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New PM to take oath of office by

March 1 ISLAMABAD (INP): The country's new prime minister will take oath of his office by March 1, 2024, it was learnt on Sunday.

President Arif Alvi will administer the oath at a ceremony to held at the President's House ei-ther on February 29 (Thursday) or March 1 (Friday).

Before that either on February 28 or Feb-ruary 29, the newly elected members of the National Assembly (MNAs) will elect leader of the House through 'show of hands

Shehbaz stresses joint efforts against poverty, unemployment, ignorance

and prime minister-desig-nate Shehbaz Sharif has history stressed the need of joint the attitude of simplicity efforts to get rid the counand frugality, we would try of poverty, unemployhave to spent maximum re-

ment and ignorance. sources on welfare of the In a statement issued people. The PM designate said on Sunday, he said that pothat political stability and litical stability was of significance importance for a peaceful atmosphere economic stability in the were extremely important for attracting foreign in-

Shehbaz Sharif said vestment. that the today need of na-He said that Pakistan

LAHORE (INP): Presi- and economic stability was when all its units were dent Pakistan Muslim greater than it was felt ev-League-Nawaz (PML-N) ery before in the country's Shehbaz Sharif said

that he has set a bright ex-He said that adopting ample of economic development and stability in the past and practical and concrete measures will be taken to improve the economy.

He said, "Alive na-tions face challenges and difficulties with bravery and hardwork. We will move for-

ward together and solve the problems faced by the country



7th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit Exercise-2024 opened at the National Counter Terrorism Centre at Pabbi.

Health, education facilities critical for women empowerment: President

ISLAMABAD (APP) President Dr Arif Alvi said the provision of health and education facilities were critical factors for achieving the goal of women's empowerment. He underscored the need for the provision of a harassment-free environment to women so that they could become part of the workforce and contribute to economic growth.

pressed these views while speaking at the 5th edition of the HUM Women Leaders Award 2024.

The President said, Today we celebrate women leaders for their endeavors and men who contributed to the economic empowerment of women."

Talking about the rights of women, he cited the say-ing of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who killed.

ted in Gaza for the vested interests and in negation of humanitarian values. The President said that

sease

women and children were The President further said genocide was commit-

the Pakistani nation had capability to overcome challenges as it did during the COVID-19 pandemic, through collective efforts and Pakistan remained the third most successful country in tackling the deadly

He urged the nation to work together and forge unity to address the numerous challenges including poverty, malnutrition, stunting and maternal and neonatal deaths.

37 experienced parliamentarians along with: 25 new faces to be part of Balochistan Assembly taking oath on Feb 28

Five former CMs including Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Jam Kamal Khan & Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch among those 37 experienced parliamentarians became

part of Provincial Assembly

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly is going to be comprised 60 percent experienced members and 40 percent new members, elected for the first time in the recent general elections. All the parliamentar-

oath of the membership of provincial assembly on February 28 (Monday) for its (Assembly) session has already been summoned by the Governor Balochistan

Kakar

bers, who became part of the new assembly are included five former Chief Ministers. They are included: Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Jam Kamal Khan & Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch Among them, Nawab

Sanaullah Žehri has elected ans-elect are likely to take as member of provincial assembly for 7th term.

Other experienced parliamentarians who have made their way into the provincial assembly so far are included: Nawab Malik Abdul Wali Khan Muhammad Aslam Raisani,

while

Continued on page 2 The experienced mem-



country.

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi, in a group photograph, with the organizers & recipients of the awards at the 5th edition of HUM Women Leaders Awards-2024 ceremony held at the Jinnah Convention Center.

Decides to prolong protest all over province: Protest sit-in of 4-Parties Alliance ends in Quetta

Independent Report LAHORE (INP): The QUETTA: The protest sit-in (dharna) being staged by Punjab Assembly is set to the four Parties Alliance in front of Deputy Commissioner's office for last 17 days came to an end on witness a one-to-one contest for the post of chief Sunday afternoon.

The four Parties Alliance comprising Balochistan minister (CM) tomorrow National Party (BNP), Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami (Monday) as nomination Party (PkMAP), National Party and Hazara Democratic | papers of PML-N nomi-

said that a man who raised two daughters earned his place in paradise. President Dr Arif Alvi stated that women in hu-

The President ex-

man societies, through the ages, were epitome of love and hope and they taught children love and kept the family system intact. He pointed out that women suffered the most in wars and acts of genocide, add-

> ing millions lost their lives in genocides in the previous centuries. The President criticized the acts of genocide

by Israeli forces in Gaza, saving that thousands of

Party (HDP) had started dharna against alleged rigging in the elections and change in the results of different constituencies of the province.

Speaking to the media, a leader of Balochistan National Party, Ghulam Nabi Marri told that we recorded our protest in democratic manner by staging protest sitin in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner / District Returning Officer Quetta. However, no one paid hearing to our protest, Mr. Marri maintained.

He also said that the four Parties Alliance has decided to expand the protest in the province after ending it in Ouetta.

He announced to hold protest demonstrations and take out rallies all over the province as a mark of protest against alleged rigging in the elections.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman meeting with leader of the house in Senate Ishaq Dar.

PPP secures speaker, deputy speaker slots in Sindh Assembly

Awais Qadir Shah pledges unbiased attitude irrespective of party affiliation

come

filiation

him as Speaker.

from Jamaat-i-Islami, all

protesting the election out-

elected Speaker of the Sindh

Assembly, Syed Awais Qadir Shah, pledged on Sun-

day to show an unbiased

attitude towards MPAs, ir-

respective of their party af-

Meanwhile the newly

KARACHI (INP): Members of the Sindh Assembly through a secret ballot on Sunday elected PPP's Owais Qadir Shah and Anthony Naveed as speaker and deputy speaker, respec-

tively. Out of a total of 147 votes cast on Sunday, Shah secured 111 votes while MQM-P's Sofia Shah clinched 36. Meanwhile, Naveed also secured 111 votes while MQM-P's Advocate Rashid Khan won 36.

The development comes a day after as many as 147 legislators-elect of the PPP and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) were sworn in as members of the 16th provincial assembly.

Outgoing Sindh Assembly speaker, Agha Siraj Durrani, administered the oath to 111 PPP members and 36 from the MQM-P on Saturday. Notably absent were nine PTI-backed indebly, adding that Liaquat Ali pendent candidates, three from the Grand Democratic Khan waved the Pakistani Alliance (GDA) and two flag here.

nee Maryam Nawaz and Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) Rana Aftab were declared valid after scrutiny. Sunday noon was the

Maryam Nawaz

poised to make

history as Punjab

to elect CM today

deadline, announced by newly-elected Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmed Khan for submission of nomination papers for the post.

Malik Ahmed Khan did the verification of nomination papers. He said that the election for the coveted slot will be held in tomorrow's assembly session.

Maryam Nawaz, the Provincial Minister for Inpolitical scion of PMLformation, Jan Achakzai supreme leader has stated that Pakistan Nawaz Sharif, was nomi-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) nated as the party's candistrived very hard to make date for the coveted posithe recent general elections tion of the chief minister controversial, and for the purpose, it (PTI) also made of the country's most populous province, propaganda. Punjab.

Meanwhile, PTI - at issued here the other day, the eleventh hour the caretaker Minister for Information maintained named Rana Aftab that the fake videos were Ahmed Khan as its new made viral, the narrative of candidate for the post fake form 45 was made and following the provincial then the Commissioner police's attempt to arrest Rawalpindi was launched its earlier nominee, Mian too. Aslam Iqbal.

In addition to this, the

Human error blamed for 2020 Karachi plane crash

KARACHI (INP): The PIA investigation board has released an inquiry report into the Karachi plane on Sunday, which claimed 99 lives, four years after the heart-wrenching tragedy. Amid lack of coordination, human error was reported to be the main cause of the crash, said the inquiry report. The final investigation report was released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board regarding PIA Airbus A320 nearly four years after the crash that claimed 99 lives on May 22, 2020.

The report clearly said there was a lack of communication and harmony between the two pilots and air traffic controllers. It further revealed that four times before landing, the air traffic controller stopped the pilot from landing, telling him that the plane's key height was too high. For the fifth time, the air traffic controller allowed for landing. However, the air traffic controller did not tell the pilot that the plane's engine hit the runway and burst into flames during the first landing attempt



QUETTA: Abdul Qahar Wadan, Haji Atta Muhammad Bangulzai, Ghulam Nabi Marri, Qadir Nayel, Kabir Afghan and Riaz Baloch addressing a protest sit-in organized by Four-Parties Alliance in front of **RO** office

ISLAMABAD: 7th consignment of relief goods being dispatched for the people of Gaza from Government of Pakistan.

PTI made every possible attempt to sabotage recent elections: Jan Achakzai

Independent Report PTI also wrote a letter to IMF, and even made it ev-QUETTA: The caretaker ery possible attempt to sabotage the elections, but it failed in its designs.

The caretaker minister for Information said that PTI has no other option except accepting the results of elections as the fake propaganda would not work In an official statement now. He said that it is a reality that PTI has just lost and as such it has to accept

stabilized.

its defeat. Jan Achakzai stressed that the PTI should work with new government for development and prosperity of the country so that the country is economically

Speaker to summon NA session on Feb 29 if president doesn't: Dar ISLAMABAD (Agen-

cies): Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Senator Ishaq Dar, has asserted that if President Dr Arif Alvi fails to summon a National Assembly session, the constitutional prerogative allows the Speaker to convene the session on February 29. Dar, addressing the media outside the Punjab Assembly, emphasised that according to constitutional mandates, a session of the National Assembly must be called within 21 days from the date of general elections, thereby underscoring the urgency of the matter.

He further highlighted that this principle extends to provincial assemblies as well, clarifying that if a governor fails to summon the session of a provincial assembly, similar procedures can be followed.

The former finance minister refrained from delving into the intricacies of economic strategies, suggesting that such discussions are better suited for more appropriate forums

International PATS exercise kicks off in Pabbi

Independent Report Morocco, Qatar, Sri Lanka Thailand, Turkiye, United States of America and RAWALPINDI: The opening ceremony of 7th International Pakistan Army Uzbekistan Team Spirit (PATS) Exer-Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, cise-2024 was held at Na-Myanmar, Germany, Indotional Counter Terrorism nesia, Japan and Oman will Centre (NCTC) Pabbi, towitness the exercise as miliday. Director General Military observers. tary Training opened the 60 hours long Patrolling Exer-Pakistan Army Team Spirit is a mission specific cise which aims at enhanc-

and task oriented profesing military to military cosional military exercise operation under complex organised annually in Pakiinternational security envistan. The exercise calls for ronment. A total of 20 highest standard of physifriendly countries including cal fitness, mental agility/ military observers are parrobustness and professional ticipating in the event. Mamilitary expertise for quick ior participants include Padecision making in varied situations during conduct of kistan, Bahrain, Jordan, challenging missions in near Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Maldives, real environment.



OUETTA: Activists of Markazi Muslim League holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club

Foolproof security to be provided to teams: Over 2.655 million children to be vaccinated as anti-polio campaign begins today

Independent Report QUETTA: The seven-day polio immunization is due to start from today (Monday) all over the Balochistan

province The Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication Balochistan, Syed Zahid Shah informed that more than 26,55,000 children would be administered anti-polio drops during the campaign that would last March 3, 2024.

Approximately 11,000 teams would be taking part in the anti-polio campaign, the EOC Coordinator adding that the Vitamin "A" drops would also be administered to the children this time. Syed Zahid Shah mentioned that no fresh case of polio has been re-

ported from the province for last three months.

However, the polio virus was detected in the sewerage and environmental samples collected from different districts of the province.

Coordinator EOC said that all available resources are being mobilized to ensure complete eradication of the polio virus from Balochistan.

He assured that foolproof security would be ensured for the teams taking part in the anti-polio campaign in the province.

Syed Zahid Shah reiterated the government's resolve to fully eradicate the virus from Balochistan saying that we would not sit with ease until and unless the virus is eradicated.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Quetta

Monday February 26, 2024

Miscellaneous

Page 02

PRs finalizes plan to procure 230 passengers coaches under PSDP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Railways was set to ML-I under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). finalize a plan to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings

An official in the Ministry of Railways on Sunday said, "Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h.'

Pakistan Railways was putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track along with improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time, he added.

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

The length of the track was 1,726 kilometers and the department has planned to improve speed up to 160 kilometers per hour in the project of up-gradation of

he noted.

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

"The Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) system (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in and interlocking for higher speed and safety of train operation," the official added

To a question, he said Pakistan Railways was a big organization comprising around 63,000 employees, and its network was spread throughout the coun-

The official said the employees were well cared for owing to having several welfare activities, including healthcare facilities through an intensive network of hospitals, dispensaries, and child healthcare units.

He said the provision of government accommodation according to entitlement and priority list, staff benevolent funds, benefits, and incentives provided through the Prime Minister's Family Assistance Pack age policy for deceased employees' families were part of these facilities

Afghan refugee

attempting to get

CNIC, local

and his local facilitator.

made on complaint of

officials of the National

Database and Registra-

tion Authority (NADRA)

office Drosh office where

an Afghan refugee along

The arrests were



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed being presented with memento during his visit to Jamia Abi Bakar Al Islamia Karachi



Dr. Benazir Ahmed, President Bangladesh Chess Federation and Syed Ahmed Maroof, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh with the Winner and top performers of the 1st Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament organized by Pakistan High Commission to celebrate the legacy of the Pakistani chess legend Mian Sultan Khan.

