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Nation eagerly awaiting for final election results

Independents strengthen lead, PML-N and PPP follow closely

According to available results of 215 National Assembly constituencies, independent candidates managed to secure 89 seats, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 60, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) 50, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) two, Istehgam-e-Pakistan Party (IPPP) two, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan 11, and Grand Democratic Alliance one seat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent candidates contesting for national and provincial assembly seats seemed maintaining their lead over mainstream political parties in the General Election 2024, as per the results issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) by 9.00

According to the available results (Form-47) of 215 National Assembly constituencies, independent candidates managed to secure 89 seats, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 60, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamen-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) two,

meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has

felicitated the nation on

successful conduct of gen-

after the conclusion of poll-

ing process, he appreciated

the efforts of Election

Commission of Pakistan,

Interim Provincial Govern-

ments, Armed Forces, Civil

Armed Forces, police, law

enforcement agencies, elec-

tion staff, the media and all

those institutions and indi-

viduals who contributed to

the conduct of the free and

fair elections.

In a post on X handle

eral elections.

Cabinet expresses

satisfaction over peaceful

and transparent election

Istehqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPPP) two, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan 11, and Grand Democratic Alliance one

Out of 270 Punjab Assembly-seat results, independent candidates bagged 130 seats, PML-N 129, PPPP 10, Tehreek e Labbaik Pakistan one, IPP one and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q)

For the Sindh Assembly, PPPP so far secured 83 seats, independent candidates 14, MQM-P 21, GDA two, and Jamaat-e-Islami two, out of the total tarians (PPPP) 50, Jamiat 122 constituencies' results PPPP three, JUI seven, JI announced by the time of three, Awami National

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

of our democratic processes

but also to the indomitable

spirit of the Pakistani

people. The participation

and enthusiasm of people

of Pakistan have been the

cornerstone of this demo-

cratic exercise. He said the

high voter turnout is a clear

indication of public com-

mitment to shaping the fu-

ture of our country. The

voices, expressed through

the votes, will contribute to

the fortification of our de-

mocracy, and for that,

people of Pakistan deserve

every bit of appreciation.

cidents of terrorism in

He said despite few in-

130 seats, PML-N 129, PPPP 10, Tehreek e Labbaik Pakistan one, IPP one and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) five. For the Sindh Assembly, PPPP so far secured 83 seats, independent candidates 14, MQM-P 21, GDA two, and Jamaat-e-Islami two, out of the total 122 constituencies' results announced by the time of filing of this update. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, independent candidates so far clinched 85 provincial assembly seats, PML-N 5, PPPP three, JUI seven, JI three, Awami National Party (ANP) and PTIP one each, out of 105 seats. In Balochistan, PML-N secured eight seats, PPPP eight, JUI six, Independent candidates four, JI one, Awami National Party two and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) four,

and one each by Balochistan National Party-Awami and National Party

(NP), as per the results announced for 35 seats so far.

Out of 270 Punjab Assembly-seat results, independent candidates bagged

filing of this update.

Pakhtunkhwa, independent candidates so far clinched 85 provincial assembly seats, PML-N 5.

Jan pleased

over peaceful

completion of

electoral process

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for In-

formation, Jan Achakzai

has expressed pleasure over

peaceful completion of the

electoral process in the

issued here on Friday, the

caretaker Minister Infor-

mation urged the losing

candidates to accept the re-

He said that the interim

government thanks all the

political parties as well as

the election candidates and

voters from the core of

heart on their cooperation

the protests, dharnas and

hurdles created on the roads

cause hardships and incon-

lic. This also creates hurdle

in access to the ambulances

and emergent services, he

maintained.

Minister asserted.

Latif Khosa

backed independent candidate Latif Khosa secured

victory against PML-N candidate Khawaja Saad

Rafique in NA-122 Lahore

According to unofficial results, PTI-backed Inde-

pendent Latif Khosa bagged

117,109 votes followed by

PML-N's Khawaja Saad

Rafique who secured

77.907 votes. Following his

defeat, Saad Rafique took

to X (formerly Twitter) and

in general election 2024.

AHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

enience to the general pub-

Jan Achakzai said that

for conducting elections.

sult of general elections.

In an official statement

province.

Party (ANP) and PTIP one Balochistan Awami each, out of 105 seats. In Balochistan, PMLsecured eight seats, PPPP eight, JUI six, Independent candidates

Party (BAP) four, and one each by Balochistan National Party-Awami and National Party (NP), as per the results an-

four, JI one, Awami Na- nounced for 35 seats so tional Party two and far. Jamal Shah Kakar, Jamal Raisani, Adil Bazai

win Quetta's NA seats

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s Jamal Shah Kakar as well as the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani and independent candidate Aadil Khan Bazai won three seats of National Assembly from Quetta.

According to the results shared by the respective returning officers of all the three constituencies of National Assembly, Jamal Shah Kakar, Jamal Khan

Raisani and Adil Bazai emerged victorious on the NA-262, Quetta-I, NA-263, Quetta-II and NA-264, Quetta-III respectively.

The independent candidate, Adil Bazai secured 20,273 votes while his opponent Malik Sikandar Khan of JUI-F got 12,873

Similarly, Jamal Shah Kakar of PM-N grabbed 15,680 votes while his op-ponent independent candidate Salar Kakar got 14,350 Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Interior Minister Gohar Ejaz addressing a press conference at PID Media Čenter.

56 terrorist incidents take place across country on election day: Gohar Ejaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz said on Friday that a total of 56 terrorist incident were taken place on February 8 Election Day to sabotage

He, however, warned the electoral process. that stern action would be Briefing media persons taken against those creating about the overall security problems and taking law in situation and challenges their hands. No relaxation specifically regarding elecwould be given to those viotion day, he said that the lating the law, adding the biggest challenge of the caretaker government was to Saad Rafique loses against

election day

Sharing details of the casualties, the minister informed that 3 military iawans, 2 levies iawans, 7 police officials, 4 civilians including 2 minors lost their lives in the incidents.

The government had made a difficult decision to shut down the mobile service across the country in a high-level meeting on February 7 after the two deadliest terrorist incidents in provide security to the which 28 innocent lives people of the country on were lost, he added.

PPP clinches three BA seats from Quetta

Three independent candidates also remained successful on provincial assembly's constituencies from metropolis

Independent Report



LAHORE: Pakistan's former Prime Minister and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), Nawaz Sharif along with his brother, Shehbaz Sharif and

Nawaz Sharif hints at forming coalition govt

his daughter Maryam Nawaz, speaks with supporters at Model Town.

Urges parties to join hands to steer country out of crises

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan for country's better future. Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif said on Friday it was a responsibility of all political parties to steer Pakistan out of challenges, and his party had always struggled for devel-opment and prosperity of

the country.
While addressing his party workers at PML-N Secretariat in Model Town, he said, "The PML-N respects the mandate of all political parties and individuals." He said all political parties should come forward in the larger interest of the country. People knew very well that how the PML-N had worked hard for development and stability of different sectors in country including defence and economy, he added. He invited all par-

Nawaz Sharif said the country could not afford holding elections again and again. Judiciary, armed forces and all institutions should make collective efforts in harmonised manner to overcome challenges, facing the country, he sug-

He said that the country needed 10 years for stability, adding that it was a high time to make Pakistan

strong.

Had the momentum of development continued then today's country would have been much better, he maintained. He said that he had

iven task to Shehbaz Sharif to meet Asif Zardari, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and Dr Khalid Siddiqui of the MQM so that a government could be formed to Quaid on his arrival at ties to come forward and sit ensure development and together to play their role prosperity in the country.

He said the PML-N candidates, who had won election, must serve people considering it as a worship. He said that the PML-N had emerged as a single largest party in General Elec-tion 2024 at federal level and in Punjab.

