the

Over 100 Palestinians martvred by **Israeli forces** in Gaza

ing to a statement issued by GAZA (Online): More than one hundred Palestinians Meanwhile, Russian have been martyred in un-President Vladimir Putin abated Israeli aggression in held a telephone conversathe Gaza Strip during the tion with his counterpart last twenty four hours. Acfrom the UAE Sheikh cording to medical sources, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al thousands of civilians are Nahyan, Russia said on buried under the rubble, but the Israeli forces are block-The presidents dising access of ambulance cussed the situation around crews and civil defense Ukraine and Gaza and teams attempting to reach agreed on the "further dethem. They said that the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip had

resulted in the deaths.

UK-owned cargo ship damaged in drone attack off Yemen

DUBAI (INP): A Britishowned cargo ship was damaged in a drone attack off rebel-held Yemen, a maritime security firm said on Tuesday, the latest in dozens of incidents in the Red

occurred. The Barbados-flagged ship "reportedly incurred minor damage on the port side" in an attack west of Hodeida, British firm interview on Friday, adding Ambrey said, adding that he believed Moscow was there were no injuries. still aiming to capture the entire region.

The ship speeded up and performed "evasive manoeuvres" before continuing south toward the Bab al-Mandeb strait.

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022, this has been where many of the war's most vicious and protracted battles have "The enemy shells (the region) from 1,500 to 2,500 times a day," Governor Vadym Filashkin said in an

public duty as soon as pos-sible, the palace said.

Charles spent three nights in the hospital last month where he underwent a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate.

The palace said a separate issue of concern was spotted during the hospital visit but did not give any further details beyond saving the king had a "form of cancer".

A royal source said they had both undergone that it was not prostate can- planned treatments.

see him in the coming days, The panel will cola source close to the prince laborate with three reputable research organizations Harry now lives in

The news comes just

days after Charles and his

daughter-in-law Kate left

the same hospital where

- the Raoul Wallenberg California with his Ameri-Institute in Sweden, the can wife Meghan and their Chr. Michelsen Institute in two children after the Norway, and the Danish couple stepped down from Institute for Human royal duties in 2020.

Rights. In a statement released in New York, the UN chief emphasised the importance of this review, stating, "The Review Group's mandate is to assess whether the Agency is doing everything within its power to ensure neutrality and to

A Russian court orders the arrest of a bestselling writer over his respond to allegations of serious breaches when they are made. support for Ukraine

said.

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: A Moscow court ordered the arrest Tuesday of a bestselling detective novelist and dissident on charges of "justi-fying terrorism," two months after he was pranked by two pro-Kremlin activists into expressing support for Ukraine on a phone call.

Moscow's Basmanny District Court ordered Grigory Chkhartishvili, who is known under the pen name Boris Akunin and lives abroad, to be taken into custody once he's detained.

In December, Russian authorities added the Russian-Georgian writer to Russia's register of "extremists and terrorists" over the call. in which two pranksters known as Vovan and Lexus posed as Ukrainian officials. A criminal case was opened against Akunin for "discrediting the army" - specifically for "justify-

ing terrorism" and spreading "fake news" about the Russian military

Discrediting the Russian military is a criminal offense under a law adopted after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. The law is regularly used against Kremlin critics although it is unlikely that Akunin, who lives in London, will face detention.

After the authorities branded Akunin an extremist, one of Russia's leading publishers, AST, announced it was suspending the printing and sale of his books. In an online statement, Akunin described his publisher's move as "an important milestone," saying that Russian writers had not been accused of terrorism since Soviet dictator

of Maldivians by removing Josef Stalin's purges. Also on Tuesday, the foreign military presence allies of top Kremlin foe and reclaiming lost oceanic Alexei Navalny reported territorv

that the politician and anti-The decision follows Muizzu's formal call to Incorruption campaigner had been placed in a one-man dia to withdraw its military punishment cell in the repersonnel by March 15. citing a strong mandate from the Maldivian popumote Arctic penal colony where he is serving out a lace.

