Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXV No. 181, Shaban 09, 1445 AH Tuesday February 20, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

28,185 patients treated under HCP during three months: Caretaker CM directs to expand circle of information

and awareness about Health Card Program

Digital supervision and monitoring system established for bringing transparency in Health Card Programme

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the concerned authorities to expand circle of information, awareness and consciousness about the Health Card Programme (HCP) so that every individual of the province is aware about the resources allocated for one and benefit from the vital

The caretaker Chief Minister was chairing a meeting held to review the Balochistan Health Card Programme here on Mon-

tendance at the meeting were included the caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai, Chief Secretary, Shakeel

Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razzaq, Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Programme, Asadullah Kakar, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority, Noorul Haq

The meeting reviewed the overall performance of the Health Card Programme

Those who were in at- besides the issues and hard-

ships being faced by it.
The CEO of Health Card Programme briefed in detail the meeting about the three months performance after its launch besides the challenges being faced in smooth implementation of the programme.

Expressing his views on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that Health Card Programme is such a historic programme of the province's history under which every poor and rich person has the quality healthcare and treatment

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) addressing a Press conference

Mengal, President National

Party, Dr. Abdul Malik

Baloch and Chairman

Hazara Democratic Party

(HDP), Abdul Khaliq Hazara besides four mem-

bers each of the four par-

The elections 2024

rigged elections in the his-

tory of country, as men-

tioned in a press release

four-parties alliance meet-

ing directed the four-par-

ties alliance coordination

committee to prepare fu-

Meanwhile, the meet-

deliberations.

Four-parties alliance decides to continue protest against "rigging" in elections

Independent Report OUETTA: The four-parties alliance of Balochistan has decided to continue protest against the alleged rigging in general elections in the province.

The alliance also decided to expand the protest together with other democratic parties of the country after making contacts with them.

This was decided in a meeting of the four-parties alliance held under the chair of Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai here at his residence the other day.

Others who participated in the meeting were President included: Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar ture plan of protest.

US, Chinese diplomats calls on Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chinese and American diplomats have separate meetings with President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.

According the sources privy to development, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the newly formed The meeting discussed government in Pakistan and about the general elections the possible challenges it 2024 and vehemently rewould face and to inform iected them after detailed about the support required to fight it.

Chinese ambassador to were declared the most Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated to increase the pace of CPEC and to provide diplomatic and economic issued here at end of the support to the newly formed government.

The Chinese ambassa dor assured full support for Pakistan, in regional secuity and foreign infiltration

Continued on page 2

Instead of presenting performance by a political party: Making allegations on security institutions & officers inappropriate, immoral: Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister Information says BNP Chief and former MPAs have to answer about billions of rupees given in then PTI & Bizenjo's govts

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information. Jan Achakzai has stated that it is an inappropriate and immoral to make allegations against the security institutions and their officers by a political party which remained in the provincial and federal gov-

ernments for five years. In an official statement issued here on Monday, Jan Achakzai said that making allegations against the security institutions and their officers instead of presenting its performance by a political party which has been in the government for five years and also has the Governor in a province except enjoying the perks speaks high about that it

Zubair Jamal and Sardar Asif Dummar

(party) is surely baffled out. The caretaker Minister said that the people have expectations from the party to whom they vote for.

But with passage of time, and if there wouldn't have been no development work to their credit then they try to hide their failures by making allegations on others, he added.

He also said that it is right of the people to ask about the performance of a party, which had two important federal ministries and slot of Governor too, if it's zero. He stressed that the party should tell about the steps taken for development and prosperity of the people and privileges of the federal

more believe on the politics of allegations now, and they would demand for perfor mance and practical steps he added. Jan Achakzai said that BNP Chief would also have to give answer to Rs. 9 billion which were taken on account of the development budget during the era of PTI government.

The people would no

Not only this, but the members of provincial assembly belonging BNP. Mengal Akhtar Lango and others who were in the forefront in making of Abdul Quddus Bizenjo's government, had also got approved schemes of billions of rupees and also benefited from the secret fund.

QUETTA: A view of dinner hosted by Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai in honour of

Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Qadir Bakhsh, Prince Ahmed Ali, Sardar Ejaz Jaffar, Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan, Mir



Health Card Program.

join Sunni Ittehad Council in bid to grab reserved seats

PM's candidate Omar Ayub asserts PTI will form govt in Centre; ensure release of party founder

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Barrister Gohar Khan Monday announced that independent candidates backed by the party will officially join the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) in the National Assembly (NA) as well as in provinces including Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(KP).
The development comes a day after PTI's senior leaders, Barrister Gohar, Omar Ayub, along with SIC head Sahibzada Hamid Raza, visited the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) Cen-Secretariat in Islamabad and held discussions on prospects of closer cooperation in par-liament and at the provin-

cial level. MWM

The meeting discussed the country's political situation and important issues in the wake of recently

come.

The party, which could not directly take part in elections due to the non-allotment of electoral symbol, wants its share of reserved seats for women and minorities by using the platform of other likeminded parties.

held elections and their out-

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad today, Barrister Gohar said the PTI-backed independent candidates are required to join any party within three days following the issuance of notification under the law.

He said the decision to join SIC has been taken Chairman with consensus and de-Allama Raja Nasir Abbas manded the Election Com-Jafri, Vice Chairman mission of Pakistan (ECP) and others were also seats in line with the law.

IHC suspends victory notifications of three PML-N NA candidates

ISLAMABAD (Agen cies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday suspended the victory notifications of three Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) candi-

dates of the National As-

A two-member bench of the IHC — comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir issued the order against PML-N's Tariq Fazl Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel and Raja Khurram

Nawaz. Chaudhry had won with 102,502 votes, as per unofficial results from the NA-47 constituency, but his victory was challenged by his rival candidate.

Aqeel had secured victory from the NA-46 constituency and bagged 81,958 votes. However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed independent Allama Ahmed Iqbal Rizvi, to allot the PTI reserved | candidate Aamir Mughal challenged it.

State to defend civil servants, act against 'violent trolls': PM Kakar ISLAMABAD (APP): ing, vigilantism and

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday vowed that the State of Pakistan would defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties and act against those "violent trolls" involved in blackmailing and pressurising them.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the people of Pakistan had spoken with a clear voice on February 8 and had given a split mandate.

'Some elements with a proven track record of violent behaviour and vigilantism (however) are now using different tricks, including weaponisation of serving the State and the social media in blackmail-

Caretaker Prime Minister pressurising civil servants Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on to switch their loyalties from the State of Pakistan to the violent gang," he added. Such action, he said, was a clear violation of the Article 5 and other articles of the Constitution and the laws of the land.

'The State of Pakistan shall defend the civil servants in discharging their constitutional duties, act against these violent trolls and ensure exemplary punishment to them.

Prime Minister Kakar said that there should be no doubt about government's commitment to the noble civil servants people of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Mekran Panjgur Prof. Dr. Abdul Malik Tareen meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Produce petitioner who wanted to get Feb 8 elections cancelled: SC

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa tics. on Monday ordered the officials to present the petitioner before the court after through media, the chiefjuster he sought to withdraw his plea through which he should come and the court had demanded declaring the Feb 8 elections null and void and adjourned hearing till February 21.

The chief justice ordered the SHO concerned to trace Brig ® Ali Khan and present him before the three-member bench which also comprises Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

Making it clear that the country's top court will hear the matter, Chief Justice Isa remarked whether such persons filed petition only to get instant fame.

While noting that Brig ® Khan had requested to withdraw the petition on Feb 13, the very day it was filed, the court questioned as if publicity was the sole

ISLAMABAD (INP): goal by resorting such tac-

tice noted, adding that he would hear the matter.

In a report, the apex court was informed that the petitioner could neither be approached through the address given in the plea nor the WhatsApp ser-

Later, the three-member bench issued the necessary orders which read that they would not allow anyone to use the Supreme Court for ulterior motives and issued a notice to the petitioner through the defence ministry, while adourning further hearing till

Brig ® Khan had moved the Supreme Court to get orders for a probe into alleged rigging and holding the fresh elections.

eb 21 (Wednesday).



QUETTA: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

Missing Baloch Students Case:

IHC expresses dismay over

absence of Caretaker PM

Court summons care taker PM, Defence minister, Interior minister once again

Court (IHC) on Monday ruled that the caretaker prime minister should be removed from his office as he failed to answer in the missing Baloch students' case. The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar didn't appear before the court in person for second time in the case pertaining to the non-recovery of Baloch students. "The Prime Minister didn't appear in the court for second time. He was summoned because he was answerable

ISLAMABAD (INP):

The Islamabad High

Akhtar Kayani remarked. Earlier, Justice Kayani had remarked that death sentence should be handed down to those behind forced disappearances.

for all this," Justice Mohsin

The people involved in such disappearances should be awarded death sentence twice, he said during the last hearing. Justice Kayani said that defence secretary, interior secretary, DG ISI and DG MI are government officials and therefore PM was summoned because he was answerable for it. All these officers are

also responsible for this and no one is beyond the law, court ruled.

"Where are caretaker ministers, interior secretary and defence secretary," Justice Kayani questioned. The court remarked

that 12 missing students have not been recovered yet. Attorney General Mansoor Usman said that there were eight missing students yet. "Three consecutive governments couldn't do anything for missing persons," the court ruled and added that it is utter failure of state insti-

dressing a Press conference PML-N has majority in Balochistan: Jaffar Mandokhail desires to form provincial govt.

Says no agreement with PPP about slot of Chief Minister Balochistan as yet

Independent Report QUETTA: The provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has claimed that his party has secured majority in the recent elections in Balochistan as such it is our desire to form his party's government in the province. Sheikh Jaffar

Mandokhail was addressing press conference at the party's provincial secretariat on Monday. Also present on the occasion were the senior leaders of PML-N and MNA-elect Jamal Shah Kakar, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Sardar

parliamentarians-elect. The provincial President of PML-N maintained that the party has won highest number of seats in the

Masood Luni, besides other

On the occasion, he dispelled the impression that any agreement has been made with PPP about the Chief Minister Balochistan.

QUETTA: Provincial President PML(N) Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail,

Jamal Shah Kakar, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Shoaib Nosherwani, Sardar

Fateh Muhammad Muhammadhassani, Sardar Masood Luni and others ad-

He said that we are in contact with other parties and independent candidates to muster their support for formation of government in the province. He vowed to take all allies in the province together. Sheikh

Mandokhail on the occasion condemned the statement of Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai about the PML-N president Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. He said that Mr. Shahbaz Sharif did never claim to be the blue eyed person of Establishment.

He said that there has been no confrontation of Chairman PkMAP with PML-N.

Senate rejects criminal law amendment bill 2023 ISLAMABAD (APP):

Upper House of the Parliament on Monday rejected a bill to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 202

with a majority vote. Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was in the chair when Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, presented a motion for consideration and passage of the

the Upper House. When asked to vote on the bill by the chairman, as many as 24 lawmakers voted against the legislation, while 14 members of the Senate expressed support in favour of the bill.

bill, but it was rejected by

Terrorists attack police vehicle on security of polling in Tank TANK (APP): The armed

vehicle on security of polling at NA-43, Tank cum Dera Ismail Khan. According to initial reports shared by the police spokesman, some armed terrorists attacked police armoured vehicle on secu-

terrorists here on Monday

attacked police armoured

Kot-Azam in Tank. The polling process was halted for some time due to the attack

rity duty for polling station

Journalists should do court reporting with more responsibility: IHC CJ

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq on Monday said that journalists should do court reporting with more

responsibility.

He said the media was the fourth pillar of state and today was an era of electronic and social media after the print media.

He was addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Islamabad High Court Journalists Association (IHCJA).

The chief justice congratulated the new-elected body of IHCJA and said that the role of media was imperative to aware the public about court proceedings. The reporters should, however, avoid reporting of unnecessary and irrelevant discussions during the hearings.

He said that when a court gave a verdict it became a matter of public domain. The verdicts could be criticized but at the same time the facts should be reported correctly.

The chief justice said that they were answerable as public office-holders.

Errors in decisions could be possible and that was the reason that the people used to approach the apex court. "Every institution has its own respect," he said, adding that only the facts should be reported instead of personal criticism.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reiterated that he could understand the compulsion of the media-persons that they required some "spicy content", but it was important for them to do a responsible and

TV channels mostly did discussions on court remarks instead of the judgments, he added.

Tuesday February 20, 2024

The chief justice, how ever, appreciated the court reporters for doing responsible and quality journalism. IHC's Justice Tariq

Mehmood Jahangiri, President Islamabad High Cour Bar Association (IHCBA) Naveed Hayat Malik, Additional Attorney General Munawar Dogal, Deputy Attorney General Raja Arsahd Kayani, Assistant Attorney Ğeneral Azmat Bashir Tarar, Secretary General RIUJ Asif Bashir Chaudhry, senior journal-

ists Saghir Ahmed Chaudhry, Aamer Saeed Abbasi, Afzal Javed, President Supreme Court Press Association Aqeel Afzal and others also attended the



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgi-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the land reforms committee at CM Secretariat.

PM Anwar ul Haq granted full authority by Forward Bloc

MIRPUR AJK (APP): A stance against corruption, meeting held at Jammu Kashmir House, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, leading the parliamentary party of the Forward Bloc, has been granted full authority to make political decisions, underscoring confidence in his leadership within the incumbent coalition government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Haq, extensively deliber- use in parks and markets. prior commitments. ated upon various issues, encompassing the prevailing political landscape and the performance of the State's coalition government, as stated in an AJK government handout issued on Monday.

While unanimity prevailed, some members expressed reservations regarding certain activities of

one of the coalition parties. Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq reiterated a stringent

ISLAMABAD (APP): lifestyles.

Easypaisa, Pakistan's lead-

ing digital financial services

platform, introduces its lat-

est breakthrough offering,

ture is not just about sav-

ing funds; rather it aims to

provide users financial free-

dom through secure goal-

based savings and stream-

lined financial management,

eliminating the need for con-

ventional, cumbersome

methods said a news release

product offering challenges

the outdated norms that

force users to resort to un-

conventional methods for

keeping their money safe.

Easypaisa's commitment to

financial inclusivity and

empowerment, providing a

practical solution that

modern

with

Savings Pocket' embodies

Easypaisa's unique

issued here on Monday.

