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PML-N, IPP, PPP, MQM, PMI 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 Magbool 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, Istehkam-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

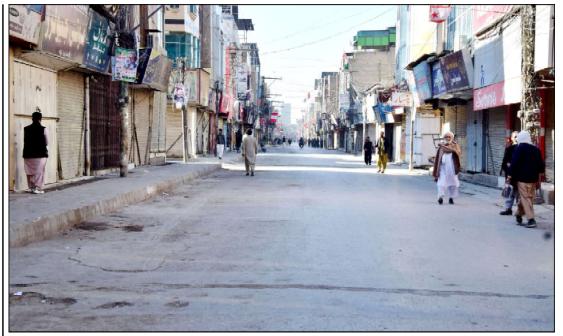
Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain's residence, where leaders discussed strategies for governance.

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 Continued on page 2



PML-N) made a significant decision on Tuesday, nominating Shehbaz Sharif as their candidate for the prime miniserial position. According to sources, Maryam Nawaz, the Chief Organiser of the PML-N, is set to contest for the ole of Punjab chief minister. The final announcement egarding the prime ministerial candidate will be coorlinated with allied parties. It's 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.



PPPAsif Ali Zardari, President PML-Q Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and BAP's Sadiq Sanjrani addressing a joint pres

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

LAHORE (APP): Paki- Punjab and is the largest in stan Muslim League the Centre in terms of Nawaz (PML-N) Presi-dent Shehbaz Sharif said The PML-N president dent Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that indepen- said that after independent dent candidates backed by candidates' induction into plaints regarding the polls 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

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 Ouaid 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 in-



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

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

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. 2 cases were registered and

304 persons were arrested.

Challans of 18 FIR out of

The CJP inquired only 18 challans were made. SC rejected Punjab government report regarding

Jaranwala incident The court while adjourning the hearing of case

Solangi says **Justified** complaints regarding polls to be redressed ISLAMABAD (INP):

Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi has said that "justified comwould 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 fo-

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, trans parent 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

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, Luxemburg 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 JN chief's spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Guterres "calls for the resolving of all issues and disputes through the estab-

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 Raoof Hasan said that the former prime minister, while ruling out the prospects of any talks with the Pakistan

National Council.

Balochistan Information

Minister Jan Achakzai on

Tuesday declared that the

recent election results dem-

onstrate the unequivocal

rejection of ethnic nation-

alist narratives by voters,

who instead extended

their support to main-

stream parties like PPP and PMLN.

tion should serve as a wake-

up call for ethnic national-

ist parties to reassess their

grievances and their habit of

maligning the state," he

He criticized the use of

This resounding rejec-

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

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

ceive the electorate and dis-

of blind faith in their abil-

ity to bring positive change

are long gone, the people

demand tangible results and

genuine progress. Minister Achakzai fur-

ther urged ethnic national-

ist parties to abandon dis-

ruptive tactics that harm

ways, and essential ser-

vices is not only coun-

terproductive but deeply

unfair to the very people

they claim to represent," he

emphasized, saying they

"Blocking roads, high-

ordinary citizens.

He said that the days

parage the state.

Complete shutdown strike against election rigging continue in Balochistan QUETTA (INP): A prov- authorities of manipulating fair results. The BNP's on-

ince-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 sitins 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

JI loses three

KP seats after

vote recount

BAJAUR (INP): Follow

ing the Election Commis-

sion of Pakistan (ECP's)

decision to recount the

votes, the three candidates

of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) from

PK-17, PK-20, and PK-21

constituencies lost their

seats in the general election

dates-Aizaz Ul Malik

representing PK-17 Waheed Gul from PK-20

and Sardar Khan from PK-

21— initially secured vic-

tories in their respective

constituencies. However

following a recount ordered

by the ECP, they ultimately

faced defeat. As per the lat

Rehman, running as an in

dependent candidate, se-

Khan, also an independent

candidate, clinched the seat

for PK-20 with 12,903

votes, and as per the result from the PK-21 constitu-

ency, Ajmal Khan, an inde-

pendent candidate emerged

victorious by securing

FM condemns

Israel's bombing,

offensive in Rafah

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Caretaker Foreign Minister

Jalil Abbas Jilani has vehe-

mently condemned Israel's

recent bombing and offen-

In a post on his X handle, he described the Is-

raeli acts against innocent

Palestinians as deplorable

and a grave violation of in-

ternational law and human

rights. He emphasized that

the international commu-

nity cannot afford to ignore

16,712 votes.

sive in Rafah.

the situation.

Similarly, Anwar Zeb

cured victory in PK-17.

est result, Ubaid Ur

The three JI candi

poll results to favor other parties, effectively stealing their victories. In Quetta, the provin-

remained shuttered, and major intersections witers Association) extended their support to the strike, further amplifying the movement.

Nushki saw a complete shutdown, with markets sit-ins for the fifth consecuand shops deserted in response to the four-party alliance's call. People took to the streets, raising their

going protest outside the Nushki district returning officer's office entered its third day, blocking the nacial capital, business centers tional highway and intensifying pressure on authorities.

nessed sit-ins. The In Chaman, the Balochistan Bar Council and Anjuman Tajran (Trad-Awami Party (ANP) led a shutdown strike, causing businesses to close and essential services to be dis-

Party workers staged tive day in front of the district returning officer's office, demanding the declaration of results based on voices against alleged Form 45, the official pollpoll rigging and demanding ing station record.

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.

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-

(SLAMABAD (APP): cepting the election results despite its concerns in the larger interest of the coun-

> 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 minis-

ter," he said. Continued on page 2



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

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): (AG) is not available today 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

The non recovery of Baloch students case came up for hearing before IHC Tuesday. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the disappearances should be

During the hearing Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Usman Ghumman requested Attorney General

therefore, hearing be adjourned. The court dismissed the plea.

Auditor General (AG)

took the plea during the hearing we need more time in this case Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked it is kind-

ness 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 awarded death sentence twice. Later the court summoned care taker PM Anwaar ul Haque on Mon-

missing persons" and "exshould pursue legal avploitation of resources" as enues, like tribunals, to mere talking points to de- address their concerns. Pakistan, Somalia discuss

increased coordination at OIC

Balochistan voters reject

nationalist narratives,

demand progress: Jan

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



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

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 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

to this spirit of thought leadership, and ISSI is privileged

duly recognised in Pakistan and internationally. Ambassador Sohial 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

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 milons 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, in-



position holder IT experts on the occasion of IT and ITES Export Awards 2024 ceremony.



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 Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has said that measures are being taken on a priority basis to bring more improvement in the agriculture sector for its sustainable develop-

He expressed these views during a meeting with Director CIMMYT Dr. Kevin Pixely, who called on the minister on

Improvement of Maize eration with Pakistan in the and Wheat will support field of agriculture.

the best crops, measures will also be taken for the improvement of wheat in

CIMMYT regarding speed breeding. Director CIMMYT Dr Kevin Pixley while appreciating Abdullah Malik said and food security during the that CIMMYT an Interna-short term of the minister said tional organization for the that there will be full coop

fective governance.

aspirations.

tioned, highlighting past

achievements and future

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 ech-

oes across the coalition.

highlighting a prioritization

of national progress over

senting the BAP, expressed

optimism, stating, "Today

marks a new beginning. We

will work together to ensure

a better future for all Paki-

stanis." This collaborative

spirit resonates throughout

the coalition, suggesting a

potential shift towards

Abdul Aleem Khan of the

Istehkam-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

On the other hand.

more unified governance.

Sadiq Sanjrani, repre-

individual party agendas.

