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Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan maintains: **Interim Govt ensured holding** of peaceful elections, defended rights of province at every forum

Independent Report

Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government not only ensured holding of general elections in extraordinary circumstances of the province but also defended its rights at every forum.

He said provision of healthcare, education and other basic facilities to the people and above all establishment of law and order in the province was no less than a challenge.
The caretaker Chief

Minister also said that caretaker set up. the interim govern-

ment played key role completed certain col-QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Chief Minister Chief Chief Minister Chief Minister ecuting pending devel-

opment projects. Mr. Domki was addressing the gathering of dinner reception hosted for the administrative secretaries and other high ups here on

The caretaker Chief Minister praised the co-operation of senior and operation of senior and hard working officers in and set our direction resolving the public issues besides conducting the general elections in the province in peaceful manner.

He referred different projects completed in short span of time of He said that we

The senior bureaucrat Dostain Jamaldini on the occasion appreciated the performance of interim provincial government under leadership of the Chief Min-ister Mir Ali Mardan

Domki.



which otherwise were

pending in the prov-

our best to provide

maximum relief to the

people every possibly

by improving service

we have to think bet-

He stressed that

delivery system.

He said that we did

AHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday that forging unity was essential to steer ountry out of existing chal-

In a statement issued here, he said that collective efforts were direly needed for country's development

Shehbaz Sharif said that ensuring economic stability in the country was his top riority.

He said that country

could not tolerate instability, adding that contineos steps would be taken to strengthen the to people.
"PML-N would take the country out of crisis

under the dynamic leadership of PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif", he maintained.

Murad Ali Shah nominated as Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chair-man Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday formally announced that Syed Murad Ali Shah will be the next Chief Minister Sindh while Syed Awais Shah and Naveed Anthony will be the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Sindh

Assembly. Addressing Sindh's Parliamentary party meeting here at Bilawal House, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said the provincial government will have to show better performance and those educational institutions (Schools) destroyed during 2022 floods should be re-

habilitated. As far as performance is concerned, Sindh Govt should have to compete with Federal and other provincial governments, Bilawal maintained.

He said Agha Siraj Durrani performed well as Speaker Sindh Assembly and now we have decided to get our young members to lead the provincial legislature.

Bilawal said oath-taking of Sindh Assembly members will be held tomorrow (Saturday) and the process for the formation of the new elected government will be started.

Habibur Rehman posted as Special Secretary S&GAD **Independent Report**

QUETTA: Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) Officer of Grade-19, Habibur Rehman, awaiting posting order, has been posted as the Special Secretary Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), Government of Balochistan.

This was announced in an official notification issued by the S&GAD here on Friday.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki photographed with Senior Officers, Secretaries of Provincial Government and Inspector General of Police after a dinner hosted in their honour

To ensure macroeconomic stability IMF hints at working

government of Pakistan Says during the tenure of the interim government, authorities

with newly elected

'maintained economic stability' ISLAMABAD (INP): A organisations had a charter day after the PTI said founder Imran Khan would write to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urging it to call for an independent audit of the Feb 8 general elections, the Fund stated that it is looking forward to engaging with the

all of Pakistan's citizens". On Thursday, PTI's Senator Ali Zafar had told reporters that a letter would be sent from Imran to the international lender. He said the IMF, the European

new government on policies

to ensure "macroeconomic

stability and prosperity for

that stated that good gover-nance was needed for working in the country or giving a loan. "The most important condition for good governance is democracy," he said, adding that the people's mandate was stolen "in the darkness of the night" during the Feb 8 polls. He said that if elections were not free and fair, any organisation would avoid giving a "loan" to such a country. "Because that loan will further burden the people," he said. He said the PTI wanted an audit of the election results and that condition would be



QUETTA: Director Audit Local Government Balochistan Syed Naseebullah presenting Audit Report to Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

15th Pakistan Pediatric Conference begins in Quetta: **Provision of basic healthcare** facilities at doorstep of people big challenge, says Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is a big challenge for the government to provide basic healthcare facilities to the people at their doorstep mainly due to scattered population in the province.

The Governor regretfully pointed out that our innocent children are seen

shops, hotels, garages and garbage dumps.

He said that the illiter-

ate people who are in the nalists were a mirror for the trap of poverty can't do society who inform the public about the facts. anything for education and treatment of their children. taker government had taken Mr. Kakar also noted with great concern that hunsteps to promote freedom dreds of people die of the of expression in the countreatable diseases such as try, adding

JCP recommends Justice Afghan's elevation to SC, Justice Shahzad as LHC CJ

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has recommended the elevation

the Supreme Court and Malik Shahzad Ahmad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Khan as chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa chaired the JCP Balochistan High Court meeting which was held in

tions were made with the appointment of Justice consensus of the JCP members.



OUETTA: Members of Pakistan Youth Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the in-

BAP, NP & ANP obtain one reserved seat each:

PML-N, PPP secure four each, JUI-F gets two reserved seats in Balochistan Assembly

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) secured four each reserved seats of women and minorities in Balochistan's provincial assembly.

Similarly, Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) obtained three reserved seats while Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), National Party and Awami National Party (ANP) got one each reserved seats for women in the provincial assembly.

According to the notification of the reserved seats in Balochistan Assembly issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan on Friday, the PML-N's Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Hadia Nawaz and Rubaba Khan Buledi were elected as members of the seats reserved for women in Balochistan Assembly, on the basis of priority list provided by the respective

Solangi says

Journalists pillar

of democracy,

freedom of

expression

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Information, Broad-

casting and Parliamentary

Affairs Murtaza Solangi

said on Friday that journal-

ists were the main pillar of

democracy and freedom of

expression in the country.

these remarks during his

visit to the Press Gallery

one meetings with the jour-

nalists in the press gallery.

He also held one-on-

The minister said jour-

Solangi said the care-

the caretaker govern-ment had fulfilled its re-

sponsibilities under the

constitution and law by

holding free, fair and trans-

parent elections in the

press gallery thanked Murtaza Solangi for visit-

Balochistan

Awami Party to

support PML-N

Balochistan Awami Party

(BAP) has announced its

political support to Paki-

stan Muslim League Nawaz

in the center and

BAP spokesperson Senator Kohda Babar Fri-

day informed media per-

sons that a delegation of

BAP had met PM-nomi-

nated Mian Shehbaz Sharif

Nawabzada Khalid Magsi

led the delegation that also

included Chairman Senate

Sadiq Sanjrani and others.

government and other is-

sues were discussed during

the meeting adding BAP

leadership had decided to

support PML-N at the

Center and in Balochistan.

He said formation of

Balochistan province.

ing the press gallery.

QUĒTTA

The journalists in the

of the Parliament House.

The minister made

AMĀBAD (APP)

Similarly, the PPP's Ms. Ghazala Gola, Mina Majeed and Shahnaz Umrani were elected as the members of provincial assembly on the reserved seats for women while JUI-F's Ms. Shahida Rauf and Ms. Safia were also elected as the members of provincial assembly on the reserved seats for women.

Ms. Farah Azeem Shah of BAP, Ms. Umme Kulsoom and ANP's Salma Bibi were also elected as the members of provincial assembly on the seats reserved for women in the provincial assembly.

While on the other hand, as far seats reserved for minorities, PML-N. PPP and JUI secured one seat each. The PML-N's Patrick constituencies. Sant Maseih, PPP's Sanjay

Kumar and JUI's Ravi for minorities in the provincial assembly. It may be mentioned of ECP.

had secured 10 general seats each in the Balochistan Assembly. However, their total strength reaches 13 and 12 after five more memberselect joined the two parties respectively. Three members-elect joined PPP while two joined PML-N increasing the tally of members to 13 each.

JUI-F's nine candidates were elected members of provincial assembly in the February 8 elections, BAP. NP and ANP secured four, three and two general seats in the elections respectively.

One each candidate of BNP-Awami, BNP-Mengal, Jama'at-e-Islami and Haq Do Tehreek had also won the general elections from their respective

Results of three seats of the provincial assemprovincial assembly on the seats reserved for women provincial assembly on the seats reserved for women cessful on the seats reserved 14 and PB-21 have been postponed / stayed, stated in the notification

Punjab MPAs take oath in inaugural session of assembly

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Assembly Speaker Muhammad Sibtain Khan administered oath to the newly-elected members of the Punjab Assembly (PA) during the 42nd session at the assembly chambers here on Friday.

The speaker chaired the session and felicitated the 315 members provincial assembly (MPAs) on taking oath of their. He expressed the hope that they will discharge their duties to the aspirations of the masses.

Earlier, the PA session started two hours behind its scheduled time of 10 am. Punjab Assembly Secretary Amer Habib, on the directions of the Chair, announced the Panel of Chairman comprising MPAs Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Syed Âli Haider Gilani, Saima Kanwal and Raheela Naeem. The Secretary also announced



the announced a schedule of the election to the office of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker PA.

According to the schedule, the nomination papers for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker may be submitted by 5 pm on Friday (today). The scrutiny of the nomination papers for the Speaker will be held at 5.10 pm while scrutiny of the Deputy Speaker's nomination papers will be at 5.20 pm. The election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will be held on February 24, 2024 (Saturday) through secret ballot in the assembly chambers.

Pakistan declares Israeli actions in Gaza against int'l laws, human rights

Law Minister calls Israeli occupation of West Bank, East Jerusalem illegal; Pakistan supports two-state solution; Terms Israel policies as apartheid at UN court; Israeli settlement policy making ending its prolonged occupation more difficult ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- Palestine. Arab countries,

kistan on Friday joined over 50 countries in advancing its argument in the historic proceedings being conducted by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to rule on the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel.

The case was triggered by a request from the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on December 30, 2022, when a majority of members voted to seek the court's opinion on the legal consequences of the continuing Israeli occupation of

Russia, and China voted in favour of the move, while Israel, the US, Germany, and 24 others voted against The ruling would take

several weeks and would not be binding, but many observers believe that if the ICJ declares the occupation illegal, that would certainly put pressure on Tel Aviv.

The proceedings kicked off on February 19 and would continue until February 26. As many as

Continued on page 2

formed about the Sikh reli-He said such additional steps of inter-religion har-mony would eventually gion and the history of Kartarpur Sahib. Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogezai meets Zubair Jamali: **Performance of LEAs lauded** for provision of peaceful environment during elections

NAROWAL: President Dr. Arif Alvi being briefed

Kartarpur Corridor symbol of

peace, Sikh Yatrees always

welcome in Pakistan: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): promote peace and stabil-

"Sikhism has always

taught peace and unity,

bringing people together"

President Alvi said adding

Pakistan's initiatives for the

convenience of Sikh pil-

grims, were commendable.

Executive Officer of the

Project Management Unit

briefed the president on the

measures taken to facilitate

Sikh pilgrims in Kartarpur

President Alvi was in-

On the occasion, Chief

about the Kartarpur Corridor.

President Dr Arif Alvi on

Friday said the Kartapur

Corridor was a symbol of

peace and Pakistan always

welcomed Sikh Yatrees to

visit their sacred places,

extending them all possible

Kartarpur Corridor in

Narowal, the president said

that Pakistan, through the

corridor, had conveyed a

message to the world, ex-

pressing its desire for

During his visit to

facilities.

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health,



performance of law enforcement agencies for providing peaceful environment to the voters during general elections in the province. Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai was speaking to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali during a meeting on Friday. The caretaker Minister for Health on the occasion congratulated the caretaker Minister for Home and his whole team on peaceful holding of the elections in Balochistan. Meanwhile, Mir Zubair Jamali apprised Dr. Jogezai

about different steps taken for public welfare. During the course of meeting, different administrative matters and situation of law and order were also

Kiran Haider, Akhtar Bibi, Izbal Zehri

and Aliya Kamran elected as MNAs on seats reserved for women

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) got two seats reserved for women in National Assembly from Balochistan. Similarly, Pa-kistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Ìslam (JUI-F) secured one seat each reserved for women in the National Assembly from the province, as per the notification is-

sued here by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday. According to the ECP's notification, PML-N's Ms. Kiran Haider and Akhtar Bibi were declared winner on the seats reserved for women in the National Assembly. Similarly, PPP's Izbal Zehri and JUI's Ms. Aliya Kamran were also elected as the members of National Assembly from Balochistan province.

malaria, hepatitis, polio and while working at different Continued on page 2

(BHC) Chief Justice Islamabad on Friday. Naeem Akhtar Afghan to Both the recommen Both the recommenda-

nocent people of Palestine, at Quetta press club.

Opposition parties unite in Sindh to protest against 'election fraud'

PTI, GDA, JI, JUI-F, MQM-H to protest outside Sindh Assembly today

KARACHI (Agencies): In a joint press conference held election results, citing successful sit-ins in Jamshoro and in Karachi on Friday, the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), along with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi (MQM-H) an-Hadded, "Our struggle is peaceful, not a stone has the hadded, "Our struggle is peaceful, not a stone has e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi (MQM-H) announced plans to stage a protest outside the Sindh Assembly on Saturday.

The announcement was made by key leaders including JDA Chief Coordinator Sadruddin Shah Rashidi, JUI-F Sindh chief Maulana Rashid Soomro, JI Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, and PTI Sindh President Haleem

During the press conference, Rashidi asserted, "Our protest is against the bogus election because notes were used instead of votes." He emphasised that the peaceful struggle would persist until the return of the public mandate, noting the coalition's determination to challenge what they perceive as electoral malpractice.
Dr Safdar Ali Abbasi highlighted their rejection of the

been hurled anywhere. We will protest against elections as per our legal and constitutional right. We are seeking new elections. Responding to questions, JI's Hafiz Naeem declared

solidarity with the GDA, confirming their decision not to take oath alongside PTI members. He criticised the "distribution" of seats between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P)

PTI's Haleem Adil Shaikh echoed these sentiments, accusing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of complicity in "mandate theft." He stressed incidents of rigging and asserted PTI's legitimate claim to 22 National Assembly seats in Sindh



KARACHI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami hold a banner during protest against Israel attack on Ghaza outside a mosque, in the Provincial Capital.

LAHORE: A delegation of MQM including Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Syed Muastafa Kamal and Farooq Sattar meeting with President PML-Q Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

Result of general election 2024 challenged in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The result of general election 2024 has been challenged in Supreme Court

Election Commission committee constituted in connection with allegations leveled by former commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha has also been challenged.

Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and member EC has also been challenged in apex

PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat has filed constitutional petition in SC praying that the appointment of CEC and member EC be declared null and void. All

the forms 47 of national and provincial assemblies be annulled. High level committee constituted by EC be also nullified.

Interior ministry be ordered to constitute judicial commission to probe into rigging charges in election.

Judicial commission

should consolidate the results from all the country including Rawalpindi. The formation of federal and provincial governments be stopped. The federal and provincial governments be restrained from issuing or-

It has been told from

the Registrar office that no application from Sher Afzal Marwat has been received.

National Badminton squad PESHAWAR (INP): Four Khyber Pakhtunkhwa players have managed to make their way into the national badminton team which would represent the country in the South Asian International Badminton Championship to be commencing on March 3, 2024 at Jinnah Sports Complex Islamabad.

Four KP players selected in

The players comprising Abdul Haseeb Khan and Mohammad Ayan will represent the country in the U15 category while Qari Mohammad Umar and Fahad Ahmed will represent the country in the U17 category. These players will show their skills in the South Asian Championship to be played in Islamabad from March 3.

Apart from Pakistan, teams from India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan will participate in the Championship.

Huo Junli, Chairman PTA discuss future of Telecom in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP) Zong 's Chief Executive Officer Huo Junli, Chief Technical Officer Lu Jianhui, Chief Regulatory Office Kamran Ali met with Chairman PTA Maj Gen ® Hafeez Ur Rehman.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss critical aspects shaping the future of the telecommunications industry in Pakistan, said a news release or

Key agenda items included addressing challenges encountered by the sector and devising relevant strategies to mitigate them, as well as outlining the framework for the upcoming spectrum auction.

The strategic session delved into topics such as network infrastructure development, enhancing 4G coverage, advancing leadership in data services, and exploring various IoT solu-

Furthermore, recommendations aimed at enhancing performance across all telecom sectors were presented and thoroughly deliberated upon Overall, the session was characterized by its strategic focus and productive outcomes.

CCoE approves work on Pakistan's section of IP gas pipeline project **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) on Friday approved work on the 80-kilometer segment of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project inside Pakistan.

The committee recommended, on a summary of the Petroleum Division "to start work on the 80 km segment of the pipeline inside Pakistan i.e. from Pakistan border up till Gwadar in the first phase," a press release said.

The project will be executed by Inter State Gas Systems (Pvt) Ltd. and will be funded through the Gas progress of Pakistan.

Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC).

All the concerned divisions gave a positive nod to move ahead with the project to ensure gas supplies to the people of Paki-stan, addressing the increasing energy needs of the country. "This will not only boost the energy security of Pakistan but would enhance the confidence of the local industry who would be ensured with the enhanced gas supplies," it said. The project would also catalyze the economic activity in the province of Baluchistan and will contribute to the economic

SC dismisses petition seeking enforcement of Islamic presidential system

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed petition seeking enforcement of Islamic presidential system in the

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa heard the petition Friday. The petitioner said

they want enforcement of Islamic presidential system

The CJP Qazi Faez Isanarked "we too want remarked Islamic order in the coun-Parliamentary system is in place in Pakistan. Read the constitution of Pakistan. The color of book of constitution too is green. Mention is made about Islamic order in the constitution of Pakistan. The constitution starts with the name of Almighty Allah. The holy Quran is mentioned in the constitution. As per article 227 no law can be enacted against Quran and Sunnah. Do you have any difference over these things. Do you want to become president in presidential system. Why do you want presidential system to delegate all powers to one person. What ou are reading is not co

stitution of Pakistan. The petitioner replied court should give him time to study constitution of Pakistan. The CJP remarked we dismiss this petition. Study the construction and later you can file new petition if you will. The court dismissed the petition.

Pakistan declares Israeli....

Continued from page 1

52 countries have been presenting their arguments before the 15-member ICJ. Israel declined to give oral arguments, while the US and UK were the only countries so far that came out in open support for the Jewish state.

Pakistan was represented by its Law Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam, who reiterated the country's stance. "Pakistan presented its oral statement before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague today in the context of the ongoing hearing on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, said a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

Delivering the oral statement on behalf of Pakistan, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice said that Israeli occupation continued to severely impede the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Palestinians

'Through its illegal settlement policy, Israel is trying to create irreversible facts on the ground; perpetuate its illegal occupation, and deny access to the Holy places in Jerusalem. Israeli policies and practices amounted to systematic racial discrimination and apartheid against the Palestinians. The ICJ would fail to discharge its judicial functions if it did not stop Israel from profiting "from its own continued grave wrongs," the statement

Aslam said that Paki-

stan has been led to "the conclusion that Israel's occupation is unlawful and unlawfulness must have consequences." Criticising the Israeli settler policy, he said that through this policy Tel Aviv creates irreversible facts on the ground which make it difficult to bring an end to its prolonged occu-

"Its policies and practices of occupation deny the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and amount to systematic racial discrimination and serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights," he said, urging the UN top court to take this seriously.

He said that Israel's ongoing actions are against international law and seek to acquire Palestinian territory while killing and dis-

Ashrafi stresses religious diversity as key to Pakistan's harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, on Friday emphasized the country's diversity of faiths in a significant development regarding religious harmony in Pakistan

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council reiterated that Pakistan, as enshrined in its Constitution and law, upholds the rights of individuals from all religious backgrounds.

In the aftermath of the recent verdict by the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding a religious matter, he emphasized the significance of the review petition filed by the Punjab government minority communities in the and religious harmony.

within the framework of the Constitution and law.

Additionally, the court has provided clarity on the issue of the finality of Prophethood, a fundamental aspect of faith for the majority population of Pakistan, he added. Ashrafi highlighted that the review petition represents a vital step in the legal process, aimed at addressing any concerns that may have arisen following the court's decision.

He stressed that the matter at hand is fundamentally constitutional, underlining the importance of upholding the rule of law and preventing any attempts to disrupt harmony or incite anarchy within the country.

"It is the responsibility of the state to safeguard the legal rights and properties of

in addressing apprehensions country," Ashrafi declared, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to protecting the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their religious af-

filiations. He further reiterated that no individual or group would be permitted to sow seeds of discord or disharmony, as the government remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining social cohesion and order. He urged all stakeholders to respect the legal process and work towards peaceful resolution and unity.

Ashrafi said the review petition, scheduled to be heard in the coming days, symbolizes the country's dedication to addressing apprehensions through established legal channels, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to justice, equality,



QUETTA: Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta 2024 entry test is being conducted under supervision of principle Lutfullah Khosa and college pro-

Newly elected Sindh MPAs to take oath today

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has convened Assembly session on February 24 (Saturday) at Sindh Assembly Building during which newly elected Members of the Provincial Assembly will take oath.

The outgoing Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Khan Durrani will preside the session and take oath from the elected MPAs.

After taking oath by the newly elected members of the provincial legislature, schedule for election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will be announced

Meanwhile, Pakistan People's Party has already nominated Sayed Murad Ali Shah for the slot of the Chief Minister Sindh.

First come, first served ICC T20 World Cup ticket sales kick off

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the excitement builds for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, cricket fans are scrambling to secure their seats as the remaining tickets go on sale. With just 100 tickets left at the outset of the mega event, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the commencement of ticket sales on February 22, operating on a first-come, first-served ba-

Earlier, on February 7, the ICC had initiated a ticket application process through an Open Ticket Ballot, ensuring equal opportunity for fans to snag their coveted seats.

Kauda Babar raises issue of water scarcity in Gwadar distt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Kauda Babar raised the issue of water scarcity in Gwadar district during a session in the Senate on Friday, urging the federal government to address the matter urgently.



The Directorate of Education (Schools) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232402378581 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

1 Furniture & Fixtures (Total Item(s) Count: 8)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 20,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 10,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and nonresponsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Experience required in Government Departrments only Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Com Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically lates by 07 March, 2024 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Directorate of Education (Schools) Balochistan Brewary Road Quetta Phone no: 0819202102 Email: programdirectoremis@gmail.com

Directorate of Education (Schools PRQ No.1491/23-2-2024

The Assistant Director Police invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232402378741 Note: In All ocurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

Class of Object Stationary (Total Item(s) Count:9)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,000,000 in Previous 5 Years Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and nonresponsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. A certificate on letter head shall be submitted indicating that bidder must agree with all terms & conditions of bidding documents. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Deposit at Call** of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk_Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 March, 2024 till 11:00 AMthrough supplier dashboard. Tender ppening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System Address: Central Police Office, Gulistan Road Quetta Cantt Phone no: 0819203479

PRQ No.1487/23-2-2024

Email: aiggen123@gmail.com

SSISTANT DIRECTOR



with Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (retd) Syed Irshad Hussain.

Provision of basic healthcare...

Continued from page 1

tuberculosis every year in the province in the present developed era. Then it is really diffi-

cult task for us to speak on the modern topic of neurol-The Governor expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ses-

sion of the 15th Pakistan

Pediatric Conference held

here at a local hotel on Friday.
The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai, President Pediatric Neurology, Professor Dr. Shahnaz Ibraheem, Chairman Organizing Commit-Professor Dr. Habibullah Babar, Professor Dr. Jamal Raza, Dr. Attaullah Bizenjo and Dr.

Tipu Sultan were present on the occasion. Besides them, the senior officials and large number of pediatricians from all over the country also at-

tended the conference. Speaking on the occasion. Governor expressed sorrow over that labour rooms are not functioning

If the medicines provided by the government are not reached to the patients, no meaningful change is witnessed in different sectors despite spending billions of rupees from the federal and provincial budgets and doctors and teachers don't perform their duties in the health and education sectors, then who is

responsible? The Governor emphasized that we have to speak truth to change these criti-

cal circumstances. He also stressed that we have to sit together and find a sustainable solution

to the issues. The Governor appreciated the organizers for hold-

ing conference on the sensitive but important theme. He said that the conference is an important initiative which is aimed at determining a healthy society.

He said that it is a fact country and nation is associated with mentally and physically strong people.

in most districts of the prov- from different walks of life especially neurologists would surely help prepare a comprehensive strategy a national level.

He also said that the conscious efforts like of the conference would help yield positive results in time to come especially in Balochistan which is a backward province having high est infant and maternal mortality rate.

He on the occasion expressed concern that unfortunately Balochistan is the only province from where thousands of people are forced to go to Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhaw for treatment

He said that we couldn't give an organized healthcare system to our people and couldn't build a standard hospital for last 75 years in Quetta even.

Later, the Governor distributed commemorative shields among organizers that the bright future of and participants of the conference. He also in spected the stalls set up by different pharmaceutical He believed that the companies on the sideline participation of experts of the conference.

placing its people

BAHAWALPUR: A driver powers his vehicle during 19th Cholistan Jeep rally.

clear example.

They said a long time

has passed but none of the

involved Indian troopers

have been punished till date

and many of the victimized

women have left the world

without justice. The Indian

troops in the occupied ter-

ritory have humiliated thou-

sands of Kashmiri women,

many Kashmiri women

have been locked up in jails

for years, thousands of

Kashmiri women have be-

come widows due to the

massacre of innocent

people but despite all this,

India could not lower their

spokesman of Islamic

Tanzeem-e-Azadi Jammu

and Kashmir in a statement

in Srinagar said that the In-

dian forces' open threats to

imprison and detain the

people of occupied Kash-

mir, including the Hurriyat

leadership cannot change the

reality of Kashmir dispute.

rious concern over the con-

tinued detention of the

party Chairman Abdul

Samad Inqilabi and reiter-

ated the pledge to never ac-

cept India's forced occupa-

tion of their motherland and

to resist its military aggres-

He also expressed se-

Meanwhile,

morale, they added.

'India using rape of women

as a weapon of war to

suppress Kashmiris' struggle'

ISLAMABAD (APP): All the right to self-determina-

Parties Hurriyat Confer- tion and the tragic incident

ence leaders in Indian ille- of Kanan-Pushpura is its

gally occupied Jammu and

Kashmir have expressed

deep regret that despite the

passage of over three de-

cades, victims of Kunan-

Poshpura mass rape have

not been provided justice.

Media Service, Indian

troops had gang-raped

around 100 women of all

ages from eight to eighty on

the night of February 23,

1991 during a siege and

search operation in Kunan-

Poshpora area of Kupwara

district. APHC leader

Nagash in a statement in

Srinagar said the Kunan-

Poshpora incident serves as

a vivid example of India's

unhesitant actions. He

added that from the outset,

India's policymakers and

implementers had em-

ployed every inhumane

measure as a tool of war,

aiming to convey to

Kashmiris that India could

disrespect their self-worth,

honour and values through

Hurriyat leaders Fayaz Hussain Jafari and

Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi

in their separate statements

in Srinagar said India is us-

ing the rape of women as a

weapon of war to suppress

any form of aggression.

Yousaf

Muhammad

According to Kashmir

Senators perturbed over PMDC's lopsided criteria for foreign medical graduates

The members of the Upper House of the Parliament on Friday expressed their resentment over the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)'s lopsided criteria set pass house job license examination meted out for medical graduates of foreign universities.

Taking the floor on the matter of public importance during the fourth meeting of the 355th Senate session, Senator Taj Haider of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) apprised the forum that none of the foreign universities' graduated MBBS students had passed the PMDC examination.

Senator Haider said it was a matter of public importance that the MBBS doctors graduated from foreign universities require a license from PMDC for house job for which the passing marks criterion set was 70 percent and no student managed to achieve it in the recent examination.

However, for students graduates from Pakistani universities and medical

colleges the passing marks were 50%, he said, adding, "The matter should be sent to the Senate Committee on Health.

While commenting on the issue, Senator Humayun Mohmand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) apprised the House that the matter was discussed earlier around 3-4 times in the committee.

The forum had directed the then newly restructured alongwith its Academic Council to look into the

"As chairman committee, as it is unjust to discriminate the MBBS graduates of foreign universities where many private medical colleges in Pakistan have lower standard than the foreign universities, and its graduates have been permitted 50% passing marks," he said.

Senator Mohmand termed the issue as a violation of Article 25 of the Constitution that demanded to ensure equal drugs prices.