This revolutionary fea-

the 'Savings Pocket'.

asserting a zero-tolerance ernment ministers and offipolicy. He emphasized that accountability is imperative for those found culpable of malfeasance, underscoring that adherence to the law is non-negotiable.

The PM emphasized

that misuse of authority and government resources will no longer be condoned, af-

The parliamentary party, in a unanimously adopted resolution, expeople of Indian Occupied Kashmir, acknowledging their sacrifices. They lauded the Prime Minister's performance over the last ten months, endorsing his authority to make decisions promptly or after due consultation with allied parties, aimed at better serving

the state's populace.

Easypaisa empowers users

with 'Savings Pocket' for

financial independence

The 'Savings Pocket' is

not just about saving; it's

about empowering users,

especially women. A fun-

damental question is asked

through this offering, i.e.,

why must dupattas and

handbags be used as a safe

for women's money? Why

can't they use pockets?

With 'Savings Pocket',

women can take control of

their phones through the

the need for external stor-

inclusivity by addressing

the unique financial needs

of women, offering them

convenience. Users can set

savings goals and track their

progress effortlessly, em-

their financial aspirations.

autonomy, security, and

This innovative feature

financial

age solutions.

embodies

their finances directly from make informed financial

Easypaisa App, eliminating ture is revolutionary in the

powering them to achieve against outdated practices

Attended by AJK govcials, including Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, and Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, the meeting underscored the commitment to collective action in advancing the welfare of

the state's inhabitants. However, Deputy Speaker Chaudhry Riaz ad Jammu & Kashmir. firming strict adherence to Gujjar and Chaudhry The meeting, chaired regulations, including re-Muhammad Akhlaq were by PM Chaudhry Anwar ul fraining from official vehicle unable to attend due to

Diwan Ali Khan, although present initially, had to depart to attend the tended full solidarity to the Chagatai Scouts Conference shortly after the meeting, as per the official handout.

In essence, the gathering epitomized a resolute commitment to principled governance, accountability, and solidarity with the oppressed, ensuring a cohesive approach towards serving the interests of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

With easy access and early

withdrawal options, 'Sav-

ings Pocket' provides users

with complete control over

their savings, ensuring flex-

launch, Farhan Hassan,

Head of Easypaisa Wallet

Business, said, "Our newly

launched 'Savings Pocket'

embodies our commitment

to empowering users to

decisions. This unique fea-

savings world, enabling us-

ers to make flexible goal-

based savings aligned with

Marketing & Communica-

tions added, "Today's

woman demands more than

outdated norms. Our cam-

paign is unique as it chal-

lenges the norms and stands

that limit financial freedom.

Rifah Qadri, Head of

their priorities.

Commenting on the

ibility and accessibility.

China congratulates Pakistan for holding elections smoothly

Parliamentary leaders

commend Senator

Sadiq Sanjrani's role

During a meeting of the

House Business Advisory

Committee (HBAC) on

Monday, the parliamentary

leaders of various political

parties in the Senate ac-

knowledged and eulogized

the role of Senator

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

for efficiently running the

affairs of Upper House of

Parliament during his ten-

ure as Chairman of the Sen-

these views in a meeting of

House Business Advisory

Committee (HBAC), said a

Business Advisory Com-

mittee was presided over by

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

that Chairman Senate

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

adopted all-inclusive and

participatory approach for

the House and provided

ample opportunity to all the

members to discuss and

debate issues of national

"Political acumen of

Sadiq Sanjrani is highly ing the meeting.

Members observed

A meeting of the House

news release.

Chairman

significance.

The leaders expressed

praiseworthy and his ap-

proach is unique", members

thanked members of the

HBAC and other senators.

He expressed his gratitude

for the cooperation ex-

tended by members during

discussed in detail legisla-

tive business to be trans-

acted during the 335th Ses-

up discussion on other is-

sues of extreme public sig-

nificance. The HBAC de-

cided that the current ses-

sion would continue for

The meeting was attended by Leader of the

Opposition in the Senate,

Senator Dr. Shahzad

Waseem, Senator Sherry

Rehman, Senator Kamil Ali

Agha, Senator Waqar

Mehdi, Senator Sardar

Shafiq Tareen, Senator

Afnanullah, and Senator

Molana Abdul Ghafoor

Haideri. Secretary Senate

Mohammad Qasim Samad

khan was also present dur-

more than two weeks.

The Committee also

The session would take

the last six years.

sion of the Senate.

Chairman Senate also

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Monday congratulated Pakistan for holding general elections of the national and provincial assemblies in a steady and smooth manner and hoped that the political parties in gether to form a new gov-

ernment after the polls. 'We noted that general elections in Pakistan were held in a generally steady and smooth manner, and we offer our congratulations," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing which resumed here after a 10-day pause in the wake of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays.

"As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choices of Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that relevant parties of Pakistan will work together to uphold the political solidarity and social stability after the elections," she added.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners and Pakistan to build on the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in various areas and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries. In response to a question about the delay in forming a government, she said that the Chinese side noted that the Pakistan election was generally steady and smooth and China respected the

19th Cholistan desert jeep rally 2024 set to commence today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Police and other law-enannual 19th Cholistan jeep rally will be held from Feb 20 to 25, 2024 at the renowned historical location, Dravidian Fort, in which vehicles from all over the country will participate.

Bahawalpur Deputy Commissioner talking to the ptv news channel said that more than 100 competitors were expected to participate in the jeep rally from all over the country, adding, that a camel race, dances, cultural night, fireworks and exhibition would also be part of the five-day

festivities of the jeep rally. The 19th International Cholistan Desert Rally is not just a thrilling sporting event but it is a platform to spotlight the culture, civilization, and historical rich-

ness of South Punjab. With the challenging terrain covering 500 km route, the rally features various vehicle categories and drivers eager to take on the desert adventure, he added.

forcement agencies (LEAs) have also been asked to finalize security arrangements for the participants and the visitors, he added.

choice of Pakistani people.

He said the week-long jeep rally celebrations would include several cultural events to be managed by the government departments concerned. He expressed the hope

that rallies and cultural programmes would attract visitors from all over the country. This traditional event is expected to not only revive the tourism industry but also create new economic opportunities for the region, he mentioned.

Furthermore, a special gathering for the promotion of knowledge and literature will also be organized this year, he added. The event will kick off with participant registration, vehicle tagging, technical examinations, and medical checkups for all drivers, he con-

US, Chinese diplomats calls...

Continued from page 1

in Pakistan

Within 24 hours of the Chinese ambassador's meeting, American ambassador Donald Bloom also met with Shahbaz Sharif.

In the meeting, it was assured to provide all possible support for the situation arising after the election and the challenges faced by the newly formed government.

The American ambassador also assured to play a role in the negotiations

between the government of Pakistan and the financial

institutions The American ambassador said that Washington wants full cooperation from the newly formed government in Pakistan.

During the meeting with Shahbaz Sharif, the US ambassador appreciated the role of Pakistan in the stability and peace of the region. He assured that the United States will urge Pakistan's neighboring countries to play their role

Caretaker govt ensured equal treatment to all political parties: Solangi

Urges patience as probe continues into ex-commissioner's rigging allegations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Monday said that the caretaker government had strived to ensure equal treatment to all political parties.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with American Business delegation led by Ahmed

Nadeem Khan, Chairman and President of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. USA during meeting held at Parliament House in

Addressing the Senate House Business Advisory Committee, he said that the caretaker government's primary task was to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections in the country, which required the coopera-

tion of all political parties.
The caretaker administration endeavoured to foster close coordination with all stakeholders in that regard, he added. Murtaza Solangi extended his gratitude to the Senate chairman and senators for their steadfast support to the caretaker government.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani and members of the House Business Advisory Committee commended Solangi for his role during the Senate sessions.

The Senate chairman praised the minister for his important contribution to smooth functioning of the Upper House of Parlia-

The senators hailed the minister for responding to questions in detail during

the question hour sessions. mary to the concerned for Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said a high-level investigation committee was constituted to investigate the allegations leveled by former Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta regarding rigging in the general election.

Talking to media persons after attending the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, he urged patience as the legal process was currently underway.

The people should have trust in institutions and the judicial process, he added. He remarked that the

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was currently investigating the allegations of rigging. The minister stressed the significance of waiting for the results of the ongoing legal proceedings.

The caretaker government, he said, had fulfilled its responsibility for conducting elections in free, fair and peaceful manner.

Responding to a query, he explained that once the Election Commission released the final list of successful candidates, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs would forward a sum-

convening the new session of the National Assembly.

Subsequently, a request would be made to the President to summon the session of the National Assembly, he added Farlier during a briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, chaired by Senator Fauzia Arshad, the minister stressed the importance of boosting PTV's presence on social media platforms to enhance viewership.

He noted that PTV had started sharing its top-quality programs on social media, recognizing the significant audience engagement on these platforms. Solangi underscored the necessity of improving the marketing of PTV products on social media. The minister explained that the responsibility for appointing heads of certain institutions rested with the elected government.

Due to the lengthy selection process, it was impractical to accomplish this task during the tenure of a caretaker government, he said, adding that therefore, it was preferable for the new parliament and government, upon assuming office, to exercise their authority in making these appointments



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE in a group photo with Pakistani exhibitors during the Gulf Food Exhibition at Pakistan Pavilion, World Trade Centre.

Caretaker CM directs to...

Continued from page 1 facilities at some 1200 hospitals located in all over the including country

Balochistan As it is the first programme of its nature, so the common men don' know about its benefits

much, he pointed out. The caretaker Chief Minister observed that although some issues are being faced in the programme at administrative level, how ever, we are confident that there would be improvement in it in future after re-

He also believed that the people would benefit from the programme speed-

moving obstacles.

He noted with contentment that a total of 28,185 patients have so far benefitted from the Health Card Programme during last three months.

In Quetta, the highest number of cardiac patients benefitted from the facility, he added.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to open official assignment accounts for payments to the Insurance company, NADRA and the hospitals which are on panel of the Programme so as to ensure timely payment to them and continue the provision of quality medical services

the patients. Meanwhile, during the briefing, it was informed that most of the patients approached the private hospital in Hub area and benefitted from the

programme in a big way. It was also informed that digital supervision and monitoring system has been established for bringing transparency in Healtl Card Programme.

Senate adopts resolution advising HEC to align MPhil, PhD synopsis with Islamic teachings

The Senate on Monday unanimously passed a Higher Education Commission (HEC) to align the Qur'an in their practical MPhil and PhD synopsis lives. with the teachings of Islam based on logic, reason and science. Senator Mohammad

Abdul Qadir from Balochistan tabled the resolution in the 335th session of the Senate.

Reading out the motion loud before the House, he clarified that the word syllabus in the motion re- fined to imparting conserferred to synopsis and topics for research.

Minister for Parlia-Solangi did not oppose the motion.

The resolution stated: 'Acknowledging the fact that Quran is an universal book which is relevant for all times and all places and is a source of eternal guidance for humanity and provides not just a way of life but serves as a book of syllabus for human life.

'Realizing the fact that this Holy Book helps man to come out of darkness and move into realm of light and that modern research, science and technology are derived from this universal source of human guidance.

Noting that the Western nations are acknowledging the fact that the mysteries of the universe can be revealed through the guidance of the Holv Quran. Therefore, it is in- requirements.'

ISLAMABAD (APP): cumbent upon every Muslim to read and reflect on the message of the Holy resolution advising the Quran and follow the teachings of the Holy

'Noting that the wisdom of the Holy Quran paves the way for a scientific revolution in the fields of medicine, artificial intelligence, robotics, space research and other areas.

"Observing with a serious concern that MPhil and PhD programmes of various varsities are convative knowledge of Islam and history. Realizing the need that MPhil and PhD mentary Affairs Murtaza programmes in Islamic studies should be aligned with modern thinking originating from the Holy Ouran.

"The Senate of Pakistan, therefore, resolves that all universities of Pakistan should revise their MPhil and programmes and align them with the requirements of the modern times which are truly based on research, critical thinking, scientific approach and practical application of Qur'anic knowledge.

'The Senate of Pakistan also recommends to the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan to develop guidelines for all the universities of Pakistan to update the syllabus of their MPhil and PhD programmes and align it with modern scientific



LAHORE: Quetta Gladiators' team players celebrates after Lahore Qalandars Sahibzada Farhan dismissals during Pakistan Super League (PSL) Twenty 20 cricket match between Lahore Qalandars and Quetta Gladiators at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium, in Provincial Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presiding over a Senate House Business Advisory Committee meeting at Parliament House.

Wani seeks independent probe into mass rape incidents in occupied Kashmir

Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) has demanded an independent Indian-held territory of Jammu Kashmir.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Wani said that the occupation forces deployed in the restive region have been involved in heinous crimes.

power, harassment and humiliation and sexual abuse, he said, were among the dirtiest war tactics the Indian army and international probe into mass-rape incidents has been using to suppress Kashmiris' legiticommitted by the Indian occupation forces in the right to self-determina-He said that being a

vulnerable segment of society, the Kashmiri women have been the worst victims of Indian belligerence.

Use and abuse of Kunan and Poshpora mass rape, the Hurriyat leader said that the horrific incident was a big blot on the face of Indian democracy and the state that has been using rape as a weapon of war against Kashmiris.

Highlighting the pain and agony of the rape victims, he said that it was disgusting to see that the Indian rulers and their henchmen in the territory have shamelessly tired to cover up Referring to the and conceal the facts to dreadful incident of save the bloody culprits

volved in this beastly act. "The brutality Kashmiri women were subjected to on the dreadful night of 23 February 1991 finds no place in human history, he said, adding that despite the passage of 33 years, justice continues to elude the victims.

Urging world human rights organizations to play their role, Wani said it was high time that culprits involved in this gruesome act should be held accountable.

Alleged audio leaks case Bushra, son of Saqib Nisar: Court issues notice to PBC for assistance

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while expressing resentment over non appearance of government officers during the hearing of the case against alleged audio leaks of Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder and Najam Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar has issued notices to Pakistan Bar Council for court's assistance.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked that as to why the arrest warrants of these officers be not issued. How these people settled on their own that they cannot

appear in the court. He gave these remarks during hearing of the case The court ordered to

summon medical reports of director generals of FIA and IB on next hearing Asif Bashir Chaudhry,

senior journalist appeared in the court on behalf of Senior government of-

ficers did not appear in the court despite court orders

The counsel for PTA appeared in the court dur-He told he would file

IHC seeks report about audio recording procedure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday directed the telecom operators to submit a report on the procedure of audio recordings.