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

Continued from page 1

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

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

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

"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 signirain-fed areas. He said with the sup-

port 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 the initiatives and reforms in the field of agriculture

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

Chess tournament

in Dhaka to

recognize

Pakistani chess

maestro on Feb 24

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The High Commission of

Pakistan in Dhaka and

Bangladesh Chess Federa-

tion are jointly organising

the 1st Mian Sultan Khan

Chess Tournament on Feb-

ruary 24 to recognise the

skill and celebrate the

legacy of Pakistan's iconic

chess figure Mian Sultan

sion for Pakistan in Dhaka

and Chess Federation.

"The High Commis-

iconic figure in the chess Sharif noted, emphasizing world, was a true maestro, the diverse yet unified representation. "With our mawho left an indelible mark on the game during the jority, we pledge to address early 20th century, who the nation's challenges," he stunned the international assured, committing to efchess community with his extraordinary abilities "Did we not rescue Paearning the admiration of kistan from the brink of players and enthusiasts bankruptcy?" Sharif ques-

> 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.

Nawaz nominates Continued from page 1

In a gesture of appreciation, Shehbaz Sharif conveyed gratitude to former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for pledging their support to the PML-N.

He shared this sentiment via social media, expressing optimism about collaborating with the PPP to address the nation's political and economic challenges effectively.

putting personal agendas aside, we can find solufies our collective strength," tions.

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

understand Chinese culture, traditions: Pak diplomats BEIJING (APP): The tive spirit of the occasion. Spring Festival, also known

Spring Festival paves way to

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 fes-

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 spec-

Police finalizes security plan for PSL

MULTAN (INP): Police have finalized the security plan for the ninth edition 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

points, hotels and other

He said that a compreof the mega cricket event hensive search operation Pakistan Super League was being conducted at (PSL) with its first match route of the stadium and at Multan Cricket Stadium other important places of the city in order to prevent any untoward incident. He said that special commandos would remain alert as reserves to deal with any emergency-like situation and would continue patrolling in the city.

However, special parking arrangements would be made at Fatima Jinnah Housing Colony from where the spectators would be provided a shuttle service to reach the stadium.

The police have also issued instructions for the cricket lovers in which the citizens have been directed to bring original national identity cards with them airport, routes, parking along with tickets.

PPP to back PML-N candidate... Continued from page 1

Bilawal Bhutto said the PPP had formed a commit-

security officials would be

deployed at the stadium.

tee to engage with other political parties for the formation of government and political stability in the

"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 tox-

icity," 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

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 coun-

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

He said that PPP wanted all the political parties to address the shortcomings in administrative and constitutional decisions so that no one could point fingers at elections in

the next time. "We will also utilize available forums like ECP, parliament in addressing nese issues," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto said, "It is my desire that Asif Ali Zardari may become the next president. The country is facing problems and the only person who can control the situation is Asif Zardari."

He said that PPP would nominate its candidates for the slot of President, Speaker National Assembly and Chairman Senate, adding that his party would form the government in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

Bilawal Bhutto expressed hope that the next upcoming government would complete its term as the masses had given their votes and wanted to resolve the challenges being faced by the country.

He said that PPP was part of the PML-N government for the past 18 months, under Pakistan Democratic Movement Alliance, in which the party members had complaints that their requests were not entertained by other parties of the coalition enjoying power in various ministries.

"We cannot compromise on the peace and development of Karachi, we give the same message that do politics, bury the politics of extremism and hatred, we will not let them divide my city on the basis of linguistics and hatred,'

Efforts underway for revival, financial stability of Radio Pakistan: DG PBC tains 15 points including working to improve digital

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 Imranulah 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 ap-

The business plan con-

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

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

the occasion of World Ra-

dio Day and also read En-

glish news.

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.

Seead 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 ioin 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 Puniab, 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 has 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.

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 elec-

'I have named Ali Amin

tion to the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2013 as a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. e 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-I). 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 cabi-

TENDER NOTICE

1 CONST: OF WARE HOUSE PDMA OFFICE AT

CHASHMAACHOZAI QUETTAAND VARIES

CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PDMA OFFICE

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 BPPRA GOB. TSE-232402376843 Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 3% S.No Name of Work/s E/Cost

QUETTA 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 in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. ISO9001:2015 Certificate. Membership of small Industry Certificate Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Callof 3% 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

AB NO.300/13-02-2024 www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob

Email: pdma.balochitan2007@gmail.c

PDMA BALOCHISTAN

49,373,799



ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Communications at

Swearing-in of MNAs elect likely on Feb 29

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 As-

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 tion results or the issuance

The Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan on Tuesday directed

the Evacuee Trust Property

Board (ETPB) to upload

and Gurdwaras in the coun-

try on the website along

stan Qazi Faez Isa, hearing

the case, remarked that this

is the property of certain

minorities and the public.

facts were being hidden, he

On the query of the

bench, Chairman ETPB journed.

Chief Justice of Paki-

with pictures.

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 threeindependent day window to join any party in parliament of their choice. According to Article 21 of the Constitution of

> moned 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 elec-

SC directs Evacuee

Trust to upload details

of Temples, Gurdwaras

the details of all Temples ficials why all the details

The lands used to be the facts. The lawyer said

grabbed due to which the that all the details had al-

in the country.

were not uploaded by the

chief justice expressed an-

ready been submitted to the

The case was later ad-

court previously.

kistan, the National Assem-

though it can also be sum-

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 sec-

the Islamic Republic of Pations, with members tallied accordingly based on this dibly session must be called vision. According to Section within 21 days of elections, 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.

Death anniversary of Mohyeddin observed

ISLAMABAD (APP) ISLAMABAD (APP): said that there were a total The first death anniversary of 19 functional Gurdwaras of renowned actor, broadcaster, and producer Zia Expressing displea-Mohyeddin was observed sure, the CJP asked the ofon Tuesday.

Born on June 20, 1931 Faisalabad, Zia Mohyeddin became fa-During the hearing, the mous for his talk show on Pakistan Television 'The Zia Mohyeddin Show' in noyance with Ikram Chaudhry Advocate, the 1969. He was also known lawyer of ETPB, and asked for originating the role of Dr. Aziz in the stage play of why they wanted to hide 'A Passage to India'. He also appeared in film Lawrence

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

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

Secretary Information Shahera Shahid commended Radio Pakistan's vital role in disseminating information and providing entertainment to people across the country, particularly those in remote

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 Paki-

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

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

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 solaunched as a part of geno- tions resolutions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): cide of the people of Kash-

Praising the valour and fortitude of the freedomloving 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

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 called 'Catch and Kill' and Kashmir dispute in accor-Operation All Out' dance with the United Na-

NCHR and WCCIM **Collaborate to Support Women Entrepreneurs**

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.

rying 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 homebased 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, homebased 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

Senate Committee on recommends Mini Interchange "Rehmani Khel" ISLAMABAD (APP): Khail, highlighted corrup- Motorway Project, a cru-

mittee 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 Government Paharpur, District D.I.

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

volving 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 de-

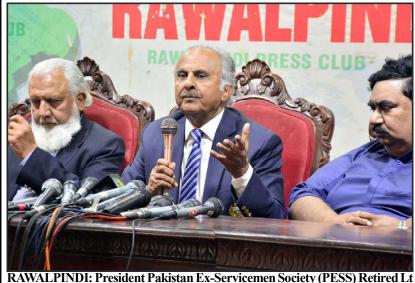
bated that if NHA desires to take up the project, it would only be possible on a Deposit Work basis, requiring consent from the Provincial Governments of Balochistan and Punjab, along with the transfer of requisite funds and conditional NOCs from concerned provincial departments. Consequently, the committee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

The committee also petition, presented by received a briefing on the Malak Abdul Qayum Mosa NHA Hyderabad-Sukkar

The Senate Standing Com- tion in the mega project in- cial stretch for the completion of the Peshawar-Karachi (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 represenreceived a briefing on the tatives from attached de-



Gen Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference at Pindi Press Club in the city.