ISLAMABAD: Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmed, along with DG NSER,

Naveed Akbar, during the launch of Annual Reports of National Socio-Eco-

nomic Registry, BISP Taleemi Wazaif (CCT Education), and BISP Nashonuma

(CCT Health & Nutrition) for the FY 2022-23 at BISP Headquarters.

IUCN, COMSTECH

forge alliance to promote

products, jointly observe vation efforts between Paki-

days of environmental sig-stan and OIC member states.

He recommended that the PMDC should have a unified standard in this re-

"During the farewell meeting of the Senate's Health Committee, the PMDC said their academic council has kept this issue on its next meeting agenda,' he added.

Senator Muhammad Shafiq Tareen of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) said the PMDC had turned a deaf ear to the recommendations of the Committee mittee, I directed to send and the House should give the matter to privilege com- ruling on this issue to resolve the matter.

Senator Prof. Dr Mehr Taj Roghani of PTI said the issue of young doctors was a serious problem as there was globally 50% passing marks criteria while the PMDC had set a 70% benchmark that was not achieved by a single foreign graduate of the country which was regrettable.

Registry, BISP Taleemi She also raised the is-Wazaif, and BISP sue of massive increase in



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi, cutting ribbon to inaugurate the ceremony of Islamabad Model School (I-V) E-7 sector in Federal Capital.

BISP launches annual reports for FY 2022-23 on key initiatives

Independent Report Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has launched its Annual Reports for the fiscal year 2022-23, highlighting the progress and achievements in key initiatives such as the National Socio-Economic

Nashonuma. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed expressed his gratitude to the officials for their continued support

emphasized reliability of BISP's data-BISP's commitment to transparency and its primary focus on providing additional support to the most deserving families across the country, said a news release.

The Secretary BISP informed the development partners that the financial support to 9.3 Million households has been increased to Rs.10500 quar-

Highlighting the significance of transparency, Amer Ali Ahmed underscored the authenticity and PML-N accuses PTI rivals

base, attributing it to the program's success. He also announced the expansion of payment mechanism through collaboration from two to six banks, aimed at ensuring efficient utilization of resources, with an estimated saving of Rs. 2 bil lion to be redirected towards core initiatives. Moreover, Amer Ali Ahmed outlined BISP's plans, particularly the expansion of Mobile Registration Vehicles, with 25 vans already deployed in remote areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi have filed appeal in District and Sessions court Islamabad against the decision in Non-Sharia nikah case. Bushra Bibi has filed appeal plea in District and Sessions Court Islamabad through her lawyers Usman Gill. Khalid Yousuf and Suleman Safdar. Federation and Khawar Manika have been made respondents in appeal plea. The petition said the decision announced by civil judge Qudrat Ullah

Non Sharia Nikah PTI founder, **Bushra file** appeal plea against court decision



ISLAMABAD: A view of smoke rising in garbage dump on green belt along Islamabad Expressway, as needs to attention for concern authority, in the

Political stability key to address economic challenges: Ahmad Khan

kistan Muslim League-N institutions, economy, and (PML-N) Leader Malik judiciary. Muhammad Ahmad Khan tressed the importance of dressing economic challenges in Pakistan. Talking to a private news channel, he acknowledged the significant challenges the country faces and assured that his party is prepared to

handle them responsibly. Khan was of the view that certain political forces were deliberately promotmasses.He strongly critithem as a conspiracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- against the nation's politics,

The PML-N leader emphasized the significance political stability in ad- of constructive dialogue engaging with political parties for the better future of the country, saying that meaningful and productive discussions are need of the hour to find solutions rather than engaging in unfruitful

discussions Khan's highlighted his commitment to political stability, responsible goving polarization among the ernance, and the need for constructive dialogue to cized such tactics, labeling address country's chal-

Provision of land by CDA for IIU Case: SC directs CDA, Intl company to resolve the matter jointly within month

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed CDA and International Company EN Point to jointly resolve the matter again regarding provision of land by CDA for International IT University (IIU) in Islamabad within

a month. The court remarked an agreement of lease against Rs 483.960 million was reached between international company and CDA in connection with 41.2 acres land on Kurri Road Islamabad. The respective company made payment of Rs 170 million

will not be used for some purpose other than university. This order has been issued by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa while presiding over a three members bench of SC on Friday.

It has been further said in the order CDA board should hold its meeting and decide the matter in consultation with the applicant. In the event of execution of agreement again, CDA will give possession to company subject to payment of additional amount.

Justice Musarrat Hilali inquired this is the and the remaining was to same land where IT univerbe paid by it. The said land sity was being constructed.

IESSI hosts free medical camp for ICTI's brick

the occasion of the International Day of Social Justice, the Islamabad Employees (IESSI) with the collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Pakistan and the Labour Department ICT organized a free medical camp for the brick kiln community here on Friday. According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory Adminis-

tration, Dr Abdullah held under the supervision of Commissioner IESSI, which was participated by various dignitaries and

medical personnel.

appointed MD, PBM

ISLAMABAD (APP) Syed Tariq Mehmood ul Hassan has been appointed as the Managing Director of Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM) for

Tarig

two-vear term. According to a notification signed by Cap (Retd) Malik Shahbaz Waheed, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Poverty

Alleviation and Social Safety, Tariq Mehmood ul Hassan will serve the PBM on an honorary basis with

immediate effect.

70 newly elected MNAs completed registration process at NA

ÎSLAMABAD (APP): Af ter successfully making their way to the Lower House of the Parliament, so far 70 newly elected members of the National Assembly (MNAs) have com pleted their registration process at the Secretariat.

The process of regis tration of the newly elected MNAs was continued in the facilitation center established in the National Assembly Secretariat, the Spokesperson of the National Âssembly said in a news release.

He said the Facilitaion Center had been estab lished in Committee Room No. 2 of the National As-

kiln community ISLAMABAD (APP): On ILO Geir Thomas Tonstol.

Social Security Institution Tabasum, the camp was

The event was graced by the Country Director

The Director General Chief Commissioner Office and the Director of Labour & Industries also partici-

pated in the camp.
Screenings for Hepatitis B and C, Diabetes, Cholesterol, and HbA1c levels, among other tests were conducted in the camp.

Additionally, attendees benefited from eye and breast cancer screenings and received valuable awareness on diabetes, hypertension, child nutrition develop-

ment, and the use of sugar and gluten-free products. Commissioner (IESSI) Social Security, Rabia Aurangzeb, expressed satisfaction with the event's outcome



menting resolutions set forth by the OIC. Recogcally for the Least Develnizing the urgency of conoped Countries among the OIC member states, for servation efforts and the significant focus within OIC building their capacity in the climate change and enmember states on capacity vironmental aspects. Both building and climate change the organizations will colsolutions, he underscored laborate alongside academia the pivotal role this new partnership would play in to advance the green agenda. particularly within univeraddressing this pressing challenge. Country Representa-tive, IUCN Pakistan, sities across OIC member states. They will continue to work together to up-Mahmood Akhtar Cheema viewed this as an auspicious scale climate-resilient initiatives and share knowledge opportunity to align conser-

AIOU launches spring plantation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has launched spring plantation campaign

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood inaugurated the campaign by planting apricots in the lawn adjacent to

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that planting was the most important need and Allama Iqbal Open University was trying to

maintained this tradition for which they deserve congratulations. Deans, principal officers and faculty members have planted Japanese fruit, pear, peach, plum, apricot, sweet and citrus trees. Director Followup and Coordination, Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Shah, while briefing the Vice Chancellor on the planting campaign, said that as a result of the hard work of gardeners, AIOU secured first position in all three categories of flower exhibition in Rose and Jasmine Garden organized by the Islamabad.

kistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) MNAelect, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, on Friday said that the results of three Islamabad constituencies were intentionally made controversial by rival Paki-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- MNAs-elect

of deliberate controversy in

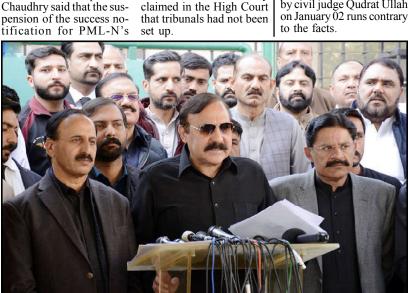
Islamabad election results

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates. Talking to media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he said the three victorious MNAs-elect from PML-N possess Form 45 and are prepared to furnish these forms at any appropriate forum. Dr Tariq Fazal

Islamabad resulted from the continuous false actions of PTI's unsuccessful candidates in Islamabad. According to the law,

he said election complaints are exclusively handled by the Election Tribunal, not the High Court. Neither the High Court nor the Election Commission serve as trial courts for election-related issues, he added.

He said once tribunals are established, all election complaints are directed to them; other courts do not proceed with such cases. He said PTI leaders falsely claimed in the High Court



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel Khan, Raja Khurram Nawaz talking to the media outside the Election Commission after the notification of success.

Int'l Conference on 'Role of Media in Enhancing the Global Connectivity through BRI' held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a one-day international conference on "Role of Media in Enhancing Global Connectivity through the Belt and Road Initiative" held here explored the impact of media on increasing global awareness about the current challenges and paving the way for more interconnected and mutually beneficial relationships for future generations.

The conference was jointly organized by China Media Group (Islamabad Studio), Department of Arts and Media, Foundation University, Islamabad (FUI), and the Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad, on Thursday.

The conference was aimed at learning about the core values of Chinese journalism, exploring their impact on reporting standards and public discourse, and

exploring the proactive role Pakistan. of Chinese media in promoting Chinese culture to increase global awareness and understanding of the complex nuances of Chinese cultures.

tively emphasizes how the BRI promotes trade, attracts investment, and expands the markets of participating countries.

Media Group (Islamabad Studio), Islamabad Office, Ms. Jianing Du, presented a speech on "China-Pakistan Media Cooperation to Support the Development of the CPEC: Taking the CMG's Communication Practice in Pakistan.'

work of the China Media Group when it was created, and its work conducts regular programs and video production. She discussed how to promote and strengthen media cooperation between China and

Chinese media ac-

Bureau Chief, China

She introduced the tary of Information, Mr.

Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (IČSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China, Dr. Wanchu Zhong gave a speech on Initiatives Taken to Achieve Global Community Building within the Greater Eurasian

She highlighted the cross-continental cooperation framework and the infrastructural developmental project and recommended regional cooperation in resolving global challenges such as climate

Former Federal Secre-Ashfaq Gondal, presented a speech on analyzing the geopolitical impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on the participating countries and the broader international community He highlighted China's

role in pursuing good neighborhood policy and peaceful development with neighbors and the entire

He discussed the overall progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and how China-Pakistan is making positive contributions to peace, progress, and devel-

Managing Director, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Asim Khichi, presented a speech on 'Pakistan's Media Role in Regional Connectivity through CPEC.

He highlighted the media's great role in facilitating dialogue and understanding between China and Pakistan, as well as the diplomatic efforts that the member states should make for the whole BRI.

Thus, by enabling the quick exchange of information, the media establishes a hospitable environment in

which neighboring countries combine their efforts to resolve challenges.

'The role of Pakistani media in the current CPEC is as important as it once

As we create the next phase of this transformational plan, the media should take strong leadership to inform, engage, and empower the population," he emphasized.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Rector/Pro-Rector Foundation University, Islamabad, Brig. ® Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, highlighted the role of Chinese media in promoting positivity, maturity, and constructive

reality.

He highlighted the esmedia connectivity center to conduct various joint projects, including conferences, training, and exchange learning programs, to achieve shared aspirations

Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presiding over a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee at Parliament House,

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Saturday February 24, 2024

What next for PTI?

The incoming government has been carved up. With the major offices apportioned between the PML-N and PPP, the political hyenas will also be thrown a few bones.

One of them wants a few ministries; the other whatever morsel the new government can still spare. The incoming minority government ing myself and vari- recourse for ar- that involving an in- repercussions of al- nounce PTI's acwill need as many lawmakers as it can afford by its side. Within days, this new political alliance will take cially coming from a allegiance, further the audit process, and led to legal further condemn sue of electoral in-

On the other hand, the op- legal cadre, seemed deficit. position, led by the PTI, has yet to find its feet. Since far exceeding expectations in IMF focuses on in- when the Supreme sure fairer electoral national bodies like nificant loss of the unprecedented step the Feb 8 elections, it has ternational monetary Court confirmed the practices but also the IMF in domestic political capital the could pave the way not seemed too sure about what to do with its numbers. Though its government in sistance, economic its election symbol. international advo- proach that avoids elections, especially KP is secure, it had also stability, and growth made claims on both through policy re- deepened with a integrity in Pakistan. ment and establish- had Islamabad and Punjab. It has yet to show how it ever volve itself in a Khan's marriage to please even some ership. planned on forming the governments there after the matters or judicial sion unprecedented favor internal reso- gue that soliciting treatment of its a proactive ap-ECP's results put it well grievances, which in the context of Is- lution of issues, foreign intervention members reverse proach to safeshort of a simple majority in are sovereign issues. lamic jurisprudence. fearing it could fragin political and electheir stance. The appeal to the Successive conviction ment the party's toral issues could be Media a both assemblies.

The PTI could go on making a 'moral' claim on the two assemblies, but that is not how executive power is seing our standing by cured. In the interim, its only option was to secure the scope of international only option w enough votes for its candidates from other parties. It PTI's leadership to legal challenges push for reform on the international ment to upholding democratic gover-

chose not to. Further, though it merged tion in electoral matwith the Sunni Ittehad ters might reflect a ment with the ence on sovereign sive measure or a ceived as impulsive, transparency in their Council, that hardly improved its prospects. It is This disillusionment election phase, that while such ac-domestic political risk good for the party that, bar- could stem from where PTI faced tions might not di- conflicts. ring a handful, it managed various grievances: considerable ob- rectly harm the esto keep most of its elected lawmakers, and the merger the will prevent any further defections; however, it seems unlikely it will get a share of reserved seats despite this

Therefore, barring a very significant revision in the ECP's announced results, the party seems destined to sit on the opposition benches. Is it prepared to do so? It needs strong leaders to guide the party in the assemblies and organise an ef- In his well-researched and fective opposition. Most of its old guard is gone, and its Wars: An Alternative Hisleader is in jail.

had not expected to be most convincing as they are handed such a large mandate — this may explain the that Pakistan has experidisarray within its ranks enced time and again. But will the powers that be, and since the results. Perhaps it never intended to form the heed? Be that as it may, the government, knowing well the difficult conditions in saster. Those of us who which it would be taking over; consider that neither Dr Rahman's plea and did the PML-N and PPP seem too enthusiastic about their Rutger Bregman, a Dutch decision, till they were 'convinced' by higher powers.