Khursheed affirms Gillani's candidacy for Senate Chairman

interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party senior leader Syed Khursheed Shah on Sunday confirmed that Yousaf Raza Gillani will be the PPP's candidate for the chairman Senate's seat

Talking to a private news channel, he addressed speculation surrounding the chairman Senate's office, asserting that no such decision has been made regarding Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's potential nomina-

tion for the position. Additionally, Shah re- PPP's electoral victory to ated the PP

facilitator held CHITRAL (INP): The prime minister's election, Darosh Police arrested emphasizing that the party's stance was based on another Afghan refugee principles rather than selfduring attempt to get Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC)

Responding to queries about the party's decision to abstain from joining the cabinet, Shah emphasized the PPP's dedication to upholding democratic values. e stressed that cabinet participation was not obligatory to safeguard democratic principles.

with local facilitator pro-He urged parties queshas decided to field its canduced fake domicile and tioning the validity of didate for Sindh chief Session in Karachi. birth certificate to get ministership, party source On the other hand, the resent evidence in lega INIC. said on Sunday, citing election of Sindh Chief Assistant Director Minister will be held tosources. NADRA office lodged an The sources said the morrow. According to the FIR with Darosh police MQM-P has finalised the schedule issued by the Proname of Ali Khursheedi for station that Mohammad vincial Assembly Secrethe Sindh CM slot. It is to tariat, nomination papers Yousuf of Arandu Gol be noted that the MQM-P will be issued and received was facilitating Afghan won 26 seats in the Februon Sunday, and the final list national Sher Hassan in ary 8 polls. of candidates will be affixed obtaining CNIC. Elections for Speaker to the notice board after The police registered the case under Sections and Deputy Speaker of the scrutiny of papers until Sindh Assembly are being evening. 419, 420, 461, 478 and 34 of Pakistan Penal Code. Pacer Haris Rauf ruled out of LARKANA: People are offering Fateha on the grave of his loved ones on the Muhammad Yousuf PSL after dislocating shoulder admitted that he had got the Afghan man in-Sports Desk LAHORE: Lahore attack and his absence cluded in his family record showing him as his son after taking would be felt. Qalandars' Haris Rauf has been ruled out of the ongo-"It's not a major injury or any broken bone, but Rs15,000 from him. considering him as a valu-The police arrested ing Pakistan Super League (PSL) after dislocating his able asset for Pakistan, we the Afghan refugee didn't want to risk his naalong with his facilitator. shoulder during last night's tional prospects. Lahore defeat to Karachi Kings, the It should be men-Qalandars remain deterfranchise said on Sunday. tioned here that thoumined and focused on de-In a press release, the sands of Afghan refugees franchise said that Haris fell livering strong perforhad migrated from Afmances in the remaining on his shoulder in the 20th ghanistan to Chitral dur-PSL matches," he said. over while completing a ng Afghan war and sev-Meanwhile, Qalandars' catch to dismiss Kings eral of settled there and skipper Shaheen Afridi said Hasan Ali. many refugees have also "Despite the injury, he the team was deeply sadmarried local woman. dened by Haris' injury, addwalked off with his arm ing that it was painful to These Afghan refugees strapped and underwent were attempting to obsee him missing out as he scans. Rauf had an excephad been a pillar of strength tain CNICs. tional performance, bowlfor their side. Last month, an Afing the most economical 'His absence will be four overs last night, con-ceding 22 runs with one ghan national along with felt," Shaheen said. his local facilitator was "It's indeed a setback arrested from NADRA wicket, playing a crucial role for the franchise, but he is in the final over to pull the office Darosh during an also Pakistan's main game," the Qalandars said. attempt to get CNIC. bowler, and with a lot of It went on to say that Now, another Afghan after consultation, the medicricket coming up, a prag-*Continued from page 1* also become part of the new refugee along with local matic approach was to give cal panel had concluded provincial assembly. facilitator has been arhim maximum time to rethat Haris needed four to Those who were rested during same atcover," Shaheen said, addsix weeks to recover, forcelected for the first time as tempt. he local people ing that he wished the pacer ing him to miss the PSL seamembers of provincial ashave appreciated NADRA official Sharif a speedy recovery and we son sembly are included: Sardar eagerly await his return to The press release Faisal Jamali, Abdul Samad Ahmed for foiling atthe field. quoted Team Director Gorgej, Ubaidullah Gorgej, "Our thoughts and suptempt of getting **ČNIC** Sameen Rana, as saying that Bakht Muhammad Kakar. port are with him during this Haris had been a crucial asby Afghan man on fake Liaquat Lehri, Zarak Khan challenging time," he added. set to the team's bowling documents. Mandokhail, Syed Zafar

PML-N leaders say to contact all parties for grand dialogue

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq has said he and Khawaja Saad Rafique will go to the leadership of all political parties for initiating a grand dialogue to steer the country out of crises. Addressing the party

workers here on Sunday, he said the PML-N and its allies would make all possible efforts to tackle the gigantic challenges facing the country currently. He said he and Kh Saad Rafique wished that all political forces get united on common points of the national interest. He hoped that all other political parties would also like to join hands to overcome problems facing the common

man and the country. Former National Assembly speaker said the government job was to con-

KARACHI

Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani during the Sindh Assembly

Aneeq visits Jamia Abi **Bakar Al Islamia**

Muhammad

Independent Report daily lives.

duct legislative and devel-KARACHI: The Caretaker opmental works and the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Mr. Aneeq Ahmed, visited Jamia Abi Bakar Al Islamia Karachi as the chief guest, delivering an insightful address on the profound teachings of Islam and Sunnah.

ter Aneeq Ahmed under-scored the pivotal role of understanding Islam and Sunnah for the prosperity of a nation. He fervently encouraged the audience to ac-Quran, urging them to delve into its meaning and inte-grate its teachings into their advocating for the perfor-mance of Namaz and Zakat. He firmly betively engage with the

Minister Aneeq Ahmed emphasized the correlation between good governance and the teachings of Islam, asserting that incorporating these principles is paramount for achieving effective governance. He ardently urged the audience to learn from the life of Prophet

(Peace Be Upon Him) as a In his address, Minismodel for prosperity. Addressing the rulers of the Muslim Ummah, Minister Aneeq Ahmed called for prioritizing the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and

lieved that adherence to these principles could effectively combat social evils and alleviate poverty.

This visit served as a powerful platform for fostering a deep understanding of Islam among the audience. Minister Aneeq Ahmed's address aimed at instilling values that can contribute to the building of a just and prosperous society

In the end, Federal Minister Aneeq Ahmed was presented with a memento, a symbolic gesture of appreciation for his dedication to promoting Islamic values

Team to perform better in next matches: Saud MULTAN (APP): Quetta Gladiators left-hand batsman Saud Shakeel said that the

team would bounce back and perform better in the upcoming matches. He was talking to media persons in a press conference after losing a match from Multan

Sultan at Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday. He said that he got a chance to perform but he failed to utilize it perfectly. He said

that there was no issue with the middle order batsmen as their performance was satisfactory but win and defeat was part of the game.

He said that all energies would be utilized in the next matches to win the remaining matches.

To a question about bowling first, he said that the team won the last matches after chasing the target and they were expecting to continue the momentum. He said that the rival team also has the right to win if they perform better than us, so, it was not possible for Muhammad Amir to get wickets in every match.



opposition could criticise it. However, that criticism should be constructive, he said and added that he and Khawaja Saad would try to unite all stakeholders just for betterment and prosperity of the country. He said stability of Pakistan was essential for all stakeholders, add-

ing that the PML-N did not believe in politics of re-venge. "The PML-N does not want to follow politics done from 2018 to 2022," he added. Speaking at the event, Kh Saad Rafique said, "The

PML-N does not believe in should be on solving prob-

politics of humiliation." He said there was a need to show tolerance and focus lems of masses. He said, "The PML-N is a prodemocratic party.'

MQM-P decides to field Ali Khursheedi for Sindh CM slot

(INP): held

Muttahida Qaumi Mové-This was announced by ment-Pakistan (MQM-P)

ment to supporting Paki- forums such as the elecstan Muslim League- tion commission and tri-Nawaz (PML-N) for the bunals.

Former PTI-backed MPA elect Ejaz Swati feels heat for casting vote to PPP

KARACHI (INP): PTI backed independent members who have joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) raised slogans in Sindh Assembly against Ejaz Swati casted his vote to PPP nominated candidate Awais Qadir Shah, over switching loyalties towards PPP after winning the polls on 'PTI ticket'

PTI-backed independent members' are not participating in the voting process of the new speaker of speaker of the Sindh Assembly.

Less than a week after winning the election on a Sindh Assembly seat in Karachi, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insafbacked independent candidate Ejaz Swati switched sides and announced joining the Pakistan Peoples Party.



PESHAWAR: Members of Muslim Students League and Muslim Youth League are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

Agha, Fazal Mandokhail,

Kibzai, Muhammad Sadiq

Sanjrani, Prince Umar

Ahmedzai, Khair Jan

Baloch, Maulana Hidayatur

Badini, Ms. Mina Majeed,

Ms. Salma Bibi, Ms. Hadia

Kalsoom, Ms. Safia Bibi,

Ms. Shahnaz Umrani, Wali

Barkat Rind, Patrick Sant

Masei, Ravi Pahuja and

here that the notifications

of as many as 62 members

of the assembly have been

issued. Election results of

It may be mentioned

Ms.

Muhammad

Nawaz,

Muhammad

Saniav Kumar.

Qadir

Nawaz

Ume

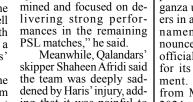
Noorzai

Dr.

25 new faces to be part...

Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Nawab Jangz Marri, , Jam Kamal Khan, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Sardar Sarfraz Domki, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Sardar Sarfraz Bugti, Asghar Rind, Asfandyar Kakar, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail, Sardar Masood Luni, Mir Asim Rehman, Abdul Majeed Kurd, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Ms. Rubaba Buledi, Mir Rehmat Baloch, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Ghulam Dastagir Badini, Mir Saleem Khosa, Asghar Khan Tareen, Your Aziz Zehri, Ms. Shahida Rauf, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, Malik Naeem Bazai, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Mir Ziaullah Langove, and Maulvi Noorullah.

three constituencies are de-While on the other layed due to different reahand, 25 new faces have sons



lence!

Spanning over 12 days, the tournament will feature 7 teams competing in 22 matches, offering fans an unparalleled opportunity to witness their favourite players, including legends such as Chris Gayle, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Aaron Finch, Suresh Raina, Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu, and TM Dilshan, among many others, in action once again

bowling performance and Kieron Pollard's blistering Through Star Sports³ extensive global network and cutting-edge broadcasting technology, fans from every corner Hamza opened up during of the world will have the post-match press conunprecedented access to ference about the plan bewatch and revel in the fore facing the final ball. excitement of these matches

occasion of Shab-e-Barat at Abubakar Graveyard Multan Sultans beat Quetta **Gladiators by 13 runs** MULTAN (APP):Multan

Sultans end their last home tors, Khawaja Naffay fixture with a victory against Quetta Gladiators scored 36 runs, Captain Rilley Rossow scored 30 by 13 runs at a jam-packed Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Quetta Gladiators failed

Stadium on Saturday,

Karachi Kings edged past

Lahore Qalandars in a thrill-

ing courtesy of a clinical

Taker of the winning

"It was a high-pressure

situation but the plan was

single off the last ball. Mir

half-century.

runs, Saud Shakeel 24 runs and Sherfane Rutherford In the 11th match of scored 21 runs. Pakistan Super League 9. David Willy and Muhammad Ali of Multan Quetta Gladiators won the toss and elected to bowl Sultans took three wickets first. Sultans scored 180 each, while Aftab Ibrahim runs for the loss of three took two wickets.

Saud Shakeel, Khawaja Nafay, and Rilee Rossouw of Quetta Gladiators all got starts, but nobody could hang around for long enough to keep the required rate in Apart from this, check. The Sultans only need a sniff to get back in the game.

From Quetta Gladia-

Mohammad Ali was the standout performer again, picking 3/19, and his fellow bowling spearhead David Willey picked three vital wickets as well.

The youngster Aftab runs after Abrar was bowled Ibrahim didn't look nervous at the last ball of the last in his first game.

Collective team efforts led to victory over Qalandars: Hamza LAHORE (INP): Left-

to not play a lofty shot and armed pacer of Karachi Kings', Mir Hamza has said go for a ground shot," he said. The 31-year-old pacer that collective team efforts also commented on the athelped his team to have a mosphere at Lahore thrilling victory against Lahore Qalandars. Oalandar's home ground. Gaddafi Stadium. During Super League (PSL) 9 clash at Gaddafi

"It is Lahore's home ground and the crowd was supporting them fully. I enjoyed playing against a full house and performing in such a high-intensity situation," he expressed.

Mir Hamza, along with Hasan Ali and Tabraiz Shamsi grabbed two wickets each to restrict Lahore Oalandars to 175-6.

Meanwhile. Pollard and Shoaib Malik were the maior contributors with the bat, scoring 58 and 39 respectively.

OUETTA: Candidates of PB-40 Nimat Hazara along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club



Legends Cricket

Trophy to commence from Mar 8 in Kandy, Sri Lanka DUBAI (INP): The Legends Cricket Trophy, the premier cricket extrava-

ganza uniting iconic players in a thrilling new tournament, proudly announces Star Sports as its official broadcast partner for its upcoming tournament. Set to take place from March 8th to 19th wickets in the allotted 20 2024 at the Pallakele Staovers. Reeza Hendricks redium in Kandy, Sri Lanka, mained the top scorer scorthe event promises fans ing 72 runs while Captain across the globe a chance Muhammad Rizwan scored to witness cricketing excel-51 runs.

The Legends Cricket Usman Khan scored 14 runs Trophy stands as a celand Tayyab Tahir scored ebration of the sport, 35 runs. Multan Sultans set bringing together some of the world's best cricketers a challenging target of 181 runs to win for Quetta in a dynamic 90-ball for-Gladiators. mat that injects an electri to achieve the target as the fying pace to the game. team managed to score 167 With a commitment to revive cherished rivalries and showcase the enduring talent of cricket icons, this tournament is set to captivate fans worldwide.

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Monday February 26, 2024

APITALNEWS

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National polio vaccination drive set to reach over 45.8 mln children

affirming Pakistan's resolve to protect all children from nity. the disability-causing polio virus, the Health Ministry the second nationwide polio vaccination campaign of

the year on Sunday. More than 45.8 million children under five some people refuse to vacyears of age will be vaccinated during this second campaign of 2024, which will be held across the country from February 26 to March 3 and in 33 districts of KP from March 2 to March 6.

Children will also be

dren.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re- given vitamin A supple- while the government rements to boost their immumains strongly committed to ending polio in Pakistan

"Polio is a terrible disand is making great ease that has no cure and progress, as decision-makcan leave children paraers, parents and caregivers lyzed for life. Unfortualso have a huge responsinately, it continues to be a bility to ensure their threat to our children as children's well-being.

In a special message cinate children based on directed to parents and misconceptions and false caregivers, the health secinformation about the vacretary emphasized, "Polio cine," the Federal Secretary vaccinators will be deliverfor Health, Iftikhar Ali ing this vital vaccine to your Shallwani, said after admindoorsteps next week. I imistering polio drops to chilplore you to recognize the threat posed by the polio-Shallwani added that virus to your children and

ensure that you open your doors to facilitate their vaccination." This is the second consecutive nationwide campaign of the year after poliovirus was detected in sewage samples from 19 districts in January and in 126 sewage samples in 2023. The first campaign of 2024 was held from January 8 to January 14, during which over 43 million children were vaccinated. On this occasion,

the National Coordinator for Pakistan's Polio Programme, Dr Shahzad Baig.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Justice (retd) Syed Arshad Hussair Shah addressing during a ceremony at Pakistan Sweet Home.



ISLAMABAD: Activists from Tribal District Bajaur protest against the killing of a young political leader

Hindutva regime pursuing policy to crush Muslim identity in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The political injustice, fear and atrocities added to the Kashmiris and injured 2413 miseries of the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of Hindutva BJP.RSS regime and its men in uniform due to the unresolved Kashmir dispute.

