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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed during his visit to Provincial Election Control Room established at Home Department for holding general elections on February 8. Commander-XII Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmad Khan, Provincial Election Commissioner Mohammad Farid Afridi and others high ups are also present.

Altogether 1,696 candidates in competition runs for 67 seats: All set to hold general elections on 16 NA, 51 PA seats in **Balochistan today**

In all 51, 379 polling staff and 65,521 security personnel to be deployed for conducting elections in peaceful manner in province; 5,026 polling stations established; 1,651 polling stations declared highly sensitive

Independent Report QUETTA: All is set to hold general elections on 16 general seats of National Assembly and 51 seats of Provincial Assembly in Balochistan today (Thursday).

Altogether 1696 candidates are in the competition run for all 67 general seats of the National and Provincial assemblies. They are included 429 candidates contesting elections on National Assembly seats while 1.267 candidates are in the run for 51 Provincial Assembly's seats.

For the polling, in all 5,026 polling stations have been established in all 36 districts of the province. Out of them, 1,126 Officers a have been declared as nor-

mal while 2,249 and 1,651 polling stations have been declared as sensitive and highly sensitive respectively According to the offi-

cial sources, a total of 65,521 security personnel would be deployed for conducting elections in peaceful manner in the province. They are included: 19,082 from Army, 31,895 from Police, 14,544 from Levies and 5,094

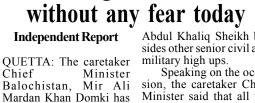
As many as 51,379 polling staff has been deputed for the election process at 5,026 polling stations of the province.

They are included: ,279 presiding officers, 31,252 Assistant Presiding Officers and 15,626 Polling

A provincial control room has been set up by the provincial government to monitor the election and polling process in the province. Established at the Pro-

vincial Information Technology Department, the senior bureaucrats would remain deputed at the Control Room. Similarly, a control and monitoring room has also been set up at the rovincial Election commissioner's office.

Earlier, the polling material including ballot papers and other necessary goods were distributed among the polling staff of Quetta at the Unity Law College



Caretaker CM urges voters

to use right of franchise

urged the voters to use their right of franchise without any fear as all the necessary arrangements have

need to look the routine inbeen finalized for the eleccidents and incidents of crimes linked with the elections separately.

He mentioned that deployment of 66,214 jawans of the Pak army, FC, police and levies has been made for the elec-

He said that the funds were released by the Election Commission and provincial government timely. While on the other hand, the distribution and dispatchment of the polling material has also been

completed in the province, he maintained.

cess, he added.

leader in Killa Saifullah on eve of general elections Hafiz Hamdullah survives assassination attempt

Three-day mourning announced by caretaker CM: 28 dead, 50 others injured in two

separate explosions in Pishin

and Killa Saifullah districts

Blasts target independent candidate office in Pishin, JUI-F's

Independent Report

CHAMAN: Senior Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Hafiz Hamdullah on Wednesday survived an ssassination attempt in Balochistan's Chaman area.

In a statement, the police said unidentified assailants opened fire on Hafiz Hamdullah's vehicle near Maizai Adda in Chaman. However, the suspects es-caped after the JUI-F leader's security retaliated with iring. Meanwhile, the senior politician remained unnurt in the assassination attempt.

This was the second time JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah came under attack as Pakistan witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022



QUETTA: Scenes of devastation after a bomb exploded near the election office of an independent candidate in Khanozai Pishin, Quetta, while security officials are collecting evidence.

Transparent, peaceful election's our national responsibility: Governor

Independent Report The Governor ex-QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need for making

pressed these and similar other views in a statement issued here on Wednesday.

officers and other con-

He said that it is very

important to make effective

tions in the province today (Thursday) The caretaker Chief Minister was on visit to the provincial control room established by the provincial Home department here on Wednesday. Also present on the tions occasion were the Corps Commander Lt. General

Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan, caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police,

Abdul Khaliq Sheikh besides other senior civil and military high ups. Speaking on the occa-

Continued on page 2 sion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that all the **Terrorists not** necessary arrangements have been made for the to be allowed elections in Balochistan.

He said that there is a to disrupt elections: Achakzai

QUETTA (APP) Baluchistan's Caretaker In formation Minister Jan Achakzai on Wednesday said that terrorists would not be allowed to disrupt the general elections.

Independent Report

QUETTA: At least 28 people were killed and 50

others injured in two separate explosions targeting

election candidates' offices

in Pishin and Killa Saifullah districts on Wednesday.

The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan

Domki announced three-

day mourning to mourn the

loss of lives in both attacks.

Caretaker Information

Minister Jan Achakzai said

The first attack claimed at least 16 people's

lives while 25 were injured

after an explosion took

in a presser.

While talking to a pri vate news channel, he con demned blasts in Qila Saifullah and Pishin, asserting the country's resolve of preventing the terrorists to derail the electoral process

The elections would proceed as planned as the caretaker government was fully committed to the pro-

The minister said,"The state will not bow down before any terrorist group or organization, rather it will chase them till their complete elimination."

by commitment of holding elections on Feb 8: Solangi morning the voting would

Caretaker government stood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that the caretaker government had stood by its commitment of holding general elections on the schedule given by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

Áddressing the inaugural ceremony of Media Coordination and Facilitation Center established by Press Information Department here, he said tomorrow

tained.

OUETTA: Polling staff receiving polling material at distribution Centre for General Elections 2024.

Bilawal says PPP free of any bias, represents centre

addec

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that only his party held public gatherings across Pakistan in connection with the General Elections 2024 which he said showed PPP's support in all parts of the country.

While talking to a private news channel, the PPP Chairman said that he went to every part of the country for the election canvassing and received a 'great response' from the people. He said that his election campaign across the country is tantamount to the 'fact' that only the PPP represents the center.

Bilawal also took a jibe at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for 'restricting' its election campaign to 'few' parts of the country. "The PML-N held electioneering in only a few constituencies and once again proved it-

self to be a party of Punjab," he added. The PPP Chairman said that the PML-N's

the polling would have been done Referring to speculations, he said there were doubts and concerns in

start and by midday half of

people's minds regarding the elections. "We stood by the promise of holding polls and elections are being held (tomorrow), putting aside all

imposes ban on fears and rumours,3 Murtaza Solangi maindouble riding of bike in Ouetta The minister said that Continued on page 2

QUETTA (INP): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat on Wednesday imposed a

complete ban on double riding of motorcycles in Quetta division till Thursday night given security reasons He said that Quetta

Commissioner

snap-checking had been extended, and vehicles and motorcycles without numcommunication system and ber plates were being other necessary infrastrucstopped. He said that speture can further promote the cial directives were issued

to concerned officials to arrest those walking outside vithout ID cards in Quetta. All the bazaars, markets etc. around the polling stations will remain closed till Thursday night in Quetta, Commissioner

t least 28 people.

2022

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Royal Foundation of Gilgit Baltistan.

Communication infrastructure, imperative for GB development: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): He said that a positive Caretaker Prime Minister trend in tourism had been Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on witnessed in the area after Wednesday said that develthe upgradation of Skardu opment of the proper com-Airport to the international munication system and airport. other necessary infrastruc-He said multiple counture in Gilgit-Baltistan was

tries were showing keen inimportant to ensure susterest to collaborate with tainable development of the Pakistan in the tourism sec-"The construction of a The prime minister di-

rected the authorities concerned to devise a strategy to work out a sustainable solution to the issue of electricity in Gilgit-Baltistan. He also directed to

devise a plan for enhancing the quota of GB students in the higher education and technical education sectors of all provinces of the country.

the social integration across the area.

Pakistan fully committed to promote an inclusive

democratic process ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) has said Pakistan is fully committed to promote an inclusive democratic process.

This was said by FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

while reacting to re marks made by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the upcoming general elections in Paki stan.

She held Pakistan is fully resolved to uphold rule of law and protect the haman rigits and fundamental freedom.

Guarantees in this regard are enshrined in our law and constitution

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had said in a statement that organization condemns all acts of violence against political parties and candidates and stresses authoritie to maintain necessar fundamental freedom fo the sake of meaningful democratic process.

At least 24 incidents of violence against political parties workers have been reported before election.

effective coordination among all concerned insti- coordination between all tutions to ensure free, fair regional and district police and peaceful elections in the province. He said that it is our

tion. Governor exhorted the

law enforcement agencies

and concerned departments

to make tough security

measures all over the prov-

ince especially at the sensi-

mere elections rather it is an

exercise to hand over the

authority of country and

provinces to the real elected

He said that this is not

tive polling stations.

right of franchise.

cerned officers and the Election Commission so as to national obligation to conconduct the free and fair duct free and fair elections. elections in peaceful man-Under the given situa-

He stressed that the responsibility of keeping strict vigil on the suspected persons in and around the polling stations rests with the government and general public as well.

He said that is also becomes national duty of all political parties and masses to ensure free and fair elections, besides the governrepresentatives by using ment and its concerned departments.



RIYADH: Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Operations), Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan in a group photo along with Foreign dignitaries and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent during World Defence Air Show 2024 held in Rivadh.

Elections 2024: **ECP official dispels fears** of 'EMS being hacked'

ISLAMABAD (APP): of Form 45 and send it to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) IT Director, Khizar Aziz, dispelled the fears of 'hacking Election Management System' (EMS) in upcoming general elections 2024, saying that no public networks are being utilized for transmitting election results.

"Private networks will be employed for the purpose which eliminates concerns about the hacking of the EMS," Aziz told a private news channel.

He highlighted that the EMS was equipped with special software, securely housed in the offices of 859 Returning Officers (RO), with the provision of four data entry operators, four laptops, and IT equipment. Simultaneously, Aziz

stated the EMS was also installed in the mobile phones of Presiding Officers (PO) who will capture an image

the Returning Officer. In case of network issue, Form 45 will automatically deliver to the RO once a signal is restored. He explained the process of Section 95, where the Presiding Officer is required to visit the RO's office and display Form 45 on their mobile device. The form will self-lock on the Presiding Officer's mobile,

ensuring data integrity. Elucidating the working of EMS, Khizer Aziz stated that during the cre-

ation of Form 47 the RO will verify that Form 45 is locked on the Presiding Officer's mobile. Computers in the RO

office, he said will operate in three modes for national and provincial assemblies, conducting online data entry. In case of network disconnection, the software will seamlessly switch to an offline mode.

cept my debate challenge," he added. Citing a comparison held by former finance minister Hafeez Pasha, Bilawal said Sindh is well ahead of Punjab in every sector

leadership could not spare

even half an hour to come

to Karachi and run the elec-

tion campaign in the port

city. "The PML-N has also

failed to turn to South

Punjab and Balochistan.

"Those who raised 'Vote

Ko Izzat Do' (Respect the

vote) slogans did not go to

three provinces," Bilawal

minster aspirants across

the world hold debate

ahead of the elections to

present their manifesto

and plans. "It is regretful

that PML-N supremo

Nawaz Sharif did not ac-

He said that prime

The PPP chairman expressed confidence in his party to secure a majority in the general elections 2024, saying that their supporters would be celebrating on February 8

Nazimul Amin. Quetta Division said. He also urged the people to cooperate with security forces to maintain peace in the area. very hospitable. Pakistan shuts border crossings with Iran, Afghanistan

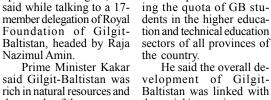
Prime Minister Kakar said Gilgit-Baltistan was

tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan and create opportunities for economic development in the region," he said while talking to a 17member delegation of Royal

rich in natural resources and the people of the area were

remain closed to ensure full security during the general elections in Pakistan on Feb 8.

Furthermore, the spokeswoman said that normal operations would resume on Friday.



ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday said border crossings with Afghanistan and Iran will

general elections, border crossings with Afghanistan and Iran, would remain closed both for cargo and pedestri-

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said: "To ensure full security during the

The announcement came hours after back-to-back blasts that hit Balochistan's Pishin and Qila Saifullah, killing

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan,

ince the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November

QUETTA: On the special directives of the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki injured of Killa Saifullah bomb blast being shifted to CMH Quetta through helicopter

Daily soice of Masse Independent Quetta

Thursday February 08, 2024

Miscellaneous

Election Commission Secretariat security tighten after deadly Balochistan blasts

in Balochistan claiming over two dozen lives, the security measures at the rity protocols in the fed-Election Commission Secretariat have been significantly intensified, with all unauthorized access to the premises being strictly prohibited.

A thorough search operation, led by bomb disposal squad personnel, was conducted throughout the Election Commission building. Sniper units were also deployed to maintain vigilance, while security personnel were put on high alert to swiftly respond to any potential threats. Additionally, a comprehensive search op- other blast occurred out- condition.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Af-ter two deadly explosions the vicinity surrounding via Saifullah, resulting in Qila Saifullah, resulting in the deaths of 13 individuthe Secretariat.

Simultaneously, secuals Rescue teams swiftly eral capital have been elresponded, transporting evated, with all law enthe deceased and injured forcement officers, includto nearby hospitals. Preing the police, instructed liminary reports suggest to remain stationed within that the explosions may their designated areas. have been suicide attacks.

The recent blasts in Security sources have Balochistan, specifically indicated that the election in the districts of Pashin office of independent canand Qila Saifullah, redidate Isfandiar Kakar sulted in the loss of more was targeted in the Pishin than 25 lives and left nu-Khanuzai blast. The merous individuals in- Medical Superintendent jured. The initial explosion of Khanuzai Hospital occurred in the Khanuzai confirmed receiving 15 area of Pashin district. bodies and treating over 30 claiming 15 lives and ininjured individuals, many juring several others. An- of whom are in critical

repulse terrorists' attack on Miryan police station PESHAWAR (APP): An

Bannu police

attack by the terrorists on Miryan police station was repulsed by the police, making the terrorists run for their lives and flee the area, police said on Wednesday.

According to police, the terrorists attacked Miryan police station from two sides resulting only in damage to the thermal cameras installed on the walls of the police station.

In retaliation for an effective police response, the terrorists escaped from the area. No loss of life was reported in the attack.

It merits mention here that last month police eliminated a terrorist in the Terriram area in the vicinity of Miryan police station during an operation



ISLAMABAD: Members of the Royal Foundation of Gilgit-Baltistan present a cultural robe as a souvenir to caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Elections 2024: **Tough contest expected** on Lahore's 14 NA seats

riots cases. On NA-123 tough con-

LAHORE (INP): Tough contest was expected on Lahore's 14 National Astest is being expected be-tween PML-N President sembly (NA) seats in February 8, general elections.

Bigwigs were contesting polls on 14 NA seats tomorrow as Pakistan was heading towards general elections tomorrow after months of electioneering.

Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will contest the election with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Attaullah

Tarar on NA-127, Lahore. The PPP chairman hopes to repeat history by winning the elections from Lahore like his maternal

grandfather and Pakistan's first elected prime minister. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. On NA-130, former

three-time prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will take on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insafbacked candidate Dr Yasmin Rashid, who was currently in jail in May 9

PSL fever heats up with countdown clock at Gaddafi Stadium

LAHORE (INP): Cricket fans in Pakistan received a thrilling reminder of the approaching Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 9 with the installation of a countdown clock outside the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in

Maryam Nawaz will Lahore. contest the election against Following a tradition, independent candidate the Pakistan Cricket Board Shehzad Farooq in NA-119, (PCB) unveiled the clock while Saad Rafique will near the main gate of its headcontest polls against PTI's quarters, igniting excitement backed candidate Sardar for the highly anticipated Latif Khosa on the NA-122 tournament.