The PML-N Quaid said that his party's agenda was based on welfare of people, adding that Shehbaz Sharif had worked a lot for empowerment of youth in the country. He said more initiatives would be taken to empower youngsters and to provide free medicine. PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar, Atta-Ulllah Tarar and others were also present.

Earlier, warmly welcomed PML-N party's secretariat in model

Democracy & supremacy of constitution our weakness: Chairman PkMAP gives ultimatum to Election Commission to correct "rigged" results by today's noon

Mehmood Khan Achakzai alleges victory of our party candidates on six provincial and three national assembly seats converted into defeat in Balochistan

different seats of the pro- power of vote.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chairman

Pashtoonkhaw Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan has given ultimatum to the Election Commission of Pakistan to correct the otherwise "rigged" results of the elections in favour of the party's candidates.

The Chairman PkMAP alleged that victory of party candidates on six provincial assembly and three national assembly seats were converted into defeat in the province. r. Achakzai was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta Press Club on Friday evening.

The Chairman PkMAP said that we had lot of expectations with the 12th elections of the country, but the results were changed in half of the day.

Hoti resigns as

ANP Senior

Vice President

PESHAWAR (APP): Amir

Haider Hoti, Senior Vice

President of the Awami Na-

tional Party (ANP), on Fri-

day announced his resigna-

tion from the party post.

The decision came follow-

ing the party's defeat in all

constituencies of his ances-

tral district Mardan. The

former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

chief minister, in a statement

said,"If the people of my con-

stituency and Mardan have not

Those candidates who defeated in the elections

were declared winner on

He asserted that we are vincial and national assemnot against of the state's blies, adding he charged furinstitutions, but they are not ready to accept su-He said that democracy premacy of the democracy and supremacy of constitu-

for last seventy years.



forefathers had struggled for the democracy in the coun-

He said that our elders did never make any compromise over the democ-

racy, and they also rendered sacrifices that the government is formed through street.

He said that we want to make Pakistan a democ-

racy country and live here. The Chairman PkMAP said that if we were not allowed to go into parliament, then we would lodge protest in every

Rule of law to be upheld at every cost, CS: Jamali directs to concerned high ups to resolve result related matters at earliest

Independent Report

Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has directed the concerned high ups to resolve the election resultrelated matters at the earli-

He also directed to resolve the issues of candidates as per law saying that it is our top priority to maintain law and order situation in the province.

The caretaker Minister Home was on visit to the Election Control Room established for monitoring of general elections here on

The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan joined the Minister through video

Secretary Home, Zahid

Saleem briefed the Minister and Chief Secretary about the protest sit-ins being staged at four different places of the province.

The Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Deputy Inspectors of General Police also briefed about the final phase of the election process in their respective areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Home paid tributes to the bureaucracy and security forces on conducting of the elections in peaceful manner. Chief Secretary on the

occasion pledged that rule of law would be upheld at every cost.

He said that our challenges have not been over regarding security. He underlined the need to resolve The Additional Chief the issues of candidates as per the law.



QUETTA: Different political party leaders, Sajid Tarin, Abdul Khaliq Ĥazara, Ŝalar Kakar, Ńaseer Shahwani, Ghaffar Khan Kakar and others addressing a press conference, outside DC Office in

Security forces kill mastermind of bombings in Qila Saifullah, Pishin

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: Security Forces have killed the Pishin on Wednesday mastermind of recent bombings in Qila Saifullah and Pishin.

According to ISPR, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Qilla Saifullah District of Balochistan on reported presence of a high profile terrorist.

During the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange Abdul Shakoor Nauman Abu Hamza Khurasani of Daesh was sent to hell.

The killed terrorist was the mastermind of

Qila Saifullah and and was highly wanted by the law enforcement

conduct high profile suicide bombing attacks in Balochistan, which have been successfully averted due to timely and prompt action by security forces and the intelligence

Pakistan, in step with Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

recent bombings in

He also planned to agencies.

Security Forces of

PML-N, BAP, ANP secure one seat each:

QUETTA: The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) clinched three seats of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan from Ouetta district as the result of election of its all nine constituencies were finalized by the

According to the unofficial results. the PPP nominated candidates including Abdul Samad Khan. Ubaidullah and Ali Madad Jatak remained successful on the provincial assembly seats i.e., PB-40, Quetta-



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Muhammad Zubair Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem and Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat reviewing last stage and arrangements of elections at Election Control Room. Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan also participated in the meeting through video link

Women politicians grasp crucial role in electoral process

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing active participation of Rawalpindi said that over-Women from different age groups, political parties, and constituencies have actively contested in the General Election 2024, which depicts advancement in gender equality.

The election results also show that women are gaining ground in various constituencies, said a report aired by a private news

Senior Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Nafisa Shah said that active participation of women in politics and elections is a democratic norm that helps in addressing issues of

Promoting the political participation of women is a necessary step that will help to achieve gender equality and it will also portray a positive image of the country in the world, said Independent candidate Shandana Gulzar while hailwomen in elections.

pressed her commitment and dedication to the welfare of the country and expressed confidence in winning polls based on her massive social work.

women in Pakistan's Par- politics. liament is an important metric to evaluate progress in bridging gender inequities in the country, said a youngster while appreciating the active role of women in General Election 2024.

The emergence of these courageous women candidates serves as an inspiring narrative of change and progress that signals a transformational era of the political landscape, said a women social media user.

female candidates who participated in the election, Seemabia Tahir from

ISLAMABAD: PML-N candidate Anjum Aqeel Khan with supporters cel-

ebrates after won the election for National Assembly constituency NA-46

renewing public deposits, except for banking compa-

using powers under 172 of

In addition, a penalty

the Companies Act, 2017.

of Rs. 1.750 million was

also imposed by 11 orders

against listed companies for

violating Section 199 of the

companies Act, which only

allows companies to invest

their areas, ensuring effec-

ments will continue for law

enforcement officers until

the results of the elections

are finalized. ICCPO Dr

Akbar Nasir Khan com-

mended the officers, offi-

cials, women, and person-

nel from various law en-

forcement agencies for their

dedicated service. He

stated, "Islamabad's peace-

ful polling is a significant

success. Citizens are re-

quested to report any sus-

picious individuals or inci-

dents to their respective

gency helpline 'Pucar-15,'

Special duty assign-

tive security measures.

Another area of focus

A total of 11 orders

Islamabad Capital Territory according to the unofficial result.

SECP enforces laws to promote

compliance, transparency in

corporate sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Companies Act, 2017,

Securities and Exchange which prohibits companies

Commission of Pakistan from inviting, accepting, or

ency in the corporate sec- were issued under Section

tor. This quasi-judicial arm 84, resulting in a penalty of

maintains regulator inde- Rs. 581.50 million. Direc-

pendence and minimizes tors of such companies were

arbitrariness, adhering to also disqualified from hold-laws and international best ing the office for five years

During July to De- in their associated compa-

cember, the SECP primanies or undertakings only

Effective security

measures ongoing

in Islamabad

rily adjudicated cases under special resolution.

violate Section 84 of the was digital lending.

(SECP) efficaciously aided

by its centralized adjudica-

compliance and transpar-

practices.

tive measures.

tion function to promote nies.

The SECP effectively

enforced its laws in the first

half of F\Y 2024-25 decid-

ing 1,849 cases of viola-

tions and imposing penal-

ties of approximately

Rs.962 million for correc-

against companies alleged to

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, the Islamabad

Capital Police has estab-

lished comprehensive secu-

rity arrangements during the

2024 General Elections.

The security duty is well-

established, and the situa-

scrutiny is being carried out

to counter potential terror-

ist threats at Masjids and

election-related offices.