An analytical report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, revealed that the atrocities, political injustice, mental disturbances and fear have increased manifold since the imposition of strict military and police siege by the Hindutva BJP.RSS regime and Indian military and police establishment and their struggle for the right to selfdreaded agencies on August 5, 2019, when it revoked the special status of the ter-

The report said Indian residential houses and lands of the common people, are regularly snatched and atduring this period. It main-tained that the Kashmiris dian agencies on fake and had been pushed to the false narratives during vio-Stone Age due to an inhulent cordon and search opman undemocratic regime erations in the occupied terand Indian military siege. ritory. The report said In-It further said that the dia is one of the most dan-

brutalities perpetrated by gerous countries in the Indian forces' personnel world for independent jouragainst the oppressed and nalists where harassment of defenceless people of media persons, who not toe-Jammu and Kashmir have ing the line of the Narendra ing the line of the Narendra become a routine matter. It Modi-led Hindutva BJP added that nocturnal house government, has becom the order of the day. raids and cordon and search operations are conducted by The report maintained that the BJP regime in the Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel IIOJK was targeting the on a daily basis in IIOJK to free press and in India atsuppress the Kashmiris' tacking minorities, mostly Muslims, Sikhs, Christians

determination. The report deplored that properties, including norities from the world.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and excel in the realm of Chair IPO-Pakistan Am-IPRs, thereby contributing to Pakistan's innovation bassador ® Farukh Amil visited Air University here landscape. The interactive on Sunday to conduct an interactive session on intellectual property rights (IPR) The session aimed to

Chair IPO highlights

IPRs importance during

visit to Air university

educate students about the various aspects of IPR, including innovation, business, trademarks, copyrights, patents, and technological innovation. The importance of intellectual property for the growth of business, employment, and empowerment was emphasized during the session, according to a press release.

The collaboration between IPO-Pakistan and Air University seeks to empower the student community with the knowledge and tools to understand

commercialization, further strengthening the collaboration between IPO-Pakistan and Air University. Omar Abdullah says he didn't expect Article 370

Abrogation until it happened ISLAMABAD (APP): constitutional status of National Conference Vice-Jammu & Kashmir, hence President Omar Abdullah leading to an unexpected has said that he did not exturn of events

pect Article 370 was going He said the Bharatiya to be abrogated till it actu-Janata Party and the Jammu and Kashmir adminally happened. According to istration had been creating Kashmir Media Service, Omar Abdullah Abdullah in false development narraa series of posts on X said tives. Even after five years that they had been given asof abrogating Article 370, the authorities have not surance by the Governor indicating that there were no been able to hold Assemintentions to abolish the bly elections.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday assured all possible assistance to fellow Pakistanis who were injured in a fire eruption incident at a sanitizers and perfumes related chemical products depot in Ajman.

The ambassador also expressed his best wishes and prayers for the early recovery of the injured. A sad accident of fire eruption occurred at a sanitizers and perfumes-related chemical products facility in Ajman, UAE late on February 24. A total of nine Pakistanis got injured in the ill-fated

Motorway Police returns purse containing

valuable items ISLAMABAD (APP) The Motorway Police set an example of honesty as they returned a purse containing valuable items that were left over by a family at the Kalar Kahar Service Area. According to Spokesperson Motorway Police, while travelling on the highway, a family stopped for food at the Kalar Kahar Service Area, where they for got their purse.

There was jewellery and cash worth eight lakhs in the purse. On recalling it, the family contacted the Motorway Police through the Motorway Police Helpline 130.

assistance to injured Pakistanis incident and were immedis/o Shah Nawaz Dahri Nawab s/o Shah Nawaz and ately rushed to different Imam Bux s/o Khuda Bux hospitals, the Consulate Solangi all belonging to General of Pakistan in Dubai said in a press re-Shaheed Benazirabad Dislease. "We are ensuring all trict (Nawabshah), Sindh) possible assistance to the and Akram s/o Dawood injured Pakistanis. The Khan a resident of District Welfare Wing of Pakistan's Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab. Nawab and Imam Bux Consulate General, Dubai visited the hospitals immewere later shifted to Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City

diately after the unfortunate Abu Dhabi while the other occurrence and is constantly in touch with the relevant two were under treatment in authorities", the press rethe same hospital. Ijaz s/o lease quoted Consul Gen-Abdul Aziz is admitted to eral Hussain Muhammad, Zayed Hospital Sharjah, as saying. Shahid s/o Mumtaz and Zahoor Four of these injured

Tirmizi assures all possible

s/o Hayat to Kuwait Hospital were initially taken to Sharjah while Sikandar s/o Khalifa bin Zayed Hospi-Abdul Rahim is admitted to Al tal, Ajman included Gul Dad Qassimi Hospital Sharjah.



ISLAMABAD: Nominated candidate for chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali Khan presenting his documents for Intra Party Elections.

BISP launches Whatsapp channel to disseminate authentic information

nature of the session provided students with valuable information and the opportunity to ask questions about IPR, fostering a better understanding of this important area. In addition to the interactive session, the del-egation of IPO also visited

university's efforts in re-

search, innovation, and

the Technology Innovation Support Centre (TISC) and its office of research, innovation, and commercialization (ORIC) at Air University. This visit likely provided insights into the

writing competition on 'Women in Climate Action

NUST announces article

ISLAMABAD (APP): February 29. The details of The National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has called on all voices of Pakistan to become part of its efforts to amplify the importance of Women in Climate Action by participating in an 'Article Writing Competition'.

According to an official of NUST. the article writing competition, being arranged in collaboration with the Gender Intersectionality and Climate Change (GICC), is aimed at stimulating thoughtful discourse on the intersectionality of gender and climate resilience.

The last date for submission of the articles is ient communities

the event can be accessed through the website: gicc.nust.edu.pk. The article writing competition is part of the

Women in Climate Action - Celebrating Resilience" event being arranged by the NUST and GIZ Pakistan on the occasion of International Women's Day

(March 8) in Islamabad. This empowering event aims to recognize and applaud the significant contributions of women in cli-APP mate action, emphasizing their leadership, innovation,

and impact on creating sustainable and climate-resil-

allots 1,227 govt accommodations in two years

and Dalits, to hide its

Estate Office

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Estate Office, Ministry of Housing and Works has allotted as many as 1,227 quarters of Cat-IV, government accommodations to the federal government employees during the

last two years. "The Estate Office has made all the allotments on merit by keeping view of the seniority of the government employees who are working in different ministries and divisions," an official in the Ministry told

He said that the Ministry of Housing and Works also intends to modify government accommodation allocation rules to facilitate

federal government employees

The official said a pro-posed amendment to kistan Science Foundation modify the Allocation Rules, 2002 is under contions from young Pakistani sideration which will be science students to particiimplemented as soon as pate in the 21st Internapossible.

tional Junior Science Olym-He said the ministry piad (IJSO-2024). plans to eliminate Rule 20 According to an offiof Government House Alcial of PSF, the International lotment. This rule currently Junior Science Olympiad allows a government house (IJSO) is going to be held from December 02-11 this allocated to a retired federal employee to be assigned to year in Bucharest, Romatheir employed son or nia tentatively. daughter.

ISLAMABAD: Workers busy repairing electricity supply line at Srinagan Highway in the Federal Capital.

PSF invites applications from young Pakistani students to participate in IJSO-2024

IJSO is a science competition for students under 16 years of age on December 31st of the competition vear. IJSO was established to promote interest in science among school students, exposing them to problemsolving, critical thinking and

experimentation. Over the years, IJSO aims to positively impact science and mathematics education at the school level

film actor Habib observed ISLAMABAD (APP) Eighth death anniversary of Legendary Pakistani film actor, producer and direc-

tor Habib-ur-Rehman was served on Sunday. He was born in 1931 Indian state of Patiala.

8th death

anniversary

of legendary

He showcased his talent in more than six hun dred Punjabi and Urdu films and is counted among illus trious romantic heroes.

Habib-Ur-Rehman started his film career in 1956 with the movie 'Lakht-e jigar'as a side hero with Noor Jehan. His first super hit movie was 'Zeher-e-Ishq' with Mussarat Nazeer. Habib-Ur-Rehman also won worldwide recognition for his heartfelt performance in the historical movie 'Devdas' paired with Shamim Ara and Nayyar Sultana.

schemes, the international

them details of all its initia-

sages. According to an offi-

about

mation

programmes.

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Chairperson BISP, Dr a part of its efforts to pro-Amjad Saqib has launched vide authentic information a modern call center in colabout various pro-poor laboration with the National Telecommunication Corpoacclaimed Benazir Income ration for providing authen-Support Programme (BISP) tic information related to the programme and has launched a Whatsapp channel for facilitating promptly addressing grievmasses through providing ances. The individuals can contact the call center at tives and counter fake mes-080026477 to register complaints or seek information cial source, the existing and about the program. Listing intending beneficiaries had other initiatives taken by the been urged to follow the official Whatsapp channel BISP, the official source revealed that the launch of BISP Saving Scheme, Mobile Regof BISP to get all the inforistration Centers, establish ment of Endowment Fund, Digital and Financial Literacy

Earlier the BISP, under the supervision of Training for women.

the

COMSTECH, PEC ink MoU to upscale engineering capacity of OIC states

OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMŠTECH) and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upscale the engineering capacity of OIC states. The MoU was signed by the Coordinator-General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and Secretary/ Registrar of the Council, Engr. Dr. Nasir M. Khan in presence of Chairman PEC, Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, and the senior officials of the two organizations. COMSTECH and PEC agreed to collaborate in organizing workshops and training programs to enhance the knowledge and

ISLAMABAD (APP): skills of professionals in science and technology with a focus on engineering, healthcare sectors and innovations. They agreed to transform information to knowledge and apply scientific and statistical principles in medical and engineering practices. They agreed to promote and develop policies with special emphasis on applied technology through OIC allied platforms to develop and transfer technology for industrial, medical and agricultural products and services, create linkages of OIC bodies to local competitiveness, promote the mutual trade of indigenously developed products, software and services, and encourage mobility and exchange of talent.



ISLAMABAD: A welder finishing grills of a new pedestrian bridge over the Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

WFME grants accreditation to PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) has granted accreditation to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) for maintaining the highest standard of medical education in Pakistan.

With the remarkable feat of being granted the WFME Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years and PM&DC being WFME accredited, all the Pakistani students become eligible to apply for ECFMG and USMLE.

Achieving WFME recognition will enable Pakistan's medical graduates to pursue postgraduate training and practice in other countries that require WFME recognition, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

WFME has an official relationship with the WHO, representing the medical education and training of stone medical doctors worldwide. Prof Rizwan Taj expressed in a statement, "We are The WFME recognition delivers an independent, transparent, and rigorous thrilled to receive recognimethod of ensuring that action from WFME, a testacreditation of medical ment to our continuous efschools worldwide is at an forts to elevate medical eduinternationally acceptable

and high standard. WFME evaluated the compliance of accreditation agencies with defined criteria. The accreditation from WFME signifies that PM&DC's medical education programs meet international benchmarks for quality and excellence.

framework for aspiring

healthcare professionals in

Pakistan. The PM&DC

team, under the leadership

of President Rizwan Tai,

undertook the WFME rec-

ognition process and

cation standards in the country This achievement opens new avenues for collaboration and ensures that our medical graduates are

well-equipped to meet international healthcare standards. Dr Rizwan added that in pursuit of goals, PM&DC required some di-It reflects the council's rection and long-term reladedication to providing a tionships with global organizations such as the World robust and globally competitive medical education Federation for Medical

Education (WFME). Their guidance and support would immensely contribute to improving medical education standards in our country. Prof Dr Rizwan congratulated the

achieved this historic milenation on this landmark achievement and said, President PM&DC WFME's recognition underscores that the quality of medical education in Pakistan adheres to global standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

(PSF) has invited applica-

This will empower our students with the opportunity to pursue their careers anywhere in the world. He appreciated all the team members who worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. He also appreciated Farzand Ali, an international consultant on collaboration and recognition, for his guidance and tireless efforts in expediting the complete recognition process in record time. He appreciated the

hard work of medical colleges and hospitals, namely Shifa College of Medicine, Khyber Medical College Peshawar, the University of Lahore, Agha Khan Medical College Karachi, and Army Medical College

Rawalpindi, for their support and role in conducting workshops and inspections during the rigorous evaluation of WFME. He congratulated the entire staff of PM&DC for their tireless efforts in achieving this ac-

creditation

marks

He added that this recognition is a testament to PM&DC's firm commitment to the highest standards in medical education and accreditation. As part WFME accredited, and the new medical colleges that will be set up in the coming 10 years will automatically become WFME ac-

credited. further enhance the quality and standards of medical education in Pakistan by aligning them with global best practices and bench-

The recognition will

ISLAMABAD: Employees of CDA changing the water supply lines of Green Belt at G-7/3

of this recognition, all 185 existing medical colleges in Pakistan will become

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Monday February 26, 2024

Pipeline progress

The outgoing caretaker government has decided to move forward with the much-delayed Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, and the incoming administration will be required to take further diplomatic and legal steps so that the scheme received postal ballots in is no longer hindered. The Cabinet Committee on Energy on Friday decided to construct an 80km stretch of the pipeline running from the Iranian border to Gwadar. The Iranians have built the pipeline at their end, but Pakistan has been unable to start work on its side of the border, apparently due to concerns of attracting US sanctions. The interim administration seems to have made the decision considering Iran's option of moving the International Court of Arbitration, which could bring a \$18bn penalty for Pakistan, as the state had issued a sovereign guarantee for the project.

The caretaker set-up's move should bring some clarity regarding the project's future. First agreed to in 2009, the scheme has been in limbo mainly because successive governments here have failed to take a concrete decision on its fate. The caretaker admina trillion dollars. istration had consulted neutral foreign experts on the issue, who had said that while the scheme could attract US sanctions, Pakistan's citing of force majeure to justify its inability to proceed with the scheme was a weak defence. Therefore, executing the project was preferable. With regard to the in- CPEC viable? And, three, are child and healthcare, educacoming rulers, the PML-N in economic experts useful? Mueen sagely responded by its latest election manifesto has saying debt was like an illalso cited its desire to "enhance economic and energy ties" with Iran, specifically mentioning the oil and gas sectors. Hence, there should be no contradictions between the caretaker administration's decision and the new rulers' policies. The fact is that Pakistan needs regular and affordable access to natural gas. Dwindling local supplies cannot meet demand, as the gas loadshedding in both the domestic changes in the real world and industrial sectors, especially during the winter months, shows. Therefore, importing Iranian gas is a sensible economic decision; it is the geopolitics of the matter that have caused lengthy delays in the scheme's implementation. The fear of US sanctions should be dispensed with. For example, both China and India have been importing Russian oil, despite the West's displeasure with this trade in the context of the Ukraine war. The US has sanctioned hundreds of entities and individuals linked to Russia. This includes firms in China, Turkiye and the UAE. And while it can be argued that China and India have the economic heft to ignore American and European Interaction offers ano-nymity, invisibility and no sanctions, Pakistan, if it plays fear of consequences. Soits cards right, can also trade with Iran without attracting ing for blood and unable Washington's ire. The state should go ahead with the pipeline, while the legal and diplomatic fronts need to be monitored to ensure that the project is protected from American create another one. Studsanctions. The new government must do what is in the country's best interests.

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

At the centre of the raging controversy over the Feb 8 election results are two forms prescribed in Election Rules, 2017: Form-45 is the Result of the [vote] Count prepared by the presiding officer at each pollprobability, will be carried through, leading to incoring station and Form-47 is the Provisional Consolidated Statement of results of the vote count of all polling stations in a constituency prepared by the concerned Returning Officer (RO) before including the

the count. These two and some other associated forms like the Ballot Paper Account of each polling station (Form-46), Consolidated Statement of the Results of the Count Furnished by the Presiding Officers including the count of postal ballots (Form-48) and Final Consolidated Result (Form-49) constitute the backbone of the system of electoral transparency guaranteed by Elections Act, 2017.