However, even the opposition needs coherent strategies if it wants to assert itself strongly. Even with the suspicions of the out-group to motivate them to wage number of seats the PTI officially has, it remains in a world history and from our good position to make things quite difficult for the PML-N, especially when the PPP's support for the government is subject to terms and conditions. Will it be able to capitalise, though? The opposition's success will "naïve and romantic" to hinge on a leadership that is reasonable and able to talk to other parties. Will the PTI be able to overcome itself? realises that the state "cre-

Seeking IMF's help; PTI's Misguided Move

By Qamar Bashir

Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



out of place given the IMF's well-de- trust in the judiciary fined mandate. The was compounded might not only en- engaging with inter- could lead to a sig- highlighting how this stability and eco- E l e c t i o n spotlight alleged ir- political disputes, party gained follow- for more accounting with financial as- sion to strip PTI of bal stage, fostering more cautious ap- mance in the 2024 cesses.

nation's electoral Bushra Bibi, a deci- PTI supporters who scrutiny not only de- in tional institutions.

profound mistrust in country's institutions matters. national institutions. extended to the pre-

Additionally, the rupted or throttled. common people. overwhelming legal This not only tarchallenges faced by the PTI chairman, impacted businesses, ment and inflation, nated media and arrow has been The decision by the with over 200 cases trade, and the already at record civil society backlash fired, and damage former PTI chair- lodged against him, broader populace, highs, pushing mil- against PTI, labeling has been done, the man to petition the and a perceived ju- exacerbating the al- lions more into pov- the act as unpatri- PTI should adopt a IMF for an electoral dicial ineffective- ready compromised erty. audit of disputed ness, where court reputation of the naelection results orders seem disre-tion. struck many, includ- garded and the only ous opinion leaders, rested and humili-ternational entity like leging foreign in-tions, while ad positive spin to this as a startling and ated PTI members the IMF could intro-volvement in regime campaigns across blunder by framing misguided move appears to be public duce transparency change, which cost traditional and so- PTI's decision to in-This request, espedisavowal of their and impartiality into PTI its government cial media could ternationalize the is-

The erosion of tic institutions.

party with a strong exacerbate this trust addressing the trust troubles for its mem- the party. deficit with domes-

internal elections suppressed. The real brunt of eco- its leaders, a ban on absorbed or inteand subsequent shift to digital cam- nomic fallout from a the party, and the grated into future stripping of its elec- paigning saw further halted IMF negotia- nullification of its strategies, challengtion symbol, which challenges, with tion, prompted by electoral achieve- ing the party's abilcritically weakened internet and mobile PTI's request, would ments in 2024. the party's standing. services being dis- be borne by the

They suggest

bers. Instead of risk-

porters, especially advocating for a do- lating the PTI both

validation of PTI's coverage was often their salaries, the legal actions against backs are not fully cratic processes.

This could exact this approach could credibility. geted PTI but also erbate unemploy- prompt a coordi-

Some may argue experiences, like the pressured to de- age control.

Media analysts racy. IMF for electoral tions of Imran Khan unity.

scrutiny not only dein high-profile They contend mining national sovmining national sovmining national sovmore than the successive state of the viates from its es- cases, such as the that despite the ereignty, potentially repeat past mistakes ward-thinking party tablished role but C y p h e r , flaws of national in- fueling nationalist without considering willing to explore all also risks diminish- Toshakhana, and stitutions, struggles and anti-PTI senti- the broader implica- avenues to ensure tions for national the sanctity of the Such a move sovereignty and dig- electoral process,

The decision by as numerous other mestic, democratic within Pakistan and professed commit-best practices for seek IMF interven- loom on the horizon. without foreign in- stage, as it could be the country's honor, nance. The disillusion- tervention or influ- viewed as an exces- its actions, per-

Taming Irsa

ity to maintain its Furthermore, narrative consisthere's concern that tency and political

otic and anti-state. comprehensive Prime time TV and sustained learning from past shows might be strategy to dam-

tegrity in Pakistan to Engagement of the party's commiting further isolation civil society groups ment to transpar-This approach and legal action by to criticize PTI ency and fair play, nomic support, deal- Commission's deci- regularities on a glo- they advocate for a ing its strong perfor- able electoral pro-

The narrative This sentiment cacy for democratic giving the govern- if media outlets that could focus on the previously need for impartial landmark ruling that Conversely, this ment reasons to tar-shifted their support oversight in the It does not in- invalidated Imran strategy might dis- get PTI and its lead- towards PTI due to face of domestic perceived election challenges and Critics might ar- rigging and the frame the move as guarding democ-

> thus aligning its ac-Despite PTI's tions with global

Open dialogue, misuse of interna- often put its narra- actions, and a uni-Critics argue tional institutions for tive and principles at fied front from leadership at all levels This pattern of will be crucial in Inis strategy benavior, as ob- navigating criticism the establishment's stacles in organizing tablishment, judi- could arm opponents served by commen- and reinforcing the overt antagonism, public gatherings. ciary, or government with grounds to ac-tators, suggests a party's commitment Election When these events officials who would cuse PTI of treason, cycle where lessons to strengthening Commission's in- did proceed, media continue to receive leading to possible from previous set- Pakistan's demo-

War and peace



Zubeida Mustafa

comprehensively documented book Pakistan's tory, Dr Tariq Rahman Perhaps the party really pleads the case for peace. The author's words are preceded by a detailed account of the horrors of war who have led us into conflict a number of times, take fact is that the country stands on the brink of diwield the pen should feel morally obliged to reaffirm

spread it far and wide. Dr Rahman quotes historian, as saying, "human beings are cooperative and kind by nature as were our hunter-gatherer ancestors. However, our leaders (kings, generals, and politicians) can build upon their war". Dr Rahman gives numerous examples from own accounts of our wars in East Pakistan and with India when individual military personnel on both sides "transcended hatred and vengeance" to show mercy to the "enemy". He believes that even in war, soldiers are somewhat reluctant to shoot to kill. But he conbelieve that wars can be abolished, just because some men in uniform are

ates a war machine with such tremendous investment and propaganda ... that it is not possible that ... a suggestion for such a radical change of direction towards peace would even be heard'

Yet he hopes that some perceptive readers, including policymakers, will realise that the decisions which have precipitated wars have been inordinately risky — akin to gambling. He feels that his book would have served a purpose if policymakers exercise caution when deciding issues that put the very existence of the coun-Well said, Dr Rahman.

Here it would be pertinent to remind the readers about the preamble of Unesco's charter, "Wars begin in the minds of men. And it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be built". Pakistan is not doing amply what Unesco exhorts us to do. Of the hundreds of universities in the country, only a handful the National Defence University, NUST and the Azad Kashmir University in Muzaffarabad — have a peace studies programme. In some international relations departments, a paper on conflict resolution is included. However, outside of academia, the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies has earned a good reputation by making a notable contribution towards promoting knowledge of peace and conflict resolution. Since it uses dialogue as a tool for this purpose it invites leaders of diverse opinion for an exchange of ews and disseminates its

proceedings widely. Given the harm that has already been done, these efforts need to be enhanced. Our national ethos glorifies force and violence. As such, our mindset refuses to ac--c-ept tolerance or compromise and reconcapable of humane conduct ciliation in our dealings on some rare occasions. He with people of diverse opinion. The gun culture is ram-

pant. Our national poet Allama Iqbal holds the shaheen (falcon) in high esteem because it is a predatory bird that sustains its aggressive spirit by attacking, turning around and turning around and attacking again, as the poet describes. Our school textbooks glorify our war heroes. Those who propagate peace are hardly ever mentioned

It is important that this emphasis on war as the only means of resolving disputes and playing up the need for creating a security state for national def-e-nce should in fact, be played down. It is time the Foreign Office were given a free hand to formulate a foreign policy that would allow peaceful negotiations to re-

ve disputes. We certainly have had some brilliant diplomats who were doves and tried to find peaceful solutions to the disputes that have plagued us. If they failed it was because their efforts were thwarted by our own hawks. Monuments glorifying weapons, be they swords or submarines, or those signifying the Chaghi nuclear tests should be eschewed. Mercifully, sense has prevailed in some cases and the most lethal of these have been removed. Similarly, the move to celebrate the country's 1998 nuclear tests every year on what is termed as Youm-i-Takbeer (May 28) has been softpedalled, with official backing perceived as being given to some hard-line religious parties who observe the day with all the fanfare they can muster.

The power brokers must understand that the nature of war has changed as non-state actors are involved in every war that is being waged in the world today. These actors do not even observe the international laws of war. Hence the need to promote the spirit of peace to neutralise the war mongering that has become the wont of today. -- Courtesy Dawn

Naseer Memon

In a significant move, President Arif Alvi has refused to approve a contentious summary that seeks to restructure the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Act 1992. The proposal restricts the water regulator's decisionmaking powers, reduces provincial representation and empowers a nonmember chairman in terms of technical, administrative and financial autonomy. Hitherto, the post of the authority's chairperson is assumed by one of the members on a rotational basis. In its present construct, Irsa is a federal structure comprising representatives from the provinces and the centre. Every year, a member heads the body as envisaged in the Irsa Act 1992, and matters of conflict are resolved through a voting process.

Under the postulated new arrangement, the chairperson will be bolstered by the creation of an 'independent experts committee', whereas the present Irsa has an inclusive advisory committee, with representation from the irrigation and agriculture departments in all provinces and Wapda. The bureaucrat head will also enjoy extraordinary powers, which include review and settlement of the grievances of a distressed province after consulting his handpicked experts. This would essentially render Irsa members and the advisory committee ineffective and completely subdued by the chairperson and selected wizards.

amendment is being carried out in sheer violation of the Constitution, as the modus operandi of the proposed Irsa Amend-

ment Act is in contravention of Articles 154 and 155. Article 154 (1) em-

powers the Council of Common Interests to formulate and regulate policies on subjects contained in the Federal Legislative list is "all regulatory authorities established under a federal law". Article 155 brings water-related matters under the jurisdiction of the CCI. It reads: "if the interests of a province, the federal capital or any of the inhabitants thereof, in water from any natural source of supply [or reservoir] have been or are likely to be affected". Hence, Irsa is constitutionally under the domain of CCI. The two articles amply explain that the federal cabinet has no jurisdiction over Irsa-related matters. With such unambiguous constitutional provisions, the submission of a proposal to amend the 1992 Act is tantamount to violating constitutional stipula-

Thus, the Irsa chairperson bypassed the CCI and submitted the draft to the water resources ministry. It seems the chair took this decision without consulting members who become direct stakeholders of any such legislative undertaking by the authority. In unusual haste, the water resources ministry forwarded the proposal to genesis of Irsa. the Law and Justice Division the next working day, which ostensibly worked at the speed of light to return the vetted draft to the ministry in a day. Such unprecedented promptness to push this amendment reveals the level of desperation among its advocates. Perhaps they want the ordinance promulgated before the caretaker

The process of government's tenure ex-

Some cabinet members vehemently opposed the amendment, and prior to their protests, Irsa's member from Sindh also made his disapproval of the proposed amendment clear through a letter addressed to the chairman. The Sindh government took exception to the said summary and the provin-List Part II. Item 6 on the cial minister of irrigation reportedly sent a strongly worded missive to the caretaker prime minister, going as far as to equate the proposed amendment with an attack on the sanctity of the Wa--ter Apportion-ment Accord, 1991. But all sane voices were brushed asi-de and the Irsa Amen-d-m-ent Act was sent for the president's stamp of approval. Al--th-ough Presi-dent Alvi has returned the draft law unsigned, it is feared that the caretaker government will make another attempt to have this ordinance cleared before an elected government takes charge. Moreover, with a

federal government bureaucrat as chairperson, Irsa will become a centralised entity, its daily operational matters will be controlled by the state government and the chief will not be accountable to Irsa members as decisions will be taken in consultation with an experts committee that lacks any provincial representation. The very structure is against the spirit of federation and contradicts the

Amid nerve-wracking prescriptions for the reversal of the 18th Amendment and curtailing provincial shares in the NFC award, an attempt to centralise Irsa is bound to stoke a new wave of disharmony. In a polarised political ambience, such ill-conceived experiments do not augur well for the federation. --

Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says:

Caretaker Punjab govt taken commendable steps for the welfare of the people

Independent Report Caretaker

Minister, Ibrahim Hasan Murad paid a farewell call on Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the provincial minister briefed the Governor Punjab in detail about the measures taken to improve the performance of the departments of Local Government, Transport, Livestock and Mines as the caretaker provincial

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the Punjab government has taken commendable steps for the welfare of the people under

Chief Minister Punjab, added that he and the Mohsin Naqvi, in a short Caretaker Cabinet tried period of time.

phase has started, it is system. hoped that the newly that political stability is revenue indispensable for economic departments. stability in the country.

He said that all

political parties should play a positive role for the development and interest aside.

Caretaker Provincial certificates at their door Minister. He said and

hard to serve the people in He said that the a short period of time and government formation bring improvements in the

elected government will provincial minister, he bring more improvement made various reforms in his and stability in the respective departments, country. He further said which increased the

caretaker provincial minister said that an online system of birth and death certificates has been developed in prosperity of the country collaboration with and the nation while NADRA and PITB, which keeping their personal is in the final stages. He said that this system would Caretaker Provincial facilitate the people in Minister Ibrahim Hasan getting birth and death Murad said that he did not certificates. People would take privileges as a get birth and death

steps, he added.



NAROWAL: President Dr Arif Alvi visiting different sections of the

Mayor Karachi attaches great hopes with Murad as CM

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said the Sindh Assembly Member will take oath on February 24, and a Jiyala will be the Chief Minister of Sindh and we will continue to

serve without prejudice. He said this while addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of the sewerage system rehabilitation project from Teen Hatti to Dakkhana Liaquatabad.

