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## PML-N, PPP agree to cooperate for Pak stability

Leadership of both parties express commitment to putting nation's interest and well-being above everything

LAHORE (Agencies): The leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) held a crucial meeting in Lahore as the elders of both parties principally agreed to cooperate for Pakistan's stability following the general elections.

This understanding between the parties was reached during a high-profile meeting, where top leaders from both parties convened to discuss the current political landscape and chart a course for collaboration.

The meeting, which took place at Lahore's Bilawal House, saw the participation of key figures including PPP President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, and former prime minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif of the PML-N.

According to a joint statement, the meeting, held in a cordial environment, expressed commitment to putting

the nation's interest and well-being above everything.

The leaders of both parties engaged in substantive discussions regarding the prevailing political landscape and the imperative of collaborative efforts for the betterment of the country.

Reflecting a spirit of consensus-building, the leaders acknowledged the importance of establishing a framework for sustained political cooperation between the PML-N and PPP, laying the groundwork for a stronger, more united approach to addressing the challenges facing the nation.

The statement added that key points of discussion included the assessment of Pakistan's overall situation, deliberations on future political strategies, and the exchange of recommendations aimed at promoting stability and progress across the board.



LAHORE: President PML (N) Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meeting with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.



QUETTA: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are burning tires and blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, at Syed Hameed Crossing Bridge located on Qila Abdullah area of Balochistan.

Elections-2024:

## Independents grab 101 NA seats

PML-N emerges as largest party with 75 seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent candidates have emerged as the front-runners with winning 101 National Assembly seats in the General Election 2024 held on February 8.

The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) becomes the single largest party in the NA by grabbing 75 constituencies, according to the unofficial results of 264 out of 266 constituencies announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) has secured 54 seats, and Muttahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) 17 seats.

The Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) has managed to win four, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) three, and the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Balochistan National Party (BNP) two seats each.

The Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan, Pakhtunkhwa National

Awami Party, Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (BAP), National Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Zia (PML-Z) have won one seat each.

Elections for an NA general seat (NA-8) were postponed due to the death of a candidate, while the results of NA-88 were not announced as re-polling would be conducted at 15 out of 25 polling stations on February 15. In the Punjab Assembly, out of 297 seats, independents secured 138, PML-N 137, PPP 10, PML eight, and IPP, PML-Z, and Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan one each, while the election for PP-266 Rahim Yar Khan could not be conducted due to a candidate's death.

With the results of one of the 130 Sindh Assembly seats withheld due to re-polling at certain polling stations, the PPP leads the chart by winning 84 seats, followed by the MQM-P with 28, independent candidates also grabbed six seats.

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan two each.

In the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, independent candidates have grabbed 90 seats out of 112 constituencies whose results have been declared. The JUI-P secured seven seats, PML-N five, PPP four, JI-P three, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian two and Awami National Party one.

Elections in two out of total 115 KP Assembly constituencies have been postponed due to the death of candidates, while the result of one was withheld due to vandalism. In the Balochistan Assembly, the PPP and the JUI-P lead the tally with 11 seats each, followed by PML-N with 10, Balochistan Awami Party four, National Party three, Awami National Party two, and Balochistan National Party, Balochistan National Party (Awami), Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan and JI-P one each. Independent candidates also grabbed six seats.

Six people including an ASI killed in firing between two groups in Larkana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Six people were killed and five injured on Sunday in a firing incident between two groups near Nodero Bypass Larkana. According to the private news channel, a fight between two groups over the issue of voting in Larkana's Nodero turned into violence, with firing and indiscriminate use of sticks by both groups.

According to the police, as soon as the incident was reported, the Mahota police officers arrived at the scene. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Sultan Shah was shot dead, whereas, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Bashir Ahmed Sharad and Constable Saddam Hussain were among the injured.



LAHORE: Police officials are arresting the workers of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) who came to protest against rigging in General Election 2024, at Liberty Chowk in Lahore.

## Elections made mockery in Balochistan, says Maulana Haideri

Independent Report

QUETTA. The Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has stated that the general elections of February 8 have been made mockery in Balochistan.

What a mockery and confusing situation is that in morning one is declared winner and then the other one is declared winner in the evening.

The senior leader of JUI-F was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at his residence here on Sunday.

Also present on the occasion were other senior leaders of the Jamiat.

He said that the central Ameer of JUI Maulana Fazalur Rehman has sum-

moned the meeting of central body on February 14 to review the situation and future course of action.

He alleged that we were defeated in the constituencies at Balochistan level, what might not had happened in 2018 elections even, he added.

He said he got success in the elections from NA-261. He claimed that polling was not held in seven polling stations in area of Johan in Kalat.

While on the other hand, the victory of JUI-F candidate Saeed Langove was also converted in defeat from PB-36 Kalat.

He demanded of the Election Commission to conduct re-polling in seven polling stations of Johan area.

## Sardar Akhtar Mengal succeeds on two seats: PML-N wins highest four seats of NA from Balochistan

Jamal Shah Kakar, Jam Kamal Khan, Khan Muhammad Jamali & Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasar win seats on PML-N tickets; PPP's Jamal Raisani & Malik Shah as well as JUI-F's Maulana Fazalur Rehman & Usman Badini secure NA seats

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has won the highest number of seats of National Assembly from Balochistan province in the General Elections 2024.

According to the unofficial results of the provincial and National Assemblies seats shared by the Provincial Election Commissioner's spokesman on Sunday, PML-N won four seats of National Assembly from the province.

While Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and Balochistan National

Party (BNP) won two seats of National Assembly each from the province.

Two seats of National Assembly were secured by the independent candidates while one seat each was obtained by Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Pakistan National Pashtoonkhwa (PNAP) and National Party (NP).

The PML-N nominated candidates who won the NA seats from Balochistan are included: Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasar (NA-252), Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali (NA-

Continued on page 2

## President lauds high female voter turnout in general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday congratulated people on taking part in the voting process during the general elections.

In a statement on X, he said he must congratulate the people of Pakistan, specially the women for coming out in huge numbers and strengthening democracy.

"The youth deserve a special mention, and I praise them for having decided to take charge of the country by participating peacefully in the voting process. They have put their faith in democracy. This belief is very precious, it will write history and must be recognized," he added.

He said, "A true mandate is essential to come out of the severe financial

crunch, to make difficult decisions, to repair, and to heal the bitterness of the past. We must celebrate this effervescent new focus and show it to the outside world."

"My confidence in our brilliant future has been strengthened as the people have not only spoken but have shouted out their will."

"Nothing can crystallise unless this huge mandate of my citizens is respected and recognized. Politicians, their parties, and our institutions must embrace this God sent opportunity. Allah is definitely very gracious to Pakistan. Come rise my people, unite, put everything together, repair and build. The world awaits you," he concluded.

## U.S lawmakers tell Biden not to accept Pakistan election results

WASHINGTON (INP): Both Democratic and Republican politicians in the United States have urged President Biden not to accept Pakistan election results until the investigation of alleged regularities.

Claims of interference or fraud should be fully investigated "a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department stated in a statement, voiced worries on the interference in the election process.

"We join credible international and local election

observers in their assessment that these elections included undue restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly," the statement said.

Congressman Brad Sherman, a prominent member of the influential House of Foreign Affairs Committee stated that "press organizations in Pakistan ought to have liberty to disclose vote tallying and there should not be any needless postponement in declaring the outcome".

## We have to protect country, democracy & institutions: Interim Govt. foiled agenda of country's enemies about keeping it away from democracy, asserts Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister for Information urges losing candidates to accept election results demonstrating sportsman spirit; relevant forum may be approached if anyone has objection

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that the state and interim government has foiled the agenda of Pakistan's enemies regarding keeping the country away from democracy by conducting general elections.

The nation, Pak army, Police, paramilitary forces, Election Commission, administration and all other institutions deserve appreciation on this historic success, maintained the caretaker Minister while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Civil Secretariat on Sunday morning.

Jan Achakzai expressed the hope that the

winning candidates would try to come up to the expectations of general elections. At the same time, he also urged those could not succeed in the elections to accept the results of elections demonstrating sportsman spirit.

However, if any of them have objections on the results, one can contact the relevant forums, adding he pleaded.

The Minister Information said that it is the enemies' agenda to suffer the country from chaos and lawlessness. He said that taking law into hands in simplicity and ignorance is nothing but tantamount to play in hands of the enemies. He said that we know that some elements are running on agenda of the enemies by fanning the

flames in the situation and adding he termed them the "Raw" agents.

He feared that some simple people would also come in the tricks of these elements. However, we want to tell them they would be equally responsible for if their act harmed democracy in the country, Jan Achakzai warned.

He said that we have to protect the country, democracy and democratic institutions.

To a query about delay in results of some constituencies of the province, the Minister maintained that the delay in results was caused mainly due to the play in areas and logistic issues. He said that results of elections are declared late because of the logistic issues.



PESHAWAR: President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan along with other party leaders addressing a Press conference at Bacha Khan Markaz.

## People of Balochistan take keen interest in elections: Domki

QUETTA (INP): Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has said people of Balochistan took keen interest in the elections and exercised their right of vote.

In a statement, he said people of Balochistan have elected their representatives through free, fair and transparent elections, which were held on time despite the challenges.

He expressed hope that newly-elected Members of Provincial Assembly and National Assembly will play their role to put the province on the path of progress and prosperity.

## Malicious propaganda about Pakistan Army stands exposed

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The fabricated and malicious propaganda related to the army deployment on election duty has been exposed.

According to the details, some miscreant political elements are misguiding their supporters for political gains and after inciting the security troops, deployed for elections duty, recording videos of riots and anti-army propaganda on social media.

Similarly, from the Elections Day till today, various anonymous propaganda accounts have been

creating chaos and agitation in the country. By spreading lies, propaganda and disinformation, these anti-national elements aim to create chaos and instability in Pakistan.

Absconder YouTubers, sitting outside the country, are leading this anti-Pakistan and disinformation campaign. Such malicious elements who are engaged in this propaganda on social media are being identified and the relevant institutions have started work to take strict disciplinary action against them as per the law.

## Daesh ring leader killed in Khyber operation: ISPR

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Sunday killed a high-profile terrorist ring leader, associated with the banned extremist organization Daesh, in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Khyber District. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the security forces conducted the operation in the Khyber District on the reported presence of terrorist Surat Gul alias Saif Ullah of Daesh, who was killed during an intense exchange of fire. Weapons, ammunition

and explosives were recovered from the killed terrorist commander, who remained actively involved in terror activities, including target killing of innocent civilians as well as extortion. He was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support for the security forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the ISPR said.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan National Party holding a protest against alleged rigging in the general elections.



## Australia beat India to win ICC U19 World Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Australia defeated India by 79 runs in the final of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024.

Opting to bat first, Australia put up a commendable total of 253 for seven, leaving India with the daunting task of chasing the highest target ever set in a youth World Cup final.

Despite their valiant efforts, Uday Saharan's team faltered in their pursuit of glory, ultimately succumbing to a total of 174 all out.

The Australian bowlers, spearheaded by the fiery Mahli Beardman (3/15) and the cunning off-spinner Raf MacMillan (3/43), kept the pressure on relentlessly, denying India any room to maneuver.

This victory marked Australia's fourth U19 title and their first since 2010, effectively avenging their losses to India in the 2012 and 2018 title matches.

Over the last 12 months, Australia have won three major ICC trophies, which include the

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 in addition to the aforementioned titles.

On the other hand, India have won the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup on five previous occasions.

India dominated their group and Super Six encounters with commanding victories over Bangladesh, Ireland, and the USA that helped them secure the pole position in Group A. Musheer Khan and Uday Saharan starred with the bat in the group stage, whereas Naman Tiwari and Saumy Pandey stood out with the ball.

For Hugh Weibgen's Australia, different players have come to the fore at different stages of the tournament. Weibgen, Callum Vidler, Harry Dixon, Harkirat Bajwa, and Ryan Hicks stood out during the group stage, where the side showed varying levels of dominance in wins over Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Sri Lanka.

In the Super Six stage, Weibgen's sensational century against rivals England set the tone for a dominant win in

Kimberley. Sam Konstas contributed with a hundred in the next game against West Indies, which helped Australia to a competitive total. However, persistent rain forced the match to be called off. On the back of this undefeated run, Australia reached the semi-finals as Group 2 toppers.

In the semi-finals against Pakistan, Australia's batting faltered yet again after Tom Straker's six-wicket haul had put them on top. Digging deep, they managed to scrape through by one wicket in the final over of the game.