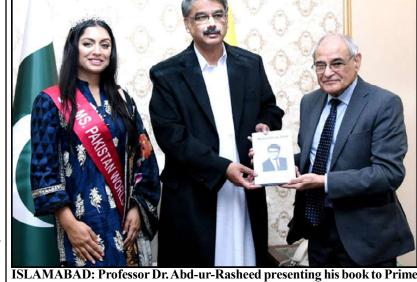
IHG's Justice Babar Sattar, who heard the the audio-leak case involving Najmus Saqib and Bushra Bibi, also sought a report from media representatives to explain the mechanism of airing unverified audios.

During the course of hearing, Justice Babar expressed displeasure over the absence of senior government officials, including PEMRA chairman, FIA director generals and others despite court orders.

He observed that how the officials had themselves decided not to appear before the court, and why the court should not issue their arrest warrants for noncompliance of its direc-

Justice Babar Sattar further directed for the submission of medical reports of the ailing government officials on the next date of

court adjourned the hearing



Minister Azad, Jammu Kashmir Choudhary Anwar-ul-Haq.

Excise deptt provides civic facilities at Fatima Jinnah Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under ICT doorstep initiative, the Excise department is providing civic facilities to residents of federal capital to get their vehicle registration as well as access of various essential services at Fatima Jinnah Park (Bolan Gate) on Mon-

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner and straightforward pro-Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the excise staff would be stationed at the park's parking lot from 3.00 to 5.00 pm, and the regarding vehicle registracitizens hailing from nearby areas of Fatima Jinnah Park procedures, he added.

Bolan Gate F-9 can get civic facilities through a dedicated van, ICT Spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum

He said that whether you need a fuel permit for domestic or commercial use, or looking to register motor vehicle seamlessly, the on-ground service will ensure a swift

This initiative aims to streamline processes and provide ease to the public tion, transfer, and token tax

Senate passes **IIU bill 2023**

Justice Babar Sattar

Justice Babar Sattar

Counsel for PEMRA

The state counsel re-

inquired from PTA counsel

where is chairman PTA?

Should we issue warrant.

We had ordered why he has

further said who is from

appeared in the court. Jus-

tice Babar Sattar inquired

plied DG FIA is ill, there-

fore, he could not appear.

Additional Director General

Waqa ud Din appeared in

where is DG FIA.

PEMRA.

his place.

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Senate on Monday passed a bill of the International Islamic University, (Amendment) bill-2023 with a majority vote after a clause-by-clause reading of

The bill moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, was aimed at ensuring faculty representation in the decision-making process of the university. The amendment was needed as unlike other universities, the IIU Islamabad currently lacked this fundamental requirement. The legislation recognized the importance of teachers in the decisionmaking process of public

sector universities.

APHC warns of regional implications against delay in Kashmir solution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has emphasized the need to understand the Kashmir conflict through its historical

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar criticized India's current approach,

stating:
"Instead of taking measures to resolve the long-pending issue in its historical context, India and its Hindutva BJP government are attempting to impose their solution through

force on the oppressed and caged people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement warned against ignoring the fact, saying: "This arrogance and persistent denial cannot stand scrutiny for long and Delhi must come to terms with the writing on the

The APHC spokesperson highlighted the regional impact of the unresolved conflict, stating: "A delay in the resolution of the long-running dispute has held hostage the people of the entire South Asia re-

EC issues notice to Ijaz ul Haq ISLAMABAD (Online)

Election Commission (EC has issued notice to Ijaz Ul Haq, successful candidate Bahawalnagar during hearing of the election petition

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till February 27.

A two members bench of EC comprising member KP Ikram Üllah and mem-Balochistan Muhammad Shah Jatoi heard the election petition

Shaukat Basra, the

candidate who lost the elec-

tion brought with him the he had won the election.

should not swear on the Holy Quran. There is separate place for it. Shaukat Basra said he

swears RO did not call him while compiling result. You issued notification of Ijaz Ul Haq before the decision of the case. Ask Ijaz UL Haq to swear on the Holy Quran I will withdraw the case. The EC while issuing notice to Ijaz ul Haq adjourned the hearing till February 27.

Call for action to build fair, rights-based, equitable & ecologically just world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr Shafqat Munir on Monday signed the Civil Society statement on thematic assembly on economic inequality and justice calling for action to build a fair, rights-based, equitable and ecologically just world at the closing of 5-day World Social Forum Nepali capital Kathmandu.

Thousands of people representing various civil society organizations on economic inequality and organized at the World Social Forum by Oxfam, Fight Inequality Alliance, Asia Feminist Coalition, ActionAid, LDC Watch, South Asia Alliance for poverty eradication, and Asia Center. The joint statement was issued by Mustafa Talpur, head of advocacy for Oxfam Asia,

The statement said: We need to lose our fear, for them to lose their model economic systems.

a news release said.

power – is a challenge posed by us as we conclude the World Social Forum 2024 The power imbalance that fosters systematic and structural inequalities and the compounding crises that comes along with it, drives us to lose our fear to stand up and speak up against all forms of injustices. It must be understood as a systemic design that leads to gross violations of human rights for a vast majority of the global population. The statement further narrated: The wealth of billionaires built on the mate-Holy Quran. He said he signed a civil society state-rial exploitation of workers swears on the Holy Quran | ment on thematic assembly who struggle to access basic services, appears to Member KP said you | justice. The Assembly was have grown twice as much

wealth as the rest of the world even during the time of a global health crisis, where most of the people struggled to make ends meet. This highlights that we need to redistribute power, put the people at the heart of just equal and sustainable world we want. The CSO statement said: At a time when survival and recovery become a privilege for most of us, the rich-

est 1% have continued to re-

Senator Hidayatullah Khan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works Presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House, Islamabad. **FGEHA** launched 12 housing, apartment projects since 2001

Government Employees Authority (FGEHA) Captain (retired) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal on Monday informed the committee that the housing authority had launched 12 housing and apartment projects from 2001 to 2023, under which an amount of Rs. 56 billion had been collected so far. During a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works held here under the chairmanship of Haji Hidayatullah Khan, the DG clarified that allocations had been made from those candidates who qualified for the relevant schemes. However, he said, the Thallian Housing Scheme has been discontinued due

to land-related issues, and those who were allocated the plots, would be accommodated in the upcoming schemes according to the established criteria. The chairman of the body while raising concerns over delay in the projects asked investigation into this matter. Additionally, the chairperson requested the information regarding the and G-14/3

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Federal vantages associated with vantages associated with the allotted plots. The officials from the Ministry of Housing and Works clarified that the delay in the projects stemmed from technical issues. One of the reason for the postponement of the two-day auction of class-III commercial plots in sector G-13/G-14 and the fuel station plot in the Mauve Area is that a writ petition was filed by Quaid-e-Azam University (Q.A.U) claiming a share in the sale proceeds from the auction of commercial plots in G 14/4 and the Mauve Area. DG Zafar Iqbal fur-

ther explained that they were compliant with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and were persistent in expediting the auction before Ramazan, but they were given two options either to dispose of this case or to give sufficient time to the university. It was reported that G-14/1 and G-14/2 and G-14/3 are partially completed with an approved project cost of Rs. 6127.90 million for G-14/1 and Rs. 1499.43 million for G-14/2



ISLAMABAD: People stand under the Bus Stop Shelter waiting to stop rain at Express way.

Capital Police hosts session on Policing and Journalism

Independent Report SLAMABAD:

Islamabad Capital Police organized a session focusing on Policing and Journalism at Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, crime reporters from renowned media organizations, and senior police officers were present on the occasion.

During the session, the journalists raised issues, and recommendations for further improvements in measures taken by Islamabad Capital Police for the convenience of the citizens were presented.

Moreover, different aspects of Islamabad Capital Police's daily operations

IFA discards

2000 liters sub

standard milk

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a

bid to safeguard the health

of Islamabad's residents.

Food Safety Teams (FSTs)

have discarded 2000 liters

of substandard and adulter-

authority official said that

a food safety team signaled

to stop a milk-carrying ve-

hicle at Islamabad Express-

way which was coming

from Chiniot, Punjab. Dur-

ing the inspection, the team

found sub-standard milk of

2000 liters and discarded it.

has been taken on the di-

rections of the Director of

Islamabad Food Authority

(IFA) and FSTs are work-

ing tirelessly to ensure the

provision of safe and

healthy food to citizens of

the Capital.

He said that the action

Talking to APP, a food

ated milk.

public communication and publicity were also dis-

Addressing the session, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted the crucial role that the field of journalism plays in societal improvement. He emphasized that Islamabad Capital Police continues its efforts to maintain regular interaction with journalists, aiming to disseminate

timely and fact-based news. He stressed the importance of news being based on truth, especially when related to the police, to prevent the spread of baseless and fake news.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan further stated that the establishment of a Public Relations Branch within Islamabad Capital Federal Capital.

and various dimensions of Police whose basic values are timely and factual news aimed to maintain the best coordination with journalists and promptly convey accurate information to the public. He urged journalists to include the police's perspective whenever publishing news related to police, ensuring that citizens can avoid baseless and false reports. He further said that we have always disseminated news based on facts and operating within a structured framework. He also acknowledged the vital role journalists play in police operations against

criminal elements Addressing the journalists, he said that the Islamabad Capital Police is impossible without your help and support in the

Another spell of heavy rain, snowfall to hit country from 25 Feb: Met official

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Meteorologist at Pakistan Meteorological Department Dr Sardar Sarfaraz on Monday said that a fresh spell of rain, hailstorms and snow is expected across the country from Feb 25 where Karachi city and Balochistan province will also witness light showers along with thunderstorms.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said that good rains, besides snowfall in the northern areas, are expected in the country from the next week under the influence of westerly

The chilly embrace of winter tightened its hold on various parts of the country on Monday, as rain showers blanketed regions including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Kashmir, he added.

'We are expecting some good rains from Feb 25, which will continue till March or may even extend to April under the influence of westerly waves", adding that snowfall on hills in the northern areas is also expected during this period, which would end fog and smog in the country," he

He said under this rain spell started on Sunday many parts of the country witness partly cloudy skies along with drizzles and snow till Wednesday.

rain that experienced in the Federal Capital. AIOU to hold Karachi convocation on March 3

ISLAMABAD (APP): The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (Sindh Chapter) will be held on March 3, 2024, at AIOU Regional Campus in Karachi. This convocation is exclusively for registered students from Sindh province, said a press release on Monday.

The graduates will be conferred with degrees and gold medals. Many distinguished guests, including vice chancellors of various universities, rectors, renowned journalists and eminent social personalities will attend the convocation.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has said that 2024 marks the golden jubilee year of AIOU. To celebrate this milestone, the university has planned a grand celebration, which includes holding convocation ceremonies to honour its graduates.

Kashmiris enduring repression for past seven decades in pursuit of freedom ISLAMABAD (APP): For

over seven decades, Kashmiris have endured ongoing repression in pursuit of their relentless struggle for justice and freedom for their homeland, occupied Jammu and Kashmir, from India's tyranni-According to Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway during

Media Service, since India's deployment of troops in Srinagar in October 1947, the territory has been marred by turmoil and suffering, with the Modi regime intensifying its crackdown on dissent, particularly after August 2019 when New Delhi unilaterally revoked its special sta-Under Modi, Kashmiris face systemic human rights violations and

discrimination, echoing the apartheid policies of the past. The people of IIOJK are subjected to brutal repression at the hands of Îndian forces, with the re- and restore peace.

gime breaking all records of committing atrocities against civilians.

Despite the systematic violation of their rights, Kashmiris remained steadfast in their resistance, refusing to surrender to Indian military might. For them, there is no option but to continue the struggle for their inherent rights and freedom. Daily life in IIOJK is marked by oppression and bloodshed, with Kashmiris bearing the brunt of the Modi government's repressive measures. The international community's silence on the matter only emboldens the Indian government to intensify its repression further, exacerbating the suffering of Kashmiris. The resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with internationally accepted norms of justice remains the only viable solution to end the bloodshed

Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

Tuesday February 20, 2024

PML-N challenge

On Friday night, PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique took to X to highlight the challenges facing politicians in forging a new government in Islamabad in the absence of a clear mandate for any single party.

"No party has [an] absolute majority in the National Assembly," he reminded other stakeholders, largely the PPP. Therefore, he said, "the formation of government is the joint responsibility of all the parties in the parliament, [and] not just PML-N". Alternatively, he suggested that PTI-backed independent members form a government with PML-N would form a coa-PPP support.

Although it is unclear whether Mr Rafique's words reflect his own or his party's position, the gist of his message posted after a party huddle reportedly chaired by Nawaz Sharif is that governing the country would be akin to wearing a crown of thorns amid chaotic political and economic conditions, and that his party had no desire to claim miliar at risk and pay exor-

He is not the only PML-N politician to hint at stepping back from the party's initial stance of entering into a coalition with the PPP and others as spelled out by Mr Sharif in his post-election speech after it became clear that the N-League hadn't won enough seats to make a government on its own.

Many are understood to have advised their leader against forming a minority government at the centre, especially after Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced support for a PML-N-led set-up in exchange for the top constitutional offices and a PPP government in Balochistan.

It may be a unique experience for Pakistan but parliamentary democracies everywhere have seen minority governments supported by other parties function quite well. In India, the Congress supported the minority Janata Dal government in the 1990s.

If the PPP is demanding too possible cure in the form much, PML-N can negotiate a of the youth vote. deal. Give-and-take is essential as the PPP also has much narrative: the triumphto lose if the system is derailed. Even a rowdy PTI would delivered by social media not want to rock the apple cart savvy young voters; their engagement with TikTok of democracy once it has made videos and AI-generated its point on rigging. Governing a politically and economically distraught nation would indeed be tough for the PML-N without sufficient numerical strength in parliament.

Divergent political interests segments in their party structures". might occasionally thwart or slow down legislative and economic reform. But should some ways, this election these hold back the three-time was bound to belong to the youth: our country's PM from accepting the challenge because of fear of the and more than 30.6 million eligible voters were unknown, or losing the support of the PPP and others at some point? That hardly makes sense. The people have tic. This year's poils invited acts of defiance, given a split verdict. Now it is time for all political stakeholders to respect it. The biggest responsibility rests with the PML-N. Mr Sharif should not only put away his fears to form a minority government, he must also realise that the nation has ery? deep wounds to heal. A politician of his stature can overcome hurdles. It is a challenge he should accept.