He said that the way the people of Sindh have expressed their confidence in the Pakistan People's Party, every one of our workers will fulfil this

He said that if the leadership of the PPP is working, then it will be seen, Insha Allah, the next three and a half years will be better for this city. He said that we are working in

KARACHI (APP): Senior

Advisor and In charge

Regional Office Karachi,

Syed Anwaar Hyder on

Friday, directed the

Immigration and Passport

department to enhance

staff strength and increase

facilitate the citizens in

main Immigration and

Passport office in Saddar

Karachi along with

associate adviser Riaz

Ahmed Memon, he

stressed on befitting

measures to fast track the

process of issuance of

Passport particularly printing and lamination of

the basic travel document.

to the regional passport

office was carried out on

the directives of Wafaqi

Mohtasib Eiaz Ahmad

Qureshi. He said that a

complete inspection of

functional areas and

facilities was conducted

besides taking briefing

He said that the visit

During his visit to the

acquiring a passport.

Ombudsman

Federal

Senior adviser to

Federal Ombudsman

visits Passport office

bank counters to further office to receive their

passport.

the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that there are sewage problems in Liaquatabad which are going to be solved and will complete all such projects. It is the commitment of PPP and Asif Ali Zardari that all the promises made in our manifesto will be fulfilled, wherever people reside, we will continue working for them.

Deputy Karachi Salman Abdullah Mayor's Murad, representative for political affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of People's Party in Council Muhammad, Darwan and other elected public representatives of People's Party from Central District were also

present on this occasion. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that work is being done on the sewerage

The senior adviser.

while talking to official

media at the occasion,

informed that several

applicants complained that

they were not receiving

their passports on the

given dates and they had

Citizens intending to

abroad especially

students and workers were

facing difficulties because

of delays in issuance of

passports that have mainly

been caused due to issues

with the availability of

lamination paper, he said

ensure issuance of

South Zone was issuing

citizens from hardship.

Central district at a cost of about Rs 370 million, pipelines of 36 and 42 inches in diameter are being laid at a distance of about one kilometer from Teen Hatti to Liaquatabad

On completion of the project, all the sewage which was earlier taken via Altaf Ali Barelvi Road to Treatment Plant-I will now directly reach Treatment Plant Š-III through Lyari River. This will also remove the complaint of sewage overflow in the area and this project will be completed in one year.

The population of this area will get better drainage facilities and the sewage system in the area will have the requirement till 2050, he added.

Barrister Murtaz Wahab said that we are working in Liaquatabad without discrimination, as every day the road of this main street of Liaquatabad

PDC celebrates white coat ceremony

Independent Report Dental College (PDC) hosted its prestigious White Coat Ceremony, a significant event attended by esteemed figures in the medical field, dedicated faculty members, enthusiastic students, and

proud parents. The event featured key personalities, including CEO Dr. Iftikhar Husain, Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman ,Dean, PMC, Prof. Dr. Saeed Anwar Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aman Khan ,Principal, PMC, and Prof. Dr. Shamim Akhtar ,Principal, PDC. Dr. Saba Siraj skillfully managed the proceedings as the stage

Addressing the audience, Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman extended heartfelt congratulations to the students, commending their achievement in gaining admission to the esteemed dental profession. He emphasized the importance of cultivating a positive

professional competence, ethical values, and a profound love for learning while maintaining respect for teachers Prof. Dr. Shamim

Akhtar highlighted PDC's commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities and attitudinal training to produce well-mannered doctors. The ceremony also witnessed Dr. Nasiha Mottahir administering the oath to the budding dentists. During the ceremony, Dr. Moshayyada Durani, Dr. Laleena, Dr. Mah Noor Fatima, Dr. Gulsanga Shams and Dr. Ayesha Tahir shared their experiences and memories

with the audience. The White Coat Ceremony not only marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the students but also underscored PDC's dedication to nurturing skilled and compassionate professionals in the field of dentistry.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister, Ibrahim Hasan Murad paid a farewell call on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Financial assistance of Rs 2.4 mln provided to family of late doctor

LAHORE (APP): In a minister historic move, Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javaid Akram has issued a cheque of Rs 2.4 million to the family of the late Dr. Nasim Banu, postgraduate doctor who

Edward University.

gratitude to Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Health Secretary Ali Jan Khan, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mahmood Ayaz, and all relevant officers for their relentless tragically passed away efforts in ensuring financial while on duty at King support for the bereaved / at King Suppersion

Medical family.

"This assistance cignificant

The delegation engaged in discussions with the Mark of University on Friday, the profession," he stated.



LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Sardar Muhammad Sibtain Khan talking with media persons during first session of Punjab Assembly in the Provincial Capital.

ICU, EOC agree to jointly work for polio eradication

Independent Report Emergency Operations

Center (EOC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamia College University (ICU) Peshawar on Friday agreed to jointly fight for the elimination of poliovirus from the province and to save children from permanent disability due to this disease.

In this regard, a delegation of EOC under the leadership of Special Secretary Health for Polio Prevention Coordinator EOC Abdul Basit met Vice Chancellor

Islamia College University The Professor Dr. Gul Majid

> The meeting was attended by Deputy Coordinator Mohammad Zeeshan Khan, Team Leader of World Health Organization (WHO) Provincial Dr Sarfaraz Faridi, Media Officer of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Shadab Younis and SBC Officer Yasir Farrukh and other officials of EOC also participated in the meeting. Special Secretary

> Health Abdul Basit while expressing his views.

Call for showcasing KP's historical significance through digital media also discovered at Aligram

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a unique province that witnessed the oldest civilizations including Ghandhara requiring proper stayed projection on digital media accompl foreign attract investment imperative for

rural development.

Being a gateway to Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, Khyber Pakthunkhwa having about 3,000 years old history carried unique geographical location, archaeological heritage and primitive history that saw an onslaught of invaders who marched to India

Bakhtzada Khan, senior research officer, archeology department told

through historic Khyber

PESHAWAR (APP): APP on Friday that Carrying a primitive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa history, Khyber Carried one of the richest Sangaro cave's Swat and Dir where every histories in subcontinent where followers of almost all where

for

the

accomplishment of their political, trade and business objectives. Resultantly, different religions including Buddhism, Hinduism, including

Sikhism and Christianity gained roots for many years in Khyberv Pakhtunkhwa before Islam. He said the discovery

of human remains in Soan Valley in Pakistani Punjab province as evidence of the stones and bones' tools dating from around (2 million to 90,000 years before present) of the Early Paleolithic period had

excavations at village Mian Khan in Mardan district conducted by renowned archeologists Ahmad Hasan Dhani and Farid religions had come and Khan in 1963 had revealed the presence of people's remains in the Middle Paleolithic period (9,000 to 27,000 years before present) in KP."

These people were living in stones-made caves, who fulfilled their food's needs mostly from hunting of birds and animals

The discoveries of primitive rocks, bones and hunting tools dating back of Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age (10,000 to 8,600 years before present) during excavations at primordial era. The graves Khanpur in Haripur district of Aryans invaders were

stone speaks about their life style, culture, livelihood and civilizations, life he informed.

people started making clay and stones made pots, crockery and others related utensils for kitchen during Neolithic period or commonly known as new stone-age dating back some 8,000 years before as evident from excavations of historic Mehar Gharh in Balochistan of the Indus Civilization, Rehman Dheri DI Khan and Sheri Khan Tarkai Swahi

These strong evidence had magnified that people were living in the stone and mud houses in those

Swat, Sangota Chitral and Timergara Dir Lower dating back of the Dark Ages period of around 2.000BC

'The semi-nomadic It was found that Aryans entered KP from the Afghanistan side and settled along rivers Swat Gomal, Kurram, and Kabul before migrating to India The Gandhara civilization gained roots in the province after Persians conquered it in 6th century BC and made it one of the provinces of Achaemenid Empire."

He said reading and writing in Swat, Dir, Mardan, Charsadda, Peshawar and Malakand. famous for Ghandara civilization, started as evidence primordial era. The graves inscriptions mostly made on stones by Iranians

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Professor Dr. Javed Akram and Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Professor Dr. Mehmood Ayaz addressing a Press conference. ANF recovers 331 kg drugs in 10 operations Lahore Airport. 255 kg opium was

Galikank Mustang area and

29 kg hashish was

recovered from two

suspects arrested from M-

operation. Seven kg of

hashish was recovered

from two suspects rounded

up near Sher Shah Toll

Plaza Multan.In the 10th

operation, one kg of

hashish was recovered

from three suspects held

near Mohalla Usmania

Gilgit. The spokesman said

that separate cases under

the Anti-Narcotics Act

against the arrested

the need to expedite

measures for providing

quick and efficient justice

to complainants regarding

highlighted that the Federal

Ombudsman for Insurance

business community and

Special efforts are being

made to raise public

Dr. Khawar Jameel

awareness in this regard, he

and Abdul Basit Khan

complaints were registered

Ombudsman for Insurance

the

complainants.

Abdul Basit Khan

insurance companies.

In the 8th operation,

1 Motorway Islamabad.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while recovered from the conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover over 331 kg of drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman

He informed that 10.5 recovered near the Lakpas kg heroin was recovered Toll Plaza Mustang area from a parcel being sent to and an accused was the UK at Cargo Office arrested during the lambed while are accused while are accused to the UK at Cargo Office arrested during the frame. Islamabad while an accused was also arrested.

In another operation, 2.5 kg of Ice was recovered from a parcel being sent to Sri Lanka at the Lahore Courier Office. 68 Icefilled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport.1.8 kg hashish was recovered from a Dohabound passenger, arrested have been registered at Peshawar Airport.

330 grams of cocaine accused and further was recovered from a investigations are under parcel sent from Nigeria at process.

Insurance organized a two-

dav 4th annual national

conference at its regional

office, focusing on

reviewing the department's

performance over the

previous and current years.

insurance companies. The

event was attended by all

regional heads of the

department, advisors, consultants, and CEOs of

insurance companies, says

Federal Ombudsman for

Jameel and hosted by

Insurance Dr. Khawar with

a press release issued here

The conference also

Federal Ombudsman for

Insurance organizes

national conference

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Abdul Basit Khan, Federal Ombudsman for the conference emphasized

included a briefing on the is ensuring relief within 60

redressal of public days by addressing complaints related to complaints from the

other

Chaired by the revealed that 5736

Governor Sindh meets with **CM Punjab**

LAHORE (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori met with the Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and congratulated him on being elected as Chairman PCB.

The Governor Sindh lauded the performance of 22 kg of hashish was the CM on getting the public welfare projects for the people of Puniab

The CM while talking with the Governor Sindh acknowledged that the whole team in the Punjab government worked day and night and strived to their utmost to serve the people of Punjab in short span of 13 months only 'ÎnshaAllah, Pakistan wil attain its destination of progress, prosperity and the future of our country is very bright," he added.

Mohsin extended an invited to the Governor Sindh to watch a PSL match. Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were also present on the occasion.

2 bodies found in Hawke's Bay area

KARACHI (APP): Two unidentified bodies of oung men were found from a drainage canal located in Musharraf Colony, an area of Hawke's Bay, Karachi, private news channel reported on

Friday. According to details, police after receiving reports rushed to the site to evacuate the bodies and motorcycle from the drainage. As per the initial reports, it was an accident that held due to high speed. However, the police managed to recover the bodies and motorbike from the drainage.

Later, the Rescue team eached the spot to shift the bodies to nearby hospital for autopsy.



KARACHI: Senior Adviser to Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Karachi Syed Anwar Hyder having interaction with a woman during visit of Main Passport Office Saddar. Associate adviser Federal Ombudsman Karachi Riaz Ahmed Memon and Director Immigration and Passport South Zone Saeed Ahmed also seen at the occasion.

World Bank delegation visits GCU

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the World Bank, led by Senior Economist Ms. Inga Afanasieve and Education Specialist Ms. Tashmina Rahman, visited the GC University Lahore along with the Higher Education Development Project (HEDP) team led by to pay several visits to the Project Director Dr. Mahmood Ul Hassan Butt.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Adnan Ahmad and university officials, including Prof. Dr. Hamid Mukhtar, Director of the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Dr. Fouzia Shahin, Director of Academic Planning & External Linkages (AP&EL). The World Bank and

adding that the Ombudsman secretariat will recommend the government to find out a HEDP teams were briefed permanent solution and about the operations of GCU's administrative and passport on time to save academic departments, the implementation of the Syed Anwaar Hyder revised Undergraduate said that Immigration and Education Policy (UEP) Passport Department including student internship support mechanisms, and the role of HEDP in promoting more than 500,000 passports annually



Janjua planting new trees during Tree Plantation Campaign at a park.

Commerce Minister's visit to Saudia strengthens bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz led a delegation to Saudi Arabia from February 21-22 to strengthen the robust bilateral relationship between the two countries and to explore new opportunities

for collaboration and economic growth. According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce here Friday, the delegation members included Punjab Investment Minister, S.M. Tanveer and other senior from the Ministries of Commerce, Interior, Board of

Minister held bilateral

Aziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Minister of Commerce, Dr Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kassabi, and the Minister of Investment, Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih.

Finance Minister, Mohammed Al-Jadaan and held a meeting with the Mohammad Abdulkarim Al-Issa, the statement said adding that Glass). Prince Mansour bin Muhammad bin Saad Al-Saud, hosted a dinner in honour of the Minister and stry. the Ministers of Dr. Ejaz for bringing an During the visit, the Commerce and Investment, important business

meetings with the Minister accompanied by members of Interior, Prince Abdul of the private sector delegation including Arif Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Habib (Arif Habib Group), Fawad Mukhtar (Fatima Fertilizers), Muhammad Ali Tabba (Lucky Group), Raza Jaffar (Global Sustainability Network), He also met Saudi Shahid Soorty (Soorty Enterprises), Bashir Jan Muhammad (Dalda Foods Ltd.), Asim Siddiqui Secretary General of the (Pakistan Intermodal Muslim World League, Dr. Limited), Shahbaz Malik (Hilton Pharma), and Anwar Ghani (Ghani

Saudi Commerce Minister, Dr. Majid Al-Kassabi underscored the importance his delegation at his strengthening business and Investment, and the residence in Dirriyah, trade relations between the Federation of Pakistan Riyadh. During his two countries and Chambers of Commerce & bilateral engagements with appreciated the efforts of



Nepal) to Pakistan and President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik with exporters at Chamber of Commerce.