Australia's Harry Dixon, Sam Konstas, Hugh Weibgen, Harjas Singh, Ryan Hicks (wk), Ollie Peake, Tom Campbell, Raf MacMillan, Tom Straker, Mahli Beardman, Callum Vidler

India's Adarsh Singh, Arshin Kulkarni, Musheer Khan, Uday Saharan, Priyanshu Moliya, Sachin Dhas, Aravelly Avaneesh (wk), Murugan Abhishek, Naman Tiwari, Raj Limbani, Saumy Pandey.



Australia Under-19 team pose for a photograph with the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 trophy after beating India in the final

## PML-N, MQM agree to move forward together in interest of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) have agreed to move forward together in the interest of the country and the nation.

Leaderships of both the political parties agreed on the basic points during a meeting between the delegations of the two parties in Lahore today.

PML-N delegation was led by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, whereas Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui led the MQM delegation.

From PML-N, the delegation included President Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, Ayaz Sadiq, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Maryam Aurangzeb and Rana Mashhood.

The MQM delegation included Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Dr. Farooq

Sattar and Mustafa Kamal. The consultation process between the leaders of both the parties continued for almost an hour and detailed discussions were held on the current political situation.

Meanwhile, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said in a post on X, that there was an agreement in principle on the basic points that both the parties will move ahead together in the interest of the country and the nation.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif from Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui from MQM led the delegation. In the meeting, there was a detailed consultation on the situation and suggestions were exchanged.

The leaders also confided in each other regarding the overall political situation and the contacts made so far.

## Political parties take to streets against 'rigging' in general elections

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam protested across the country against alleged rigging in the Feb 8 elections.

The delay in the vote count in the 2024 elections sparked suspicions of electoral fraud and led to protests from various political factions, alleging attacks on their mandate.

In Karachi, PTI-supported candidates along with Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties protested against the 'rigging' in various

areas during the elections.

Addressing the protesters, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman stated that on February 8, the public mandate was stolen across the country. They did not want to hold these elections, so they shut down mobile services, but despite this, the people of Pakistan came out of their homes to cast their votes, he added.

In interior Sindh's various cities, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) and Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) continued their joint protests

and sit-ins against the 'rigging' in the general elections. As a result of the sit-ins, traffic remained suspended on both sides of the Karachi bypass, causing inconvenience to commuters.

In Sanghar, GDA and JUI also staged a joint protest, with demonstrators blocking the road at Press Club Chowk and closing Mirpurkhas Road.

In Jacobabad, JUI-F staged a sit-in on Jamalibag bypass, leading to long queues of vehicles on the bypass and causing distress to travelers.

## APHC-AJK holds seminar to pay homage to Maqbool Butt, Afzal Guru

ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter organized a seminar in Islamabad to pay tributes to renowned Kashmiri liberation leaders Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Shaheed Muhammad Afzal Guru on their anniversaries.

APHC-AJK chapter Convener Mahmood Ahmed Saghar chaired the seminar.

India executed Muhammad Afzal Gaur on February 9, 2013 and Muhammad Maqbool Butt on February 11, 1984 in the infamous Tihar Jail in New Delhi for playing a prominent role in the freedom movement. Their bodies were buried in the premises of the prison.

The speakers addressing on the occasion said India can never suppress the freedom spirit of Kashmiris with executions, illegal detentions and other cruel tactics in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They also reiterated their determination to fulfill the mission of martyrs at any cost.

The speakers said the martyrs are the real heroes of Kashmiris and the great asset of the freedom movement. They said the hanging of Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru is a murder of justice and a slap on the face of the Indian judiciary and its entire justice system. Fundamental principles of justice have been violated by denying the right to trial, they added.

They urged the international community and international human rights organizations to put pressure on India to hand over the bodies of Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru to the Kashmiris.

The speakers said the best way to pay homage to

the Kashmiri martyrs is to remain steadfast and resolutely stick to the path for which they have sacrificed. They said that thanks to the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs due to which the Kashmir dispute is echoing in every forum of the world, these sacrifices will never be allowed to go waste.

They urged India to read the writing on the wall and give Kashmiris their birthright to self-determination. They also called upon the righteous people and organizations of the world to compel India to hand over the bodies of Maqbool Butt and Afzal Guru to their families for proper burial.

In the seminar, sympathy and solidarity were expressed with the family of deceased Hurriyat activist, Ghulam Muhammad Butt alia Insha Allah Khan, belonging to Tral area of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



KARACHI: Police officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the protest demonstration of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside Provincial Election Commission Office in Karachi.

## Attique felicitates nation, institutions for conducting peaceful general election

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Muslim Conference, Ex-Premier Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has congratulated the whole nation, all institutions for conducting the general election 2024 in a fair, free and peaceful manner.

Talking to overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris on arrival at Dubai airport on a week-long visit to UAE, he said the future of Pakistan's democracy is brighter keeping in view the

all in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions. He further said that India must reverse all anti-Kashmir demographic and geographic moves that have been taken since August 5, 2019. "Kashmiris are struggling for the right to self-determination and India cannot suppress its movement through military might," he added.

To a query, he lauded the role of Pakistani and Kashmiri overseas workers in the economic development of UAE.

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To a query, he lauded the role of Pakistani and Kashmiri overseas workers in the economic development of UAE.

## Indonesian Embassy facilitates nationals at early voting event

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Committee for the Indonesian General Elections with the support of the Indonesian Embassy in the federal capital conducted an advance polling event on Saturday at the premises of the Embassy.

This early voting was held for the upcoming general elections in Indonesia scheduled to be held on 14 February 2024, said a news release.

The event provided an opportunity for the Indonesian nationals in Pakistan to participate in the electoral process as well as fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among the Indonesians and their families.

The elections in democratic Indonesia will determine not only the new President and Vice President but also parliamentary and local representatives.

On this occasion, the Embassy made comprehensive arrangements to facilitate more than 800 citizens along with their families from all over Pakistan to participate in the voting process including Islamabad Capital Territory.

While another approximately 200 Indonesian nationals will exercise their democratic right to vote in the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi on Sunday.

In addition to serving as a platform for exercising political rights, the event transcended its primary purpose and evolved into a vibrant social gathering.

Attendees, both old acquaintances and new friends, seized the opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate the joyous occasion together.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, music, and the taste of Indonesian cuisine as participants enjoyed the bazaar featuring food stalls, a musical event, health facilities, and a children's play area.

## PML-N wins highest four...

Continued from page 1

255), Jam Kamal Khan (NA-257) and Jamal Shah Kakar (NA-263).

Similarly, PPP's winning candidates are included: Malik Shah (NA-259) and Nawabzada Jamal Raisani (NA-264) while the JUI-F candidates who secured the NA seats are included: Muhammad Usman Badini (NA-260) and Maulana Fazlur Rehman (NA-265).

The BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal remained successful on two seats of National Assembly i.e., from NA-2256 and NA-

261. NP's Phulain Baloch, PKMAP's Mehmood Khan Achakzai and PNP's Khushhal Khan Kakar won the NA seats of NA-258, NA-265 and NA-251 respectively.

The independent candidates Mian Khan and Adil Bazai won the NA seats of NA-253 and NA-262 respectively.

Needless to mention here is that Jamal Raisani, Khushhal Kakar, Adil Bazai, Mian Khan, Malik Shah, Phulain Baloch and Jamal Shah Kakar have won the NA seats for the first time.



QUETTA: Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Central Leader, Sailaab Khan addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.



QUETTA: Jammat-e-Islami (JI) Provincial Chief, Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Modi regime conspiring to send Yasin Malik to gallows

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Hindutva-inspired Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in India is conspiring to hang illegally detained Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, for political gains.

An analytical report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said the Narendra Modi-led BJP government is preparing grounds to hang Yasin Malik as was done in the cases of Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru. It said Modi wants to make the Kashmiri leader a scapegoat to stage a comeback in the 2024 elections in India.

The report pointed out that Modi can go to any extent to achieve victory in the coming general elections. It said

Modi's apartheid regime wants to kill every Kashmiri who refuses to accept the Indian narrative on Kashmir and is punishing Yasin Malik for refusing to toe its line in the occupied territory.

The KMS report maintained that the BJP government is using the judiciary to silence the voices of dissenting Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders. It lamented that the Indian judiciary bypasses all the principles of law and justice when it comes to convicting the Kashmiris. The RSS-backed Indian regime has resorted to implicating Hurriyat leadership in fictitious and politically-motivated cases to suppress their voice, it added.

The report said the Modi regime is brazenly violating the Geneva Convention on prisoners' rights in occupied Kashmir. The UN and other world rights bodies must take cognizance of the plight of Yasin Malik and other illegally detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders, it said, adding that the fascist regime of India must be stopped from its genocidal policy against Kashmiri people.

The JKLF chief was arrested in March 2019 in false cases registered against him and remains presently lodged in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail. He was sentenced to life by a special court of India's dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi on May 25, 2022, in a false case. Earlier on May 10 that year, having noticed the bias of the Indian judiciary, Yasin Malik refused to defend the charges against him in the NIA court.

## China-Pak coop constructing smart city through use of AI technology

ISLAMABAD (INP): In the context of the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Chinese and Pakistani researchers are helping Pakistan build smarter and safer cities through the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

At the beginning of year 2022, the CPlnS Lab was officially established at Pakistan National University of Science and Technology (NUST), with joint efforts of NUST and Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology.

At present, various researches are in progress in an orderly manner, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

"We have made great progress in areas such as UAV control systems and AI recognition localization. Our lab is starting the application of smart cities in Pakistan," Dr. Wu Jun, the Director of CPlnS Lab, told Gwadar Pro.

"Through this platform, our mature research results could be deeply connected with local projects in Pakistan, providing smart city-related products and intelligent solutions according to local conditions.

We are able to effectively implement core technologies and products such as smart street lights and smart videos to improve local urban governance ability."

is of great importance to Pakistan's socio-economic development," Seemab Latif, Head of the Pakistani side of the lab and Associate Professor at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECSS) at the NUST, indicated that China's AI industry leads the world, as well as Pakistan's scientific and technological development has huge potential, thus by deepening bilateral cooperation, Pakistan can make great progress in the field of Sci-Tech, by which own the potential to become an AI development center in South Asia.

According to Latif, that the lab is using technology from China to develop smart city projects such as efficient traffic management systems and infrastructure monitoring systems in Pakistan.

At present, on the basis of local conditions, the license plate recognition system and intelligent security system developed by the lab have begun to be piloted in Pakistan.

"More Pakistani residents will be able to experience the safety and convenience brought by the application of intelligent systems."

Up to now, the results of cooperation are mushrooming. Dr. Wu told the reporter that considering that Pakistan is often threatened by floods, scientists from both sides pooled their wisdom to develop an vital result

"UAV-assisted edge

"Sci-tech cooperation



## Section 144 imposed in Islamabad; to enhanced security measures

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police further strengthened the security of Islamabad to control any potential unrest promptly, a public relations officer said.

He said that, section 144 is imposed in Islamabad, empowering the officials to take legal action in response to any unlawful activities. Adherence to the law is mandatory, and legal proceedings will be initiated in the case of any disturbance.

It should be noted that incitement to illegal activi-

ties is also a crime. Peaceful protest within the law is everyone's right. In this regard, citizens are requested to avoid being part of illegal activities. Respect for the law is mandatory for everyone. Legal action will also be taken in case of any disturbance to peace.

All measures are being taken for the convenience, protection, and security of the citizens. Moreover, to ensure the safety of lives and property of citizens, all resources are being utilized by police.

Citizens are requested to dial "Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 App" regarding any suspicious person or activity.

## Pak envoy condoles over death of UAE officials in terrorist attack in Somalia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday extended his deepest condolences to the families of those Emirati officials who were martyred in a terrorist attack in Somalia.

The statement was shared by Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi after the UAE Ministry of Defense confirmed via X post that three of its officials along with a Bahraini officer were martyred during an attack in Somalia.

"We share the grief

and sorrow of the bereaved families and express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in this difficult hour", the press release quoted Ambassador Tirmizi as saying.

Expressing his sympathies and solidarity, he said that he and his countrymen shared the pain of the mourning families, and firmly stood with the people and government of UAE.

He further said that Pakistan, being a victim of this menace, was against terrorism in its all forms and manifestations.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people in queue to get free food at F-11.

## Roadmap made for promotion of digital economy for next govt: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif has said that a roadmap has been made for the promotion of the digital economy for the upcoming government.