Istekham-e-Pakistan sons, the clock was installed Party's Abdul Aleem Khan two weeks ahead of the will contest elections scheduled start date, generagainst Ali Aijaz on the NAating a festive atmosphere 117 seate, while Hamza around the stadium. Shahbaz will contest polls

against PTI's backed candidate Aliya Hamza on the

NA-118 seat. On NA-120, PML-N's Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to con-

Shehabz Sharif, Jamaat-e-

Islami's Liaquat Baloch,

and Afzal Azeem.

Portraits of the captains that go into organizing a sucrepresenting each franchise team, allowing fans to connect with their favorite players The tournament's official slogan, "Khul key

Khel," prominently has been displayed, reinforcing the spirit of open and ener-

reminder of the approaching action, further escalating the anticipation among fans across the nation. Similar to previous sea-With the tournament dates confirmed and visuals

adding to the excitement, the installation marks a significant step towards the commencement of PSL 9. While the clock serves

Complementing the timer, the clock features captivating visuals, includ-

getic play. The countdown cricketing event, not just in Pakistan but globally. clock serves as a symbolic The countdown clock installation highlights the tournament's significance and stands as a testament to the passion and dedication

ing weeks.

cessful tournament.

Fans can expect further

The PSL has estab-

announcements regarding team schedules, player

drafts, and other exciting

developments in the com-

lished itself as a premier

of players, organizers, and cricket enthusiasts alike. With the countdown officially underway, cricket

Page

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fans can gear up for a thrilling season filled with elecas a visual cue, it's crucial to trifying matches, excepremember the months of tional talent, and unforgetpreparation and planning table moments.

Original CNIC mandatory for casting vote: ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has advised people to bring their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) to cast vote on the election

The ECP, in a message, said no person would be allowed to cast his vote at the polling station without having original CNIC.

No other document including a copy of CNIC, passport and driving license would be acceptable for casting a vote.

The commission further said anyone having an expired CNIC can cast his/her



ing Murtaza Solangi inaugurates "the Media Coordination and Facilitation Center" for Election Coverage at the Principal Information Department, Federal Information Secretary Ms. Shahera Shahid and Principal Information Officer Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan also present on the occasion.

India-Pakistan fans face sticker shock for T20 World Cup tickets

enthusiasts worldwide are buzzing with anticipation as the ICC T20 World Cup draws closer. However, ticket prices for the highly anticipated India-Pakistan match in New York have sparked excitement mixed

with sticker shock. The T20 World Cup will be held in the United States and West Indies, with the India-Pakistan match scheduled for June 9th in New York.

International The Cricket Council (ICC) implemented a random bal- the opportunity to witness citement.

LAHORE (INP): Cricket lot system instead of a first- this historic clash live, othcome-first-served approach, ers express concerns about giving all applicants an equal the high prices, calling them chance at securing tickets. exclusionary and potentially While the initial ballot

limiting access for less afperiod has closed, remainfluent fans. The high cost ing tickets will go on sale on highlights the growing com-February 22nd. Prices start mercialization of major sportat a staggering \$175 (approximately Rs. 49,500) for ing events, raising questions about affordability and acthe minimum "Standard" cessibility for passionate stand, with "Standard Plus" supporters. and "Premium" seats going for \$300 (Rs. 84,500) and For those unable to at-

tend the match in person, \$400 (Rs. 1,13,200) respecvarious broadcasting chantively. This news has genernels will likely telecast the ated mixed reactions. While game, offering an alternative some fans are excited about way to experience the ex-

United Nations to put pres-

test polls against Usman Hamza, while IPP's Awn Chaudhry will contest polls against Salman Akram Raja day. on the NA-128 seat. **APHC urges UN to put**

pressure on India to resolve Kashmir dispute SRINAGAR (INP): The tween Pakistan and India

All Parties Hurriyat Con- has become a nuclear ference has appealed to the flashpoint in South Asia. They said peace will

votes.

in the Khanuzai-Pishin blast.

Caretaker government stood...

Continued from page 1 the caretaker government had taken all possible steps for ensuring the conduct of free and transparent elections.

He said after oath-taking of caretaker government on August 17 last year, in his first press briefing here the very next day, the first question he was asked about the elections and his answer was that elections would be held on the timeframe given by the ECP.

Murtaza Solangi said that this country was established under constitutional democracy and constitutional federal parliamentary system was the foundation of its political system.

He said he as spokesperson of the government had reiterated time and again that elections would be held on the time given by ECP.

"When the date of February 8 was given, our consistent answer was that the polling stations will open at 8.00 am on Thursday February 8", he added.

The minister said that announcement of unofficial results would start tomorrow evening and , the official results will be released by the ECP within three days time period.

He said there were many challenges and problems in holding elections but the government was not discouraged by anything.

The minister said that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting facilitated the media and provided authentic and verified news to

evant institutions. He said that the Press Information Department had set up Media Facilitation Center to facilitate both local and foreign media in

coverage of elections. Federal Information Secretary, Shahera Shahid said that all possible facilities would be provided to the journalists in the Media Coordination and Facilitation Center here and other cities as well.

She said that Press Information Department had been establishing such centres during elections in the past as well and it had a experienced officers and staff On the elections, anyone could apbroach the centre set up by PID for getting information

and assistance, she maintained Principal Information ments made to cover the Officer (PIO) Dr Tariq electoral process in their Mehmood Khan in his opening remarks at the inauguration ceremony of Media Coordination and Facilitation Center, stated

that Media Coordination and Facilitation Centers had also been established in PID offices across the country. He informed the media persons that a total 4,763 accreditation cards had been issued to journalists who wanted to cover

the elections. Out of total, PIO said, that around 1219 cards were issued in Islamabad, 776 in Lahore, 878 in 167 in Quetta, 132 in Hvderabad, 482 in

the public through the rel-Media Coordination and Facilitation Center will also provide transportation facilities to journalists, Dr. Tariq Mehmood added.

In that regard, different routes had been finalised to cover the election process. During the coverage the computer facility for Jour-

nalists as well as refreshment arrangements had also been made, he said. "Our app and Media Helpline will also work continously during the election process in case of help needed by any journalist.

he said. The PID staff would provide their best services round the clock in these centres, he added. Similarly, the Director

General Public Relations Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar, Hyderabad, etc informed about arrange-

respective provinces. They assured to provide all out support to the journalists during the coverage of general elections 2024 Earlier Caretaker Min-

ister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi inaugurated the PID Media Coordination/Facilitation Centre. This center has been

exclusively established to facilitate local and international journalists covering the upcoming election.

The Centre aimed to provide journalists with all the necessary facilitation Karachi, 363 in Peshawar, under one roof, ensuring access to reliable information and logistical support Faisalabad and 746 in throughout the electoral process

sure on India to settle the continue to elude South lingering Kashmir dispute as per the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council

According to Kashmir Media Service, illegally de-tained APHC leaders, Molvi Bashir Ahmed Irfani Abdul Ahmad Parra and Bilal Siddigi, in their separate messages from jails in Srinagar and Jammu region said Kashmir dispute be-

28 dead, 50 others injured in two... Continued from page 1

ter Khanozai blast. place outside an indepen-

At least 12 people were killed and 25 others injured dent candidate's office in Khanozai area of Pishin in the second explosion, while the second blast took Information Minister Achakzai confirmed. place outside the Jamiat He said JUI-F leader Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-

Maulana Abdul Wassay, F) election office in Killa who is contesting elections The Pishin blast took from PB-3, remained unhurt place outside the political in the attack.

Achakzai said terrorists office of independent canwould not succeed in their didate Asfand Yar Khan objectives and added that the war would continue until the elimination of the last terrorist.

Following the explosion in Killa Saifullah, many vehicles caught fire.

Yasar Bazai told Geo News that most of the injured are in critical condition. "The Balochistan government is sending helicopters from Quetta to evacuate the injured.' He added that a high

alert has been issued across the district. "To ascertain the nature of the explosion, He added that operathe bomb disposal squad tion theatres with the staff team reached the site of the are ready to treat injured at incident

the Trauma Centre, Civil The blast site has been Hospital, BMC, Benazir and Sheikh Zayed Hospisealed for investigation, he stated

Superintendent of Po-The independent canlice (SSP) Akhtar Achakzai didate was not present intold media that investigaside his office when the explosion took place in PPtions into the nature of the explosion are underway He added that the JUI-

Police (IGP).

A spokesperson for the

Meanwhile, speaking F candidate was not present to the media, Asfandyar at the election office when Kakar said that the blast happened in a motorcycle the blast took place. outside his election office. Security arrangements

have been beefed up in Killa "Eight of our workers Saifullah," the SP said. were martyred and more Meanwhile, the Electhan 18 were injured in the tion Commission of Pakiexplosion when the names stan (ECP) has taken noof the polling agents were tice of the blast and sum-

being finalised in the election office," he said. moned a report from Kakar himself was in Balochistan chief secretary Barshore when the blast and Inspector General of

happened and is currently reaching Khanozai.

ECP said directives have Meanwhile, the second blast targeted the JUI-F ofbeen issued to take action fice in the Killa Saifullah against those involved in district couple of hours afsuch incidents.

Asia till the Kashmir dispute remains unresolved. They said the dialogue is the best way to settle this long-pending dispute. They urged the UN to

impress upon India to stop its state terrorism in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and fulfill its promise of giving the Kashmiris their right to selfdetermination.

> **Giants rally to** stun Dubai by 19 runs in a low scoring battle

DUBAI (INP): Gulf Gi ants, through an exhibition of superb teamwork and resilience, fought tooth and nail to defend a meager total of 126 for 9 in 20 overs and pull off a 19-run win over Dubai Capitals in the 24th match of the DP World ILT20 season 2 at the Dubai International Stadium. This was the lowest total defended in the history of this

tournament. UAE's 18-year-old left-arm spinner Aayan Afzal Khan bagged two wickets at a crucial stage of the match while his skip per James Vince produced two run outs to derail Capi tals' chase towards the easy target.

Dasun Shanaka pushed Capitals closer to the tar-1931 get through an unbeaten 24 but last man Haider Ali be came the third batter to fall for a run out. Capitals were Proteas will need a drathus bowled out for 107 in matic turnaround to win 18.3 overs. the second and final Test,

Capitals' Olly Stone (4 for 14) and Scott Kuggeleijn (3 for 29) ran through Gi ants' batting line-up with a lethal combination of accurate pace and judicious use of slower deliveries to restrict Giants to 126 for 9 in 20 overs.

competition. The Gulf Giants were control with 511 in their reeling at 17 for 4 at one stage but were lifted out of disasfirst innings and never ter by skipper Vince (32) looked like losing when the and Shimron Hetmyer (34) tourists — fielding six through a 51-runs partner debutants - were disship for the fifth wicket in missed for 162. 42 balls. Capitals made a mess of the ride towards the their overnight 179-4 betarget losing both their openfore play began on ers for 30 runs. The first to go was their skipper and Africa to chase an unrealopener David Warner for 11 istic target of 529. caught by Chris Jordan at mid-off to Jamie Overton followed by opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz. never came close, taking 4-

inexperience Proteas by 281 runs in first test double-strikes at the start O U N Т MAUNGANUI (INP):

Black Caps thrash

of the second and third ses-New Zealand hammered sions The most crucial the inexperience South Afwicket was that of David rica by 281 runs with the help of four wickets

Bedingham, who raced to a career-high 87 off 96 claimed by Black Caps seamer Kyle Jamieson in balls before he mistimed a pull shot to midwicket soon after tea

It ended a 105-run stand with Keegan rican team showed a resistance against Black Caps Petersen, who also failed to control a Jamieson short ball on 16. missal for 247 and the

The day's response had begun disastrously for the tourists when debut openers Neil Brand and It should be mentioned Edward Moore departed here that New Zealand was inside the day's first four a step closer to a maiden overs. series win over South Af-

South African captain rica after 17 previous failed Brand was bowled for attempts, dating back to three by a late inswinger from his New Zealand Given their struggles, the vastly inexperienced counterpart Tim Southee.

Moore went for a duck after driving a Matt Henry delivery to cover.

A resolute 63-run stand for the third wicket was broken by Jamieson, who snared Raynard van Tonder at choice players involved in first slip for 31 before Zubayr Hamza's attempted pull shot on 36 flew gently to mid-on.

Spinner Mitchell Santner extracted turn to wrap up the tail and finish with 3-59, matching Jamieson's six scalps for the match.

Rachin Ravindra was named man of the match for his 240 in New Wednesday, leaving South Zealand's first innings.

Kane Williamson also shone with the bat, scoring a century in each in-Jamieson ensured they nings to continue a brilliant 58 and producing key run of Test form.

QUETTA: A view of large number of vehicles for delivering polling material in polling stations for General Elections 2024.



Multan



QUETTA: Blood donations are being given at Civil Hospital for those injured

the first Test at Bay Oval

but it ended with their dis-

hosts notched their sec-

ond-biggest Test victory

starting on Tuesday in

forced to name a depleted

tour squad with most first-

their domestic Twenty20

New Zealand took

The hosts declared at

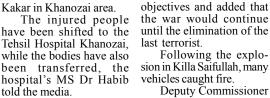
The tourists were

Hamilton.

The visiting South Af-

on Wednesday.

by runs.



According to MS Dr Habib, most of the injured are in critical condition. Following the blast, an

Saifullah.

emergency has been imposed across hospitals in Quetta for which additional staff has also been called, the provincial health secretary told Geo News.

tal

7 in Pishin.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Madad Ali Sindhi says: Sindh produces eminent writers including Ali Baba

Solangi pays tributes to great Sindhi writer Ali Baba at book launch on his life

Dungi Manj Darva.

guages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi said on Wednesday that the civilization of Sindh was multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic and had produced many emi-nent writers and Ali Baba was one of them.

He was delivering his speech at the launch of the book on the life and achievements of renowned Sindhi writer Ali Muhammad popularly known as Ali Baba here.

The book "Ali Baba's Personality and Art" was written by writer and columnist and Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi.

The minister said he was one of the lucky ones who saw Ali Baba in various cities of the province.

