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PML-N, IPP, PPP, MQM, PML-Q join forces for coalition govt

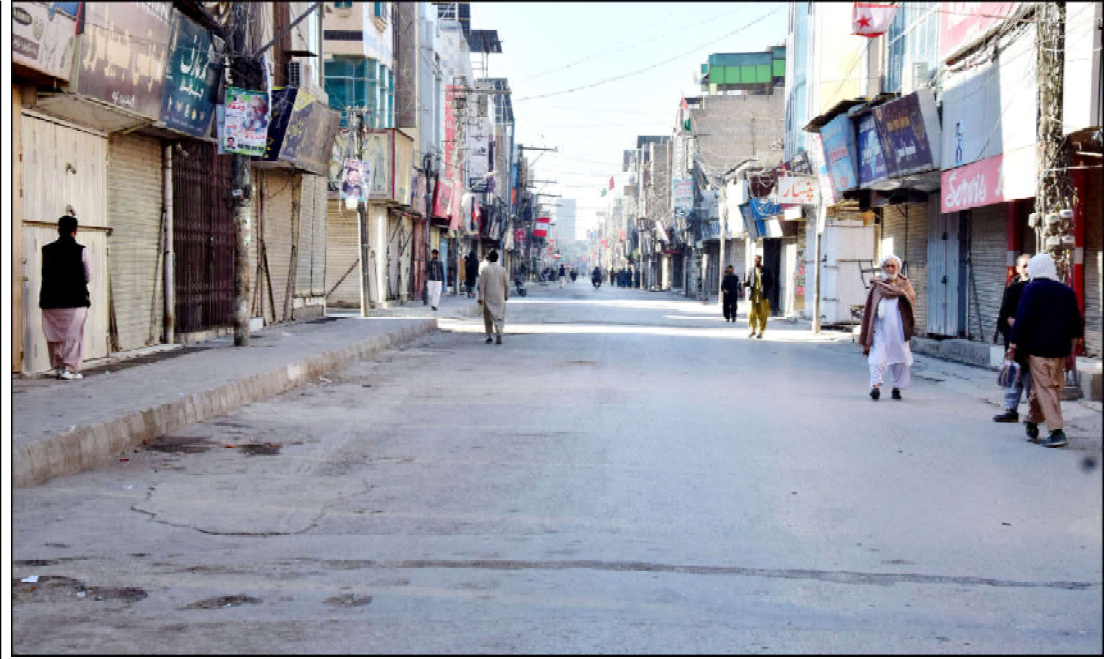
Asif Zardari vows to extend reconciliation efforts to PTI; Shehbaz says "war" is against country's challenges; Aleem Khan hopes Shehbaz-led govt will take decisions beneficial for the country; MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool vows 'full support' to Shehbaz to 'strengthen' democracy

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Political leaders from various parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Muslim League, Isteekam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), have announced plans to form a coalition government. This decision emerged following a meeting held at

Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain's residence, where leaders discussed strategies for governance. Speaking to media after the meeting, Asif Ali Zardari expressed determination to establish the coalition government. He emphasized the importance of a unified agenda, focusing on economic, defense, and other critical issues to ensure Pakistan's success. Zardari highlighted that

Nawaz nominates Shehbaz as PM candidate, Maryam as Punjab CM contender

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) made a significant decision on Tuesday, nominating Shehbaz Sharif as their candidate for the prime ministerial position. According to sources, Maryam Nawaz, the Chief Organiser of the PML-N, is set to contest for the role of Punjab chief minister. The final announcement regarding the prime ministerial candidate will be coordinated with allied parties. It is noteworthy that Nawaz Sharif has endorsed both Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz for their respective roles. Continued on page 2



QUETTA: A view of closed shops of commercial centers of the city due to strike against the alleged rigging of the election call by Four Party Ittihad.



ISLAMABAD: President PML-N Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Co-Chairman PPP Asif Ali Zardari, President PML-Q Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and BAP's Sadiq Sanjrani addressing a joint press conference

PML-N ready for opposition if independents show minority: Shehbaz

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that independent candidates backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) can form a government in the Centre if they have the required number of seats. Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said that if PTI-backed candidates could show majority in the National Assembly then they were welcome to form a government. "The PML-N is ready to sit in the opposition if PTI-backed candidates prove their majority in the lower house of parliament. The PML-N will accept the government of the PTI-backed independent candidates but if they fail to do so, then the PML-N will use its legal and constitutional right as the PML-N has a majority in

Punjab and is the largest in the Centre in terms of party," he added. The PML-N president said that after independent candidates' induction into the party the number of elected members was now 80, adding that more independent lawmakers would join the PML-N in the coming days. He said that despite PML-N failing to secure a majority in the elections, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was still the party's candidate for the slot of prime minister. "Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister for the fourth time," he added. Shehbaz Sharif said that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz would invite everyone to form a coalition government in the Centre, adding that all stakeholders would have to move forward together in the country's larger interest.

Solangi says Justified complaints regarding polls to be redressed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi has said that "justified complaints regarding the polls would be redressed in accordance with the law". According to the report, he told a private TV channel that complaints related to the polls were "being heard at the relevant forum". Solangi said the caretaker government, particularly the interior minister, had fulfilled its responsibility by holding the biggest democratic exercise in the country in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner. He said around 18,000 candidates took part in the elections, while 90,000 polling stations were set up that enabled more than 60 million persons to cast their vote.

Ambassadors of Iran, Pak meet in Brussels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Belgium and European Union Ali Robatjazi Tuesday called on Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Amna Baloch at Pakistan's embassy in Brussels. During the meeting, they discussed matters of regional and global importance. The two sides also agreed to strengthen Pakistan-Iran cooperation in Brussels.

UN Chief continuing to monitor situation in Pakistan post-elections

WASHINGTON (INP): United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres is "continuing to monitor the situation following the general elections", according to his spokesperson. In a media briefing, the UN chief's spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Guterres "calls for the resolving of all issues and disputes through the established legal frameworks and for human rights and the rule of law to be fully respected in the interest of the people of Pakistan". "The secretary general urges the authorities, political leaders to maintain a calm atmosphere and to reject and refrain from all forms of violence and avoid any actions that could increase or enflame tensions," the spokesperson added.

PTI to ally with MWM in Punjab and Centre, with Jamaat-i-Islami in KP

Rauf says Imran has given instructions to make contact with all political parties except PML-N, PPP, MQM-P; Ali Amin Gandapur named KPK CM by PTI founder

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has claimed that the former ruling party, upon directions of its founder Imran Khan, will join hands with Majlis-e-Wahdat-Muslimeen (MWM) to form its governments in Centre and Punjab. Speaking to the media in Islamabad on Tuesday, PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan said that the former prime minister, while ruling out the prospects of any talks with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), has directed the party to form a coalition with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over reserved seats. "Those who have emerged victorious in the [February 8] polls, should be allowed to form the government as it is their right [do do so], he said while conveying Khan's message. Continued on page 2

Complete shutdown strike against election rigging continue in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): A province-wide shutdown strike paralyzed Balochistan, as major political parties protest against alleged rigging in the recent general elections. Business centers remained closed, streets echoed with slogans, and sit-ins sprang up across the region, demanding transparency and accountability. The call for the strike came from a powerful alliance of four parties: the Balochistan National Party (BNP), National Party (NP), Pashtun Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Hazara Democratic Party (HDP). They accuse

authorities of manipulating poll results to favor other parties, effectively stealing their victories. In Quetta, the provincial capital, business centers remained shuttered, and major intersections witnessed sit-ins. The Balochistan Bar Council and Anjuman Tajran (Traders Association) extended their support to the strike, further amplifying the movement. Nushki saw a complete shutdown, with markets and shops deserted in response to the four-party alliance's call. People took to the streets, raising their voices against alleged poll rigging and demanding

fair results. The BNP's ongoing protest outside the Nushki district returning officer's office entered its third day, blocking the national highway and intensifying pressure on authorities. In Chaman, the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (ANP) led a shutdown strike, causing businesses to close and essential services to be disrupted. Party workers staged sit-ins for the fifth consecutive day in front of the district returning officer's office, demanding the declaration of results based on Form 45, the official polling station record.

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PPP to back PML-N candidate for PM's slot but won't become part of govt in Centre: Bilawal

Says will not put himself forward for the candidacy of prime minister, wants to see Asif Ali Zardari as president.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday announced to support the candidate of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for Prime Minister and abstain from joining to be coalition government's federal cabinet. Addressing a press conference here after the meeting of party's Central Executive Committee (CEC), he said that PPP was ac-

cepting the election results despite its concerns in the larger interest of the country. He said the reality was that his party did not have a mandate to form the government in the federation, adding that the PML-N and the independents had greater numbers in the Centre. "I will not be putting myself forward for the candidacy of the prime minister," he said. Continued on page 2

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a press conference.

IHC summons PM Kakar in personal capacity in Baloch students non-recovery case

There should be death sentence in enforced disappearances: Justice Mohsin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to appear in person in non-recovery of missing Baloch students case. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has remarked there should be death sentence in enforced disappearances. Those involved in enforced disappearances should be awarded death sentence twice. The non-recovery of Baloch students case came up for hearing before IHC Tuesday. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case. During the hearing Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Usman Ghuman requested Attorney General

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked it is kindness that I am not summoning both of the DGs. Caretaker PM should appear himself at 10 a.m. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked there should be death sentence in enforced disappearances. Those involved in enforced disappearances should be awarded death sentence twice. Later the court summoned care taker PM Anwaar ul Haque on Monday.

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar, Hassan Darvishvand, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran-Quetta along with others cutting cake to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Glorious Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the National Day organized by the Iranian National Council.

Balochistan voters reject nationalist narratives, demand progress: Jan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Tuesday declared that the recent election results demonstrate the unequivocal rejection of ethnic nationalist narratives by voters, who instead extended their support to mainstream parties like PPP and PMLN. "This resounding rejection should serve as a wake-up call for ethnic nationalist parties to reassess their grievances and their habit of maligning the state," he stated. He criticized the use of "missing persons" and "exploitation of resources" as mere talking points to de-

ceive the electorate and disparage the state. He said that the days of blind faith in their ability to bring positive change are long gone, the people demand tangible results and genuine progress. Minister Achakzai further urged ethnic nationalist parties to abandon disruptive tactics that harm ordinary citizens. "Blocking roads, highways, and essential services is not only counterproductive but deeply unfair to the very people they claim to represent," he emphasized, saying they should pursue legal avenues, like tribunals, to address their concerns. Similarly, Anwar Zeb Khan, also an independent candidate, clinched the seat for PK-20 with 12,903 votes, and as per the result from the PK-21 constituency, Ajmal Khan, an independent candidate emerged victorious by securing 16,712 votes.

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Pakistan, Somalia discuss increased coordination at OIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Somalia have discussed ways and means for increased coordination at the platform of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) besides other issues of mutual interest including regional and international developments. The discussion came during a meeting between Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to OIC Syed M Fawad Sher and Somalia's Permanent Representative to OIC Abdul Rahim Osman, the envoy posted on X.



QUETTA: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Khushal Khan Kakar speaks during a press conference.



QUETTA: Members of All Parties are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC office in Quetta.