Addressing the Town Hall meeting arranged by IT Association (PASHA) in Karachi he said, the country could generate billions of dollars in revenue if the upcoming government continues the initiatives taken by the caretaker government in the IT sector.

He said the SIFC forum has also proven to be a great support for the upcoming elected government in the process of building and developing the country, and the elected government will also reap the benefits of the measures taken by the

caretaker government.

"We are confident that with the presence of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the upcoming government will also be able to make timely decisions for the country's development and public interests because we mustn't compromise on our economic stability and public interests," he said.

The minister said, "We need to avoid departmental obstacles. Instead of unnecessary delay tactics, quick and effective decisions must be taken in the interest of the country and the nation. For this purpose, SIFC is the most effective forum."

Dr. Umar termed IT and telecom sector as a backbone of the country's economy.

He said that in the past 60 days, the policies of the

IT ministry have led to a record 32% increase in IT exports. Furthermore, he mentioned that ICT export remittances have increased by US\$ 64 million (8.99%) to US\$ 1.455 billion during July to December 2023 of FY2023-24, compared to US\$ 1.335 billion reported for the same period last year. In December 2023, he added, ICT services export remittances surged to US\$ 303 million, marking a remarkable increase of 22.67% compared to US\$ 247 million in December 2022. Compared to the previous month of November 2023, ICT services export remittances increased by US\$ 44 million in December 2023, representing a month-to-month increase of 16.99%.

The minister further said "We have achieved 13 out of 15 important targets

for the promotion of the IT & Telecom sector in a short period of 5 months in the caretaker set-up.

Chairman of PASHA, Zohaib Khan, expressed gratitude to Dr. Umar Saif for his unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the IT sector. He lauded Dr. Saif's initiatives, which have instilled renewed confidence within the industry and paved the way for unprecedented export growth.

Khan noted, "Dr. Umar Saif's visionary leadership and strategic foresight continue to chart a course toward a vibrant and prosperous digital future for Pakistan."

Ayesha Morani, Additional Secretary MOITT, Nadeem Malik, General Secretary PASHA, and a representative from the IT Industry were also present at the event.

## A split mandate may not ensure political and economic stability

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch, said on Sunday it is unfortunate that not a single party could get a whole mandate in the elections.

In the absence of a majority, a party can only form a government with the help of other parties; therefore, ensuring political and economic stability in the country would be challenging.

He added that the major parties and the independent candidates are meeting to agree on the new government while those who lost elections are accusing rigging.

In a statement today, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that many Western countries are concerned about elections that interfere with Pakistan's internal affairs.

The Western countries that are expressing reservations about the electoral process in Pakistan are ignoring the massacre of Palestinians and extending all possible help to Israel.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the party coming to power would have to do

it with the help of other parties and independents, resulting in an army of ministers and advisers.

A coalition government will spend billions of rupees to keep allies happy. It will not be able to find time and resources to strengthen the economy or provide relief to people. It will further burden the masses, who are already reeling under the cost of living crisis.

He remarked that the establishment of coalition governments in the center of Punjab and Balochistan is written on the wall, which may impede development.

It seems that the PML-N and PPP will form a government by joining hands as both parties criticized each other during the election campaign but within limits.

Dr. Mughal said political leaders should complete consultations and form the government as delay will damage the economy.

To stabilize the economy for the next few years, severe economic decisions would be necessary, while a fresh IMF program would also be necessary.

## Capital Police continues its campaign to check traffic rules violations

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike ride. Police teams remain present on all important

roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Police has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city. Those violating traffic rules will be fined and a safer road environment would be ensured through constant monitoring.

## PTI workers stage sit-in outside RO office Islamabad, calls for electoral transparency

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed candidate of NA 47, Barrister Shoaib Shaheen Sunday staged a sit-in outside the Returning Officer (RO) office Islamabad, demanding transparency in the electoral process.

Accompanied by his supporters and party workers, Shaheen staged demonstration outside the office to register protest against alleged rigging in the Feb 8 elections.

The demonstration, which unfolded outside the RO office, witnessed chants and slogans against the returning officer's alleged discrepancies in the electoral process.

Shaheen, along with party workers, highlighted

the importance of fair and impartial elections. They observed that sit-in was staged in reaction as the Islamabad police did not allow them to stage a peaceful demonstration.

However, the sit-in also faced opposition from Islamabad police. A heavy contingent of police was also deployed outside the RO office. The police also took the prisoner van outside the RO office.

On the other hand, the PTI workers kept raising slogans against the RO Islamabad.

The scene outside the RO office was marked by heightened tensions as both protesters and law enforcement stood firm on their respective positions.

The confrontation be-

tween the demonstrators and police escalated briefly, with verbal exchanges and attempts to deter the protest.

Amidst the commotion, a significant deployment of police personnel was witnessed outside the RO office, aimed at maintaining law and order.

Earlier, Shoaib Shaheen moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC), challenging the results of the NA-47 Islamabad-II constituency. He was defeated by PML-N candidate Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, who clinched the constituency by bagging 102,502 votes.

The independent candidate challenged the results issued by the returning officer (RO) in the court.

## Citizens to take responsibility in overcoming environmental pollution: DG Farzana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) of the Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Farzana Altaf Shah on Sunday urged the citizens to take the lead and responsibility to overcome environmental pollution in the country which was polluting its rivers, oceans, natural ecosystems and damaging human and wildlife health through disastrous impacts.

Talking to PTV news channel, she said that if we

not controlled on pollution then the climate change will not just a subject, it could become a major cause of impact on all kinds of flora, fauna and human beings in our country.

She highlighted various efforts by her organization to confront the environmental challenges. She guided citizens about the prevention of the cutting of trees and should be a ban on converting agricultural lands into settlements.

## Country's upper, western parts to be gripped by cold weather conditions: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): The upper and western parts of the country will remain under the grip of cold wave conditions during the next 24 hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

A shallow westerly wave was present over western parts of the country and likely to grip most parts during the next 24 hours.

Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country, while very cold and cloudy in upper/western parts.

However, rain/wind/thunderstorm is likely in southwestern parts of

Balochistan. Light rain is also expected at isolated places in Kashmir and adjoining hilly areas during this period.

About the fog, the PMD said that shallow fog may likely occur at few places in plain areas of northeast Punjab during morning hours.

During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country while very cold in northern parts.

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded were Leh -13C, Skardu -09, Kalam -08, Astore -07, Gupis -06, Gilgit, Chitral, Srinagar -05, Bagrote, Hunza and Hunza -04C.

## IWMB safely rescued female leopard cub from AJK's Dhirkot tehsil

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Sunday safely rescued a female cub of leopard from the scenic Dhirkot Tehsil of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) which is known for its deodar jungle. The Wildlife Spokesperson told the media that the female leopard

cub was five to six months old and was rescued from Dhirkot area as the AJK Wildlife Department lacked the wildlife rehabilitation facility and requested the IWMB for assistance.

He added that the local people broke the teeth and fractured the legs of the female leopard cub.

## Capital Police enhances security measures in High Security Zone

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police heightened the security measures in the High Security Zone aimed to swiftly respond to any untoward incidents, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Police has bolstered its efforts to intensify checking on entry and exit routes, ensuring a proactive approach to maintaining security and promptly handling any disruptive

situations.

Moreover, the Capital Police remains vigilant and ready to address any potential disruptions. In case of any unlawful activities, legal actions will be taken promptly, underscoring the importance of adhering to the law.

Respect for the law is imperative for everyone. All measures are being taken to ensure the safety of citizen life and property, along with maintaining the overall security of the city.

Citizens are requested to dial "Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 App" regarding any suspicious person or activity.

## Asma Jahangir remembered on her 6th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Today (Sunday) is the sixth death anniversary of Asma Jahangir Advocate, great human rights champion. She died on February 11, 2018. Asma Jahangir, who was born on January 27, 1952, in Lahore, had earned numerous honours, including the Right Livelihood Award, Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Ramon Magsaysay Award, Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, and the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers along with their tools sitting on roadside waiting for clients to be hired for work during morning time.

## Female teachers annoyed over unpaid remuneration, lack of facilities for exam duties

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) gears up for the centralized exams of primary and middle standard scheduled to begin on Monday, female teachers assigned to conduct exams have raised concerns over unpaid remuneration for the past three consecutive years and the absence of essential facilities.

Despite repeated attempts to address these concerns with FDE authorities, the teachers claim that their issues have not been resolved yet.

Teachers complained that they haven't been paid for their exam work for the last three years in spite of assurances by the concerned officials.

Expressing their grievances under the condition of anonymity, several teachers disclosed a history of unfulfilled promises and neglect by FDE authorities.

Despite assurances of payment for exam duties, teachers lamented that they have not received remuneration for the last three years.

A teacher highlighted the financial strain incurred while performing exam-related tasks, including the collection of exam materials. Having personally hired taxis to transport materials to exam centres, she em-

phasized that neither taxi fares nor transport facilities have been provided by the FDE.

"Moreover, I am expected to conduct exam duties daily starting Monday, with no transport facilities provided. The daily taxi fare to and from the school where I am deputed amounts to Rs. 2000, a cost I am compelled to bear personally for the entire 15-day examination period which is hard to manage during the prevailing price hike situation", the teacher said.

"It is disheartening that the authorities not only fail to pay our pending remuneration but also neglect to provide essential transport facilities", the teacher said.

Talking to APP, many teachers emphasized the lack of financial support for purchasing essential materials such as clothes, sealing wax, thread, and packing material required for packaging answer scripts.

They criticized the absence of paper collection facilities provided by the authority, exacerbating logistical challenges.

Highlighting additional challenges, another teacher shared, "I have to purchase essential materials such as clothes, sealing wax, thread,

and packing materials to pack the answer scripts daily, but no funds have been provided for these expenses. Moreover, there is no paper collection facility provided by the FDE. I cannot afford cab fare for transportation of answer scripts to FDE daily."

A headmistress of a school stated, "Teachers have recently undertaken exhausting election duties, sacrificing sleep for two nights. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, teachers perform additional duties like census duties, election duties, invigilation, and deworming duties. Despite their contributions, teachers feel neglected and under-supported by FDE authorities, who have been unresponsive to their repeated pleas for assistance". The headmistress emphasized that the FDE authorities should acknowledge and facilitate their efforts. At least their pending dues of three years should be released.

When contacted, a senior official of the concerned authority said that the teachers are paid a specific amount for performing duties during the centralized exams of Class V and VIII. However these payments were pending with the AGPR.



ISLAMABAD: Elder woman carrying dry wood branches on her head for domestic use.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Monday February 12, 2024

### More uncertainty

It appears that a coalition government is in the offing, as no single party has enough seats to form a government.

After his 'victory speech' some days ago, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif said his was the single largest party, and called on other political leaders to initiate discussions and negotiate a way forward. Soon after, there were reports that PPP's Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting, an indication that the two leaders, despite their differences in recent months, are attempting to chart a way forward.

Of course, the role of parties such as MQM-P and other smaller parties, is key as they too will lend support to reach the magic number of seats. The PML-N is optimistic that two dozen or more independents will join their ranks, and is banking on its relationship with different parties to show a victorious front.

As the numbers game plays out, the country once again finds itself in a familiar place — one that is steeped in political uncertainty. In recent months, the PPP and PML-N have had an acrimonious relationship. The PML-N is annoyed that PPP distanced itself from the PDM government's decisions, and that it was left to face the brunt of the public's wrath over increasing inflation. Its key members also do not trust Mr Zardari.

Similarly, the PPP has been vocal in its criticism of the N-League, with its chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari taking potshots at Mr Nawaz Sharif during his campaign, and even telling this newspaper in an interview that he was "disappointed" in the former prime minister.

With these misgivings, how will this motley crew sit together in parliament? Whose agenda will take priority? And how will they bring the stability, reforms and leadership the country so badly needs? More importantly, did the public really turn up in large numbers to vote to be ruled by PDM 2.0?

As the wheeling and dealing proceeds, two things are clear: one, that however the PML-N cobbles this coalition together, its 'victory' will be more bitter than sweet. Without the outcome it had hoped for, it is now left to perform that uneasy dance of give and take for political survival. This is certainly not the fantasy Mr Sharif harboured when he returned to Pakistan after four years abroad.

The second is that such a government is always vulnerable to outside forces. As we saw previously, the PTI-led coalition government was held together by an external glue, and its days were numbered when that glue did not stick. Forming such a post-election alliance is not unique to Pakistan, as other countries witness similar events and end up having weak governments. But in our case, the vulnerability to external forces further complicates an already fragile democratic process.