Birth anniversary of legendary poet **Faiz Ahmed** Faiz observed

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-Shehere-Yaaran.

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

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.

IHC stops FIA from harassing Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder ISLAMABAD (Online): or only it is a complaint.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped FIA should submit details of infrom harassing Aleema quiry or complaint against Khan sister of PTI founder Aleema Khan today. If Imran Khan. Hearing of case against

the notices issued by FIA to FIA. During this 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 peti-

tioner appeared in the 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 for hearing today.

port be provided to Aleema Khan. FIA should not take any adverse action against Aleema Khan.

He remarked FIA

copy of report is received

by you then file your reply

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 re-

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 re-

BISP launches Whatsapp channel to disseminate authentic information

a part of its efforts to proabout 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 mes-

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 inforabout mation programmes.

Earlier the BISP, under the supervision of Chairperson BISP, Dr. Amjad Saqib has launched a modern call center in col-

ISLAMABAD (APP): As laboration with the National Telecommunication Corpovide authentic information ration for providing authentic information related to the programme and promptly addressing griev-

> The individuals can contact the call center at 080026477 to register complaints or seek information about the program. Listing other initia-

> tives 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 re-



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: Labourers alongwith 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 Énvironmental 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.

This year, the fair financia hosted over 200 stalls carin 2021. **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 reli-

gious subtleties. This was observed by speakers at the launch event of 'Study Group on Sociolegal 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

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

scholars, and social activ- cietal norms

engage with stakeholders unbiased, constructive, and result-oriented man-

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

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 soIn a parliamentary de-

This initiative aims to mocracy, legislative bodies assume a crucial role in adon socio-legal issues in an dressing societal issues by enacting and amending laws that resonate with the population's changing

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 adapting legal frameworks to meet the contemporary needs of its citizens, he said. Overall, legislative ini-

tiatives are indispensable

tools in shaping the legal

landscape, ensuring social

harmony, and responding to the dynamic challenges a changing society.

The discussion emphasized the pivotal need 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 prin-

The participants acknowledged the imperative of coordinating with provincial assemblies and engaging with provincial bu-

Furthermore, ensuring

formation regarding the laws and the purpose of laws was deemed vital to fostering citizens' under-The discussion called

public accessibility to in-

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 land-

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.

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Wednesday February 14, 2024

Economic uncertainty

Pakistan is facing enormous macroeconomic challenges, as evident in its fragile balanceof-payments, weakening growth, and soaring prices. The ling the PTI for this, no one new government is expected to quickly set about dealing with these issues.

Its most pressing challenge is to formulate a longer-term ously, too, Pakistanis financing plan to meet Pakistan's growing external debt obligations, beginning with negotiations for a longer and larger IMF bailout as the present \$3bn package ends in April.

Islamabad's ability to secure loans and investments from other commercial, bilateral and multilateral lenders will be constrained without an IMF package. The Fund's support is also required to avoid the prospect of default. Even with such support, the government's willingness and ability to implement politically unpopular reforms will be tested.

Thursday's elections should have reduced the instability in the country. However, the unanticipated results, with no party securing a clear majority in parliament due to the surprise win of a very large number of individuals associated with the PTI, has intensified the uncertainty, which could The history of big, imimpact economic stability and efforts to execute structural reforms.

Allegations of rigging have stock also cast a shadow on the incoming set-up's credibility. Many suspect that the political insecurity might last through vilian bureaucracy) that ruthe next election cycle, as the as could have been exsplit mandate is pointing to the formation of a coalition — most likely between the PML-N and solution as could have been expected, be trusted to undo its own mess? Second, can a new, grown-up PTI pivot from its populist binarism and evolve into a power and evolve into a power many of these stories there. The debate on how count. That is equal to almost two Pelevisters are most two Pelevisters are most two Pelevisters. PPP, with smaller parties demanding a share — on the lines of the erstwhile PDM that ruled the country for 16 months after ousting Imran Khan in 2022.

The question is that, given the divergent political interests of its component parties, will In a significant stride towards mental health reform, Pakistan the coalition be in a position to deal with the formidable eco- in the Federal Sharia nomic challenges the country Court by repealing Section 325 of the Pakistan faces?

The last ruling coalition did not have an enviable track record The repeal is complewhen it came to taking difficult mented by the Mental Health Act's Section 49, decisions. The way the PDM coalition government mismanaged the economy is known to all. The dividuals experiencing price for the mismanagement is mental distress receive the care they need. This now being paid by the people and has cost the PML-N heavily in Punjab in the polls. It is no wonder that many believe a 'weak' coalition government will dampen the prospects of the economic the prospects of the economic reference Delvisters as degree to the support of religious and educational groups. reforms Pakistan so desperately needs to be able to attain sustainable growth. The presence of a strong and noisy opposition wide. Globally, it is the third leading cause of in parliament might also impede death among 15- to 19required legislation, as the PTI is unlikely to accept the legitiman among 15- to 29-year-olds. Alarmingly, 90 per macy of a government by its rimacy of a government by its rivals. Some are of the view that cides occur in low- and the military-backed SIFC will act middle-income countries, with recent analyses reas the main economic porting a pooled suicide rate of 3.77 per 100,000 in these regions. policy uncertainty despite potenpolicy uncertainty despite potential political chaos, and providing some comfort to investors. Yet, that may also lead to an uneven field for investors and frictions between the political and military leadership. So far, the future of the economy appears quite uncertain because deaths by suicide. It is of the split mandate following that the healthcare budget for tainted elections tainted elections.

Arifa Noor

The people of Pakistan waited long enough for this election, part of which should have happened early last year — in KP and Punjab — and part of it late last year.

As I say this, it's important to point out that PTI had resigned from the National Assembly in April 2022, and, other than blamstood up for the rights of the people who were left unrepresented for two

However, such delays are not new; previwaited for years sometimes to exercise their right to vote. This time around, the wait wasn't as long in comparison, which in itself is evidence of the weakening of the powers that be.

But even when the election date was announced, circumstances remained extraordinary. No stone was left unturned to discourage the voters. One party was consistently targeted, its top tier ruthlessly purged and the ones who

campaign time was spent underground, evading arrests and even watching their livelihoods destroyed.

If this was on the ground, in Islamabad, the mainstream media ran the (in)effective disinformation campaign ever: the PTI would boycott the election; the party had disintegrated after May 9 and it had also lost support; it had no electables left; these nobodies and the lawyers who finally got the ticket had no idea how elections worked; they wouldn't even have enough polling

agents for the day. And once the Supreme Court jumped in, the unkindest cut of all: everyone was convinced the voter would never be able to find his or her candidate or find their symbol. And so the conclusion was that the PTI was toast!