President Muizzu formally announces **Indian troops'** withdrawal date from Maldive

alleged bitcoin creator MALÉ (INP): Maldivian opened in London on Mohamed President Muizzu, in what reflects his commitment to meeting the desires of the Maldivian people, has formally announced the withdrawal of

Indian troops from the is-land nation by May 10. President Muizzu, perceived as pro-China, in his inaugural address to the introduced parliament underscored his world in 2008. administration's commitment to fulfilling the desires

the case against him.

non-profit organisation set Hough

bitcoin 'inventor' claims up to keep cryptocurrency technology free from pat-LONDON: The trial of an ents, is suing Wright over his claims first made in 2016. The trial at London's

Farmers drive their tractors as they protest over price pressures, taxes and

green regulation, grievances shared by farmers across Europe, in Girona, Spain.

High Court, presided over by judge James Mellor, is expected to last until mid-"Over a period of

nearly 10 years [...] Wright had) the strongest incentive to prove he is Satoshi Nakamoto — but single handedly failed," said COPA lawyer Jonathan Hough in open-

ing remarks. Documents provided Wright were not writby ten in the same software code as the original 2008 white paper, according to

Thailand confident

Prize in Medicine.

huge new particle collider takes

Monitoring Desk

Syria, and left millions laboratory revealed more homeless. details on Monday about its plans for a huge new par-Turkish province of Hatay, ticle accelerator that would the country's worst-hit, people called for the govdwarf the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), ramping ernment and local authoriup efforts to uncover the ties to resign during the vigil, and demanded that officials underlying secrets of the universe do not present themselves at the memorial, while boo-

If approved, the Future Circular Collider (FCC) would start smashing its first particles together around the middle of this century.

China, foreign minister says Monitoring Desk

Taiwan ally Guatemala

mulls commercial ties with

to put an end to corruption and also establish relations GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemala is considering with China.

"We are interested in mal trade ties with China, approaching them to try and develop some relationthe Central American ship around trade, told Reuters, although it Martinez said, saying this could materialise as an "office of trade interests" that would help find a Chinese market for Guatemalan products.

'We are making it public, this is not an ambush against Taiwan or the United States," he added. The United States is

Taiwan's most important international backer, despite the lack of formal dipmatic ties, and a major arms supplier to Taipei.

China has in recent years increased its economic influence in Latin America, where countries have historically held closer ties with the United States. Many Central American countries have in recent years switched loyalties from Taiwan to China.

Anger at Turkish government spills over at earthquake anniversary vigil **Monitoring Desk**

hear my voice?" as Health HATAY: More than 10,000 Minister Fahrettin Koca people gathered early on spoke, a slogan referring to Tuesday to hold a vigil for calls heard from under the the one-year anniversary of rubble as people waited for the devastating earthquakes days for help to arrive. Resithat hit southeastern Turdents say many people key, as some protested died not because of the what they called governbuildings collapsing, but ment negligence in the afrather from waiting for so ong trapped in the rubble The magnitude 7.8 in the cold.

After the vigil, people tossed flowers into the Asi River, which runs through the city

Merve Gursel, who lost her aunt, her aunt's husband and her cousins in the earthquake, called out their names as she tossed a carnation into the water for each one. "Nobody was with these people that day. These people's pain is that they could not be rescued. These people's pain is that they could not have their voices heard," she said. "This (the protests) is the echo of people's inner pain. It is an echo of how much people have suffered. There is no way to describe how to make up for the pain here.

Thailand plans to establish a humanitarian safe zone later this month at its border with Myanmar, near the Mae Sot-Myawaddy crossing, to deliver food

Police forensic experts examine the area after a shooting outside the Caglayan courthouse, in Istanbul.

19-year sentence

Monday, seeking to deter-mine whether an Australian computer scientist invented the world's most popular cryptocurrency. Craig Wright, 53, says March he is Satoshi Nakamoto,

Monitoring Desk

UK trial opens into

aid effort will lead to

ment

logue channels.

the pseudonym of bitcoin's creator and author of a white paper that the cryptocurrency to the

Wearing a striped suit, Wright sat impassive in court on Monday as he listened to the outline of

The Crypto Open Patent Alliance (COPA), a

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: A new Thai-

land-led humanitarian ini-

tiative aims to pave the way

for talks between warring

camps in military-ruled

Myanmar, a senior Thai

official said, three years af-

ter a coup triggered insta-

bility and a wave of violence

and medical supplies to lo-

cal communities and 20,000

across the country.