Hard road ahead

Maleeha Lodhi

Expectations that the election would put Pakistan on the road to political stability have clearly not been

The election produced a fractured mandate and triggered one controversy after another, especially by widespread allegations of poll irregularities. Protests against ballot fraud continue to take place across the country and paralysed virtually Balochistan. The claims about rigging made by the commissioner Rawalpindi will have to be fully investigated, as they have raised further questions

about the credibility of elec-A hung parliament sent the major parties scurrying to cobble a majority. Imran Khan's PTI, which won the biggest share of seats to emerge as the single largest bloc in the National Assembly, wasn't accepted as the winner by the other two

major parties. Instead, they joined hands to announce that lition government headed by Shehbaz Sharif, comprising a motley group of six parties. Initially, PTI pressed its right to form the government and named Omar Avub as its prime ministerial candidate. But without enough allies, it knew it would not be able to secure the requisite number for a majority. It then announced it would sit as the opposition in the National Assembly.

If all this added up to a confusing picture, there was more to come. To cross the magic number of 134 NA seats in order to stake an initial claim to form the government, PML-N needed the PPP's backing. It secured this — taking it well over the needed number – but with caveats.

The PPP decided not to join the coalition govern-ment or cabinet but declared it would support PML-N in forming the government and electing the prime minister. This indicated PPP leaders preferred to keep a distance from a government that everyone anticipates would be weak and compelled to take tough and politically unpopular decisions on the ailg economy.

It means the PML-Nled coalition will be a precariously poised, unstable minority government As one PML-N leader candidly put it, the PPP could pull the rug from under the coalition government's feet any time that suited it. This is why several League members advised their leaders to focus on Puniab and not go for a government at the cen-

To be sure, the PML-N-led government will be ever more dependent on the PPP for its survival and will need to constantly keep it happy, especially as their differences have only been papered over. PPP seeks the president's post for Asif Zardari, and wants other top constitutional posts while avoiding the responsibility of being part of government. It also wants a share in the Punjab government.

Of course, the process of government formation has yet to formally begin. The Assembly has to meet, reserved seats have to be allocated according to the proportion of seats won by the parties, and then the election of speaker has to take place. All this is likely to be an acrimonious and conten-

tious process.
PTI is reported to be considering asking its candidates to join the Majlis-i-Wahdatul Muslimeen, a re-

claim reserved seats for women and minorities. which it would otherwise not be entitled to as it lost its status as a political party by a ruling of the Election Commission of Pakistan. PTI is also waging a legal battle in the courts, challenging election results in many constituencies

Even if a PML-N-led coalition government is formed at the federal level without any hitches, the question is how stable will it be. Already, the intense bargaining between coalition partners over cabinet and other top posts, including the presidency, indicates that a patchwork political arrangement is likely to emerge in which political rivals forced into a marriage of convenience will have to work together. This will not

The most consequential test of such an arrangement will be on economic management. One of the immediate priorities for the government will be to negotiate a new, larger programme with the IMF given Pakistan's heavy debt service obligations ahead and the Stand-by Arrangement ending in April. This ligious party, to enable it to will require commitments by

the government to implement tough economic measures Will the prime minister be able to secure the support of his allies for steps likely to add to the cost-ofliving crisis in the near term?

The choice of finance minister will also be critical to build credibility with the Fund and other multilateral financial institutions It would be a mistake

to see the coalition patched together by PML-N as a replay of the previous PDM arrangement. That coalition government included the PPP and, because PTI had walked out of the NA, there was no parliamentary opposition to deal with. This is not the case today. Moreover, Shehbaz Sharif will also have to rely

on 'borrowed' authority from Nawaz Sharif, who has opted to stay out of government, but will be calling the shots from behind the scenes. Shehbaz will have to contend with the dynamics of a parallel power centre in Punjab, with Marvam Nawaz as its chief minister She will also be charged with rebuilding the party given the erosion in its support base in its erstwhile provincial stronghold. If the centre will Courtesy Dawn

present challenges for the government, the state of play in the provinces is even more daunting. The federal government will have a complex provincial landscape to navigate. The four provinces will all be run by different political parties as a consequence of the regionalised electoral out-

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be controlled by PTI. That Khan chose a combative hawk. Ali Amin Gandapur. as chief minister of the provincial government indicates a confrontational approach. How effectively Shehbaz Sharif is able to manage centre-province relations, including with the PPP-governed provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, in the face of economic difficulties and scarce resources is a key question.

Already questions are being raised about how long a tenuous coalition govern ment can last despite the establishment's support. The greatest risk posed by more political turmoil is that it can send a fragile economy into meltdown, with farreaching consequences for the country's future.

Drowning in despair

Noor Shahzad

When people illegally migrate through precarious routes to Europe, which is colloquially referred to as 'dunki', the discourse surrounding these journeys and the migrants is: why put everything that is fabitant amounts of money to agents' to leave?

Even though the precise number of Pakistanis leaving the country through illegal migration methods, such as 'dunki', remains elusive, a significant number still do. This is evidenced by the fact that the influx of illegal migrants to Europe, which includes Pakistanis, has shown a consistent upward trend

For instance, in 2023 almost 3.5 million asylum seekers migrated to Europe - Spain witnessed a notable surge, receiving 163,000 asylum seekers, marking the highest number in the last three decades

Perhaps that is why one of the major challenges Europe wishes to tackle this year is that of a 21.2 per cent spike in asylum applications. In this regard, the solution that the EU has

offshoring.
While officials in Europe portray it as an efficient migration management strategy, it is anything but. The only real achievement of asylum offshoring, as evidenced by data, is that it makes it harder and potentially more dangerous for migrants to cross over from different parts of the world into Europe

Case in point: illegal migration from the Mediterranean region to Europe. It is an open secret that Europe supports coastal guards in countries such as Libya, and it does so because creating militia outfits results in better border control, which can act as buffers and deter migrants from coming into Europe. The reason Europe has to take this route of funding coastguards in other countries is that as per international law, it cannot send back refugees to war-torn countries where their lives are in danger.

Facilitating the coastal guards in countries like Libya means that Europe is actively making the journey for illegal migrants exorbitantly precarious. While come up with and has this may seem clever, it re-

implemented quite successfully since 2015 is asylum trapped and eventually succumbing to their deaths.

In 2017 Italy signed a memorandum of understanding with Libya agreeing to work with the Libyan coastguard "to stem the influx of illegal migrants". The European Union pledged a sum of almost 100 million euros towards training and equipping the coastguard over the next few years.

Be that as it may, those who have travelled from Libya to Italy describe it as "the journey of death". The number of people intercepted by the Libyan coastguard over the years has consistently seen an upward trend as has the death toll of those attempting to make the Mediterranean journey, where in 2020 there was a 5.0 per cent spike which is said to be a conservative estimate at

In 2020, Pope Francis compared Libyan migrant detention centres to Nazi concentration camps. Due they had hidden. Some to the heavy policing of the Greece route, in recent years the Libyan route has become increasingly popular with Pakistani illegal migrants and agents who they recruit. Such was the case

with 34-year-old Abdullah. who was lured by a fellow Pakistani acting as an agent, who made YouTube videos of life in Europe. The promises made by the agent and the life that he showcased in his vlogs piqued Abdullah's interest, and he got in touch with the agent

through a phone number

given in one of the vlogs.

Within a week Abdullah's visa was ready. His family was sceptical at best, but he had already taken a loan of Rs1 million and paid an advance to the agent. Abdullah travelled from Mandi Bahauddin to Islamabad then to Dubai, from Dubai to Cairo and Cairo to Tripoli. Upon reaching Tripoli he was told he was going to stay in an accommodation with others for a few days.

The few days turned into nine months, and Abdullah was placed in a migrant detention centre in Ain Zara. In this centre, shared one phone that way. piece of bread, khubz, and on others nothing. His ticks. There was no light in the room, and they were not allowed to go outside days and were extremely unmotivated, cold, and hungry." However, as home so they too can swim and reach a shore. -- Courtesy TheNews

thrown out into the sea. Every day Abdullah

felt was the last. His skin

had become mouldy from lack of hygiene and access to food and water. Days were painful and slow until one night, he was awakened by a boot on his neck. Fearing being thrown into the sea he was hesitant to go, however, he was put on a ship instead. When the 'ship' that is supposed to cap at 30

carries more than 100 migrants, everyone prays for a miracle: one can hear the Kalma loud, as per Abdullah. "It was dark and cold. Everyone, the Arabs, Pakistanis, and Bengalis were reciting the Kalma. There were three pregnant women with us also." According to According to Abdullah, at one point, comes with affluence for the Algerian man who was navigating their boat told kistan than necessarily for him and his companions oneself, like Abdullah, who between 500 people they that they had lost their was proud of the new air

Upon hearing this, days they could have one Abdullah felt that their like him cross the bigger death sentence had just been pronounced. "We at home but also to fend health deteriorated. He got hadn't eaten for three for those who stay put at

- except for the ones who dawn broke a shore was died and their bodies got visible. "As we got closer, people started jumping from the boat and swimming towards the shore. I didn't know how to swim but I also jumped. Seeing death so up close one doesn't fear water". It turned out that the Algerian man was wrong. They had reached Trieste and were taken to a refugee centre. Abdullah, now a painter in Spain, sends back money to his wife and

children in Mandi

Bahauddin. They have re-

cently gotten a new air

conditioner installed. For many the dream of becoming a 'someone' really helps shape the contours of the journey and navigate all the uncertainties abroad. The definition of what it means to become 'set' is ambiguous but those back at home in Paconditioner at his home in Mandi Bahauddin. People

Young voters

Huma Yusuf

A general election is like a democratic health check. In its wake, comes the prognosis: will Pakistani democracy live or die? The widely discredited polling process points to terminal illness. But many prodemocracy Pakistanis believe we have identified a

The local and international media has a clear against-all-odds of PTIaffiliated candidates was rallying cries has checked the excesses of elite institutions and vested interests. Ahsan Iqbal attributed polling results to a "youth rebellion against traditional politics" and called for "older parties ... [to] create spaces for these

But has democratic backsliding truly met its generational match? In median age is 22.7 years, and more than 56.8 milunder 35. But will young voters remain engaged in a sustainable way?

An election is cathartic. This year's polls inwhich suited Imran Khan's politics of disruption. Were the youth votes cast akin to an expletive against entrenched political actors and institutions? Or do they signal a revival of political engagement in the sense of policy development, institution building and service deliv-

The signs do not breed optimism. Firstly, the key issues that matter to young Pakistanis — inflation, education, employment — received only

scant attention in parties' manifestos. As service delivery falters, young voters will be disappointed. Indeed, while they

may have cast votes, young Pakistanis have been voting with their feet for the past few years. A survey from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics last year found that 67 per cent of young Pakistanis want to leave the country in pursuit of employment. The number of Pakistanis emigrating tripled between 2021 and 2022, with the trend con-

tinuing last year. Youth electoral fervour is also disengaged from Pakistan's political economy and structural challenges, which must be addressed as a prerequisite to democratic revival. A VOA/ Ipsos survey in the run-up to the elections found that 74pc of young voters trust the military, while 58pc rank the Supreme Court as the second-most trusted institution. Such beliefs are hardly the precursor to a status quo shake-up.

Research from the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Future of Democracy may shed light on the youth phenomenon in these elections. The 2020 Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy report (which maps global trends) found that satisfaction with democracy is declining most rapidly among 18-34 year olds, with 55pc of global millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) expressing dissatisfaction. This is largely driven by the inability of democratic governments to address youth unemployment, wealth inequality and other forms

'economic exclusion'.

That said, the report identified an interesting quirk: countries with populist leaders like Khan logged a 16 percentage point jump in satisfaction with democracy among voters aged under 35 years

during the first few years of a populist's tenure. This turnaround effect was noted irrespective of whether the populist leader was left- or rightwing. And it occurred despite the polarising effects of populist politics, which should be anathema to de-

But the report also found that an uptick in youth satisfaction with democracy un--der populist politicians is shortlived, with satisfaction de--c-lining gradually after four years, and precipitously after two terms. In other words, as populists either turn authoritarian to preserve power, or temper their excesses in order to succeed as mainstream politicians, they lose their youthful support, and democracy suffers again.

The conduct of Imran Khan and his sup-porters in opposition will steer the nature of youth political engagement, with perceptions of complicity a key risk. In all scenarios, it would be a shame for all parties and democracy champions not to seek to sustain youth participa-

We need more data to better understand Pakistan's demographic political trends. This should include tracking various forms of political engagement beyond casting ballots. Everything from social media engagement and protest to consumer boycotts counts, and acknowledging this will help clarify how to sustain youth engagement.

We must also nuance the debate: the youth bloc is not a monolith, and grassroots circumstances will shape different young voters differently. Giving them due respect at a granular level through participation in local government bod-— is likely to be a key step in sustaining engagement. -- Courtesy

Let students thrive

Neda Mulji

We've had a history of academic pressure to chase marks in tests, good grades at the end of the next big task. Student term and, in many schools, students still get ranks that benchmark them against their peers. Most assessments test the preparation of content; they do not test understanding of concepts. and communicate with Students select the more 'important' content they know they will be tested on, and memorise that. Studying skills aren't necessarily taught, which means students must learn these skills on the go. Those that haven't mastered the art of preparation or the ones who haven't managed to develop the endurance to focus and write material from memory do not man-'health promoting schools' approach, 90 age to get good marks as they have not mastered

When teachers are truly skilled, they aren't only great at teaching but also guiding and monitoring. Traditionally, the teachers who have made a lasting impact on their students are the ones who focus on holistic development — those that are skilled enough to teach, motivate students and enable them to thrive.

test-taking skills.