Ambassador says: Nepal keen to promote trade ties with Pakistan

Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari has urged the Sialkot exporters to come forward and explore the untapped international trade markets of Nepal to promote the bilateral trade between ooth countries.

He stated this while addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Friday. President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Ghafoor Malik SCCI's Vice President (VP) Amer Majeed Sheikh and

Jazz, EFU life introduce

Takaful to broaden

financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mujtaba,

Jazz

coverage for female major development, Mohammed

Jazz, Pakistan's leading

digital operator has collaborated with EFU Life

Assurance Ltd., the

nation's premier insurance

company to introduce the

industry's first Takaful

(Shariah-complaint)

offering for its subscribers.

subscribers can opt for

low-cost Takaful products

with unique benefits

including a health wallet,

cancer protection, and

medical illnesses, said a

news release issued here on

Friday. In addition, the

customer's entire family

will be able to utilize virtual

healthcare benefits. Sharing

his thoughts on the

development,

Through

collaboration,

community were also present on this occasion. Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari pledged full support to ensure the easy access of Pakistan community international trade markets

Ambassador The appreciated the role of Sialkot in the Economic Development of the Country. He said that undoubtedly Sialkot is the hub of manufacturing surgical goods, sports goods and different kind of items. He shared that on March 7-11, 2024 a Nepal business Chamber Expo 2024 is community.

Commercial Officer at

Jazz, said, "We are excited

to partner with EFU Life

to include a full suite of

industry's first Shariah-

complaint products within

a single program. Looking

ahead, our goal is to further

enrich this initiative by

introducing additional

products tailored to meet

the diverse needs of our

especially those who need

protection and support the

most." Speaking about this

Ali Ahmed, CEO & MD,

EFU Life, said, "EFU Life

remains steadfast in its

commitment to advancing

initiatives that make a

tangible difference in the

customers,

valued

going to be held in Nepal. and suggested that the business community of Sialkot should participate in that for B2B meetings. Moreover, he also shared that on April 27, 2024 Nepal Investment Summit is planned in Nepal which will prove to be a great opportunity for investors from Pakistan.

He said that Nepal is very keen to establish the stronger business-tobusiness contacts between the two countries. He said, "Sialkot is a role model city for Nepali people and we will learn a lot of things from Sialkot business

Gold rates decrease by Rs 1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP) The price of per tola 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,200 and was sold at Rs 214,100 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs 215,300 on the last

trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,029 to Rs 183,556 from Rs 184,585 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 168,260 from Rs 169,203, the All

Association reported. and ten-gram silve remained constant at Rs 2,570 and Rs 2,203.36 réspectively.

Sindh Sarafa Jewellers

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$11 to \$2,040 from \$2,051, the Association reported.

Factory owners fined for pollution

FAISALABAD (APP) Environment Protection Department has imposed a of Rs700,000 on the owners of six factories and brick kilns on the charges of polluting the environment.

Deputy Director Environment Johar Abbas Randhawa said here on Friday that environment teams checked various factories and brick kilns and found violation of environment protection laws at six sites.

Therefore, the teams environment imposed a fine of Rs.100,000 on the owner of a textile units situated Jhumra Rs.100,000 on the owner of a dyeing unit on Jhumra Road near Mian Pind, Rs.200,000 on the owner of a textile unit in Chak No.209-RB, Rs.100,000 on the owner of another textile mills in Chak No.209-RB, Rs.100,000 on the owner of a brick kiln on Jaranwala Road, and Rs.100,000 on the owner of another brick kiln house near Thikriwala.

He said that the factories were burning prohibited materials in their boilers while the kiln houses were operating without zigzag technology

Pakistan's cotton yarn exports to China surged by 46.7% in 2023

China's import of cotton yarn from Pakistan reached a record high of \$ 695,622,837, marking a significant surge of 46.7% during the year 2023, data from China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile and Apparel (CCCT) showed.

Recently, the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) released a report stating that due to the decline in production capacity has affected the demand for intermediates, China Economic Net (CEN)

As per CCCT, due to the large price difference between domestic and foreign cotton yarns after the second quarter, the importers' order intentions continued to rise, resulting in the recent arrival of imported yarns, which pushed up the imports.

BEIJING (APP): In 2023, Pakistan and Uzbekistan increased their exports of cotton yarn to China by 243.2%, 351.1% and 867.1% respectively last December. And for the whole year, cotton yarn from Pakistan accounts for 15.8% of China's cotton yarn imports. According

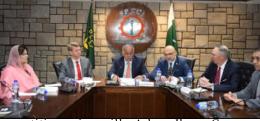
statistics from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), the total value of yarn imports and exports in 2023 was \$ 19.68 billion, a decrease of 2.9% year-on-year. Among them, exports were \$ 13.7 billion, down 8.6% yearon-year; imports were \$ 5.98 billion, up 13.2% year-on-year, and imports were 2.043 million tons, up 32.6% year-on-year.

Among the imported yarns from the globe, cotton yarn is the most important category, accounting for 70% of the Among them, India, yarn imports and 24%.

Malik Sohail says: Govt to regularize salt trade, develop branding mechanism to sell item in Intl market

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: special focus being given by the government of Pakistan to regularize salt trade and develop a branding mechanism to sell the commodity in

Meilander, VP Operation The and Martyn Element. The meeting was attended by a large number of people from mineral and mining and other sector of Pakistan prominently Dr. Afshan Malik, Advoiser to international market at President FPCCI, Mr.



definitely give a new impetus to the industry, this was stated by Malik Sohail, Chairman Coordination of FPCCI on behalf of President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh in a meeting with President and Chairman of Board of Directors of Miracle Salt But, Farukh Alvi, Syed Collective Inc. USA who visited FPCCI Capital The price of per tola Office, Islamabad along Mr. Robert Harrison and pivotal role of the

FPCCI Committee, Shokuat Masood, Mr. Johar Ali raki former Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Ahmed Khan President IIA, Mr. Shakeel Munir, Zahid Maqbool Former President ICCI, M. Arif Ariqee Ahmed Gilani, Ghulam Nasir, Abdul Wahab Bezinjo and other. Mr. Tad Ballantyne, Vice President Global Chambers of Commerce & Financing, Mr. Jaffery Industry (FPCCI).

Kitchen items' prices witnesses nominal increase of 0.04%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of essential kitchen items increased as the weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.04 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week

ended on February 15. According the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 315.31 points as compared to 315.18 points during

the past week.

corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 30.68 per cent.
The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban

As compared to the

groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.08 percent and went down to 307.99 points from last week's 307.73

centres and 51 essential

items for all expenditure



clothes to attract customers at Khanna Pul.

Chief Commissioner stresses to educate public about tax system, laws MULTAN (APP): Chief on a study tour to

Saijad Tasleem Ázam on Friday stressed on educating public on complicated tax system, simplification of tax laws and procedures to rebuild trust through awareness pleading that it would reflect on country's revenue generation in a positive way.

He was speaking at an interactive session with a 16-member delegation from National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad led by NIM chief instructor Ms Samreen Zahra, presently

Commissioner Regional government departments Tax Office (RTO) Multan and facilities in Multan as part of their ongoing training under 39th Mid Management Career Course. Sajjad Tasleem Azam said that there were some

problems in tax recovery due to staff and resources shortage but still RTO Multan was able to meet targets. He added that RTO Multan was overcoming problems by virtue of digitalization adding that Point of Sale (PoS) Invoicing System was bringing small businesses and retailers into the tax net.

Dr Gohar Ejaz was also delegation to Riyadh.

LAHORE: People busy purchasing used clothes at Landa Bazaar.

Unlocking Pakistan's digital future: **Insights from Telenor** Asia's Digital lives decoded study

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesia, Malaysia, Telenor Asia unveiled the findings of its second-year Singapore, Thailand, and study of 'Digital Lives Decoded,' shedding light on the pivotal role of mobile the pivotal role of mobile devices in shaping daily life of digital living in the region.

several key drivers behind mobile use, including usage will continue to gain forging healthy social momentum and further connections, opening new propel people to seek development, and promoting environmental consciousness, said a news release issued here on

Friday.
The first Digital Lives Decoded study in 2022 came at a time when Pakistan was emerging from a global pandemic and the pace of digital adoption accelerated.

comprehensive analysis of mobile usage and its impact on key facets of daily life.

With insights gathered from over 8,000 mobile finances during difficult users in Bangladesh, times.

Vietnam, the report invaluable provides

This year's findings The study identified build on those trends. signaling that mobile phone new revenue streams that only mobile connectivity

> allows A stand-out finding this year was that amidst a challenging economy and inflationary environment, mobiles are being widely used as a tool to manage rising costs of

living.

People are turning to Building upon the foundation laid by its predecessor, Digital Lives Decoded 2023 offers a accessing the numerous financial management and budgeting calculators, or apps that can help manage their

Call to solve issues of **SME** sector

FAISALABAD (APP): The SME sector is the growth engine of the national economy and problems of this sector it must be resolved on top priority basis, said Di Sajjad Arshad, Acting President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (FCCI). He along with Vice President Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Mian Muhammad Tayyab and Hajji Muhammad Abid visited the Small opportunities, ensuring online safety, fostering skill their careers, and access their careers of Mr. Sanaullah Niazi, Convener FCCI Standing Committee

on SIE Nalka Kohala. Dr Sajjad appreciated the efforts of Mr. Sanaullah Niazi to resolve the long pending issues which were hampering the smooth functioning of the SIE. He said that the FCCI would take measures to resolve the issues. In this

connection,

comprehensive feedback system has introduced to remain in touch with departments concerned till the final disposal of the issues, he added. He maintained that the FCCI would bring sector wise problems.



strawberry to attract the customers.

USAID empowers female engineers in energy sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): In "By equipping these gender equity in Pakistan's energy sector, USAID celebrated the successful completion of the Power System and Distribution Network Planning (PSDNP) Training Program for women

engineers. program, designed for engineers from power Pakistan's distribution and transmission companies, is a collaborative effort between USAID and the

Speaking at the Kate Somvongsiri said,

a significant milestone for women engineers with specialized training, we not only open new career

> Expressing satisfaction with the program's outcomes, Chairman BOD IESCO/ Chairman BOD MEPCO PSDNP Training Program, Pakistani female engineers have gained practical

Lahore University of Management Sciences occasion, Mission Director ArcGIS and Synergi Kate Somvongsiri said, provided by USAID.

avenues for talented individuals but also enhance engagement, motivation, and decision-making within companies."

stated, "Through the expertise in utilizing two power system planning software applications,



Next government to focus on promoting ease of doing business: Qaiser Sheikh

promotion.

(FBR) to broaden the tax

net and improve tax

culture. Addressing the key

issues of business

community, he said new

government would also

focus on enhancing its role

in the economic development of this

ISLAMABAD (APP): that new government Newly elected Member would make business and National Assembly of economic policies in PML-N and former Chairperson, NA Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue Oaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Friday said that next government would focus on promoting ease of

doing business He said that ease of doing business would facilitate better growth of business and investment activities in the country. He said this while talking to the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Qaiser Sheikh said country

against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP) The Rupee on Friday lost paisa against the US dollar in the interbank

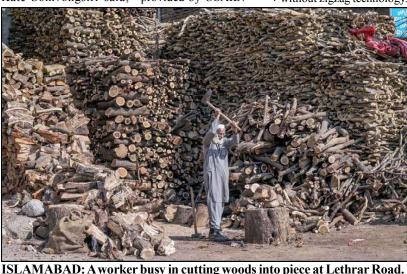
trading and closed at Rs 279.36 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.32. consultation with the However, according business community to to the Forex Association of promote a conducive Pakistan (FAP), the buying business environment and support them in business He said that next government would try to bring further reforms in Federal Board of Revenue

Rupee loses

4 paisa

and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.6 and Rs 282.4, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 82 paisa to close at Rs 302.54 against the last day's closing of Rs 303.36, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen decease by 1 paisa to Rs 185 from Rs 1.86, whereas a decrease of Rs 43 pasia was witnessed in the exchange rate of the

British Pound



ISLAMABAD: A worker busy in cutting woods into piece at Lethrar Road.

the occupied territories, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

cluding the United States,

Britain, Germany and Japan

have suspended funding to

UNRWA in response to Is-

raeli allegations that some of

its staff participated in the October 7 attack on Israel.

In an interview published

over the weekend, Lazzarini

said \$438 million has been

frozen the equivalent of

more than half of expected funding for 2024. He said

Israel was waging a con-

certed effort to destroy UNRWA. The UN fired the

employees accused by Israel

and has begun an internal probe of UNRWA. UN Sec-

retary-General Antonio

Guterres has also tasked an

independent panel with as-

sessing whether UNRWA

acts neutrally in the Israeli-

majority," he told the Secu-

United States has tabled its

own draft resolution. China

hopes that the United

States will show a respon-

sible attitude, respond posi-

tively to the international

call, and respect the estab-

lished consensus among

Security Council members,

"We need to point out that the essence of any ac-

tion of this council is to

achieve an immediate cease-

fire. Any message sent out

via our action must be clear,

unequivocal, unambiguous,

and unmistakable, rather

than prevaricate or beat

Council needs to demon-

strate a strong resolve

rather than negotiating skills only." The military

offensive into Rafah must

cease immediately, he said,

"At this point, the

about the bush," he said.

China is aware that the

Several countries in-

UN agency for

Palestinian refugees at

'breaking point': chief

Monitoring Desk JNITED NATIONS: New

York: The UN agency for

Palestinian refugees warned

Thursday it has reached a

critical juncture as it struggles

to cope with the war in

Gaza. "It is with profound

regret that I must now inform

you that UNRWA has

reached a breaking point,"

chief Philippe Lazzarini said,

as donors freeze funding, Is-

rael exerts pressure to dis-

mantle the agency and hu-

to fulfill the mandate given

through General Assembly

resolution 302 is now seri-

ously threatened," he said

in a letter to the assembly.

under which the agency was

founded in 1949, following

the creation of Israel.