It didn't stop here. The broadcasts repeated ad nauseam, in confidence or in disgust, that there ing and it had been the rest, far more than in- much; in fact, the arrests,

Of the people finally made it to the elec- anointed. The point was to flation was motivating tion line not allowed to tell the people that the decampaign. Most of the cision had been made and they had no choice in the

But as usual, the politicians, the courts, the string pullers and the media underestimated the people, who have many a time waited to get their right to choose — they waited 11 years to vote for the PPP in 1988; eight for the PML-N in 2008, when they brought it to power in Punjab; and a year this time around. It was evident each time that it was not just a vote for a party, it was also a message to those who robbed them of their choice. And this was

also true for this election.

people came out not for

In Puniab and KP. the

the PTI as much as they came out to vote against those who delayed these elections and then created an environment of fear. Feb 8 was a day people acted on Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's words: democracy is the best revenge. Perhaps the disappointed PML-N voter was angry was a government in wait- about the inflation but for

But the second point here is that this intention generally was not made too public after May 9. The crackdown and oppression didn't break the people's will (it never does, even if they do retreat tactically). And so quiet did these people stay that few realised how many would turn out. Politicians on the ground concede they had no idea of the extent of the support for the PTI on election day, even though they were aware of the mood.

Even personally, as a

journalist who has covered elections since 1997, this was the first time I came across so many Pakistanis who were wary to talk about the elections or their choice; 2023 and/or May 9 had made them cagey but not unaware of their power. This was true for many of those who came out to vote not for PTI but anyone they preferred, just because they wanted to make a point. It has to be said that the state's contention about May 9 didn't convince the people so

raids and harsh treatment meted out turned the mood in Punjab hostile.

Third, more than the PDM parties, this was a vote against the interference of the establishment, as has been the mood generally for quite a few years. The conversation is

about the instability, the constant interference and a political system which is paralysed because of which the economy is not working. All of this is interlinked, and the voters realise this. The average voter doesn't believe that the system set up to guide people. the economy is going to More than the politi-

cal parties, the establish-— and ask whether it wants to continue on a path where it is losing public support. And to what extent it can afford this, especially as the state's policies have already lost Pakistan the hearts and minds of Balochistan. Instead of working on plans if the people of the other ing that we have learnt provinces are being nothing from history? -pushed away too.

There has to be some introspection everywhere this week Within the PML-N, on why it didn't do well; in the PPP, on why it failed to make an impact in Punjab; in the PTI, on how it plans to build on this victory and ensure relief for those who are im-

prisoned. But more importantly, there has to be some introspection elsewhere too, as to why things have come to a pass where this election is being seen as a message to them from the

Postscript: In the 1970s, we lost half the country when our powers weren't willing to pay atment should be concerned tention to the mood of the people, and in the noughties, it cost us the life of Benazir Bhutto among many Pakistanis killed in terrorist attacks before those at the helm changed course. Is it possible to hope we can do some course correction without a tragedy, or to reverse this, it seems as are we bent upon prov-Courtesy Dawn

Next steps for a political miracle

Mosharraf Zaidi

The people of Pakistan spoke clearly on February 8. Their favourite political party is the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Their favourite leader, even though he is in jail, is as beloved to them as any Pakistani politician has been in decades.

To win 93 seats out of 266 under the circumstances the PTI faced in this election is nothing short of a political miracle. There is no escaping the party's arrival as the big, immovable object in Pakistani politics. moveable objects in Pakistani politics is not a love story. More on the film noir genre in subsequent columns, but today: let's take

Two questions hang over what will happen next. First, can the very system (Election Commission, judiciary, and most of all, ciand evolve into a power-wielding coalition builder? many of these stories there are, how many are on valid more than half of Sindh. It

Let's take the question about the system first. There are a number of seats where the manipulation of results seems blatant and obvious. By the time it became crystal clear that PTIendorsed candidates would comprise the largest single group in parliament, it also became clear that the results in some seats simply did not make any numerical sense. Salman Akram Raja in NA-128, Khurram Sher Zaman in NA-241, Taimur Khan Jhagra in PK-79, Meher Bano Qureshi in

NA-151, and Dr Yasmin

Rashid in NA-130 all have

robust arguments for how

their mandate has been

compromised Some of the stories are Netflix-ready. The returning officer in NA-130 took medical leave after he oversaw an eighteen-hour delay in issuing the provisional consolidated result because of what the newspapers have described as "a severe medical condition". Given the wild disparities in pubbe overturned is an interesting one. That debate extends to the PTI itself.

On the day after the election, PTI leader Aleema Khan claimed it had won 185 of 266 seats – or about double the number it was declared to have won (93). Later that day, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar first said the PTI had won 180 seats. Later, he claimed the party had evidence to show for 22 of the seats PTI endorsed candidates had lost. On Sunday night, PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan said there were 18 seats for which the evidence was available. If the party's evidence (properly consolidated Form 45s and resulting Form 47s) stands up during recounts and/or final consolidation (due within seven days plus twenty-four hours of the announcement of provisional results) this would bring the total number of

111(93+18)This 111 would represent more than double

grounds and how many will is not a slight margin, but a right thing, but doing it will significant mandate. In a diverse, divided country that was primed to deny the PTI through hook or by

crook, it is huge. Among the measures that probably served to reduce this margin were the shutting down of mobile phone services and the subsequent difficulties presiding officers had in getting Form 45s to their respective ROs. Accidental? It beggars belief.

Who is charged with righting the errors of the Election Commission, the POs and ROs? Those very same organizations and individuals. Pakistan's bureaucracy is often unfairly targeted for criticism it doesn't deserve. But 'mistakes' in adding numbers from Form 45s to Form 47s that take place in a heated and high-stakes environment aren't small errors – and these kinds of omissions further erode public or capability, though both PTI endorsed winners to confidence in civil servants.

> final consolidated results will be tallied. The ECP, ROs and DROs will have a chance to fix the mess created by post-election result alterations. Pakistanis are right to be sceptical of whether they will do the what a mandate is, and what Courtesy TheNews

restore immense dignity to the country's fragile insti-

The second question: Can the PTI grow into a more political entity by shunning its instinctive vilification of all other parties and learning to work with one or more of them?

The stakes are not to be taken lightly. Just imagine a government without the PTI – the largest and most popular party – not by opinion poll, or by angry YouTube rant, but via an election. What happens when you deny the undeniable? And when you burden the undeserving with responsibility they have failed to earn? Will a minus-PTI government be much more effective than the PDM government that governed from April 2022 to August 2023?

The answer has nothing to do with experience shows no sign of letting up. The answer has to do with legitimacy

it isn't. In the popular vote, the PTI thumped PML-N and PPP. It polled over 19 million votes. It beat the PML-N by over five million votes, and the PPP by over 10 million. That's one part of the mandate.

Here's the other: one of the losing TLP candidates won over 90,000 votes. Several losing candidates from the three bigs (PML-N, PPP and PTI) polled 100,000 votes in losing causes. Combined the twin towers of Purana Pakistan PML-N and PPP – won over 22 million. All 22 million of those voters are as Pakistani as the PTI's impressive 19 million

An electoral mandate, even as clear as the PTI's, is not merely a licence to rule. It is consent from the people to be governed – all people, not just the ones that vote for you. Leaders can't perpetually follow their followers down the rabbit holes of fidence in civil servants. have become question YouTube subscriptions In the next week, the marks for the PML-N and TikTok likes. They thanks to the polycrisis must make difficult deci-that began in 2022 and sions. The hardest ones are for the biggest leaders. Even those that have suffered like Nawaz Sharif. On the flip side, the and those that are suffer-PTI must also remember ing, like Imran Khan. --

Preventing suicide

Ali Burhan Mustafa

decriminalised attempted suicide (later challenged Penal Code, a change that stands out for its compassion and understanding. which introduces mandatory psychiatric assessments to ensure that in-

Suicide is a critical global public health concern, accounting for over 800,000 deaths worldcent of adolescent sui-

In Pakistan, where age group, there are no official national suicide statistics due to the absence of vital registration systems. Nonetheless, estimates indicate 130,000 to 300,000 suicide attempts per year, and 13,000 to 15,000 2023-24, totalling Rs24.21 billion, lacks

mental health, highlighting a worrisome gap in mental health funding.