Primarily, there are three pillars which sustain the integrity of the electoral process (especially on pollkistan. The first pillar is the correctness of the information recorded in Forms 45 to 49. If there are flaws in the basic information contained in Form-45 and the obvious errors and omissions such as an incorrect total are not checked by the RO at the time of receiving Form-45, the errors, in all

rect results for the constitu-Although both the presiding officer and seniormost assistant presiding officer at each polling station are required to sign, affix their thumb impressions, and record their CNIC numbers, certifying that they have checked and public verified the completed form, many Form-45s generally contain errors, and, in some cases, the signatures of the officers are missing. The law also requires that the completed Form-45 also be signed by the polling agents of the candidates but in the 2018 election, 90 per cent of the forms uploaded on the ECP website did not contain the signature of any polling agent, raising questions

ing day) operations in Paforms. Such scrutiny of Form-45s in the 2024 election is yet to be undertaken as the forms have not been uploaded on the ECP website yet.

The second pillar of poll integrity is sharing information with all candidates and political parties through their polling and election agents, and the media and public at large soon thereafter. In order to ensure complete transparency, an authenticated copy of Form-45 has to be handed to the polling agent of each

A matter of form

candidate according to Elections Act, 2017. In fact, the law also requires that a copy of Form-45 be pasted outside each polling station for the information of the Unlike 2018 election, when the most common complaint on polling day was that polling agents had been excluded from vote counting at the polling stations and quite a few of them were reportedly not

given signed copies of Form-45, not many such complaints were heard in election 2024. The most complaints regarding pollof the polls. ing day this time do not appear to be related to poll-

lar supporting the edifice send the complete provi-of polling day integrity is sional results as soon as Courtesy Dawn about the credibility of the ing stations where most

polling agents seem to have received the completed Form-45 This time the bulk of complaints related to the operations in the ROs' office where reportedly many candidates and their agents were not allowed to be present during the consolidation process to prepare Form-47, and resultantly, many candidates reported wide divergences between the number of votes recorded in Form-45 and the ones subsequently entered in Form-A major controversy

revolves round the alleged discrepancy between these two forms. Many candidates declared to have lost violating such legal provithe election have comsions has serious implications for the credibility of plained that the sum total of the votes obtained by elections. The proviso in Secthem and recorded on Form-45 does not tally tion 13(3) of the Elections Act clearly delineates the with the total votes shown in Form-47. These comtimeline of declaration of provisional election replaints raise serious questions about both the corsults, according to which each RO is bound to comrectness of information pile the complete provisional results by 2 a.m. on contained in Form-47 and the transparency of the consolidation process the day immediately folthreatening the credibility lowing polling day. If, for any reason, this is not

possible, the RO "shall The third critical pil-

the timeliness of sharing the information contained in these forms and the declaration of results Timeliness is not necessarily the swiftness with which the results are declared; it is living up to the promised legal timeline. Some countries like India have a system of counting votes and declaring election results days and weeks after polling day, and that works fine for them without compromising the credibility of polls because their election commission fulfils the legal timelines. Pakistan has its own specific poll timelines built into the election laws and rules, and

compiled but not later than 10 a.m." Since almost all of the 859 returning officers violated the timeline and the complete provisional results were not declared even after a lapse of 48 hours beyond the final deadline, serious questions about the integrity of election are being raised.

Another important aspect of the system of transparency and timeliness of declaring results is clearly spelled out in Section 95(8) and (10) of the Elections Act. These legal provisions demand that the Commission shall within 14 days from the date of the poll, publish the documents on its website". The documents referred to in the law are Forms 45, 46, 48 and 49. As the deadline of 14 days expired on Feb 22 without the ECP uploading the documents on its website, another serious legal lanse has occurred which anpears to have further undermined the perception of integrity and credibility of the electoral process. It seems that the ECP will have to do a lot of explaining in order to counter such negative perceptions.

US civil war and the Franco-Prussian war to the first and garded poverty as so oversecond world wars (1870 whelming a reality that it to1950) impacted the class could only be managed not basis of politics. As a result, resolved (even when draw-

ing up long-term perspective plans.) The other economist mentioned by Mueen was Stefan Dercon who wrote Gambling on Development. He visited Pakistan where After World War II and he observed there was no the start of the cold war, the need for governmental exconcept of social welfare as pertise in public finance a major principle of goverwhich essentially required nance came to the fore to sensible decision-making. challenge the appeal of Rus-Mueen cited examples of sian communism. Tax revprocurement prices for cotenues in the advanced inton and rice that were above dustrial countries accordmarket prices which made no sense as they drained

ingly dramatically rose to more than 50 per cent of public resources, raised GDP. An awareness of the prices for consumers, and need to address the consecould not be sustained. quences of egregious in-Similarly, charging beequalities informed the polilow market prices for gas, tics of Western democracies whether ruled by progres-

petroleum and electricity had contributed to the circular debt which had become a monster. He recalled a prime minister telling him noted the "South Asian co- that if he did not have the nundrum" according to money to provide certain which tax revenues in im- services all he had to do was

reaucrats presumably re- through their noses" for these services today.

This, of course, is a liberal Tory concept of social welfare or 'third-way' based economic development. It claims to be realistic in that it minimizes business, conservative and reactionary opposition and settles for 'second best' solutions on the assumption that 'the best should not be made an enemy of the good'. Striking a viable balance depends on detailed study of specific social, economic and political situations, and good and responsive governance. As Mueen Afzal rightly says, there are no easy or pat answers. That is why economics is a discipline not a science and economic development is a problem of political economy rather than nomics

He did not need to mention that the recent elections have brought this reality into national focus like never before as the people of Pakistan now feel their country has be-

patient. Similarly, with re-gard to CPEC he noted it was Ashraf Jehangir Qazi viable provided the debts Recently one of Pakistan's incurred were put to good most respected economic use and repayment obligamandarins, Mueen Afzal, tions and capacity were gave a talk at the Institute of borne in mind. As for ex-Strategic Studies in perts, he observed that pub-Islamabad on the subject of lic finance required practistabilizing the Pakistan cal commonsense more than economy. A recent report academic expertise although says "the country is headed its importance was undenifor inevitable default". Pakistan's external debt has

Accordingly, stabilizing rocketed to over \$124 bilthe economy depended on lion and its domestic debt the state of the macro-situahas exploded to over \$140 tion. Pakistan's imports at billion, making a total naover \$60 billion per annum tional debt of over \$270 bilwere almost twice its exports. lion - well over a quarter of The gap was more or less filled by remittances which This comes to over was on capital account. As \$100,000 for every man, long as the trade gap was kept woman and child in Pakiunder control the rupee could stan. This is the odious "debt be kept stable, inflation contrap" or rather "death trap" tained and growth sustained. in which 90 per cent of the Otherwise, a vicious circle population of Pakistan is would set in as foreign eximprisoned for life by the change reserves would rapthriving and thieving ruling idly diminish (sending Paki-10 per cent. Mueen Afzal said he stan to the ICU of the IMF for the 25th time).

had been asked three ques-However, to sustain tions. One, could Pakistan growth over the longer term, manage this debt? Two, was the social sectors including

Stabilizing the economy attention and priority. Unfortunately, there is very little budgetary space for these priorities because of military, administration, and debt repayment expenditures (which are increasingly financed by incurring further debt.) IMF programmes can at best help prepare the ground for longer-term domestic and foreign direct inthe ravages of war. vestment which are essential

> for growth rates that lift all boats. But for this political stability is a prerequisite. Mueen Afzal mentioned two economists whose writings have fundamentally influenced thinking on development economics. One is Thomas Piketty. According to him, prior to World War I tax revenues of advanced countries like the US. the UK. France and Sweden were never more than 8-10 per cent of GDP since government expenditures were largely for the police, the courts, the judiciary, the military and some infrastructure.

The governance priorities of early industrial capitalism largely served feudal-

there was a three to four-fold rise in tax revenues to address the needs of veterans and their families who were overwhelmingly from the lower classes that had all suffered

tion including vocational education, population growth, infrastructure development. ness and its treatment dejob security, living wages, pended on its severity and on the cooperation of the would require much greater

Smoke and mirrors?

people used

Muna Khan

A line from a piece I quoted a few weeks ago has stayed with me:

"Does social media cause ducted in 2017 where rethis anger or does it reveal searchers tried to underit?" This was from a 2022 stand why refugees in interview Vox did with some towns in Germany Lucy Allais, a philosopher experienced violence and at Johns Hopkins Univerothers didn't. They found that where people used Facebook a lot in that area, violence was up. If there and the virtual world to was a decrease or disrupsee if I can attempt to antion in Facebook usage, swer whether X held up a violence was down. mirror to show us we are There's equally compelrude and angry; were we ling, and terrible, stories of always like this? how

I couldn't get any-WhatsApp to organise massacres of Muslims in where because I was rudely disconnected from Myanmar and the viothe platform I hoped lence in the US Capitol on would allow me to show Jan 6, 2021, has been linked to vlogs on you a glimpse of the aforementioned frustra-tion. But I think we all YouTube promoting radical views. kind of know that how we got here is the result of years of stoking anger, reof sentment, fear about 'the others' — for one side the others are corrupt, another blames the cult followers

for all ills in Pakistan. An explanation may ers". The way it does so be needed here, especially for an older generation unfamiliar with how algobers, hearing what they rithms select content that want to hear. However, elicits anger and outrage as an audience engagement strategy. These platforms allow for people's inhibitions to be lowered online because the nature of the interaction offers anocial media is an unforgivwhich also ing place. Users are bayto imagine, let alone accept, that someone made a mistake in their 280word tweet. You can get away with saying truly horrible things and at most, your account is suspended, only for you to ies show how extreme emotions coupled with lack of accountability can lead to bullying, harassment and — this is scary Facebook for a short pe-

riod to quell the violence. - arguments that end in Facebook did eventually violent in-person confrontations. Max Fisher docuapologise for its role after mented some incidents in conducting a probe into his book Chaos Machine. the events. He cites a study con-

Unfortunately, not much has changed since.

The answer is not to impose a ban, says Fisher. This must be especially disappointing to read for policymakers in Pakistan, whose favoured form of solution is to ban. I don't know when it has served them well but here we are, with no access to X and let-up in the no disinformation. Fisher believes plat-

forms could try turning off algorithms and "engagement-maximising features" — like the like button and the counter at the bottom which shows you how many people have liked it, shared it. Policymakers around the world have to work with

Social media platforms are, as the founder these platforms to get Twitter Jack Dorsey them to remove the harmtold a Congressional hearful aspects within their ing in the US, "ultimately platforms because there is] a business. And a good in social media. I bebusiness wants to grow lieve most governments the number of its customdon't want to risk alienating these platforms that is by keeping users online can pack up and go elsewhere, taking their millonger, in their echo chamlions with them.

Right now, unfortuthey don't want to accept nately, these platforms are responsibility for what showing us our worst people do after they've sides. And it's playing out been fed content on their in the real world as we saw platforms. This is where when women diners atit gets tricky. Social media tacked — verbally and physically - PML-N's isn't shaping worldview Hanif Abbasi at a restaubut world events too, as rant in Islamabad. I fear Fisher writes in his book. once their identities are re-And Facebook owns vealed and shared, their WhatsApp - doesn't resafety is at risk. I suspect they didn't think of the ally want to take responsibility for the mobs that consequences because went on an anti-Muslim they were driven by moral rampage in Sri Lanka in outrage online, not ratio-2018. Fisher writes how nal thinking in real life. It Facebook did not respond is impossible to avoid hato the Sri Lankan rassment, misogyny, videos of violence and atrocigovernment's calls to help them — before the vioties, conspiracy theories lence broke out — but did online. We have to move write to ask why their fast if we want to stop that traffic had dropped after from treading in our the government banned physical world. -- Courtesy Dawn

bourgeoisie interests. It was only after World War I (and and densely populated the Russian Revolution) that countries like India and Pagovernment policies became kistan remained at 15–20 per cent of GDP. Despite and tax revenues as a result conscious of poverty. The shared experience of the horthe socialist or nationalist of which the people of Pa-

sive pro-labour or conser-

vative pro-business parties.

Piketty, however,

poverished underdeveloped to ask for it. Apparently, the great man did not realize (or did not care) there were "twin holes" in export rors of modern war from the rhetoric, politicians and bu-kistan were "paying Courtesy TheNews

come one big Balochistan Able and sincere politicians will need to learn from the wise counsel of people like Mueen Afzal in order to better serve the people. --

Gandhi and Jinnah

home in 2024, they would

find their respective coun-

tries to be very different

economic indicators.

American University,

Washington, and directed

by Manjula Kumar of

Global Performing Arts,

sends out a powerful mes-

sage that in the interest of

peace, both countries

must return to the vision

of their founding fathers.

more important, message

that Akbar S. Ahmad sends

through this play is that

the prevailing hostility be-

tween India and Pakistan

does not serve either coun-

try well. The past cannot

be changed. There is a need

to look at each other afresh

as friends and neighbours.

India and Pakis-tan living

in peaceful coexistence,

much like the US and

Canada. He even

maintai-ned his residence

in Mumbai. Gandhi was

Jinnah had envisioned

Another, perhaps

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

from the ones they had en-As relations between Invisioned. Gandhi would dia and Pakistan remain find India on course to befrosty, a theatrical play in coming a Hindu national-Washington has stirred ist state, with shrinking conversations on peaceful space for minorities, coexistence, inter-faith growing communal vioharmony, and the need for lence, mosques being rea fresh look at the history placed with mandirs, and of the two countries. The the Ayodhya syndrome in play Gandhi and Jinnah full swing to make India a return home, discussed at Hindu rashtra. He would the Karachi Literature be particularly dejected to Festival last week, defind that his own state scribes how far the two Gujarat had seen the countries have drifted worst kind of violence from the vision of their reagainst Muslims in 2002. spective founding fathers, Gandhi, the Mahatma, and Jinnah were to return Jinnah, the Quaid-ehome in 2024, he would Azam, who both hailed find his country mired in from Gujarat and played corruption, religious excentral roles in the tremism, lawlessness, unstruggle for independence.

Gandhi had envisioned that India would be a united, secular and pluralistic country once the British left. Fondly called Bapu, he built his freedom struggle on the principle of non-violence, famously remarking that an eye for an eye would make the whole world blind.

Jinnah, too, was a strong proponent of peace, harmony and pluralism, as clearly stipulated in his speech of Aug 11, 1947. He also was not opposed to the unity of India per se, as he had accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946. However, Jinnah was concerned that the legacy of parliamentary democracy the British were leaving behind would keep the Muslim minority perpetually subservient to the rule of the Hindu majority. He did not wish to see British Raj replaced by Ram Raj. Jinnah's efforts to create Pakistan were essentially aimed at enabling the Muslims of India to protect their political, economic, and cultural rights.

opposed to partition. Yet, Seventy-six years when it happened, he used later, if Gandhi and Jinnah were to, fictionally, return

dian government to ensure that Pakistan got its share of financial and other dues, signalling his advice for a peaceful coexistence.