UNRWA employs some

(INP): A Chinese envoy

said that an immediate

cease-fire in Gaza is impera-

tive and that the essence of

any Security Council action

is to achieve an immediate

Algerian-drafted resolution

on Tuesday meant that the

Security Council missed

vet another opportunity to

push for a cease-fire in Gaza.

the conflict even for another

day would cause even more

civilian casualties and lead

fire in Gaza is an urgent

imperative to save innocent

lives and to prevent a wider

war, said Zhang Jun,

China's permanent repre-

sentative to the United Na-

fire is the common wish

voiced by the international

community and the consen-

"An immediate cease-

to a greater catastrophe.

The continuation of

An immediate cease-

The U.S. veto of an

UNITED

cease-fire.

That is the resolution

30,000 people working in Palestinian conflict.

Immediate cease-fire

in Gaza is imperative:

Chinese envoy

NATIONS Council's overwhelming

rity Council.

said Zhang.

"The Agency's ability

manitarian needs soar.

Pompeo says:

West must return to imposing cost on Iran's 'malign activity' to restore Mideast stability

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Taking away Iran's ability to create instability in the Middle East was the driving force behind the 2020 Abraham Accords, and US policy needs to move back toward imposing a cost on Tehran's malign actions, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday.

The accords were agreements signed by the UAE and Bahrain to normalize relations with Israel, brokered by then-US President Donald Trump. Sudan and Morocco also later agreed to establish ties with

Pompeo told the Future Investment Initiative Priority forum in Miami

lation to signing the accords happened due to a "central thesis" held by all involved that Tehran was the "malign actor" in the region.

'You should know, I'm hopelessly biased as they're still trying to kill me. If you see me walking around with a security team, it's not because I enjoy it but because I still need it," he said. "I think that's telling. You can see (Iran's) hand in what happened in Gaza. They supported, funded and essentially facilitated the capacity for Hamas to carry out the barbaric attacks (on Israel) which took place on

Iranian support you'd still

that the process of formu- have shipping through the Red Sea, instead of transit having to move some other way because you've got missiles being launched into (the area) with relatively good accuracy. "Nearly all the instability that takes place in the Middle East is as a direct result of that regime in Iran. The United States had the lead in deterring them and

we've lost that. Pompeo praised Saudi Aramco for stabilizing oil markets following an attack claimed by the Iran-backed Houthis on its facilities in Abqaiq-Khurais in eastern Saudi Arabia, but pinpointed that attack as the beginning of the end of the "Today, without the US and the West being able



Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Director General for International Law Oksana Zolotaryova and Ambassador-at-large Anton Korynevych attend an International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearing on Ukraine accusing Russia of violating an anti-terrorism treaty by funding pro-Russian forces, in The Hague,

Party (PiS) was ousted by

a centrist coalition led by

former European Council

President Donald Tusk.

who has sought to undo the changes PiS made and re-

store Poland's EU funding.

sels on Tuesday, Poland's

new justice minister, Adam

Bodnar laid out the new

decisive.

At a meeting in Brus-

Von der Leyen: EU plans to unlock €137 billion for Poland

Monitoring Desk Warsaw: The European Union is to release €137 billion of withheld funds from Poland due to rule of law concerns, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said

Next week, the commission "will come forward with two decisions on European funds that are currently blocked for Poland," von der Leyen said at a press briefing in Warsaw. These decisions will free up €137 billion for Poland."

Concerns about judicial reforms under Poland's previous nationalist government prompted the commission to withhold money from the EU budget that would normally have been spent in Poland.

But in October, the the European Public Prosnationalist Law and Justice ecutor.

Moon landing: touchdown in

government's judicial reform plan to member states' European affairs ministers. In Warsaw on Friday, von der Leyen told Tusk, "I strongly welcome the action plan that your government presented to the member states this week. It is a powerful statement It is a clear road map for Poland, and your efforts are there later this decade.

She said the €137 billion "will be guaranteed by **Fallout from Mexican** EST (2323 GMT).

president's Pemex 'rescue' set to greet successor Monitoring Desk Claudia Sheinbaum, Lopez Obrador's anointed successor and current front-runner in polls ahead of June's

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's outgoing president has taken steps to promote a smooth hand-off for national oil company Pemex, three sources told Reuters, but the latest moves will likely postpone a day of reckoning for the world's most heavily-indebted oil

Last week, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador rolled out fresh support for Pemex, part of his longstanding goal to make Mexico self-sufficient in the production of motor fuels, unveiling a new tax break worth about \$6.4 bil-

The boost follows a whopping \$90 billion in government support doled out to Pemex since Lopez Obrador took office in late 2018, spanning tax cuts and capital injections, most of it to service a crushing debt load of some \$106 billion. The company's dis-

tressed finances may fall to former Mexico City Mayor

election.

Mexico's next president takes office in October. A Sheinbaum presidency would look to cut Pemex's dependence on government funds, one source close to her team told Reuters, using tax cuts to free up company spending

Sheinbaum has also committed to pursing Lopez Obrador's oft-repeated but vague goal of 'energy sovereignty.'

A source close to Pemex, meanwhile, said the latest round of support will be used to cover \$17.2 billion in debts to service providers, such as Halliburton and Baker Hughes.

"All this is part of a strategy of orderly transition aimed at a soft landing for the next administration," said a high-ranking Pemex source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

US clinches first

50 years Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A space-craft built and flown by Texas-based company Intuitive Machines landed near the moon's south pole on Thursday, the first U.S. touchdown on the lunar surface in more than half a century and the first ever achieved by the private sec-

NASA, with several research instruments aboard the vehicle, hailed the landing as a major achievement in its goal of sending a squad of commercially flown spacecraft on scientific scouting missions to the moon ahead of a planned return of astronauts

But initial communications problems following Thursday's landing raised questions about whether the vehicle may have been left impaired or obstructed in some way. The uncrewed six-legged robot lander, dubbed Odysseus, touched down at about 6:23 p.m.

Sweden has around 62,000 persons linked to criminal gangs **Monitoring Desk**

STOCKHOLM: About 62,000 persons are active in, or have connections to, criminal networks in Sweden, the police said on Friday, where the authorities have struggled for years to contain violence linked to organised crime.

Deadly shootings have more than tripled over the past decade in this Nordic nation of 10 million people, and are currently at levels much higher than neighbouring countries.

"We have identified 14,000 as active in criminal networks," National Police Commissioner Petra Lundh told a media conference. "Moving over to persons with connections to these networks, here we estimate that there are 48,000 per-



Firefighters work at the scene of a fire at an apartment building in Valencia, Spain. | plex, the German chemi-



Palestinian men check whatever is left of the homes in a building hit by overnight Israeli air strikes in Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip.

EU imposes new sanctions on Russia

European Union has adopted its 13th package of sanctions against Russia, the European Council said in a press release on Friday.

The measures targeting 106 individuals and 88 entities were introduced ahead of the second anniversary of the start of Russia's military operation against Ukraine, the document noted. The new sanctions

primarily target the military and defense sectors, along with associated individuals, as well as members of the judiciary.

The measures against the listed persons and enti-

MOSCOW (Online): The ties include asset freezes and a travel ban. They also forbid EU citizens and companies from making funds available to them.

> The new sanctions also restrict trade in dualuse goods as well as technologies and electronic components that could be used by Russia's military and industrial complex. Components for the development and production of unmanned aerial vehicles have also been added to the list of restricted items. Some of the sanctioned entities are located in third countries, such as India, China, and Türkiye, the document

Ukraine, Denmark finalize long-term security agreement

Monitoring Desk

President Volodymyr Zelensky and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen signed a 10-year agreement on security cooperation between Ukraine and Denmark on Feb. 23 in Lviv, Deputy Head of the Presidential Office Ihor Zhovkva said.

The U.K., Germany, and France have earlier signed similar deals to help Ukraine repel Russia's aggression based on a pledge made by the Group of Seven (G7) last July. Denmark is the first

non-G7 country to finalize the deal. Copenhagen an-

nounced already on Feb. 22 that it is signing the treaty with Kyiv. The deal, concluded on the eve of the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, allocates 1.8 billion euros (\$1.95 billion) in Danish support for Ukraine in 2024.

The Danish Fund for the Support of Ukraine has also allocated 8.5 billion euros (\$9.2 billion) for the period of 2023-2028.

As one of the leaders of the fighter jet coalition, Copenhagen pledged to support allied efforts to supply Ukraine with F-16 jets and necessary training

Police move a makeshift barricade at the site of a protest as farmers march

towards New Delhi to push for better crop prices promised to them in 2021, at

in the capital Brasilia on

Thursday. The police had

undertaken a large-scale op-

eration a fortnight ago, ex-

ecuting search warrants and

arrest warrants in several

states as well as preventive

measures such as the con-

were directed against a

criminal organization that

was seeking to stage a coup

d'état and abolish the demo-

cratic rule of law, authori-

ties said. In addition to

Bolsonaro, who was

Brazil's president from

2019 to the end of 2022,

the operation also targeted

The investigations

fiscation of passports.

Shambhu Barrier, the border between Punjab and Haryana states, India.

Brazil's former president

refuses to testify at

police interrogation

Monitoring Desk

BRAZIL: Brazil's former

president Jair Bolsonaro has

refused to testify during his

police interrogation as part

of the investigation into an

alleged coup d'état follow-

ing the last presidential elec-

tion. This silence was not

just the application of the

constitutional duty of si-

lence, "but a strategy based

on the fact that the defence

did not have access to all the

elements with which the

president is accused of hav-

ing committed certain

crimes," said Bolsonaro's

Bolsonaro had been

lawyer Paulo Bueno.

Top German adviser in China for

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: A top adviser to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is in China for talks focussing on the conflict in Ukraine and on bilateral ties.

told China's Foreign Min-

economic relations

Sweden has around 62,000 persons linked police say

TOCKHOLM (Internews): About 62,000 persons are active in, or have connections to, criminal networks in Sweden the police said on Friday, where the authorities have struggled for years to contain violence linked to organised crime.

high-level talks

Foreign and security policy adviser Jens Plötner ister Wang Yi in Beijing that the talks would also be an opportunity to discuss the war in the Middle East, and the tensions in North Ko-

According Plötner, the German government attaches "great importance" to its relationship with China and plans to further develop

to criminal gangs,

Deadly shootings have more than tripled over the past decade in this Nordic nation of 10 million people, and are currently at levels much higher than neighbouring



sus of the Security according to XINHUA.

over what he says is in effect a refusal to grant visas to his family in Gaza. The Home Office rejected the man's request to allow his wife and four

young children to apply for visas without giving fingerprints. Two of his children caught hepatitis A, which the World Health Organization says is spreading in Gaza. The Home Office told BBC News it did not comment on individual cases.

"All applications are carefully considered on their individual merits and must meet the requirements of the immigration rules and published guidance," an official said.

A court anonymity order means the man and his family cannot be identified, for their own protection. But in a witness statement to the court, he said he "wanted to die" when he had heard about the Home Office's decision.

"I am so afraid that my family will be killed, they will be killed while I will blame myself for not being able to bring them here," the man said.

People with refugee status can apply for family-reunion visas for their family members to join them in the UK without going through the asylum system themselves.

Asylum Aid solicitor Anastasia Solopova, who is representing the family, told BBC News they had applied for these in December. In most circumstances, when someone applies for a longterm British visa outside of the UK, they need to give their biometrics - finger-prints and a photograph - at visa-application centre

(VAC), for security reasons. But because there are no working VACs in Gaza. the family had applied to either be exempt from having to give their fingerprints or be allowed to travel to Egypt to give them at a centre there.

4 dead as fire ravages residential block in Spain's Valencia

four people have died in a huge fire that gutted a multistorey apartment block in Spain's eastern port city of Valencia, with another 14 people injured. The toll could rise,

with 19 people missing, a source on the city council who asked not to be named informed.

The fire began around 5:30 pm on Thursday on the fourth floor and spread rapidly, witnesses and the emergency services said, with images showing flames and vast clouds of black smoke engulfing the building in the Campanar neighbourhood in western Valencia.

"It can be confirmed that four people have died," Jorge Suarez Torres, deputy director of emergency services for the Valencia region, told report-

Fourteen people had been treated for injuries of varying degrees, including a seven-year-old child, and 12 of them were transferred to hospitals, according to at a huge speed.

emergency services. Spain's TVE public television said there were more than 130 flats in the 14-storey building which was rapidly "reduced to a skeleton", with 22 teams of firefighters battling the

Speaking to regional television station A Punt, Esther Puchades, deputy head of Valencia's Industrial Engineers Association (COGITI) said the fire had spread so rapidly because the building was covered with highly flammable

polyurethane cladding. Luis Ibanez, who lives nearby, told TVE he had looked out of a window and saw the flames engulfing the block "within a matter of minutes", saying it was "as if it was made of cork".

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing. The whole side of the building directly opposite was on fire, from the first floor to the sixth and seventh floor," he said. "There was a really strong wind and the fire was spreading to the left

other former top officials summoned to testify at the federal police headquarters and political allies. **BASF** plans more German cuts even as group profit set to rebound

(Internews): Germany's BASF (BASFn.DE), opens new tab will slash another 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in annual costs at its Ludwigshafen headquarters, citing weak demand and high energy costs in its home market, highlighting the country's economic

The annual cost savings will be reached by the end of 2026, affecting both production and administrative activities at its largest chemical com-

F R A N K F U R T cals giant said in a statement on Friday.

It also predicted that group earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), adjusted for one-offs, would rebound to between 8 billion and 8.6 billion euros in 2024. Last year, it fell 29% to 7.67 billion.

Market relief that the guidance was in line with analysts' consensus forecast of 8.3 billion euros shored up the shares, which were up 1.2% at 0936 GMT, after earlier gains of as much as 4%.

New Zealand reassessing proposed overhaul of Antarctic base

WELLINGTON (Internews): New Zealand is reassessing a proposed overhaul of its Antarctica base after negotiations with a construction firm reached a deadlock due to budget issues, the government agency responsible for the country's Antarctic operations said on Friday.
Antarctica New

Zealand said in a statement it was looking at other options, including revising the current design after it was unable to "reach agreement on commercial terms with Leighs Construction for the Scott Base redevelopment."