Any act of intimidation will

tal Police is determined to

decisively. Moreover offi-

The Islamabad Capi-

address any disruptions police stations, the emer-

cials are actively engaged in or at 'ICT 15' app."

be dealt with firmly.

In addition, intense

tion remains peaceful.

all turnout of women vot-Another contestant ers in the election was bet-Rehana Imtiaz Dar ex- ter than last year and it is a positive development that a huge number of women contested in the election.

Rehana Imtiaz Dar, former MNA from Lahore and Alia Hamza Malik also Representation of hailed the role of women in

> Ayesha Nazir Jatt daughter of former MNA Nazir Jatt from Vahari commented that it was observed

> that women ran doorto-door campaigns against male candidates and appealed to exercise of right

Mrs. Talat Basra wife of Shaukat Basra from Bahawalnagar said participation of woman in the electoral process was increasing rapidly unlike in While giving details of the past and Pakistani women are more aware of their political participation rights the past now

Gold rates

remain

unchanged at

Rs.215,500

per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The per tola price of 24

karat gold remained un-

changed at Rs.215,500 on

Friday, the All Sindh Sarafa

Jewellers Association re-

and 10 gram 22 karat gold

also remained constant a

Rs.184,756 and Rs.169,360

respectively whereas the

price of per tola and ten

gram Silver also remained

unchanged at Rs.2,600 and

Shipping

Activity at

Port Oasim

KARACHI, Feb 09 (APP)

Port shipping activities reported at Port Qasim where

three ships namely, Express

Athens, Alcyone and Car-

ibbean-I, scheduled to load/

offload Containers, Rice

and Palm oil, berthed at

Container Terminal, Multi-

Purpose Terminal and Liq-

uid Terminal respectively

on February, while Five more ships, Young Sheng

Guoji, Arpeggio, Epic Sunter, Patreas and Limra

carrying Palm oil, Chemi-cals and LPG also arrived

at outer anchorage of the

JamalShah Kakar,..

Continued from page 1

Jamal Raisani got 10,678

votes to win the NA-264

seat while his opponent

BNP's Sardar Akhtar

Mengal could secure 9929

here that all three candidates

have won the NA seats for

served as the Speaker

Balochistan Assembly

However, it would be for

the first time that Jamal

Raisani and Adil Bazai

would become part of the

the first time.

parliament.

It may be mentioned

Jamal Shah Kakar has

The PPP's candidate

Port Qasim on same day.

2,229.08 respectively.

Likewise, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold



Pakistan pushes for selfdetermination of Palestinians, Kashmiris at IPU Hearing

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has warned that human security was not possible without allowing the people to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination, like those struggling for freedom in Palestine and Indian Occupied Kashmir.

"Human Security cannot be guaranteed when people over the world are denied their fundamental right to self-determination," Senator Mohsin Aziz, the Pakistani representative, told the Annual Parliamentary Hearing, a joint initiative between the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

UNGA President Dennis Francis and IPU President Tulia Ackson are hosting some 300 participants, including parliamentarians. Speakers of Parliament, advisers and experts, from more than 70 countries at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.

Organizers said the theme of this joint IPU-UN hearing will align with the IPU's primary focus in 2024 on peace and international security, which is also one of the priorities of the current presidency of the UN General Assem-

In his remarks at the More than 900,000 oc-Hearing, Senator Aziz said cupation troops have unleashed a brutal crackthat the past four months have illustrated the consedown, committing extrajuquences of the suppression dicial killings, and abducting 15,000 Kashmiri of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people—over 27,000 civil-"Simultaneously, a ians killed by the Israeli concerted effort is underonslaught in Gaza, mostly way to change the demo-

women and children. graphic structure and com-The deliberate obposition of the occupied territory, a direct violation structions of humanitarian aid have further exacerof the resolutions of the bated the suffering of 2 Security Council," the Pamillion displaced Palestinkistani representative ians," the Pakistan representative said. tion in post-American-

As regards the situa-

withdrawal Afghanistan,

Senator Aziz said the threat

from terrorist organiza-

tions, within and from that

ISIS, he said, the Islamic

State of Khorasan, an off-

shoot of ISIS, which is hid-

ing in Afghanistan, was re-

sponsible for an increasing

number of terrorist attacks

in Pakistan. "If left un-

checked they can threaten

the peace of other coun-

tries and regions as well. "

Aziz reiterated that

"achieving human security

will not be possible with-

out ensuring peace, secu-

rity, and stability, and with-

out allowing people to ex-

ercise their fundamental

right to self-determina-

Cabinet expresses...

Continued from page 1

Armed Forces, Civil Armed

Forces, LEAs, Civilian Ad-

ministration and Election

Commission of Pakistan for

conducting free and fair elec-

tion across the country are

commendable. Their unwa-

vering commitment to their

duties has been instrumen-

tal in the smooth conduct

said in the face of adversity

the people of Pakistan have

shown remarkable courage

and determination. He said

their resolve in the after-

math of the recent terror-

ism incidents, to participate

in the electoral process, is a

powerful statement against

the forces that seek to de-

stabilize our nation. He said

it underscores our collective

desire for peace, stability

and prosperity. e expressed

the confidence the election

would serve as a harbinger

of a brighter and more pros-

perous future for Pakistan

Cabinet has approved open

bidding for hiring services

of a Category-A firm for the

audit of NADRA. The ap-

proval was accorded in a

meeting of federal cabinet

held in Islamabad Friday,

with Caretaker Prime Min-

ister Anwaar ul Ha Kakar

in the chair. The decision has

been made to make

NADRA's audit more effi-

cient, transparent and at par

with international standards

by providing equal oppor-

tunity to all audit firms reg-

istered with the State Bank

of Pakistan in Category A.

proved renaming the

Pakistan' project as 'Na-

tional Computer Emer-

gency Response Team

(NCERT).

Cyber Security for Digital

The cabinet also ap-

Moreover the Federal

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

of the elections.

In conclusion, Senator

In addition to TTP and

country persists.

In this regard, Senator Aziz reaffirmed Pakistan's full support and solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters in these tragic times.

"How much more blood, starvation, brutality and misery the world has to witness before we can come to a ceasefire and a reduction in the suffering of Palestinians in general, he asked.

Senator Aziz also drew the attention of the gathering to the denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu & Kashmir where over 100,000 people have been martyred in their freedom struggle.

The Kashmir tragedy, he said, has intensified after the unilateral measures taken by India on the 5th of August 2019.



dressing a press conference at his office, in the Federal Capital.

Meeting on WB's Punjab **Family Planning** Programme held

LAHORE (APP): Punjab tion growth. This World Population Welfare Secretary Salman Ijaz chaired a crucial meeting related to the World Bank's Punjab Planning

Programme, here on Friday. Director General (DG) Population and Punjab Population Innovation Fund (PPIF) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Saman Rai, Additional Secretary (A& F) Ahmed Usman, Additional Secretary (Tech) Dr. Naila Altaf, Director (A&F) Muhammad Shahid Nusrat, Director (Technology) Dr. Zubdah Riaz and PPIF Chief Finance Officer Abdul Qayyum and other representatives attended

the meeting. Addressing the meeting, the secretary said that Punjab province is home to more than half of the country's population. This World Bank program is based on improving the means and use of family planning to reduce popula- to family planning services.