A series of tragic events has shone a harsh spotlight on Pakistan's mental health crisis, marked by the untimely deaths of individuals grappling with severe psychological distress. In one instance, the 40-yearold son of a renowned religious cleric succumbed to a prolonged battle with severe depression. In July 2023, a life was lost to this crisis when a 63year-old industrialist took his own life, leaving behind a note revealing his struggle with a chronic, undisclosed ill-

Such heart-wrenching incidents followed the shocking deaths by suicide of a 66-year-old psychiatrist from Multan, who ended both his own life and that of his daughter. In addition, there is the still-unresolved suicide of a celebrated actor who met a tragic end from a gunshot wound in

The concerning rise of 'kala pathar poisoning', caused by paraphenylenediamine, in districts like Rahim Yar Khan and Sahiwal is a significant public health issue, with a high mortality rate of 50.5pc among rural

These incidents, of-

ten linked to self-harm, emphasise the urgent need for an improved mental health infrastructure and strict regulations regarding dangerous substances. Investigations in Pakistan rev-eal the high prevalence of suicide atte-m-pts through pesticide ingestion and benzodiazepine overdose. The key risk factors among adolescents include mental health disorders, substance suicide and homicide

According to a 2023 study by Nazish Imran, et al, the ingestion of toxic substances was the suicide method for 50pc of the individuals in their sample (140 out of 279). Hanging was the second most common method. These findings stress the need for prompt intervention and widespread preventive

Recent circumstances have intensified the demand for improved mental health services in Pakistan, a country where psychological autopsies are rarely conducted. These autopsies are crucial as they can illuminate the psychological state prior to death, inform preventative actions, provide comfort to bereaved families, and influence policy reform.

Psychological autopsies involve a detai-led postmortem examination of the decea-sed's mental state through investigations in---to their life, emotions, and thoughts bef-ore death, typically by interviewing those close to them. Outcomes from these autopsies are instrumental in informing suicide prevention initiatives, enhancing mental health support, and deepening the understanding of suicide's multifaceted nature.

Despite evidence that proactive measures can prevent suicide, the unique cultural and religious context of Muslim countries, such as Pakistan, hinders data-gathering, thus emphasising the need for customised research to create effective suicide prevention strat-

As a nation, we must commit to nurturing a society where mental health is prioritised, the stigma attached to mental illness and death by suicide is eradicated, and where every individual has access to the support they need - to not just survive but thrive. -- Courtesy

Parvez Rahim

link between happy workers and an increase — 13 per cent — in productivity, while unhappiness at work costs the world \$8.8 trillion. According to a survey conducted by Gallup, there is a "strong relationship between worker happiness and workplace engagement. Happy and engaged employees are much more likely to have a positive relationship with their boss, are better equipped to handle new challenges and changes, feel they are more valued by their employers, handle stress more effectively, and are much more satisfied with their lives"

There are three types employees' who work with passion and feel a deep connection with their organisation forward"; b) workers who are 'not engaged' and sleepwalk through their workday, putting "time, but not energy or passion, into their work"; and c) employees who are 'actively disengaged', not only unhappy at work, but also busy acting out their unhappiness. They undermine what their engaged coworkers

accomplish. An employee contributes to productivity, if his supervisor focuses on his strengths or positive traits. At the same time, having a positive interaction with coworkers is also important. Employees who are not happy at the workplace don't maintain a positive relationship with their peers. Engaged employees feel less frustrated at work in comparison to those not engaged or actively disengaged.

Supervisors play a crucial role in workers' ment. If the employee of need. A pleasant work

Happy workers feels uncomfortable while environment is created interacting with his super- when employees contrib-

Research shows a causal

fect his morale and perforoften take home their tension and frustration, which workplace impacts their relations with family and friends. In her article 'Creating a happier workplace is possible — and worth it', Jennifer Moss describes three steps organisations can take to turn around a negative environment. An expert on workplace wellbeing, employee happiness and workplace culture, Moss delves into the following three factors for generating happiness at work: flexibility, a sense of belonging among employees, and finding pur-

of employees within 2023 ILO report found organisations: a) 'engaged that greater flexibility from staggered start times to shift-sharing, to remote a factory at Kot Lakhpat, working options — leads organisation. "They drive to greater productivity innovation and move the and improved work-life balance. A global survey of had no sense of belonging 28,000 full-time employees by Cisco shows that over 80pc of employees find that their ability to work from anywhere has made them happier. The Covid pandemic

pose in their work.

forced organisations to allow some of their employees to work from home. However, post-pandemic, the concept of working from home has not taken root in Pakistan. Few companies here allow flexible work timings. Besides, 60pc of the workforce can't work from home, such as those engaged in ries, the companies' leadthe manufacturing pro- ership would take good cess, in running shops, or managing hospitals, etc.

Build a sense of belonging: Happiness is negatively impacted at the workplace without social interaction. People should have a sense of belonging to their organisation, which is generated by making friends, who may well-being and engage- also be of help in their hour

visor, it will adversely af- ute meaningfully to shared goals. Having somance. Such employees cial get-togethers, shared activities, etc, outside the people's attachment to

their organisations. Purpose in work: Businesses should responsibly and ethically serve all stakeholders, including employees, communities, and the environment not just their management teams and shareholders. The hospitality industry suffered the most during Covid. But Hilton Hotels continued to retain recruiters that pla-ced their employees in outside sectors that needed talent. Similarly, they announced a million empty rooms for Flexibility at work: A patients who had to quarantine away from their

own homes. In 1972, I had joined Lahore, which was nationalised by the government. Most employees to the enterprise nor had any purpose at work to keep them motivated. Their output started to decline after the government takeover and the only purpose left for them to come to work, was their monthly salary. The number of not-engaged and actively disengaged employees started escalating.

Thereafter, I worked in an American and a British multinational company for around 27 years. There, besides a system that ensured lucrative salacare of employees' health, general well-being, fulfilling their personal needs and maintaining a worklife balance by providing recreational activities. The employees in both the above companies remained happy and motivated and delivered greater output in terms of productivity. -- Cour-

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

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 dedicated themselves to serving the public to the granted best of their abilities.

It was decided to provide seven thousand electric bikes to male students on interest-free issue smog. Additionally, the formation

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 asserted the team's of heart attack patients satisfaction in having received the cabinet's nod. Approvals were also appointment

chairpersons for drug courts in Bahawalpur, Lahore and Multan, students and three alongside the endorsement thousand to female of decisions made in the 16th meeting of the and convenient terms standing committee on law through The Bank of and order. Provincial Punjab to mitigate the ministers, advisers, chief secretary, advocate general Punjab, IGP, Chairman



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

meeting of the Cabinet underscoring the need for Standing Committee for fiscal responsibility. Universal highlighted the significant slashed by up to 50 per division improvements made under cent, alleviating the neighbouring towns amidst the guidance of Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab's residents. Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

Addressing the challenges faced by the medical practices, such as program, Dr. Akram unnecessary surgeries and the government's commitment the healthcare system. The to allocating health facility cards exclusively to the deserving populace of treatment and reduced Punjab. He revealed efforts exploitation of patients.