Madad Ali maintained that Sindh was a province with a strong culture and civilization and Sheikh Avaz was considered zation of Sindh was multi-

among the great modern lingual, multi-religious and poets of the province. Madad Ali Sindhi said uced many eminent writ-

ers and Ali Baba was one of that he had written about the personality of Ali Baba them. Delivering his speech in great detail in the book. at the launch of the book Despite being a great writer Alibaba was oblivious to his of renowned Sindhi writer greatness, Madad Ali said, Ali Muhammad popularly adding that Ali Baba's writknown as Ali Baba here. ings reveal the depth of hu-The book "Ali Baba's Perman existence and self. sonality and Art" has been

About the works of written by writer and col-Ali Baba, the minister said umnist and Caretaker Fedhe contributed wonderful eral Minister for Education works like the novel Madad Ali Sindhi. Solangi Moenio Daro and drama said Madad Ali was a very good writer he had written Terming Ali Baba's art as immortal and timeless, and achievements of Ali

and achievements of Ali Minister for Information Baba. and Broadcasting Murtaza The minister said he Solangi hoped his writings himself was one of the

would be translated into lucky ones who saw Ali Urdu, English and other lan-Baba in various cities of the province. Meanwhile, Caretaker Solangi maintained

Federal Minister for Infor- that Sindh was a province mation, Broadcasting, and Parliamentary Affairs with a strong culture and civilization and Sheikh Murtaza Solangi said on Avaz was considered Wednesday that the civili- among the great modern poets of the province

election results 2024: NC ISLAMABAD (APP): National Coordinator for the Free and Fair Election (FAFFEN) Network Rashid Chaudhry Wednes-

day said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was utilizing technology to strengthen the upcoming general polling process 2024 in the country and for timely election results to make the process smooth

Talking to a private news channel, he said that as the general elections are knocking on doors, the Elec-

issued various deadlines for through which the presidthe election process, including the final stage of the elections - the transmission of the results.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi addressed the

ECP utilizing technology

to ensure smooth, timely

discussion forum for his book titled 'Pakistani Adab Kay Ma'maar'.

ادى اد بات ياكتان

instructed all the returning officers (RO) and the presiding officers that the election results of the February 8 vote must be sent by 2 a.m. "Technology will be fully used to make the gen-

eral elections 2024 transparent and impartial", he stated For that purpose, the

tion Commission of Paki-stan (ECP) and FAFEN had tem (EMS) would be used,

PID makes elaborate arrangements for coverage of polling, elections results

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information Press Department(PID) has made elaborate arrangements for coverage of the polling and the elections results on February 08, 2024.

For coverage of polling stations 37 media teams of local and foreign correspondents will be con-ducted at various polling stations in the urban and rural areas by PID headquarters and its regional offices, said a press release issued here Wednesday. In addition, PID has

regional offices at the provisional capitals. The center at Islamabad has been equipped with the latest means of communication to enable journalists to file their reports through the

fastest available means. The Election Media Centre will make available to the journalists all the necessary facilitation under one roof, where journalists will be able to instantly receive election results as announced by the Election Commission and transmit the same to their respective ters in Islamabad and its media outlets.

ing officer concerned would forward the picture of 'Form 45' to the RO imme diately, he mentioned.

Replying to a ques-tion, he explained that the presiding officers would be obliged to send the results of all the polling stations electronically or through available means. This year ECP has developed an automated and modern Election Management System (EMS) that will be used to transform and compile election results from Presiding to Returning offic-ers", he mentioned.

24th death anniversary of Munawar

Mirza observed ISLAMABAD (APP)

The twenty-fourth death anniversary of the eminent expert on Iqbaliyat, researcher, historian and poet Muhammad Munawar Mirza (1927-2000) was observed on Wednesday.

He was born in Bhira (Sargodha). He did Masters in Urdu, Arabic and Philosophy from Punjab University. In 1980, he retired as the President of Urdu Department of Government College Lahore. Until 1985, he was the president of the Department of Iqbaliyat of Punjab University. Later he also served as the director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan.

Muhammad Munawar Mirza left many memorable books on the subject of Iqbal, including 'Mizani-Iqbal', 'Iqan-i-Iqbal', 'Burhan-i-Iqbal', 'Allama Iqbal's Persian Ghazal' and has been set up in Safe City Qurtas-i-Iqbal'. He also wrote Islamabad. Islamabad Capifour books in English on Allama tal Police officials assigned Iqbal's thought and philosoto security duties have alphy. His other works include ready taken their positions 'Olad-e-Adam', 'Dewar-eat the polling stations and Brahman', 'Tehreek-e-Pakiwill remain vigilant even stan', 'Moshadah-i-Haq-kithrough the night. Sakhare', 'Pakistan: Hsar-e-Islam' and two collections of stringent measures are in poetry, 'Ghabbar-eplace to deter any viola-Tamanna' and 'Naqta-e-Ashq' are at the top.

ECP sets up **Election City** for rapid results sharing

Page

03

adding that the initial capture of results through pho-

tos (of results) by the Presiding Officer, followed by

the swift transmission to

the respective Returning

Officer to Form-45 for on-

ward transmission to ECP

would be compiled threw

constituencies have been in-

structed to photograph

share them with the media.

In case of connectiv-

issues, the results

Presiding officers in all

The Returning Offic-

He said that media

and media.

off line modules

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established an Election City in its premises, equipped with the latest technology to swiftly disseminate election results of 855 constituencies to the media.

APITAL NEWS

Briefing media, Director of Information Technology, Muhammad Khizer Aziz said that a comprehensive strategy was in place to receive election results via WhatsApp, email,

and fax Form 45 and send it to their He mentioned that the respective Returning Offic-ECP had also set up an alternative website to ensure ers will then compile the results on Form-47 and uninterrupted dissemination of results in case of any disruptions.

Election Management System (EMS) will operwalls had been installed at ate if internet connectivity each Returning Officer's is unavailable, with satellite (RO) office to share results, while five media walls had communication had also been deployed in some arbeen set up in the ECP Eleceas facing connectivity istion City to offer continusues.

ous updates on the results The EMS comprises of one national and four two components, he said provincial assemblies



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Major General (retd) Syed Qaiser Abbas Shah, called on President Dr ArifAlvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Stringent security measures adopted for elections in Islamabad

Independent Report such as the display of arms, ISLAMABAD: In order to aerial firing, and any disrupensure the safety of citizens tive behavior by potential and maintain peace during rioters. Authorities are also general election 2024, taking steps to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) to deploy a formi-dable force of 6,500 personefficient parking arrangements nel in the federal capital.

To bolster transparency, surveillance cameras This massive security operation will be further are set to be installed at senfortified by 1,000 Frontier sitive polling stations. In a Constabulary members, move to support the work 1,500 Rangers, and officials of journalists, foreign obfrom the Pakistan Army at servers, and observation polling stations across the teams covering the eleccapital, a public relations tions, the Islamabad Capi-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan Admiral Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne (Rtd.) and others cutting the cake during 76th anniversary of independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

Homage paid to Afzal **IHC summons SSP** operations Guru, Maqbool Butt

ISLAMABAD (APP): premises of Tihar jail. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders have cluding paid rich tributes to promi-nent martyred liberation Syed Bashir Andrabi,

The APHC leaders in-Ghulam a woman from the court Khawaja Firdous premises. Muhammad Yousuf The court expressed Naqash, Javaid Ahmed Mir, annoyance over the arrest Farida Bahenji, and Abdul of the petitioner woman Samad Ingilabi said that and accepted her bail their sacrifice of Kashmiri against surety bonds worth martyrs including Maqbool Rs 2,000 Butt and Afzal Guru would Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the not be allowed to go waste. They urged India to return case and announced the verthe mortal remains of the dict. martyred leaders to the The court said that Kashmiris so that they the police personnel had could be accorded decent tendered apology on arrest burial. The APHC leaders of woman from court pre-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court set up election media cen-(IHC) Wednesday summoned SSP Operations, Islamabad in person in a case pertaining to arrest of

He said that the ECP

leaders Muhammad Afzal Guru and Muhammad Maqbool Butt ahead of their martyrdom anniversaries. According to Kashmir Media Service, India had sent Muhammad Afzal Guru to the gallows in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail on 9th February in 2013 in a fake case related to an attack on the Indian parliament in 2001. Muhammad Maqbool Butt was hanged by India in the same jail on 11th February in 1984 for said that the Kashmiri his role in Kashmir freedom movement The bodies of their right to self-determi-Muhammad Magbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal nation till complete suc-Guru remain buried in the cess.



ISLAMABAD: People stands at a bus station at Faizabad in the Federal Capital due to travelling their home towns for cast their votes during general holiday for general election 2024 head on 28 Feb in all over the country.

Mangla dam water level in continual decline

Wednesday

mained as follows:

ISLAMABAD (APP): As feet on August 17 this year a result of ongoing intermit- as a seasonal impounding of tent heavy snowfall on the the reservoir, official upper reaches of the Hima-sources told the news lavan state of Jammu and Kashmir, the country's second largest reservoir, Mangla Dam, gradually dries following a continual reduction of inflows followed by increased outflows in the reservoir, where the water level has reduced to a greater extent.

The water level in Mangla dam, located in Mirpur district of AJK, was reported as 1150.30 feet on Wednesday, against the maximum conservation level of 1242 feet and the live storage capacity of 1.786 MAF in the reservoir, official sources told APP here on Wednesday.

The water level in the dam is gradually reducing further, the sources said. Mangla Dam, the largest reservoir in terms of water storage in the country, was filled to its maximum conservation capacity of 1242 4000 cusecs.

people would continue mises It directed the police their struggle for securing personnel to explain that why not action should be taken against him on misuse of authority.

The court said that the mother of an accused Saifur Rehman was in court premises when assistant sub-inspector Zahid Hameed arrested her and did not care about the prestige of the court. The court said that this act could not be ignored.

The court adjourned further hearing of the case till February 12.

on Election Day.

region.

hours

sion

the crime from the city.

Weather to be cold and windy on Election Day ISLAMABAD (APP): The upper parts of the country will remain under the grip of cold wave conditions on the Election Day on Thursday as per Paki-

stan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast. Cold winds will also blow in upper Punjab dur-

agency. The inflows and ing the next 24 hours. outflows of the Jhelum According to the syn-River at Mangla reservoir optic situation, continental were recorded respectively. air was prevailing over as 4500 and 30000 cusees most parts of the country. of water from the dam on

Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most Meanwhile, the overparts of the country while all position of the river invery cold weather condiflows and outflows at tions are expected in upper Tarbela, Mangla, and

parts", the PMD said Shallow fog may Chashma, along with the reservoir levels and the barlikely occur at isolated rages on Wednesday, replaces in northeast Punjab during morning hours.

Rivers: Indus a During the last 24 Tarbela: Inflows 13500 cusecs and Outflows 35000 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts cusecs; Kabul at Nowshera: of the country. However, Inflows 10400 cusecs and rain occurred at isolated Outflows 10400 cusecs; places in south Punjab, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows northeast Balochistan and 16100 cusecs and Outflow Thatta. Shallow fog pre-16100. Jhelum at Mangla: vailed over a few plain ar-Inflows 4500 cusecs and eas of northeast Punjab. Outflows 30000 cusecs, The rainfall recorded

Chenab at Marala: Inflows was Punjab: Bahawalpur 7600 cusecs and Outflows (city 04mm, Airport 02), Multan (Airport 03.



ISLAMABAD: The honorable Law Minister Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam launched the urdu version of Pakistan Code.

IESCO makes arrangements to ensures seamless electricity provision on Election Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric The scheduled shut-down from 7th to 9th Feb-Supply Company (IESCO) has taken proactive mearuary for system maintesures to ensure uninternance has been cancelled to rupted electricity supply ensure uninterrupted power supply during this

According to the spokesperson of IESCO, critical period. The Chief Executive the company has set up a and Chief Engineer Operacentral control room to tions will personally overmonitor the demand and see the operations to ensure supply of electricity in the efficient management. Field formations are in

Leaves for field officconstant communication ers and staff have been canwith district administracelled, with instructions to tions to swiftly address any remain on high alert for 24 potential issues. The complaint helpline numbers at Monitoring cells have the office, accessible at 118,

been established in six ophave been fully activated to erational circles, providing necessary materials to field promptly address any electricity-related concerns.

Eight outlaws arrested; drugs, weapons recovered

Independent Report sion. The Tarnol police ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) have apprehended eight outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their posses-According to ICP spokesman, following the

special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police possession.

The Khanna police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Rafiq and recovered one 30-bore pistol from his possession. The Sihala police team arrested an accused namely Shadab and recovered one

cused namely Akram Ali and recovered 530 gram 30-bore pistol from his hashish from his possespossession.

tal Police commit said on Wednesday. He said that to guarviding professional assisantee the adherence to Electance throughout the election Commission regulatoral process, he added. tions, a central control room

The topmost priori-ties for the Islamabad Capital Police are the safety of citizens and the successful execution of peaceful elections in the federal capital. The masses are urged to stay connected with ICP authorities through emergency helpline 15 for more He further said that updates on this crucial security operation unfolding tions, with legal action as the nation approaches promised against activities the 2024 General Élections.

HEC steps to transform education system with technology, introducing smart teaching project soon: Chairman

Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Wednesday said that his department was taking various steps to transform traditional education system with latest technology and introducing projects including 'smart teaching' 'smart campuses' and 'smart university' to promote multitechnology ecosystem.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he said that the aim is to equip and prepare the younger generation and students with the advanced technology and knowledge in the digital industry.

He said that HEC is working to develop a new system of learning where the ever-expanding technological challenges are met, adding, the Government is working hard to provide

ISLAMABAD (APP): internet access, better infra- making Pakistan a digital structure and facilities country", he mentioned. which can benefit students.

To another question, He said online tools he said that in a signifiand classrooms will also cant step towards enhancprovide an opportunity for ing data accessibility and students and teachers to obtaining international introduce blended learning, recognition, the Higher adding, HEC is moving to-Education Commission wards an affiliation policy, (HEC) has also estabonline education policy, arlished 2 cutting-edge Data tificial intelligence and sys-Centers. tems approach.

These Data Centres will also facilitate high-Replying a question, he said that collective efspeed, secure, and reliable forts are need of hour to access to data, offering a bring reforms, adding, HEC significant advantage to rewith the help of all related searchers at Pakistani unidepartments was reviewing versities, he added. The Higher Education its policies.

He said that a long-Commission (HEC) also term strategies are being introducing Smart Univerimplemented to allow unisity project to equip universities to excel in providversity campuses with ing quality technologyblanket Wi-Fi coverage, in based education to open order to enable the devirtual campuses. ployment of other smart "HEC is committed to instruments as needed, he

materialising the dream of added.



ISLAMABAD: Members of polling staff leave after collecting polling material for general elections at a collage sector G-8, in the Federal Capital.

team arrested an accused namely Muzamil Arshaad and one 30-bore pistol from his possession. The Sabzi Mandi police team arrested two accused namely Umair Khan and Anar Gul and re-covered two 30-bore pistols from their possession.

Similarly, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Imran Khan and recovered 610 gram hashish from his

has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate

Following these directions, he said the Sumbal police team arrested an acPage 04

OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Thursday February 08, 2024

The day before

With political parties instructed yesterday to suspend their campaigns at the stroke of midnight, the 'prepoll' part of election 2024 stands completed. All that is now left is for the votes to be cast and counted and for a winner to be declared.

It is slightly disconcerting significant economic how suddenly this election challenges including seems to have passed us by. The past two months already high seem like a haze of court cases and stop-start political activity. For the longest time, one was unsure if polls would be ing the milestone of 128 held, and there were fears of another delay. It was not until about three weeks ago that campaigning began in earnest. Initially, the jalsas and rallies were damp affairs. The energy, enthusiasm and richness one usually associates with elections in Pakistan remained missing. It felt as if everyone was merely going through the motions; that a first time, there were more commitment to the process was missing.