Bank programme is providing free access to quality family planning services to the people of Punjab and institutionalizing quality of care in family planning services. He said that the delivery system focuses on creating awareness among the people and providing better health-related facilities to make more families aware of the benefits of family planning. Secretary Population Welfare added that the World Bank programme would help in scaling up innovations like clinical franchising, voucher schemes, and family planning counseling through community leaders. He said that this program has been piloted in different districts of Punjab and the results of family planning are improving. The program is being extended to remote areas and communities where there is limited or no access

Five day polio eradication drive to begin in AJK

will begin in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), on

According to official sources, anti-polio campaign will continue till March 01, 2024, and during the drive, various teams would administer polio drops to a large number of

The drive will cover 10 districts of the AJK, Department

Giving details, the health authorities said that in Muzaffarabad, more than 1.20 lakh children up to five years of age would be provided polio vac-

At least 3995 mobile teams of para-medical staff have been assigned duties to visit door-to-door to administer polio vaccine to the children of five years of age, to protect them from the crippling disease.

Regional countries want peace, stability in Afghanistan: PM ISLAMABAD (APP): ghanistan and Pakistan. (APP): ghanistan and Pakistan.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar om Friday said that all countries of the region, including Russia and China, wanted peace, security and stability in Afghanistan.

In an exclusive interview with TOLO news, he said that the recognition of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan needed regional consensus. Until the countries of

the region and the world recognized the current government of Afghanistan, Pakistan would not take a step forward in that regard, he "I personally believe

that all the countries in the region want the Afghan government to get recognized, although I cannot talk about the exact time, regional countries have understood this. I believe that the issue of recognition will be resolved as time passes.'

The prime minister said the Durand Line was an internationally recognized border between Af-

"The UN and 206 countries have approved this as an international border and what the Afghan people say about this is their internal discussion, in which I am not interested."

He said the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had shelter in some provinces of Afghanistan and that issue had caused insecurity in Pakistan.

"When my people come to your soil, use it, train on it, and then come and harm my people, then I will definitely be telling you that my unpleasant brother is on your soil, no matter if by your permission or not, he must be expelled from your soil," he

"This is Pakistan's stance and we have not accused the Afghan government of intentionally sheltering these people," the prime minister said.

He said that no nation would be permitted to utilize Pakistan's airspace against Afghanistan.



MULTAN: Pakistan People's Party candidates from NA-148, Multan-I, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, NA-151, Multan-IV, Syed Ali Musa Gilani, and PP-213, Syed Ali Haider Gilani gesture to the supporters after winning their constituencies in the General Election according to unofficial results.

Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase by 3.63% in 6 months Meanwhile, on

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 3.63 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at US \$260.716 million during July-December (2023-24) against exports of US \$251.580 million during July-December (2022-23), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan decreased by 26.83 per cent from \$38.297 million lion in December 2023.

month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan also witnessed a decline of 46.02 per cent during December 2023 as compared to the exports of \$51.911 million in November 2023 the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's ex-

ports to other countries witnessed an increase of 4.99 per cent in the first six months, from US \$14.222 billion to US \$15.288 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the

imports from Afghanistan into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$4.425 million against US \$13.253 million last year, in December 2022, against the exports of \$28.019 milber (2023-24).

ICCI, FPCCI for joint efforts to address key issues of businessmen

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari called on President Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh here on Friday and discussed with him the ways and means to work closely to address the key issues of the business community. Speaking on the occasion, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the business community was the backbone of the economy and FPCCI would take all possible measures to resolve their issues and facilitate them in business development. He said that the FPCCI would work with the newly elected government to address the economic challenges, tackle the issue of rising inflation, reduce high policy interest rate, improve exports, enhance forex reserves, and revive the economy. The FPCCI President

said that he would take all chambers of commerce and trade associations on board

ISLAMABAD (INP): on important matters of the economy to present a consensus voice of the business community to the government. He said that he would work closely with the newly elected government to promote ease of doing business in the country and improve the economy.

Atif Akram Sheikh said

that ICCI was doing good

work for the business community and he would always cooperate with it in efforts to promote a business-friendly environment and facilitate the better growth of trade and industry. Speaking during the meeting, ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the economy of Pakistan was facing multiple challenges and the President FPCCI should cooperate with the newly elected government to steer the country out of economic crisis and put it on the path of sustainable economic development. He said that Pakistan has good potential to boost exports of IT, pharmaceutical, tex-

tiles, and other sectors.

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS, Divisional Office, Quetta CORRIGENDUM

In part modification of this office sealed bid Auction Notice of 63 Nos. old Shops at Joint Road Station Road Quetta & one shop at Kuchlak, published on 27.1.2024, in Daily JUNG Quetta, and other newspapers, the auction of 44+18 (63) old shops was scheduled to be held on 19.02.2024 to 20.2.2024, is hereby cancelled due to administrative reason and now the same is rescheduled to be held on 18.3.2024 to

Besides above, auction of 08 Nos. New shops, Car parking, Agriculture plots and Nursery plot will be held as per given dates in previous auction Notice dated 27.01.2024. All terms & conditions will remain same.

(MEHTAB AHMED) PID(Q)241/23

DEN-I For Divisional Superintendent PAK Railways, Quetta

Similarly, Malik Naeem Bazai of Awami

Continued from page 1 III, PB-44, Quetta-VII and PB-45, Quetta VIII respectively.

Ábdul Samad Khan grabbed 9,925 votes against HDP's Qadir Ali who got 5,588 votes. Ubaidullah Khan and

Ali Madad Jatak secured 7,125 and 5,671 votes respectively. Three independent candidates including Bakht Muhammad, Muhammad Noorzai and Liaquat Ali won the seats

of PB-39, Quetta-II and

PB-41, Quetta IV and PB-

43, Quetta-VI respec-

tively. They got 6,618 and

9,318 votes respectively.

PPP clinches three BA....

National Party (ANP) and Prince Agha Umar Ahmedzai of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Zarak Khan Mandokhail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) remained successful on the seats of provincial assembly including PB-38, Quetta-I, PB-42, Quetta-V and PB-46, Quetta-IX respectively.

Malik Naeem grabbed

7,792 votes and Prince

Agha Umar Ahmedzai

PML-N obtained 10,423

It may be mentioned here that Malik Naeem Bazai has retained the seat of provincial assembly in the Elections 2024.

All remaining others including Muhammad, Abdul Samad Khan, Wali Muhammad. Ubaidullah, Agha Umar Ahmedzai, Liaquat Ali and Zarak Khan Mandokhail have their made way into the provincial assembly for the first time.

Ali Madad Jatak has also served as the Member secured 4,638 votes. Provincial Assembly be-Zarak Mandokhail of fore.

on Feb 26

MIRPUR (APP): A five-day polio eradication drive day. February 26.

children below five years of age

cines.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Election reflections

Lacklustre from the beginning, the exercise concluded with a whimper last evening. Amidst limited reporting due to the suspension of communication services, there were some reports of delays in the polling process and various violations of rules and the election code of conduct.

Thankfully, though, no major incidents of violence were reported and voting seems to have concluded in most places smoothly and uneventfully. It seems that all that remains now is the counting of votes and declaration of winners. As results trickle in overnight, we will learn how many chose to exercise their right to franchise on this historic occasion.

Till a clearer picture emerges, some reflections on the exercise: These elections had been critical for Pakistan for various important reasons. The country is mired in unprecedented economic and social challenges, which cannot be solved except by a stable government that enjoys strong public support for its decisions. Given its dependence on international assistance, it is also important for it to stabilise socially so that lenders and investors can feel safe about their decisions. With so many different forces pulling the country at its seams, it was almost good luck that a general election became due last year. All that was needed was for the ECP to let candidates campaign without restrictions, prepare the grounds for a clean and non-controversial contest, assist the country's adult population in freely exercising their right to self-determination, conduct a transparent count of their ballots, and quietly and respectfully bow out.