SC rejects Punjab govt report on Jaranwala incident declaring it waste paper

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court (SC) has rejected Punjab government report in respect of Jaranwala incident declaring it waste paper in minorities rights case. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked Punjab government report is liable to be thrown into waste paper basket. Only 18 challans were made during 6 months. They beat the drum of Islamophobia on other places and what they are doing. What treatment is being meted out to non Muslims in India, they want to copy it. Jaranwala incident took place when and how many people have been arrested so far. At what time first church was burnt

and Fajar occurs in August at what time. Police watched burning this all before their eyes. The case related to rights of minorities came up for hearing before SC. Punjab government filed progress report about the incident in SC. Additional Advocate General (AAG) Punjab said Jaranwala incident took place on August 16, 2023. 22 cases were registered and 304 persons were arrested. Challans of 18 FIR out of 22 FIRs were filed. The CJP inquired only 18 challans were made. SC rejected Punjab government report regarding Jaranwala incident. The court while adjourning the hearing of case sought reply.

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ISSI hosts TLF titled "Poverty Alleviation and the Role of Rural Support Program"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on Tuesday hosted its latest "Thought Leaders Forum" (TLF) under the title, "Poverty Alleviation and the Role of Rural Support Program." Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman National Rural Support Program (NRSP), Pakistan was the distinguished speaker, according to a press release issued here.

In her welcome remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), mentioned that under the TLF, ISSI acknowledges and pays tribute to individuals esteemed as authoritative voices in specific fields. These individuals have played a crucial role in shaping perspectives, influencing decisions, and driving innovation within their respective domains in Pakistan. She added that Shoaib Sultan Khan stands as a testament to this spirit of thought leadership, and ISSI is privileged to have him share his insights on this platform.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, paid rich tributes to Shoaib Sultan Khan's vision, transformational leadership, and outstanding contribution to efforts for poverty reduction in Pakistan and the region, including in India, through community participation. He added that Shoaib Sultan Khan's life-long work had made a difference in the lives of millions and was

duly recognised in Pakistan and internationally.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that Pakistan has made significant strides in reducing absolute poverty, with rates dropping from 61.6% in 1998-99 to 21.5% in 2021-22.

However, multidimensional poverty remains high at 39%, highlighting deprivation in health, education, and standard of living. Recent events, including the COVID-19 pandemic and floods, have exacerbated these challenges, particularly affecting rural communities where necessities are scarce. Shoaib Sultan Khan has been instrumental in addressing challenges and uplifting rural communities, particularly through his leadership in the Rural Support Program. Since 1982, he has played a transformative role in various impactful programs across Pakistan, India, and South Asia, positively impacting millions of lives.

Shoaib Sultan Khan, while shedding light on poverty alleviation and the role of rural support programs, emphasized that Pakistan's rural support programs are among the oldest in the region. These programs are widely acknowledged for their success and have served as a model and inspiration for similar initiatives in South Asia, including India.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif distributing cheques to position holder IT experts on the occasion of IT and ITES Export Awards 2024 ceremony.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the Health Reforms Committee at CM Secretariat.

Govt committed for bringing more improvements in agriculture sector: Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan in germplasm for the best crops, measures will also be taken for the improvement of wheat in rain-fed areas.

He said with the support of CIMMYT, speed breeding which used to last for 14 years will be reduced to five years in future and technology would also be transferred from CIMMYT regarding speed breeding. Director CIMMYT Dr. Kevin Pixley while appreciating the initiatives and reforms in the field of agriculture and food security during the short term of the minister said that there will be full cooperation with Pakistan in the field of agriculture.

Abdullah Malik said that CIMMYT an international organization for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat will support

Chess tournament in Dhaka to recognize Pakistani chess maestro on Feb 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The High Commission of Pakistan in Dhaka and Bangladesh Chess Federation are jointly organising the 1st Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament on February 24 to recognise the skill and celebrate the legacy of Pakistan's iconic chess figure Mian Sultan Khan.

"The High Commission for Pakistan in Dhaka and Chess Federation, Bangladesh are organizing a Chess competition to celebrate skill, strategy, and the enduring legacy of one of the game's most remarkable talents, Mian Sultan Khan," the Pakistani High Commission wrote on X.

Mian Sultan Khan, an iconic figure in the chess world, was a true maestro, who left an indelible mark on the game during the early 20th century, who stunned the international chess community with his extraordinary abilities, earning the admiration of players and enthusiasts alike.

He won the British Championship three times and had tournament and match results that placed him among the top ten players in the world.

In recognition of his exceptional skills, the International Chess Federation conferred upon him the title of Grandmaster, posthumously, on February 2, 2024.

The high commission has called chess enthusiasts to register themselves on (tinyurl.com/ms-khan) to showcase their skills and strategies on the board.

PML-N, IPP, PPP, MQM, PML-Q...

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despite competing against each other in elections, they are not ideological opponents and can collectively manage the country, adding that reconciliation efforts will extend to include PTI as well.

"Thank you, Chaudhary Shujaat, for hosting us all here," expressed Shahbaz Sharif as he acknowledged the gathering. "The election phase has concluded, and Parliament is on the brink of formation," he continued, emphasizing the transition. "It is imperative for the economy to stabilize," he asserted, underlining the significance of financial strength.

"National unity is paramount for progress," Sharif remarked, highlighting the need for solidarity among diverse factions. "The recent IMF agreement has bolstered the country's economic standing," he added, acknowledging the pivotal role of international support.

"I extend my gratitude to Bilawal Bhutto for his voting decision," Sharif expressed appreciation for Bhutto's stance. "The nation has spoken; these parties now hold a two-thirds majority," he asserted, indicating the significant electoral mandate received.

"Inclusive representation from Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and KP signifies our collective strength,"

Sharif noted, emphasizing the diverse yet unified representation. "With our majority, we pledge to address the nation's challenges," he assured, committing to effective governance.

"Did we not rescue Pakistan from the brink of bankruptcy?" Sharif questioned, highlighting past achievements and future aspirations.

Despite past rivalries, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui emphasized, "We may differ in ideology, but the well-being of Pakistan supersedes all. We have supported Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif previously, and now we stand united again." This sentiment echoes across the coalition, highlighting a prioritization of national progress over individual party agendas.

Sadiq Sanjrani, representing the BAP, expressed optimism, stating, "Today marks a new beginning. We will work together to ensure a better future for all Pakistanis." This collaborative spirit resonates throughout the coalition, suggesting a potential shift towards more unified governance.

On the other hand, Abdul Aleem Khan of the Iteham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), remain cautiously optimistic, the overall mood is one of hope and determination. "People are suffering under inflation," he acknowledged, "but by putting personal agendas aside, we can find solutions."

Police finalizes security plan for PSL

MULTAN (INP): Police have finalized the security plan for the ninth edition of the mega cricket event Pakistan Super League (PSL) with its first match at Multan Cricket Stadium on February 18.

City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali said that foolproof security arrangements would be ensured during the mega event as more than 6000 police officials would be deployed on security duty. He said that he would monitor the security arrangements while the deployment of security officials would be made under the supervision of SSP Operations Muhammad Imran. The police officials, traffic police officials, Elite Force, Pak Army, Rangers, Special Branch and other security officials would be deployed at the stadium, airport, routes, parking

PPP to back PML-N candidate...

Continued from page 1

Bilawal Bhutto said the PPP had formed a committee to engage with other political parties for the formation of government and political stability in the country.

"PPP has decided that we ran this general election on a manifesto based on issues of public importance; we want to restore political stability and end this environment of political toxicity," he added.

The PPP chairman said that his party had raised concerns regarding a level playing field with former President Asif Ali Zardari during the PPP's CEC meeting and the latter had assumed that these complaints would be addressed.

"I am assuring the public that the Parliament will be formed and it is a forum where their issues will be resolved," Bilawal Bhutto said.

He said that now the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had refused to form a coalition government with the PPP which left the PML-N as the only party that had invited PPP to join the upcoming coalition government.

Bilawal Bhutto said that PPP did not want the country to hold another election, as going towards another general election would only harm the country.

He said that if the PPP had not joined the PML-N, the country would face crises.

He said that PPP wanted all the political parties to address the short-

Spring Festival paves way to understand Chinese culture, traditions: Pak diplomats

BEIJING (APP): The Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year, is an important cultural event in China that offers a unique opportunity to understand Chinese culture and traditions, according to Pakistani diplomats.

They believe that participating in the festival can help deepen the understanding between the people of Pakistan and China.

Sardar Muhammad, Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou told China Economic Net that this year they immersed themselves in the vibrant and colorful celebrations of the Chinese New Year in Guangzhou, embracing the traditions and customs of the Cantonese way of welcoming the Spring Festival.

"We visited the flower market on Beijing Road where the atmosphere was alive with the energy of joyful Chinese families and children, adding to the festive spirit of the occasion. Our time in the bustling tourist spots of Guangzhou brought us even closer to the heart of the celebrations, with the kids eagerly leading us to the incredible Sunac Theme Park adorned with red lanterns and filled with exuberant families," he added.

He stated their experience was enriched further by connecting with Pakistani families and their Chinese relatives, indulging in a delightful fusion of Chinese and Pakistani cuisine, as well as a lively barbecue.

Witnessing the exchange of hongbao or red envelopes brought pure joy to the children's faces, adding to the enchantment of the festivities. The highlight of their gatherings was undoubtedly the spectacular fireworks display, which captivated the kids and filled the sky with a shimmering spectacle.

Efforts underway for revival, financial stability of Radio Pakistan: DG PBC

KARACHI (APP): Director General Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, Tuesday, said that efforts were underway for revival of past glory of Radio Pakistan and for resolving financial issues of the corporation.

He was speaking during visit of New Broadcasting House PBC Karachi on the occasion of World Radio Day being observed on February 13. Station Director PBC Karachi Mehboob Sultan, Deputy Controller News Malahat Soulat, DC Engineering Imranullah Khan, DC Admin Arbab Ali Rahujo, other officers and staff member were also present at the occasion.

The DG PBC said that to make the corporation financially viable a new business plan has been envisaged and it will be presented in next meeting of Board of Directors of PBC for approval.

The business plan con-

tains 15 points including creation of audio books, collaboration with National Book Foundation, rationalization of electricity tariff for PBC, utilization of PBC properties across the country for revenue generation in public private partnership mode and audio signal levy on vehicles travel on motorways, he informed. The government was committed with revival of Radio Pakistan and measures were being taken in the regard, he said adding that the caretaker minister for Information Murtaza Solangi paid a visit to Radio Pakistan Islamabad on the occasion of World Radio Day and also read English news.

He said that Transmitter at Radio Pakistan Khairpur has been changed in just one day to improve outreach of the radio station while transmitters at Hyderabad and Larkana will soon be changed as well. Besides we are also working to improve digital transmission of PBC and shifting of programs on DRM across the country, he added.

He further informed that newsletter of PBC 'Aahang' was under publication from 1948 but it was not getting government advertisement. Now Aahang has been placed on official media list and it could get advertisement form federal and provincial governments, he added.

Another important initiative taken was aimed at making the radio more relevant with the society, he said and added that opening the doors of Radio Pakistan for youth particularly the students of colleges and universities and holding Mushairas was part of that initiative.