Usually, these teachers empower students with a level of self-confidence that makes them able and willing to learn. They teach them the ropes to break down tasks to make it easier for themselves and they encourage them to plan ahead of time so they can acquire greater control on the mountain of work that comes their way. Most successful teachers keep a close eye on the students' studying habits, their turning in of assignments, their responses in class and their interest in their own

about learning but also the about the willingness to do better and the innate drive to accomplish the motivation is key to learning. However, unfortunately, most teachers at school where they have manage to kill motivation by warnings and threats of failure and disaster. How teachers connect

students may be the key to enabling students to thrive. A teacher's positivity and belief in the student's ability can turn the tide towards Most students need health and well-being programmes at school to support them through their academic journey. Back in 1995, when WHO, Unesco and Unicef jointly introduced the

countries around the world adopted it. Pakistan was not one of them. Ninety per cent of countries now provide at least one meal during the school day. Pakistan is not one of them. Clean water and sanitation, eye-testing services, a doctor on the pre-

mises and vaccine administration and monitoring facilities, counselling were all part of the health programme. In 2010, Pakistan collaborated with Unesco after a report established that 61pc of government schools in Pakistan lacked drinking water and a staggering 56pc were without toilet facilities. A decade later, basic facilities are available in a fragmented and inconsistent manner, if at

The global Education 2030 agenda, initiated by Unesco, reiterates a set of eight Global Standards to help improve the lives of children. Pakistan has teach the way they committed to these goals learn." -- Courtesy Dawn

Thriving is not just and yet, given the scale of improvements needed, we may well miss

this bus too. In the absence of such programmes across the board, teachers have an all-encompassing role to plug in their expertise to fill in many gaps. They have to screen students for bad eyesight by using their own judgement in class, they write to parents to monitor nutrition when the child doesn't bring in a healthy snack, they act as first-aid respondents when children are hurt and they provide emotional support in the absence of school counsellors. The list is endless and the teachers' duties go far beyond their ba--sic job description. In many scho-ols, teachers find themselves having to don their superwomen capes to take care of every contingency, and this can well take them away from their core work as a subject specialist.

While every school year presents new challenges, it also opens new opportunities for growth. Relaxing the controlling grip on children may help them find learning fun. Instead of forcing them to read from their books, reading to them may help. Letting them teach whatever they know may help them get more involved in learning. Enabling them to track their own progress and set goals helps them take responsibility and develop a work ethic.

There is a world of possibilities where different strategies can be applied to achieve targeted outcomes, especially if the tried and tested means are not yielding results. Ignacio Estrada said it aptly: "If a child can't learn the way we one billion school-going teach, maybe we should

Equipping students with IT, AI crying need of hour: Governor

Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman has said that equipping students with Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the dire need of the hour.

Addressing convocation of a private institute here on Monday, he stated in the modern era, acquiring knowledge of modern sciences and arts is essential for progress and success. He informed that hard work and consistency play a crucial role in the journey of progress.

Instead of reacting to false and misleading information on social media, ensure a researchbased approach, the governor advised the parents and graduating students adding that

should be based on real data and facts from international organizations.

Rehman noted that destruction and violent protests were extremely detrimental to the country. He said that determining those who merely talk against corruption and those who take practical actions was imperative.

success in education is possible collaboration with the private sector. Honesty and high moral values are the keys to success in practical life, maintained.

Vice Chancellors (VCs) of public and private universities besides



KARACHI: Pakistani and foreign religious students take their annual exams sitting on the floor of the Jamia Binoria Islamic seminary, in

First Lady advocates floral art therapy

Lady Samina Arif Alvi Monday emphasized that floral art transcended mere hobby status, asserting its therapeutic benefits for mental well-being.

Speaking as the chief guest at an award ceremony for the Floral Art Society of Pakistan (FASP), celebrating their triumphs in the Bloom Oman competition in Muscat, Oman, she highlighted the stress-relieving and moodenhancing qualities of gardening and floral

Addressing gathering, the first lady responsibility to nurture both environment and mental health, noting that a significant portion of the country's population grappled with mental health challenges, with many unable to seek

professional help. She advocated for the regular organization of floral art events to not only

generations in healthpromoting activities.

Recognizing FASP's remarkable achievement of securing 11 awards for Pakistan in the Bloom Oman competition, praised contributions to elevating the country's standing. Samina Arif Alvi

urged attendees to raise awareness about early breast cancer detection, a cause she has championed leading to a notable reduction in related mortality rates over the past five years. Further, she called for advocacy on underscored the collective behalf of persons with disabilities and mental health, emphasizing the importance of inclusive awareness Concluding the event, the first lady distributed awards and certificates of appreciation to FASP members, recognizing their invaluable contributions to Pakistan's success in the floral art competition



ABBOTTABAD: Rescue officials trying to remove a vehicle stuck in snow covered area after the heavy snowfall of winter season, which more decreases the temperature below in minus degree Celsius, at Nathiagali area in Abbottabad.

Third Markhor hunted in Chitral under Trophy **Hunting programme**

PESHAWAR (APP): An American Hunter, Robertson Neil Hall has was witnessing increase by hunted down a Markhor in Gahirat Gol game reserve in district, Chitral registering 3rd hunt of current season as part of trophy hunting after paying US dollars 125000 and later gradually the around Rs 34, 875,000 (34.875 million).

The eight years old wild male goat had long spiraling horns of around 38 inches and was hunted in Gahirat Gol game

Under the Trophy Hunting programme, four permits are sold annually through auction for hunting of markhors, three in Chitral and one in Kohistan

Earlier two other hunts of markhor had been carried out by foreign hunters in Chitral during current season as part of Trophy Hunting programme launched with the objective of conservation of these rare

Talking to APP, Divisional Forest Officer Wildlife, Farooq Nabi informed that the annual

each passing year.

For the first time when the scheme was launched in 1990 the hunting permits were sold and later gradually the amount increased as foreign hunters kept on coming to Khyber coming to Pakhtunkhwa.

"Once Markhor was critically endangered wild specie in Pakistan, but due to proper conservation efforts based on monetary gains through sale of hunting permits to foreign hunters, the country has now largest population of the animal," he apprised.

Under the scheme a sense of ownership is being inculcated communities as 80 percent of revenue generated is spent on development schemes in respective areas of hunting through mutual understanding of local elders. Twenty percent of the revenue generated goes

into national kitty. President Gahirat Conservancy Chitral. Faizur Rehaman.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of District Bar Association Charsada meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa

CM inaugurates upgraded blocks of Services Hospital

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's unwavering commitment to serving humanity has ransformed Services Hospital into a state-ofhe-art facility within a remarkable span of just 4 and a half months.

Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday inaugurated the upgraded surgical, medical, and administrative blocks of Services Hospital, where he inspected the modernized wards and expressed satisfaction over the provision of contemporary

medical equipment and beds. He also visited nursing counters and doctors rooms, directing the swift operationalization of all operation theaters and emphasizing importance of regular cleanliness management in the upgraded blocks.

The CMinaugurated a digital data storage system for patient records, a significant step towards modernizing healthcare services. He commended the high quality of the hospital's upgradation. Secretary Communication and Works provided a detailed

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the

Newly Installed Beds after inauguration of upgraded Surgical Block, Medical

HYDERABAD (APP):

Ombudsman Sindh Aijaz

Ali Khan has said that to

provide quick and

inexpensive justice to the

people in government

departments, the offices of

the Ombudsman have been

established in every

district so that complaints

immediately. He expressed

addressing a gathering held

here after inaugurating the

Regional Office District

Sanghar. He further said

that the public should

be

these views

Provincial

redressed

while

register their complaints said that Sanghar district

686,711 students

access PITB's Higher

Education Portal

LAHORE (APP): The Portal

Higher Education Portal

(HEP), developed by PITB for the Higher

Education Department, is

a centralized platform enabling public colleges in Punjab to have daily

reporting of essential data.

This centralized platform serves as a

pivotal tool, empowering

public colleges across Punjab to streamline their

administrative processes through daily reporting of

essential data. Currently,

825 public colleges across Punjab having 686,711 students are using HEP.

KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident at a candle

manufacturing factory as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing

The Higher Education

Provincial Ombudsman

inaugurates district

office Sanghar

ombudsman with a simple application on blank paper,

and the district office will

address the grievances of

the public by summoning

the concerned officers. He

stated that for this

purpose, we have a

mechanism under which

the performance of the

district officers is also evaluated from time to

time, so that the problems of the people can be solved.

inauguration ceremony,

Ombudsman Sanghar,

Fazal Muhammad Sheikh

Director

encompasses

system

comprehensive features,

including the collation of basic student profiles,

detailed program information, and in-depth

college profiles and facilities. This unified and

facilitates seamless data

reporting, fostering enhanced efficiency and

transparency in higher education administration

throughout the province.

Chairman Faisal Yousuf

stated, "HEP signifies a

significant stride towards

modernizing and digitizing

the higher education.

In this regard, PITB

Addressing

Regional

district consists of vast land.

detailed

centralized

Block and Admin Block at Services Hospital.

Child falls

to death in

water tank

PESHAWAR (APP): A

three-year-old child was

killed after falling into a

water tank in Jamrud tehsil

of Khyber district on Monday. Police said the

incident occurred in

Bakarabad area of Jamrud

where a three-year-old

child, named Hayan, son of

Amir fell into a water tank

during play.

The area people retrieved the child from the water tank and shifted him to Tehsil Headquarters

Hospital Jamrud. Doctors at the hospital did their

best to save the child however, the child breathed

WASA

disconnects

123 connections

over default

MULTAN (APP): Water

and Sanitation Agency (WASA) disconnected 123

connections over default in

payment of pending dues

during the ongoing crackdown on Monday. As

per directives of the

Managing Director WASA Chaudhry Muhammad

Danish, the recovery teams

launching a crackdown

against defaulters on daily

basis. In this regard, the

teams disconnected 123

commercial and domestic

connections and also

recovered fine of over Rs

3.6 millions from the

defaulters. The MD

WASA has directed officers

concerned to speed up the

crackdown

defaulters.

his last at the hospital.

upgradation work, while Secretary Health highlighted the enhanced treatment facilities in the upgraded blocks.

Mohsin Naqvi urged the completion of the new lab and diagnostic center at Services Hospital, giving specific instructions to the Principal of SIMS (Services Institute of Medical Sciences) in this regard. Talking to the media after the inauguration, Mohsin Naqvi recalled his visit to Services Hospital six months ago, stating his shock at the dire state of the facility at that time,

even send an enemy there for treatment. He praised the rapid transformation of Services Hospital into a state-of-the-art facility within 4 and a half months. The ongoing upgradation covers an area of 3 lakh 11 thousand square feet, including the addition of 24 state-of-the-art

1600-bed hospital. Mohsin Naqvi applauded the hard work Provincial Minister Mansoor Qadir, Secretary

operation theaters, in the

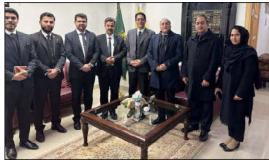
Ghafoor Baig says: Complaints of federal employees swiftly addressed

Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad, Abdul Ghafoor Baig on Monday said the complaints of federal employees related to misadministration are being addressed on a swift basis and no negligence towards this end is tolerated

He said to make the general people abreast of the effectiveness and importance of the office of Federal Ombudsman, open katcheries are being held advertisements through print and electronic media are released.

further said within the ambit of law, the Federal Ombudsman Office not only addresses the complaints on an urgent basis but arrange meetings with the authorized officers of the Federal Government for the implementation of its He said to facilitate

the public, the process of lodging complaints has been simplified and only through an App the complainants forward their applications through an automated online system. He said the Federal Ombudsman office.



MIRPUR: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Saeed Akram Khan and the judges of the Supreme Court are meeting the bar officials under Communication and Works, and the Health the leadership of the newly elected President District Bar Association Chaudhry Shakeeluz Zaman.

KP Governor lauds lawyers' role in development, prosperity, strengthening of democracy

Governor Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that lawyers have an important role in maintaining the rule of law and establishing a justice-based system in

'Lawyers always played a positive role in the country's stability, development, prosperity and democracy. They are the most important part of the judiciary and the delivery of justice," he said during a meeting with a delegation of Charsadda District Bar Association here at Governor House.

Khyber any society is very important especially in the provision of justice, adding that the lawyers' community has a great responsibility to uphold the supremacy of law and ensure justice for the poor have and middle-class of the

> He urged lawyers to play an important role in the speedy disposal of cases and the provision of justice to the victims. Earlier, the delegation

led by the President of the Bar Association Mujibur Rahman Advocate informed the Governor about the problems and The governor said difficulties faced by the

(APP): that the role of a lawyer in District Bar Association and requested for his cooperation to solve them.

especially mentioned that the revenue cases of Charsadda were referred to Peshawar and caused inconvenience for both lawyers and the masses. The Governor necessary issued instructions to the relevant authorities to solve the issue. The delegation members included Vice President Ahmedzeb Advocate, Secretary Saifullah Khan Advocate, Joint Secretary Adil Zahir Advocate, Mohammad Fawad Khan

Advocate and Ali Khan



First Lady Begum Samina Alvi, distributing mementos at the award distribution cermony organized by the Floral Arts Society, Gardenia Chapter, in Karachi.

Cheques worth Rs 770,000 distributed among 63 deserving people

SIALKOT (APP): District Baitul Mal Committee distributed cheques of relief funds among the deserving people.

Chairman District Baitul Mal Committee Chaudhry Shakeel Ahmed told that the cheques worth Rs 770,000 have been distributed to 63 deserving people on behalf of District Baitul Mal Committee. He said that the District Baitul Mal Committee is ensuring the fair distribution of funds among the deserving people on merit and efforts are being made to provide assistance as much as possible within the available fund.

4 passengers offloaded at **Faisalabad** Airport

FAISALABAD (APP) FIA Immigration officials have offloaded four air passengers at Faisalabad Airport due to human trafficking.FIA spokesman said here on Monday that four people namely Azhar Ali, Abdul Qadeer, Aun Sahil and Sumair were travelling to Libya illegally through Flight No.FZ-392 via Saudi Arabia. The FIA immigration officials offloaded these passengers at Faisalabad Airport and shifted them to Anti **Human Trafficking Circle** for further investigation and arrest of their travel fire and rescue operation, located on Korangi Ibrahim Hyderi area in Karachi. agent, he added

Director Information chairs Divisional accreditation card committee meeting

HYDERABAD (APP): last year while journalists

The Chairman divisional accreditation committee and Director Information Irshad Ali Chandio attested by their concerned presided over a meeting of accreditation committee at Shahbaz Hall, Shahbaz Building on Monday.

Meeting decided that after every three months meeting would be held to review the process of accreditation cards issued and other matters.