As history will bear witness, it failed on almost all of those counts. From repeatedly delaying the elections on one pretext or the other to failing to protect the legitimacy of its last act, it betrayed its mandate by organising an exercise that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. It is difficult not to be disappointed: given the number of times the ECP hid behind the Constitution's 'free and fair' condition to justify putting them off 'till it was ready', one would have imagined the exercise, whenever it was eventually held, would be

largely irreproachable. Of course, the blame does not lie with the ECP alone. The caretaker government and the entire machinery of the state are equally culpable in robbing it of its sanctity. Their actions worsened political polarisation, and they did not know when to stop. As a result, the exercise was doomed to controversy well before it began. It already seems clear that it will not provide any closure for the country's political crisis. Crisis and instability will likely continue to plague the nation, with dissent kept in check through the use of fear tactics. It is a shame that such a momentous opportunity has been so carelessly lost.

Collecting dust

Aman Rehan

Saturday February 10, 2024

One cannot deny the prominence artificial intelligence has gained with innovative uses in the political sphere such as using AI to clone the voice of Imran Khan, who addressed a virtual PTI jalsa from Adiala jail. Activist Usama Khilji recognises the possible use of AI to circumvent political crackdowns but also warns of the "potential abuse" of AI technology, which could lead to misinformation and manipulation of elections. Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi has previously stated that Pakistan recognises the "dual nature" of AI: while equitable and fair access to these new technologies is encouraged, there is concern regarding AI's unregulated military uses.

Internationally, AI commands the attention of both the public and private sectors — with almost daily updates in legislative instruments, knowledge, and content. Last Friday, 27 countries of the European Union unanimously approved the Artificial Intelligence the cart seems to be Act. The EU AI Act is widely described as the world's first comprehensive law that regulates AI based on its capacity to cause harm. Closer to home, China is noted by some to have initiated the global movement to regulate AI when it introduced its Generative AI guidelines last year.

So where does Pakistan stand on the AI front? The Ministry of IT & Telecom intropolicy in May 2023. The localisation' by the proposed policy is part PDPB could hamper proposed policy is part of the ministry's Digital Pakistan vision that

for AI, such as its ethical and responsible use. For instance, the 'triplehelix' partnership between the research community, industry and government is similar to Singapore's national AI policy. Singapore was one of the first countries

to introduce a national

strategy.

While the draft AI policy sets the foundation for AI transformation in Pakistan, there is room for improvement. Take, for example, the lack of emphasis on ethical and transparent AI systems. In this regard, one can turn to the 'Artificial Intelligence Risk M a n a g e m e n t Frame-work' introduced by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology. Aiming to govern AI systems and mitigate risks, the framework promotes "trustworthy" AI systems, comprised of characteristics such explainability, resilience,

An effective AI policy should ideally emphasise concepts of data quality and data privacy. Unfortunately, placed before the horse.

and data privacy.

The AI policy proposes an AI directorate to be constituted under a 'National Commission for Personal Data Protection'. However, the NCPDP is to be established under the Personal Data Protection Bill which is still pending approval by the National Assembly. While the draft AI policy encourages international and bilateral cooperation for AI development, duced a draft national AI the emphasis on 'data

aims to produce an clude the establishment overarching develop- of a robust regulatory mental agenda" to pro- framework, a 'National mote the adoption of AI AI Fund', and 'centres efficiently and responsi- of excellence' in AI that Dawn

cross-border data flows.

bly. The draft aligns with will serve as AI innovacertain global standards tion hubs. Naturally, these endeavours cannot be viable unless sufficient infrastructure, resources and funds are available. Rather than being a passive regulator, the government of Pakistan will have to actively enable the effective implementation of the AI policy. For example, Singapore's AI policy states that it had allocated 500 million Singaporean dollars through AI Singapore under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 and 2025 plans.

Any attempt at AI regulation needs to be more than a hurried response to a global trend and should consider the situation on the ground. The Digital Rights Foundation has stated that the draft AI policy should be human-rights centric. Additionally, the Islamabad Policy Research Institute found that there is "insufficient and controlled" availability of data, which can hamper implementation in different sectors (such as education, climate, and agriculture). The most recurring critique is the absence of any mention of diver-

sity and inclusion. The draft AI policy was to be finalised by December last year. However, like the PDPB, the proposed AI policy seems to be collecting dust. Contrary to international best practices, the draft AI policy was released without a period of consultation. Since then, critique from those at home and inspiration from those abroad can be used by the incoming government to regulate AI effectively.

Hopefully, in its final version, the AI Other proposals in- policy won't just be as journalist Mutaher Khan puts it — a piece of paper to "serve samosas". -- Courtesy

Whither Karachi?

Zubeida Mustafa

was expected, Karachi was at the centre of all speeches at the event organised by the Theosophical Society to celebrate the 134th birth anniversary of the first mayor city's Jamshed Nusserwanjee. It warmed my heart to about Nusserwanjee's vices to the people of Karachi. What emerged was that we owe a lot to the non-Muslim communities for making the city what it became — a clean, elegant and liveable place with the biggest concentration of educational institutes, health facilities and economic activities.

Speaker speaker admitted that the city had lost its greatness. The current mayor, Murtaza Wahab, conceded his failure by informing the audience that he often had to cover Nusserwanjee's bust in his office with a piece of cloth so that all the evils that have visited Karachi were not visible to his august pre-At the event, there

was a lot of talk about the need for people to tion has created a diverhave a sense of ownership of and belonging to the city. Along with this, there was much mention of the compassion that Mr Nusserwanjee and mals that coexisted with the men and women.

The question that needs to be asked is what caused these feelings to vanish. There is a point of view that the main factor responsible for why no one owns Karachi or has a sense revenues the Pakistani of belonging to it is the composition of its population, Karachi has become primarily a city of to make a living and go home to be buried when they die. Karachi is like

tent that it serves the as it was many years purpose of those who ago? The most plausible come here. Hence it is reand not a home.

However, another opinion differs saying that Karachi has always been a migrants' city since it was described as such in the Gazetteer of 1941 that the British administrators wrote after translates into confustudying the area under sion, irksome issues that their jurisdiction. This make day-to-day living has always been the a challenge, the breakcase as is indicated by the fact that the city's population has grown the people. Who benby leaps and bounds efits from this state of and much faster than affairs? Those who do what the natural birth rate would account for. This migration has made Karachi a cosmopolitan city. That did not prevent the development of the city when the city fathers wanted it. Those of us who have lived in that be and the result-Karachi for decades have been witness to this jerky growth. Thus the city's population jumped from 434,887 in 1941 to 1,137,667 in 1951 after the influx of migrants from India. Again there was a massive increase in the population from 9,802,134 in 1998 to 16 million in 2017.

sity that has enriched the city's culture and made the people versatile and tolerant of is no doubt that these esting, more creative intellectually and technologically as well as economically productive, near and far. No wonder Karachi is said to generate 56 per cent of the government collects from all over the country, while 50pc of national export earnings of Sindh comes from Karachi.

What then stops that is valued to the ex- making the city liveable tesy Dawn

reason for the decline in garded as a workplace Karachi's fortunes is no doubt the politicisation of the administration of the city, combined with mismanagement, poor planning, and corruption. This has cumulatively led to the neglect of the city. This neglect down of law and order, and divisions among not want Karachi to emerge as a powerful political force as it was before Ayub Khan shifted the capital from Karachi to Islamabad Thereafter, constant meddling by the powers ant polarisation of public opinion in the city has made Karachi ungovernable, leaving no room for the planned de-

velopment of the city.