Much of this was due, perhaps, to the prevailing impression that it was not a fair fight. Out of the two parties that consistently polled among the top two that voters intended to support, one was not allowed to campaign.

Most of the attempts made der gap in voter registraby the PTI to mobilise were met with arrests and intimidation. Thereafter, it moved its activities online, where its innovations not only helped it survive, but may have also put it in a position to mount a real challenge.



Amid swirling rumors, concerns, and a charged atmosphere both domestically and internationally, Pakistan is set to conduct its highly contested and controversial 2024 elections amidst political participation. As stagnant growth, acute balance of payment issues, hyperinflation, and unemployment ing and facilitating rates. This election is marked by an unprec- the democratic process edented increase in the active voter base, reachoutcome. million, over half the country's population. This elevates Pakistan to the status of the world's

fifth-largest democracy. With an anticipated 80% voter turnout, the nation demonstrates a strong the evolving political commitment to the demolandscape amidst the pre-election phase, where the PTI faced sigcratic process reflecting the population's strong nificant challenges and commitment to the democratic process and their allegations of unfair advantages to the PML(N), determination to influhighlighting underlying ence their nation's future. FAFEN in its recent challenges in Pakistan's democratic processes report noted that for the

which has been intermitwomen registered to tently disrupted by martial laws posing setbacks vote than men between to the democratic contwo election periods of 2018-2024, showcasing tinuum significant progress in

including the Council on gender inclusivity in the electoral process marked Foreign Relations, Al Jazeera, The Diplomat, by an increase in women's voter registraand DW, along with the Human Rights Commistion by 27%, surpassing sion of Pakistan and the the growth in men's reg-istration, which was 17% European Union, have during the same period. raised concerns about This has led to a substanthe 2024 elections in Pakistan, highlighting istial decrease in the gensues such as "election engineering, tion from 11.8% in 2018 disinformation, exten-

to 7.7% in 2024. sive media censorship, Recognizing the potential of women voters and state intervention in in the upcoming elec- media coverage. These effective campaign is inces offer larger bud- ances formed in the run-

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC tions, both PTI and reports underscore the highly compromised due gets, greater decision- up to the elections PML(N) have issued a 'record' number of National Assembly tickets particularly PTI, whose leadership is signifito women, which might cantly constrained, imfurther encourage female voter participation repacting their ability to flecting a broader movecampaign freely. Allegament towards gender tions of an uneven playinclusivity in Pakistani ing field, exacerbated by politics. However, female the military's significant political influence and voter registration and participation in the electhe barring of key politition process will depend cal figures like former on various factors, in-Prime Minister Imran cluding campaign strat-Khan, suggest a contenegies, voter mobilization tious electoral environment that may not be free efforts, and the addressing of socio-cultural baror fair, disadvantageous riers that have historito certain parties and uncally limited women's dermining the democratic process.

the elections approach, the focus on encouragpolitical entities to enwomen's participation in gage rather than opt for boycotts, delays, or advocate for autocratic so-The elections 2024 deepening democratic being the fourth elecnorms indicating a resiltions since the era of ient commitment to martial law under Pervez democratic principles Musharraf starting with governments of PPP, PML(N), and PTI reflects amidst adversity. This collective resolve of

Pakistan's political factions, intellectual community, and citizens arguably emphasizes the importance of democratic integrity and continuity, effectively curtailing any attempts by undemocratic elements to impose their agenda, thereby safeguarding the democratic process and ensuring its resilience against potential disruptions.

PML(N) is running um. a vigorous campaign, International media, primarily concentrated in central Punjab and Hazara Division allegedly supported by the state machinery while neglecting other key provinces like KP, Sindh, and Balochistan. The PML(N) campaign is well-organized and directed by Nawaz Sharif, Shahbaz Sharif providing strong support. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

restrictive conditions to the absence of its facing political parties, chairman and key leaders, coupled with the lack of its own election symbol. Moreover its public meetings have completely been blocked on the mainstream media, and as alternative it is struggling to leverage Social media that too is subjected to planned slow down as and when required. Meanwhile, the PPP campaign, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with Asif Zardari making a positive impression, seems to be gaining traction. In this election sea-

Election 2024: Reaffirmation democratic journey

By Qamar Bashir

Amid these appre- son, media outlets, both hensions, the choice of traditional and social, have been exceptionally active, providing extensive coverage of the election campaigns. Relutions underscores a nowned anchorpersons pivotal shift towards took to the streets, engaging with everyday citizens to gauge their electoral preferences. While these interactions were not scientifically structured, they did unveil some regional inclinations. In Central Punjab, there seems to be a tilt towards PML(N), with PTI also receiving notable support. Sindh's rural areas are predominantly leaning towards PPP, while urban centers show a preference for MQM. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly NWFP), a significant sympathy vote appears to favor PTI, reflecting the party's strong foot-hold in the region. Meanwhile, Balochistan presents a more diverse picture, with no clear dominance by any national party, indicating a frag-mented political land-

scape Unfortunately there is also a growing belief that mainstream parties with Maryam Nawaz and are prioritizing forming provincial governments in the upcoming elections. This stems from

making freedom with less could be key to deterscrutiny, and fewer financial obligations compared to the federal govconversely, faces stricter oversight, smaller budgets, and heavier debts, often relying on foreign loans to function, while spending primarily occurs in the provinces, seemingly without responsibility for loan repayment. Essentially, parties see provincial and less accountable, raising concerns about national priorities and fiscal responsibility.

The crude findings are also supported by According to different surveys, reflecting a close race, showing leading parties PTI and PML-N neck-and-neck. Ecoconcerns loom large, while Khan's disqualification adds uncertainty. Other parties like PPP hold regional strongholds

Based on the discussion, survey reports, and media analysis, the PML-N, led by Nawaz significant advantage in forming the government at the center due to its established political base and apparent mending of ties with the military, which plays a crucial role in Pakistan's political landscape??. The PTI, despite facing significant challenges the disqualification of its leader Imran Khan, and issues surrounding its election symbol, may some influence, particuit has a strong support base??. In Punjab, the competition between PML-N and PTI is expected to be fierce, with both parties vying for dominance. The political (PTI)'s ability to run an the perception that prov- maneuvering and alli- journey in the face of

mining the outcome in this crucial province. PPP, led by Bilawal

ernment. The center, Bhutto Zardari, may continue to hold sway in its traditional stronghold of Sindh but could face challenges expanding its influence beyond this province due to the current political dynamics and its need to form crucial alliances in Punjab??. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI has power as more lucrative historically had strong support, but the party's current challenges might impact its performance in the upcoming elections. Balochistan's political landscape is often more fragmented, with local parties and alliances playing significant roles. The situation in Balochistan may renomic woes and security main fluid, with various parties and independent candidates likely to influence the formation of the provincial government

Amidst challenges, Pakistan's move towards the 2024 elections epitomizes the nation's resolve to sus-Sharif, is likely to have a tain its democratic ethos. Despite the preelection phase's uneven playing field and significant political entities facing hurdles, the unanimous decision against election boycotts or delays reflects a collective dedication to democratic values. commitment, This including legal battles, coupled with a notable surge in voter registration highlighting gender inclusivity, underscores the importance of a still manage to retain transparent, fair elecprocess toral for larly in provinces where Pakistan's democratic integrity and future stability. The forthcoming elections are a critical juncture, symbolizing not just a political transition but a reaffirmation of Pakistan's democratic

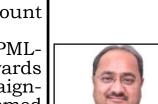
Revisiting the Kashmir Solidarity Day

The other party, the PML-N. only hit the road towards the tail-end of the campaigning period. Indeed, it seemed at one point that it would need a push to start participating, considering how disinterested its leaders were. To its Every year, On 5 Februcredit, the PPP was the only national party that actually took campaigning seriously. strate support to It started much earlier than the others and was able to maintain its energy throughout.

Just as the momentum seemed to be picking up, however, time had to be called. Today, voters will discuss and debate their choices with their families, friends, neighbours and fellow citizens. Tomorrow, they will speak through questions to highlight some harsh historical rethe ballot box.

The PML-N seems to be in a comparatively strong position after its late burst of activity, and because it seems to have the backing of powerful forces within the state. It will be an uphill struggle for the PTI, which is contesting without its traditional symbol and wasn't able to canvass. Still, the party has shown spirit throughout, and Kashmir. Before taking that step, Sheikh Abdullah, following the it can pull off an upset if its voters mobilise.

The PPP may prove a dark horse in this race. Even with Khan and Abdul Samad its support base outside Sindh having dwindled over and the representatives in the representative the years, its deal-making of Ameer Kabul. Followabilities have often seen it beat the odds. It understands Faiz Ahmed Faiz, better than most how to get ahead. Who will prevail? Not members of Lahori Press. long to go before we find out. Having won the conti-dence of the aforemen-*Jinnah*. Perhaps the plan that time total force of Naushehra Mirpur Rout ers did not consider and



ary, Kashmir Solidarity Day is observed in AJK and Pakistan to demon-Kashmiri brethren. Have the elaborate speeches, long marches, seminars and protests helped practically the stranded Kashmiris or reaped any meaningful international

support for Kashmiris? Have their sufferings been alleviated, their scars healed up? Would such commemorations bring about any good for Kashmir in future too?

This article intends to raise some scathing alities. We really need to understand which errors were committed in the past at the political and strategic fronts that paved the way for the Indian occupation in Kashmir and the subsequent sufferings of the Kashmiri

people. tional Conference was the first significant stride to instructions of Jawaharlal Nehru, visited the erstwhile Frontier Province (KPK) and held elaborate

ing it, he went to Lahore and met with MD Taseer, Moulana Zafar Ali Khan, Hameed Nizami and other

By: Zafar Sultan

the battleground.

ing three Sudhan Bri-

Brigade(comprising four

thousand tribesmen),

One Regular Brigade

commanded by Brig.

Akbar, Bagh Brigade (

commanded by Mujahid

e Awal Sardar Abdul

Qayyum Khan), sta-

tioned at Poonch, besieg-

ing only three Dogra

Companies in Poonch

Garrison. Surprisingly,

those six brigades did not

attack those companies

for six months. But, with-

Similarly, not many

Muhammad

tioned leaders and media was crafted by the PM personnel, he returned to Delhi and met with Jawaharlal Nehru. After that founded National Conference, breaking Muslim Conference which was the representative of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir. At that time, sensing

the gravity of the situation, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, the head of Muslim Conference, visited Lahore and expressed deep anger and disappointment after meeting the journalists of Lahori Press. He warned that the establishment of National Conference would relentlessly hurt the struggle for Kashmir. Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas grieved on those developments in his a u t o b i o g r a p h y : Kashmakash. Such acrimonious historical facts were also documented by Sardar Shaukat Hayat

Khan in The Nation That Lost Its Soul. According to Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Quaid e Azam alerted him about the nefarious schemes of Sheikh Abdullah, The Quaid termed Muslim Conference as the for-ward wing of Muslim League, and Kashmir as the jugular vein of Paki-Unfortunately, it is not really deliberated that the emergence of Na- Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas that you people had illadvised Quaid e Azam the Indian occupation in about Sheikh Abdullah. At which the Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas rebuffed him, asserting that they profoundly respected the Quaid, not ill suggested him.

At the strategical level, in 1947, the decision to launch around fifthought out. Appallingly, that mis(adventure) was neither communicated to Quaid e Azam nor to the defence minister, lamented Khurshid Hassan tribesmen halted their Khurshid, the private advancement secretory to Quaid e camped approximately 22

Liaqat Ali Khan, keeping the Quaid utterly in dark. Being a constitu-tionalist, Quaid e Azam was keen to contest the Kashmir issue on table, believing that he would bargain with Lord Mountbatten on the state Junagarh and of Hyderabad and extract concessions Vis a Vis

Kashmir. Quaid e Azam had sent KH Khurshid to Kashmir to negotiate with the Maha Raja of Kashmir, but he was arrested at the directions of Sheikh Abdullah.

Even analyzing the situation from the strategical standpoint, there was totally no need to push those totally unorganized and commandless tribesmen to Kashmir in the presence of seventy some thou-sands well-trained men in Poonch and around sixty one thousand well(former Indian National Army) ,mentioned by Sardar Mohammed Ibrahim in *The Kashmir* Saga

out any achievement, Many would be those six brigades kept on receiving funds and shocked to know that food from Rawalpindi. those tribesmen burnt district Mirpur and district Muzaffarabad. They mention the point that the also burnt Mehrua power war was not limited to station, the only power Srinagar only. In fact, in station present in Kashthe north, the war vetermir at that time. In an unans Lieutenant Babar and believably shocking inci-Col Hassan Mirza, comdent, they killed a Musmanding Tiger Force and lim teacher, master Ibex Force respectively, Abdullah in a mosque, had pushed the Indians who criticized them (the to Sonamarg. They were tribesmen) for plundering all set to attack Srinagar. the locals. Following it, On the other side, Col. the tribesmen marched to Akmal, Col. Rehmatullah Uri and burnt it as well. Maj. Quite inexcusably, they Hussain, Capt. Haq snatched the salaries of Mirza, of Haidari Force around three hundred had conquered Rajouri, thousand civil servants, Peer Panjal and advanced claiming the amount as to Shopian. But they did war booty. Such gory acnot receive any financial counts have been reor logistic support from corded in Raiders in Pakistan. Kashmir by Major General Akbar Khan. It is also

Further south, Brigadier Habib ur Rahman had a sad fact that those conquered Chumb and Bhimber and Lieutenant and .Muzaffar Khan (Sitra e Jurat twice) had repulsed

Battalion, but it was in to- swift actions forced the too. It is really eye opental disarray. Though Indians to postpone their ing to recall the desper-there was one Sikh Bat- attack on Bagh, but he ate pleas for weapons talion stationed in did not receive any assis-Srinagar, it could not tance from the governhave competed with five ment either. Those faith- at that time there were thousand well equipped ful Mujahedeen, illtribesmen. But the crimi- equipped and unsup- ons lying in Lahore fort, nal delay of forty eight hours allowed India to airdrop its three Sikh end. All first-hand details Companies and fifty ton ammunition. Following, of wars and treachery those tribesmen flew from were recorded in a war diary maintained meticu-

In this context, we must not forget the role Nawaz Mirza, on day to day basis. Later, those of six brigades, includgades, One Tribesmen Anwar Ayyub Raja.

At the time, when the local Mujahedeen had conquered two third of mir. Later, the infamous Kashmir, but Srinagar was left in the control of India, by international forces and the local collaborators.Why? Had Capt. Babar, Col. Hassan and Capt. Haq Mirza known that they had surrounded Srinagar from three sides, they could on Kashmir issue and have advanced to Srinagar, without seeking anyone's permission or consent. But lack of communication and perhaps ership to seek the soluthe plan of the collaborators kept them in dark so that at the snow fall, the Mujahedeen could retreat, vacating the con- learn from history and quered area. Thus the their mistakes. The hard -earned victory was

sacrifices of Mujahedeen ended in vain. While condemning the Indians, the war strategists and the historians must study the Chenab Formula devised by General MZ Kiyani and Brigadier Habib- ur- Rahman to push through Chumb and advance to Banihal Pass, thereby blocking land access to Srinagar. The plan in question could have tained struggle and unbesieged the Indian army in Srinagar and blocked the future deployment of its forces in the valley. Unfortunately, the stratat egists and political lead-

gifted to Indians, regret-

Maha Raja was mere nine and Charhoi Rout. His exploit that opportunity which were made by Mujahedeen. Ironically, twenty five lacks weapported, would live on but not a single one for grass soup (nullah) but the cause of Kashmir. remained steadfast till Later those weapons were handed over to Punjab Police.