Saeed Ahmed Sheikh urged the PBC employees to promote contacts and coordination with poets, writers and intellectuals to achieve the objectives.



KARACHI: Director General Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, taking part in live transmission of program 'Surahi Sanjh' on World Radio Day during visit of Radio Pakistan Karachi.

PTI to ally with MWM in....

Continued from page 1

"I have been given the mandate [by Khan] to approach all political parties to continue the party's political struggle for democratic values with the exception of the PML-N, MQM-P and the PPP," Hasan added.

Other decisions ratified by the party founder include the nomination of Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief minister for KP, the holding of intra-party elections and the appointment of Amir Dogar as the party's chief whip in the National Assembly, Hasan added. His remarks come as PTI-backed candidates have emerged as the largest group by winning over 90 National Assembly seats followed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 75 and 54 seats, respectively. In light of the fact that no party managed to succeed in securing a simple majority, the role of independent candidates has become even more important with both the PML-N and the PPP attempting to rope them in to strengthen their parliamentary positions.

The PTI's decision to join hands with the MWM — which has only secured one National Assembly seat — comes as its sponsored candidates, who have won 116 provincial assembly seats in Punjab, will have 72 hours to join a party once the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) notifies their win.

In Punjab, the party would need to join hands with independent candidates and other parties to form the government in the largest province where currently the PML-N is in the lead with 137 seats.

Meanwhile, welcoming

the development, MWM chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas said that the party would unconditionally accept the PTI founder's decisions.

Meanwhile Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder on Tuesday named Ali Amin Gandapur as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) CM. The former prime minister announced this during his informal media talk in his jail trial in Adiala.

"I have named Ali Amin Gandapur as KP CM, while no consensus on the premier's name yet," the PTI founder was quoted as saying. Gandapur's political journey began with his election to the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2013 as a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, a later successfully contested the 2018 Pakistani general election and secured a seat in the National Assembly of Pakistan from Constituency NA-38 (Dera Ismail Khan-1). Mr Gandapur was the provincial revenue minister in the first Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and served as the minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan in former prime minister Imran Khan's cabinet.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Nooruddin Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

TENDER NOTICE

The NATURAL CALAMITIES & OTHER DISASTERS (REL) invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRAGOB.

TSE-232402376843 Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONST: OF WARE HOUSE PDMA OFFICE AT CHASHMAACHOZAI QUETTA AND VARIES CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PDMA OFFICE QUETTA	49,373,799

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 34,561,659 PKR Amount in specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 01 March, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 01 March, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Grain Silos Sheikh Manda Air port road quetta
Phone no: 0819241118 Fax no: 0819241126
Email: pdma.balochistan2007@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR (RELIEF)/
PDMA BALOCHISTAN**

AB NO.300/13-02-2024
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ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Communications at Parliament House.

Swearing-in of MNAs elect likely on Feb 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): The swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the National Assembly is expected to take place in the last week of the current month, as the National Assembly's inaugural session is likely to be convened on Feb 29. The inaugural session will be presided over by Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, who will also administer the oath to the newly elected MNAs, (Members of National Assembly).

According to regulations, newly elected members must submit details of their election expenditures within ten days of their victory; failure to do so will result in the withholding of their success notification. The success notification will be issued within 14 days of their victory. Following this, the allocation of 60 women and 10 non-Muslim seats will take place. Following the announcement of the official results, independent MNAs will have a three-day window to join any party in parliament of their choice. According to Article 21 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the National Assembly session must be called within 21 days of elections, though it can also be summoned earlier.

As per Section 91(2) of the Constitution, the president is required to summon the session of the National Assembly within 21 days following the official announcement of election results or the issuance of its notification.

Following the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the selection of the new Prime Minister will take place via secret ballot. The newly elected Prime Minister is expected to assume their responsibilities in the first week of March.

To elect the Prime Minister, the assembly will be divided into two sections, with members tallied accordingly based on this division. According to Section 91(4), the prime minister "shall be elected by the votes of the majority of the total membership of the National Assembly, provided that, if no member secures such a majority in the first poll, a second poll shall be held between the members who secure the two highest numbers of votes in the first poll.

Secretary Information lauds Radio Pakistan's vital role in disseminating information

ISLAMABAD (Online): In her message on World Radio Day, she recalled that the announcement of independence of Pakistan was made from Radio Pakistan.

She emphasized the importance of appreciating the utility of Radio Pakistan.

Kashmiris living hellish life under shadow of war in IIOJK: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed its concern over the beleaguered situation prevailing in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, regarding the deprivation of fundamental rights at the hands of Indian forces.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the people of the territory are living a hellish life under the shadow of a war.

He deplored the strangulation of the freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests house raid by Indian troops, paramilitary, NIA and SIA and denial of civil liberty at the hands of Indian forces and said that the territory had been swarmed by over one million Indian troops, converting it into a big hellish prison.

The spokesman, referring to the resistance potential of the people, said the brave people of Kashmir, facing the wrath of the biggest military presence in the contemporary world, have thwarted and repelled all overt and covert conspiracies, including so-called 'Catch and Kill' and 'Operation All Out' launched as a part of genocide of the people of Kashmir.

Praising the valour and fortitude of the freedom-loving people of Kashmir, he said the systematic atrocities inflicted on the people has yielded nothing to India but has strengthened the resistance movement against Indian illegal occupation.

The legitimate demand for right to self-determination has become the voice of the people of Kashmir now, affirmed the spokesman. He urged the United Nations to take serious cognizance of the Indian state terrorism and take appropriate measures to stop genocide and human rights abuses in the territory which has been converted into a battleground by India.

The spokesman added that it had become highly imperative to resolve the Kashmir dispute, which has been termed as a nuclear flash point, a grave threat to world peace and prosperity. The people of Kashmir have rendered innumerable sacrifices for the sacred cause of freedom and the World Body must take serious action to settle the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

NCHR and WCCIM Collaborate to Support Women Entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) commemorated National Women's Day by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Multan Division (WCCIM), an organization established for the economic development of Women Entrepreneurs in South Punjab.

The MOU was finalized by Chairperson NCHR, Rabiya Javeri Agha, while attending the two-day Blue Fair in Multan hosted by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Division (WCCIM). The Blue Fair provides a platform for the women entrepreneurs of South Punjab to showcase their products, alongside exposing them to networking and financial support opportunities with industry professionals and international organizations.

This year, the fair hosted over 200 stalls carrying handmade garments, unique jewelry, the iconic blue pottery of the region and other items. The Blue Fair assisted in income generation and increased business exposure for home-based women entrepreneurs who often hail from vulnerable communities.

The President of WCCIM, Mahnaz Amir Sheikh, said that the Blue Fair is a great opportunity for female entrepreneurs to showcase their products on a national level.

According to the Labour & Human Resource Department Punjab, home-based workers are amongst the most exploited group of workers in Pakistan. They constitute a major segment of labour deployment in the informal sector of the economy, and they have remained largely invisible in the workforce. As per experts, only 2% Pakistani women owned land and only 13% women availed financial and bank services in 2021.

Senate Committee on recommends Mini Interchange "Rehmani Khel"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Communications unanimously recommended renaming the Mini Interchange "Rehmani Khel" at the CPEC road to "Shah Esa" interchange, responding to the demands of the general public and Tehsil Local Government Paharpur, District D.I. Khan.

Chaired by Senator Kamil Ali Agha at the Parliament House, the Senate Communications Committee discussed the resolution passed on 30-08-2023 during the Tehsil Paharpur Session. The committee approved the proposal, emphasizing the sentiments of the general public attached to renowned saint Shah Esa (R.A.) in the area, with no disputes among the community. They directed the Ministry to take appropriate measures.

In an earlier part of the meeting, the committee addressed the urgent appeal to transfer the project from the B & A Department to NHA Pakistan. The public petition, presented by Malak Abdul Qayum Mosa

Khail, highlighted corruption in the mega project involving the construction and expansion of Digri Shabozai to Taunsa Sharif (N-70 to N 55 - length 175 km - Balochistan and 65 km - Punjab).

Ministry officials explained to the committee that NHA lacked the financial resources for the federalization of any new road, even for operation and maintenance of its existing road network.

The committee debated that if NHA desires to take up the project, it would only be possible on a Deposit Work basis, requiring consent from the Provincial Governments of Balochistan and Punjab, along with the transfer of requisite funds and conditional NOCs from concerned provincial departments. Consequently, the committee deferred the matter, instructing the summoning of concerned provincial departments to brief on the project works as per the NHA code.

The committee also received a briefing on the NHA Hyderabad-Sukkar

Motorway Project, a crucial stretch for the completion of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM). Officials stated that the project, spanning 306 KM with a 6-lane fenced motorway, 15 interchanges, and 5 service stations on each side, is a top priority for the Government and National Highway Authority (NHA). Anticipating acceleration with the formation of the new government, the committee was briefed on the revised project cost of PKR 308.194 billion. The matter was deferred for further deliberation and report.

The consideration of criteria for the construction of interchanges and right of way on motorways was also deferred. The committee chairman emphasized that the matter pertains to policy-making and should be deferred until the formation of the new government.

The meeting was attended by Senators Shamim Afridi, Danesh Kumar, and Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem, included representatives from attached departments.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday directed the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) to upload the details of all Temples and Gurdwaras in the country on the website along with pictures.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isha, hearing the case, remarked that this is the property of certain minorities and the public. The lands used to be grabbed due to which the facts were being hidden, he said.

On the query of the bench, Chairman ETPB said that there were a total of 19 functional Gurdwaras in the country.

Expressing displeasure, the CJP asked the officials why all the details were not uploaded by the board.

During the hearing, the chief justice expressed annoyance with Ikram Chaudhry Advocate, the lawyer of ETPB, and asked why they wanted to hide the facts. The lawyer said that all the details had already been submitted to the court previously.

The case was later adjourned.

SC directs Evacuee Trust to upload details of Temples, Gurdwaras

Death anniversary of Mohyeddin observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first death anniversary of renowned actor, broadcaster, and producer Zia Mohyeddin was observed on Tuesday.

Born on June 20, 1931 in Faisalabad, Zia Mohyeddin became famous for his talk show on Pakistan Television 'The Zia Mohyeddin Show' in 1969. He was also known for originating the role of Dr. Aziz in the stage play of 'A Passage to India'. He also appeared in film Lawrence of Arabia.

Zia Mohyeddin remained head of National Academy of performing art since its inception.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 113th birth anniversary of legendary poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz was observed on Tuesday.

According to Radio Pakistan, he was born on this day in Sialkot in 1911. His collections of work include Naqsh-e-faryadi, Dast-e-Saba, Zindaan Naama and Sham-e-Sheher-e-Yaar.

Faiz Ahmed Faiz was awarded Pakistan's highest civil award Nishan-e-Imtiaz in 1990 in recognition of his services for literature.

The legendary poet also received many awards, including, Nigar, Lenin Peace Prize, Peace Prize of Pakistan's Human Rights Commission and Avicenna Prize.



RAWALPINDI: President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS) Retired Lt Gen Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference at Pindi Press Club in the city.

Birth anniversary of legendary poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz observed

IHC stops FIA from harassing Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder

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ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped FIA from harassing Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder Imran Khan.