### Abbas Nasir

One social media user said it was a remarkable victory; it was, after all, almost "a century scored without a bat"; it appeared an all-encompassing comment as the snail-paced trickle of the Feb 8 election results started to paint a picture of the PTI voters' anger and defiance at all that the party and its leadership has had to face.

It has been clear since the arrest and jailing of Imran Khan that the 'reset to 2016' had been initiated. The party was thrown in the ring with one hand tied behind its back to face the might of its ferocious and powerful adversaries. The most comprehensive plan appeared in place.

Exactly a week ago, in these very columns, we'd also observed: The only outside chance, the slimmest if you like, of it failing will be on polling day. What if the rage of the supporters at what they see as injustice to their leader manifests itself in their voting in

droves for the candidates endorsed by the party? How many votes can be tossed in the rubbish bin for one reason or another?

The voters turned out in enough numbers to have given the 'independents' (read: mostly PTI) almost a century of seats, despite all obstacles in the run-up to polling day, and issues in tabulation and announcement of the results. A number of results are likely to be disputed in election tribunals and courts.

For months and months, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif had been demanding a so-called reset to 2016, while placing the onus of doing that wholly on the political engineers. When the time came, it seems, he placed way too much faith in them rather than campaign with vigour. The party almost appeared lethargic, disinterested.

This election was always going to be a vote for and against Imran Khan. The PML-N campaign did not chart that or succeed in selling itself as a viable alternative for

the future to a near-decided number of voters. It abandoned its 'vote ko izzat do' slogan which had resonated with millions across the country.

That strategy blew up in the PML-N's face. As he made his 'victory speech', Mr Sharif looked frail, tired, even defeated, despite using brave words. It also marked a sad departure from the Charter of Democracy-transformed democrat who refused to block (despite the numerical possibility) PTI's path to power in KP after it emerged as the single largest party in 2013.

Whether he is also prepared to lead a coalition government already being called PDM-2 or let his younger brother preside over a conglomerate of disparate political entities shepherded by the establishment to strictly implement the Special Investment Facilitation Council-led economic revival plan will become clear over the coming week and a half.

The main takeaway for me from this election

is that even normally subdued TV channels were quite openly discussing the elephant in the room, unlike as recently as the 2013 elections, but the question remains whether this 'freedom' will last or the screws will be tightened again.

The failure to contain the PTI and the influence of its leader may well mean that this apparent media freedom turns out to be temporary and it could well be business as usual before long. Of course, anyone planning such a move must also realise the power of the social media and the smartphone penetration in the country.

The past may be another country as the election demonstrated. But we aren't known to learn from our mistakes. It is true that you can 'manage' the electoral process — but only to a point and no more. As we discussed last week, and as was demonstrated by the voter this week, that is the beauty of democracy.

And yet this beauty remained largely away from the grasp of the elec-

torate in not just the remote reaches of Balochistan but also in the country's biggest metropolis of Karachi. How systematically for two consecutive elections the people in these two places have been largely disenfranchised is mind-boggling.

I guess this is your fate when you only count as a tool in the hands of the engineers to be used at will in order to tilt the balance in someone's way, to propel them to high office or to dethrone them when they have outlived their utility or become too big for their boots.

One can cry oneself hoarse repeating that all such manipulations are pretty nigh impossible without one or more political parties/entities acquiescing in the best of times, and conspiring actively on other occasions, but nobody who matters pays any attention.

So our reset to 2016 has happened or, in the interest of accuracy, is very nearly there, at this stage. Is that something positive? I think not. The

year in question marks the point where uncertainty, bitterness and anger gripped the country as a visibly contrived majority was handed over the reins of the country or, more accurately, made a junior partner.

Election year 2024 will also mark the point where the majority or at least the largest single entity was excluded from the process by brutal force. Ergo, those made junior partners will face a similar crisis of credibility as the system that was put in place in 2018 did. That's real progress!

Not sure if the 'keep doing the same thing expecting a different result' was Einstein's definition of insanity or someone else's but it is pretty accurate. Pick your clichés — 'turning back the clock' to 'back to the future' or another one. And it will be valid.

The only thing I do have the power to do is to tip my hat to those whose bat was taken away and yet they scored, more or less, a century. -- Courtesy Dawn

## The morning after

### Ghazi Salahuddin

For the second time, it seems, the powers-that-be have not been able to handle 'Project Imran'. And this will have consequences in Pakistan's vacillating experience with democracy and the principles of civilian supremacy.

The original sin, of course, was to 'select' Imran Khan as the saviour of the nation and then to groom and launch him in 2018. But that may have been easier than the present task, so they say, of dismantling a myth that was created in the process.

Even conceding that the assumptions I am making are not true, there appears to be no doubt that Imran Khan has become a central point of reference in the holding of national elections on Thursday and the trickling down of their results.

I have to confess that this opinion that the establishment has not succeeded in achieving its objectives is entirely speculative. It can be argued that the elections have yielded positive results, and the

overall situation is not unsatisfactory. Eventually, the outcomes would be adequately handled.

For the time being, Pakistan is caught in the whirlwind vortex of what may be allegorically described as the morning after, though the night in this case extended to more than 24 hours. By and large, the hangover of the heady indulgence, in a political context, of the night before will last for some time.

Normally, elections in a working democracy are a matter of routine, their purpose being to elect a new government for a specific tenure. The idea is to protect and continue with a constitutional process in accordance with the will of the people.

But Pakistan, sadly, has not been a normal democracy and its encounters with elections have generally been flawed and contentious. Some elections became landmarks in our history, activating monumental developments or a radical shift in policy and the quality of governance.

Do the February 8, 2024, elections belong in that category? They

surely do, because of the surprises that they have produced. Essentially, they represent a popular wave in favour of Imran Khan, who is now in prison and was very recently convicted in three of the many cases registered against him. There is a great sense of drama in how his party has fared in the face of persistent suppression. The innovative manner in which the party activists, with their expertise in the uses of social media, built a campaign for the 'independents' is a measure of how politics in Pakistan has changed.

We also have confirmation in the outcome of Thursday's elections of the passions that Imran Khan's charisma has aroused in his supporters. This is a kind of cult following that cannot be fully explained in a rational context. There is no point in arguing with his followers about their leader's ideology or political philosophy. It does not seem to matter that Imran's politics has polarized Pakistani society and has promoted social intolerance and moral indecency.

A lot of literature exists on the rise of a charis-

matic leader in a time of crisis in a country of low political culture. Imran Khan would be a good case study. As an aside, I may recall that comedian Trevor Noah had called Imran Khan the Pakistani Trump when the PTI leader became prime minister in 2018. They are twins, he had said, underlining some uncanny similarities between them. These similarities have remained valid in 2024.

Apart from the fact that this week's elections have authenticated Imran Khan's presence in the present state of affairs, we should be very concerned about the messages that the elections have delivered. Those of us who are closely observing the scene were overwhelmed by the torrents of comments made on news channels during their nonstop coverage of the aftermath of the elections. Because of an inexplicable delay in some results, the show was going on and on.

These delays have also raised questions about the credibility of the elections. There are bound to be charges of rigging and a number of candidates will seek judicial intervention

against decisions made by the Election Commission of Pakistan. However, the polling itself was quite orderly and there is a sense of relief that no major disruptions in the process were reported.

Incidentally, almost all analysts were predicting an easy win for Nawaz Sharif, as if the establishment had already planned this outcome. It would be interesting to read the opinion pieces published until Thursday morning. It seemed certain that the PML-N would be gifted with a good majority to enable the execution of the already-designed plan for economic revival and political stability.

Just the opposite has happened. It is very much a hung parliament and there are likely to be many hurdles in the formation of a viable coalition government. Where will the PTI 'independents' belong in any future arrangement, considering that they constitute the largest 'party'? The stage seems set for a prolonged period of instability and sleazy political machinations.

This does not bode well for Pakistan's imme-

diated future. This also means that the plans that the establishment had supposedly drafted to first attend to economic development will now be shelved because economic stability demands political stability. We cannot, thus, be certain about the longevity of any arrangement that the political parties are able to hammer out in the coming days.

In that sense, these elections have exposed some basic truths about Pakistan. Our people are obviously not a good judge of the performance and the abilities of the leaders and representatives they choose. For instance, the PTI has taken Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a landslide. But what was its performance in the province during the ten years of its rule? Because of the hectic political maneuvering that has begun for the formation of the next, elected government, there is little time to reflect on the existing state of our society and evaluate our capacity to understand and protect democratic values and practices. There is a lot to worry about in the morning after. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Hope is everything

### Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Pakistan is in the grip of bad news. While much of it is fake because the detractors of Pakistan are at work, some of the bad news is also real. Decades of bad governance has shaken the confidence of the people in the rulers they elect or even in the system which brings them to power. The elite capture of the country has left the teeming majority wondering if this country can deliver even the basic amenities of life. A vast segment of the population is slipping below the poverty line. The rich are getting richer, the poor poorer. Society is also deeply polarised. All this bad news has created a sense of despondency.

How did we reach this sorry state? Foremost, we must recognise that whatever has happened is of our own doing. We don't work hard enough to deserve the riches we aspire to. Our political governance has failed to rise to the expectations of the people. We spend more than we earn and evade taxes. Corruption is rampant. Moreover, for far too long, our rulers have looked for easy money from outside the country. All through the decades, we have preferred to leverage our strategic location rather than build our productive capacities.

We also want others to adjust their stance towards us rather than changing ourselves. For instance, we expect India to reduce its hostility towards Pakistan, Afghanistan to be more friendly than it is, China to invest more, the Saudis to liberally share their abundant wealth with us, and America to maintain a steady partnership with our country. In short, we want all our key relation-

ships to change in the way we desire them to. But this is not how interstate relations work. It is Pakistan which should adjust to the evolving global and regional geopolitics, and not the other way round. A ship cannot change the direction of the wind; it must adapt its sails to continue its journey.

That means that a change of attitude is needed in how we Pakistanis see ourselves as a nation and how we view the outside world. The Creator has been more than generous in granting nature's bounties to the territories that constitute today's Pakistan.

The country is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest producer of rice in the world, the eighth leading producer of wheat, and the fifth largest producer of sugarcane. Our land is home to the three highest mountain ranges, and has an irrigation system that is both efficient and extensive.

According to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, the country has the sixth largest reserves of marble, the second largest salt mines, the fifth largest reserves of copper and gold, the second largest coal deposits, and vast reserves of gypsum.

With such abundant wealth and a young energised population, we have every reason to be hopeful about the future of our country. Even during the harshest of times for the Muslims of India under the British occupation, our founding fathers never lost hope. Allama Iqbal's advice to us was as valid then as it is today. To translate his words: 'Don't despair, as despair is the decline of knowledge and wisdom, the hope of mard-i-momin is among the secrets of God'.

As a new elected

government takes office, it must lift up the morale of the nation by setting the stage for good governance. First and foremost, we need to stabilise political governance, which is so fractured. A new charter of democracy and tolerance is required, which provides for treating political opponents with respect and dignity, for today's opponents could be tomorrow's rulers. No one should consider himself or herself as an angel or a patriot, while treating opponents as evil and corrupt.

Second, there needs to be a much stronger commitment to local governments.

The de-valuation of power and resources agreed upon in 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment should not have stopped at provinces, but needs to reach the grassroots level.

Third, a charter of economy is required to forge a consensus among political parties on key economic issues and priorities.

Fourth, national security should be viewed more comprehensively than it was in the past, with equal attention being given to traditional, economic and human securities. To that end, the new government should announce its national security policy, a sequel to the one issued in January 2022, establish a national security council (not committee), and appoint a full-time national security adviser.

Fifth, on the external front, we must view all our relationships, including with neighbours, through the lens of economic benefit to Pakistan and by building stakes in the stability of Pakistan. We must engage with, but not depend on, the outside world, because the fountains of wealth and prosperity lie within. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Muna Khan

Imran Khan and his supporters, according to the Twitterati, are 'the worst thing to happen to society' — they've ruined tehzeeb, family get-togethers, WhatsApp chats, marriages, friendships, even diets. I am, of course, being a little facetious, but do you recognise yourself as someone who believes this or is perhaps the victim of this rhetoric? Wherever you land, do you believe we can move forward?

I'm here to offer a sliver of hope.