Similarly, observing the Kashmir Solidarity lously by Col. M.A. Haq Day, people must not forget that in Shimla Agreement (1972), Zulfiqar Ali treasured details were Bhutto altered the status compiled in Lantha by a of cease fire to line of young Kashmiri writer, control (LOC), thereby practically dividing people of Azad Kashmir and the occupied Kashfour point formula advanced by general Musharraf followed by Mr. Asif Ali Zardari plan to freeze Kashmir for thirty years further damped and dumped the Kashmir issue, Mr. Nawaz Sharif also chose silence preferred trade over the tragedies of Kashmir. Shockingly, he sug-gested the Kashmiri leadtion to Kashmir, staying within the ambit of the Indian constitution.

Nations always people of Kashmir must read the history and learn tably, and all struggle and to stand on their own feet. It is really compulsory for our youth to read: Muahhamd k Sipahi by Maj Meer Afzal Khan. They must not forget that no nation has ever won independence through commemorating the solidarity days, making marathon marches and organising seminars in luxurious hotels. The freedom comes after susprecedented sacrifices. Are the people of Kashmir prepared for that? – The writer is an academic based in Islamabad and can be approached at sliklight55@gmail.com

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Governor urges masses to exercise right to vote

Appeals people to maintain brotherhood in election

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has urged the stations. He said that law enforcers are fully electoral process abiding prepared to meet any by the norms of democracy and respecting the electoral rights of each other.

In a message issued here in connection with general elections, the KP Governor also urged the masses to cooperate with the administration, police and polling staff for the peaceful conduct of the electoral process

He said that KP people had always expressed mutual respect in elections and hoped that by maintain the election would be environment

(APP): the masses to remain administration, police, patient and avoid creating security agencies and polling staff. unnecessary rush in polling

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the KP Governor said that the untoward incident adding election is a democratic that political workers process and it is the should respect the tradition of Khyber other and maintain a peaceful, conducive and decorum and discipline pleasant environment on election the polling station view the basic norms of and the people of the democracy. province will have to

Ghulam Ali has appealed The governor said to the people of the that everyone has the right The governor said province to complete the to use their opinion and election process peacefully expressed the hope that by maintaining the the leaders, and youth workers of different of completed in the province in an atmosphere of peace and mutual coexistence. KP Governor advised to the section day and extending full cooperation to the section day and extending full cooperation to the section day and extending the section day and extending the section day in a friendly the section day and extending the section day in a friendly the section day and extending the section day and the section day a

should respect the tradition of Khyber democratic rights of each Pakhtunkhwa to maintain during elections keeping in Governor Khyber maintain this wonderful Pakhtunkhwa Haji tradition.

KARACHI: Army personnel standing alert on the eve of General Elections 2024 at Korangi Girls College.

Rasool Bangash says: ECNEC approved two projects for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved two projects for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Caretaker Finance Minister Ahmed Rasool Bangash.

K h y b e r Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Finance, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Ahmed Rasool Bangash has said Rural Roads Development Project (KP-RRDP) with

Committee of National Economic Council in his office on Wednesday. Additional Chief Secretary Hayat Khan, Additional Secretary Home Abid Majeed and Commissioner Planning and Developmen Imtiaz Hussain Shah Peshawar Muhammad Finance Secretary Aamir Zubair visited the office of Sultan Tareen and other Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber officials have participated

in the meeting. In the meeting, ECNIC approved PC-1 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakhtunkhwa.He reviewed the preparations with reference to general elections and polling materials. The Provincial lection Commissioner



KARACHI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Muhammad Ahmed Shah giving directions to Staff during his visit to Election Cell establish at Information Department.

Election campaign ends as polling process to begin at 8 am today

election campaign for general polls scheduled on February 08 (Thursday) has ended at the mid night of Tuesday as mainstream political, religious parties' independent candidates tried their best to convince their voters in city of nearly 20 million population.

Muttahida The Movement-Qaumi Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan People's Party, PML (N), Tahteek e Labaik Pakistan and the independent candidates organized the rallies, public and corner meetings of their workers and made them aware about their manifestos. PPP chairman

Rehman, MQM ur Pakistan's Convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, PML N's Nehal Hashmi, Zubair Ahmed, Saleem Zia, TLP's leadership addressed public meetings in different areas of the mega city to

convince their electorates and vote for their parties ebruary o c... According to Sigl Election in February 8 election. Provincial Commissioner Sharifullah, "All arrangements have

been completed and polling material including ballot papers have been handed over to the concerned polling official while transport facilities were

Bilawal Bhutto- Zardari, also provided to them to

Rangers conduct extensive flag march across Karachi ahead of election

KARACHI (APP): such as New Karachi, Saba Pakistan Rangers Sindh has Cinema, Power House implemented stringent Chowrangi, Disco Mor, security protocols across UP Mor, Liaquatabad, Golimar Chowrangi, Post Office, Sindhi Hotel, Karachi in anticipation of the upcoming general election scheduled for Sharifabad, Nazimabad No. February 8th. 4, Gol Market, Baldia Town, Ruby Mor, Furniture Market, Chandni As per a spokesperson for the Rangers, a coordinated flag

Chowk, Tank Chowk, Bismillah Market, Gulshan march involving Pakistan Rangers Sindh, the Pakistan Army, and the Ghazi Mor, PTC Saeedabad, Musharraf local police was carried out on late Tuesday night Hub River Road, Orangi

KARACHI (APP): The Jamaat-e-Islami Emir take them towards the election campaign for Sirajul Haq, Hafiz Naeem designated polling stations The security

arrangements were also adopted with thousands of Police, Rangers and Pakistan Army personnel have been deployed at designated places to maintain peace and order.

The CCTV cameras were also installed at highly sensitive polling stations in the city where 22 National Assembly (NA) and 47 Sindi Assembly members would be elected by more than 8.2 million registered voters.

The security forces held flag marches to enforce strict security measures during general elections. The control rooms had been set up at centre.

Three coaches of goods train derailed near Jahanian

KHANEWAL (APP): Three coaches of a Karachi-bound goods train derailed near Jahanian in Khanewal district on Wednesday morning.

Divisiona Superintendent Railways Multan division Kashif Farooq Butt reached the spot leading an official team to initiate a track clearance exercise under his PTC supervision.

Railways Multan spokesman quoting DS Railways said the ilways sai PESHAWAR (APP): In NA-43 seat including operations would not be Town, Habib Chowrangi, the upcoming 2024 general elections, the Tank district Maulana Asad Mahmood Chowrangi, affected due to the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Manghopr Road, Banaras derailment. is gearing up for fierce competition in the National Bridge, Kasbah Mor, Kasbah Colony, Katti Pahari, Jamshed Pump. Dawar Khan Kundi He said that trains Tehreek-e-Insaf, would continue to operate Assembly constituency NA-43 Dera-cum-Tank Abdullah Nangyal Bettani through loop lines. Indipendent Muhammad Ramzan Shori and PK-108. This constituency Tehreek-e-Labbaik comprises one seat in the Pakistan. Assembly In the previous 2018 National consists of two tehsils of elections in the said Dera Ismail Khan Kulachi constituency which was and Paharpur areas and one NA-37, Maulana Asad in the Provincial Assembly. Mahmood from Jamiat With a total of Ulema-e-Islam secured 392,214 registered voters, including 214,790 men and 177,424 women, the electoral landscape in NA-43 is marked by its diversity. The constituency boasts 353 polling stations. The influential tribe association of Bettani, Jattatar, Kundi, Gandapur, Marwat and Mehsud holds considerable sway in the district. Three prominent candidates are vying for the 67,000 votes.

ational **Minister Information says:**

Arrangements finalized for general elections

Independent Report ESHAWAR: Provincial Caretaker Minister for Information, Barrister Feroze Jamal Kakakhel Wednesday said that all the necessary arrangements had been completed for general elections that was the mandate of caretaker government.

Addressing a press

conference here, the

minister said that control

rooms had been established

by election commission,

home department and

police to monitor the

Response Force had also

been deployed to meet any

emergency in an effective

He said that Quick

He said that steps had

election process.

way

been taken for security of sensitive polling station adding that about 15000 polling stations had been established among which some are declared sensitive. The minister said that

Page

05

strict action would be taken that were planning to challenge of state. Regretting May 9

incident, he said that youth were misguided on the day by certain elements to fulfill their nefarious signs

He said we must join hands to end mutual hatred and perception of mistrust.

He said that decision had not been taken to suspend internet service however the service might be suspended in areas where needed.

He appealed to the

He further said that

and

LAHORE: Punjab's Election Commissioner Ijaz Anwar Chohan talking with media persons at University of Engineering, in Provincial Capital.

Interior Sindh Minister visits polling stations

KARACHI (APP): code of conduct and SOPs Caretaker Home Minister issued by the Election of Sindh Brigadier (Rtd) Commission of Pakistan on Hariz Nawaz and conducting peaceful Wednesday visited various elections is the first highly sensitive polling priority of the caretaker stations of the metropolis government. and reviewed the security

public to cooperate with arrangements. He visited the polling stations set up at DJ Science College (Burns the police and other law enforcement agencies to maintain peace and report any suspicious activity Road) and Ghulaman Abbas School (Maripur immediately. Road). The minister also aerial firing and display of visited the centre set up for weapons will not be distribution of election materials at CMS Boys tolerated and immediate

School, Napier Road. action will be taken against He said that ensuring those who take the law into the implementation of the their hands.

NA-43 Tank anticipates exciting electoral battle

KPCS reviews arrangements for general elections PESHAWAR (APP): Chief

Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry along with IG Police Akhtar

that every possible effort the cooperation of Asian is being made to provide Development basic facilities to the (ADB), in which 1337 km people of the province and of roads and 62 bridges are people of the province and possible measures are being taken for the development of the province and the restoration of

infrastructure. He expressed these views while representing the province while participating in a Zoom rehabilitation of flood-Executive possible. (ECNEC)

Journalists under RUDA LHC seeks reply from respondents on petition against allotment of plots

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from the respondents on March 13 in respect of the petition filed against allotment of plots to the journalists under Ravi Urban Development Authority journalists. The forum (RUDA). plots to journalist's free of

The court did not issue stay order regarding allotment of plots to journalists in its written order.

The court however made RUDA advertisement conditional with final decision of the court.

Justice Tanvir Ahmad issued written order of Tuesday hearing on the petition of information department employees Khawaja Muhammad Sami Ullah, Muhammad Rafiq and others.

The counsel of the has been given.

Bank planned. The total cost of the project is Rs. 105.45 billion, of which 13.5% is provincially shares and 86.5% is ADB funded. The project will

provide access to rural areas, upgradation and regarding affected roads will be made

petitioners told the court

Punjab Journalist Housing

Foundation (PJHF) is an

institution works under

Information department.

The mandate of PJHF is

working for the welfare of

mandate is to provide

cost and without profit.

petitioners told the court

under rules the quota of

employees of Information

Department on this forum

has been earmarked in 2004

law. Issuing forms is job of

PJHF.

do with it.

The counsel for the

This

institution.

the office.On this occasion, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Aziz Bahadur gave a detailed briefing about the monitoring system. 2.6 mln people

to cast votes in Sargodha SARGODHĂ (APP): A total of 2,668,700 voters are set to exercise their right to vote for five National Assembly and ten Provincial Assembly seat of

general election 2024 in Šargodha district. According to a spokesman for ECP office Sargodha,a total of 1,417,495 male voters and 1,251,205 female voters would cast their votes on February 08.For the general elections, a total of 1698 polling stations have been set up in Sargodha district, of which 513 are for male voters and 471 are for female voters, and 714 are

combined polling stations. **Five injured** in IED blast on former MPA's car

PESHAWAR (APP): At-The counsel for least five people were injured in an IED blast near petitioners told the court RUDA is development car of former MPA Naseer authority. It has nothing to Jllah Wazir in South The court inquired Waziristan

According to police what is your objection over all the injured were shifted the persons to whom quota to hospital.



KARACHI: A member of the polling staff places information posters for voters outside a polling station in a school building for general election, in the Provincial Capital.

briefed the delegation across various about monitoring and control room established in neighborhoods of Karachi Ghani in preparation for the impending elections.

The extensive flag march covered key areas

KARACHI: Polling staff members leave a collection point after collecting polling materials for general election, in Provincial Capital.

PEC KP says: All arrangements for election completed

15, 696 polling stations for 21.928mn voters setup in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): All 6600 collective polling arrangements have been completed by Election stations in Khyber Pakthunkhwa, he said, adding that 4,178 polling stations were declared Commission of Pakistan for free and transparent election in Khyber Pakthunkhwa where over highly sensitive and 5,925 sensitive where police and 21.928 million registered security personnel would voters would decide fate of be deployed for smooth 713 candidates contesting conduct of the election for national assembly seats process. As per ECP's Code of Conduct, there would be a and 1,814 candidates of provincial assembly seats

ban on Thursday (tomorrow). complete electioneering and persuading voters within 400 meter distance of the Provincial Election Commission (PEC) Spokesman told APP on (PEC) Wednesday that all arrangements for February polling stations and only polling camps of the polling parties could be established at 400 meters 8, 2024 general election were completed in Khyber Pakthunkhwa including distance in rural areas and merged tribal districts 100 meters in urban areas of the province. where over 1,80,000 trained polling staff were The spokesman said

deployed for polling

over 11.944383 million

male and 99,83,737 million

female who exercise right

of votes in KP including

merged tribal districts.

Similarly, 4,180 polling

stations were set up for male, 4,287 polling stations for female and

He said that there are

duties.

that district returning officers, returning officers, police and administration would ensure implementation of ECP'S

code of conduct during the polling process and can take strict action against violators. He said that 45,440,000 ballot papers were printed for elections and foolproof security.

victory with 28,746 votes. In the same constituency, runner-up Habibullah Khan Kundi of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf secured 15,840 votes and Dawar Khan Kundi Indipendent 13,567. Looking back at the 2013 elections in NA-25, Dawar Khan Kundi of PTI emerged victorious with a substantial 73,000 votes, while Maulana Asad Mahmood secured



KARACHI: Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Shareefullah being briefed during his visit to display center at Karachi South.