Hearing of case against the notices issued by FIA cyber crime wing and anti terrorism wing to Aleema Khan came up for hearing in IHC Tuesday.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up the case for hearing.

Sheeraz Ranjha advocate counsel for the petitioner appeared in the court.

He told the court FIA has no such material due to which cyber crime has been committed. The ongoing inquiry or complaint against Aleema Khan be dismissed.

The CJ IHC remarked first we call report and we see if any inquiry is therein or only it is a complaint.

He remarked FIA should submit details of inquiry or complaint against Aleema Khan today. If copy of report is received by you then file your reply to FIA. During this FIA should not harass Aleema Khan. IHC stopped FIA from harassing Aleema Khan. IHC has remarked if there is any complaint or inquiry in FIA then its report be provided to Aleema Khan. FIA should not take any adverse action against Aleema Khan.

The hearing of the case was adjourned.

It is pertinent to mention here Aleema Khan had challenged FIA notices in IHC. FIA was made respondent in her petitions. Aleema Khan had requested to fix her petition for hearing today.



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

Capital's air quality moderate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal capital residents on Tuesday reported moderate air quality as the atmospheric contaminants were less than the national threshold since months-long soaring air pollution plummeted after much-awaited rainfall earlier.

The air quality was moderate as the air pollutants ratio in the atmosphere was below the permissible limits of the national environmental quality standards of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA).

The agency's daily air quality report indicated a reduced ratio of air pollutants, recorded below permissible limits. It is responsible for ensuring the protection of the environment under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997.

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a hazardous atmospheric contaminant, remained 32.41 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which was lower than the national environmental quality standards (NEQS) of 35 mic-programmes per cubic meter and denoted the air quality healthy.

PM 2.5 is generated through the combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads.

The ratio of nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide (NO2&SO2 respectively) also remained below the NEQS that were mostly produced during the industrial emissions from the factories involving complex and extraordinary chemicals' use in production processes. The NO2 remained 12.84 microgrammes per cubic meter and SO2 was 15.33 microgrammes per cubic meter.

Experts for amending laws to harness family, society relationship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Tuesday urged the upcoming government to make and amend laws to foster cohesiveness among families and society, while considering the country's social fabric, national character, and religious subtleties.

This was observed by speakers at the launch event of 'Study Group on Socio-legal Legislation' - a dynamic forum established by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, to generate debate and offer indigenous policy options for viable legislation in the country.

The forum, intended to cultivate a pool of researchers for impactful contributions to the policymaking process, comprises law practitioners, academics, religious scholars, and social activists.

This initiative aims to engage with stakeholders on socio-legal issues in an unbiased, constructive, and result-oriented manner.

The group will convene periodically to deliberate upon various aspects of enactments and bills to form a coherent narrative for the policymakers, opinion makers, and common citizens, with expected outcomes in the form of policy inputs and legislative reviews.

Senior Researcher, IPS, Syed Nadeem Farhat, in introductory remarks said empowering efficient legislation played a pivotal role in maintaining societal order, with a growing emphasis on family-related laws reflecting evolving societal norms.

In a parliamentary democracy, legislative bodies assume a crucial role in addressing societal issues by enacting and amending laws that resonate with the population's changing needs.

The significance of legislation, particularly in family matters, underscores the state's commitment to fostering equitable and just social structures.

In the context of Pakistan, exploring the evolution of legislative responsiveness becomes paramount as it reflects the nation's commitment to meet the contemporary needs of its citizens, he said.

Overall, legislative initiatives are indispensable tools in shaping the legal landscape, ensuring social harmony, and responding to the dynamic challenges of a changing society.

The discussion emphasized the pivotal role to develop an efficient legislative toolkit to ensure efficacy and alignment in law-making.

The participants further recognized the importance of citizen awareness, stressed the critical role of aligning legal frameworks with evolving societal changes, cautioned against impulsive law-making, and emphasized the necessity of harmonizing core values with human rights principles.

The participants acknowledged the imperative of coordinating with provincial assemblies and engaging with provincial bureaucracies.

Furthermore, ensuring public accessibility to information regarding the laws and the purpose of laws was deemed vital to fostering citizens' understanding.

The discussion called for a deeper exploration into law-making dynamics for an effective legislative framework.

In concluding remarks, Chairman, IPS Khalid Rahman stressed the imperative of capacity building within society, acknowledging that legislators play a pivotal role in shaping the socio-legal landscape.

Additionally, he highlighted the importance of coalition building, recognizing the collaborative efforts required to navigate the complexities of legislative processes and their impact on society.

Webinar on "Big Data in Space Sciences" today

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISNET Secretariat has planned to organize webinar on "Big Data in Space Sciences" on February 14 (Wednesday) with experts deliberating over the impact of big data in space sciences. According to the ISNET, the webinar is aimed at providing an opportunity to the practitioners, researchers, and educators to discuss the most recent innovations, as well as practical challenges encountered in the context of big data from space.

The experts in the field will share their insights into the transformative impact of big data in space sciences. From managing massive datasets generated by telescopes to leveraging advanced analytics, this webinar will delve into the key role that big data plays in pushing the boundaries of our understanding.

BISP launches Whatsapp channel to disseminate authentic information

ISLAMABAD (APP): As a part of its efforts to provide authentic information about various pro-poor schemes, the international acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has launched a Whatsapp channel for facilitating masses through providing them details of all its initiatives and counter fake messages.

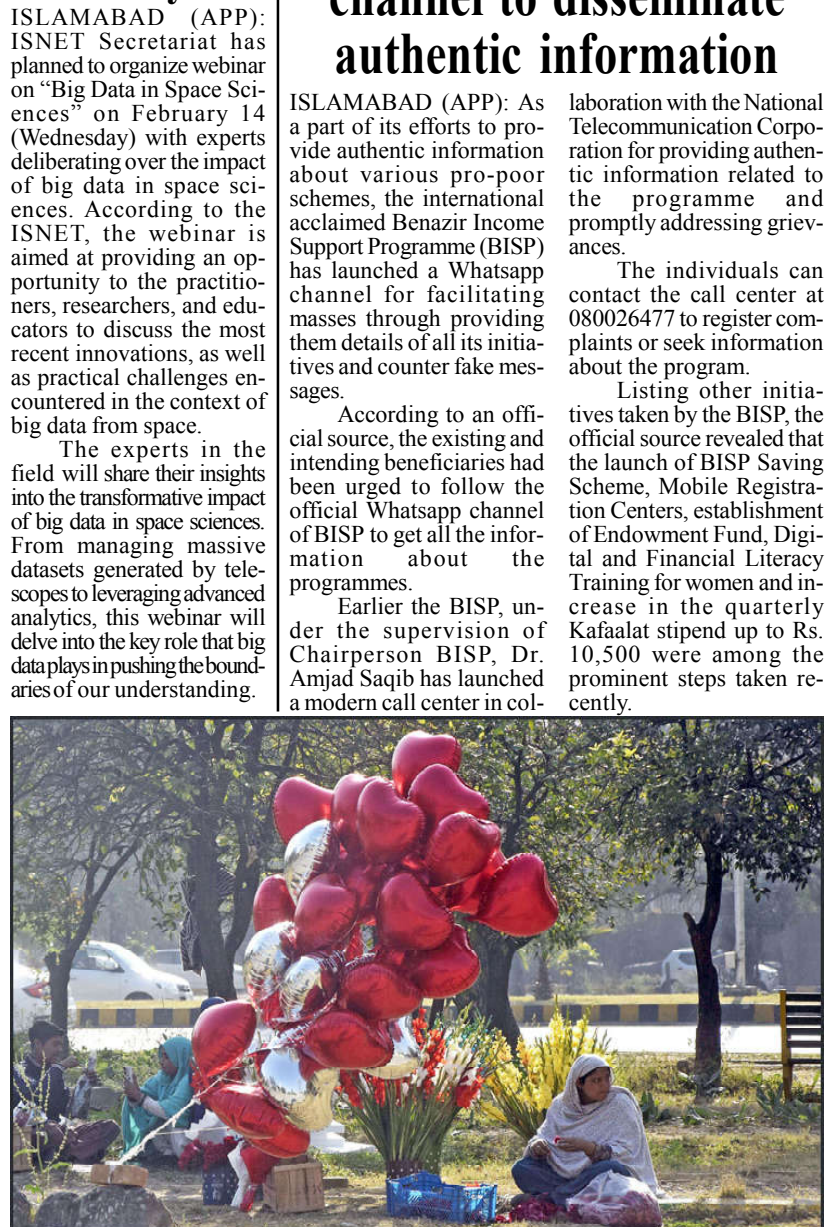
According to an official source, the existing and intending beneficiaries had been urged to follow the official Whatsapp channel of BISP to get all the information about the programmes.

Earlier the BISP, under the supervision of Chairperson BISP, Dr. Amjad Saqib has launched a modern call center in collaboration with the National Telecommunication Corporation for providing authentic information related to the programme and promptly addressing grievances.

The individuals can contact the call center at 080026477 to register complaints or seek information about the program.

Listing other initiatives taken by the BISP, the official source revealed that the launch of BISP Saving Scheme, Mobile Registration Centers, establishment of Endowment Fund, Digital and Financial Literacy Training for women and increase in the quarterly Kafaalat stipend up to Rs. 10,500 were among the prominent steps taken recently.

ISLAMABAD: A woman vendor is selling heart shape balloons and flowers bouquets alongside a road ahead of Valentine's Day, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: A woman vendor is selling heart shape balloons and flowers bouquets alongside a road ahead of Valentine's Day, in the Federal Capital.

CM chairs 40th cabinet meeting, approves provision of 10,000 interest free e-bikes to students

Independent Report
LAHORE: The 40th session of the provincial cabinet, convened under the chair of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office, commended the police, administration, and law enforcement agencies for their commendable efforts in ensuring peaceful conduct of the general elections on February 8.

The CM conveyed his congratulations to the chief secretary, IG police and others for successfully overseeing the elections in a tranquil manner, emphasizing the effective role played by the caretaker government. He noted that voters exercised their democratic right in a calm atmosphere, electing their representatives

through transparent and free voting procedures. Expressing gratitude for the achieved objectives, he stated that the caretaker government made earnest endeavors to provide immediate relief to the populace. He further asserted the team's satisfaction in having dedicated themselves to serving the public to the best of their abilities.

It was decided to provide seven thousand electric bikes to male students and three thousand to female students on interest-free and convenient terms through The Bank of Punjab to mitigate the issue of smog. Additionally, the formation of an appellate committee for the Punjab Charity

Commission was approved, along with the allocation of funds for business facilitation centers. Furthermore, the installation of automated external defibrillators in Rescue 1122 ambulances for the prompt treatment of heart attack patients received the cabinet's nod. Approvals were also granted for the appointment of chairpersons for drug courts in Bahawalpur, Lahore and Multan, alongside the endorsement of decisions made in the 16th meeting of the standing committee on law and order. Provincial ministers, advisers, chief secretary, advocate general Punjab, IGP, Chairman P&D, SMBR and others were also present.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi presides over the 40th Provincial Cabinet meeting.