For the past seven decades, mutual mistrust has bedevilled relations between India and Pakistan. Since 2016, the two have suspended all bilateral contacts. Such a hostile environment deepens misunderstanding between the two countries. Dialogue is not a favour by one to the other, but an essential means with which to address each For his part, if other's concerns. For Pakistan, a resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people is a high priority. For India, employment and poverty. the issue of cross-border He would be grieved to see terrorism is important, a country blessed with which incidentally has such fertile land, minerals, also assumed urgency for mountains, and splendid Pakistan, given the evicoastline ranking depressdence that recently emerged that India had ingly low in social and sent assassins to Pakistan The play, conceived to kill so-called anti-India by Akbar S. Ahmad, the elements, much like what Ibne Khaldun chair at the it did lately in Canada and

the US. India and Pakistan must, therefore, engage to address these and other issues in order to pave the ground for creating a good-neighbourly relationship.

It is clear that there is a gloomy future for South Asia if India and Pakistan live in perpetual hostility. The play Gandhi and Jinnah return home was a creative way to drive home the message that during these times of hostility, it is worth restudying the lives and works of Jinnah and Gandhi and appreciate how their goals were ultimately common in the desire to see prosperity for their peoples in a post-colonial South Asia. And that they never envisioned nor desired such a hostile relationship that has set back both counall his influence on the In- tries. -- Courtesy Dawn

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Monday February 26, 2024

Naqvi opens new museum in Badshahi masjid, upgradation project of Mazaar-e-Iqbal

Independent Report LAHORE Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, along with provincial ministers, visited the historic Badshahi Mosque and the Mazaare-Iqbal here on Sunday.

The CM inaugurated the new museum for placing the holy relics in the Badshahi Mosque and the upgradation project of the Mazaar-e-Iqbal.

Mohsin Naqvi also inaugurated the Lahore Fort Cafe being built at the exterior wall of the Lahore Fort and appreciated high quality of the new museum being built for placing the holy relics. He inspected the new and beautiful showcase for placing the holy relics.

the

rehabilitation

early completion of the prosperity, stability and

transfer work of the holy integrity of Pakistan. He relics in the new museum. directed to prepare SOPs for using the back door to Mohsin Naqvi maintained that safely keeping the pay a visit to the Mazaarholy relics attributed to the e- Iqbal. Mohsin Naqvi great personalities at an remarked that the tourists appropriate place is our would feel entertained with foremost responsibility. the establishment of the The holy relics would be Lahore Fort Cafe at the kept separately and safely exterior wall of the Lahore in an excellent manner in Fort.Provincial ministers the new museum. The Dr. Javed Akram installation work of new Mansoor Qadir, Amir Mir, tiles, marbles in the exterior Azfar Ali Nasir, Adviser Wahab Riaz, Chief Secretary, Senior Member corridor of Mazaar-e-Iqbal and renovation work of its Board of Revenue, Chairman Planning & interior part has been completed. He inspected Development Board, Khateeb Badshahi Mosque construction, rehabilitation and upgradation work of the Abdul Khabeer Azad, IG Mazaar-e-Iqbal. Mohsin Police, DG WCLA Kamran Naqvi along with the Lashari, Secretary Augaf, Commissioner Lahore. provincial ministers paid a visit to the Mazaar-e-Iqbal CCPO. Deputy The CM ordered and prayed for the Commissioner and officials concerned were present



demanding justice against the brutal killing of young leader Rehan Zeb Khan, at Peshawar press club

Educating new generation Women among about importance of clean, truck-bus collision FAISALABAD (INP): At green environment stressed

MULTAN (APP): Secretary School Education of South Punjab, Dr. Obaidullah Khokhar. said that it was the need of the hour to educate the new generation about the importance of a clean and green environment and its related issues to deal with change.

The aim by the effects of climate

least nine people including women were injured when and climate change. an over speeding truck On the occasion, Additional Secretary rammed into a passenger bus here on Sunday, rescue Khawaja Mazharul Haq sources said. Siddiqui, Deputy Secretary Saif-ur-Rehman due to bursting of tyre, a Khan Balwani, and related truck hit a passenger bus officials were present in in Mushtaq Chowk of the meeting. Tandlianwala in district

Obaidullah Dr. Faisalabad. the dangers of climate Khokhar said that Pakistan was on the fifth list among bus went off road and of the countries most affected overturned resultantly nine

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi in a meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

Governor praises CM Naqvi, cabinet for completion of public welfare projects in record time

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a caretaker government. farewell call on Governor

Muhammad occasion, Governor Punjab Punjab Balighur Rehman at Muhammad Balighur Rehman praised Mohsin Governor House Lahore. Naqvi and the cabinet for On this occasion, the Caretaker Chief Minister the completion of public welfare projects in record Punjab briefed the Governor Punjab about the time. He added that under the leadership of the caretaker chief minister performance of the Caretaker setup for 13 months in detail. Punjab, the caretaker

Population

pproval.

its benefits.

nine injured in

According to details,

Due to collision, the

Department Secretary

New population policy

draft complete: Salman

LAHORE (APP): Punjab a society characterized by

Salman Ejaz has announced fundamental rights to

the completion of a draft reproductive health, for a new population sufficient nutrition, and an

Welfare prosperity, health, and

education. Recognizing

The Punjab Chief Minister cabinet has set a good Caretaker also presented a report on example of public service, the performance of the transparency and governance. He said that

Speaking on the continuity of policies is very important for the development of the country. Governor Punjab expressed the hope that the newly elected government will take forward the policies and projects of public welfare and bring development and stability in the country.

ational ews Will not make verbal claims,

to prove eligibility via good governance: Gandapur

PESHAWAR Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister office, Ali Amin Gandapur has said that he was not in favour of making verbal claims and pledges but will prove his eligibility through good governance.

(INP): the people of province, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf ensuring law and order, (PTI) candidate for Khyber restoration of health cards and to improve the education system of KP.

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He said the PTI founder picked a team that won the world cup [in 1992] and he would adopt same passion to elect the provincial cabinet.

Interacting with a The PTI's candidate private news channel on for KP CM's slot said that Sunday, he said that 55 percent of the newlyuplifting the country's elected members of his economy was among the party were those who won top priorities of PTI and it for the first time. The would present pro-people recent elections have budget. Ali Amin Gandapur said that he exposed the turncoats and separated them from those would spare no efforts to who were loyal to the provide maximum relief to party, he added



LAHORE: People selecting and purchasing old books from a roadside setup at Mall Road.

Efforts to be made to overcome inflation, poverty: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan accepted the then PTI leader Azma Bukhari has said that an all-out effort will be made to overcome inflation and poverty in Punjab

Taking to media outside the Punjab Assembly on Sunday she hoped that the opposition would accept the PML-N's mandate and added that her party wanted to take along the opposition. She said, "The PML-

Ν does not believe in politics of revenge. Azma Bukhari said

that the leader of the house in the Punjab Assembly would be elected through division of the house returning home.

Muslim League Nawaz government despite all reservations She hoped that the opposition would play a

parliamentary norms. The PML-N leader further said that the party would focus on strengthening all areas including health and education.

She said that the Punjab Assembly and people of Punjab had faced the arrogance of the PT founder.

Azma Bukhari said that assemblies should complete their constitutional term as it essential was for procedure. She said that in strengthening 2018, the PML-N had democracy

policy, soon to be elevated quality of life for presented for cabinet all citizens, the policy targets a reduction in Presiding over a population growth rates, meeting here on Sunday, he highlighted the policy's emphasizing coordination with stakeholders, transformative approach including religious leaders to family planning services and community engagement. The Population and counselling, aiming to bring these vital services Welfare Department in directly to the public. Punjab, renowned for its Through communication reproductive health services, channels, the initiative is dedicated to extending its seeks to raise awareness accessible model beyond about family planning and provincial borders.

Leveraging transportation, The planning welfare awareness campaigns, and secretary stressed that the education, the department prospective Population aims for Policy 2024-29 envisions coverage. aims for comprehensive



SSC student shot dead by class fellow over petty issue

FAISALABAD (INP): A matriculation student was shot dead by class fellow over petty dispute in Chak No 7 GB on Sunday, police said

According to details a group of class fellows had gathered in a private academy to prepare for annual SSC exam where two class fellows Abdullah Irshad s/o Irshad Ali and Ali Arman exchanged hot words.

Other class fellows present on the scene settled the dispute between the two but Ali Arman considering it to be his insolence opened fire Abdullah Irshad while

Spring festival to start in DG Khan from

sensible role by adopting

introducing Green Book as a curriculum in government change. He proposed that schools by the Education Department of South Punjab was to prepare students for the changing climate

He expressed these education helps to manage views while talking to senior civil servants, former Secretary of School Education, South Punjab, Ghulam Farid, and a climate consultant while expressing his change associated with an opinion regarding the international organization, teaching of Green Book Ghazanfar Ali, regarding steps to deal with the threats of environmental usefulness.



BAHAWALPUR: Rangers Cholistan Camel band presenting their skills at a ceremony held in connection with 19th TDCP Cholistan Desert Rally received burn injuries and 2024 at Cholistan desert Jeep Rally. Rescue 1122

people including 35-year old Mohsin s/o Asghar Ali, awareness of the environment and its 24-year-old Aqsa w/o Hafiz Amjad, 60-year-old protection should be an Shehbaz s/o Muhammad Boota, 50-year-old Zahida Bibi w/o Noor Ahmed, 28integral part of growing children. "Environmental year-old Hafiz Amjad s/o resources efficiently and Muhammad Aslam, 45fosters creative thinking in vear-old Irshad Bibi w/o children," he added.

Abdul Razzad, 31-year-old Irfan s/o Abdul Rasheed. Secretary School Education South Punjab, **3** injured in house fire among the students of FAISALABAD (APP): government schools and its

Valuables in a house were reduced to ashes while three persons sustained burn injuries due to a fire in the area of Dijkot police station. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on unday that gas leaked from a cylinder in a house at Dijkot in Ali Town. When an inmate lit the stove, the kitchen caught fire. The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt precious materials of the house present on the spot. In the incident, three people including Ismat Ûllaĥ (50), Ghulam Dastgir (30) and Faiza Imran (28)

HYDERABAD: People are offering prayer at the grave of their loved one on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat at the graveyard.

Maryam to prove herself best CM of **Punjab: Atta Tarar**

ISLAMABAD (INP): elected MNA, Atta Tarar Pakistan Muslim Leaguesaid that Mian Aslam Igbal Nawaz (PML-N) leader, after clarifying him of the Atta Tarar has said that charges can come to party coordinator Maryam parliament time and again. Nawaz will prove herself He said that the

to be the best Chief Minister for Punjab. people of Punjab have not supported us since 2008 but have given big mandate in the recently held general Talking to media here on Sunday, he said that Mian Aslam Iqbal should

elections. Tarar said, "Maryam Nawaz is a political worker and she has proved her iron in politics. She will make come to parliament. efforts The PML-N's newly people.' efforts to serve the

Toxic chemicals, microbial contaminants rapidly degrading natural environment, human health: experts

believe that toxic chemicals microbial and contaminants/agents created by natural and anthropogenic activities, that are rapidly becoming environmental hazards (EH) with increased potential to affect the natural environment and human health.

Talking to APP on lamented. Sunday they opined that the interaction between human health and environmental hazards has extensively been interlinked, that was

studied on latest scientific water. methods.

Toxic chemicals and In the race for microbial contaminants/ economic development, agents created by natural gains and prosperity, our and anthropogenic earth is becoming more activities, that are rapidly vulnerable to climate becoming environmental change impacts and hazards (EH) with increased potential to pollution caused by anthropological activities affect the natural environment and human with each passing day, they health.

Talking to APP they In this connection opined that technological noted pulmonologist Dr. advances in agriculture and Zeeshan from Jinnah rapid industrialization Hospital Lahore says the have drastically polluted the two pillars of natural effects on our health in a

human health in two ways, either directly by exposing people to harmful carbonagents or indirectly, by disrupting life-sustaining

appear before court get bail

as a suspect involved in

kidnapping and murder

could not be allowed to

ecosystems. The World Health Organization (WHO) in its recent report has given its estimation that thirteen million deaths annually are attributable to preventable environmental causes.

The report also estimates that 24 percent of the global disease burden (healthy life per year loss)

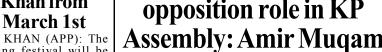
LAHORE (APP): Experts repeatedly researched and resources, i.e land and variety of ways, by and 23 percent of all deaths significantly impacting i.e. premature mortality are attributable environmental factors,

with the environmental burden of diseases, being times higher in developing countries than in developed countries,

occur due to differences in exposure to environmental

risks and non-availability of access to health care amid the environmental reasons. The report further says that five children in developing countries in every one minute die from malaria or diarrhoea

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DG KHAN (APP): The spring festival will be marked with enthusiasm from March 1-8 in DG Khan

The flower exhibition would be organized, while stalls and traditional and cultural clothes would also (KP) Assembly. be exhibited.

These views were expressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of told media here Sunday Revenue Mian Rizwan after chairing the Pakistan Nazir while presiding over Muslim League (N) KP a meeting regarding the Parliamentary spring festival. Meeting. Engineer Amir

PESHAWAR (APP): Muqam congratulated all Pakistan Muslim Leaguethe elected members of the Nawaz (PML-N) has assembly on behalf of the decided to play a strong role party leadership. of the opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa The meeting was

Party

PML-N to play strong

attended by all the newly elected nine provincial Provincial President assembly members of Pakistan Muslim League-PML-N N Engineer Amir Muqam "Pakistan Muslim

League-N will play the role of strong opposition in KP assembly together with other opposition parties,' Amir Mugam added.



HYDERABAD: STP Chairman Dr. Qadir Magsi addressing Madre Watan Jalsa at Qasmabad.

across the country managed

to recover over 1215 kg

drugs and arrested 36

accused during last week,

said an ANF Headquarters

arrested eight accused.

major cities of the country

and the gang members were

were involved in selling CBD oil-laced vapes

through online platforms,

The gang members

conducted

spokesman.

were

rounded up.

Scooty riding trend rising in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): Like other cities of the country, the trend of bike riding among women is also on the rise in Sargodha.

Students, teachers and working women, fed up with high fairs of rickshaw and taxi, have started using their own motorcycles. Female scooty users said it was not only economical but also a fast mode of travel to reach educational institutions and workplaces.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, Myra Ali, who works at a private bank, said: "Since the day I started riding a scooty to reach my workplace, it ended my dependency on others. For being affordable and offering quick mobility, I would suggest every girl use it," she added.

Another scooty rider, he added. Samia Gulzar, who is an employee at a college.

ANF recovers over 1215 kg drugs in 32 operations

provincial drug dealer group involved in the RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while distribution of vapes. conducting 32 operations

During the operation, vapes filled with hashish oil, CBD oil, THC oil and cigarette rolls made from hemp plant were recovered.

Apart from this, marijuana oil, opium and He informed that other illegal materials ANF in a successful including marijuana were operation also busted a also seized. drug dealer group and

The accused were involved in illegal activities He said that the raids under the guise of selling natural products and simultaneously in three medicines.

E - c o m m e r c e platforms were being used to supply drugs, the spokesman informed.