Decades of research samples destroyed in cooler failure **Monitoring Desk**

The incident has been

Institutet (KI)

Stockholm. The institute is home to the Nobel Assembly, which is tasked with select

ing a winner for the Nobel

tremor, the deadliest disas-Plan for Europe's ter in Turkey's modern history, levelled towns and parts of cities in the country's southeast and neighbouring Syria. It killed

Myanmar crisis dialogue people displaced by fightshape ing, said Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Thailand's

vice foreign minister. PARIS: Europe's CERN Sihasak said the plan would augment efforts by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which has tried unsuccessfully to start a peace process between the military and its enemies among ethnic minority armies and an

armed resistance move-The ultimate goal was to bring the conflict under control and open up dia-

out that we cannot ignore the weight and power China represents. STOCKHOLM: Research President Bernardo Arevalo assumed office in samples collected over demid-January amid a fraught cades at a prestigious Swedtransition process, vowing

ish medical university have been destroyed after a freezer malfunctioned over the Christmas holidays, the university said on Monday.

reported to police, the university added.

The samples were stored in tanks cooled with liquid nitrogen, at a temperature of minus 190 degrees Celsius, at the medical university Karolinska in

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

Indian actions in Kashmir constitute 'crimes against humanity': Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Monday termed India's repressive actions in Kashmir as crimes against humanity, and called on the international community to save the Kashmiri people.

"The Kashmiris are the most disenfranchised people on the face of the earth; they are victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing," he said at a special event to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington, DC.

"We feel the pain of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters-their wounds are our wounds," he said.

Masood Khan said that people of Pakistan have made huge sacrifices in fighting the case of Kashmir since the inception of

We are not fighting We must the country. for a piece of a land but we are fighting for the past seven decades because it is a moral responsibility upon us," he said.

promised to them by the UN Security Council and

by the international com-

responsibility of interna-

science. We appeal to your

to the rescue of the people

munity."

& Kashmir."

stand and protest for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.' "It is a sad day that even after 77 years we are

still talking about lack of this right," he said. "We are fighting for the inalienable right to self-Rise said that there determination of our Kashmiri brothers that was

was denial of basic human rights and communication blockade in Indian occupied Kashmir. He lamented that "Kashmir is a Kashmir was a forgotten powder keg in South Asia cause for the international that threatens regional community. "Let us pool peace and stability," the our efforts and resources in ambassador added. "It is the order to make the international community listen to tional community to save the very important voices them. I appeal to your confrom Kashmir," Rise said. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, in a video mesconvening power to come sage, said that the situation in

of illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir coincided with the Israeli killings in Gaza. He said that India The chief guest at the hasbeen exposed as a state sponsor event, Lars Rise, a former of cross border terrorism,



LAHORE: A convoy of army personnel patrols along a road in the city to develop a sense of protection among the masses and maintain law and order situation during the General Election 2024.

PPP to sweep upcoming general election in country: Gorgage

OUETTA (APP)-Central leader of Pakistan People's Baloch, Agha Shafi, Party (PPP), Ex, federal minister Sardar Umar Barty (PPP), Ex, federal ers also addressed the meet-Gorgage and provincial senior vice president Engineer Hadi Askari said the PPP would sweep the general election in country and Balochistan on Febru-

They expressed these people, the PPP would take views while addressing the practical steps to solve the election meeting held in favor of the candidate Haji Ramzan Achakzai from NA-262 constituency and Sardarzada Samad Gorgage, the candidate from PB-42 constituency Agha Bashir Dost, Comrade Ali Raza, Tahir would win the general elec-

peace, stability SLAMABAD (INP): Ilmi, Ahdia Batul, Subia Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan visited Naval Head-

quarters, Islamabad on Sardar Umar Gorgage Ĵuesday. and Hadi Askari said that The Egyptian Envoy called on Chief of the Nathe people of Hazara Town have proved today that they were with the PPP saying that with the power of the

cratic party, the PPP party

Shah Khawar, who pre-

taker Chief Minister Punjab

Mohsin Naqvi emerged as

a frontrunner for the cov-

eted position of PCB Chair-

man. His nomination gained

momentum, propelled by

his distinguished role as the

caretaker chief minister of

val Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during the visit. In the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral collaboration beproblems of Balochistan ween Pakistan and Egypt