Meeting also decided that suspicious data submitted for accreditation card would be issued after the verification by police. The meeting reviewed

accreditation cards were being issued therefore all journalists should submit their data so that accreditation cards could be issued to them. The accreditation committee assured that every possible cooperation would be in detail the list of extended to all District accreditation cards issued Information officers.

transferred from one

department to another were

asked to submit documents

unnecessary accreditation

cards were cancelled and

the next issuance was

barred. The Director

Information said that

application forms for

department

Gandapur says: Party leadership to decide joining of political party for formation of KP govt

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf backed independent candidate and nominee of the party for the office of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday said that the party leadership would decide about joining any political party for the formation of the government in the province.

Talking to media here outside Peshawar High Court (PHC) he said a legal team was looking into matters related to joining any political party,

PESHAWAR (APP): however, the final decision would be taken by the party chairman.

Gandapur said that

after coming to power, he would take measures to make financially economically sufficient, adding that restoration of the Sehat Card, provision of soft loans to youth for businesses and legal struggle for a due share of the province under net hydel profit and National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

CDNS attains Rs 1030b

targets in fresh bond

MoU signed to make Pakistan food self-sufficient

Monday signed between Green Corporate Initiative debate. and Organic Pakistan to Revolutionize Agriculture to ensure food sovereignty

environmental sustainability in Pakistan. The Green Corporate Initiative (GCI) and Organic Pakistan (OP) have officially inked MoÚ spearhead

transformative journey towards smart and sustainable agriculture, environ mental conservation, and urban farming practices to make Pakistan food self sufficient.

The agreement signed for ensuring Pakistan to move from food import and dependency to a selfsufficient food exporting

also aimed to improve the milestone in our collective dedicated to ensuring food status of the farmers by

of mainstream economic and the agriculture policy

> head office, establishes a robust framework for collaboration between Green Corporate Initiative and Organic Pakistan, with Pakistan food selfsufficient.

> Through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovationcentric initiatives, both organizations aim to foster resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity within the agricultural sector. Commenting on the

MoU, Shahid Nazeer, Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Green Initiative said, "This partnership The partnership is marks a significant strategic

Understanding (MoU) on development, particularly stewardship in Pakistan. combining our expertise, resources, and The MoU, signed at networks, we are poised to the Green Corporate create lasting impact and Initiative Pvt. Limited's empower communities across the country.

Nadeem Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Organic Pakistan, said, "We are excited to embark on this a shared vision to make journey of collaboration with the Green Corporate Initiative. Together, we aim harness

transformative power of agriculture to address pressing challenges and build a more resilient and prosperous future for Pakistan. Our ultimate aim is to empower "the Kisaan of Pakistan, and make him/ her the custodian of Pakistan's prosperity.'

Green Corporate Initiative (GCI) is a



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE while talking to a Pakistani exhibitor during the Gulf Food Exhibition at Pakistan Pavilion, World Trade Centre.

SECP says: 2,651 new companies incorporated in January

The Securities and Exchange Commission of registered 2,651 new companies in January 2024, showing an increase of 10 percent compared to the corresponding period last year. The total number of

registered companies now stands at 212,108. Total capitalization (paid-up capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies is Rs5.2 billion, said a news release.

In January, around 58 percent of companies were

FAISALABAD (APP):

Engineer Ahmad Hassan, former Vice President and

(Faisalabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry) Standing Committee on

R&D, has proposed a separate and dedicated

ministry to produce highly skilled human resources

which could be exported to

other countries to almost

double the existing foreign

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The imports of the overall

petroleum group contracted by 12.06

percent during the first

seven months of the

reported.

Convener

remittances

gap of \$20-25bn.

FCCI proposes separate

ministry to produce

skilled human resources

while remittances are we must focus on

focus on exporting highly trained manpower. "It is

skilled manpower to the easiest way to balance

POL import bill shrinks

He said, "We must major chunk of our highly

\$30bn but still there is a enhancing

overcome this trade gap. the trade deficit".

single member companies, and 4 percent as public Pakistan (SECP) has unlisted companies, notfor-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships, and foreign companies. Five

companies also registered

their place of business in

Pakistan. Around 138 foreign applicants were registered from overseas through eServices. Almost percent of

companies were registered online. The information technology sector took the lead with regards to

The economy is facing

multiple challenges and

fundamental administrative

changes are needed to

resolve the issues. We are

exporting unskilled and semiskilled workers which

are sending \$30bn

remittances. The proposed

ministry may be tasked with identifying the specific needs of each

potential country and

produce human resources

remittances by exporting a

in that particular area."

ISLAMABAD (APP): companies, 38 percent as companies, trading with development with 277 each, tourism with 145, education with 116, food and beverages with 94, corporate agricultural farming with 93, e-commerce with 72, engineering with 65, chemical with 61, power generation with 58, marketing advertisement, and textile with 55 each.

Furthermore pharmaceutical, mining & quarrying with 53 each, healthcare with 48, fuel and

energy with 45. IPM training of agri officials begins across south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): The training of agriculture department officials from extension and pest warning wings began Monday in south Puniab to enhance their capacity to extend guidelines to farmers on the Integrated Management model, a cost-effective

production technology. Deputy Secretary
Technical Dr. Haidar
Karrar imparted one-day Addressing a meeting of the standing committee, he said that our current exports are only \$20bn began on the orders of Secretary Agriculture South Saqib Ali Ateel on

February 19 and would conclude on March 5. Director IPM Punjab, Dr. Muhammad Asghar said that agriculture is an open industry surviving under the sky and such

trainings are organized.

in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday. He said this was a Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for

National Savings (CDNS)

has attained a target of Rs

1030 billion in fresh bonds

in the current fiscal year,

from July 1 to February,

achieved the target of Rs

The CDNS surpassed

the previous financial year "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. market trend in the bonds.

ISLAMABAD (APP): country, the ambitious The Central Directorate of target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.

the annual target and "At this time Automated Teller Machine 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he

> Replying to a question, he said the CDNS collected an investment of Rs 55 billion by January 9, 2023-24, through Islamic investment

The official added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year Given the current 2023-24 for Islamic finance



LAHORE: A blacksmith is busy at his workplace cutting large pieces of iron and making molds.

Railways finalize plan to procure 230 passengers coaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is finalizing a plan to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the

to fixed timings. "Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the

trains and ensure adherence

Ministry of Railways. He said Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track along with improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their

The infrastructure, including the track and signaling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) was also being revamped, he added.

The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometers and the department has planned to improve speed up to 160 kilometers per hour in the project of up-gradation of ML-I under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said the rolling stock being procured under this project would be capable of running at a speed of 160 km/h whereas the department had a dedicated fleet of 55 dieselelectric locomotives of 4000-4500 HP for freight operation to cater maximum haulage at higher respective destinations on speed



LAHORE: Women are busy is buying secondhand curtains at a Landa bazaar in Provincial Capital.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Maersk Pelepas, Haj Mohammad, Visayas Weco Madeleine and IVS Atsugi scheduled to load/ offload Containers Cement, Rice, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more Container ships, MSC Spring III and X-Press Mekong also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

Ninth ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, Maersk Pelepas and X-Mekong are Press expected to sail on today afternoon.

Throughput during last 24 hours stood at 61,790 tonnes, comprising 37,479 tonnes imports cargo and 24,311tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,952 Containers (705 TEUs Imports and 1,247 TEUs export) was handled

Consul General, **German Consulate** Karachi visited SCCI

General, German Consulate Karachi Dr. Rudiger Lotz visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) along with First German Secretary Embassy Íslamabad Janine Rohwer and CEO of German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce Oliver Oehms to interact with the business community of Sialkot.President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik and Vice President (VP) SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh warmly welcomed

During the meeting held here at SCCI Auditorium, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik in his welcome address mentioned that Pakistan and Germany had always enjoyed warm and friendly relations since the

distinguished guests.

SIALKOT (APP): Consul establishment diplomatic ties in 1951. Pakistan was one of the first Asian countries to establish relations with the Federal Republic of Germany.President SCCI said that the year 2024 marks the 73rd Anniversary of our diplomatic relations based on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights, cultural and economic liberalism." We greatly value our relations with Germany; and are keen to strengthen multidimensional and mutually beneficial cooperation".

He said that the Pakistan acknowledges and appreciates the role of Germany in the extension of the GSP+ status. The GSP+ status emerged as a cornerstone in fostering trade ties between the European Union and Pakistan. Since its in 2014. inception Pakistan had witnessed a remarkable increase of 108% in its exports to the European Union.

SIALKOT: President Chamber of commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to Dr. Rudiger Letz, Correl Co. a shield to Dr. Rudiger Lotz, Consul General at SCCI. SBP says: **Current Account Deficit** declines by 71% to \$1.09 bln in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): January 2024 compared to a deficit of \$167 million in Deficit (CAD) has significantly slid down by 71.2 percent to \$1.093 latest SBP figures, the marchandiza trade deficit billion during the first seven months of the current during July-January (2023-Pakistan (SBP reported January (2022-23).

deficit of \$269 million in during Jan 2024. Cumulatively, improved significantly to a deficit of \$1.1 billion in Jul-Jan FY24 compared to \$ 3.8 billion in Jul-Jan FY23,"

SBP posted on the social media website X (formerly Twitter).On a year-on-year basis, the CAD witnessed a deficit of \$269 million in

merchandize trade deficit fiscal year as compared to 24) was recorded at

Likewise, "Current account services' trade deficit was balance (CAB) showed a recorded at \$1,720 million FY2023-24 compared to the deficit of \$233 million during the corresponding period of

> The overall trade deficit in goods and services was recorded at \$13,503 million during the current fiscal compared to the deficit of \$17,264 million.



toys at a Landa bazaar in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan, Malaysia discuss bilateral ties, regional situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador in Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee on Monday met with Malaysia's newly appointed Ambassador to Baku Ahmad Kamrizamil and discussed with him bilateral relations and the regional situation.

During the meeting, they happily recalled common friends from the respective diplomatic to enhance bilateral trade fraternities, Pakistan's cooperation.

embassay in Azerbaijan posted on X.

Meanwhile Pakistan's High Commissioner in Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri met with Chief Executive Officer of Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) Michael Bailey and Trade Adviser Sally Chandler.

The two sides agreed

Political stability must To ensure food security to revive economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): upcoming budget, the IMF Renowned economists on Monday emphasized the need for political stability to revive the economy in

Television, a well-known economic expert Dr. Muhammad Ayub Mehar said there is a need to achieve high growth rate and development to achieve prosperity in Pakistan.

government could address the challenges in a proper development manner. Mehar said the privatization.

agreement, fiscal deficit and inflation are the concerns which must be the focus of the new government. Financial expert, Dr

Talking to Pakistan Saqlain Sher said that new government should evolve a strategy to reduce interest rate to stimulate business growth and investment in this country.

Afroz Merchant, a capital market expert, highlighted the significance He said that a stable of economic reforms including

respectively.

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 586.79 points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 60,459.75 points against 59,872.96 points the previous trading day. total 261,799,826 shares valuing

PSX witnesses

bullish trend,

gains 586 points

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The 100-index of the

the deficit of \$3.796 billion \$11,783 million as during the same period of last year, State Bank of \$17,032 million in July-Rs 9.907 billion were shares valuing Rs12.243 billion the last day. Some 330 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 170 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 21 remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were PIAC(A) with 21,406,500 shares at Rs 11.06 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 20,034,698 shares at Rs 1.23 per share, and Pak Refinery with 15,164,705 shares at Rs 25.33 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs

373.35 per share price. Gold rates increase by Rs 1,100

SLAMABÁD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs 214,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 213,200 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 943 to Rs 183,728 from Rs 182,785 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 168,417 from Rs 167,553, the All Sindh Jewellers Sarafa

Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,550 and Rs 2,186.21

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$8 to \$2,042 from \$.2,034, the Association reported.

by 12.06% in 7 months million during the period under review year whereas petroleum crude dipped by .96 percent from 3,100.481 million to \$ 2,977.671 million.

However, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) (LNG) increased by 4.82 percent from \$ 2,192.489 million last year to \$ 2,298.144 million while the The total imports of import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) went up by 1.47 per cent the petroleum group during July-January (2023-24) stood at \$ 9,332.322 in the first seven months million against the imports of \$ 10,611.727 million and stood at \$434.991 million as compared to \$428.687 in the during the same period of corresponding period in last year Among petroleum commodities, the import 2022-23. Meanwhile, on a vear-on-year basis, the of petroleum products declined by 25.94 percent, from \$ 4,889.799 million petroleum group imports witnessed an increase of 0.03 percent.



(Bair) on his pushcart along a road in the city.

Agri scientists for collaborated efforts on climate resilient, high-yielding varieties

Agricultural scientists have stressed the need for conference titled "emerging collaborated efforts and enhanced work on climate resilient, high yielding and fortified varieties in order to ensure food and nutrition security amid the challenges of changing climate, ever-increasing population and

session of a two-day technologies for crop improvement" jointly arranged by Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics; and Center for Advanced Studies, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr productivity. They were Iqrar Ahmad Khan presided

FAISALABAD (APP): addressing the inaugural over the session and said that there is a huge gap between the productivity of progressive farmers and traditional farmers. "We have to promote the latest trends in order to enhance per acre productivity," he added. He said that the country imports wheat whereas ten percent in the average productivity will make us self-sufficient.

Gaza Health Ministry says Over 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk RAFAH: More than 29,000 Palestinians have ing elsewhere. been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, the territory's Health Ministry said Monday, marking another grim milestone in the deadliest round of violence in the history of the efforts appear to have Israeli-Palestinian con-

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the offensive until "total victory" against Hamas, raising fears that troops will soon move into the southernmost town of Rafah on the Egyptian border, where over half of Gaza's ties to 29,092 since the even Israel's own tallies.

2.3 million people have start of the war. sought refuge from fight-

The United States, cease-fire and hostage release agreement. But those stalled in recent days, and Netanyahu angered Qatar, which has hosted Hamas leaders, bycalling on it to pressure the militant

group.