The accused used to import prohibited items from foreign countries through cargo companies. ANF strives to

Eight people were arrested targeting the inter- enforce government.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to a delegation of students of Peshawar University **Campus at Governor House.**

Daily Aoice of Masse **Independent** Monday February 26, 2024

KTH chief says: Pak exports have great potential in Kyrgyzstan

LAHORE Kyrgyzstan Trade House (KTH) Chairman Meher Kashif Younis said on Sunday that exporting pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, dry fruit and leather goods to Kyrgyzstan offers a promising opportunity for economic growth and international trade relations.

Talking to a delegation of exporters and Importers led by Faran Shahid here, he said Pak exported pharmaceutical, agricultural, dry fruit and leather products of USD 15.95 million during the first ten months of 2023 Economic which is not up to existing potential

Meher added that in volume. 2023, Kyrgyzstan's Kyrgyzstan, located in institutions.

(APP): foreign trade turnover Central Asia, is a country increased by 29.9 percent with a developing economy (USD 15.7 billion) and a growing demand for compared to the previous various goods and year. Kyrgyz ex-ports reached up to USD 3.3 commodities Pharmaceuticals constitute billion, a 46.8 percent a vital component of any increase, compared to nation's healthcare system, 2022, while the imports and Kyrgyzstan is no grew by 26 percent to USD 12.4 billion. exception. Exporting pharmaceutical products The KTH Chairman to Kyrgyzstan can

said that China was contribute to improving Kyrgyzstan's top trading access to essential partner in 2023, accounting medications, enhancing for 34.7 percent of healthcare infrastructure, Kyrgyz-stan's foreign and ultimately, fostering better public health trade but Pakistan's share outcomes. He said is negligible. He mentioned that trade with the member pharmaceutical companies states of Eurasian can tap into Kyrgyzstan's healthcare market and Union ac-counted for 27.8 percent establish long-term of the country's total trade partnerships with local He said distributors and healthcare



LAHORE: Women purchasing artificial jewelry from the stall during the Lahore Literary Festival at Al Hamra.

BOD appreciates financial performance of KP-EZDMC

PESHAWAR (APP): The Department. Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) was held on February 24, 2024, at the Committee, Mr Fayyaz Company's Head Office Ahmad Jarral; Directors of which appreciated the the Company; Chief financial performance of Executive Officer KP-



Economy another victim of war in impoverished

Sudan PORT SUDAN, Sudan (AFP/APP): Before the Sudanese army and paramilitary fighters turned their guns on each other last year, Ahmed used to sell one of Sudan's main exports: gum arabic, a vital ingredient for global industry. Now he's out of business, and his story encapsulates the broader economic collapse of Sudan during 10 months of war.

Since combat between

two rival generals began on



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General IEAA Zahid Rafiq, CEO Tabeer Developers & marketing Musawar Abbasi, Executive Member Usman Shaheen, and others pose for a group photo during the inauguration ceremony of the news office of Tabeer Developers and Marketing.

Tapas invites business community to participate in upcoming Chamber Expo-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Tapas Adhikari of Nepal to Pakistan extended an invitation to the Sialkot business community on Sunday, urging them to added

participate in the upcoming Nepal Chamber Expo-2024 in March and the Investment Summit in April

During his visit to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and interaction with Abdul Gafoor Malik, President of the Chamber, and other executive members, he said that the participation of Sialkot entrepreneurs could pave the way for bilateral business

2024

has

investment, and both countries." technology transfer. interaction, he highly The Government of Nepal is ready to extend all

appreciated kinds of support to foreign direct investment," he contribution of Sialkot entrepreneurs making Sialkot a hub of sports "Sialkot could be a role model for Nepali people that it has emerged goods, surgical items, and kitchen cutlery products in Pakistan

During

the

the

global business hub because of the hard work, innovation, and entrepreneurship of its people," he added. decades

economic engagements and as Ambassador of Nepal, "I want to tap the business ay for bilateral opportunity in Pakistan a new a promotion, that could be beneficial to cooperation.

PFC board for industry status to furniture sector

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan as it provide access to Furniture Council's Board various of Directors (PFC-BoD) subsidies incentives, subsidies, and support mechanisms tailored for demanded the government to grant industrial sectors, thus furniture sector the status fostering growth and innovation within the of an industry in order to furniture industry. He said, increase country's overall exports. Chairing the board it would enhance the meeting here Sunday, PFC sector's credibility and Chief Executive Officer attract much-needed Mian Kashif Ashfaq said investment, both domestic and foreign, leading to the furniture sector in modernization and expansion. "It will facilitate Pakistan was a vital component of its economy, employing easier access to finance and millions and showcasing the craftsmanship and skill

furniture sector was enhancing competitiveness

crucial for several reasons in the global market.

from a small town to a He informed that recently Nepal has been able to export 6 containers of Nepali tea to the Pakistani market after He said Nepal and Pakistan needed more "I further said that the meeting would be very beneficial for the business communities of both

> countries and would open new avenue

Utility Stores reduces prices ahead of Ramazan

LAHORE (APP): The Utility Stores Corporation on Sunday reduced the prices of various items ahead of Ramazan along with the reports that rates of more essential items will be reduced under the Ramazan relief package next month. USC representative claimed that rates of a number of brands of cooking oil, tea, ghee, and other products have been reduced. The price of ghee credit facilities, enabling furniture manufacturers to reduced by four to 100 hoped that it would of its people. However, it had long been overlooked and undervalued, he said, dded. Mian Kashif Ashfaq adding that granting said that industry status industry status to the would bolster exports by furniture sector was enhancing competitiveness spokeswoman claimed that on Sunday, he said to suppose the sector status on Sunday in the sector status of the sec

Effective policy needed to promote demand-driven technical education: Saigol

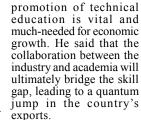
ISLAMABAD (INP): this era of inflation, which Chairman Pakistan is valuable and Industrial & Traders praiseworthy. Associations Front (PIAF) He observed that Fahimur Rahman Saigol has said that educated and skilled people can play a better role in national and economic development, calling for formulating an effective policy for the promotion of demanddriven technical education, as the present setup of technical training is not

OMMERCE NEWS

addressing the requirements of modern industrialization. He stated this while addressing the audience as

special guest at the annual meeting of Defense Welfare Society.

Fahimur Rahman Saigol appreciated the providing education to students in trade and industry.



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The PIAF Chairman said that the young generation should pay full attention to their studies because they have to take care of the country's future.

The speakers on this occasion said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing work and passion of the rates, inflation, oppressive organizers of Defense taxation and unstable Welfare Society who are currency have been technical negatively affecting the



HYDERABAD: A vendor displaying the rose flowers to attract the customers in connection with shab-e-barat at flowers market.

Approval of 80 km 1st phase of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project hailed

ISLAMABAD (INP): whatever source suits to it Chairman Businessmen Panel of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Mian Anjum Nisar has appreciated the Cabinet Committee's approval of work on 80kilometer first phase of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project within its borders the project was bound to In a statement issued

to relieve the country of the mounting shortage of gas.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project began in 2013, and several deadlines have already been missed due to longstanding US sanctions against Tehran. According to reports, Pakistan was trying to negotiate with Tehran to avoid a whopping \$20 billion in liabilities as the long-stalled project's deadline approaches this year. Last year, government also

here on Sunday.

company's The income and total assets have shown a steady increase over the past year, which is a testimony to the Company's strong management and commitment to excellence.

The meeting chaired Secretary the Industries, Commerce & Technical Education/ total assets have increased Chairman of the Board of to PKR 16.753 billion in FY 2023 from PKR 15.860 Directors (BoD) Zulfikar Ali Shah was also attended by other shareholders 79% growth in surplus for represented by the Finance FY 2023 as compared to Department and P&D last FY 2022.

Citizens worried about increase of prices of food items

PESHAWAR (APP): 190 and Iranian apple 310 Inflation continued as increase in the prices of various edible commodities 330 while Kino Rs 220 in vegetables and fruits markets with no check from the official concerned on the day to day increase in rates.

During a visit to the of live chicken per kg, the vegetables and fruits markets it went to the reach of common people. Likewise the rate of the Onion Rs 200 per kg while tomato Rs 140, white potato Rs 110 and red potato Rs 85 per kg, Peas Rs 180, okra Rs 260, garlic Rs 540 and ginger Rs 500 per kg, according to the official price list.

The price of Lemon is eggs and chicken are 130, cauliflower 80, capsicum 280 and eggplant 120 per kg.

As far the price of them, the official rates and fruits including Kabuli rates we are purchasing are apple 280, golden apple totally different," he said.

Company Secretary Mr. Asif Makhdoomi along with finance team.

dozen sold, Guava Rs 230,

Pomegranate Rs 400 and

Banana Rs 80 to Rs 140

per dozen.

the salary class.

APP.

April 15, Ahmed has been at the fighters' mercy. The house was updated that the Company "When the war began, has posted a surplus of PKR 52 million (PKR 29 I had a stock of gum arabic in a warehouse south of million in FY2022) with total Revenue of PKR Khartoum that was intended for export," 1,090 million in FY 2023 (PKR 1024 million in Ahmed told AFP, asking to FY2022). The company's

use only his first name for fear of retaliation. "To get it out I had to pay huge sums to the Rapid Support Forces," the paramilitaries commanded by Mohamed billion in FY 2022. A total Hamdan Daglo who are at war with the Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

FTO apprised about carpet sector's tax issues

LAHORE (APP): A rupees per kg, Malta Punjabi 180, Malta Swat Ćarpet Pakistan Manufacturers Exporters Association (PCMEA) delegation led by it Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf called on Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood

Increase in the price Jah and informed him in price of live chicken will detail about their concerns reach 455 rupees per kg regarding the Federal Board while eggs are being sold at of Revenue (FBR). Rs 450 per dozen, which The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) assured the delegation of is now out of the reach of It is beyond our solving their tax-related

reach, one Inayat Ullah told problems, saying "The country's economy runs on "We could not afford the support of exporters, such things and the prices so I will solve their of vegetables and fruits, problems on a priority basis.

The delegation increasing every day," he added. "There is no check on comprised Senior Čentral Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Eiazur Rehman

LESCO detects 57,401 power pilferers in 166 days detected a total of 57,401 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its

circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 166th day of grand anti-power theft campaign. LESCO The

spokesman told media here Sunday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of supervising which 52,957 FIRs have operations.

LAHORE (APP): The been registered in Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has while 17,627 accused have been arrested. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 76,301,843 detection units worth Rs 2,933,049,663 to all the power pilferers. Grand anti-power

theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the

LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider

remarked



coaches

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

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184. on Sunday, he said the approached Washington businessmen had already requesting a solution to the been pressing the lingering imbroglio, but government hard for received no response. The procuring the required business leader said that

energy resource from we were convinced.

Greater support will

It further pledged to

China's rural policy bank to increase financial support for rural revitalization

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): The Agricultural Development Bank of be given to improve rural living conditions, protect China, the country's rural and conserve the ecological policy bank, has unveiled environment, increase the coverage of infrastructure a guideline to step up credit support for China's Green and public services in rural Rural Revival Program, as areas, and build digital part of efforts to promote villages, the lender said. rural revitalization.

The bank said it will broaden channels for target financial demands in farmers to help them key areas of the program, increase their income, while keeping loan risks which highlights living under control. In 2023, the condition improvements and the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, while also exploring effective means of providing financia support for the program. financial



FAISALABAD: Women buying clothes from a Sunday Market in People's Colony, Faisalabad.

MULTAN: Laborers are unloading onions from the delivery truck at Vegetable Market.

Businessmen pin great hopes from new government FAISALABAD (APP): As situation.

consultations for new government culminate with political bigwigs agreeing expect better days ahead if to a coalition government, the new government the business community resolves for e-governance and other strata of life are and IT based mechanism, pinning great hopes from eradication of corruption the new set up for and nepotism and economic revival, reduction sustainable economic in cost of living, energy prices and inflation and creating job opportunities.

Recent political instability coupled with economic recession had severely chocked business with activities discontinuation of economic policies, depreciation of Pakistani Rupee versus US dollar and high production cost Industry (FCCI) Dr further aggravating the Sajjad Arshad.

bonds shed heavily as in wake of rumors that But, the experts and business community still People's Party and Muslim League-Nawaz had failed to finalize the future government," he said. increase was recorded in

policies. "Political uncertainty Pak dollar bonds, clearly indicating the importance of political stability in the played havoc with national economy. The rumors spread by myopic elements shattered the confidence of investors as witnessed from rise and

phase of government formation, some elements fall of stock market," started trolling the political remarked Acting President Faisalabad leadership to appease their Chamber of Commerce & foreign masters.

'In such a scenario,

policies can be a strong reply to these elements and "Pakistan's dollar for setting businesses on strong footing to steer country out of present crisis," Sajjad Arshad said. government," he said. "Our money market "But, as soon as these remained highly volatile parties reached an due to depleting reserves agreement, a visible and we can boost our trade and reserves by bringing in investment and sorting out dollars shortage."

Cost of production is another element pegging He regretted that during the transitional phase of government compared to regional competitors that makes our exportable surplus costlier in international markets," he added.

consistent economic electricity consumption in stable economy.

FESCO region recorded a massive decline due to reduced economic and industrial activities. "Most reduced their operation. Poor law and order is another challenge for healthy activities." economic

Gauging the gravity of situation, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had floated the idea of Charter of Economy that was initially rejected by its political opponents. But, now as almost all political forces have realized the challenge, it is hoped that they would join hands to ensure He informed that continuity of policies for a

to fixed timings

is these

more price reductions.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying Citrus at his stall in Weekly Sunday Bazaar Sector G-10, for attracting customers, in the Federal Capital.

Daily A oice of Massey

Monday February 26, 2024

International News

Page 07

92 killed in Gaza as Israel, Hamas seek ceasefire deal

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been killed in the latest Israeli strikes, the territory's health ministry said on Saturday, after Israel's spy chief joined talks in Paris seeking to unblock negotiations on a truce.

The talks come after a plan for a post-war Gaza unveiled by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew criticism from key ally the United States, and was rejected by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The talks also come alongside deepening fears for Gaza's civilians desperate for food. The United Nations' main aid body for Palestinians, UNRWA, said Gazans were "in extreme peril while

the world watches Hamas said on Saturday

the previous 24 hours. The

health min-istry said at least

was "intensifying the op-

erations" in western Khan

Yunis using tanks, close-

the residence of a senior

military intelligence opera-

tive" in the area and de-

stroyed a tunnel shaft, a

Israel's military said it

'The soldiers raided

92 people were killed.

range fire and aircraft.

on Friday dozens of people that Israeli forces had launched more than 70 strikes on civilian homes in Gazan strikes but we are dying cities, including Deiral-Balah, from hunger," said a sign Khan Yunis and Rafah over

held by one child. In the camp, bedraggled children waited expectantly, holding plastic containers and battered cooking pots for what little food is avail-

to eating scavenged scraps of rotten corn, animal fodder unfit for human consumption and even leaves. Gaza's health ministry said a two-month-old baby identified as Mahmud Fatuh

military statement said. Hamas, the Palestinian "The risk of famine is promovement that has ruled Gaza since 2007, said fighting was raging in the northern Gaza district of Zeitun. In nearby Jabalia refugee



able. Residents have taken

had died of "malnutrition"

jected to increase as long as the government of Israel continues to impede the entry of aid into Gaza," as well as access to water.



drew from the town of Balakliia in eastern Ukraine in late 2022, pursued by Ukrainian troops and under artillery fire, they left a poorly equipped group of volunteers to guard their news agency of the unit's retreat military capability.