Taekwondo is sport of body, mind: Baqar

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has said that Taekwondo is a Korean traditional martial art that teaches physical fighting skills, and it has been taught in Pakistan for many decades.

Taekwondo has earned global recognition and is now considered an official sport in the Olympics. This discipline teaches us how to improve our body and mind by training our spirit. Today, it is widely recognized as a means to enhance our overall well-being.

Faim Siddiqui, and parents of the children in a large number.

In the championship differently abled children also participated in a large number and won different competitions.

The CM stated that Taekwondo involves synchronizing the mind with the body's movements to create inner peace and extend that harmony to one's life and society. In Taekwondo, the principles of physical movements, mind training, and life are all interconnected. Additionally, the correct posture leads to the right confrontation, which ultimately results in great destructive power.

This he said while speaking at Bazel Siddiqui Taekwondo organised by Universal Tigers Taekwondo in collaboration with Sindh Scouts Association at Mohammad Siddique Scouts Sports, Abul Hassan Isphahani Road on Tuesday. The program was attended by Secretary DEPD Tuha Farooqi.

Baqar explained that Taekwondo aims to promote balanced growth and self-improvement through its distinct activities. This is why it can be considered a way of life. By discovering the underlying principles.

KP Governor to launch innovative online campus management system

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali is set to introduce a groundbreaking 'Online Campus Management System' through the Governor's official portal. This initiative has been designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the education sector which will provide comprehensive compliance details, including adherence to the 2% minority quota in education and the 5% employment quota.

This announcement was made by Governor KP, Haji Ghulam Ali in

recent meeting with Program Manager Qamar Naseem here on Tuesday.

The governor reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights and entitlements of all communities, particularly vulnerable groups. He underscored the importance of this campus information management system in realizing the said objectives. The online system will offer a wide array of information, such as the number of teachers, students, and persons with disabilities, gender-segregated data, and financial details including

revenue, budget, grants, and expenses.

This system marks a significant step forward in streamlining campus management and ensuring that educational institutions comply with government quotas and regulations. Furthermore, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali also announced the imminent launch of an online complaint redressal mechanism. This platform also aims to offer swift responses to aggrieved students regarding quota issues within ten days and ensuring that grievances are addressed promptly and efficiently.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali and Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Banafsheh Khah along with other officials cutting cake during 45th National Day of Iran last night.

Revolutionary reforms made in Punjab's Sehat Sahulat Program: Minister

Independent Report
LAHORE: Professor Dr. Javed Akram, the Caretaker Punjab Health Minister, has spearheaded transformative changes in the Sehat Sahulat Program, emphasizing the welfare of the people.

During a recent meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee for Universal Health Insurance, Dr. Akram highlighted the significant improvements made under the guidance of Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

Addressing the challenges faced by the program, Dr. Akram emphasized the government's commitment to allocating health facility cards exclusively to the deserving populace of Punjab. He revealed efforts

to rectify deficiencies and streamline operations, including the establishment of a comprehensive database.

Notably, Dr. Akram highlighted the staggering daily expenditure of Rs260 million on Sehat Sahulat cards prior to the reforms, underscoring the need for fiscal responsibility. Through innovative initiatives, costs have been slashed by up to 50 per cent, alleviating the financial burden on Punjab's residents.

Moreover, Dr. Akram shed light on unethical medical practices, such as unnecessary surgeries and over-billing, prevalent in the healthcare system. The government's intervention has ensured fair treatment and reduced exploitation of patients.

Funeral prayers of Ali Amin Gandapur's father offered

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The funeral prayer of Major @ Aminullah Khan Gandapur, father of former Federal minister Ali Amin Gandapur was offered at Besaki ground in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

The funeral prayer was attended by many prominent figures and large number of people belonging to different walks from DI Khan division and its neighbouring towns amidst tight security.

Major (Rtd) Aminullah Gandapur was passed away on Monday due to a heart attack.

Aminullah Khan Gandapur had served as a former provincial minister as well.

He has left behind two daughters and three sons including former Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Former Provincial Minister Faisal Amin Gandapur, and Tehsil Mayor Umar Amin Khan Gandapur.

PFA shuts down four bakeries, fines two food outlets

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Food Authority's enforcement teams on Tuesday shut down four bakeries and levied fines of Rs200,000 on two food business operators (FBOs) during the inspection of bakeries and their production units in different areas of Lahore.

PFA Director General Muhammad Asim Javaid said that food safety teams thoroughly inspected several bakeries in Sundar Industrial Estate, Bhabatian, Jalo Park and on Defence Road. He said that the purpose of the inspection was to ensure the provision of food in the market as per the food safety standards and quality parameters defined in the Punjab Pure Food Regulations.

The PFA also served warning notices for improvement on four bakeries besides discarding inferior quality of khoya, poor quality of food flavours, 40kg of substandard flour and more than 20kg of prohibited food ingredients.

Moreover, PFA confiscated 5,000 gum base, 720kg of fruit pulp and 150 litres of essence (Aq), he said.

Muhammad Asim further said that the provincial food regulatory body had stopped the production of four bakeries and cake shops by imposing emergency prohibition orders (EPOs). He said that EPOs were imposed due to using expired raw material, non-compliance with the authority's previous instructions, preserved food in dirty freezers, an abundance of insects, the presence of rodents and the worst condition of hygiene. Apart from that, he said that cakes were being prepared with germs-infested white flour, expired pulp and gum base. While fungus-infested so-called desi ghee and khoya were preserved in non-food grade drums without taking any preventative measures.

RWMC ensures cleanliness of Tehsil Gujar Khan

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) was ensuring the cleanliness of all tehsils of the district including Tehsil Gujar Khan. According to a RWMC spokesman, the company had deployed additional workers in evening shift in Gujar Khan to ensure the sanitation of the rural areas. He informed that camps were being organized across the district to create awareness about the importance of cleanliness. He said that cleanliness was necessary to eliminate smog and dengue and urged the residents not to burn waste or any chemical.

Removal of name from ECL LHC issues notice to respondents on petition of journalist Imran Riaz

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while issuing notice to respondents on the petition of journalist and senior anchor Imran Riaz for removal of his name from ECL has sought reply on February 15.

The miscellaneous petition filed by Imran Riaz seeking removal of his name from ECL came up for hearing before Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC Tuesday.

Imran Riaz Khan filed the petition through advocate Azhar Siddique. He took the plea that

information are there Imran Riaz Khan name has been removed from PNIL list and now his name is being put in ECL or PCL.

It was said in the petition that no FIR is registered against Imran Riaz Khan. Putting name in ECL or PCL is violation of constitution. The said act is against the article 15 and 16 of the constitution.

The petitioner requested the court if name has been removed from PNIL list then court should order to stop the inclusion of name in other lists.



LAHORE: Chief Justice Azaad Kashmir High Court Raja Sadaqat Hussain in a group photo with Chief Justice Lahore High Court Justice Ameer Hussain Bhatti and other judges during his visit.

KP Minister inaugurates child protection unit in Abbottabad

Independent Report
ABBOTTABAD: Provisional Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment, Justice retired Arshad Qaiser on Tuesday stated that the government is determined to fulfill its international and national responsibilities for the protection of children.

He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF, under the supervision of Dr. Anila Mahfooz Darani, Commissioner Hazara Division Syed Zaheer-ul-Islam, and Chief Protection Officer UNICEF Peshawar Ijaz Muhammad Khan, and Child Protection Specialist Suhail Ahmed for their efforts in ensuring cooperation between stakeholders.

strengthening the Child Protection Help Line 1121 are among the priorities of the government for the welfare of children.

Arshad Qaiser said that the inauguration of the Child Protection Unit in Abbottabad is a crucial milestone in strengthening the child protection system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He appreciated the comprehensive system for the protection of children established by Secretary of Social Welfare and Special Education, Dr. Anila Mahfooz Darani, Commissioner Hazara Division Syed Zaheer-ul-Islam, and Chief Protection Officer UNICEF Peshawar Ijaz Muhammad Khan, and Child Protection Specialist Suhail Ahmed for their efforts in ensuring cooperation between stakeholders.

MPA elect Abdul Aziz passes away

KARACHI (APP): Engineer Abdul Aziz Junejo, the recently elected MPA from Khairpur Nathan Shah, district Dadu, has passed away due to health complications here on Tuesday.

Abdul Aziz Junejo was elected MPA from PPP on PS-80 on the February 08 polls.

He breathed his last in a private hospital here in the early hours of Tuesday morning due to health complications.

Junejo has been declared as the winner as he secured 52131 votes in the February 08 elections held on PS-80.

The news of his passing away has sent shockwaves through the political circles.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah offering dua after planting tree at Chief Minister House.

IGP chairs police executive board meeting

KARACHI (APP): A Police Executive Board convened at the Central Police Office Karachi, chaired by IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja, saw the attendance of various high-ranking officials including Additional IGPs - Karachi, Welfare and Works Karachi, Zonal DIGPs, DIGPs of Headquarters Sindh, Establishment, CTD, Special Branch, RRF, and other senior officers.

The meeting, presided over by IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja, delved into several significant topics outlined in a comprehensive agenda, with a detailed briefing provided by the DIGP Establishment.

Key discussions centered around the career progression of newly recruited Inspectors Legal, Investigations, and ex-

military police personnel. In response, IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja established a 5-member committee tasked with formulating thorough recommendations encompassing actionable proposals concerning the primary responsibilities, promotions, and transfers of these newly recruited personnel. These recommendations are to be meticulously reviewed and further acted upon.

The committee comprises three senior DIGPs, two SSPs, and a SP, ensuring a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives. IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja expressed optimism regarding the transformative impact anticipated with the inclusion of Inspectors Legal and Investigation within the Sindh Police.

JIP debunks alliance with PTI

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Mohammad Ibrahim Khan has said that they have not entered into any alliance with Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the provincial chief of JIP said that PTI is fully authorized to form government with political party. He said that PTI has no moral jurisdiction to use the name of JI.

SHC stops police from arresting PTI leader Haleem in further cases

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has stopped police from arresting PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh in further cases.

The petition against arrest of Haleem Adil Sheikh in several cases came up for hearing in SHC Tuesday.

The court restrained police from arresting him from further cases.

SHC ordered that Haleem Adil Sheikh be not nominated in any new case or challan.

The court ordered to send copy of order to IG Sindh and Jail Superintendent.

The court remarked as per November 2, 2023

police report Haleem Adil Sheikh is nominated in 21 cases. Police was earlier stopped from arresting father of the petitioner without the permission of court.

Justice Naimat Ullah Phulpoto inquired tell us how many more cases have been registered.

Additional Advocate General (AAG) Anwar Mansoor advocate told that overall 21 cases are registered against Haleem Adil Sheikh.

Anwar Mansoor advocate said court has restrained from arresting Haleem Adil Sheikh three times. In one case he seeks bail and in another case he is arrested.

4,199 Polio teams to administer drops

RAWALPINDI (APP): A week-long anti-polio drive will commence in the Rawalpindi district on February 26.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of District Health Authority Dr Ejaz Ahmad told APP that as many as 4,199 polio teams would go door-to-door and administer polio drops to 10,15,262 children of less than five years of age in all tehsils and union councils of the district during the campaign.