In 2013 and 2018, when I went to vote in Karachi, I was surrounded by PTI supporters, excited and assured of victory. Because we had to wait a while in line, people got to chatting. There was a lot of disbelief when someone in line said they weren't voting for PTI. Or that they weren't voting for the first time. "No educated person could vote for the MQM," the woman in front of me told another in 2013. "You're destroying Pakistan's chance of survival by voting for Jibran Nasir," a lady told me in 2018. As an aside: I think it's time to retire this 'save Pakistan' idea. We need saving from our misconceptions, nay delusions.

A few days ago, as I stood in line to cast my vote, there was a lot of camaraderie as PTI supporters welcomed each other in the line, but when others said they were voting for Jamaat, no one balked. Everyone agreed you should vote for who you want. One elderly woman told another younger woman that she wouldn't tell her who she was voting for because "mujhey gaaliyan parein ge" (I will receive abuse). That

## 'This is us too'

woman said no, it should not be like that, you don't have to reply, we just have to vote. Even though the mood was defiant, it was also jovial.

I'm not that naïve to think people have decided to reclaim polite discourse, but I do believe this tiny exchange points to a people's awakening and then mobilising to challenge the status quo. I believe the way people came out to vote — and for who — is evidence of this, too. People are tired of broken systems; nothing is working and the impact of polarisation has caused alarm. To belittle people's choices or heap scorn on them serves no purpose. Having said that, today's angry voters must accept that their stolen mandate was, in previous elections, someone else's stolen mandate.

This division across party lines benefits those angling for power at whatever cost, who know they have accomplices to help them achieve their goal. This habit of a sprinkle of engineering here, a speck of it there — as happens every time — will only take you so far.

This is why I feel hopeful the anger will help bring people together to defy the odds. We've seen glimmers of it in constituencies like Parachinar, where Shias and Sunnis united to vote their opponent out. They rejected the status quo and the hatred that sectarianism has created here. To remind, we have spent more time living together peacefully — commemorating our different sects' occasions for example — than engaged in hatred.

Another group that continues to defy the powerful is the media. As a keen follower, and sometimes practitioner, I was

thrilled to watch the reporting and analysis of the clear criticism of the election process — there was nothing ambiguous about it. This must be celebrated because an independent media is vital for democracy to function. The more people see themselves and their issues on mainstream media, the less they will rely on propagandists on YouTube.

A special mention must be made of the journalists and analysts who suffered from PTI's abusive campaigns, but did not let that impact their professionalism. I am here to remind party supporters that no one cheered Imran Khan's conviction the way Nawaz Sharif's was celebrated by journalists in kitchens and bathrooms. I will also remind you how everyone slammed the iddat case and conviction, calling it morally reprehensible. It is time for all supporters to frankly grow up and learn to deal with criticism — as has been our way in the past. We must find our way back to disagreeing without being disagreeable in all fields. Our elders must show us that way.

I believe the very platforms that caused polarisation can also reduce it. I see a glimmer of hope there too.

Independent candidate Jibran Nasir, who lost this election, has, along with other lawyers, created a 'Safeguard Karachi's Votes' legal cell and is offering aid to candidates across party lines who feel their mandate was stolen. ANP's Samar BLOUR taking a bouquet of flowers to PTI's Meena Khan to congratulate him on his win is one example. This in-person exchange, versus the notable congratulatory tweets by other politicians, reminds me of who we are: good people who want to live in harmony. -- Courtesy Dawn



## CM inaugurates FM Radio at P&SHD

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) located at the Birdwood Road Lahore and inaugurated FM Radio 'Sehat Zindagi' by the Health Department.

He inspected the studios and various sections of the FM Radio and recorded a message for the FM Radio Sehat Zindagi. He said that the launching of FM Radio was an appreciable step of the Health Department. The people could be provided awareness to save themselves from various diseases and undergo their treatment through the FM Radio. He said that specialists from various medical departments should be invited on Sehat Zindagi radio and people should be provided

awareness with regard to health issues and treatment.

Mohsin Naqvi underscored that Sehat Zindagi radio would prove to be a beneficial project in the health sector. He maintained that the standard of radio industry has definitely declined but FM Radio is listened even today. The broadcast of FM Radio Sehat Zindagi can be listened within approximately 50-km range of Lahore. The P&SHD minister deserved appreciation on successful launch of FM Radio, he said. The Health Department could make an effective awareness campaign through the platform of Sehat Zindagi. The health secretary, despite scarce resources, launched an excellent project, he added. The FM Radio has to focus only on programs relating to the

health sector.

Naqvi apprised that various hospitals had been upgraded in a short span of time while upgradation of few other hospitals was in their final phases of completion.

The hospitals which have not been upgraded yet, would be upgraded in the next phase. The CM said, "We have provided non-available facilities in the hospitals. We will arrange new operation theatres, MRI machines and other facilities in collaboration with the private sector."

The CM also inaugurated Human Resource Information and Management System (HRIMS), Health Information and Service Delivery Unit (HISDU). He inaugurated the van especially being prepared for the video link along with the coaster project.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" during his visit to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department.

## 45th anniversary of Islamic Revolution of Iran celebrated

KARACHI (APP): The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi hosted an event to mark the 45th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the National Day.

Sindh Caretaker Tourism Minister Arshad Wali Mohammad, along with other Pakistani dignitaries congratulated Consul General Hassan Nourian on the festive occasion. The event was attended by senior officials of the Sindh Government, political figures, religious scholars, businessmen and traders, including officials and members of the

Pakistan Chambers of Commerce.

The consuls general of some other countries based in Karachi also congratulated the government and people of Iran on the occasion of their National Day.

The Iranian Consul General, in his remarks, paid tribute to the brave people of Iran in his address. He appreciated the joint efforts of both Pakistan and Iran to enhance their relations in political, economic, cultural, military, and other fields.

He said that the 45th anniversary of the Islamic

Revolution in Iran was the 77th anniversary of the long-standing brotherly relations between Iran and Pakistan, who remained firm and friendly in all circumstances.

Their bilateral relations, especially in the economic and trade sectors, were strong, he added.

Hassan Noorian recalled the meeting of the leaders of Iran and Pakistan to inaugurate border projects, and the recent visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Sindh and Islamabad as a turning point in the long-standing relations between the two neighboring countries.

## Kashmiri diaspora pays tributes to martyred leaders Butt, Afzal Guru in Brussels

MIRPUR (APP): The Kashmiri participants of a gathering in Brussels have paid rich tributes to the great Kashmiri martyrs Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru for the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the liberation of the Kashmir from Indian illegal occupation.

The event was organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU) at its central secretariat in connection with the martyrdom anniversaries of these two martyrs, according to a message reaching and released to the media here on Sunday.

Beside the Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed, Dr. Manzoor Zahoor, Khalid Joshi, Sardar Mahmood Qabal, Sardar Sadiq, Rao Mustajab, Sardar Zaheer

Zahid, Shiraz Raj, Faisal Rizvi, Imran Saqib, Hafiz Aneeb Rashid, Nadeem Butt, Zahidshah, Chaudhry Nasir, Shazia Aslam, Raja Abduqayyum, and Meher Nadeem were also among the participants of the gathering.

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the martyrdom anniversary of noted Kashmiri figure Muhammad Afzal Guru on February 9 every year. He was hanged and buried at New Delhi's Tehar prison by the Indian authorities on February 9, 2013.

The prominent Kashmiri liberation leader, Muhammad Maqbool Butt, was also hanged and buried in Tihar Jail on February 11, 1984, for his leading role in Kashmir's liberation struggle.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the Chitral Express way at CM Secretariat.

## Azam Nazeer says: PML-N respects mandate of people

LAHORE (APP): PML-N Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that his party respects the mandate of people as it is important to take along all federating units for the solution of economic and other challenges facing the country.

Talking to media at Model Town on Sunday, he said that certain elements wanted to create doubts about election results and a hue and cry was being created in this regard.

"A decision of forming a government in the Centre will be made after conclusion of the ongoing consultation process with political parties and keeping in view the ground realities. A coalition government will be formed in the Centre as

no party has a clear cut majority," he added.

He said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the PML-N would form a strong government in Punjab and claimed that at present his party had the number between 150 and 160. He said that the slot of chief minister in Punjab was a right of the PML-N.

He said that a legal team had been formed and the party would utilize all legal options to defend and fight its cases in the court.

To a question about the MQM, he said that it was a good will visit of the party.

He said, "If a coalition government is formed it will strengthen the federation as politics of reconciliation yields positive results."

## CM Baqar takes cognizance of killings in Larkana

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqar on Sunday took notice of casualties during firing in Neodero area of Larkano. While expressing his grief and sorrow over the killings of 6 persons including a policeman in Neodero, he directed the IGP Sindh to present an immediate report of the incident to him. The IGP informed the Chief Minister that firing took place between two groups near Neodero Bypass in Larkano. He said that as a result of the firing, a police officer of Mahota police station ASI Sultan Shah embraced martyrdom.

## Law & order situation in Ghotki is deteriorating

By Tanveer Soomro  
MIRPUR MATHELO: Deteriorating law and order situation in Ghotki district, abduction, end of tribal conflicts and a protest rally and hunger strike by Jai Sindh Qummi Muhaaz for the recovery of hostages.

According to the details, peace and order in Ghotki district. JASQM organized a protest rally and hunger strike at Bhatki Chowk, in which workers and citizens participated in large numbers. On this occasion slogans were raised for the end of tribal conflicts and restoration of law and order in the district. On this occasion, President of Ghotki district of Jasqam, Faqir Ramzan Kalwar, Mir Hassan Lashari, Kamal Mahar, Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, District General Secretary of SUP Akram Mitloo, Jasad leader Shehryar Khan Marnas, Secretary of Sindh Literary Sanghat Ayaz Khahawar, Youth League Junaid Jalbani, Waqar Bozdar and others said that the citizens are very worried about the unrest in Ghotki district

## Azma Bukhari says: PTI in habit of not accepting its defeat

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League leader Azma Bukhari said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was in the habit of not accepting its defeat. Talking to the media here at Model Town, she said, "From where PTI loses it levels allegation of rigging in that constituency". Azma Bukhari said that PTI levelled rigging allegations in 2013 and created chaos in the country. She said, "Every party talks about respect of their mandate but no one talks about the respect of PML-N's mandate." She further said that PML-N was a responsible party and it does not believe in politics of lies and agitation. Election tribunal was an

appropriate forum which could be approached by aggrieved candidates, she added. She said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, PML-N was the only majority party in Punjab, adding that prosperity and development process would start again in the province. She claimed that PML-N was also a single majority party in the National Assembly.

Azma said that PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif had mentioned it again and again that no single party could steer the country out of challenges as collective efforts were required in this regard. She said it was vital to ensure stability in the country and all political parties had to play their role for this purpose.

## Fire breaks out in Karachi's Govt hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Seven persons sustained burn injuries as a fire erupted in the emergency centre of Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad on Sunday.

According to private news channel, a fire broke out due to cylinder explosion in the emergency ward of Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad situated in a densely populated area of Karachi.

The Police said that all those injured persons were hospital's staff and they were rushed to another hospital. The smoke filled the entire hospital, causing inconvenience for the patients and attendants.

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has taken notice of the incident and sought a report from Medical Superintendent.

## Independent candidates grouping up for forming govt in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Who will form the government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is the talk of the town, wherein the independent candidates are grouping up to find out a way to complete the required numbers for a certain government.

A total of 73 members are needed in the House to form the government in the province; however, independent candidates have secured 91 out of 113 seats, with 89 out of 91 seats being for independent candidates supported by PTI.

A close friend of the former speaker of the KP Assembly, Mushtaq Ghani, said, "He (Mushtaq

Ghani) is a strong candidate for speaker provincial assembly, while the names of Ali Amin Gandapur and Atif Khan are being discussed as strong candidates for Chief Minister KP."

On the condition of not being named, he said, "Form 49 will be issued by the Election Commission in a day or two, while it has been discussed that the independent candidates are bound to join a party within three days after the issuance of Form 49."

He said, "After three days, the independent candidate will be considered an independent MPA for the next five years."

## Faiz Festival ends on promotion of 'progressive ideology' note

LAHORE (APP): The three-day cultural and literary extravaganza - 8th Faiz Festival, that was held at Lahore Arts Council from February 9 to 11, concluded here at the Alhambra Art Centre, The Mall, on Sunday.