Egyptian Envov

lauds services of

PN for regional

60 NADRA CONTRACT

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki attending a MoU signing ceremony between Provincial Government and NADRA to launch Computerized Arm Licenses

CDWP recommends Rs 23.8b project for automated indus basin irrigation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The on Indus Basin Irrigation nance of this transformative Central Development Working Party (CDWP), has recommended Rs 23.8 billion project for autonated Indus Basin Irrigation

The CDWP was convened under the chairmansideration. ship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission,

system.

Muhammad Dr Jahanzeb Khan, said a press elease issued here Tuesday

The CDWP discussed vital projects related to the energy, transport and communication, and water resource sectors. The forum also recommended the revised PC-1 titled Installation of Telemetry System for Real Time Discharge Monitoring at 27 key sites

system, presented by the venture. Ministry of Water Resources with a total cost of Rs. 23,834.707 million, to the Executive Committee of the National Economic

financed through PSDP. Rs.500 million would be sponsored by IRSA through its resources. The project is under the ownership of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), with execution responsibiliments and potential inter ties given to the Water and

provincial disputes. To address these chal-Power Development Authority (WAPDA). After lenges, IRSA plans to install two year post completion state-of-the-art telemetry period, IRSA will take over equipment at 27 key locathe operation and maintetions

Pakistan to continue its support to Kashmiris till their freedom: Ejaz

QUETTA (APP): Chair-Baloch said that India man of Balochistan Board could not suppress the of Intermediate and Secondvoice of Kashmiris by comary Education (BBISE), mitting atrocities in Kash-Mir Ejaz Azim Baloch on mir. India is violating human Tuesday said that Pakistan rights by committing would always continue its atrocities on Kashmiris, he moral diplomatic support said and adding that the to Kashmiris till their free-United Nations and other

He expressed these should stop India from views while addressing a ceremony organized by take immediate notice of the BSISE to show solidarity carnage on innocent with the Kashmiri people. Kashmiris.



Wednesday February 07, 2024

Maryam urges political forces to bury politics of hate, revenge

President and Chief Organizer Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz has urged all political forces of the country to make collective efforts for 'burying politics of hate and revenge While addressing a

public gathering in Kasur on Tuesday, she asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers to set aside the politics of hate and think for larger interest of country

Maryam Nawaz while thanking the people of Kasur for their continuous support for PML-N said that she and her father Mian Nawaz Sharif faced political victimization during the last 6 to 7 years. Every line was crossed to punish Nawaz Sharif and to Thursday.

KASUR (INP): Senior Vice wipe him out of the political area, she added.

Those who wanted to end the political career of Nawaz Sharif failed as today the politics is beginning and ending in the former premier's name, she added

The Senior Vice President of PML-N also appealed to the masses to vote for PML-N on February 8. She promised that the process of development projects that was halted after ousting Nawaz Sharif from power would be revived again.

It must be noted that the election campaign by political parties and independents concluded across the country at Tuesday-Wednesday for the general elections to be held on



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Common Wealth Observer Group for General Election H.E Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan along with the delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Aurat Foundation emphasizes: Women ought to cast votes in elections on wholeheartedly Independent Report

an in undemocratic process, QUETTA: The Aurat Founhe added. It had been further

dation has emphasized that the women should cast stated that it is also duty of all political parties, claimtheir votes in the general ants of the democracy, to elections to be held on February 8 in the country. provide opportunities to In a statement issued women to caste votes in large number so that they

here on Tuesday, the Remay play their effective gional Director of AF has stated that the candidates role in the country's democratic system and decision had imposed ban on casting of votes by the women in some constituencies and polling stations of the prov-

ince in past.