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

Notably, Dr. Akram highlighted the staggering daily expenditure of Rs 260 million on Sehat Sahulat During a recent cards prior to the reforms, Health Through innovative
Akram initiatives, costs have been financial burden on

Moreover, Dr. Akram the shed light on unethical over-billing, prevalent in government's intervention ensured fair

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 Oaiser on Tuesday stated that the government is determined to fulfill its milestone in strengthening 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 the Department of Social Welfare, Special Education, Women E m p o w e r m e n t Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister said that establishing Child Protection Units in every district of Khyber cooperation between Pakhtunkhwa and 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 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 Commissioner Hazara Division Syed Zaheer-ul-Islam, and Chief Protection Officer UNICEF Peshawar Ijaz Muhammad Khan, and Protection Specialist Suhail Ahmed for their efforts in ensuring

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

The funeral prayer was attended by many prominent figures and large number of people belonging to different from DIKhan and tight security.

Maior 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.

MPA elect **Abdul Aziz** passes away

KARACHI (APP): Engineer Abdul Aziz Junejo, the recently elected MPÅ 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.



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

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

Taekwondo is sport of body, mind: Bagar

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 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.

This he said while peaking at Bazel Siddiqui faekwondo organised by Taekwondo

collaboration with Sindh Scouts Association at Mohammad Siddique Scouts Sports, Abul Hassan Isphahani Road on Tuesday. The program was attended by Secretary

KARACHI (APP): The Faim Siddiqui, and parents Caretaker Sindh Chief of the children in a large

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. 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

PFA shuts down four bakeries, fines two food outlets

Independent Report AHORE: 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, 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, confiscated 5,000 gum base, 720kg of fruit pulp and 150 litres of essence (Arq), 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 Bhobatian, Jalo Park and on expired raw material, noncompliance with the authority's 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.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhawa 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 highranking officials including Additional IGPs - Karachi, Welfare and Works Karachi, Zonal DIGPs, DIGPs of Headquarters Sindh, Establishment, CTD, Special Branch, RRF, and other senior officers.

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.

discussions centered around the career progression of newly recruited Inspectors Legal, Investigations, and exmilitary 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 appointments, transfers of these newly recruited personnel. These recommendations are to be meticulously reviewed and

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.

further acted upon.

KP Governor to launch innovative online campus management system

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 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

RWMC ensures

cleanliness of

Tehsil Gujar

Khan

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Waste

Management Company

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.

(APP): recent meeting with revenue, budget, grants, Khyber Program Manager Qamar and expenses. Naseem here on Tuesday. governor The

> commitment safeguarding the rights and 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 efficiently.

This system marks a significant step forward in reiterated the government's streamlining campus management and ensuring entitlements of all 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

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

LAHORE (RWMC) was ensuring the Lahore High Court (LHĆ) cleanliness of all tehsils of the district including Tehsil respondents on the Gujar Khan. According to petition of journalist and a RWMC spokesman, the senior anchor Imran Riaz company had deployed additional workers in evening shift in Gujar Khan for removal of his name from ECL has sought reply on February 15.

The miscellaneous 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 lists.

information are there Imran Riaz Khan name has been while issuing notice to 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 petition filed by Imran 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



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.

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.

DC lauded teachers' role for holding successful polls

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Commissioner (DC) Mansoor Arshad has lauded the contribution of teachers among other officials and departments towards the successful and transparent conduct of general elections in the

In a statement posted here, the DC said that it was a matter of great happiness that the district administration fulfilled its responsibilities in a better and more efficient manner by ensuring peaceful successful, and transparent polls across the district.

He said conducting throughout the district was a big challenge which was successfully met through coordinated efforts among various public departments including the Police.

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

and

superintendent.

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.

police report Haleem Adil

Sheikh is nominated in 21

cases. Police was earlier

stopped from arresting

father of the petitioner

without the permission of

Phulpoto inquired tell us

Justice Naimat Ullah

Anwar Mansoor advocate said court has restrained from arresting Haleem Adil Sheikh three time. In one case he seeks The court remarked as per November 2, 2023 tarrested.

4,199 Polio teams to administer drops

Rawalpindi district on

Health Authority Dr Ejaz toll plazas so that no child Ahmad told APP that as could miss immunization. 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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): A addition, "361 fix centers week-long anti-polio drive will up set up to administer will commence in the the drops". Ejaz added that anti-polio drops would February 26.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of District would also be deputed at

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

Punjab Governor says:

SIFC established to

promote investment

in the country

LAHORE: Continuity of Investment Facilitation

policies is very important Council (SIFC) has been

economic established to promote

Governor

Rehman further stated that improved this year. He it is very important to appreciated the role of the

businessmen for the improvement of cotton

provide a conducive caretaker

country's economy. He and industry.

development of the crop. economy. He said that

issues pointed by the

delegation are very important in boosting the

quality of seeds.

investment in the country,

adding that priority has

been to the agriculture

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.

emphasized that special

attention should be paid on

research to improve the

that cotton yield has

government in the

chancellor, he has taken

steps to develop strong

linkage between academia

IT & ITES EX

Governor Punjab said

He said that as

sector under SIFC.

Independent Report

development of any

country. Countries that

have developed rapidly have one thing in common;

there has been continuity

of policies for many years.

These

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

environment

06

Umar Saif distributes Rs 825m to IT companies

LAHORE (APP): economy by earning huge last 60 days. In the first and Caretaker Federal Minister foreign exchange in return second quarters of the Information Telecommunications (MoITT) Dr. Umar Saif distributed Rs825 million as cash prizes to companies playing a significant role in of 10 billion dollars for IT 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.

country's economy and it Facilitation Council (SIFC) incentives, facilities and companies

Dr Umar Saif said that maximum

strengthening the country's a record 32 percent in the Rs 1.25 million.

talent of Pakistan worldwide. If the performance of the IT sector continues like this, it is hoped that the target exports will be achieved soon," he added.

The federal minister companies and accelerate said that the IT Ministry had decided to encourage companies with a positive allocated Rs1 billion in the

foreign exchange in return second quarters of the for the services of digital current financial year, the performance of many companies in IT exports also showed a positive trend. In such a situation, it was decided to give cash prizes from the allocated fund of one billion rupees encourage

growth. Dr. Umar Saif said that out of the Rs1bn fund, Rs825 million had been growth in IT exports, for distributed to 550 which the government had companies with positive growth. "For this purpose, annual budget. He said that six categories have been the IT industry was due to timely decisions of made; the first top 100 playing a pivotal role in the the Special Investment companies awarded Rs 2.5 million, the second on the recommendations of 100 companies Rs 2 the Ministry of IT, the million, the third 100 'These overall IT exports in the companies Rs 1.5 million, are country have increased by the fourth 100 companies



improvement center Dr. Kevin Pixley called the Caretaker Federal Minister for national Food Securty & Research.

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

The federal government 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/disbursed amount, the total amount spent so far on the (April-June) of a fiscal year.

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: New

Bancorp's (NYCB.N),

opens new tab exposure to

commercial real estate has

scrutiny around regional

with

expecting more pain for

those with office and

multifamily property

of the smaller banks have

escalated again a year after

Fears about the health

intensified

banking crisis.

Real estate pain for

US regional banks is

piling up, say investors

YORK/

Community

investor

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

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

rates stay high, it's hard for

the banks to avoid problems with CRE loans,"

said short-seller William C.

Martin of Raging Capital

"As long as interest

research from Apollo.