The Faiz Festival concluded with a pledge to spread the social and progressive ideology message of the great poet around the world for generations. The festival promised a cultural extravaganza of literary dialogues, music performances, theatre, book launches, documentaries, dances, drum circles, workshops, open mic sessions and a discussion on the future of Pakistani films. Delegates from around the world arrived for converge of the festival that began with an exhibition, 'Women Artists of Pakistan'. According to a statement, the inaugural

day featured renowned Qawwals Saleem and Waseem Sabri.

On the second day of the three-day festival, 32 sessions are lined up to explore diverse themes in art, literature, language, politics and poetry. On the third and final day, 35 sessions were scheduled, to pay tribute to prominent women from various fields.

The festival reflected delving into world affairs, societal shifts, politics, literary nuances, linguistics, and events shaping different nations. On the final day, the international festival attracted rather bigger turnout as compared to the inaugural day.

Faiz Foundation Trust Chairperson Salima Hashmi said told the audience that the title of the exhibition had been espoused from a line of a ghazal of Faiz Ahmed Faiz "Dil Na Umeed Tou Nahi.



KARACHI: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside Provincial Election Commission Office in Karachi.

## Elected leadership to brace up to serve the nation: Shafqat Shah

SUKKUR (APP): Renowned politician, advocate Syed Shafqat Ali Shah on Sunday said that a peaceful and well-organised electoral process witnessed in Sindh, leading to the successful election of the representatives.

Talking to APP, he extended heartfelt congratulations to the winning candidates. He lauded the outstanding

performance of security agencies and administrative authorities. Shah said that after receiving a fresh mandate from the people, the elected leadership should brace up to serve the nation adding that the time has come to put an end to inflation and immorality. He said that people have been waiting for high relief for many months.

## JUI-F demands recounting of votes in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) on Sunday demanded recounting of votes in NA-43 Dera-cum-Tank. The JUI-F workers by the party candidate Maulana Asad Mehmood staged a sit-in on the Tank-Wana Road in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office. Dawar Khan Kundi, an independent candidate, succeeded in winning the National Assembly seat by defeating Maulana Asad.

## We will make country prosperous by ending inflation, poverty: Lal

By Tanveer Soomro  
MIRPUR MATHELO: Pakistan Muslim League (N) accepts the results despite the rigging of the General elections and we will form the Government, there will be an era of prosperity for the people, we will make the country prosperous by ending inflation, poverty and unemployment.

Dr. Darshan Lal, the Central leader of Muslim League (N), while holding a press conference in Mirpur Mathelo, said that our winning candidates were defeated in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khurram

Dastgir Khan's victory in Punjab was turned into defeat, from Karachi. Most of our candidates were winning but later they were defeated. If there was no rigging, we would have become the majority party. Despite all reservations, we accept the results. He said that still the National Assembly. I am the majority and we will form the government, there will be a period of development in the country, Mian Nawaz Sharif will serve the people by becoming the prime minister of the country, he said that the law and order situation in Sindh is worse.



PESHAWAR: Supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party gather to protest as they allege rigging in the general elections, in Peshawar, Pakistan, 11 February 2024.

## Election 2024 signifies people unshakable trust in democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election 2024 results have signified the people's unshakable trust in the electoral process as well as the strong parliamentary system and have pinned high expectations on their elected representatives to address their problems besides taking the country forward on the road to progress and development, experts said.

"The people of Pakistan delivered the verdict on February 8, 2024, and now it is up to elected representatives, institutions and political leadership to accept their decision imperative to carry the ship of democracy forward and

take the country out of the shabby economic situation," said Professor Dr.A.H.Hilali, ex-Chairman Political Science Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP on Sunday.

The split electoral mandate which was given to mainstream political parties on February 8 is a manifestation of pluralism in the country's politics besides signifying that people of Pakistan wanted resolution of their problems and country's challenges through a national government represented by all political parties, he said.

"Pakistan is currently facing enormous challenges

including shabby economy, terrorism, security issues, price hike, inflation and climate change and no political party can address it single handedly, and that is why people of Pakistan had given split mandate to political parties for resolution of these issues amicably," he said.

By taking lessons from the past; he said that political leadership should immediately sit together and form a coalition government as quickly as possible to take the country out of economic challenges by accepting each other's mandate wholeheartedly.

I n d e p e n d e n t

candidates have so far won 93 seats at the National Assembly, 116 in Punjab Assembly, 11 in Sindh Assembly, 83 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly while PML-N's clinched 77 seats at National Assembly, 137 seats in Punjab, 10 in Balochistan and five seats in KP Assembly.

PPP has secured third position with 54 NA seats, 10 seats in the Punjab Assembly, 84 in the Sindh Assembly, 11 in the Balochistan Assembly and five in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly till the filing of this report.

Likewise, MQM Pakistan will play a key

role in the formation of a coalition government in centre after winning 17 NA seats and 28 seats in Sindh Assembly, he said.

Similarly, six seats in the National Assembly, 22 seats in Punjab, 3 in Sindh and 5 seats in Balochistan have been clinched by independent candidates while JUIF bagged four seats in National Assembly, 10 seats in Balochistan and eight seats in KP.

PMLQ has bagged three seats in National Assembly and 7 seats in Punjab Assembly while two each NA seats of Istehkam Pakistan Party and Balochistan National Party will also matter in coalition government.



MULTAN: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, in Multan.





First set of Pakistanis among batch of 600 start Overseas Careers post landmark agreements by Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

## Launching New Horizons: 600 Pakistani professionals embark on international careers

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a landmark moment for employment mobility, 600 Pakistani professionals have embarked on international careers, following the successful negotiation of strategic employment agreements with global partners. This departure marks a significant milestone in the initiative led by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to enhancing global employment opportunities for its workforce.

The initiative, under the guidance of Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, has seen the fruition of agreements signed merely 90 days ago. This effort has opened thousands of job avenues across diverse sectors for Pakistani professionals, reflecting the country's proactive engagement on the international stage.

Departing from major cities including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar, the professionals expressed gratitude for the seamless process facilitated by the government. Their departure, witnessed by families and ministry officials, with Mr. Malik personally seeing off Islamabad's contingent, illustrates the government's dedication to supporting its citizens' aspirations. The initial batch of 600 professionals marks just the beginning. This figure is set to rise substantially as global employers continue to conduct interviews and select candidates on a daily basis.

## Red Sea crisis not yet having 'significant' impact on global economy: IMF

WASHINGTON (Online): The Houthi rebel attacks on vessels in the Red Sea have had a significant impact on insurance and shipping rates, but have so far not affected global economic growth prospects, Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the IMF, said in an interview with the Washington Post this week.

"It adds pressure on prices, but not yet to the point that our projections for inflation globally will be corrected upwards," the IMF chief said, adding that "for now, this has implications, but not of the magnitude that would significantly derail growth projections for the world economy."

She noted that in January 2024, traffic through the Suez Canal, a critical maritime trade route connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, plunged by nearly a half versus last January. However, according to Georgieva, the impact of this drop in traffic is more "localized," and most severe for Egypt, which relies on revenues from the waterway traffic and is currently losing roughly \$100 million a month.

Still, Georgieva warned that "surprises" like the Red Sea shipping crisis are making long-term growth prospects for the world economy "bleak." The IMF recently slightly updated its economic projections, and now expects the global economy to grow by 3.1% this year, but, according to Georgieva, this figure is still "weak by historical standards" if compared to the average growth of 3.8% in the decade before the Covid-19 pandemic.

## PDM economic management led to sharp rise in per capita debt

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: A new legally mandated fiscal policy statement has revealed the worst economic management by the coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, resulting in expenditures over Rs2.2 trillion higher than budgeted and a 25% increase in the debt burden for every citizen.

The Ministry of Finance's Fiscal Policy Statement 2024 showed a sharp rise in the debt burden during the fiscal year 2022-23, the period when PDM ruled Pakistan. The debt burden of every citizen increased by 25.2% to Rs271,624 by the end of the previous fiscal year. In absolute terms, every person's debt burden rose by Rs54,500 within one year, according to the statement. A year ago, the per person debt burden was Rs216,925, according to the Ministry of Finance report. The statement is prepared under the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act (FRDL) and will be placed before the new National Assembly. Although the Ministry of Finance has not officially released the statement, the deadline to present it was January 31.

The gross public debt jumped to Rs62.9 trillion by June 2023, indicating an increase since then. A more than one-fourth increase in per capita debt in one year signifies the speed at which the country is sinking under the debt burden.

The report stated that the key factors responsible for this rise are interest payments on debt and the exchange rate devaluation effect.

The Ministry of Finance has calculated the per capita debt based on the assumption of a population of 231.5 million people. If the new population census numbers are considered, then the per person debt burden would be Rs260,387, up by Rs44,462 or 21%.

Pakistan was ruled by the PDM from April 2022 to August 2023—an alliance of about a dozen political parties. The large alliance made economic decision-making difficult, and these parties fought hard for thinning fiscal resources. A large and unsustainable Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) was also the result.



SUKKUR: Traders of Mobile Market are burn tires and blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Ghanta Ghar Chowk in Sukkur.

## Pakistan fully capable of becoming AI development hub in South Asia

BEIJING (APP): CPInS Lab Director Dr Wu Jun has said that Pakistan, through further cooperation with China, is fully capable of becoming an artificial intelligence (AI) development hub in South Asia and the wider region.

The CPInS Lab has been officially established at Pakistan's National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the beginning of year 2022 with joint efforts with the Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology. At present, various researches are in progress in an orderly manner.

"We have made great progress in areas such as UAV control systems and AI recognition localization. Our lab is starting the application of smart cities in Pakistan," Dr Wu said in an interview with CEN.

"Through this platform, our mature research results could be deeply connected with local projects in Pakistan, providing smart city-related products and intelligent solutions according to local conditions.

"We are able to effectively implement core technologies and products such as smart street lights and smart videos to improve local urban governance ability," he added.

## S&P 500 earnings growth seen at 9%

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: With results in from about two-thirds of companies, fourth-quarter 2023 S&P 500, tab earnings growth is now seen at 9.0%, almost double a Jan 1 forecast for 4.7% growth, according to LSEG data on Friday.

About 81% of reports are beating analysts' expectations, compared with an average of 76% in the previous four reporting periods, the data showed. "A lot of the surprises were in the earnings," rather than in revenues, said Tim Ghriskey.



MULTAN: An artisan demonstrating his skills during the Bleu fair organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce.

## LESCO collects over Rs 8m from 446 defaulters

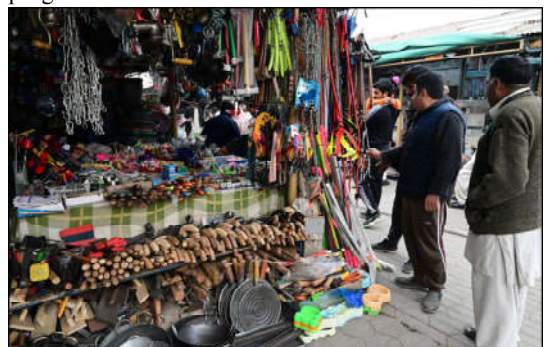
LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery), recovered more than Rs 8 million from 446 chronic defaulters in all its five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 147th day of its campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media here on Sunday that on the 147th day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal, with the support of Tehsildar Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun, recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.04 million from 51 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 2.43 million from 51 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively.

Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 2.19 million from 63 defaulters in Central Circle, and Rs 0.72 million from 27 defaulters in South Circle; while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhupura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 0.48 million from 44 defaulters in Nankana Circle and Rs 1.06 million from 62 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle.

## PFC delegation off to USA for Las Vegas Expo

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation Sunday left for Las Vegas, USA, to partake in a three-day expo commencing on February 13 to showcase the diverse range of Pakistan's furniture products and to explore new opportunities in the global market. The delegation comprises representatives from various segments of the furniture sector including manufacturers, designers, and exporters, all poised to highlight the richness and uniqueness of Pakistani furniture designs. PFC CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq told the media that with an aim to bolster the country's furniture industry on an international platform, the delegation was set to exhibit the craftsmanship.



ISLAMABAD: People busy shopping at Sunday Bazar G-9 in the Federal Capital.

## Adia to invest \$4-5bln in India's Gift City

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (Adia), the UAE's largest sovereign wealth fund, will set up a \$4 billion to \$5 billion fund in India's latest special economic zone.

The regulatory authority for financial services at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City) has granted in-principle approval to the state-owned investor to set up the fund, the Reuters news agency reported, citing informed sources. The approval will make Adia the first sovereign wealth fund to begin investing in India via Gift City.

The fund, with \$853 billion in assets and one of the world's largest institutional investors, announced its intention to establish a presence in Gift City last July.