and policy making. The women were also urged to play their positive role for supremacy of democracy by using their

As a result they had been deprived of using their right of franchise in the right of franchise, which is elections.

observers visits ECP ISLAMABAD (APP): The eight-member Election Observer Group from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, led by Chairman Andrey Maximov, visited the Election Commission of Paki

> Secretary Dr Syed Asif Hussain and others. Secretary ECP, Syed Asif Hussain, extended a warm welcome to the members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation upon their arrival in Pakistan to observe the elec-

Eight-member Russian poll

stan (ECP) to meet with international organizations

atrocities on Kashmiris and

Currently, the Indus Basin Irrigation water management system operates manual procedures. Decisions regarding Council (ECNEC) for conwater distribution rely on manual calculations at barrages and information ob-Indus Basin Irrigation stem is proposed to be tained through traditional

means like phone or fax. The absence of automated monitoring system has led to a situation where gate positions are unknown causing control issues fo provincial irrigation depart



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Navel Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Lhab Mohamed Abdulhamid Hassan Ambassador of Egypt at Navel Headquarters.

Mohsin Naqvi elected new PCB chairman **for 3 years term** LAHORE (INP): In a re-cent development for the Pablicity Deviation Commissioner

tiality.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi has been elected unopposed as the new chairman for PCB for a three-year tenure,

says in media reports. The decision was

reached during the PCB Governing Board meeting held today at the National Cricket Academy. The eagerly awaited announcement came after a key gathering hosted at the prestigious National Cricket Academy, where representatives from diverse regions and organizations convened to participate in the electoral process.

Notably, the Governing Board, comprising influential representatives from various regions and organizations, underscored the inclusivity of the election cricket and ushering in posiprocess. The responsibility tive reforms within the orof overseeing the election



ganization

QUETTA: Worker of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam candidate PB-39 hold protest in front of the DC office.

along with forming the gov came under discussion. ernment in the center and Ambassador Dr. Ihab the province. They said that Mohamed lauded the ef-Pakistan People's Party was forts of Pakistan Navy for a public political and demo-

ensuring peace and stabil-ity in the region. Two drug pushers held, cache of

narcotics recovered QUETTA (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) seized cache of drugs and arrested two drug peddlers on Tuesday.

during separate actions in different areas of the province

A spokesman of ANF said on Tuesday that teams of the force during crackdowns in different areas of Chaghi seized 259 kilogram opium and 7 kilogram hash-

In another raid near suburbs Lakpas, two drug pushers were apprehended with 65 kilogram hashish and 8 kilogram Ice (Crystal Meth). Śeparate cases were

sided over the proceedings with diligence and imparregistered against the detainees under Drug Act and Earlier speculations further investigations were had suggested that Careunderway.

> **Brothers from** Khar family emerge as rival candidates on NA 180

Punjab, which undoubtedly strengthened his candidacy. MUZAFFARGARH With his extensive ex-(INP): In an unprecedented perience and proven leadpolitical showdown, two ership acumen, Mohsin brothers from the Khar Naqvi is poised to lead family have emerged as ri-PCB into a new era of exval candidates in Kot Addu cellence and innovation. His Constituency NA 180, setelection reflects a collective ting the stage for a unique commitment to advancing electoral contest. The sons the interests of Pakistani of the late former provincial minister Malik Ghulam Rabbani Khar and brothers of former Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar are pit-

ted against each other in this electoral battle. Captain Retired Abdul

Khaliq Rabbani Khar, the elder brother, is contesting on the ticket of the Muslim League-N, while his younger sibling, ex-MNA Raza Rabbani Khar, is representing the Pakistan People's Party. Rabbani is lending his support to Khar's candidacy, setting the scene for a heated competition

Ghosullah between the brothers.

representative party of people: Sulman

QUETTA (APP)- Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N)'s candidate from NA 262 in the international world and PB 39 constituency and he would make a com-Nawab Sulman Khan Khalji prehensive strategy to solve all the problems of the said that the PML-N was the only representative people and implement it party of the people that Mian Nawaz Sharif is

could get them out of their a capable politician who can problems. He shared these play an important role in views while addressing the the development of this corner meetings held at varicountry, he said and added ous places in connection that if he becomes the prime with the election campaign minister, not only inflation and unemployment would end from the country.