In such circumstances, it is inevitable that corrupt and exploitative forces step in to fill the vacuum. The rich use their wealth to provide for their own needs, while the poor suffer as their needs go unattended. They do not receive even the compassion that animals were multiculturalism. There shown in days of yore. This intensification of inhis ilk had shown to ani- characteristics have equality and poverty has made Karachi more inter- made Karachi insecure, unstable and a difficult megacity to live in. Infighting at the national level is also reflected at attracting people from the city level. After all, the present incumbent in the mayor's office did not have smooth sailing at the hustings. What yesterday's national elections have in store for Karachi, we shall soon know. It is a pity that this migrants who come here and 96pc of the sales tax city had becomes a bone of contention because of its potential to emerge as a modern and cosmopolithe proverbial milch cow Karachi's rulers from tan metropolis. -- Cour-

International News

Saudi Arabia rules out ties unless Israel accepts two-state solution

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has told the United States it will not open diplomatic relations with Israel unless an independent Palestinian state is recognised on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, its foreign ministry.

Riyadh reiterated its call for permanent members of the UN Security Council that have not recognised a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital to do so, a ministry statement said

It was referring to a state the Palestinians have long sought to establish alongside Israel in territories Israel occupied in a including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The statement added that "Israeli aggression" against the Gaza Strip must also stop and Israeli forces must withdraw from the

The United States had led months of diplomacy to get Saudi Arabia to normalise ties with Israel and recognise the country until the Gaza crisis began in October, leading Riyadh to shelve the matter in the face of Arab anger over Israel's offensive.

This news agency reported last week that Saudi Arabia would be willing to accept a political commitment from Israel to create a

1967 war: the West Bank Palestinian state, rather than anything more binding, to try to get a defence pact with Washington approved before this year's US presi-

dential election US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is touring the region, said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had "reiterated Saudi Arabia's strong internormalisation when they met this week.

"But he also made clear what he had said to me before, which is that in order to do that two things are required: an end to the conflict in Gaza and a clear, credible, time-bound path to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Ukraine claims it shot down a Russian attack helicopter in fierce street battle for Avdiivka city **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Ukrainian forces claimed to have shot down a Russian attack helicopter in eastern Ukraine near the city of Avdiivka, where soldiers are fighting from street to street as Russia's army steps up its fourmonth campaign to surround Kyiv's defending

troops.
Ukrainian soldiers used a portable anti-aircraft missile to take down the Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopter, one of the Russian air force's deadliest weapons, according to Oleksandr Tarnavskyi, the commander of Ukrainian units fighting on the southeastern front line. The roughly 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) line of contact has shifted little during recent months of wintry weather. But as the war in Ukraine nears its two-year anniversary, Avdiivka has become 'a primary focus" Moscow's forces, the U.K.



he walks to his office at the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Iraq says US strikes pushing government to end US-led coalition's mission

Monitoring Desk BAGHDAD: Repeated U.S. strikes against Iranbacked armed groups in Iraq are pushing the Baghdad government to end the mission of the U.S.-led coalition in the country, the prime minister's military spokesperson said.

The U.S. military said a strike on Wednesday killed a commander from Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-

troops. Spokesperson Yahya Rasool said in a statement the U.S.-led coalition "has become a factor for instability and threatens to entangle Iraq in the cycle of conflict"

Talks between the two countries began in January over the future of the coalition, but less than 24 hours later three U.S. soldiers were killed in an attack in Jordan that the United States said was carried out by Iran-backed militant

end forcible transfer of Ukrainian children

GENEVA: The UN Com-

Kremlin denies. In a report

Xi urges 'close strategic coordination' with Putin

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's Presi dent Xi Jinping told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the two countries should pursue close strategic coordination and defend the sovereignty, security and development interests of their respective countries, state media said.

During a phone call with Putin on Thursday, Xi said both sides should resolutely oppose interference in internal affairs by external forces, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Yemen's Houthis claim new US, UK strikes

Monitoring Desk HODEIDA: The United States and Britain hit targets in Yemen's Hodeida province, the news agency of Yemen's Houthi rebels reported but there was no immediate comment from Washington or London.

The strikes targeted the Ras Issa area in Suleif, the Saba.net news agency

An employee at a sugar factory in Suleif, who only gave his first name as Alaa, told AFP he heard

two explosions

Landslide in Philippines buries 38 people, two buses Monitoring Desk Mindanao. Of the 38

MANILA: A landslide triggered by heavy rains in a southern Philippine province buried 38 people and two buses, disaster officials

The landslide happened on Tuesday night outside a gold mining site in the town of Maco in the province of Davao de Oro where the buses were picking up employees, mining operator Apex Mining said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear how many passengers were on board the buses.

Those injured, including one in critical condition, were taken to a hospital, Maco town's disaster agency said in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

The disaster agency also issued evacuation orders in five villages in Maco, lo-

people, seven were killed and 31 injured. The landslide on Tuesday night struck Masara in Davao de Oro province on Mindanao island, provincial disaster official Edward Macapili told AFP, destroying houses and engulfing three buses and a jeepney waiting for mine workers. Rescuers were digging through mud to find 48 people reported missing, including at least 20 people trapped inside the vehicles, officials said. At least 28 people were on board the vehicles when the landslide hit, but eight managed to escape unhurt through the windows before the mud engulfed them, Macapili said.

The buses and jeepney had been outside a gold mine operated by the Philippine company Apex Mining where they drop off cated on the island of and pick up workers.

Blinken ends latest Mideast mission after new Israeli snub of proposed Gaza ceasefire plan

Monitoring Desk TEL AVIV: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken left the Middle East with public divisions between the United States and Israel at perhaps their worst level since Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza began in

October.

Wrapping up a four-nation Mideast trip — his fifth to the region since the conflict erupted — Blinken was returning to Washington after getting a virtual slap in the face from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said the war would continue until Israel is completely victorious and appeared to reject outright a response from Hamas to a proposed cease-fire plan. Relations between Israel and its main international ally, the United States, have been tense for months, but Netanyahu's public dismissal of a plan the U.S. says has merit, at

least as a starting point for

further negotiation, highlighted the divide.

Yet Blinken and other U.S. officials said they remained optimistic that progress could be made on their main goals of improving humanitarian conditions for Palestinians civilians, securing the release of hostages held by Hamas, preparing for a post-conflict Gaza and preventing the war from spreading. Of-ficials said Blinken's optimism was based on his first four post-Oct. 7 trips to the Middle East.

None of those visits resulted in immediate visible successes, but they brought limited but significant improvements in the delivery of humanitarian aid and a weeklong cease-fire in November in which scores of hostages were released.

'Clearly there are things that Hamas sent back that are absolute non-starters

region which was hit by landslides. North Korea scraps all economic cooperation with South Korea

TAGUM (Philippines): Soldiers transfer an injured

person to a hospital after evacuation from Maco

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly has voted to scrap all agreements with South Korea on promoting economic cooperation, the North's official KCNA news agency reported, as the two Koreas' ties continue to

deteriorate. The assembly, which takes formal steps to adopt policy decisions of the ruling Workers' Party, also voted to abolish laws governing economic ties with Seoul, including the special

law on the operation of the Mount Kumgang tourism

The tours to the scenic mountain just north of the eastern border were a symbol of economic cooperation that began during a period of engagement between the two Koreas in early 2000s, drawing nearly 2 million South Korean visitors.