According to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute's rankings, Adia ranked as the third-largest in the world, is one of the world's largest institutional investors. Norway's sovereign wealth fund is the largest in the world and with over \$1.26 trillion in assets, and the China Investment Corporation is second with \$1.22 trillion. The approval comes days before India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to visit Abu Dhabi to open the BAPS Hindu Mandir.

## Women Chamber of Commerce to hold seminar

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The Women Chamber of Commerce Bahawalpur is going to organize a seminar here on February 13, 2024, to highlight the importance of women's role in business activities.

According to a press release issued here, under the supervision of Naheed Masood, the President of the Women Chamber of Commerce Bahawalpur, a seminar would take place on February 13, 2024, to encourage women to participate in business activities in order to empower themselves.

## Agri dept to organize sugarcane production contest among farmers

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab Agriculture Department decided to organize production competitions among sugarcane growers.

According to a spokesman for the Punjab Agriculture Department (Multan), sugarcane is a crucial cash crop, and increasing its production per acre is essential. To achieve this goal, he recommended new production technologies such as advanced seed varieties, sowing methods, timely sowing, appropriate use of fertilizers, timely irrigation, and steps for effective prevention of diseases.

Under the Punjab government's Agricultural Emergency Program, a five-year national program to increase sugarcane production per acre had been launched since the fiscal year 2019-20. It had been planned under the project that various activities of the project would be implemented during the current year. Registered farmers will be provided with zinc sulfate at concessional rates.

## Traders express concerns on dacoities in markets

MULTAN (APP): Tanzeem-e-Tajraan Pakistan expressed concerns over rising incidents of dacoities in city's busiest markets and demanded of Punjab government to take immediate notice of the poor law and order situation.

Chairman Tanzeem-e-Tajraan Pakistan Khawaja Suleman Siddique along with some other traders stated that the incidents of dacoities created immense trouble for the traders in the city.

## Abu Dhabi Dialogue focuses on labour issues, enhancing women jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday while highlighting the role of Abu Dhabi Dialogue said that it was a unique event that brought 17 member states from the Gulf and Asia together with the core objective to address issues pertaining to labour mobility and women's jobs. He said that the platform had a key role in establishing the principle of protecting the rights of migrant workers which was the common responsibility of labour-sending and labour-receiving countries.

The ambassador addressed the 7th Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) here in Abu Dhabi.

Pakistan is the current chair of the ADD, a press release said. The envoy stressed that the technology was changing demands for various skills and they needed to be innovative in meeting the labour demands. There was dire need for diversifying skill sets and engagement aimed at developing skills mobility partnerships.

He also lauded the efforts of ADD for focusing on women in green jobs and said that women could fill critical skills gaps in industries including renewable energy. "Climate change and natural disasters including floods are the gravest challenges that have emphasized the significance of collective efforts to mitigate losses and build back better."



MULTAN: Visitors taking interest in the displayed stuff on a stall during the Bleu fair organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce.



LAHORE: Women visiting stall during Faiz Mela at Al-Hamra.

## Poultry industry sees 40 percent decline

**Monitoring Desk**  
KARACHI: The poultry industry, facing multiple challenges, including high volatility in price manipulation following feed mills in the country, has witnessed a downfall instead of growth, with an overall 40% reduction in the industry due to ill-planned strategies. Industry pundits attribute this decline to the ill-planned and mismanaged broiler breeding sector, lack of ideal husbandry practices, unhygienic conditions, poor bio-security, quarantines, return on investment (ROI), and

risky feed transactions based on credit, among other factors. They highlight the sector's volatility, where chicken meat prices often fluctuate from Rs550 per kilogram (kg) to Rs250 per kg for various reasons, occasionally shooting up due to a poor mechanism of demand and supply in the local market.

In discussions with The Express Tribune, they note that the poultry industry has faced challenges for over six years, with the industry's growth rate of 7% to 8% annually reduced by 40%. The feed industry has shrunk to hardly 5.5 or 6.5 million tonnes per year compared to the 9 or 9.5 million tonnes produced six years ago.

Hi-Tech Group of Companies CEO, Dr Muhammad Arshad, believes that tuning the return on investment (ROI) logically will lead the industry to reinvest at least 50% of its profit in the commercial broiler rearing sector, regaining expansion at 6% to 8%, as it used to be when feed profits on listed feed rates were 8% to 10%.

"The poultry industry has been facing a shrinking phase, with one of the main reasons being the infeasible prices of feeds, making it a more capital-intensive industry. Feeds are sold on credit basis, mostly risky transactions where defaults occur frequently. Feed mills practically function as banks, with raw material suppliers as depositors and customers as borrowers.

If banks do not charge adequate markup [the feed industry does not earn reasonable profits], they become incapable of extending more loans. Furthermore, if borrowers [feed buyers] do not pay back on time, the bank's investment is further scaled down," he explains.

As the feed industry is not earning reasonable profits, they lack the financial capacity to offer more credit to customers, sharply decreasing the industry's volume. Dr Arshad points out that a few years ago, when the industry was growing, profits of 8% to 10% were being earned on listed feed prices, whereas these gains are now only around 3%.

"This is an integrated system run by the entire poultry industry, including feed mills, poultry farms, volatile rates of broilers, and others."



Red Sea crisis not yet having 'significant' impact on global economy - IMF

WASHINGTON (Online): The Houthi rebel attacks on vessels in the Red Sea have had a significant impact on insurance and shipping rates, but have so far not affected global economic growth prospects...



People gather near the wreckage of a police vehicle destroyed in Israeli strikes in Rafah.

Palestinians brace for Israeli assault on their last refuge in Gaza

MONITORING DESK GAZA STRIP: Israeli air strikes killed 117 Palestinians during the past 24 hours, the health ministry in Gaza Strip said on Saturday as over a million Palestinians cramming into the border city of Rafah await a full-blown offensive...

Britain's King Charles attends church in first public outing since cancer diagnosis announced

LONDON: Britain's King Charles attended church on Sunday in his first public outing since announcing last week he had been diagnosed with cancer and would postpone some engagements to undergo treatment.

Trump comments on Russia, NATO 'appalling and unhinged' - White House

WASHINGTON (Internews): The White House on Saturday rejected comments made by former U.S. President Donald Trump about not protecting NATO allies from a potential Russian invasion as "appalling and unhinged."

Pope Francis presides over a canonisation celebration of Maria Antonia de Paz y Figueroa, an Argentine consecrated lay woman who has been on the path to sainthood since 2010, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Hamas official survives Israeli attack in Lebanon

MONITORING DESK BEIRUT: A senior Hamas officer survived on Saturday an Israeli assassination attempt in Lebanon, Palestinian and Lebanese security sources said, with officials reporting two killed in the attack south of Beirut.

Jeff Bezos sells roughly \$2 billion of Amazon shares

NEW YORK (INP): Amazon founder Jeff Bezos sold around 12 million shares of the online retail and cloud services firm for roughly \$2 billion, according to a company filing...

At least five dead after soldier opens fire at military base in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (INP): At least five people, including Somali military officials and a United Arab Emirates (UAE) soldier, were killed on Saturday after a soldier opened fire at a military base in the capital Mogadishu...

Panama denies ex-president safe passage to Nicaragua

PANAMA CITY: Panama denied its scandal-plagued former president Ricardo Martinelli, who has taken refuge at the Nicaraguan embassy, safe passage out of the country on Friday, following his granting of asylum by Managua.

Indonesia presidential frontrunner skips press freedom event

JAKARTA (Internews): Two of Indonesia's three presidential contenders pledged to protect press freedom in the world's third-largest democracy at a weekend event that frontrunner Prabowo Subianto didn't attend.

Iran anniversary marchers chant 'death to Israel' amid regional tensions over Gaza

DUBAI (Internews): Hundreds of thousands of people chanted "Death to Israel" in rallies across Iran to mark the Islamic Revolution's 45th anniversary on Sunday, with some burning U.S. and Israeli flags amid the ongoing war between Israel and Tehran-backed Hamas...

Researchers start to find clues on trail of long Covid

PARIS: Tens of millions of people across the world are thought to suffer from long Covid, but four years after the pandemic was declared, this elusive condition still cannot be tested for - let alone treated.

Myanmar junta enforces compulsory military service law

YANGON: Myanmar's junta is enforcing a law requiring all men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27 to serve at least two years under military command, it said on Saturday, as it struggles to crush opposition to its 2021 coup.

Polish farmers block roads, Ukraine border in nationwide protest

WARSAW (Internews): Polish farmers blocked roads nationwide and at border crossings with Ukraine on Friday, kicking off a month-long general strike to protest against EU policies and a lack of government action to protect their livelihoods.

Red Sea attacks' canal revenue can be partly absorbed-Egypt finance minister

DUBAI (Internews): Egypt's Finance Minister Mohamed Maait said part of the impact on Suez Canal revenue of the Red Sea attacks on vessels could be absorbed, thanks to previous growth which had been doing well before the incidents started.

World sees first 12 months above 1.5C warming level

PARIS: Earth has endured 12 months of temperatures 1.5C hotter than the pre-industrial era for the first time on record, Europe's climate monitor said on Thursday, in what scientists called a "warning to humanity."



A member of Kataeb Hezbollah, attends the funeral of Abu Baqr al-Saadi, a senior commander of the armed group who was killed in a strike carried out a day earlier by an American drone that targeted his car in a vital neighbourhood in Baghdad.

Mallikarjun Kharge releases 'Black Paper' against BJP govt

NEW DELHI (INP): Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge released a critique of the BJP-led government called "Black Paper" saying it failed on many fronts, including employment and inflation.

Second protest death deepens Senegal crisis

MONITORING DESK DAKAR: Senegal's political crisis deepened as a second person died on Saturday in increasingly violent protests against President Macky Sall's decision to postpone upcoming presidential elections.



## Caretaker govt fulfills its constitutional responsibility by holding polls: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said the government had fulfilled its constitutional responsibility by holding free, fair and transparent elections in a peaceful manner.

Speaking in a TV talk show on private media, the minister said the caretaker government had extended all-out facilitation to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the polls.

The results of the elections were a testament to the transparency of the elections, he added.

To a query, Solangi said there was a procedure for the transfer of power under the constitution and law.

He said the incumbent speakers would call sessions of all the assemblies as soon as the official results of the general election conveyed to the respective assemblies officially.

The caretaker governments would be dissolved when the elected Prime Minister and Chief Ministers would take oaths of their positions, he added.

The Ministry of Interior had responded to the queries about the suspension of mobile service on election day, he said, adding the citizens' lives were of paramount importance for the state.

There were threats to the citizens and polling staff, he said in response to another query. "It was important for us to ensure that there was no hindrance to the people's mobility on the election day."

There had always been disputes over the election process and election date, he said recalling such disputes at the time 2018 and 2013 elections.

## ECP directs re-polling at 53 polling stations in three constituencies on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Election Commission of Pakistan has directed a re-polling at 53 polling stations in three constituencies of national and provincial assemblies on Thursday.

According to an ECP spokesman, the commission has withheld the results in NA-88 Khushab, PS-18 Ghotki-I, and PK-90 Kohat-I constituencies due to the wastage of polling materials.

The results of these constituencies will be announced after 15th of this month.

The Commission ordered re-polling in 26 polling stations of NA-88, following the burning of polling material by a crowd at the Returning Officer's office.

The commission has mandated the re-polling of 2 polling stations in Ghotki due to the snatching and destruction by unknown miscreants and 25 polling stations in PK-90 Kohat.

## Gilani's votes increased after recounting in NA-148

MULTAN (INP): After the recount in National Assembly constituency NA-148, the number of votes obtained by former PM, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani increased.

Upon the request of Independent candidate Barrister Taimur Malik, the process of verification of Form 45 was carried out in the RO office. Resultantly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani secured victory with 67,377 votes, while Taimur Malik remained runner-up with 67,047 votes.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, representing Pakistan, in a group photo with other delegates during the 7th Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue. Pakistan is the current Chair of Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

## ECP bars ROs to issue final results of 10 NA & 16 PAs seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has barred the Returning Officers (ROs) to issue the final results of several National Assembly and provincial assembly seats. A four-member bench headed by chief election commissioner held the hearing of alleged alteration in the election result of NA-48.

"We were ahead with the lead of 50,000 votes as per the Form-45 but the Returning Officer issued the Form-47 and changed our victory into defeat," the counsel of PTI candidate Ali Bukhari argued.