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 Highway (NHA), National 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.

government authorized Rs

Similarly, 61.312 billion. 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

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 achieved the target of Rs facilities to the users," he

Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif addressing IT &ITES Export Awards 2024 Ceremony in Lahore **CDNS** achieves

Rs 1020 billion targets in fresh bond
ISLAMABAD (APP): The official said the

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

Ventures, who decided to place a bet against NYCB after the bank's disastrous Jan. 30 earnings release.

| Rasolio4, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost 01 paisa to close at Rs1.86. 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds added. 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.

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

Replying question, he said the CDNS collected 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 the

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



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

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 Okaraon 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

LAHORE (APP): Lahore 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

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.

said conference aims to former provincial governments and frame a charter of the

government officials. important dignitaries and

invited to the conference. Fuad Ishaq announced while chairing a meeting of executive committee held here at the chamber house

Tuesday. The meeting was attended by the chamber achieve Senior Vice President agricultur Sanaullah Khan, Vice the President Ijaz Khan Afridi, Senior Vice Presidents Imran Khan Mohmand, Engr Saad Khan Zahid, Political leaders, high former Vice Presidents Haji Abdul Jalil Jan, Haris Mufti, members of the

introduce current economic Zahidullah Shinwari, Riaz turmoil and business Arshad, Zulfiqar Ali Khan, community problems in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before the federal and Faizi, Sherbaz Bilour, Exbessides encouraging the less again a year after the collapse of Silicon return to local growers, besides encouraging the less again a year after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in spring of besides encouraging the less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank in spring of less again a year after the collapse of Silicon valley Bank

members of the business chamber executive community would be committee Affaf Ali Khan.

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

HYDERABAD (APP): been going on for several 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

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 Hyderabad, where the businessmen had to bear development work has heavy losses.



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

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 Balo needed," an official in the the Ministry of Railways told

said, "Two highly luxurious for the Railway.

coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Secretary Railways. 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 governments."

Giving the details, he saloons had been allocated

First plenary meeting for cotton crop to be held today

SLAMABAD (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 sustainable agriculture growth and economic development in the country. The meeting Presidents | will evaluate the per-maund cotton price during the forthcoming season to 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.

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 trade at existing rates of Rs 2,600 2,229.08 respectively.

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

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP) Shipping activity was reported at Port Qasim where three ships namely, MSC Spring-III, Southern Anoa and Beks Nazik carrying containers, palm oil and Wheat, berthed at the Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Grain Terminal respectively on 12th February 2024.

Meanwhile, four more ships, Weco Madeleine, Corona, Stockholm Eagle and Lokoja carrying Palm oil, Coal and LNG, have also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemical carrier 'Arpeggio' left the port today morning while another container ship, MSC Spring-III is expected to sail on the same day.

Rs 2.2b collected through e-Abiana System

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Commerce and Industry

SM Tanveer presides over the meeting of Punjab Small Industries

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.

Corporation Bold.

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) Khurram Mushtaq and other senior officials were also present

During the meeting, PITB Chairman Faisal

in the meeting.

LAHORE (APP): E- 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

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

India, UAE sign pact on trans-continental trade corridor

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

Modi was due to inaugurate the Middle East's largest Hindu temple on Wednesday, a day after he addresses thousands of expa-

in the capital Abu Dhabi. The visit is largely focused on ment signed in 2022, India's galvanising the diaspora, ac- foreign ministry said. cording 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 country.

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 through Saudi Arabia before investment treaty, building connecting through Jordan triates in a community event on a Comprehensive Eco- and Israel to Europe.

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

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

Two years into

Russia-Ukraine

war, negotiations

a distant prospect

MOSCOW (INP): After two years of war in

Ukraine, there is no pros-

pect of negotiations to find

a breakthrough as Russian

President Vladimir Putin.

emboldened by the erosion

of Western support for

Kyiv, girds for a long con-

flict. 2024 will be another

vear of war as Ukraine is

fighting to recapture territory while Putin will

only be satisfied with

Kviv's full surrender, ana-

nalled in last week's inter-

view with right-wing US

talk show host Tucker

Carlson that Russia was

interested in negotiations

but this would be so much

on Moscow's own terms

that Kviv would not coun-

tenance such talks. "I

don't see any negotiations

taking place any time

soon," Fyodor Lukyanov,

Council on Foreign and

Defense Policy think tank in Moscow, told. "There's

nothing they can negotiate

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 "legiti-

mate issue" on the campaign

trail, as he seeks to secure a

second term in the White

Trump in the 2016 US

presidential race, the debate

about Biden's age is valid.

of the Kremlin-linked

head

Putin may have sig

lysts and diplomats say.

determined to keep on



Geneva-based doctor Raouf Salti holds 17-month-old Zeina, next to 16-yearold Yussef, 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 ci- toring service operated by vilian 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.

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 On Monday, the journeys, with no casualties reported aboard either one

UKMTO, which is a moni-**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.

Israel denies committing war crimes in its attacks on Gaza, which followed the Hamas cross-border raid on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which 1,200 Israelis were killed and around 240 were taken hostage. The Israeli defence ministry declined to comment on the Dutch court ruling. In a separate legal case in January, the U.N.'s top court, the International Court of Justice, ordered Israel to take action to prevent acts of genocide in its war against Hamas. The ruling prompted renewed calls by human rights groups to ban weap-

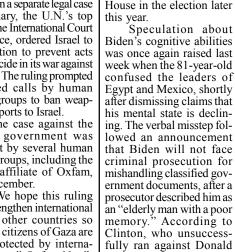
last December.

will strengthen international law in other countries so that the citizens of Gaza are also protected by international law," Oxfam Novib director Michiel Servaes said in a statement.



ons' exports to Israel. The case against the Dutch government was brought by several human rights groups, including the Dutch affiliate of Oxfam,

"We hope this ruling





Farmers shout slogans during a protest demanding minimum crop prices



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.

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

Monitoring Desk ERUSALEM: Israel announced on 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-

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 added, also calling for her 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 is-

sue Albanese a visa, they

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

BEIRUT (Online): The top non 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 resistance leaders of Leba- both political and onground situations, amid incessant Israel's brutal attacks against the people of

Nasrallah 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 commu-

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.

Gunman kills three at Greek shipping company **Monitoring Desk**

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.

and Red Sea attacks may imperil global economy **Monitoring Desk** Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The IMF and world Bank warned on Canal," she said, as Yemen's Monday that the Gaza con- Iran-backed Houthi rebels

IMF, WB warn Gaza conflict

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

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

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

"Right now we see a flict and the related attacks have attacked Red Sea shipon shipping through the ping 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 Its knock-on effects 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".

Indian police fire tear gas as protesting farmers march to capital

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian secu-

rity 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, Harvana 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

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 se-

curity 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

WARSAW (INP): Poland's The shift has been noticed

elsewhere in Europe.
"Now for the first time a Polish government is saving 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 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 Tri-Poland was no longer angle" platform of political blocking "strategic au- cooperation between Gertonomy": making Europe less dependent on others. many, France and Poland created in 1991.

Russia preparing for military confrontation with West, says Estonia

VILNIUS (Internews): Russia is preparing for a military confrontation with the West within the next decade and could be deterred by a counter build-up of armed forces, Estonia's Foreign Intelligence Service said on Tuesday. A growing number of

Western officials have warned of a military threat from Russia to countries along the eastern flank of NATO, calling for Europe to get prepared by rearm-

The chief of the intelligence service said the assessment was based on Russian plans to double the number of forces stationed along its border with NATO members Finland and the Baltic States of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

'Russia has chosen a path which is a long-term confrontation ... and the Kremlin is probably anticipating a possible conflict with NATO within the next decade or so," Kaupo Rosin told reporters at the release of Estonia's national security threats report.

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 Russian breakthrough in Ukraine before its presidential election in March.