Commissioner visits election material dispatch centers

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner SBA Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider visited election material dispatch centers established at Govt Boys Degree College Nawabshah and Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Qazi Ahmed and inspected the distribution of election material among polling staff for the general election. Regional Election Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Siddiqui, SE Education Works Shafique Ahmed Channar and, Deputy Director Information Ghulam Abbas Goraho accompanied the

Nawabshah Dispatch Center the Returning Officer NA-207 Subhash Chandar and other officials briefed the Commissioner regarding the distribution of election material and attendance of polling staff along with security and transportation facilities. RO also informed that all presiding Officers were provided complete polling material under the security of police and the Pak Army. commissioner The expressed his satisfaction with the dispatch work. Later Commissioner

visited Govt Higher Secondary School Qazi Ahmed where election Commissioner. At the material was being Govt Degree College distributed for NA-208.

phone and personal belongings, a private news channel reported. on **PO** among three accused held MULTAN (APP): proclaimed offender (PO) among the three accused was arrested with as many motorbikes recovered from their possession.

Lyari.

officials

Shooting claims

life of women

in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

women was shot and dead

at Ahsanabad Area of Karachi on Tuesday night,

persons fired bullets at the

victims' head identified as

Ramsha, a resident of

responded to the scene,

and started investigation

after recovering the

deceased woman's mobile

Some unidentified

Law enforcement

promptly

according to police.

According to a police source, a team of muhafiz squad registered as number- 5 stopped a suspected motorbike.

While checking the identification through E police app, it was discovered that the motorbike was stolen and its case number 2029/2023 registered with Basti Maluk police station.

Daily Aoice of Masse **Independent** Thursday February 08, 2024

OMMERCENEWS

Germany provides Eur45m support to Pak on Technical **Development Cooperation**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary for Economic Affairs development, training and Pakistan, and Mr. Alfred German Grannas, Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, witnessed the ceremony for signing of Euro 45 million agreements on Technical Development Cooperation for starting new bilateral cooperation projects. These new agreements are the result of a longstanding and trustful women and youth. partnership between the two countries.

The newly development cooperation cooperation is proof for a because global problems thematic areas of Climate

and energy, just transition; targeting the development together' Sustainable economic sectors in need. Germany stands Shana ba shana with employment; Health, Pakistan. social protection and

Grannas: "The Germanpopulation policy. All on going and new projects Pakistani development work hand in hand with a cooperation has left its holistic approach building footprints in the country. synergies for well-rounded With the agreement we solutions to effectively signed today, we aim to tackle complex and global continue our joint path challenges like climate towards a sustainable change and inclusion of future in Pakistan. vulnerable groups such as Recently Svenja Schulze, our German Minister for Both parties Economic Cooperation and highlighted the immense Development, said efforts taken in the past 'international cooperation commissioned projects decades. The impact of the doesn't just help others. align with the German German development Above all, it helps us,

successful cooperation can only be solved

Shipping

Caribbean-I' is also

CARACHI

Cherokee,

Secretary Dr. Kazim Niaz: "We deeply appreciate the strong Ambassador Alfred support that we have received on technical development cooperation. It would contribute to the

Socio-economic development of the country The German development cooperation has been supporting Pakistani Government initiatives for over 60 years. We work together with our partners in support of their socioeconomic reform agenda contributing to a sustainable, crisis-proof development.



Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Alfred Grannas, German Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, witnessed the ceremony for signing of Euro 45 million agreements on Technical Development Cooperation for starting new bilateral cooperation projects on 7th February, 2024 in Islamabad.

KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Chairman Businessmen Group & Former President KCCI Zubair Motiwala speaks at a meeting of Special Committee for Small Traders held here at Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Senior Vice President Altaf A Ghaffar, Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Barry, Chairman Special Committee for Small Traders Majeed Memon and PCLC Chief Hafeez Aziz are also seen in the picture.

PM AJK chaired meeting about agriculture, livestock

MIRPUR (APP): MIRPUR (APP): A agriculture and livestock meeting of the AJK sectors could be Department of Agriculture instrumental in creating and Livestock, held in the e m p l o y m e n t state metropolis on opportunities. He directed Wednesday, tabled various healthy ideas and recommendations for facilities to farmers. boosting the livestock

the concerned authorities to provide maximum

"There is a dire need Terminal respectively on besides enlarging the per- to focus on agriculture and 6^{th} February, 2024. acre yield of agrarian guide the farmers to adopt meet local needs. generating generating the state to scientific methods of cultivation to maximize

crop yield," he stated. He

further expressed that

Pakistan: Kyrgyz Envoy ISLAMABAD (APP): with Islamabad Chamber of Ambassador of Commerce and Industry Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan (ICCI) in the initiatives for promoting business linkages between the Ulanbek Totuiaev on Wednesday said that his country was interested in further boosting its business ties with Pakistan private sectors of both countries. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of to achieve mutually

Kyrgyzstan interested in

boosting business ties with

beneficial outcomes. He stressed that both countries should develop sustainable business relations as they have good

potential to cooperate in many sectors of the economy. He said that a business delegation from

Pakistan should visit Kyrgyzstan to explore joint ventures and business partnerships, said a press activity at release issued here.

Port Qasim (APP) Shipping activity was reported at the Port where four ships namely, MSC Roma, Sea Bird, Ardmore exporting dry fruits, and Simaisma agricultural products to scheduled to load /offload Pakistan and added both containers, Rice, Palm oil countries should do and LNG, berthed at business in more products container Terminal, Multias they have good potential Purpose Terminal and Gas for it.

Meanwhile another dible oil carrier

Naqvi chairs 3rd Chambers of Commerce Coordination **Committee meeting**

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 3rd Punjab Chambers of Commerce Coordination Committee meeting held at CM office, here on Wednesday.

Punjab Cabinet, Chief Secretary, IG Police and secretaries concerned specially participated in the meeting. The participants in the Chamber of Commerce Coordination Committee accorded a standing ovation and paid tributes to the exemplary performance of the CM. They credited CM Naqvi for the Mohsin Naqvi before the pivotal role for b establishment of 6 completion of his tenure improvements Business Facilitation has set an emulating national economy.

Gold rates up by 400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.215,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 215,100 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.343 to Rs.184,756 from Rs184,413 whereas the The prices of 10 gram 22 karat Innovation Board was gold went up to established to provide Rs.169,360 from Rs. strategic guidance, expertise, and advocacy 169,046, the All Sindh Jewellers Sarafa regarding its mission of Association reported. building critical local The price of per tola enablers and fostering and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,600 and 2,229.08 innovation entrepreneurship in digital development, to create a respectively. more inclusive and equitable digital future for The price of gold in the international market all. This accomplished increased by \$5 to \$2,053 group brings a wealth of \$Ž,048, from the personal Association reported.

precedent for the coming Centres in Punjab. Kashif Anwar President LCCI government. acknowledged that the day and night work being Women Chamber Sargodha undertaken by the CM for said that no caretaker the well-being of the government had shown such an exemplary masses has set a unique example of rendering public performance as of CM Mohsin Naqvi, adding that service. President Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Mohsin Naqvi rendered his Industry Imtiaz Dogar said exemplary services with an that neither any Chief extraordinary speed. Minister has done such a Jhang Chamber said "We huge amount of work since the inception of Pakistan have not seen such an excellent CM in the history nor "we have seen such an amount of work being done of Punjab.'

by any other" President Federation addressing the meeting Pakistan Women stated that the traders and Chambers said that industrialists can play a Mohsin Naqvi before the pivotal role for bringing completion of his tenure improvements in the

ITU appoints Dr Saif to **Digital Innovation Board** for entrepreneurship alliance

ISLAMABAD (APP): leadership, and dedication International to drive forward the Telecommunications Alliance's collective vision Union (ITU) has of an equitable and appointment Dr Umar Saif, sustainable digital future to the Digital Innovation for all, said a news release

Board of the Innovation issued here on Wednesday

Dr. Umar Saif is

Page

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geographical location of both countries offers good potential to increase collaboration and play a role in promoting regional trade in their respective regions. Pakistan can The ambassador said that Kyrgyzstan was provide Kyrgyzstan with importing easy access to many promising markets including the Middle East pharmaceuticals, sports goods, and other products from Pakistan while it was and South Asia, he added.

Bakhtawari said Similarly, Kyrgyzstan can provide Pakistan with easy access to the Central Asian States. Therefore, strong trade and economic relations would be very

Commerce & Industry said

Kyrgyzstan can cooperate

in many areas including

agriculture, industry,

energy, and tourism.

Pakistan and

He said that the

that

He assured that his beneficial for both

embassy would cooperate countries and regions.

While chairing a meeting AJK PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq expressed that agriculture and livestock were very potential sectors in which people could invest and make significant gains.

He said that efforts should be made to convince people, attract them, and encourage them to get involved in agriculture, especially by focusing on planting fruit trees.

He further added that the development of the vers within a week.

besides promoting poultry farming and animal day breeding, interest-free loans must be provided to youth who want to set up

dairy farms. The AJK PM also directed the Secretary of three more ships, MSC Agriculture and Livestock Roma, Theodora and San other relevant Francisco Bridge are authorities to submit a expected to sail on the detailed report about all same day. completed and incomplete

China's vehicle

Wheat output forecast over 28.86 million metric tons during current season

and

ISLAMABAD (APP): The wheat output in the country during the current season is likely to reach over 28.86 million tons, which would further help in cementing the efforts of the government to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and economic development.

Wheat cultivation relies heavily on irrigation water, so the ample water supply as reported by IRSA along with record planting areas indicated the potential for another strong harvest during the crop season 2024-25, said Imtiaz Ahmad Gopang Security Food Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

However, the actual production outcomes will depend on factors such as

growing conditions and accessibility of essential inputs particularly fertilizers, he told APP on Wednesday. Additionally weather patterns in March and April crucial for the grains' development and maturation significantly impact the final output, he added.

He said that according to the provincial crop reporting services, wheat production for the Punjab Province was forecast at 23.50 million metric tons, and Sindh at 3.3 million metric tons respectively.

Meanwhile, the output for the provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan was expected to reach at 1.474 million metric tons and 21.274 million metric tons arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a Liquid gas carrier 'Broog' left the port on today morning and

> FAISALABAD: Irrigation department worker cleaning aRakh Branch canal with the help of caterpillar during canal cleaning campaign

Exports increase by 7.89 % to \$17.7bln in 7 months

declined by 14.11 percent to \$30.949 billion this year against the imports of 5.034 billion last year.

Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the first seven months of the current fiscal year was recorded at \$13.167 billion against the deficit of \$19.553 billion last year, showing a sharp decline of 32.66 percent. Meanwhile,

on a year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 24.72 per cent in January 2024 compared to the exports of the same month of last year. The (2022-23)exports during the month showing a growth of 7.89 were recorded at \$2.790

percent. billion as against the On the other hand, imports into the country January 2023.

Rain brings respite for citizens, serves as tonic for crops

For the agricultural

community, the rainfall

brought a glimmer of hope

as farmers anticipated

positive impacts on their crops, particularly wheat.

Farmers Ameer Hamza, Iftikhar, Sajid Qureshi and

some others expressed

optimism that the rain

would serve as tonic for the

crops. It also helped

farmers saving millions of

from Muhammad Nawaz

Sharif University of

Environmentalists

rupees on irrigation.

MUZAFFARGARH weather

(APP): The city of Muzaffargarh and suburbs received gentle rainfall Wednesday morning which brought a wave of relief and joy to people."The light showers, which graced both urban and rural areas is of vital importance for human health and agriculture sector," said experts.Dr Fakhar ul Islam talking to APP stated that the rain would surely help reduce diseases in the areas as dry winter spell was causing issues of breathing, cough and some others.

Agriculture hailed the Despite the drop in rainfall as a much-needed temperature accompanying respite, noting its potential the rainfall, the residents to mitigate air pollution welcomed the change in and improve air quality

and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. Digital

The

currently serving as Pakistan's caretaker federal minister for Information Technology Telecommunication. The alliance was set up to bridge the global digital innovation divide and to support ITU members as they work towards an equitable digital future. and

Shamim

Ansar Ali President

The CM while

Aftab

The Pakistan's IT & Telecom Minister joins 17 other eminent individuals, who have all been nominated in their personal capacity and based on their expertise. track record in innovation.



ISLAMABAD: A man is displayed Aseel Cock attraction for customers alongside a road, in Federal Capital.

by working as a driver in

Pakistan's first-ever mass

rapid urban transit train

Industries

European stock markets drop,Shanghai extends gains

LONDON (APP): European stock markets dropped on Wednesday as a 24-year-old electrical engineer, feels delighted to traders reacted to more mixed earnings and weak drive the Orange Line German data, while Metro Train (OLMT) built Shanghai extended a rally in Pakistan's eastern on measures aimed at Lahore city under the supporting China's ailing China-Pakistan Economic economy. Corridor framework. "It's a wonderful

Analysts said sentiment was hit also by expectations that the Federal Reserve was unlikely to cut US interest rates as soon as March, as inflation stays high.

In Europe, official data Wednesday showed industrial production in service. I consider it a public service," he told Xinhua. As an early-Germany fell for a seventh harvest project of CPEC, straight month in the Orange Line project December, capping a year was jointly constructed by of manufacturing weakness China Railway Group in Europe's largest economy. Frankfurt's Corporation and China North DAX index was down 0.3 Corporation, and it was percent in midday trading. put into operation on Oct.

operation of CPEC BEIJING (APP): Okasha, 25, 2020 in the capital city of the eastern Punjab

Pak-China cooperation

provides stable, safe

province. The young engineer has been working on the project for the last three years. He started driving

the train following a six-(CPEC) month-long training course designed and taught by Chinese instructors, which experience, I am so proud included technical and that I am serving the nation

safety components. "We are made so perfect in it that we can expect and handle all types of fault or crisis situations," he said, emphasizing their ability to operations manage independently.

Haseeb Ahmed Janjua, operations planning manager at OLMT, praised the guidance provided by Chinese experts in a conversation with Xinhua



LAHORE: Workers of WAPDA are busy in repairing Transformers on electric poles alongside a road, in Provincial Capital.

sales, output soar in January BEIJING (APP): China's vehicle sales surged 47.9 percent year on year in January 2024 to nearly 2.44 million units, said the China Association of

> on Wednesday. The country's vehicle output last month increased by 51.2 percent year on year to 2.41 million units, according to the association.

Specifically passenger car output and sales stood at 2.08 million units and 2.12 million units, up 49.1 percent and 44 percent year on year, respectively, according to data released by the association.

Commercial vehicle

output rose by 66.2 percent year on year to 327,000 units, while commercial vehicle sales soared 79.6 percent year on year to 324,000 units.

The new energy vehicle (NEV) sector maintained fast growth momentum last month.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country witnessed an Automobile Manufacturers

increase of 7.89 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2023-34) compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan

January

Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to the latest PBS data, exports from the country increased up to \$17.782 billion during July-January (2023-24) as against the exports of \$16.481 billion in July-

Daily Noice of Masse,

Thursday February 08, 2024 International News

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this situation could lead to

a large-scale loss of civilian

lives, and we must do ev-

erything possible within our

power to avoid that," Laerke said. He urged the

international community to

US lawmakers reject \$17.6 billion Israel aid bill

victorv

WASHINGTON (INP): US dent Joe Biden a legislative ter months of negotiations lawmakers voted Tuesday to reject a standalone Israel aid bill denounced by critics as a "cvnical" bid to thwart a cross-party border security and foreign assistance package that would include cash for wartorn Ukraine.