In 2019, New Zealand unveiled its intentions to revamp the decades-old Antarctica base.

Solar storm alert: NASA warns of communication disruption

WASHINGTON (INP): NASA has issued a stark warning in light of powerful solar flares that pose a significant risk to communication systems both in space and here on Earth.

The aerospace agency reported a formidable flare that peaked at 5:34 p.m. EST on February 22, 2024, measuring an astonishing X6.3 on the solar activity scale. Solar flares, classified into five categories ranging from A to X, with X-class flares being the most intense.

CPEC projects underway in Pakistan to help local economy

of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are making renewed progress as the CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enters its next phase, helping the country to alleviate energy shortages and empowering its economic growth. "Entering 2024, CPEC projects have achieved new progress," the Global Times reported.

"The Karot hydropower project, a 720 megawatt (MW) hydropower plant developed on the Jhelum River in Pakistan and the first ever large-scale hydropower project under the BRI, has generated a total of 3.1 billion kilowatt

2023," China Three Gorges Corporation, which in- use Hualong One, China's vested in and is leading conthird-generation nuclear struction of the project, power reactor with full inannounced on its website.

In December, two China-donated projects, including a seawater desalination plant and the upgrade of the Pak-China Friend- tial electricity use of two ship Hospital, were inau- million people while saving gurated in the Gwadar district of southwestern Balochistan province.

desalination plant will provide 5,000 tons per day of potable water to help address a severe drinking water shortage, while the Pak-China Friendship Hospital has boosted its capacity to 150 beds from the original 50. "At the Karachi

from China to Pakistan. "Pakistan is on the right side of history by

energy equivalent to 6.24

million tons of standard

learned from China Na-

tional Nuclear Corporation.

In July last year, Unit

(C-5) of the Chashma

Nuclear Power Plant broke

ground, marking the 7th

nuclear reactor exported

coal," the Global Times

BEIJING (APP): A number hours of electricity in Nuclear Power Plant, the standing with China as the K2 and K3 units that both game changer. CPEC's second phase will unveil record development and economic uplift in the countellectual property rights, try," said Senator Mushahid are churning out a com-Hussain Sayed, Chairman bined 20 billion kilowatt of the Senate Standing hours each year, satisfying Committee on Defense. the production and residen-

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar port with Kashi in Northwest China's Xinjiang region, highlighting energy, transportation, and industrial cooperation. In its first phase, the CPEC added more than 8,000 MW of power-generating capacity to the Pakistani national grid. More than 800 kilometers of highways were built, while more than 800 kilometers of fiber-optic cable were laid



PESHAWAR: Activists of Markazi Muslim League (PMML) are holding protest demonstration against supreme court ruling, at Peshawar press club.



NAROWAL: President Dr Arif Alvi being briefed about Kartarpur Corridor at Zero Line/International Border.

PTI founder, Bushra could not be indicted in 190mln pounds scam

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Special Accountability Court of Islamabad has adjourned hearing of Al-Qadir Trust case based on 190 million pounds financial scandal against PTI founder and his wife Bushra Begum till February 27 without proceedings.

Due to it both the accused persons could not be

Both of the accused Usman Gull and Zahir ence.

Deputy Prosecutor General (DPG) NAB Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi also appeared along with his team.

Former chairman PTI embraced Bushra Bibi in the court room as soon as they came face to face as both of them met each other after two and half weeks in the court. Both the accused were to be indicted. However the lawyers of the accused filed application in were present in the court along with their lawyers them copies of the refer-

PML-N fields Malik, Zaheer for PA speaker, deputy speaker posts

kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has fielded Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan and Zaheer Iqbal Channar for the posts of speaker and deputy speaker of the Punjab Assembly. The party has already nominated Maryam Nawaz as the chief minis-

The Punjab Assembly will meet on Saturday to elect the speaker and deputy speaker to the House during the 42nd ses-Muhammad Sibtain Khan

LAHORE (APP): The Pa- has convened the PA session at 4 p.m. on Saturday (tomorrow) in the assembly chambers and he'll

chair the session.
The PML-N is the majority party in the PA and its nominees-Malik Muhammad Ahmed and Zaheer Channar—have submitted their nomination papers for their election as the speaker and deputy speakers. On the other hand, Sunni Ittehad Council nominees, Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar and Moeen-ud-Din sion at the assembly cham- Riaz Qureshi have also subbers. Incumbent Speaker mitted their nomination papers for the speaker.



QUETTA: Members of Jhalawan Awami Penal (JAP) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, at Quetta

AJK PM urges UN to resolve long-pending Kashmir dispute

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)
Chandhar Amazan I Hara Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq has urged the United Nations to take measures for settlement of the long-pending Kashmir dispute for permanent peace in the re-

According to Kashmir Media Service, Anwar-ul-Haq in a statement issued in Muzaffarabad said that the world highest forum should take tangible measures to implement its resolutions on Kashmir so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir could decide their political future in a proper

mir, the AJK prime minister said, "India cannot mislead the world community through its baseless narra-

He also urged the United Nations to take effective notice of India's expansionist designs in the

Referring to the disputed nature of the Kashmir dispute, the AJK Prime Minister said, "India cannot change the status of the disputed territory unilater-

He said that India's ner. August 5th move was the worst example of fascism."

ECP allocates Punjab's reserved NA women seats

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled the allotment of 20 reserved seats for women in the National Assembly from Punjab, with the majority going to the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N).

The ECP spokesperson mentioned that the commission is currently reriewing the issue concerning the allocation of reserved seats for the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

According to the ECP, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) received 17 seats, with one seat each allocated to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Pakistan Muslim League, and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party.

Tharabi Lake contract: **Court sends Imran Riaz to** jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): A local court on Friday sent anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan to jail on judicial remand in a case of acquiring the Tharabi Lake contract at reduced prices.

Earlier, the Anti-Coruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab officials produced the anchorperson before Judicial Magistrate Imran Abid, in district courts, and requested a 14day physical remand for investigations.

However, Riaz's counsel argued that the case was registered in violation of the law, adding that no evidence was available to prove the charges.

The court, after hearing detailed arguments of parties, reserved its judgement on the remand plea for a short while.

Later, the court, announcing the reserved verdict, turned down the plea for physical remand and sent the anchorperson to jail on judicial remand.

Country to make progress: Dar

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Senator Ishaq Dar said on Friday that he was not sure that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder had written any letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or not. Talking to the media here, Dar said he had heard this on the media and if the PTI founder had written any letter to the IMF it was highly condemnable. Ishaq Dar said: "If any one does such thing and prefers personal political interest over the country's economic interest it is not only regrettable but also strongly condemnable action."He said with the grace of Allah, The

& trusted Provincial HEC **Independent Report** University

Majlis Fikr-o-Danish calls

for forming empowered

QUETTA: The Quetta Majlis Fikr-o-Danish (think tank) has underlined the need to form an empowered and trustworthy Provincial Higher Education Commission (HEC) for complete overhauling and cleansing of the public sector universities in the province. In a statement issued here on Friday, it was regretfully pointed out that the deteriorated situation of the public sector universities and higher institutions of the research has turned more serious due to the negligence and carelessness of the previous governments.

As a result of which, the materialization of dream of creation of useful and constructive environment is seen nearly impossible. Due to the situation, the mother educational institution of the province and creativity.

Balochistan is heading towards closure while the overall situation of higher technical educational institution i.e., Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) has also become worst.

While on the other hand, the only women university (SBKWU) has also become hub of male interference and political and wisdom weakness. It was also stated that

there's a question of survival of the institutions in case of the non-payment of salaries of the employees. It was stressed that

there is also dire need to stop wastage and plundering of the resources for building scientific narrative besides promoting research

Masood lauds contributions of Pak diaspora in US

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has said Pakistani professionals are not only making their mark in their respective fields but are also proving themselves as the most abiding link between Pakistan and the United

States. He made these remarks during an e-meeting with the leadership of NUSTIAN-US which is a network of around 1200 ous walks of life.

ISLAMABAD (Online): US-based alumni of National University of Sciences and Technology.

He said we are proud of the contributions of our diaspora in the United States as well as in the country of their origin.

The Ambassador said the Embassy is actively engaged in connecting professional organizations of Pakistani Americans who are serving the country in vari-

All possible facilities to be ensured for Hujjaj intending hajj 2024: Aneeq ISLAMABAD (APP): safety standards at every monitor and address any step. Minister said that this potential issues of the pri-

year Pakistan Hajj mission

is offering simplified trans-

portation services to Paki-

stani pilgrims with standard

buses ensuring round-the-

clock, adding that, the

transport department will

fully dedicate themselves to

Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Friday said that all possible facilities will be provided to Pakistani pilgrims during this year's hajj where special training programs were also being conducted at the district level through camps managed by the religious affairs ministry.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he said that under the supervision of the Pakistan Hajj mission special catering companies were being arranged to feed pilgrims under a government scheme and will ensure quality and

Five injured in Darazinda motorbike blast

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Five people were injured in an explosion that occurred in the main Bazaar of Tehsil Darazinda on Fri-

According to a Rescue 1122 spokesman, the explosive device, planted on a motorbike parked near a local hotel in the Bazaar exploded due to which five people got injured.

The medical teams of Rescue 1122 immediately reached the site and shifted the injured people to the hospital. Two of the injured persons are in critical



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer of BRSP Tahir Rasheed meeting with Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez.

Free treatment of heart patient kids starts at SMBZAN ICQ

Independent Report QUETTA: The free treatment of heart patient children has been started at the Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (SMBZAN) Institute of Cardiology Quetta (ICQ)

According to an official handout issued here on Friday, the free treatment of the children suffering from heart diseases has been started in collaboration with

Cardiology and Vascular Diseases (NICVD). The treatment of pa-

vate Pilgrims, he said, add-

ing, furthermore, various

other specialized units, such

as a Wheelchair Desk have

been established to cater to

the specific needs of differ-

ent groups of pilgrims. Re-

plying to a question, he said

tients would remain continued from March 9-10. The Head of Pediatric Cardiology, NICVD, Dr Abdul Sattar Sheikh would

provide services at the Moreover, the expert doctors of NICVD would also perform the operations, angioplasty and other complicated procedures of

the National Institute of the heart patient children. **DEO** distributes appointment orders among 16 relatives of employees in Lasbela

Education Officer (DEO) Muhammad Anwar Jamali on Friday distributed appointment orders among 16 relatives of employees who had died in Education Department

The Ceremony was attended by District Officer Haji Naveed Ahmed recruited on the quota.

QUETTA (APP):District Hashmi, GTA Lasbela Chairman Abdul Wahid Soomro, Ahmed Khan Ronjho and others organized by DEO of Lasbella.

On this occasion, District Officer Education (Male) Lasbela Haji Naveed Ahmed Hashmi, Chairman of GTA Lasbela Abdul Wahid Soomro spoke and Education (Male) Lasbela congratulated the candidates

DC Duki reviews steps of annual admission drive in govt schools

QUETTA (APP): Deputy others. It was decided in the meeting that action will be Captain (Rtd) Fayyaz Ali on Friday chaired a meeting of the District Education Group to review measures of Annual admission drive in government schools in the area. The meeting was attended by District Education Officer (DEO) Naseebullah Nasir, Education Manager Ubaid Khan Tareen, DDOE Thal Faqirullah Tareen, Senior Clerk Mujibur Rahman Tareen, CPD Officer Muhammad Aslam and

taken against the absent officers of District Education Group and the Annual enrolment campaign would be vigorously pursued so that more and more children could be equipped with the jewel of education. The meeting said that the target of 1384 of children would be achieved during the drive saying that he would cooperate with the district administration and Education Department to get the target of campaign for interest.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Abdullah Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Physiotherapy department.

UoG's Art and Film Maryam Nawaz making competition wraps vacates up with glitzy ceremony NA-119 seat

Independent Report QUETTA: The Art and Film Making competition dedication to the arts.

concluded with a grand finale over two eventful days at the Gwadar University. The event showcased an array of creativity and talent from budding artists

Director Ambreen Siddiqui.

and filmmakers. The closing ceremony was held at the main seminar Hall of the University. The event was at-

tended by esteemed personalities including Moulana Hidayath Ur Rehman, Worthy Vice-Chancellor of Gwadar University Prof Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Aurang Zaib Badini, Principal GDA Raja Imtiaz Hussain, Registrar University Dolat Khan, Dean Faculty of Social Science Prof Dr. Jan Muhammad, Competition Judges, guests, Senior Fac-

ulty members and students. More than a hundred participants participated in the competition. The twoproduction.

day event was attended by a large number of people who witnessed fierce competition in various categories ranging from painting and sketches to short film During the closing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor

of the university Prof Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir com-

mended the participants for their exceptional talent and

UNITES STATES: Ambassador Masood Khan e-meeting with Dr.

MunibaAgboatwalla Founder & Chairperson of HOPE Pakistan and its

He emphasized the importance of such events in fostering creativity and innovation among the youth, urging the participants to continue pursuing their artistic endeavors. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the organizers of the event.

He also congratulated the winners of the interuniversity level competition which was organized by NAB Balochistan last year. The chief guest of the event, newly elected MPA Gwadar Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman said that Gwadar should be recognized not only because of CPEC but also because of our talented youth. Humans can reach the sky with their hard work and abilities. The region needs talented people and universities are the only institutions that produce talented people. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Aurang Zaib Badini, also graced the occasion with his presence, lauding the efforts of the university in organizing such a vibrant and inclusive competition. He highlighted the significance of art and

filmmaking in cultural ex-

pression and community

development.

LAHORE (INP): PML-N leader and the Punjab chief minister-elect, Maryam Nawaz, has announced her resignation from the National Assembly's NA-119 seat. This decision comes amidst her nomination and subsequent decision to take up the office of chief minister of Punjab, marking a significant shift in the political landscape of the province. Maryam Nawaz's res ignation from NA-119 Lahore III was confirmed by sources close to the politician. In the February 8 general elections, Maryam Nawaz had won from this constituency with 83,855 votes against PTI-backed candidate Shehzad Farooq, who clinched 68,376 votes. Among the other can-

didates for the seat were Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan's Muhammad Zaheer and Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Iftikhar Shahid.