The CEO said 243 Union Council Medical Officers and 858 area incharges would also participate in the drive. In

addition, "361 fix centers will up set up to administer the drops". Ejaz added that anti-polio drops would also be administered at 182 transit points while teams would also be deputed at toll plazas so that no child could miss immunization.

He said that the second campaign of the year was being started after the detection of positive sample of Polio virus circulating in the area.

The CEO added that the objective of regularly conducting anti-polio campaigns was to keep children through protective drops and increase their immunity.



LAHORE: Students visiting on stall during All Pakistan science Technology Engineering and Math system exhibition at University of Engineering and Technology in Provincial Capital.

Umar Saif distributes Rs 825m to IT companies

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) Dr. Umar Saif distributed Rs825 million as cash prizes to companies playing a significant role in IT and IT services exports during the "IT and ITeS Export Award" organized by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), an organization of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Dr Umar Saif said that the IT industry was playing a pivotal role in the country's economy and it deserved maximum incentives, facilities and rewards. "These companies are strengthening the country's economy by earning huge foreign exchange in return for the services of digital talent of Pakistan worldwide. If the performance of the IT sector continues like this, it is hoped that the target of 10 billion dollars for IT exports will be achieved soon," he added.

The federal minister said that the IT Ministry had decided to encourage companies with a positive growth in IT exports, for which the government had allocated Rs1 billion in the annual budget. He said that due to timely decisions of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on the recommendations of the Ministry of IT, the overall IT exports in the country have increased by a record 32 percent in the



ISLAMABAD: Director (CIMMYT) an international maize & wheat improvement center Dr. Kevin Pixley called the Caretaker Federal Minister for national Food Security & Research.

PSDP 2023-24: Govt releases Rs 507.979b funds in seven months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs 507.979 billion, out of a total allocation of Rs 940 billion, for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and divisions during the first seven months (July-January) of fiscal year 2023-24 under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Out of the total authorized/distributed amount, the total amount spent so far on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 190.443 billion, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year.

The detail showed that Rs 127.066 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 211.777 billion had been disbursed to corporations including National Highway Authority (NHA), National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO). For the Aviation Division, funds amounting to Rs 3.270 billion have been disbursed and Rs 668.86 million for the Board of Investment.

Similarly, the government authorized Rs 61.312 billion.

Punjab Governor says: SIFC established to promote investment in the country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Continuity of policies is very important for the economic development of any country. Countries that have developed rapidly have one thing in common; there has been continuity of policies for many years. These views were expressed by Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman while talking to the delegation of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) at Governor House Lahore today. The delegation was led by Chairman (PIAF), Senator Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman further stated that it is very important to provide a conducive environment to businessmen for the development of the economy. He said that issues pointed by the delegation are very important in boosting the country's economy. He said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been established to promote investment in the country, adding that priority has been to the agriculture sector under SIFC.

He said that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. He underscored the need to develop the Agriculture Sector on modern lines and improve the quality of seeds to increase agricultural production. Governor Punjab emphasized that special attention should be paid on research to improve the quality of seeds.

Governor Punjab said that cotton yield has improved this year. He appreciated the role of the caretaker Punjab government in the improvement of cotton crop.

He said that as chancellor, he has taken steps to develop strong linkage between academia and industry.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with delegation of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) at Governor House which led by Chairman (PIAF), Senator Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry.

SCCI to organize conference to highlight business community issues

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Fuad Ishaq announced organizing a conference titled "Watan Kay Maimar Tajir Aur Sanatkar" (Builder of Nation), Trader and Industrialist] in the first week of May.

He said the conference aims to introduce current economic turmoil and business community problems in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before the federal and provincial governments and frame a charter of the economy.

Political leaders, high government officials, important dignitaries and members of the business community would be invited to the conference. Fuad Ishaq announced while chairing a meeting of SCCI's executive committee held here at the chamber house on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the chamber Senior Vice President Sanauallah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi, former Presidents Zahidullah Shinwari, Riaz Arshad, Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervez, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Sherbaz Bilour, Ex-Senior Vice Presidents Imran Khan Mohmand, Engr Saad Khan Zahid, former Vice Presidents Haji Abdul Jilil Jan, Harris Mufti, members of the chamber executive committee Affaf Ali Khan.

First plenary meeting for cotton crop to be held today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first plenary meeting for the cotton crop will be held on February 14 (Wednesday) to discuss and deliberate the ways and means to enhance the output of the crop during the coming season to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and economic development in the country. The meeting will evaluate the per-maund cotton price during the forthcoming season to ensure a proper rate of return to local growers, besides encouraging the farming community to bring maximum area under cotton cultivation, said Cotton Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Anjum Shahzad. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that the meeting will also make deliberations to overcome the challenges faced by the cotton growers and suggest innovative measures.

Real estate pain for US regional banks is piling up, say investors

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: New York Community Bancorp's (NYCB.N), opens new tab exposure to commercial real estate has intensified investor scrutiny around regional banks, with some expecting more pain for those with office and multifamily property loans.

Fears about the health of the smaller banks have escalated again a year after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in spring of 2023 triggered a regional banking crisis.

NYCB's recent earnings release which sparked a dive of about 60% in its shares has particularly focused investors on combing through portfolios of regional banks, as small banks account for nearly 70% of all commercial real estate (CRE) loans outstanding, according to research from Apollo.

"As long as interest rates stay high, it's hard for the banks to avoid problems with CRE loans," said short-seller William C. Martin of Raging Capital Ventures, who decided to place a bet against NYCB after the bank's disastrous Jan. 30 earnings release.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Tuesday gained 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.32.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.5 and Rs282.25, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 77 paisa to close at Rs300.87 against the last day's closing of Rs301.64, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost 01 paisa to close at Rs1.86.

CDNS achieves Rs 1020 billion targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 1020 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to February 09th, 2023-24.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday. The senior official said this was a Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he said.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 55 billion by January 9, 2023-24, through Islamic investment bonds. The official added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector.

He informed that the directorate that it had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23).

HCCI President raises concerns over delay in Auto Bhan road dev. work

HYDERABAD (APP): The President of Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Adeel Siddiqui while expressing his concern over the delay in Auto Bhan road development project stated that Auto Bhan road area was one of the important commercial markets of Hyderabad, where the development work has been going on for several months but has not been completed yet.

He said due to the slow pace of work, the public and business community were facing difficulties in offices, institutes, banks, shopping malls, hotels and markets, while business activities were affected and businessmen had to bear heavy losses.



GILGIT: Assistant Commissioner Gilgit, Cap (R) Adil Ali visiting flour mills to check the quality of wheat and packing process.

Gold rates remain unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs 214,300 in the local market on Tuesday, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat gold remained stagnant at Rs 183,728 and Rs 168,416 respectively whereas per tola and ten gram silver was traded at existing rates of Rs 2,600 and Rs 2,229.08 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market also remained unchanged at \$2,043, the Association reported.

Rs 2.2b collected through e-Abiana System

LAHORE (APP): E-Abiana System, developed by Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) for the Punjab Irrigation Department, has collected more than Rs. 2.2 billion against 7.8 million bills issued to the farmers.

This emerged during a progress review meeting presided over by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on Tuesday. PITB Additional Director General (ADG) Khuram Mushtaq and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf highlighted that the e-Abiana System not only provides comprehensive data to farmers and landowners across Punjab but also aids in preventing water theft and promoting efficient water usage.

"Through the e-Abiana System, farmers can conveniently pay their bills online through e-Pay Punjab, enhancing accessibility and ease of use. The digital mechanism, operational across Punjab, is overturning the decades old traditional process of manual billing," he added.

The meeting also discussed the ongoing success of the e-Abiana initiative and its positive impact on the agricultural community.

PSX turns bullish, gains 161 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 161.61 points, a positive change of 0.26 percent, closing at 61,226.93 points against 61,065.32 points the previous trading day. A total of 435,549,576 shares valuing Rs 15,972 billion were traded during the day as compared to 349,975,051 shares valuing Rs 12,745 billion the last day. Some 355 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 188 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 28 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 65,824,727 shares.



KARACHI: A stock broker watches share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in the Provincial Capital.

LESCO collects over Rs 11.03m from 571 defaulters

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered more than Rs 11.03 million from 571 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara on the 149th day of its recovery campaign.

LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that on the 149th day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.42 million from 103 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 2.49 million from 61 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 1.81 million from 62 defaulters in Central Circle, and Rs 0.82 million from 30 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 0.87 million from 66 defaulters in Nankana Circle and Rs 1.23 million from 64 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle. He added that LESCO Manager E&S (PMU) Engineer Abbas Ali in collaboration with Naib Tehsildar Kasur and Okara Mirza Zahid Baig recovered outstanding dues of Rs 0.53 million from 77 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 1.85 million from 108 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

PR earns over Rs 6.84 mln in four years through saloons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth over Rs 6.84 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last four years.

"At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry."

The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments."

In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway.



KARACHI: An elder vendor is selling Jiggery (Gur) at Lea Market in Provincial Capital.

India, UAE sign pact on trans-continental trade corridor

Monitoring Desk
 DUBAI: India and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday signed an agreement on a trade corridor that aims to connect Europe with India through parts of the Middle East by sea and rail, an ambitious plan backed by the US and the European Union.

His trip comes ahead of India's national election which is expected to begin in April.

Modi was due to inaugurate the Middle East's largest Hindu temple on Wednesday, a day after he addresses thousands of expatriates in a community event in the capital Abu Dhabi. The visit is largely focused on galvanising the diaspora, according to experts, even though Indians in the UAE can't vote from abroad. The UAE is home to about 3.5 million Indian nationals—the largest expatriate community in the Gulf region.

Today, Modi met the UAE president Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to the Indian foreign ministry and local state media, their fifth meeting in eight months.

They inked several deals, including a bilateral investment treaty, building on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement signed in 2022, India's foreign ministry said.

"This would build on previous understandings and cooperation on this matter and foster India and the UAE cooperation furthering regional connectivity," the ministry statement said.

The corridor, announced last September on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi, aims to extend from India across the Arabian Sea to the United Arab Emirates and through Saudi Arabia before connecting through Jordan and Israel to Europe.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks next to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a ceremonial welcome upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi for a two-day visit to the UAE.

IMF, WB warn Gaza conflict and Red Sea attacks may imperil global economy

Monitoring Desk
 DUBAI: The IMF and World Bank warned on Monday that the Gaza conflict and the related attacks on shipping through the Red Sea pose threats to the global economy.

The conflict in Gaza, raging since October, has already hit the Middle East and North Africa region's economy, said the International Monetary Fund's managing director Kristalina Georgieva.

Its knock-on effects could impact the world the longer the fighting drags on, Georgieva told the World Governments Summit, an annual gathering of business and political leaders in Dubai.

"I fear most a longevity of the conflict because, if it goes on and on, the risk of spillover goes up," she said.

"Right now we see a risk of spillover in the Suez Canal," she said, as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have attacked Red Sea shipping leading to the crucial maritime passage.

The Houthis say they are targeting what they consider Israeli-linked shipping in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, pushing some cargo carriers to take longer and more expensive routes to avoid attacks.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development warned late last month that the volume of commercial traffic passing through the Suez Canal had fallen more than 40 percent in the previous two months.