Republicans in the House of Representatives scheduled the vote after the Democratic-led Senate released a bipartisan bill Sunday pairing billions of dollars for Israel and Ukraine with some of the strictest immigration curbs in decades.

But support for that \$118 billion package has dwindled, with Donald Trump—who is running for a second White House cans to avoid handing Presi-

ahead of with a bipartisan group of November's election. senators. Republican House

The standalone bill Speaker Mike Johnson said was also opposed by 13 after the border and foreign Republicans as it did not contain budgetary offsets aid bill was unveiled that it would be "dead on arrival" that conservatives have if it reached the lower chambeen pushing for with evber of Congress. The standalone Israel bill would ery proposal for new spending. One of Johnson's have provided \$17.6 billion first actions when he took in military aid for the counoffice in the fall was to shepherd a bill through the House that would have provided \$14.3 billion to Israel. But it included steep cuts to the Internal Revenue

posed. veto, angered that the legislation appeared aimed at package, hammered out af-

try, which is strongly supported by the vast majority of lawmakers in both parties as it responds to the deadly October 7 attacks Service, which Biden opby Hamas militants. But 167 Democrats voted no after Biden had threatened to wield his

The ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus blasted Johnson for "surrendering" to pressure for term—pressuring Republi- undermining the larger an even larger package which is not offset by cuts.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) listens to questions during the weekly Democratic Caucus lunch press conference at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, U.S.

day visit to underline the

EU's support for Ukraine,

posted a picture on X so-

cial media platform from a

in the shelter as air alarms

are sounding across Kyiv,'

"Starting my morning

Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities kills three

shelter.

he said.

roads for second day

against EU policies

MADRID (Internews): tries, Spanish farmers

KYIV (Internews): Russia launched missile strikes on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities during Wednesday morning's rush hour, killing three people, injuring at least a dozen more and setting blazes across the capital, Ukrainian officials said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said that two people had been killed in the capital Kyiv and one person in Mykolaviv in the south of the country.

"Another massive at- cial support, as well as

Miss Japan gives up crown after affair TOKYO (INP): The Miss Japan crown will remain unclaimed this year after its European Foreign Ukraine-born winner relinpolicy chief Josep Borrell auished the title over rewho is in Kyiv on a two-

ports of an affair she had with a married doctor. Karolina Shiino's nomination in January first sparked debate after some right-wingers questioned the Miss Japan title being awarded to a naturalised Japanese citizen.

Then a scandal erupted over her private life Borrell is discussing with top Ukrainian officials after the weekly Shukan both EU military and finan-Bunshun magazine re-ported on her extra-marital relationship-a no-no for

Japanese entertain-

ment personalities who

or suffer other scandals also

often find themselves

shunned by their fans and

cepted a request from

dards.

employers.

People gather to inspect the remains of a wrecked police vehicle that was destroyed by reported Israeli bombardment at Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Houthis claim fresh **Red Sea ship attacks Monitoring Desk**

gets" in self-defence, Saree warned on X, formerly DUBAI: Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Tuesday they Twitter. had struck US and British

Security firm Ambrey had initially reported a ships in two attacks in the drone attack on a British-Red Sea, the latest among dozens of incidents that owned cargo ship off Yemen but later said a prohave disrupted global shipping. Houthi spokesperson jectile had targeted the Bar-Yahya Saree said the first bados-flagged vessel. It was launched from attack on Tuesday "tar-

a small boat sighted near the ship, Ambrey said, adding that the projectile did not impact the ship but exploded nearby, causing minor damage. There were no

Palestinians hope Blinken visit can deliver Gaza truce before Rafah assault

top U.S. diplomat met Saudi Arabia's de-facto ruler on Monday during a Middle East visit Palestinians hope will clinch a truce before a threatened Israeli assault on Rafah, a border city where about half the Gaza Strip population is sheltering. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Rivadh at the start

geted the American ship

Star Nasia, while the other

targeted the British ship

Morning Tide"

of his first trip to the re-gion since Washington brokered an offer, with Israeli input, for the first extended ceasefire of the war. Blinken's meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said Blinken and the crown prince had discussed regional coordination to achieve "an enduring end" to the crisis.

'The Secretary underscored the importance of addressing humanitarian needs in Gaza and preventing further spread of the conflict," Miller said in a statement. Blinken did not answer reporters' questions as he returned to his hotel. The ceasefire offer. delivered to Hamas last

week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

crimes. Nikki Haley The concerns arose as OCHA reported an "incampaign requests crease in strikes" in Rafah Secret Service after governorate, with thousands of Gazans seeking security incidents refuge in the city, including WASHINGTON those fleeing intense fight-

(Internews): Republican ing in Khan Yunis. presidential contender Nikki Haley, the last remaining rival to Donald Trump in the primary race, has requested U.S. Secret

Service protection, the campaign said on Monday. While the campaign did not disclose any specific threats that prompted the request, Haley, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was targeted in two "swatting" incidents, once on Dec. 30 and once on Jan. 1.

100,000-year-old an end to the war. human footprints found in Morocco **Monitoring Desk**

LARACHE: Archaeologists in Morocco have unearthed more than 80 human footprints dating back around 100,000 years and believed to be the oldest in North Africa.

The footprints, probably left by five homo sapiens, including children, were discovered on the coast of Larache, a city 90 kilometres south of Tangier, by archaeologists from Morocco, Spain, France, and Ger-

many. "This group (of homo sapiens) was crossing the beach towards the sea, probably in search of food and shellfish.

UN calls Rafah invasion war crime; Hamas responds to truce offer fied hostilities in Rafah ir

Monitoring Desk N aid coordination office OCHA) warned on Tuesday that Israel's invasion of the densely populated southern city of Rafah would constitute a war

make every possible effort to avoid such a scenario as "We, as the UN and continued heavy fighting in member states, can bear witness," OCHA spokes-Khan Yunis forced many person Jens Laerke told more to seek refuge in ournalists. "We can make Rafah it clear that under international humanitarian law, indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas may amount to war

Della Longa from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that 8,000 Gazans had left Al Amal hospital after Israeli authorities guaranteed safe passage. The IFRC spokesperson described the situation in Gaza as "beyond cata-strophic," mourning the

death of aid worker Hedaya Hamad from the Palestine "To be clear, intensi- Red Crescent Society.

Hamas proposes 135-day Gaza truce with complete Israeli withdrawal

DOHA (Online): Hamas mediators. proposed a ceasefire to

studying the offer intently,

with Prime Minister Ben-

whether to reject the pro-

response to an earlier pro-posal drawn up by U.S. and

The statement issued

staffing issues contributed

to the Jan. 2 crash between

a Japan Airlines (9201.T),

opens new tab (JAL) jet and a smaller Coast Guard

turboprop. An investigation is ongoing into the runway

collision at the world's

the

Airbus

board

week

day.

ficially begins on Satur-

days, videos across Chi-

Over the past few

on Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of quiet the guns in Gaza for State Antony Blinken disfour-and-a-half months, cussed the offer with during which all hostages Netanyahu after arriving in Israel following talks with the leaders of Qatar would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and an agreeand Egypt, the countries ment would be reached on that have acted as mediators in the conflict. Israel's government

There remain major spokesman said Israel was gaps between the two sides: Israel has previously said it will not pull its troops jamin Netanyahu due to out of Gaza or end the war hold a news conference later until Hamas is wiped out. But sources described Israel's Channel 13 Hamas as taking a new ap-TV quoted an unidentified proach to its longstanding demand to end the war, now official as saying some aspects were not acceptable proposing this as an issue to be resolved in future talks and officials were debating rather than a pre-condition posal or seek modificafor the truce.

A source close to the The Hamas offer, the negotiations said the Hamas contents of which were first counterproposal did not reported by Reuters, is a require a guarantee of a permanent ceasefire at the outset, but that an end to the Israeli spy chiefs and de- war would have to be livered to Hamas last week agreed before final hostages by Qatari and Egyptian were freed.

Japan Airlines crash: Air traffic controllers call for 'significant' staff increase

The Houthis "will carry out more military operations against all hoscasualties among the crew, tile American-British tarthe British firm said. DOHA (Internews): The lasted about two hours.

regions were under the enemy's strike. All our services are now working to cope with the consequences of this terror," Zelenskiy said on the Telegram mes-

saging app. The Ukrainian air defence shot down 44 missiles and drones out of 64 launched by Russia in several waves of the attack, said Valeriv Zaluzhnyi, Ukraine's armed forces commander.

Spanish farmers blocked

major highways with their

tractors for a second day

and disrupted access to

port terminals as anger

spreads in Europe's coun-

tryside against high costs,

bureaucracy and competi-

tion from non-EU coun-

respect the rules, they

don't have quality con-

trols," said Juan, who

grows lemons in Andalusia,

and was on a blockade in

front of the access to

have ruined his business

this year. "They don't

want them not even if I

give them away," he told

national broadcaster

ket situation and encour-

aged by similar protests

in other European coun-

Fed up by the mar-

Current lemon prices

Malaga port.

TVE.

"Some countries don't

tries.

on its reform path in its bid to join beauty pageant contesthe 27-member bloc. tants, who are held to Kyiv city officials said squeaky-clean moral stan-

that at least 14 people were injured in different parts of the capital. Firefighters were extinguishing several large fires. Emergency workers were working to rescue people from a multistory apartment building in Golosiivskyi district in the southwest of the capital.

Debris from a Russiar missile also damaged sev

took their tractors out of

their barns on Tuesday,

two days ahead of pro-

tests scheduled by the

associations.

authorities said.

violent

posed on them.

Shiino to return the crown for "personal reasons' **Spanish farmers blockade** adding that there would be no Miss Japan for 2024.

Shiino said she wanted to "deeply apologise" to those involved, including the man's wife.

EU eyes 90pc

country's main farmers Around a dozen maon Tuesday urged a 90-per jor highways were blocked on Tuesday morning all over the country, traffic Over the past few

weeks, farmers in Euro-"Based on the best pean countries including Germany, France and Belgium have held protests that sometimes turned Farmers say demanding rules imposed on them by the EU to protect the environment make them

less competitive than peers He called for a "fair in other regions, such as Latin America or non-EU Europe. They also complaint against increasingly obscure bureaucratic measures im-

cut to greenhouse gases by 2040 Monitoring Desk STRASBOURG: The EU

cent cut to its greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, even as the bloc's transition to a greener future was clouded by a widespread farmers' revolt.

available science, and a detailed impact assessment, we are recommending that criminal trial the 2040 target should be a 90pc emission cut" compared to 1990 levels, said the EU climate commissioner, Wopke Hoekstra.

transition" that will still allow EU businesses to thrive and ensure "nobody is left behind" as the bloc seeks to become carbon-neutral by 2050.



Demonstrators stand next to tractors, as farmers block the AP-7 highway during a protest over price pressures, taxes and green regulation, griev ances shared by farmers across Europe, near Girona, Spain.

Court rejects Trump's claim of immunity from prosecution

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald cupants above the law for Trump does not have imunanimous panel wrote. munity from charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 election defeat, a fedany executive immunity eral appeals court ruled on Tuesday, bringing the former US president a step Trump from criminal charges while he served as president "no longer procloser to an unprecedented tects him against this pros-

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columecution.3 The ruling, which Trump vowed to appeal, rebuffs his attempt to avoid a bia Circuit rejected trial on charges that he un-Trump's claim that he cannot be prosecuted because dermined American democthe allegations relate to his racy and the transfer of power, even as he consoliofficial responsibilities as dates his position as the

"We cannot accept that the office of the Presifrontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination.

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The death toll in a firework factory dency places its former ocexplosion in India has risen to 11 and the two owners all time thereafter," the have been arrested, police said on Wednesday, a day The court concluded that after the devastating blast. District police chief that may have shielded Sanjeev Kumar Kanchan

confirmed 11 deaths, while more than 150 people were injured. The fiery blast sent

chunks of rock and metal flying far from the destroyed factory complex in Harda town, in India's central Madhya Pradesh state 'A whole concrete col-

Death toll in

Indian firework

factory rises to 11

from the factory site.

central Hubei provinces bore the brunt of the severe weather, which deteriorated over the weekend, slowing highway traffic to a crawl, canceland delaying flights. across the country flock some protested what they home to see their famicalled government neglilies for the Chinese New Year holiday, which of-

gence in the aftermath. The magnitude 7.8 tremor, the deadliest disaster in Turkey's modern history, levelled towns and parts of cities in the country's southeast and neighbouring Syria.

TOKYO (Internews): A Coast Guard aircraft died. Authorities have re-

leased control tower transcripts showing the Coast Guard plane was ordered to go to a holding area on a taxiway near the runway as the JAL plane came into land. but questions remain as to why the plane then entered the runway seemingly un-

late on Tuesday by the chair of the transport We We strongly urge the realisation of a significant increase in the number of air traffic controllers, Masato Yamazaki said in the statement, adding that speculation about the cause of the crash risked putting mental strains on controllers

As an emergency measure in the wake of the acthird-busiest airport in cident, authorities ordered which all 379 people on air traffic control towers at Haneda and other airports (AIR.PA), opens new tab across the country to constantly monitor radar sys-A350 passenger jet miraculously survived, but five of tems for possible runway the six crew on the smaller intrusions.

Snow, ice disrupt trips home for millions ahead of Chinese New Year

Monitoring Desk trapped in cars on snowy BEIJING: Freezing rain, highways in several cities, snow and ice have snarled including Jingzhou in the traffic in central, eastern south of Hubei. and southern China as millions of people travel home ahead of the Spring

One driver was trapped in a car for three days, media outlet Yicai Festival holiday in the reported, and passengers blistering cold that has heading for Wuhan, to the swept through parts of east of Jingzhou, were the country over the past stuck on a train for hours after power was lost amid Southern Hunan and freezing temperatures, social media videos

showed. "This weather in Wuhan can drive you crazy, you have to walk 20,000 steps every day to ling hundreds of trains get to work, and then you get home and the power The disruptions cogoes out because the incide with the biggest wires are down," one user mass travel migration in complained on the social the world as people media platform Weibo.

Hundreds of trains were delayed or suspended, and throngs of passengers stranded at railway stations in Wuhan, local media said.

Runways at the Tianhe Airport in Wuhan nese social media showed were temporarily closed images of people stranded on trains and on Tuesday, state media CCTV reported.

KS-CX-28

People gather as a medical transport vehicle carrying the body of Chile's former President Sebastian Pinera arrives at a medical facility after Pinera died in a helicopter crash, in Valdivia, Chile.