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 irrec-

oncilable 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 rightwing 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.

Members of the New York Police Department (NYPD) investigate the scene

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.

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

INGAPORE (Internews): lore than a fifth of the world's migrating species are at risk of going extinct as a result of climate change and human encroachment, according to the United Nation's first-ever report on migrating animals pub-

lished 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-

plies and threaten livelihoods, the report said.

Of the 1,189 species covered by a 1979 U.N. convention to protect migratory animals, 44% have seen numbers decline, and as many as 22% could vanish altogether, the report added. The numbers were based on assessments and data provided by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as well as the Living Planet Index, which collates population numbers for more than 5,000 species from 1970 onwards.

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 earn ings 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.

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

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

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 tion and Railways. Shahid 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, Communica-

Ashraf Tarar; Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzaeb 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 rationaliza-

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 (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has

The documents, cur-

rently in possession of

Zurich's City Archives, are

a compilation of photo-

graphs, history and details of the life of Ahmad Ali

Jinnah and related to late

Fatima Goepfert Jinnah,

niece of the Founder of Pa-

kistan, a President Secre-

tariat press release said

Pakistan.



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 broadcast-

ing in the country. Radio Pakistan is the oldest and largest broadcasting organization in the nization with a long and rich

ence in different languages This initiative of the minister would strengthen Radio Pakistan as a national broadcaster and help promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan.

Solangi also participated in Radio Pakistan's podcast program and expressed his views on various issues.

The minister said that the government was committed to strengthen Radio Pakistan and make it a more effective and dynamic medium of communication.

The government was also working to promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan, he maintained.

"Radio Pakistan is a national broadcasting orgacountry with a wide audi- history," Solangi added.

Caretaker **Interior minister**

headquarters ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ijaz on Tuesday visited the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) headquarters along with the Secretary Interior and Director General FIA.

visits NADRA

NADRA Chairman ieutenant 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

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

Obtaining an identity document is the fundamental right of citizens and in this regard, they should be provided with all possible facilities, the minis-

letter, stated that given the status and importance of written a letter to the Presi-Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad dent of the Swiss Confederation, seeking assistance Ali Jinnah, having access to in providing copies of arthese documents was a matter of national value and chival documents about the life of Ahmad Ali Jinnah interest for Pakistani (brother of Quaid-i-Azam President Alvi con-Mohammad Ali Jinnah) to

The President, in the

veved that First Lady Samina Alvi had visited Zurich Archives in January 2024, and after reading most of the documents, had taken a personal interest in the matter The President has re-

auested Switzerland to gift this historical document collection to the National Archives of Pakistan

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

Alvi writes to Swiss President

for gift of documents related

to Quaid-i-Azam's brother

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 rvices in a short period

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that it was his priority to been ensured.

KARACHI (APP): The keep the cost of medicines within the reach of the commonman

He said that the Caretaker government would not allow the sale of substandard medicines and hoarding of the medicines. The Minister said that

concerted steps had been taken to make the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) public friendly.

The facility of testing medical equipment was now available in the laboratory, he said adding that the registration and liicensing system in DRAP had been digitized.

nated measures to promote merit and transparency had

PSL 9 trophy unveiled at Lahore's Polo Ground **Sports Desk**

AHORE: The PSL 9 trophy has been unveiled at the Polo Ground of the nounce that PSL is entering 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

Mohsin Naqvi said: "It is a pleasure to anits 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

thrilling moment of the game. Be it towering sixes, high-intensity bowling, and top-notch catches, PSL ofrollercoaster.

"I would like to thank the title sponsor of the league, they truly have uplifted the game of cricket in our country through their support and have become synonymous with the name of the league. All the successes over the past eight vears are a testament to commitment of the Pakistan Super League



LAHORE: Captains of PSL teams posses 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) petition against the victory of PML-N supremo Representative for Reli-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 threetime prime minister was declared the winner as per against Palestinians. unofficial and unconfirmed results. Justice Baqar Najafi terming the plea inadmissible directed the plaintiff to contact the Election Commission of Paki-

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 polling stations.

However, the threetime former Prime Minister, faced a significant defeat in in the NA-15 Mansehra constituency, losing the seat to independent candidate Shahzada Gastasap, 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.

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.

Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians on Tuesday dismissed a ISLAMABAD (APP): that the conglomerate was

gious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday accused India of complicity in the violence

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

ment, thus exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Pal-

The recent Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) special summit convened to address the Palestine issue resulted in a decision to exert pressure on countries supplying weapons to Israel. Ashrafi called upon Muslim nations to sever financial and economic ties with such countries if they fail to adhere

to the OIC's directives. He urged for a boycott of Indian products, similar to the ongoing boycott of Israeli goods, in response to India's alleged complicity in the attacks on Palestinians.

Expressing grave concern, Ashrafi warned of dire consequences if Rafah continued to be targeted, emphasizing the potential ripple effects on neighboring Muslim nations.



OUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Asif Dummar meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai

WAPDA to divert River Swat at Mohmand

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.

Chairman WAPDA, Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

visor (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 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.

Nawaz Sharif should not become PM: Javed Latif

kistan Muslim League-Javed Latif, who faced defeat in the general elections 2024, opined that party

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

'Today, not me or any political party, but the state has been defamed", Javed Latif said, pointing out the Sibghatullah Shah Rashidi,

popularly known as Pir Pagara – who announced his Nawaz (PML-N) leader refusal to accept the results of the recent general elec-

> Speaking of his defeat, Latif claimed he was told 15-20 days earlier that a "cross has been made on my name". "The profess 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 secur ing 130,255 votes. As per unofficial result, his runnerup was Javed Latif, who bagged 94,144, votes.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): any proceedings. Fawad 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 Sohail Thahim 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 iob to a citizen after taking Rs 50 lac from him.

On the other hand iudge of Accountability Court (AC) adjourned the hearing of corruption case

against Fawad Chaudhry till February 22 without

Chaudhry was presented in the court of district and sessions judge Ali Nawaz in private housing society corruption case. The hearing was ad-

journed till February 22 without proceedings. Judge ordered investi-

gation team of anti corruption department to present challan on next date. Talking to media men outside anti corruption

court, Fawad Chaudhry said the entire world has raised questions on election. What type of elections have taken place is before all of us. Australia, UK. US and entire world have raised questions on the election. These elections will be remembered after the election held in 1965 during Ayub Khan regime.

No govt can be formed without Imran Khan: Khosa

alleged rigging in General Election 2024, in Hub.

SLAMABAD (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

"According to the Form 45, 170 of our 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.

FO expresses grief over loss of lives in Philippines

SLAMABAD (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.

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

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 prov-

HUB: Members of All Parties are holding protest demonstration against

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 Zahri, 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 Saifullah, Section Officer Aziz Ahmed Sub Divisional

Nawab and Sub Engineer B&R Muhammad Yousuf. Dean Neurophysician Professor

Dr. Noor Muhammad Khosa gave a briefing about the Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences at the meeting. The secretary of health while addressing the

meeting said that the estab-

lishment of Balochistan In-

stitute of Neurological Sci-

ences for the treatment of

increasing mental diseases

was predictable saying that Balochistan Institute of Neurological Sciences would start functioning in the same year for which funds were being arranged. The burden of neurological diseases in Pakistan is very high and it is quite common among children, twenty per cent of children in the five million disabled

population suffer from

mental retardation and de-

velopmental disorders, he



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

In this connection, visited Mohmand Dam, being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province,

He visited in detail construction sites of the spillway, the diversion tunnels and the power house