He said that Mian



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) Leaders, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Haji Madad Ali Jattak, Sardar Sarbuland Jogizai and others addressing a joint press conference, at Quetta press club.

JUI to prove majority all over country if elections not rigged: Hamdullah

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Hafiz Hamdullah has stated that the JUI has always represented the nation truly right from the assembly to ev-Haq, Abdul Khaliq and others also addressed the gathery forum. He was confident ering.

while claiming that JUI would succeed in the elections with majority of these were not rigged. Hafiz Hamdullah was

addressing the public meeting as part of the election campaign on eve of the annual Dastar Bandi at Jamia Darul Uloom Chaman on Tuesday.

The central Secretary Finance of JUI and candidate for National Assembly, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Sheikhul Hadith Maulana Sharifuddun, candidate for Assembly, Provincial Achakzai,

Nawaz Sharif was recogkistan. nized as a dignified leader

The delegation chair-man praised the Election Commission's preparations for the elections and conveyed his best wishes for the smooth conduct of the general elections.

> Pak dispatches 6th tranche of relief assistance for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has dispatched sixth tranche of relief assistance for the people of Gaza. Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Ahmed Rebai, officials of NDMA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Al-Khidmat Foundation attended the send-off cer emony at Jinnah International Airport Karachi today. The humanitarian assistance flight will land at Al-Arish Egypt, where Pakistan Ambassador to Egypt will receive the tranche for further distribution to Palestinian people.

This sixth relief consignment comprises 100 tons of assistance including 30 tons of blankets, special winterized family tents and 70 tons of medicines and tinned food items as per needs at Gaza.

PTI files review petition in SC against decision on withdrawal of poll symbol

ISLAMABAD (Online): The senior leader of PTI has filed review peti-JUI Hafiz Hamdullah said tion in Supreme Court (SC) that propaganda is being against decision on withmade against the religious drawing the election symleaders to mislead the bol of bat from the party. people under a conspiracy.

PTI while praying the He said that the court to review January 13 people of Pakistan are well decision regarding intra aware of the fact that reliparty election requested gious leaders are the supthat Peshawar High Court porters of oppressed seg-(PHC) decision be restored. ments. He urged the masses PTI has filed petition

to vote to the "book" for seeking review of SC deciprotection of the Islamic sion on PTI intra party elecvalues, real public service tion and symbol of bat. It has been said in the

and development works. He said that vote petition that intra party shouldn't be used for mere elections were held as per party constitution



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

People of Hub will not be afraid of bomb blasts, bullying threats: Zehri

Anti-people terrorist elements will not be allowed to terrorize innocent people with bomb blasts & succeed in their nefarious purposes

Independent Report HUB: The zealous and brave people of HUB cannot be intimidated by bomb blasts and hideous tactics of terrorism.

These views were expressed by the senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and President of Hub district and former President Asif Ali Zardari's spokesperson for Balochistan. PB21 Hub candidate Mir Ali Hassan Zehri strongly condemned the bomb attack on the office of Paki-

stan Peoples Party in Hub. Expressing his anger over the injury of innocent children and other people in the bomb attack, he said that the cowardly actions of the defeated anti-people elements cannot intimidate the people. The people have decided to change their

destiny and the sun of February 8 will rise with a new thought. and in Mir Ali Hassan Zehri poses.

said that we immediately shifted the injured in the bomb attack to the best hospital in Karachi where they are undergoing treatment because they are all

He prayed to Allah to grant the injured a speedy recovery. He appealed to the zealous people of Hub and party workers to keep their anger and emotions under control. We stand with our people and will always share their sorrows.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri further said that we will fight against the negative tactics of the defeated elements together and on February 8, the brave people will respond to the oppression by voting and stamping the arrow mark. He said that terrorist elements will not succeed in scaring innocent people with bomb blasts and cowardly acts and in their nefarious pur-



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Senior Vice President, Sajid Tareen Advocate addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Quarry Road Quetta and Published from AI-Syed Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941, Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com

personal interests.