The project was suspended in 2008 after a South Korean tourist who strayed into a restricted zone was shot and killed by North Korean guards

Defense Ministry said in an assessment

backed armed group in Iraq that the Pentagon has groups in Syria. **UN urges Russia to**

Monitoring Desk

mittee on the Rights of the Child urged Russia to end the forcible transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine in violation of international law and return them to their families. Kyiv says 20,000 children have been taken from Ukraine to Russia without family or guardians' consent, and the International Criminal Court (ICC) is seeking the arrest of Russian President Vladimir Putin for alleged illegal deportation, an accusation the on Russia, the UN committee said Moscow should provide information about the precise number of children taken from Ukraine and their whereabouts, so they can be identified and returned. Moscow, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, has rejected the accusations, saying it has merely been protecting vulnerable children from a war zone. The committee also said Russia should ensure that no child was deprived of their Ukrainian nationality

Pakistan seeks UN intervention to save India's Islamic sites after razing of 2nd historic mosque

(APP): Pakistan has drawn United Nations' attention to last week's "brazen" demolition of the centuriesold Akhonji mosque in New Delhi, and call for the organization's intervention to protect Islamic sites in

"This incident marks another highly disturbing chapter in an alarming campaign targeting Islamic sites and heritage in India, which symbolizes a concerning Hindumajoritarianism," Ambassador Munir Akram said in a letter addressed to the top official for the U.N. Alli-

NATIONS Moratinos.
The Akhonji mosque, standing for over 800 years, was abruptly demolished by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials in the middle of the night under a significant police presence, catching the local community, mosque-goers, and

envoy pointed out. The letter said: "Several mosques and shrines, have already been razed under the garb of different administrative measures or online, Imam Zakir judicial processes, and Hussain, the spiritual leader administrative measures or many more remain at a high ance of Civilizations risk of being demolished. (UNAOC), Miguel Angel Muslim holy sites also re-

tirely off guard without any

prior warning, the Pakistani

main a target of attacks by crucial dual role as both a the mobs of extremists.

'The State's support for normalizing such incidents in India poses imminent threats to the well-being of Indian Muslims across social, economic, and political spheres. The pervasive influence of the Madressah students en-'Hindutva' ideology, alongside alarming incidents of Islamophobia and the demolition of historic mosques, calls for immediate and unwavering interna-

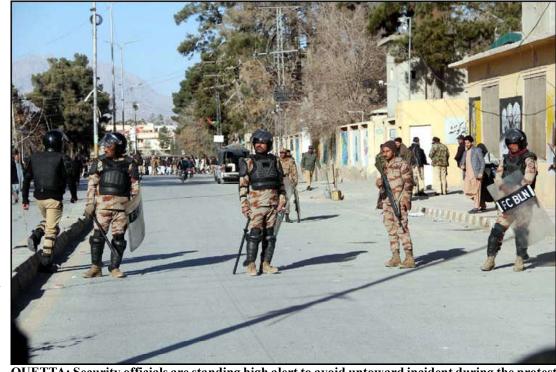
tional attention.

In a video surfaced of the Akhonji mosque, conveyed deep sorrow for the loss. He emphasized its

place of worship and a Madressah for students, as well as housing the sacred resting place of revered fig-

"The construction and consecration of the 'Ram Temple' at the site of the demolished Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, followed by the recent incident at the Akhonji mosque, underlines the critical need for the swift implementation of the Secretary-General's Action Plan on the Protection of Religious Sites.

'We request you to accelerate efforts to address this urgent matter, ensuring the safeguarding of religious sites in India



QUETTA: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the protest demonstration different political party against rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office.

LAHORE: Senior leader of PPP Sherry Rehman addressing a press

Shoaib Shaheen asks EC to direct RO to release result of NA-47 as per form-45

ISLAMABAD (Online): installed outside RO office PTI backed candidate Shoaib Shaheen from NA-47 Islamabad has filed application in Election Commission (EC) for issuance of orders to Returning Officer (RO) to release result of election in NA-47 as per

It has been said in the text of the letter that as per form -45 he has won election in NA-47. The screen form-45.

was switched of all of sudden. We have noticed our results are being changed in favor of Tariq Fazal Chaudhry. He further said I have provided evidence to returning officer but he is fully denying it. I am outside RO office but I am not being allowed to enter into office. RO be issued order to release results as per

AJK PM pays tributes to martyred Dr Afzal Guru

Jammu and Kashmir Prime were never proven in the Minister Chaudhry Anwar court of law, but despite Ul Haq, while paying trib-utes to Shaheed Kashmir awarded capital punishfreedom movement activist Dr Afzal Guru, said that he was a true hero of he was buried on the pre-Kashmiris who played a mises of the notorious jail significant role in the liberation movement.

Terming the execution of a death sentence by India against Guru as the murder of justice, the PM said, "The Indian Supreme Court awarded a death sentence to him to satisfy the collective conscience of Indian society

while paying rich tributes to the martyred Kashmir freedom movement activist on his 11th martyrdom anniversary observed on Fri- achieve their cherished goal day, expressed that charges of freedom.

MIRPUR (APP): Azad levelled against Afzal Guru ment. He further expressed that it was unfortunate that

> soon after his execution. "The Indian authorities didn't hand over the mortal remains of Afzal Guru to his heirs," he said, adding that Afzal Guru's supreme sacrifices would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmiri history

The prime minister Prime Minister Haq, expressed optimism that the day would not be far away when the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir will

Samar Bilour sets high bar by visiting and congrats opponent

ISLAMABAD (APP): team. Awami National Party (ANP) leader Samar Haroon Bilour demonstrated remarkable grace on Friday by visiting and extending heartfelt congratulations to her opponent.

"I maintained the tradition set by my late husband, Haroon Bilour," she

Talking to a private news channel, she expressed that it's a tradition they uphold after every election campaign, regardless of victory or defeat, to visit their opponents first.

Samar, along with her son Daniyal, extended heartfelt congratulations to Meena Khan Afridi and his heavyweights in KP

They were pleased with their workers' efforts and believed that all political workers, whether from their party or opposition, deserved commendation for their role in completing the

She acknowledged the hard work of opposition supporters in her constituency and shared the joy of their success as political

democratic process, she

Samar concluded by sending best wishes to the newly elected representatives for their service to the nation. Independent candidates outclass parties'

Alvi accepts resignation of justice Shahid **Jamil of LHC**

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has accepted resignation of Justice Shahid Jamil of Lahore High Court (LHC).

According to ministry of law, the resignation has been accepted from February 02.

Copy of notification regarding acceptance of the resignation has been sent to secretaries of president and prime minister.

Law ministry has issued formal notification on acceptance of resignation. Copy has been sent to judicial commission of Pa-

kistan, parliamentary committee and registrar LHC. Abbasi says: Leadership should admit history is never kind to selfish politicians

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said the leadership should admit that the history becomes never kind to selfish politicians.

He said in his statement on social website X any attempt to tamper with the public mandate will lead to create chaos.

Hustle and bustle of electoral process has come to end and now it is time to allow country to move to stability, he underlined.

Now the leadership should work together above party politics to steer the country out of challenges facing it, he underlined.

Ishaq Dar says PML-N has emerged as single majority party in NA

ISLAMABAD (Online) Former finance minister and PML-N leader Ishaq Dar has made big claim about PML-N success with reference to election 2024.

Ishaq Dar who is head of PML-N Election cell has said in his tweet "we have collected all data and results in PML-N election cell. PML-N has emerged as single majority party in National Assembly (NA).



against rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office in Quetta.

strategy on development projects | notifying Aun Chaudhry's to attract foreign investment agreements in different sec-Caretaker Prime Minister tors with GCC countries, food security, water, min-

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday directed all the ministries to formulate a strategy within five days for the establishment of the development projects with a potential to attract foreign investment. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the progress on

directed the ministries to present their respective strategies on doable projects to the Special Investment Facilitation Council without any delay, a PM Office press release said.

In the meeting, he was apprised of the progress on the international agreements erals and others. Caretaker ministers

for communications, maritime affairs and railways, law and justice, climate change, finance, energy, and food security attended

Pak envoy, Ugandan deputy All members of **Sharif family** speaker discuss cooperation, win NA seats diaspora's contribution comfortably

ISLAMABAD (APP): he was proud of Pakistanis High Commissioner of Pakistan in Uganda Muhammad Hassan Wazir on Friday met Deputy Speaker of Uganda's Parliament Thomas Tayebwa wherein they discussed bilateral cooperation as well as the contribution of the Pakistani diaspora.