Indonesian students

Around 100 students marched in Indonesia's capital Jakarta on Wednesday to protest what they say is political interference by outgoing president, Joko Widodo, in the presi-

dential election to be held on Feb. 14. While Jokowi, as the president is known, has

president.

not explicitly endorsed any of the three candidates in the election, he has made highly publicised appearances with frontrunner Prabowo Subianto, whose running

demand president stay neutral before poll

AKARTA (Internews): mate is the president's eldest son, C Rakabuming Raka. Gibran In Indonesia, sitting presidents are allowed to

Gibran to run

campaign for candidates provided they do not use state resources and take official leave to do so, but incumbents have typically

remained neutral. Jokowi has faced mounting allegations of ethical breaches and meddling in the election, especially after a top court tweaked eligibility rules in October, allowing

'There was a deafen ing noise and the earth shook." Anger at Turkish gov't spills over at earthquake anniversary vigil HATAY (Internews): More than 10,000 people gath-

ered early on Tuesday to hold a vigil for the first anniversary of the devastating earthquakes that hit southeastern Turkey, as

imn landed in my property," said Sargam Jain, who works around 100 metres

Daily **Independent**, Quetta



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo during his visit to the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan says: Subversive acts in Killa Saifullah, Pishin conspiracy to sabotage peaceful election process

Governor strongly condemns blasts: says no one would be allowed to sabotage peaceful environment of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the explosions took place in Pishin and Killa Saifullah districts which claimed lives of several persons and left many injured on Wednesday

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the two blasts and injuries caused to several persons.

He also sought report of the subversive acts from provincial Home depart-

.. He directed to the law

enforcement agencies to thy and condolence with mobilize all available re- those died in the two blasts sources for arrest of the el- and prayed for the departed ements involved in the ter- souls.

rorism incidents The Chief Minister said that the subversive acts of blasts are conspiracy to disrupt the peaceful election process in the province.

He directed to the LEAs to take those inin Killa Saifullah and Pishin in strongest words. volved in the blasts to task. On the other hand, he

In an official stateasked the voters to not be ment issued here on Wednesday, the Governor scared of the situation and come out of their homes to asserted that no one would be allowed to sabotage the use their right of franchise. He assured that the peaceful environment of

security arrangements are the province at any cost. being improved further, and He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to adding he vowed to stop take prompt steps against He expressed sympathose elements creating law and order situation and try-

> ing to disrupt the election process in the province. He also urged the law enforcers to foil the nefarispecial aircraft carrying 100 tons of relief goods donated ous designs of miscreants who want to spread fear and harassment on occasion in Egypt on Wednesday. of the elections in Balochistan

The plane carrying the fifth tranche of The Governor di-Pakistan's humanitarian asrected to the concerned ausistance consisting of winthorities to provide best terized tents tarnaulins and possible medical treatment to the injured of Killa blankets landed at El-Arish International Airport of

Saifullah and Pishin blasts. Egypt He prayed for the departed souls of those died in the two blasts besides

Thursday February 08, 2024

<u>President Dr. Alvi briefed:</u> Wafaqi Mohtasib resolves 193,028 complaints; provides relief Rs4.898bn

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib has resolved a total of 193,028 complaints against the maladministration of government departments and provided relief worth Rs 4.898 billion to the citizens during 2023 The Mohtasib pro-

cessed a record 194,099 complaints during 2023, with processing witnessing a surge of 18 per cent, while the disposal of complaints increased by 22 per cent, as compared to 2022.

Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad

Dr Arif Alvi who visited the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib on Wednesday. The president had a briefing on the com-plaints received and resolved by the Ombudsman to ensure prompt relief to citizens during the year 2023, Presiinformed that 85.4 percent dent Secretariat Press Wing of Wafaqi Mohtasib's decisaid in a press release. sions were implemented

Briefing the president, the federal ombudsman highlighted the role and performance of the institution. He informed that

193,028 complaints were in Mohtasib had enhanced addressed in 2023, with people's accessibility, with monetary relief of Rs 4.898 48,190 complaints regis-

Qureshi briefed President billion provided to the tered online in 2023, mark ing an increase of 47 per complainants. Furthercent from 2022. Similarly, more, on the recommendations of Wafaqi Mohtasib, as many as 18,000 street 2,321 complaints were received through children were enrolled in Mohtasib's mobile App in 2023, representing a 21 per government schools in Islamabad. The meeting was

cent increase from 2022 The meeting was also briefed on the Integrated Complaint Resolution System, processing 18,469 complaints in 2023, alonglast year, with efforts underway to further improve the ratio of the implemenside Mohtasib's teams contation. It was stated that the ducting Khuli Kutcheries increased use of technology and inspection visits to address people's grievances against government agencies

ECP declares 16,766 polling stations highly sensitive, 29,985 sensitive

(EMS) to transmit and edit (APP): The Election Commission the results of the general of Pakistan (ECP) has deelections, adding that no clared 16,766 polling stadecision was taken yet to tions highly sensitive and shut down the internet anywhere on Election Day. "As many as 90,675 29,985 as sensitive in the general elections across the

polling stations and 266,398 polling booths have been established across the country to ensure the right of the people to vote, while 1,490,000 election staffers will perform their duties of polling

staff," he added. He said the ECP has already fixed the election duties of the officers and employees for the general polls across the country, under which the staffers

Aircraft carrying Pakistan's humanitarian aid for Gaza people arrives in Egypt

ISLAMABAD (APP): A for their onward delivery to Gaza. This brings the total

by Pakistan for the sufferhumanitarian assistance deing people of Gaza arrived livered by Pakistan for people of Gaza to 330 tons, Pakistan's Embassy in Egypt said on its X timeline.

Further deliveries are in the pipeline and will be delivered soon, it added.

This ongoing support underscores Pakistan's continued commitment to The relief goods were addressing urgent humanireceived by the senior diptarian needs of the people lomatic officials of Pakistan of Gaza

LAHORE: PakArmy soldiers patrol a road to ensure security ahead of general election, in Provincial Capital.

Speakers uphold self-determination at Pak-sponsored event, stressing its integral to freedom

NATIONS attended event, which was UNITED (APP): Pakistan Tuesday told a gathering of diplomats and rights advocates at the U.N. that the right of self-determination will not be fulfilled until all peoples who are under foreign occupation or settler-colonialism, especially Palestine and Kashmir, are able to exercise that right. "The right of self-de-

termination is bedrock of the modern international the Ambassador system," Munir Ákram said, warning that historically a colonial power has never succeeded in suppressing the right of self-determination of a determined people. stani envoy said. Ambassador Ákram

was speaking at a largely-

determination event were: sponsored by Pakistan, in Ms. Fionnuala NiAolain, a connection with Kashmir professor at the University Solidarity Day. The topic of Minnesota and former of discussion was "Chal-UN rights expert; Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz, lenges to the realization of the Right to Self-Determipermanent observer of the nation in the Contemporary Arab League at the UN: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chair-Global Context", with speakers from all regions of man of the World Forum for the world upholding that in-Peace and Justice, and Hameed Ajibaiye, perma-nent observer for OIC at the UN

After the presentations from the panelists, ambassadors and representatives of Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Iran, Venezuela, Eritrea and India participated in the general discussion in which they also raised issues of concern

alienable right pf peoples struggling for freedom. We are confident that Palestinians, the Kashmiris and other oppressed people will ultimately secure their right to self-determination and freedom as most of us have done through the process of decolonization," the Paki-

Panelists at the Self- to them. **ECP** issues guidelines



the subversive acts.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal **Education and Professional Training Madad Ali** Sindhi calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Over 596,000 Army, CAFs praying for early recovery of those injured in them. & Police personnel to **Bilawal**,

country due to the prevailing security situation in those districts. He also prayed for early recovery of the injured "The Returning Of-ficer, Presiding and Assis-tant Officers have a tant Officers have been del-Meanwhile the Govegated first-class magistrate ernor Balochistan, Malik to control the law and or-Abdul Wali Khan has conder situation at the polling demned the blasts occurred stations, while Pakistan Army will be deployed

ISLAMABAD

outside the most sensitive polling stations," the ECP spokesman told APP. The spokesman said that the ECP will use Elec-

that the ECP will use Elec-tion Management System shifts round the clock.

perform election security

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the cool breezes of the outgoing winter season add flavour to the bright sunny days, the country's political fate is going to be decided on Thursday in the General Elections 2024 with over 596,000 Army, Civil Armed Forces and Police personnel being deployed across the country to maintain law and order for the smooth and fair electoral process.

Å total of 596,618 personnel of Army, Civil Armed Forces and Police will perform election duty to maintain law and order Pakistan Army and Civil situation in the country, Armed Forces will be on official sources said on election duty.

Wednesday. The beefed-up security arrangements for General Elections 2024 have been ensured for peaceful conduct of the polls. Some 106,942 personnel of the Quick Response Force have been deployed across the country at the request of the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct the Elections in a peaceful environment.

130,882 personnel of the

Besides, 23,940 security personnel will be permanently on duty during the elections, covery of the injured. whereas as many as

2 injured in blast near

candidate

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN (Online): Blast is reported to have taken place near vehicle of Nasirullah Wazir candidate of PTI Parliamentarian from PK-110 South Waziristan.

Two persons have been injured in bomb blast who have been shifted to hospital. Nasir Ullah was not present in his car at the

Nasir Ullah is former

Pakistani youth lauds Beijing's **Intl environment**

QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F)

Balochistan Chief, Maulana Abdul Wasay ad-

dresses to media persons during press conference.

BEIJING (APP): Muhammad Ammar, who came from Pakistan around 18 years ago, and now works for an international education group in Beijing, has lauded international environment in the Chinese

capital. Beijing has greatly influenced his personal growth, and its international environment and various resources are unique advantages that have helped his career development.

'Beijing is almost my second home which helped me to connect with different multi-national organizations, different people and talents bringing a very unique advantages for my career development," he told China Daily.

"I have studied my high school, bachelor and added

master degrees all from Beijing and Beijing has greatly influenced my personal growth," he added.

Ammar and his five in Malaysia Syed Ahsan other family members have studied at the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), forging an indissoluble bond Lumpur. with Beijing.

His father decided to high commissioner raised bring the family to China after he saw many pictures in a magazine related to the Malaysia.

infrastructure development of China as he felt that the Chinese people were very hard working to build their motherland.

"At a very young age, I naturally believed that I will come to China for study. So, in 2005, my two eldest sisters and me came to China for study," he

Zardari flay terrorist

incidents KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned terrorist incidents in Qila Saifullah and Pishin areas of

Balochistan The two leaders sympathized with the families EC rejects plea for recording of those who lost their lives in the bomb blasts and praved for the speedy reindependent candidate

Election Commission (EC) **PTI MP** has rejected the plea for recording PTI as party with

the name of independent candidate on ballot papers. ment on PTI candidate Suleman Akram Raja has been announced. PTI Suleman Akram Raja had prayed to EC to record

pendent candidates of PTI IN form 33. time of explosion.

MPA and candidate from PTI Parliamentarian.

Pak envoy, Malaysian ĎG congratulated the Minis-Immigration ter of Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, on his exdiscuss issues of

cellent and active perfor-**Pak nationals** mance related to Hajj arrangements. ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan High Commissioner the Saudi Embassy on

Wednesday, Minister of Raza Shah met Director Religious Affairs Aneeq General Immigration Dato Ahmed and his team were Ruslin bin Jusoh in Kuala formally congratulated for winning the award. During the meeting the

immigration-related issues Hajj Expo held in Jeddah of Pakistani nationals in last month, Pakistan Hajj

The reserved judg-Wednesday that election symbol was withdrawn for not holding intra party eleccandidate The decision said Supreme Court has upheld EC decision. Therefore, the name of PTI against indeplea for recording name of party along with name of

of EC headed by Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner (CEC)

the petition.

candidate in form 33 can-A five member bench not be allowed.

Saudi Minister lauds Hajj arrangements

QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Abdullah

khan and CEO PPHI Hameedullah Khan Nasir in-

Ballot papers

PTI with name of

augurate BHU Model at Kechi Baig.

ISLAMABAD (Online):

ISLAMABAD (Online): Mission was presented Saudi Minister of Hajj, Dr. with the award for the best Tawfig bin Al-Rabiyyah, and active Hajj Mission.

In his letter, the Saudi Hajj Minister also directed the Pakistani counterpart to complete the service contracts for the pilgrims

commitment to continue full support for Pakistani pilgrims under the auspices of the custodians of the

before February 25 i.e., In a letter received by transport, Makatib, food, accommodation, air tickets and other services through Saudi "e-Hajj". Saudi Hajj Minister Dr. Tawfig reiterated his

It should be noted that on the occasion of the Int'l Holy Haram.

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding Anti **Corruption Department.**

any internet or public net: **ECDGIT**

EC not using

go for general elections, the Election Commission of Pa-ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) kistan (ECP) has issued inis not using any internet or structions to the presiding public net and private net officers (PO) for maintainwork is being used for reing Form-45 after the pollsults.

This was said by EC DG IT Khizar Aziz while talking to private TV channel here Wednesday.

He said RTS is not cording to the Election Commission of Pakistan. being used this time. We hold out assurance to nathe number of valid votes tion Election Management System (EMS) is a special software. EMS has been for each contesting candidate and ballot papers excluded from the count. This provided to office of 859 form also includes gender-Returning Officers (ROs) 4 disaggregated data on the data entry operators, 4 laptops and IT Equipment basis of male and female voters scored out from the have been provided in RO electoral rolls in the relevant office.

had reserved judgment on He held EMS has been installed in mobile phones It was said in the deciof Presiding Officers. sion issued by EC on Presiding officer will take picture of form 45 and send it to RO. If signals are not coming then form 45 will automatically reach RO whenever signals come.

FM holds separate meetings with Norwegian, Australian

SLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday held separate meetings with Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas and Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan Neil Hawkins.

During these meetngs, the discussions were focused on enhancing Pakistan's engagement and cooperation with Norway and Australia, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs Wednesday, posted on its official account on social media platform X

envoys

As per details, Gwadar deputy commisarea

> recommended dismissal of the 81 employees of different government departments over no-show for election duty.

Earlier, in Karachi, RO in PS-110 recommended action against the staff, who did not join the election duty.

The General Elections of the National Assembly

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for Form-45 ISLAMABAD (INP):

ing process concludes.

Form 45, previously

It is supposed to show

Form 14, is known as the

statement of the count, ac-

polling booths. With just only one day to According to the in-

structions, the electoral watchdog ordered the presiding officers to prepare Form-45 without failing. The Form 45 must be signed with their CNIC cards, taking signatures of polling agents at the polling stations," it said.

The presiding officers were told to ensure a brief reason in the form for refusal of signatures by the polling agents, pasting the copy of the form outside after their signatures and handing over to the polling agents

The ECP noted that the presiding officers will be responsible for changes in the form.

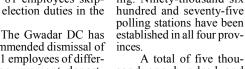


NASEERABAD: Members of Jamote Qaumi Movement are holding protest demonstration against Returning Officer of the Constituency PB-13, held outside Polling Station in Naseerabad.

Gwadar DC seeks dismissal of employees skipping election duty

GWADAR (INP): Deputy and four provincial assemcommissioner Gwadar on blies will be held tomorrow. Wednesday sought the dis-The election campaign by missal of 81 employees, political parties and indewho skipped election duty. pendent candidates concluded across the country

last night. The Election Comsioner has penned a letter to the Election Commission mission has completed all of Pakistan (ECP) to higharrangements for the polllight 81 employees skiping. Ninety-thousand six ping election duties in the



A total of five thousand one hundred and twenty-one candidates are in the run for the National Assembly seats.

For the four provincial assemblies, 12695 candidates are in the field. There are a total of 128,585,760 registered voters in the coun-