Georgieva said that if there are other "consequences in terms of where the fighting goes, it could be more problematic for the world as a whole."



Geneva-based doctor Raouf Salti holds 17-month-old Zeina, next to 16-year-old Yusef, both of whom were evacuated from Gaza to Switzerland to receive medical treatment, at Geneva airport, Switzerland.

Civilian vessel attacked off Yemeni coast - UK Navy

LONDON (Online): A civilian ship has come under fire off the coast of Yemen, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has confirmed. No casualties or significant damage have been reported.

Since the start of Israel's military operation against Hamas in Gaza, Houthi militants controlling large swaths of Yemen have been targeting merchant ships traversing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The Shiite group had initially focused on vessels they believed to be linked to Israel, claiming they were acting in protest over the country's actions in Palestinian territory. However, after the US and the UK conducted a number of strikes on Houthi facilities, the group said it would now also attack ships affiliated with either nation.

On Monday, the UKMTO, which is a monitoring service operated by the British Navy, released a statement, saying it had "received a report of an incident, 40NM South of AL Mukha, Yemen." "Master reports his vessel was attacked by two missiles and reports minor damage," the UKMTO said, adding that the unnamed ship and its crew were safe, and en route to the next port of call. It advised all vessels to "transit with caution" in the area.

Last Tuesday, the US Central Command reported that Houthi militants had fired several missiles at the Greek-owned bulk carrier Star Nasia, sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands, as well as the UK-owned, Barbados-flagged carrier Morning Tide off the Yemeni coast. According to the statement, both vessels remained seaworthy and had continued their planned journeys, with no casualties reported aboard either one.

Two years into Russia-Ukraine war, negotiations a distant prospect

MOSCOW (INP): After two years of war in Ukraine, there is no prospect of negotiations to find a breakthrough as Russian President Vladimir Putin, emboldened by the erosion of Western support for Kyiv, gears for a long conflict. 2024 will be another year of war as Ukraine is determined to keep on fighting to recapture territory while Putin will only be satisfied with Kyiv's full surrender, analysts and diplomats say.

Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Secretary General of Palestine's Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhaleh held a meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, the two resistance leaders discussed the latest developments in the war-torn Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, encompassing both political and on-ground situations, amid incessant Israel's brutal attacks against the people of Palestine.

Nasrallah and Nakhaleh also exchanged views about the condition of other fronts opened by the Axis of Resistance in support of the Palestinian people and resistance in the face of Israel.

The discussions also touched upon existing possibilities and expected developments, whether on the field or in political communications.

Dutch court orders halt to export of F-35 jet parts to Israel

Monitoring Desk
 THE HAGUE: A Dutch appeals court on Monday ordered the government to block all exports of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel over concerns they were being used in violations of international law during Israel's Gaza offensive.

It said the state had to comply with the order within seven days and dismissed a request by government lawyers to suspend the order pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. The state has eight weeks to appeal against the decision.

"It is undeniable that there is a clear risk the exported F-35 parts are used in serious violations of international humanitarian law," the court said. Israel's massive aerial and ground offensive in the densely populated Gaza Strip has killed more than 28,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run enclave's health authorities, and displaced most of its 2.3 million people from their homes.

Biden age a 'legitimate issue': Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON (Online): Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said President Joe Biden's advancing age is a "legitimate issue" on the campaign trail, as he seeks to secure a second term in the White House in the election later this year.

Speculation about Biden's cognitive abilities was once again raised last week when the 81-year-old confused the leaders of Egypt and Mexico, shortly after dismissing claims that his mental state is declining. The verbal misstep followed an announcement that Biden will not face criminal prosecution for mishandling classified government documents, after a prosecutor described him as an "elderly man with a poor memory." According to Clinton, who unsuccessfully ran against Donald Trump in the 2016 US presidential race, the debate about Biden's age is valid.

Israel bans UN expert's entry over 'oppression' remarks

Monitoring Desk
 JERUSALEM: Israel announced Monday a visa ban on the United Nations special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories over recent comments denying Hamas's Oct 7 raid was "anti-Semitic".

The UN-appointed independent expert, Francesca Albanese, said last week she disagreed with French President Emmanuel Macron's description of the attack as "the biggest anti-Semitic massacre of our century".

"No", Albanese wrote in French on social media platform X. "The victims of 7/10 (Oct 7) were not killed because of their Jewishness, but in response to Israeli oppression." Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Interior Minister Moshe Arbel called her online remark "outrageous" and said in a statement she was now "denied entry to the state of Israel". The immigration authorities had been instructed not to issue Albanese a visa, they added, also calling for her dismissal.

North Korea tests new rocket launcher control system

PYONGYANG (INP): North Korea said on Monday it had developed a new control system for a multiple rocket launcher that would lead to a "qualitative change" in its defence capabilities.

Pyongyang's Academy of Defense Science successfully carried out a "ballistic control test firing of 240-mm caliber multiple rocket launcher shells" on Saturday to develop a "controllable shell and ballistic control system" for the launcher, state news agency KCNA reported.

Hezbollah leader, Islamic Jihad chief urge steadfastness to achieve 'promised victory'

BEIRUT (Online): The top resistance leaders of Lebanon and Palestine assert that it is necessary to remain steadfast and work tirelessly to achieve the promised victory.

Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Secretary General of Palestine's Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhaleh held a meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, the two resistance leaders discussed the latest developments in the war-torn Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, encompassing both political and on-ground situations, amid incessant Israel's brutal attacks against the people of Palestine.

Nasrallah and Nakhaleh also exchanged views about the condition of other fronts opened by the Axis of Resistance in support of the Palestinian people and resistance in the face of Israel.

The discussions also touched upon existing possibilities and expected developments, whether on the field or in political communications.

Gunman kills three at Greek shipping company

ATHENS: A former employee of a Greek shipping company shot dead three people including its owner before killing himself on Monday in a coastal suburb of Athens, police said.

The shooter, 70, broke into the company's building in Glyfada and killed two men and a woman on the first floor before barricading himself inside.

"We heard gunshots and I hid under my desk before police officers helped us out of the building," another employee of the company, whose identity was not revealed, told radio station Skai.

Indian police fire tear gas as protesting farmers march to capital

Monitoring Desk
 NEW DELHI: Indian security forces fired tear gas on Tuesday to stop thousands of farmers demanding minimum crop prices from marching on the capital New Delhi after talks with the government failed.

Local broadcasters showed thick clouds of tear gas fired to disperse protesters near Ambala, about 200 kilometres north of the capital, with police also dropping canisters from the air by drones.

Police have set up a fearsome blockade of metal spikes, cement, and steel barricades on the highways from three surrounding states leading to New Delhi.

"Maximum numbers have been deployed," Ranjay Atrishya, assistant commissioner of Delhi Police, told AFP. Public gatherings of more than five people have been banned in the city. Farmers in India have political heft due to their sheer numbers, and the threat of renewed protests comes ahead of national elections likely to begin in April. Two-thirds of India's 1.4 billion people draw their livelihood from agriculture, accounting for nearly a fifth of the country's GDP, according to government figures.

Farmers have called for a "Delhi Chalo", or "March to Delhi", echoing January 2021 when farmers breached barricades and marched into the city on Republic Day during their then-year-long protest.

"The farmers are peaceful, but tear gas is being used against us through drones," Sarwan Singh Pandher, a top farmers' union official from Punjab, told reporters. "The protest will continue till the government agrees to our demands." Indian broadcasters showed columns of hundreds of tractors moving towards the capital from the surrounding states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, with some using their machines to drag barricades off the roads.

Poland's Tusk visits Paris, Berlin, as security concerns loom large

WARSAW (INP): Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk travels to France and Germany on Monday as the three European Union members seek to bind closer in the face of mounting security risks.

With the war in Ukraine soon to enter its third year and a possible Donald Trump presidency threatening US commitment to transatlantic military alliance NATO, Warsaw, Paris and Berlin see defence unity as essential.

"Europe has to get its act together... this is a matter of answering a question about what will happen if Trump wins. We don't have time, we must have bigger defence industry capacity," said a Polish government source. The source added that Europe urgently needed joint production of ammunition and that Poland was no longer blocking "strategic autonomy": making Europe less dependent on others.

The shift has been noticed elsewhere in Europe.

"Now for the first time a Polish government is saying that strengthening the European Security Defense Capabilities area is not a contradiction to a strong NATO," said Dietmar Nietan, a German official in charge of cooperation with Poland.

Relations between Poland and Germany were strained by eight years of nationalist rule in Warsaw. The campaign for October's vote saw the Law and Justice (PiS) party, in power from 2015 to 2023, cast Berlin as villain on everything from migration to energy.

However, analysts say the return of former European Council president Tusk to prime minister makes it easier to reinvigorate the "Weimar Triangle" platform of political cooperation between Germany, France and Poland created in 1991.



Members of the New York Police Department (NYPD) investigate the scene of a shooting at the Mount Eden Avenue subway station in the Bronx borough of New York City, U.S.

Dutch centrist party rules out joining coalition with Wilders

Monitoring Desk
 AMSTERDAM: Dutch political party NSC said on Monday it would not join a new coalition government with the nationalist Freedom Party (PVV) led by anti-Muslim politician Geert Wilders, citing irreconcilable differences.

The move by NSC, a centrist upstart that took 20 seats in the Nov. 22 election won by Wilders, effectively blocks the formation of a right-wing government that would have a majority in parliament. Coalition talks were already thrown in disarray last week, when the NSC unexpectedly stepped away, leaving the three other prospective coalition partners to puzzle over their next moves.

A report by the intermediary leading the talks, former Labour minister Ronald Plasterk, on Monday made it clear NSC had no intention of joining any government coalition with the PVV as it said differences on the rule of law were too big to overcome. Wilders won a quarter of the vote in the election, and needs other parties to form a workable coalition. He has been negotiating with the NSC, the centre-right VVD of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte and the farmers' protest party BBB since late November.

Real estate pain for US regional banks is piling up, say investors

NEW YORK (Internews): New York Community Bancorp's (NYCB.N), opens new tab exposure to commercial real estate has intensified investor scrutiny around regional banks, with some expecting more pain for those with office and multifamily property loans. Fears about the health of the smaller banks have escalated again a year after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in spring of 2023 triggered a regional banking crisis.

NYCB's recent earnings release which sparked a dive of about 60% in its shares has particularly focused investors on combining through portfolios of regional banks, as small banks account for nearly 70% of all commercial.

One in five of world's migratory species at risk of extinction - UN report

SINGAPORE (Internews): More than a fifth of the world's migratory species are at risk of going extinct as a result of climate change and human encroachment, according to the United Nations' first-ever report on migrating animals published on Monday.

Billions of animals make journeys across deserts, plains or oceans every year to breed and feed, and "unsustainable" pressures put on migratory species could not only see their populations dwindle, but also disrupt food sup-

Port of Antwerp disrupted by Belgian farmers' protests

BRUSSELS (Internews): Antwerp, one of Europe's biggest ports, said on Tuesday that there was disruption at the site due to protests from Belgian farmers - the latest in a series of European-wide demonstrations from farmers demanding better pay and working conditions. "Farmers' actions are causing major disruption in the Antwerp port area," said the port operator in an update on its website, adding there were blockades at five different locations in the area.