The ECP issued notice to the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party backed candidate Raja Khuram Nawaz and barred the RO to issue the final notification of NA-47 and NA-48.

Meanwhile, ECP also barred the ROs to issue the final results of PK-73, PK-79, PK-80 and PK-82. PTI backed Taimoor Jhagra and Kamran Bangash had challenged the results from PK-79 and PK-82 respectively.

Moreover, the results of NA-28, NA-49 Attock, NA-50 Attock, NA-55 Rawalpindi, NA-63 and NA-65 were also challenged in the ECP.

Talking about the seats of provincial assemblies, the results of PB-1, PP-11, PP-20, PP-14, PP-16, PP-31, PP-33 and PP-59 were also challenged in the ECP.

The ECP barred the ROs to issue the final results of 10 NA and 16 provincial assembly seats.

Meanwhile, the ECP also barred the RO to issue the final result of NA-15 Mansehra from where PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif was defeated by a PTI backed independent candidate.

## Khuhro says: No party alone can't form govt at Centre

LAARKANA (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh President Nisar Khuhro on Sunday said that no political party was in a position to form a government alone at the Centre.

The PPP would try to form the government and if, otherwise, it would prefer to sit on the opposition benches in the Parliament, he said while talking to the media after offering Fataha at the graves of Bhutto family martyrs in Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto.

He said it was premature to comment about the government's formation at the Centre as negotiations between the parties in that regard were underway.

He viewed that as per the Constitution, the elected independent Na-

## Pak strongly condemns terrorist attack at military base in Somalia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Sunday strongly condemned yesterday's heinous terrorist attack against the UAE military trainers and under training Somali soldiers at a military base in Mogadishu.

In a statement the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We offer our deepest condolences to the governments and the people of the UAE and Bahrain and to the families of victims and pray for the early recovery of all the injured."

"Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stands in firm solidarity with the government of Somalia in combating terrorism," she added.

## PTI alleges Form 47 of 18 NA seats falsely changed by returning officers

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The PTI said on Sunday that the Form 47 of 18 National Assembly (NA) seats allegedly won by the party were "falsely changed" by returning officers (RO).

Thursday's general election had seen mobile services suspended and a delay in the announcement of the preliminary results, an exercise which was extended till the weekend.

On Friday, following the victory of candidates with its support, the PTI had claimed it had become the single largest party in the Centre and two provinces and vowed to get back its iconic 'bat' symbol.

In an AI-generated message on Imran Khan's official X account, a message attributed to the erstwhile party chief congratulated supporters on winning the 2024 general elections and securing a two-thirds majority. The message also echoed allegations of rigging, claiming that the party was winning "170 seats" according to Form 45s.

Separately, PTI Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan had lamented that when the results started pouring in late on Thursday night and the trend clearly showed that PTI was taking a clear lead in the Centre, KP, and Punjab, the "poll manipulators" first slowed down the process of announcement of results and subsequently halted the process altogether to "tamper with the results."

"PTI candidates were clearly winning with a huge margin in several constituencies, including Islamabad at night, but ironically, their clear victory was converted into defeat in the morning because political engineering was going on behind the scenes," he had said. It should be mentioned that political parties, including PTI, Jamaat-i-Islami and Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan, have also been staging protests against alleged rigging in the polls.



QUETTA: Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani celebrates with supporters after his victory in the General Election 2024, in Quetta.

## PTI secures triple century in NA, PAs

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has emerged as the sole party to clinch 300 or more seats across the national and provincial assemblies. The latest results reveal that PTI-backed independent candidates have secured 95 seats in the National Assembly, 116 in the Punjab Assembly, 83 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 11 in Sindh.

With a total of 305 seats, PTI has established a commanding presence in both the national and provincial legislative bodies, surpassing all other political contenders. Notably, the Election Commission has announced unofficial official results for 257 seats of the National Assembly.

Independent candidates backed by PTI have emerged as the largest group in the National Assembly, securing 95 seats, outnumbering other independent members by a significant margin.

The runner-up in the current electoral standings is the Muslim League-N, which has garnered 76 seats thus far, followed by the People's Party with 54 seats, and MQM Pakistan with 17 seats. Additionally, Muslim League-Q and JUI-

have secured 3 seats each, while IPP has clinched 2 seats.

Responding to the released results, PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan has raised allegations of seat misappropriation, asserting that approximately 60 seats have been unjustly taken away from their party. Promising to reclaim these seats through legal recourse, Hasan emphasized their commitment to presenting compelling evidence before tribunals and potentially the courts if necessary. He highlighted the absence of Form 47 in certain constituencies as a procedural hurdle, vowing to pursue all available legal avenues to secure their rightful share.

Furthermore, Hasan affirmed PTI's determination to uphold their party's legitimacy and safeguard against any attempts at electoral manipulation. He underscored the meticulous selection process for independent candidates, contrasting it with the alleged unethical practices of rival parties. With legal challenges looming, PTI remains resolute in their pursuit of electoral justice and preserving the integrity of democratic processes.



LAHORE: A delegation of MQM Pakistan meeting with PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Shahbaz Sharif.

## Newly elected PPP candidate arrested on terrorism charges

KARACHI (INP): Irfan Zafar Leghari, a newly elected Member of the National Assembly for the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was arrested alongside his uncle Qambar Leghari and fellow PPP member Fayyaz Bhatt in Mehr Tehsil, Sindh. The arrests were made under the Terrorism Act, casting a shadow over their recent electoral success.

According to reports, a case was registered at the Mehr police station accusing Leghari, his uncle, and Bhatt of firing and attacking Pakistani soldiers. The case reportedly involves over 200 individuals, but these three newly elected politicians stand out due to their recent ascent to public office.

This development comes amidst ongoing tensions in the region and raises questions about the potential involvement of elected officials in acts of violence. While the full details of the case remain under investigation, the arrests have sparked outrage and debate within Pakistan.

The PPP has yet to issue an official statement on the matter. However, the party's leadership is likely under immense pressure to address these serious accusations and clarify their stance on the alleged involvement of their members in such activities.

The arrests also raise concerns about the potential for political influence in legal proceedings, particularly in cases related to terrorism. It is crucial that the investigation is conducted transparently and impartially to ensure justice is served and public trust remains intact.

## Sharif's claim to poll victory is 'insult to Pakistanis', says Aleema

ISLAMABAD (INP): Aleema Khan, the sister of former prime minister Imran Khan, has described PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif's claim to victory as an "insult to Pakistanis".

"Nawaz Sharif has been sent back. This is how he does it. He spends four years in London. I think it's a big insult to Pakistanis that we accept people like that. We don't," she said in an interview with Sky News.

She was asked about the PML-N supreme Sharif making claims to victory and his speech that the country does not have the space for a fight.

Sharif was the first politician to come out and claim victory in the election after the PML-N emerged as the single largest party in the poll. He has announced his bid to form a coalition government.

The party has started reaching out to other political parties to make alliances.

"I would be embarrassed as a Pakistani to think that this is acceptable for us. It isn't acceptable to Pakistanis," she went on.

Aleema described her brother as an "alternative" in dealing with the country's challenges.

She was of the view that her brother inspired a "revolution" in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq presiding over meeting of central leadership at Mansoor.

## Lahore ranks 5th in global air pollution ranking

LAHORE (APP): The provincial metropolis was the 5th most polluted place in the world on Sunday.

According to the details, the weather in the provincial capital again has become polluted, despite cold winds continuing in the early morning in the bright sun, the temperature was recorded at 10 degrees Celsius, while the weather is predicted to remain dry-polluted in the next 24 hours.

According to the Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature in the city is likely to go up to 21 degrees, the humidity in the air is 90 percent, the wind is blowing at a speed of 5 km, there is no chance of rain in the next 24 hours. Lahore ranks 5th in the global air pollution ranking, with an overall air quality index of 192.

Meanwhile, on the instructions of Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, action continues against violation of anti-smog orders. Various trash burning furnaces have been demolished for using old technology, while others were extinguished. The Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) also started various initiatives to control smog, under which smog dissolution "weather generators" have been installed in Lahore.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Ali Madad Jattak celebrates with supporters after his victory in the General Election 2024, in Quetta.

## PTI backed candidates winning's seats snatched on gunpoint: Babar Awan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Babar Awan addressed the media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan on Sunday stating that worst election rigging happened in the recently held general elections and alleged that number of seats that earlier won PTI backed candidates later snatched on gunpoint.

He stated that not only PTI but the entire world condemned and rejected the election day midnight horrible attempt of snatching PTI willing seats. Awan alleged that PML-N head Nawaz Sharif is attempting to secure victory through hidden hands since February 9, claiming that pre-poll rigging persisted for two years.

Babar Awan emphasized the controversial nature of the elections, labeling them as the most disputed in Pakistan's history.

He challenged the results in Sargodha and Faisalabad, asserting that PTI candidates emerged victorious in these constituencies. Furthermore, Awan called for the immediate release of PTI founder Imran Khan, urging the President to exercise the power of pardon.

Speaking passionately, Awan declared, "Nawaz Sharif gave a victory speech without a vote; we reject the results of February 9. The entire world has denounced these results, but Nawaz Sharif continues to exert force since February 9. We hold the majority with 179 seats, and we refuse to accept the decision of February 9."

Awan criticized the election process, drawing attention to the unorthodox victory speech by Nawaz Sharif. He stated, "One side was eggplant, and the other side was the billion-dollar man."



LORALAI: Activists of Peoples Party (PPP) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office.

## We wouldn't accept change in results of elections: Real mandate of people should be announced, demands Asghar Khan Achakzai

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai and his other leaders have demanded of the concerned authorities to announce the real mandate of the people given by them to the party and its candidates on February 8.

They were addressing the grand protest sit-in outside Deputy Commissioner Complex in Chaman on Sunday.

The protest was registered against alleged alteration in the results of PB-51 Chaman.

The Leaders of Jamiat Ulema-I-Islam Hafiz Hamdullah and others also joined the protest.

A large number of people participated in the protest.

They said that the general elections were announced on February 8 after lot of hurdles and then the political parties took part in the election campaign for around one and half month.

They said that the ANP's candidate Asghar Khan Achakzai who was on first number in the election from Chaman was shown as looser while the candidate who was at number four was declared as winner.

They said that the ANP believes in the power of masses, who reposed confidence in its candidates.

But if anyone wants to prove something otherwise then it would produce dangerous consequences, the ANP leaders asserted.

They demanded of the authorities to announce the results of elections as per the Form-45, which is already with all the parties.

Otherwise, the whole responsibility would rest with the Election Commission as well as the Returning Officers and District Returning Officers, they asserted.

Asghar Khan and others warned if their demands were not met, then the protest would be intensified further.

Meanwhile, protest was also lodged by ANP at Baleji near Quetta the same day.

The ANP's district President Sanaullah Kakar and General Secretary Hamza Kakar addressed the protesters.

## 12-camel convoy loaded with 852kg hashish seized in Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an intelligence-based operation recovered 852kg hashish from Pasni city of district Gwadar in Balochistan, reported on Sunday.

According to an ANF spokesperson, the Force was informed that 852 kilograms hashish was being smuggled on 12 camels in Balochistan's Pasni area.

Taking an urgent action, the ANF personnel cordoned off the smugglers and recovered drug worth millions of rupees.

ANF claimed that it was committed to eradicate smuggling from the country.

Last week, ANF while conducting 11 operations recovered over 724 kg drugs and arrested nine accused.

746 grams hashish was recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah from Islamabad Airport. 91 her-oin-filled capsules were re-covered from a passenger going to Dubai from Islamabad Airport.

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

## Kashmiri pays tribute to Maqbool Butt Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Uzair Ahmed Ghazali has said that Maqbool Bhatt was a revolutionary leader who has sacrificed his life for Kashmir's independence.

In a statement issued here Sunday on the martyrdom anniversary of Maqbool Bhatt, he said that Maqbool Bhatt's eternal struggle for the freedom was exemplary.

He said that Bhatt was one of the first leaders of freedom under Indian imperialism, who showed the people the way of freedom and struggle from India.

Ghazali said that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle to get freedom from the illegal occupation of India.

"India could not weaken Kashmir's freedom struggle with executions, fake military encounters, arrests, worst use of laws, and coercive leadership" he reiterated.

"The bigoted and tyrannical Indian judiciary openly expressed its hatred and enmity towards the Kashmiri people."



QUETTA: Activists of Hazara Democratic Party (HDP) are holding protest demonstration against rigging in General Election 2024, at Quetta press club.