The Health Ministry brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours. That brings

The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its

records, but says around two-thirds of those killed were women and children. More than 69,000 Palestinians have been wounded, overwhelming the territory's hospitals, less than half of which are even

partially functioning.
The Health Ministry is part of the Hamas-run government in Gaza but maintains detailed records of casualties. Its figures said 107 bodies were from previous wars in Gaza have largely matched those of U.N. agencies, in-



Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrives at his family com-

Netanyahu could surprise | Famine becomes **Israelis with Hamas** deal next week

TELAVIV (INP): Israel has being held in the Hamassent negotiators for truce talks in Cairo as requested by U.S. President Joe Biden but they did not go back for further talks because Hamas' demands were "delusional," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

per unverified online reports, Benjamin Netanyahu could surprise Israelis with a Hamas deal for the release of hostages in the next

Netanyahu also said Israel would not give in to "international dictates" regarding a statehood agreement with the Palestinians, which he said could only be reached through direct negotiations without precon-

The Egyptian and Qatari-mediated talks to try to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and secure the release of over 100 Israeli hostages change.

ruled territory have yet to produce results. A round of inconclusive talks in Cairo

ended on Tuesday. Asked during a press conference on Saturday why Israeli negotiators did not return for further talks, Netanyahu said: "We got On the other hand, as nothing except for delusional demands from

> Those demands, he war and leaving Hamas as it is freeing "thousands of murderers" from Israeli jails, and even demands regarding a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem known as the Temple Mount in Judaism and the Noble Sanctuary in Islam.

He said Israeli representatives in Cairo "sat and listened and there was no change. I wanted to say not a millimeter - but there was not a nanometer of

Traqi armed groups dial down U.S. attacks on request of Iran commander

BAGHDAD (Internews): A visit by the commander not initially agree to Qaani's of Iran's elite Quds Force request, most others did to Baghdad has led to a pause in attacks on U.S. troops by Iran-aligned groups in Iraq, multiple Iranian and Iraqi sources told. saying it was a sign Tehran wants to prevent a broader conflict.

Esmail Qaani met representatives of several of the armed groups in Baghdad airport on Jan. 29, less than 48 hours after Washington blamed the groups for the killing of three U.S. soldiers at the Tower 22 outpost in Jordan, the sources said.

Qaani, whose predecessor was killed by a U.S. drone near the same airport four years ago, told the factions that drawing American blood risked a heavy U.S. response, 10 of the sources said.

He said the militias should lie low, to avoid U.S. strikes on their senior commanders, destruction of key infrastructure or even a direct retaliation against Iran, the sources said.

While one faction did The next day, elite Iranbacked group Kataib Hezbollah announced it

was suspending attacks.
Since Feb. 4 there have been no attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, compared to more than 20 in the two weeks before Qaani's visit, part of a surge in violence from the groups in opposition to Israel's war in Gaza.

"Without Qaani's direct intervention it would have been impossible to convince Kataib Hezbollah to halt its military operations to deescalate the tension", a senior commander in one of the Iran-aligned

Iraqi armed groups said. Qaani and the Quds Force, the arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards that works with allied armed groups from Lebanon to Yemen, did not immediately reply to requests for comment for this story. Kataib Hezbollah and one other group could not be reached for comment.

latest threat in Gaza's north

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Like many in northern Gaza, Shadi Jenina has resorted to desperate measures to stave of hunger for his five children - grinding up animal feed into flour.

"We're looking for food for birds, animals and livestock... such as barley, corn, wheat and fodder. We grind them and make flour,' Jenina, 40, explained.

"The bread is dry and not suitable for humans but said, included ending the we're forced to eat it," he said, adding they struggle to Gaza Strip was already one of the poorest places in the Middle East even before Israel declared a complete siege on the territory. Though much of Gaza

was reliant on food aid, enough of it was entering the territory to largely meet the needs of its 2.4 million inhabitants.

But now, after more than four months of war that has flattened huge swathes of the Strip, Gazans are inching closer towards famine, according to the UN's World Food Programme.

Spanish voters go to polls in close-run Galicia election

MADRID (Internews): Voters went to the polls in Spain's northwest region of Galicia on Sunday in a closerun race where polls have suggested the opposition conservative People's Party (PP) could lose an absolute majority that it has held for 15 years. The PP have ruled the region for all but four of the past 35 years and their leader, Alberto Nunez Feijoo, is a former Galician

regional government chief. A poll published on Feb. 11 by 40dB for El Pais newspaper found that 46% of voters would prefer a coalition of the Galician Nationalist Bloc (BNG) and the Socialist Party to the PP retaining power. While battling to retain control of its heartland, the PP is also contending with internal conflict after Feijoo appeared to support a conditional amnesty for Catalan separatists - a measure that has been pro-



A farmer sleeps behind a tractor during a protest to demand minimum crop prices, near the Haryana-Punjab state border at Shambhu in Patiala district about 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of New Delhi.

Volunteers distribute rations of lentil soup to displaced Palestinians in Rafah

in the southern Gaza Strip.

US threatens to veto new Gaza ceasefire resolution

WASHINGTON (Online): The United States Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield warned that if the Algerian proposed resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza were to come up for a vote at the UN Security Council as drafted, it would not be adopted by Washington. In a statement Saturday, Thomas-Greenfield said the United States has been working on a deal between Israel and Hamas which would see the release of hostages and bring a pause in the fighting for at least six weeks.

"Over the last week, President Biden has had multiple calls with Prime Minister Netanyahu, as well as the leaders of Egypt and Qatar, to push this deal forward. Though gaps remain, the key elements are on the table," the ambassador said. "We believe this deal represents the best opportunity to reunite all hostages with their families and enable a prolonged pause in fighting, that would allow for more lifesaving food, water, fuel, medicine, and other essentials to get into the hands of Palestinian civilians who desperately need it," she said.

UN special envoys in Doha to discuss future of Afghanistan

DOHA (Online): In less administration's participathan a year the second UN gathering with national and regional envoys to Afghanistan are set to meet in Doha on Sunday (today), however, there is still uncertainty about whether Taliban leaders would attend it or not.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres spokeswoman said that the twoday conference, which is being hosted by the secretary general will include stepping up collaboration with Taliban-led Afghanistan with a better-coordinated reaction to the country in Central Asia. Taliban tion in the convention is still unknown on the eve of the gathering in gas-rich Qatar, which provided a home to the Taliban during years of peace negotiations with the US. After the Taliban lead-

ership refused to attend the first conference in May, the UN has now invited them again to the Doha conven-The Taliban regime in

Kabul stated that it will only do so if they are the only representatives of Afghanistan at the conference, excluding representatives from civil society, a senior diplomatic source told AFP.

Nurgram district in the eastern Nuristan province, the Kabul-based Hurriyat Radio English reported. Efforts to recover others are underway, it added Provincial officials ex-

pressed fears that the num-

ber of casualties may in

UN likely to

vote on Gaza

Landslide

buries houses

Nuristan, many

killed

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: At least five

bodies were retrieved from

mud after a landslide bur-

ied houses in eastern Af-

ghanistan, local officials

said on Monday. The land-

slide hit at least 20 houses

in the Tatin village of the

ceasefire WASHINGTON (Online): The United Nations Secu-

rity Council (UNSC) will meet on Tuesday to demand an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The meeting has been

called on a resolution drafted by Algeria.

The UN Security

Council resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the United States, Britain, France, China or Russia to pass the resolution. Thousands of people have taken to the streets in Europe to protest against the war in Gaza. In Spain, thousands marched through the streets of Madrid waving pro-Palestinian flags and banners, to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.



Police secure the area around the building of a shipping company following a shooting and while a police operation is underway in the suburb of Glyfada, in

Australian authorities say more Sydney schools tainted with asbestos

SYDNEY (Internews): An Protection Authority (EPA) asbestos contamination in Sydney widened on Sunday, with authorities saying the toxic material had been detected in more schools, as a weeks-long effort continued to remove it from mulch used in pub-

The contamination was discovered in January when asbestos was found in a playground in the New South Wales capital, and a subsequent probe found it in recycled mulch near the park, built above an underground road interchange.

In an update on the contamination on Sunday, the state's Environmental tainted.

said 34 city sites had now returned positive for bonded asbestos.

New sites where asbestos had been confirmed were two schools in the city's west, the EPA said, lifting the number of schools confirmed as tainted to four. "There is ongoing testing at a further four schools," EPA head Tony Chappel said, adding that testing was also underway at a hospital and in part of the city's vast Royal National Park. The agency on Saturday said a public school, park, and two part-

17th anniversary of Samjhauta **Express tragedy: victims** still await justice

built housing estates were

Samjhauta Express tragedy marks its 17th anniversary today, yet justice remains impossible for the victims.

In February 2007, Indian extremists carried out a devastating act of terrorism, claiming the lives of 68 innocent individuals, including both Pakistanis and

The incident occurred when the Samjhauta Express, traveling between Delhi and Lahore, was engulfed in flames near Panipat

Among the casualties

(INP): The were 43 Pakistanis, 10 Indian citizens, and 15 others whose identities remained unknown. Furthermore, 10 Pakistanis and 2 Indians sustained injuries in the terrorist attack. The arrest of Kamal Chauhan, linked to the RSS, shed light on the intricate web of conspiracies behind the tragedy. During the investigation, RSS leaders Swami Aseemanand and his cohorts were implicated in planning the Samihauta Express incident, as revealed before the Judicial Magis-

David Cameron to visit Falkland Islands in UK foreign minister's first South Atlantic tour

LONDON (Internews) British Foreign Minister David Cameron will visit the Falkland Islands as part of his first South Atlantic and South American tour since assuming his current role, the foreign office said on Sunday. Argentina and Britain have a longstanding foreign policy conflict over the sovereignty of the British-run islands, where they fought a brief war in 1982.

"The Falkland Islands are a valued part of the British family, and we are clear that as long as they want to remain part of the family, the issue of sovereignty will not be up for discussion.

Indian police officer killed in **Chhattisgarh**

RAIPUR (INP): An Indian police officer of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was killed in disturbed Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled state, Chhattisgarh, in

The rebels attacked Inspector Tijau Ram Bhuarya while he was on duty at the weekly market of Darbha in Bijapur district of the state on Sunday

Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav confirmed the incident

ICJ to hold hearings on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories

tional Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague will open a week of hearings on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories today.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki will speak first in the legal proceedings.

Meanwhile, at least 127 Palestinians have been martyred in Israeli strikes on Ğaza in the past 24 hours. The week-long proceedings, which begin at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on Monday, come as Israel continues its devastating war on Gaza.

The assault has killed more than 29,000 Palestinians since October 7.

from the genocide complaint

South Africa filed at the ICJ

HAGUE (Online): Interna- against Israel for its alleged violations in the ongoing

It focuses instead on Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since 1967.

The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state.

Palestinian representatives, who speak first on Monday, will argue that the Israeli occupation is illegal because it has violated three key tenets of international law, the Palestinian legal team told reporters on Wednesday.

They say Israel has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest by annexing large swathes of occupied land, violated Palestinians' right to self-deter-The case is separate mination and imposed a system of racial discrimina-

Don't let Israel attack Rafah, Irish foreign minister warns EU

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: The European Union "must do everything possible" to pressure the Israeli government into not attacking Rafah, Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin said on Monday in Brussels.

Martin said the 'level of inhumanity that's now happening within Gaza" has shocked the world, referencing Israel's ground and air offensive to defeat Hamas in response to the October 7 terrorist attack. The Israeli govern-

ment has been preparing to launch a full-scale ground offensive into Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza near the border with Egypt, despite international fears it will lead to massive civilian casualties.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel said he has warned Israel that the country is in dan-ger of losing "the last sup-

port they have in the

world" should they attack. Martin called on Hamas to release the Israeli hostages taken in the October 7 attack and to surrender their weapons and for a humanitarian

The Irish foreign minister also called for sanctions on Israeli settlers in the West Bank. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the unanimity required among EU member states to impose the punitive measures was

still missing.
German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said tensions were growing in the West Bank and that the violent actions of Israeli settlers against Palestinians must be addressed by the Israeli government. Expressing her support for sanctions, Baerbock said the EU "must make it clear to extremist settlers" that breaking law will not go un-

South Korea PM asks doctors not to quit over planned medical student increase

SEOUL (Internews): South in healthcare, the damage Korea's prime minister pleaded on Sunday with doctors not to take people's lives hostage, a day before scores of trainee doctors are expected to quit to protest a plan to increase medical school admissions and the number of physicians.

Trainee doctors at the country's five biggest hospitals, all in Seoul, have said they would tender their resignation on Monday, raising concerns about the impact on medical service as the system relies heavily on them for emergency and acute care. The Korean Medical

Association, which represents doctors, and medical students have also opposed the government plan and pledged to take action, although they have not yet specified what they intend Prime Minister Han

leave their jobs or take actions that cause a vacuum diately, with a projected shortfall of 15,000 in 2035.

will fall on the public.

"This is something that takes the lives and health of the people hostage and must not happen,' Han said in a statement, referring to the planned mass resignation of trainee doc-

Doctors and medical students oppose the government plan, saying there are sufficient physicians and increasing the number of doctors would prompt unnecessary medical care and worsen the finances of the national health insurance plan. They also say the plan will not address the overburdening of large teaching hospitals and a lack of incentives for doctors to practice in essential healthcare services such as paediatrics, obstetrics and emergency medicine. However, the government says the country must start Duck-soo said if doctors training new doctors imme-

Gael Garcia Bernal explores mind vs body in Berlinale sci-fi 'Another End'

were possible to temporarily bring back the consciousness of a loved one who died, albeit in another person's body, to say goodbye one last time, would you do it?

That's the question posed by director Piero Messina's new science fiction film "Another End," which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival on Saturday night. Starring Gael Garcia Bernal, known for 'Amores Perros," and 'The Worst Person in the World" Renate Reinsve in her second film in competition, "Another End" unfolds in a grey-toned metropolis where lab-coated employees of Aeterna place dead souls into paid hosts for ostensibly therapeutic purposes.

Bernal, starring as Sal, decides to bring back the love of his life, Reinsve's Zoe, after being urged to do so by his sister Ebe, played by Oscar-nominated actor Berenice Bejo.

After initial hesitation over the concept, Sal once

BERLIN (Internews): If it again has joy in his life but that joy is limited under Aeterna's strict rules on how long a consciousness can inhabit a host.

"It is a very romantic film that talks about loss. But it's a fantastic movie. I am very proud of it," Bernal told ahead of the premiere on the red carpet.