The force of around 50 men came from the National Army Combat Reserve - known by its Russian acronym BARS - a loose assembly of units totaling several thousand fighters that Russia's defense ministry has de-ployed in Ukraine to supplement its regular support, malfunctioning forces

Monitoring Desk

election campaign on Sat-

urday, hoping to overcome anger over high unemploy-

ment and a sluggish economy and to protect its three-decade-old majority.

President

In power since the ad-

About four hours of fused coordination with the footage from a bodycam regular military.

ANC kicks off poll season from key battleground

corruption and mismanage-DURBAN: South Africa's ment ruling ANC launched its

Yet the party remains a formidable machine, with supporters at all levels of government across most of the country, and many South Africans retain proud memories of its lead role in the anti-apartheid struggle. Over the next three

vent of democracy in 1994, months we will explain to Cvril Ramaphosa's African Namillions of our people tional Congress has sufwhy the ANC remains the fered a sharp decline in sup-port, beset by allegations of party of choice in the 2024 election."

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A small balloon floating at a high altitude over the US state of Utah was intercepted by rare first-hand view of the fighter aircraft on Friday combat operations of a but deemed to pose no na-BARS unit, according to tional security or flight risk, three military experts who a US-Canada military reviewed the video to proagency said, according to vide an assessment for the US media.

Jets intercept

high-altitude

balloon over US

The North American Aerospace Defense Com-mand (NORAD) said in a The invasion of Ukraine marked the first time BARS, which was founded in 2015, deployed statement it had detected the balloon traveling at an altitude between 43,000-45,000 feet units in combat. The video, (13,100-13,700 metres), CBS coupled with interviews News reported. "The balloon with four platoon members, was intercepted by NORAD shows the BARS unit was left to defend Balakliia with fighters over Utah, who determined it was not maneuno heavy weaponry or air verable and did not present a threat to national security. communications, and con-

Manipur college blast claims one life **Monitoring Desk**

GUWAHATI: One person died and another was in-jured in a bomb blast at a college in Imphal, the capital of India's northeastern state of Manipur, on Friday night, security officials said.

No group has taken responsibility for the blast of the improvised explosive device (IED), the officials said

The IED exploded in the campus of a college [DM College campus] in the city. One person died, and the other is being treated in the hospital, one of the officials said.

US, British forces carry out more strikes against **Houthis in Yemen**

WASHINGTON (Internews): U.S. and Britagainst more than a dozen Houthi targets in Yemen on Saturday, officials said, the latest round of military action against the Iran-linked group that continues to attack shipping in the region.

The United States has carried out near daily most populous parts of Yemen and have said their attacks on shipping are in solidarity with Palestinians as Israel strikes

Gaza.

and raised shipping rates. and disrupt the delivery A joint statement from countries that either Yemen and other coun-took part in the strikes or tries," Austin said.

days-long wildfire emer-

gency that has razed homes

after authorities warned ex-

treme heat could fan the

ever support is requested

from Victoria," Albanese told

reporters in the city of

Frankston, Victoria, accord-

ing to a transcript. "It's a re-

minder of the need for us to

be vigilant for us to continue

to work and act on the threat

killed livestock, destroyed

The emergency has

that is climate change.'

"We will provide what-

blazes this week.

provided support, said (Internews): U.S. and Brit-ish forces carried out strikes against 18 Houthi targets across eight locations in Yemen including underground weapons and missile storage facilities, air defense systems, radars and a helicopter. U.S. Defense Secre-

tary Lloyd Austin said the strikes were meant "to strikes against the further disrupt and de-Houthis, who control the grade the capabilities of grade the capabilities of Iranian-backed the Houthi militia.

We will continue to make clear to the Houthis that they will bear the consequences if they do The strikes have so far failed to halt the Houthis' attacks, which have upset global trade environmental damage of humanitarian aid to

Australia PM pledges 'whatever support' needed as wild fires destroy homes SYDNEY (Internews): western towns and head to

Australia's Prime Minister the city of Ballarat, 95 km (60 miles) west of the state Anthony Albanese pledged on Sunday to provide whatapital, Melbourne. ever support was needed to assist Victoria state in a

Australia is in the grips of an El Nino weather pattern, which is typically associated with extreme phenomena such as wildfires, cyclones and droughts. More than 15 bushfires were burning in Victoria on Sunday, with the most serious blaze, ranked at the second highest danger rating, near several remote towns, according to the state's emergency authority. State authorities have said there are concerns about the weather this week particularly Wednesday into Thursday when exsix homes and forced more treme heat is forecast that than 2,000 people to leave could further fan the fires.

Economy another victim of war in impoverished Sudan

PORT SUDAN (AFP/APP):Before the Sudanese army and paramilitary fighters turned their guns on each other last vear, Ahmed used to sell one of Sudan's main exports: gum arabic, a vital ingredient for global industry.

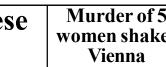
Now he's out of business, and his story encapsulates the broader economic collapse of Sudan during 10 months of war. Since combat between two rival generals began on Åpril 15, Ahmed has been at the fighters 'mercy. "When the war began, I had a stock of gum arabic in a warehouse south of Khartoum that was intended for export," Ahmed told AFP, asking to use only his first name for fear of retaliation. "To get it out I had to pay huge sums to the Rapid Support Forces," the paramilitaries commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo who are at war with the Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

15 killed in Chinese building blaze

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: At least 15 people have been killed and 44 injured in a fire at a residential building in eastern China's Nanjing, local authorities said on Saturday.

The fire broke out early Friday morning, officials said at a press conference, with a preliminary investigation suggesting the emergency vehicles visible blaze started on the nearby in the dark. building's first floor, where

electric bikes had been apparently taken later,



Monitoring Desk fight the blaze, emergency /IENNA: Austrian auservices said. Footage cirthorities were on Saturday culating on Chinese social networks showed a sky-

investigating the killings of five women in the capital scraper on fire in the middle of the night, with Vienna within a single day, sowing panic in the city black smoke pouring from The dead included three it. Other images show giwomen found brutally gantic flames consuming several floors of the buildstabbed to death in a brothel ing, the flashing lights of The bodies of three

young women were found with fatal knife wounds in Additional footage, a brothel in Vienna's undershows white smoke pourprivileged Brigit-tenau dis-

Murder of 5 women shakes

DURBAN: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, wearing a chequered scarf with the word Palestine printed on it, sings and dances on stage during an election rally at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

placed. The building is located in Yuhuatai district of Nanjing, a city of more than eight million that lies about 260 kilometres (162 miles) northwest of Shanghai.

By 6am (2200 GMT Thursday), the fire had been extinguished, and a search and rescue operation ended around 2pm on Friday, the authorities said. Twenty-five fire apologies to the victims' trucks were mobilised to families.

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The first

American spaceship to the

Moon since the Apollo era

is probably lying sideways

ing, the company that built

it said on Friday, even as

ground controllers work to

download data and surface

photos from the uncrewed

The Odysseus space-craft landed near the lunar

south pole on Thursday at

6:23pm Eastern Time (2323 GMT), after a nail-

biting final descent when

ground teams had to switch

to a backup guidance sys-

robot.

following its dramatic land-

US spaceship lying

Moon landing

trict on Friday night after a ing from several points in the building. The 44 injured people were sent to hospital for

treatment, officials said. adding one was in "critical condition" while another was seriously injured. At a press conference. city mayor Chen Zhichang offered his condolences and

sideways after dramatic sibly strangled or choked to death.

was upright, but CEO Steve Altemus told report-

dies; toll reaches 4 JALANDHAR (INP): Another protesting Indian farmer died, bringing the toll to four during the ongoing Delhi Chalo march. The elderly farmer

ment widely hailed as a historic achievement A Nasa probe called the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter should be able to photograph Odysseus over the weekend, helping pinpoint its exact location. Altemus said that

tem and took several minwhile solar arrays were on utes to establish radio conthe top-facing side, the tact after the lander came to rest. President Joe Biden team's ability to download hailed the landing of a US data from the science exspacecraft on the Moon as periments on board was being hampered because of a historic achievement in space research led by the antennas facing downward that "are unusable for transmission back to Earth-and so that really is a limiter in

Intuitive Machines, the company behind this first-ever lunar landing by a private company, initially posted on social media that its hexagonal spaceship need for the mission'

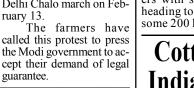
United States.

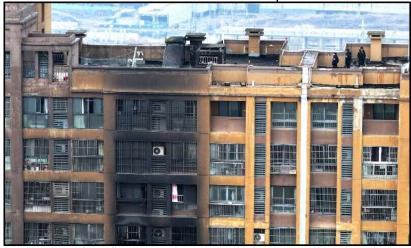
ers on Friday that statement was based on misinterpreted data. Instead, it appears that it caught a foot on the surface and tipped over, coming to rest horizontally with its top perched on a small rock-taking some shine off an accomplish-

Darshan Singh (62) of Amargarh village, Bathinda district of Punjab, who had been part of the protest since beginning of the Delhi Chalo march, died of cardiac arrest at Khanauri border the other day. Darshan Singh had been camping at Khanauri border ever since

the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (nonpolitical) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) led by Jagjeet Singh Dallewal and Sarvan Singh Pandher had given a call for Delhi Chalo march on Feb-

our ability to communicate and get the right data down so we get everything we guarantee





Aerial view of the fire at a residential building in Nanjing city, Jiangsu province.

witness alerted police A 27-year-old man still carrying a knife that was believed to be the murder weapon was arrested nearby on suspicion of committing the murders, police said on Saturday. No motive has been given for

the killings with the suspect still being questioned, Austrian press agency APA reported. In a separate case, a mother and her 13-yearold daughter had been found dead in a Vienna apartment. They were pos-

tions Nikki Haley speaks on stage at her watch party during the South Carolina Delhi Chalo Republican presidential primary election in Charleston, South Carolina. march: Another protesting farmer determined to secure agrarian

reforms from Modi govt SHAMBHU (Internews): from the capital, New Farmers in India's north-Delhi ern Punjab state demanding higher prices for their

Young Indian protesters

crops from the national government are relying on young students to ensure the agitation's momentum does not fizzle out.

Eighteen-year-old Simranjeet Singh Mathada is one of thousands of college students who have been waking up at 3 am for almost two weeks to help cook meals at community kitchens, fill tankers with potable water and load tractor trailers with supplies before some 200 km (125 miles) violent.

NEW YORK (Online): The "The protests are now about safeguarding the country's agrarian economy and farmers of

Republican presidential candidate and former US Ambassador to the United Na-

Punjab are determined to bring this reform at all costs," said Mathada. Protester demands are centred around guaranteed floor prices which will allow Mathada's parents and millions of other

between farmer unions and government have been underway, protests heading to the protest site have sometimes turned

Cotton candy banned in India as sweet treat turns scary after cancer-link

FAMIL NADU (INP): everal Indian states have initiated a crackdown on the beloved confectionery delight, cotton candy, amidst alarming concerns over its potential health hazards.

The southern state of Tamil Nadu has recently imposed a ban on the sale of this sugary treat following rigorous laboratory tests that confirmed the presence of Rhodamine-B, a notorious cancer-causing substance, in samples obtained from various vendors.

Dubbed as "buddika-baal" due to its resemblance to old woman's hair, cotton candy has long been a cherished indulgence among children worldwide.

However, its innocent facade has been shattered as health officials raise grave apprehensions regarding its safety.

P. Satheesh Kumar, a vigilant food safety officer in Chennai, spearheaded a crackdown operation targeting cotton candy vendors along the bustling beachfront.

ine in Gaza. In a statement, the UN Relief and Works Agency said it desperately needs resources as nearly all two point two million inhabitants of the territory are fac-

UN warns

against growing

risk of famine

in Gaza

ing crisis or worse levels of hunger. It said seven hundred thousand people are facing starvation and death every moment if Israel continues

to prevent entry of food and medical supplies.

22 die as tractor trolley falls into pond in UP's

Kasganj KASGANJ (INP): As many as 22 people, including eight chil-dren, died when their

tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh state of India.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the deceased include 13 women, a man and eight children. Ten people are currently undergoing treatment, an official said. The passengers of the illfated tractor-trolley belonged to Etah district and they were going to take a bath in the

Ganga River on Poornima (full moon). state, the conditions are sonnel.

How Trump defeated Nikki Haley in her home state of South Carolina

ing already secured a string of primary victories, it was crucial for Trump to win South Carolina, a key early Republican primary state that often predicts the party's nominee. Unlike in 2016, Trump was facing a rival who had won two terms as governor of the state and is still locally popular. The plan was to isolate Haley politically by locking down endorsements from scores of officials in the state as quickly as possible to demonstrate publicly that she had no path to the presidency through

campaign plan said.

on her home turf.

20 and 21.

SOUTH CAROLINA We were facing a two-(Internews): Despite hav- term governor. That necessitated a show of force. We needed endorsements to stop donors and voters taking a look at Nikki," a senior Trump campaign adviser told to media on condition of anonymity.

Chris LaCivita, a comanager of Trump's campaign, said the series of bigname endorsements played a critical role in snuffing out the competition in the state. LaCivita said another crucial part of Trump's success was to harvest data on the thousands of voters who attended the former president's rallies. What happens in the state South Carolina, aides with after we're on the airplane. knowledge of the Trump That's where the real work begins," LaCivita said. Work-Trump's victory on ing out of a nondescript of-Saturday was not a comfice park in North Charlesplete blowout but he still ton, campaign staff have been defeated her by a comforttoiling for months to use voter able 20 percentage points data to communicate regularly with potential voters.

Farmers protest: Haryana extends mobile internet suspension in seven districts

CHANDIGARH (INP): still critical and tense in the The Haryana government district Ambala, has further extended the Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS in Sirsa.'

seven districts in the wake The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation to put pressure on the government to accept their demands, including a law on minimum support price (MSP) for crops and a farm loan waiver.Protesting farmers from Punjab taking part in the march have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points of the state's border with Haryana since February

of the ongoing farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation. According to Kashmir Media Service, mobile internet and bulk SMS were first suspended in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa on February 11 and the suspension was extended on

February 13, 15, 17, 19, In the order issued on Friday, Additional Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad said, "After assessment of the current prevailing law 13, when their march was and order situation in the stopped by security per-

farmers to sell their produce at fixed rates. Even as negotiations

United Nations has warned against growing risk of fam-

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

Monday February 26, 2024

India 'fully stops' water flow to Pakistan with Shahpur Kandi barrage on Ravi river

ISLAMABAD (INP): The ting the flow towards Paki- kistan from the Lakhanpur water flow of Ravi river has reportedly been stopped to Pakistan after the completion of Shahpur Kandi barrage which is situated on the borders of Indian Punjab and the state of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as per

Indian media reports. India Today reported that previously allotted 1150 cusecs water of Pakistan, will now benefit the region of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The water will be benefiting 32,000 hectares of land in the Kathua and Samba districts

Indian perusing the water terrorism agenda, now executing the latest project of Shahkandi barrage that would supposedly be used for 'irrigation and for hydro power genera-

Already India so far constructed many dams like Bhakra Dam on Sutlej, Pong and Pandoh Dam on the Beas and Thein (Ranjitsagar) on the Ravi. The Indus Waters

Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, arranged by the World Bank, signed on September 19, 1960.