"It was indeed my pleasure meeting your Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa and discussing bilateral cooperation between our two countries," the high commissioner wrote on X.

Thanking Uganda for hosting the Pakistani diaspora, he said that Paki-

for investing in Uganda. Similarly, the Ugandan deputy speaker also took

to X saying that both sides emphasised inter-parliamentary relations. The Pakistani envoy appreciated Uganda's level

of hospitality as a country and congratulated Ugandan President Yoweri K Museveni upon his new role as Chairman of NAM and G77 Plus China and the successful hosting of the two critical summits.

The deputy speaker also appreciated the contribution of the Pakistani community in Uganda tostan and Uganda had great wards the country's develfriendly relations and that opment.



KARACHI: Supporters of Pakistan People's Party gather to celebrate the victory of their candidates in the general election at Chanesar Goth, in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistan talks with IMF is important whatever election results may be: Bloomberg

NEW YORK (Online): Global Journal Bloomberg Asia Frontier Capital fund manager Rocher Desai has said that Pakistan either a majority government is formed in Pakistan or a coalition government Pakistan should stay in bail out pro-

Rocher Desai said this while discussing the general elections in Pakistan.

He held that whatever the election results are, talks with the IMF is important for Pakistan,

He underlined the situation of Pakistan's external rates in Pakistan may dip debt is uncertain and un- in the next 9 to 12 months

Frontier Capital fund manager Rocher Desai says that the government of Pakistan has to make several payments in the next 6 months, Pakistan needs a large long-term debt program, the Pakistan Stock Exchange is a much cheaper market than the global financial crisis. According to Bloomberg's manager, the price-to-earnings ratio of the Pakistani market is at

Manager Desai has said that interest

its lowest level.

Gilani stresses unity to steer country out of economic crises

knowledging the split mandate, MNA-elect Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani urged all stakeholders to come forward for country's economic stability.

The PPP leader ex-

pressed these views while talking to media persons here. The former prime minister also stressed the need for political unity to steer the country out of economic crises.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani hailed the effective campaigning by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Asif Ali Zardari, and Asifa Bhutto which helped the party to win many seats. Upon his and his sons Abdul Qadir, Ali Musa Gillani and Ali Haider Gillani's victory bly seats and one from a provincial assembly seat, he thanked the masses for reposing confidence in the Pakistan People Party. Gilani stated that the public have endorsed PPP's manifesto.

Acknowledging the split mandate, he asked all the stakeholders to come together for the nation's economic stability. Gilani reiterated PPP's commitment to work for the country's prosperity and vowed to tackle the menace of terrorism effectively. He said the PPP had rich experience of coalition government. He also highlighted the sacrifices of the armed forces and stressed the need to support them.

the meeting besides the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission and

ISLAMABAD (INP): All members of the Sharif family won National Assembly seats from Lahore defeating their opponents with a comfortable margin on Fri-

PML-N Quaid and former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif has won the election from a National Assembly seat in Lahore defeating PTIbacked candidate Dr Yasmin Rashid by a huge margin of votes.

Nawab Sharif grabbed 171,024 votes from Lahore's NA-130 while Yasmin Rashid obtained 115,043 votes. The PML-N supremo defeated her by a margin of 55,981 votes.

PML-N President Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif won the election by securing 64,953 votes in Lahore's NA-123 while his rival Afzal Azeem Pahat came second with 48,486

PML-N Senior Vice-President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharifalso won his NA-119 seat by securing 83,855 votes while independent candidate Shahzad Farooq managed only 68,376 votes.

PML-N will form govt in centre, Punjab: Marriyum

LAHORE (Online): PML-N information secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb has claimed PML-N will form government in centre and Puniab and a new era of service to people will start.

She said this in a state-ment on micro blogging website X

She held difficulty was faced in acquiring result due to lack of mobile and internet services.

PML-N position is strong. It may be recalled that earlier PTI leader barrister Ali Zafar had claimed victory of his party.

Four martyred policemen of DI Khan attack laid to rest

DIR LOWER (APP): :The funeral prayer of four policemen martyred in Dera Ismail Khan's terrorist attack was offered at their native villages here on Fri-

The Nimaz-e-Janaza of the martyred Sub-Inspector, Sultan Yousuf was offered at the ancestral village Kambatt in Lal Qilla, while, the funeral prayer of the martyred constable, Muhammad Sabir was held at Amlook Darra, Talash.

The Nimaz-e-Janaza of martyred constable Ali Muhammad was offered in Badwan and the funeral prayer of martyred constable Israr Ahmad was offered at the stral graveyard in Bandagai area of Talash.

District Police Officer, Lower Dir. Ziauddin Ahmad. DSPs Circle, DPS Headquarters, SP Elite Force, police officers, fficials and a large number of the area people.

LHC stops ECP from PM directs ministries to formulate success from NA-128

Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday stopped the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from issuing notification for the success of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) candidate Aun Chaudhry from NA-128 constituency.

The court also stopped implementation on form-47 about the result of the NA-128 constituency. Justice Ali Baqar

Najafi announced the reserved verdict on a petition filed by Salman Akram Raja, an opposite candidate from NA-128 constituency, about the result of NA-128 constituency.

The court had re-

ties, earlier in the day. In the course of arguments, the petitioner's counsel emphasized that the issue pertained to violation of rule, not vote counting. He stressed the necessity of candidates' presence during result compilation as per the Election Act. The questioned counsel whether results could be validated in the candidate's absence and highlighted that results of only 13 polling stations of NA-128 constituency were compiled in their presence.

However, a law officer argued that if the petitioner had any complaint then he should approach



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Leader, Syed Abdul Wahid Agha addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

PPP alleges rigging as Bilawal loses to Tarar in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan rig the elections. Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Sherry Rehman has claimed that election results of Lahore's constituency were manipulated, where party chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari lost polls to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Attaullah Tarar.

As per the unofficial and unconfirmed results, Tarar secured 98,210 votes against PPP's Bilawal who came third with 15,005 votes in NA-127.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Friday, Rehman said the results were changed abruptly while Bilawal was leading in the polls. She said the results were delayed to

Rehman also lamented that mobile and internet services were suspended on the polling day which created difficulties for the voters and candidates during elections. "We know very well what's the real intent behind closing mobile ser-

vices," she added. Her statement comes as election results suffered from inordinate delay with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also raising doubts over the transparency of the elections. PTI-backed independent candidates are currently leading in the elections followed by PML-N and PPP as per the unofficial and uncon-



GILGIT: An attractive view of Naltar Valley covered by fresh snow on the mountains.

Raja Basharat vows to challenge defeat in court

RAWALPINDI (INP): Raja Basharat, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)backed candidate for National Assembly Constituency NA-55, has vehemently contested his electoral defeat, claiming victory by a significant margin of 50,000 votes. In a video statement shared on Twitter (X), Basharat vowed to fight

for his rightful win, asserting that his opponent failed to secure victory from any polling station within NA-55.

Despite presenting Form-45 as evidence, Basharat lamented the Returning Officer's refusal to acknowledge his victory, instead issuing Form-47 to his adversary. He maintained confidence in his claim, stating that he possesses in-

disputable proof of his triumph and decried the alleged rigging as unprecedented.

Expressing concern over the apparent theft of the people's mandate, Basharat urged the Election Commission of Pakistan to intervene promptly. He warned against the excessive declaration of successful candidates as unsuccessful by returning officers, emphasizing the need to uphold electoral integrity.

In the broader context of post-election developments, independent candidates have emerged as the frontrunners in the National Assembly, surpassing established parties like the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).