Farmers shout slogans during a protest demanding minimum crop prices in Amritsar.

Russia preparing for military confrontation with West, says Estonia

VILNIUS (Internews): A military attack by Russia is "highly unlikely" in the short term, he said, partly because Russia has to keep troops in Ukraine, and would remain unlikely if Russian buildup of forces was matched in Europe.

"If we are not prepared, the likelihood (of a military Russian attack) would be much higher than without any preparation," Rosin added.

Estonia and the other Baltic States have increased their military spending to over 2% of the value of their economies after Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and NATO allies have raised their presence in those countries. Germany plans to have 4,800 combat-ready troops in the region by 2027, in its first permanent foreign deployment since World War Two, and Rosin said NATO and its allies were moving in the right direction to counter the Russian threat.

Rosin does not expect a Russian breakthrough in Ukraine before its presidential election in March.

ECC approves Rs.7.4 bln ‘Ramzan Relief Package’; tariff rationalization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved Rs. 7,492.75 million proposed Ramazan Relief Package-2024 to provide relief to the general public during the upcoming holy month of Ramazan. The package is aimed at providing subsidy to the targeted beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) with net amount of Rs. 7,492.75 million, which is provided for in the budget for 2023-24, according to a press statement issued by the fi-

nance ministry. The ECC meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The ECC meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter-Provincial Coordination, Fawad Hasan Fawad; Minister for Interior, Commerce & Industries, Gohar Ejaz; Minister for Energy and Petroleum Division, Mohammad Ali; Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed; Minister of Maritime Affairs, Commu-

nication and Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar; Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan; Advisor to PM on Finance, Dr. Waqar Masood, federal secretaries, and other senior government officers of the relevant ministries. The committee approved a summary of the Ministry of Commerce (Tariff Policy Wing), regarding ‘Individual Tariff Rationalization Proposals from Different Sectors for Review of Custom Duties’ and advised that tariff rationalization should be coordinated with the trade policy. ECC also approved a proposal regarding ‘Permission to Import Wheat and Export of Wheat Flour under Export Facilitation Scheme 2021’ presented to the forum by the Ministry of Commerce and directed the relevant Ministries to prepare comprehensive proposals for enhancing the opportunities for valued added exports. The ECC also approved a summary of the Power Division regarding the ‘Commissioning of 1263 MW CCPP Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Limited, Jhang (PPTL)’.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz chairing a briefing at NADRA headquarters.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan presides a meeting of DRAP at Central Drugs Laboratory.

Solangi reads news bulletin to give message govt considers radio important communication medium

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday created new history by reading English news bulletin on Radio Pakistan on World Radio Day. The minister read 1.00 pm news bulletin on Radio Pakistan and gave an important message that the government considered radio as an important medium of communication. This move by the caretaker information minister also indicated that the government was committed to promoting radio broadcasting in the country. Radio Pakistan is the oldest and largest broadcasting organization in the country with a wide audi-

Caretaker Interior minister visits NADRA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Tuesday visited the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) headquarters along with the Secretary Interior and Director General FIA. NADRA Chairman Lieutenant General Munir Afsar welcomed the Minister in headquarters, said in a press release. A detailed briefing on the institution was given to the minister by NADRA officials. NADRA is an organization of international standards and our main national asset, said the Minister adding that being the custodian of the national identity, this institution has an important role in national security and safety. Obtaining an identity document is the fundamental right of citizens and in this regard, they should be provided with all possible facilities, the minister said.

Nawaz Sharif should not become PM: Javed Latif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Javed Latif, who faced defeat in the general elections 2024, opined that party supremo Nawaz Sharif should not become prime minister. Speaking at a private TV Channel, the PML-N leader cast doubt over the elections' legitimacy, claiming that results of candidates belonging to every political parties have been changed. "Today, not me or any political party, but the state has been defamed", Javed Latif said, pointing out the press conference of Pir Sibghatullah Shah Rashidi, popularly known as Pir Pagara—who announced his refusal to accept the results of the recent general elections. Speaking of his defeat, Latif claimed he was told 15-20 days earlier that a "cross has been made on my name". "The prof of declaring someone winner and loser should be stopped," he demanded. PTI-backed independent candidate Khurram Shahzad Virk won the election for National Assembly constituency NA-115, Sheikhupura III by securing 130,255 votes. As per unofficial result, his runner-up was Javed Latif, who bagged 94,144, votes.

Alvi writes to Swiss President for gift of documents related to Quaid-i-Azam's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has written a letter to the President of the Swiss Confederation, seeking assistance in providing copies of archival documents about the life of Ahmad Ali Jinnah (brother of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah) to Pakistan. The documents, currently in possession of Zurich's City Archives, are a compilation of photographs, history and details of the life of Ahmad Ali Jinnah and related to late Fatima Goepfert Jinnah, niece of the Founder of Pakistan, a President Secretary press release said. The President has requested Switzerland to gift this historical document collection to the National Archives of Pakistan.

Drug app launched to ensure availability of medicines: Dr. Nadeem

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that a drug app had been launched to ensure availability of the medicines. He said that his ministry took measures to ensure registration of sugar, blood pressure and life-saving medicines on emergency basis. Expressing his views during his visit to Karachi Drug Testing Laboratory here, the Minister said that he had laid a foundation stone of large-scale reforms in the Ministry of Health Services in a short period of time. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that it was his priority to

PSL 9 trophy unveiled at Lahore's Polo Ground

Sports Desk LAHORE: The PSL 9 trophy has been unveiled at the Polo Ground of the Race Course Park in Lahore in the presence of PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, franchise owners, and star cricketers. The trophy is "The Orion Trophy" and will be a source of motivation for all the teams participating in the tournament. The trophy embodies the spirit of the Pakistan Super League where each team shines brightly as they strive for

glory. Mohsin Naqvi said: "It is a pleasure to announce that PSL is entering its ninth season, and I am proud to say that PSL continues to be a success story for Pakistan cricket. "Today, as we unveil this Orion trophy, we look forward to a month-long celebration of the beautiful game of cricket and the excitement and drama that accompanies it. "PSL connects to the hearts of people of Pakistan, who cherish every



LAHORE: Captains of PSL teams poses with PSL-9 trophy during inauguration ceremony of PSL-9 in Provincial Capital.

LHC dismisses petition against Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday dismissed a petition against the victory of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from NA-130 in elections 2024. Sharif's victory from NA-130 was challenged by Ishtaiq Ahmed in the high court after the former three-time prime minister was declared the winner as per unofficial and unconfirmed results. Justice Baqar Najafi terming the plea inadmissible directed the plaintiff to contact the Election Commission of Pakistan

Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday accused India of complicity in the violence against Palestinians. Addressing a press conference, he said according to reports, Israel was utilizing Indian-made drones to perpetrate attacks on the innocent people of Rafah, a claim that has stirred international concern. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) condemned the alleged collusion between India and Israel, stating that while India continued to oppress Kashmiris, it was also practically involved in the bloodshed of Palestinian civilians. He pointed fingers at Adani-Elbit, suggesting



QUETTA: Chief of the Jamhoori Wattan Party, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti speaks during a press conference.



HUB: Members of All Parties are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, in Hub.

No govt can be formed without Imran Khan: Khosa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaking to the media in Islamabad, PTI leader Latif Khosa said that the election results were "correct" up till the issuance of the Form 45. "According to the Form 45, 170 of four people are winning. They are not independent because PTI exists as a legal and constitutional party. Calling us independent is wrong and illegal," he said. He said that if reserved seats were added to this number, then the PTI would cross the 200 mark in the National Assembly. "The largest political party which emerges in the election is given the right to form the government," he said.

Establishment of BINS for curing of raising metal diseases inevitable: Abdullah

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Secretary Health Abdullah on Tuesday said that the setting up of the Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences (BINS) for the treatment of increasing mental diseases was inevitable in the province. He expressed these views while chairing a review meeting of the Institute of Neurological Sciences here. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Health Arif Khan, Additional Secretary Health Abdul Hameed Zehri, Dean PGMI Neurophysician Professor Dr. Noor Muhammad Khosa, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Rasool Zehri, Governance Specialist Abdul Qadir Nasir, Additional Director PGM Dr. Mir Abdul Qadir, Assistant Chief P&D Syed Saifulah, Section Officer Aziz Ahmed Sub Divisional Engineer B&R Shahid

on the matter. You can contact RO or ECP for recounting of votes in NA-130. The LHC said in its verdict. It is pertinent to note that according to the unofficial and inconclusive result of Constituency NA-130 Lahore-XIV, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of PML-N won with 171,024 votes from 376 polling stations. However, the three-time former Prime Minister, faced a significant defeat in the NA-15 Manshehra constituency, losing the seat to independent candidate Shahzada Gatasap, who secured 74,713 votes against Sharif's 63,054 votes. Earlier on Monday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) rejected several pleas filed against victories of key candidates in the General Elections.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Asif Dummarr meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozegazi

Financial fraud case Court approves bail after arrest plea of Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Courts Islamabad has approved bail after arrest plea in respect of former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in financial fraud case. Civil and judicial magistrate Judge Dr. Sohil Tahir announced reserved judgment on bail plea of Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday. The court approved bail of Fawad Chaudhry against surety bonds in the sum of Rs 100000. The former federal minister is facing the charges of 'not giving the job to a citizen after taking Rs 50 lac from him. On the other hand judge of accountability Court (AC) adjourned the hearing of corruption case against Fawad Chaudhry till February 22 without

FO expresses grief over loss of lives in Philippines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the devastation, caused by a landslide in the Southern Philippines which took multiple lives. "Our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Philippines and families of the deceased," the Ministry of Foreign Office posted on its official X account. It further said that it was another grim reminder of the ravages caused by climate change and the need for collective action to overcome it.

JIP debunks alliance with PTI

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, has refuted claims of allying with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In response to a statement by PTI spokesman Rauf Hassan, Professor Ibrahim Khan, in a released statement from Markaz-e-Islami, asserted that while PTI has the authority to form a government with any political party, it lacks moral justification to associate JIP with their efforts. Professor Ibrahim Khan clarified that JIP has not reached a decision regarding alliance formation with PTI and criticized PTI for using their party's name in the process without consent. He deemed such actions as inappropriate and immoral, emphasizing that JIP will not extend its support.

WAPDA to divert River Swat at Mohmand Dam Project in April

PESHAWAR (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is going to divert River Swat in April this year at the under construction Mohmand Dam, as diversion system of the project is steadily heading towards completion in accordance with the timelines. In this connection, Chairman WAPDA, Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) visited Mohmand Dam, being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. He visited in detail construction sites of the spillway, the diversion tunnels and the power house

to review construction activities going on there. Advisors (Projects) WAPDA, GM and PD Mohmand Dam Project and the Consultants and the Contractors were also present during the visit. Later, the chairman also presided over a progress review meeting at the project office. At present, construction work is continuing on 12 sites. The project team gave a detailed briefing about diversion scheme, concreting and slope stabilization at the spillway, slope excavation and support works at the power house, excavation at the irrigation tunnels, construction of structures across the irrigation canals and finishing works at the permanent access roads.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Badini presiding over a meeting of District Polio Eradication Committee