At a press conference earlier Saturday, Bernal told journalists that filming "Another End" gave him a different perspective on life. "In Western culture, we've so detached the body from the life of the person that I started to wonder like, no, it's not so separate, and that really changed me in many ways." Olivia Williams, who plays neighbour Juliette, who has brought back her husband and daughter, told journalists she found the concept terrible, as it would ex-

tend one's pain. But: "That's the awful thing, if you have that choice, even if you know it's a stupid choice, just five more minutes with that person" can be hard to say no

to, Williams added.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 3rd edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Solangi noted that un-

der the National Plan for

Programme, some 707 te-

lemetry stations would be

established on different

small and big rivers across

the country. The project

concept or PC-I had been

made, and the Japan Inter-

national Cooperation

Agency (JICA) had assured

its assistance for develop-

The Punjab and Sindh

ing 45 stations, he added.

provinces, he said, contin-

ued to work rapidly on ex-

pansion and innovation of

Pakistan's policy endeavours on track to achieve disaster resilience against floods: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): country's response to inces is in different stages, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday told the Senate that the country's policy endeavours keeping in view its growing vulnerability due to climate catastrophes were on track to achieve disaster resilience against

Responding to a motion tabled by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Mohammad Humayun Mohmand to discuss the pressing issue of water resources, floods and water mismanagement in Pakistan, especially in the wake of the devastating floods in 2022 and in 2010, the minister provided a floods through policy inter- the minister said,

He said that after three years deliberations post Flood 2010 floods, the Ministry of Water Resources had finalized the National Flood Protection Plan-IV, which was approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on May 2, 2017.

However, all the four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, after the enactment of Model River Act 2016, were instructed to change and implement the law according to their requirements, he added.

all their barrages, whereas "The Punjab and the work had been completed in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa progress on Sukkur and provinces have imple-Guddu barrages in Sindh brief overview of the approval in the other provwas underway.

Chattha's allegations

Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) high-level investigation committee on Monday initiated its inquiry into the allegations raised against the former commissioner Rawalpindi, Liaquat Ali

Sources privy to the matter said that the committee has taken the initiative by reaching out to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to acquire the transcript of Liaquat Ali Chattha's recent press con-

On the other hand, six district returning officers (ROs) from Rawalpindi Division have already furnished their written statements, categorically refuting the allegations leveled by the former commis-

Furthermore, the committee plans to extend its scrutiny to encompass statements from ROs across 13 constituencies of the National Assembly and 26 constituencies of the quences.

PESHAWAR (APP): Care-

taker Federal Minister for

Health, Dr Nadeem Jan on

Monday said that a mega

ISLAMABAD (INP): The provincial assembly within the Rawalpindi Division.

Chattha's resignation, coupled with his candid admission of guilt, has sparked a ripple effect across the political landscape. He recounted the pressures he faced, including social media scrutiny and the expectations of overseas Pakistanis, which led him to contemplate suicide.

However, he chose to vowing to face the conse-

ECP committee kicks off probe into Liaquat

The inquiry stems from a series of startling events, notably former commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha's resignation on Saturday, citing election ir-

Addressing the media at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Chattha expressed remorse over his actions, acknowledging wrongdoing and advocating for accountability. "I have done injustice in Rawalpindi Division; I should be punished for it, along with others involved," he stated solemnly.

confront the truth publicly, resigning from his post and

Abdullah inaugurates **Dittu Children Ward** Civil Hospital Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Secre- Kameel Ahmed Qambrani, tary Health Balochistan IT Incharge Sikandar Zaib Abdullah Khan on Monday inaugurated Dittu Children's Ward Civil Hospital Quetta with the support of MNCH program after the completion of it's renovation works.

On this occasion, Medical Superintendent (MS) Civil Hospital Quetta Dr Ishaq Panizi, Head of Department of Paediatrics Associate Professor Dr Saima, Provincial Coordinator MNCH Dr Gul Sabin Azam Ghorizi

DMS Dr Garmukh Das, DMS Dr Zubair Jan Bugti, Post Graduate Doctors, Medical Officers, Fi-treatment of children's disnance Officer MNCH eases.

and other assistants were also present.

Secretary Health Abdullah Khan, also inspected the renovated wards, emergency room ICU and nursery of various departments of Dittu Children's Ward.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that health problems of the public would be addressed by providing better medical facilities at Dittu Children's Ward. He said the Children's ward would be made ideal medical center of the province, particularly for the

Four persons killed, nine injured due to rains

PESHAWAR (APP) Four persons were killed and nine were reported injured due to rains, said the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Monday.

Two houses were destroyed completely while two were partially damaged.

In a statement, Director General PDMA Muhammad Qaiser Khan said that all kinds of emergency services are being provided and all the district administrations were formed about the spell of rain.



QUETTA: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident as security has been high alert due to protest of four-party alliance against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside DC Office in Quetta.

Tributes paid to Iqra Ilmi Markaz Chaman in education sector

Independent Report CHAMAN : Rich tributes have been paid to the famous educational institution of Chaman Iqra Ilmi Markaz on the meritorious services in education sector.

In a message on eve of launch of new year's admission campaign, the prominent educationist and Patron-in-Chief of the Iqra Ilmi Markaz Chaman, Chaudhary Muhammad Tahir paid rich tributes to the institution on educational services in Chaman. He said that all neces-

sary steps have been taken we are proud of it.

to educate the children in the area. The children are studying in best environ-

ment, he said He also highly praised the Director of Ilmi Markaz Chaman and senior journal-Sved Muhammad Khondoi for

the great initiative. Similarly, the legal adviser and prominent lawyer Syed Musawar Shah Agha and central president of Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges, Sabirur Rehman Bangash also praised Iqra Ilmi Markaz and said that

SC rejects bail plea

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed bail plea of an accused arrested in drug

of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood took up the case for hearing Monday.

remarked when the accused is arrested then detailed search is conducted. Recovery of pistol and heroin are two separate matters. Police walas are becoming wise. The drugs were recovered from the body of accused and not from vehicle. The counsel for petimade and his client was nominated therein. In first case pistol was recovered and in second case drugs were got recovered after one hour. The accused is in jail

Justice Sardar Tariq

after taking heroin. The counsel for the petitioner said I withdraw

the petition as withdrawn. Ahmad resorted to SC

in high court

LHC dismisses petition seeking removal PTI from list of political parties

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed the petition seek-ing removal of PTI from the list of political parties.

The petition seeking removal of PTI from list of political parties came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Baqar Ali Najafi Monday. The petitioner Afaq

Ahmad advocate while making chairman Election Commission (EC) and secretary EC respondents took the plea EC has declared PTI intra party election illegal. Election symbol has been withdrawn from PTI;.. No office bearer of the party is there and no party in the name of PTI exists in EC. Therefore, court should order to remove PTI from list of political parties besides declaring PTI elected senators as independent sena-

The court dismissed the petition declaring it non maintainable.

sponsibilities rest on the prepared for the control of shoulders of officials of the sugar disease besides projects were being launched for the eradication of AIDs HIV. He was addressing a function after inaugurating

Rs 35.6 bln program being

launched to eradicate fatal

diseases: Health Minister

a modern labour room at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Kotkay in Charsadda district. The minister said that providing the best healthcare facilities to pa-

tients at their doorsteps was the top priority of the government. He said that basic health units are being

strengthened in terms of medical staff, equipment and medicines.

The minister said the

the flood-affected BHU has been fulfilled and termed the cooperation of the World Health Organization for rehabilitation of the BHU as highly praiseworthy.

project worth Rs35.6 billion was being launched to Nadeem Jan said that eradicate fatal diseases including sugar, HIV AIDs people of the area would now get quality treatment and medicine facilities at and hepatitis in the coun-He said that a Rs six their doorsteps. billion program has been The minister said re-

> health department to ensure the best use of the BHU for the betterment of the He said that timely availability of the staff and

provision of better healthcare facilities was the prime responsibility of the health department. 'If the performance of BHUs is good then there will be minimum load on big

hospitals and precious lives would be saved" he said. He said that a mega

project worth Rs35.6 billion was being launched in Pakistan to eradicate fatal diseases including sugar, HIV AIDs and hepatitis promise of rehabilitation of besides help its patients.

Cheng Xizhong says: Pakistan's fair, smooth general elections fully reflect will of people

BEIJING Pakistan's recent general elections for the national and provincial assemblies were held in a fair, smooth, secure and successful and fully reflected the will of the people, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on

Monday This general election in Pakistan may be summarized in four words: fair, smooth, secure and successful. In particular, Pakistan security forces have successfully thwarted attempts by the regional power to disrupt this general election," he said in a statement

eral election held in Pakistan fully reflected the will of the people.

Now, some external forces accused the Pakistani general election of misappropriation and unfairness, which was completely groundless, he said, adding,

this was interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and did not comply with the principle of the United Nations Charter. Prof Cheng remarked

that the Pakistani people had great hopes for postelection political stability, economic development and improvement in people's livelihoods He said main political

narties in Pakistan were all very mature and China fully believed that they would put the interests of the people above everything else, adding all political parties, whether in power or opposition, they would unite and work together for a better Pakistan.

He opined that the street movement of any political party was detrimental to the fundamental interests of the Pakistani people.

President for financial inclusion of weaker segments of society through digital transformation cation system. Educating such a large

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for enhancing the inclusion of deprived sections of society, especially women and persons with disabilities, in the mainstream economy through digital transformaexport raw labour without tion of the financial sector for socio-economic devel-

The president was addressing the third edition of Hosting Business Net 2024, a platform to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation, and recognize the contributions of companies working in the sector.

The ceremony was attended by businessmen and diplomatic community members, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a news release. The president said

that the Pakistani people were a vibrant nation, and the country, blessed with abundant natural resources, needed to invest in their intellectual development and capacity build-He also highlighted

that Pakistan could not progress without the inclusion of 26.2 million out-ofschool children in the edu-

portion of the population would require thousands of new schools and additional resources, he observed, adding, "If left unaddressed, Pakistan would

any value-addition. The president cited the example of China which had lifted millions of its people out of poverty by investing in their education and health.

He said that financial inclusion was not possible without political inclusion of the people. He opined that tech-

nology should be utilized for internet voting (i-voting) and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The president also hailed millions of young

voters who had expressed their confidence in the He highlighted the need for setting priorities, making good decisions and

efficiently utilizing human

resources for progress of

the country President Alvi said that the low tax-to-GDP ratio was a perennial problem in Pakistan, adding that

overcoming that issue

would help reduce its reli-

ance on foreign loans He said that banks were offering business loans for women on easy terms and conditions, however. there was a lack of awareness about micro-credit fa-

cilities for women He urged the banks to enhance their outreach by introducing cashless banking in far-flung areas through customized prod-

ucts and services. CEO of Transforming Hub Iftikhar Hussain highlighted that BizNet was an ecosystem that had brought together the best minds by promoting increased collaboration, commitment and innovation.

He underlined the pivotal role played by the banking sector in adopting the latest financial solutions paving the way for userfriendly banking transac-

Speaking on the occasion, CEO of Airlinks Communication Muzaffar Piracha apprised the audience that digitization of the economy was the first step towards financial inclusion which was not possible without advancements in the mobile indus-



DUBAI: Ambassador, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE inaugurates the Pakistan Pavilion during Gulf Food Exhibition at World

Ambassador Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at World Trade Center Dubai

Ambassador of Pakistan to (TDAP). Faisal Niaz Tirmizi Monday inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the World Trade Center Dubai.

On this occasion, he visited various stalls and had detailed discussions with the Pakistani exhibi-

According to the Press Counselor of Pakistan in Dubai, the Pakistani spoke to media after inau-

ambassador to the UAE also gurating and visiting the pavilion set up by the Trade Development Au-

Govt's formation: PPP deteriorating PML-N's credibility: Rana

LAHORE (INP) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah has alleged that regarding formation of the government, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was deteriorating the credibility of his party while improv ing its owns reputation.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he slammed the statement Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about government formation.

Rana Sanaullah said that the Pakistan Peoples Party was joining the coalition government, but there was a strong opinion among them that the government should not be taken.

He said that even if the PPP comes under any compulsion in formation of gov ernment, it will not be sincere and will not give us the required support.

The PML-N leader

said that we were ready to give any sacrifice for national interest, but under such circumstances our sac rifice will be lost. Rana Sanaullah further

said that the party leadership was taking notice of Bilawal's statements

ISLAMABAD (APP): thority of Pakistan production in the world

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi said that almost a hundred Pakistani companies associated with the food industry have gathered here, which is a wel-

come sign. He said that Pakistan's exports especially rice and meat have increased significantly compared to last

Expressing pleasure over his interaction with the organizers and representa-

tives of TDAP, he said that

Pakistan is the third largest

large numbers. The ambassador said Pakistan's economic devel-

opment was directly linked to the country's exports. He said Pakistani businessmen and growers are backbone of the country's economy and their focus should be on increasing ex-

adding that Pakistan, for

the first time has entered

the market of Abu Dhabi

very happy to see that Pa-

kistani dairy producers are

participating in Gulfood in

He said that he was

and Saudi Arabia.



QUETTA: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry addressing a Press conference.

Senate passes "The Pharmacy Amendment Bill, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): now there are almost 100 The Senate convened on Monday and passed The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023, clause-by-clause to enhance and standardize pharmacy education across the country, aiming to cultivate professionally skilled human resources.

Senator Mushaq Ahmed introduced the bill, which aimed to grant recognition to qualified pharmacists and foster opportunities for postgraduate specialized diploma programs to enhance their

Additionally, it seeks to curb and prohibit unchecked and substandard pharmacy education programs through robust recognition procedures and prohibitions. The prevailing phar-

macy Act was promulgated in 1967 in a time when the country was deficient of relevant qualified professional human resources.

Couples of universities were awarding degree in Pharmacy i-e, university of the Punjab and university of Karachi, whereas

institutes conducing Pharmacy Degree Courses and more than 200 institutes imparting education in Pharmacy Technician pro-

There is dire need of drastic amendments to live ecades old pharmacy act.

The existing Pharmacy Act provides for registration of Pharmacists persons other than those not holding a relevant qualification in Pharmacy.

While internationally health professions are being segregated in different categories of healthcare service delivery levels and updated to meet the challenges of modern medical and healthcare services deliveries thereof with appropriate professional recogni-

To meet the requirements of legally qualified and professionally competent human resources in the health care sector both inland and to the international market, this professional segregation through amendments in the existing act is

of accused in drug case as withdrawn

case as withdrawn. A two members bench

Justice Tariq Masood

since three and half months.

Masood inquired is not it injustice that children take heroin. These children are found lying along side road

The court dismissed The accused Imtiaz against rejection of bail plea

As an iron brother. China hoped to see a secure, stable, developing and prosperous Pakistan, he added.



OUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan addressing participants of IMNCI training.