The treaty divides the rivers into two categories: Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi) which are allocated to India, and Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) which are allocated to Pakistan.

Indian media reported Shahpur Kandi dam completion allows India to this end, Pakistan has make maximum use of the launched the multi-dimen-River Ravi water previ- sional Living Indus tion' but at the cost of cut- ously flowing towards Pa- projects.

dam. It is pertinence to note that former Indian Prime Minister Narsima Rao laid the foundation stone for the shahpur kandi in 1995 and remained disputed for almost over four and a half vears Earlier, addressing the

UN Security Council, Pakistan Permanent Representative in the United Nations Ambassador Munin Akram said Pakistan aims to reinvigorate the Indus

River basin which provides food security to over 225 million people. Pakistan has called for strict implementation of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty to address the looming water crisis. He said that to



QUETTA: Secretary Health Abdullah Khan in a group photo with doctors during Pakistan Paediatric Neurology Conference.

Hassan Zehri says: **Development and prosperity** of the people is our motto

Independent Report HUB: The voice of the people cannot be suppressed by bullying threats and undemocratic methods: it will never be allowed to rob the people's rights. These views were expressed by the senior leader of Pakistan People's Party and spokesperson Asif Ali Zardari and president of Hub District Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in a statement. He said that the so-called representatives who have been imposed for forty vears are responsible for the backwardness of Hub and Lasbela, who have that have been completed legitimate rights and re-pushed Hub and Lasbela are for our own people i.e. sources to the people of into the Stone Age. These self-interested elements always robbed people's rights and worked for their personal interests. They did not pay any attention to the development work, due to which the district of Hub and lasbela remained backward. He said that there was no health facility here, nor did the condition of the schools working on were the needs

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri while talking to the trustees and public representatives of Hub said that in Balochistan Pakistan Peoples party will make government and people will

listen good news very soon. He said that the development and prosperity of the people is our aim and the work we are doing is our duty. People have trusted us and we will try our best religion will work day and to fulfill the expectations of our people.

have started or the projects and the provision of their

of the area and these projects will change the fate of the area.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehr said that the so-called representatives do not want development and prosperity in the area and these areas remain backward in the future as in the past and this is the reason why obstacles

are being put in this work. He assured that being uncalled for Color, race and night for the interests of the people of Hub and Lasbela Whatever projects we and to solve their problems

KARACHI: Aram Bagh mosque, illuminated for the Muslim holy night of Lailat al-Barat, in Karachi

Secretary Health speaks at Paediatric Conference: **Comprehensive strategy needed to** cope with challenge of increasing Neuro diseases among kids

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health Balochistan,

Abdullah Khan has underlined the need to prepare a comprehensive strategy to cope with the growing challenge of Neuro related diseases among children.

The Secretary Health was addressing the closing ceremony of Pakistan Pediatric Neurology Conference held under the auspices of Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) here at a local hotel on Sunday.

Also present on the occasion were the Pediatric Neurology, Professor Dr Shahnaz Ibrahim, Chairman

Organizing Committee of ness campaign should also course Conference, Profesbe launched at local and nasor Dr Habibullah Babar, tional level, adding he Professor Dr Jamal Raza stressed Dr Attaullah Bizenjo, Dr health should also be made Tipu Sultan besides people belonging to different walks part of academic syllabus of life

to create much needed Addressing the confer-ence, Secretary Health apawareness, he stressed fur The Chairman Orgapreciated the organizers for nizing Committee Profes-sor Dr Habibullah Babar holding conference on very important and sensitive isalso addressed the closing ceremony

In the end, the Chief guest Secretary Health distributed gifts and commemorative shields among the participant doctors and organizers of the conference.

Moreover, the mental

Sharmila, Sehar becomes MNAs on PPP

reserved seats

bury past;

Amir Dogar

despite the fact that the

PTI-backed candidates had

to face a lot of repression

and even the party's candi-

date for the slot of Punjab

CM was not even allowed

to attend the provincial

assembly's session, still the

party wanted to bury the

past and move ahead for the

progress and prosperity of

PTI-supported

nine members

take oath in

Murad Ali Shah wel-

the country.

Court Bar Association KARACHI (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a notification of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) nominated female leaders on reserved seats Sharmila Farooqui and Sahar Kamran. Both now became elected members of the National Assembly on the reserved seat from PPP. PPP Shazia Murri and Nafisa Shah resigned from the reserved seat after winning the general elections. The ers. He further said that the notification of the successbar associations play a pivful independent candidate otal role in upholding the Khizr Hussain Mazari from supremacy of the constituthe Punjab Assembly seat tion and the principles of PP 297 has also been issued

USC unveils generous price cuts during Ramadan ISLAMABAD (APP): In a pared to the general market rates, he added.

The relief doesn't

stop at kitchen essentials,

beyond ghee, cooking oil,

and tea, prices of other

daily-use items have been

slashed, making them con-

siderably more affordable

than prevailing market

that as part of its ongoing

commitment to customer

welfare, the Utility Stores

He further emphasized

The Utility Stores

rates, ĥe added.

commendable move to assist its valued customers during the upcoming month of Ramadan, the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has taken a stride towards affordability

The reduction in prices encompassed a variety of essential items, including ghee, cooking oil, tea, and other everyday necessities, the spokesman said on Sunday.

He said that the prices Corporation is set to launch a Ramadan relief package of various branded ghee and cooking oils have witnessed next month. This initiative a notable decrease, ranging is expected to bring about from Rs 4 to a substantial further reductions in prices, Rs 100 per kilogram. Simiensuring that customers can larly, branded tea, a staple celebrate the holy month without bearing the burden in many households, is now available at a reduced of inflated costs. cost, with a significant Rs 100 off on the 800-gram Corporation has a track packs.

record of being proactive in Noteworthy among providing relief to its esthe price adjustments is teemed customers. This lat-Dalda Cooking Oil, which est endeavour aligns with can now be purchased at a its mission to make essendiscounted rate of Rs 508, tial commodities more acdown from the previous Rs cessible, particularly during 523. Other branded ghee and cooking oils are also being offered at highly competitive prices com-



KARACHI: Senior leader of PPP Syed Khursheed Shah greets Syed Owais Oadir Shah on assuming charge of Speaker Sindh Assembly

Three BLA miscreants killed in Kahan

Independent Report QUETTÂ: On 25 Feb 2024, a firing incident took place in Kahan, district Kohlu. Reportedly, brothers of Levies employees Lal Muhammad Shaheed carried out firing and killed

three BLA fighters. Lal Muhammad was the son of Mir Zali. Lal Muhammad surrendered Ferrari, and he later joined Levies Force. Later on, he was killed by BLA miscre- been killed.

ants on 29 Jan 2024 in Kahan Bazar.

Today's firing was carried out by Shandar & Shanawaz (brother of Lal Muhammad Shaheed) to revenge his brother's murder.

Reportedly, one BLA fighter has escaped from the site, whereas three miscreants, including Chota Chakar (BLA local commander), have

Govt support vital for growth of Pakistani film Industry: Shah

sue. He said that there are certain reasons behind increasing Neuro related diseases among children and as such we need to adopt multidimensional strategy to tackle them In this regard, aware-

Bilawal felicitates office bearers of **Bar Associations**

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended heartfelt congratulations to the recently elected office-bearers of different High Court Bar Associations of the country.

He applauds the commitment and dedication demonstrated by the legal fraternity in choosing capable leaders who will undoubtedly contribute to the advancement of justice and

the rule of law. He extended greetings to newly elected office bearers of bar associations,

including Islamabad High

(IHCBA), Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA), High Court Bar Association Hyderabad (HCBAH), and Multan High Court Bar Association (MHCBA). He extended his best wishes to the newly elected President of IHCBA Riasat Ali Azad, President of LHCBA, Asad Manzoor Butt, Ayaz Tunio of HCBAH and Advocate Sajjad Haider Metla of MHBA, among oth-

justice.

the people of Hub and Lasbela. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that our effort is people as much as possible allowed to succeed in their nefarious purposes and all possible measures will be taken to stop this looting. He said that the pub-

lic interest projects we are people is our motto.

Kharan Youth Festival concludes with great thrill

QUETTA Balochistan Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs department Dr. Javed Anwar Shahwani said that the government has taking efforts to engage the youth in healthy activities aimed to provide opportunities to exhibit their hidden talents.

He said the Balochistan government is organizing academic, literary, research and cultural programs in order to engage the youth in different sports and other healthy activities to enable them to play a role in the development of the country.

The initiatives would encourage the youth to indulge in healthy activities, besides polishing their talent, he expressed these views at the closing ceremony of the two-day first Kharan Youth Festival of Rakhshan Division at Kharan, said a news release.

A large number of civil society, women and students participated in the youth festival. The purpose of the Youth Festival is to improve the skills of the youth of Balochistan and to engage the young folk in positive activities.

Speaking on the occa-sion, he said that the Sports and Youth Affairs Department has planned to organize more youth festivals in various cities of the province to highlight the talents

of the youth. The sports and youth affairs department would also organize inter-school sports festivals soon to provide healthy activities to the students.

He said that youth can play a key role in the development and prosperity of the country by being a part of positive activities. Shahwani said the fu-

ture of the country is in the hands of the youth and Balochistan has immense potential to move forward. The secretary said the

youth should devote their time and capabilities to positive activities and development of the country and their province.

Hub and Lasbela will be the first priority. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri Expressed the to provide facilities to the commitment that in future we will stand against every and the looters will not be negative move that is against the public interest, while we will continue to raise our voice for the betterment and prosperity of the common man, because selfless service to the

PTI boycotts SA's Speaker election KARACHI (INP): Paki-stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

on Sunday announced to boycott the election of speaker and deputy speaker of Sindh Assembly. As per details, the PTI-backed independent

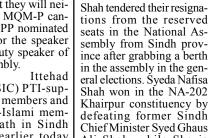
candidates jointly announced that they will nei-ther support MQM-P candidate nor PPP nominated candidate for the speaker and the deputy speaker of Sindh Assembly.

Sunni Council's (SIC) PTI-supported nine members and a Jamaat-e-Islami member took oath in Sindh Assembly earlier today (Sunday). Murad Ali Shah wel-

comed the members who took oath today and said. "We hope we all will play a role in betterment of the province"

People's Party's candidate for Speaker's office, Ovais Qadir Shah also held house.

"Hopefully you will sit in a better environment in the house," he added.





OUETTA: Nominated Chairman PTI Gohar Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Intra-Party elections. Alam Khan Kakar, Dr. Munir Baloch, Sardar Khadim Hussain Wardag, Malik Naseebullah Batini, Faisal Dehwar, Tariq Aziz and other participated

Election winners Shazia, **SIC** wants to Nafisa Shah relinquish move ahead: reserved Assembly seats LAHORE (INP): Sunni Ittehad Council leader Amir Dogar said on Sunday that ISLAMABAD (APP): Ms

According to the noti-Shazia Marri and Nafisa fication from the Election Commission, Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam and Muddassir Sehar Kamran, both members of the People's Party, have been declared elected on the reserved seats held by Shazia Marri and Syeda Nafisa Shah to the National Assembly. Meanwhile, the Election Commission issued a notification announcing the independent candidate Khizer Hussain Mazari's success in securing the Punjab Assembly seat PP 297.

Favourites named in PTI list of reserved seats for women in KP: sources

(INP) Favourites have been added to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's list of reserved seats

elected representatives in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would take oath as MPAs on February 28. The PTI backed inde-

pendent candidates emerged victorious by securing 91 seats out of the total 112 seats where the election was held on February 8 Gandapur.

Sindh Assembly KARACHI (INP): Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) PTI-supported nine members and a Jamaat-e-Islami Sources stated that member took oath in Sindh lawyer Mashaal Yousafzai Assembly on Sunday. and her two friends were added to the list and the comed the members who party was planning to also take oath today and said include Fozia Bibi from "We hope we all will play a Chitral. Moreover, family role for betterment of the members of two party province". People's Party's workers who died in party candidate for Speaker's ofactivities were also named it. They added that no fice, Ovais Qadir Shah also held a meeting with the women from the Peshawar PTI's independent mem-

district were named on the bers and welcomed them in list as the disgruntled the house. "Hopefully you women supporters decided will sit in a better environto protest outside the house ment in the house," he added. Sindh Assembly has of the speaker. Senator Falak Naz's friend Zahida been in session to elect the Zahoor was also added to Speaker and Deputy the list, they said and added

eaker of the house today that two names were added The People's Party has on the insistence of the nominated Ovais Qadir Shah as its candidate for Speaker party's candidate for the KP chief minister Ali Amin and Naveed Anthony as Deputy Speaker for Sindh.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Sports, Culture, and Youth Affairs Sindh Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah on Sunday emphasized the importance of government support in unlocking the potential of the Pakistani film industry.

Speaking to a private news channel during the screening of the movie Texali Gate' in Karachi, Dr. Shah emphasized the need for significant improvements in the Pakistani film industry. He highlighted the challenges faced by the film industry in the era of commercialization. He proposed that the government should either provide subsidies or support cinema houses to make movie tickets more affordable for the general public. Dr. Shah under-

scored the untapped po-tential within the film industry, emphasizing that with government attention and patronage, the industry could flourish. Ayesha Umar, the producer and leading actress of the film, expressed optimism about the success of 'Texali Gate,' describing it as a portrayal of the harsh realities and societal mindset

of the Texali area. Director Abu Aliha emphasized the authenticity of the film's setting, shot in the inner city at Texali Gate, reflecting the genuine lifestyle and environment of the location.

Renowned actor Faisal Qureshi acknowledged the progress in Pakistani film-making while noting that there is still much room for industry development



QUETTA: Residents of Pashtunabad are holding protest demonstration against prolong sui-gas load shedding in their area, held at Quetta press club.

One stop facility center set up for incoming members of Parliament

ISLAMABAD (INP): With aim to facilitate and acquaint the newly elected members of the 16th National Assembly of Pakistan, a dedicated facility center has been established within the hallowed halls of the Parliament House in Islamabad. The arrival of these elected officials has commenced, marking the beginning of their journey in the legislative arena.

Under the guidance of Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Sharaf, welcoming banners adorn the precincts of Parliament. extending warm greetings to the incoming legislators. To streamline the induction

one-window facility center has been instituted in Committee Room Number Two of the Parliament House. Here, members are undergoing essential formalities, including obtaining their assembly cards and familiarizing themselves with the protocols of the National Assembly through provided booklets.

Among the privileges extended to the newly inducted members is the issuance of blue passports for themselves, their spouses, parents, and unmarried children under 28 years of age. This passport grants visa-free travel to 46 countries worldwide, albeit process, a comprehensive necessitating a sworn oath.

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a meeting with the PTI's independent members and welcomed them in the



QUETTA: Secuerity Personnel blocked the road going towards the RO office during the 4-Party Itehad sit-in protest against the alleged vote-rigging in the general election.

by showing them as longtime workers, sources within the party said on Monday. They claimed that the party has finalised the list and former members of provincial assemblies have been preferred. The decision comes three days before the newly

PESHAWAR