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Have to obtain at least 33 votes in today's session for election: Sarfraz Bugti named new Chief Minister **Balochistan unopposed; likely to be elected today**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly from Dera Bugti, Mir Šarfraz Ahmed Bugti has been named unopposed as the Chief Minister Balochistan on Friday.

ister was made by the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) central leadership after consultation with the parliamentary members and coalition partners, as confirmed by the sources.

No other candidate submitted nomination papers except him, confirmed the Secretary Balochistan

Assembly, Tahir Shah noon. Kakar on Friday evening.

The Secretary Assembly said that Mr. Bugti has submitted in the assembly to secure at least 33 votes for CM-ship of Sarfraz in the today's session to be Bugti. The members of aselected as Chief Minister. sembly belonging to PPP

(Saturday).

Mir Sarfraz Bugti was and PML-N were included The nomination of elected as the MPA on Feb- in the proposers and sec-Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Min- ruary 8, 2024 from PB-10, onders in the nomination Dera Bugti. He would be papers. formally elected as Chief They were included: Minister in the session of

Nawab Šanaullah Zehri, provincial assembly sum-Nawab Changez Marri, moned at 11:00 AM today Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki, Mir Asim Kurd, Earlier, he submitted Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar his nomination papers for Abdul Rehman Khetran,

the Chief Minister-ship in .M Patrick the provincial assembly As per the agenda issecretariat the same aftersued by the Provincial As-

sembly secretariat, the At the outset, four members of provincial as-nination papers were sembly would elect any of nomination papers were the members as Chief Minister.

> It may be mentioned here that Mir Sarfraz Bugti has served as the Provin-cial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs after his election from Dera Bugti in 2013.

Sarfraz Bugti also served as a senator of Paki-stan from March 2015 to March 2021.

On 17 August 2023, he took oath as caretaker Interior Minister and resigned from the position on 15 December 2023.



QUETTA: Unopposed elected Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfarz Bugti talking to media persons. PPP Provincial President, Changez Jamali, Nawab Sanaullah Zahri, Ali Madad Jatak and others are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Raja Pervez Ashraf administered the oath from Sardar Ayaz Sadiq as Speaker National Assembly.

Governor asks concerned authorities to pay much focus on draining out of rain water from affected areas

Independent Report OUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has asked a dire need to drain out the including Provincial Disas- eas at the earliest. ter Management Authority

Gwadar, Turbat and adjoining areas, therefore, there is He said that w

be able to shift the affected

people to the safer places

and provide relief to them

tion has turned worse in ing he stressed to expedite the relief activities further. He praised the cooperation of Sindh government the concerned authorities rain water from affected ar- for provision of necessary machinery and other relief goods, and said that it is

Ayaz elected NA Speaker, Mustafa **Dy Speaker**

ISLAMABAD (Online): with the rules and regula-Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has been tions.

sworn-in as the Speaker of National Assembly. Outgoing Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf admin-their opinion on the floor

istered the oath to him. Ghulam Mustafa Shah won the election for Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly on Friday,

defeating Junaid Khan. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq won the election to the office of National Assembly

by securing 199 votes. The candidate of Sunni Ittehad Council Malik Muhammad Amir try. Dogar bagged 91 votes.

seat, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed his gratitude to the leaders and members of PML-N, PPP, MQM, PML (Q), IPP and Balochistan Awami Party

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the members will be given

> of the house. He said the doors of his office will always remain open to all the members Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said dialogue.

difference of opinion and criticism is essence of democracy, stressing, however, that it should be directed towards reforms and betterment of the coun-The Speaker noted

After assuming the that the current political tension is not in the interest of the country, emphasizing the need for building national consensus and a joint strategy to address the problems faced by the country

of Balochistan through dialogue Chief Minister-candidate thanks PPP's central and

Bugti pledges to resolve all issues

provincial leadership; vows to take all coalition partners along

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP)nominated Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has made a pledge to resolve all issues being confronted by the province through dialogue justice be-cause the PPP believes in

He also pledged to take all coalition partners in the future provincial government along, and so the opposition. He said that the concept of democratic is not possible without opposi-

Mir Sarfraz Bugti was speaking to the media persons as he reached along ship with the provincial president of PPP Balochistan, Mir Changez Khan Jamali

ister, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Mir Ali Madad Jatak dialogue. and others, for submission of the nomination papers in provincial assembly on Friday afternoon.

Sarfraz Bugti thanked the provincial and central leadership of PPP for nominating him for slot of Chief Minister. particularly He

thanked the central leaders Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Faryal Talpur and others in this regard

He said that he is going to submit his nomination papers for the CM-

To a query, he said that his party believes in resolvand other party leaders in- and as such any of the is- province like "Jiala".

cluding former Chief Min- sues being confronted He also said that the

employment and livelihood would be provided to the unemployed youth of the province. It would be our responsibility to stop violence in the province, he added.

Sarfraz Bugti also said that we would also go for reconciliation.

Earlier, the PPP's provincial president said that party leadership has nominated Mir Sarfraz Bugti for CM-ship of Balochistan for he and other leaders are thankful to them.

He said that we are bound to the party's deciing issues through dialogue sion, and would serve the

Friday elected the 19th

Chief Minister of the prov-

ity. Ali Amin Gandapur

bagged 90 votes, while op-

position nominee Ibadullah

secured 16 votes under an

open division of MPAs.

JUIF boycotted the election

provincial assembly, which

hours late on Friday, was

held under the chairmanship

of the newly elected

The speaker told the House that four MPs Ali

Amin Gandapur, Hisham

Inamullah, Zarik Khan and

Ibadullah had submitted

Swati.

(PDMA) and administra-tion to pay much focus on draining and pumping out of the rain water from affected areas in Gwadar. Turbat and other areas of the province.

The Governor expressed concern over the critical situation in Gwadar, Turbat and other areas due to torrential rains. He said that the situa-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) on

Friday announced the

schedule for the presiden-

tial election to be held on

schedule, the candidates

may submit their nomina-

tion papers for the presi-

dent office, until Saturday

noon in Islamabad and four

provincial capitals-

Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar,

will undergo scrutiny by the

Nomination papers

According to the

March 9.

and Quetta.

after ensuring draining out of the rain water from rain affected areas. The Governor expressed satisfaction over

performance of PDMA, district administration as well as other federal and provincial government departments so far, and add-

Monday (March 4). Can-

didates have the option to

withdraw their nomination

papers before the Return-

ing Officer in Islamabad

until noon on Tuesday,

appreciable. The Governor directed the concerned quarters to ensure presence of

medical and paramedical staff in the rain affected parts of the province. He also exhorted the volunteers and social activists to play their wholehearted part for safety of the women and children in the affected parts.

Nawaz seeks Maulana Fazl's support for

election of **PM**, President ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif on Friday

Some seasoned politi-

Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Maulana Ghafoor Hydari

also participated in the meet-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Governor Ghulam Ali and

Noor Alam Khan also attended the meeting.

BA session to

be held today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The session of

Balochistan Assembly is

scheduled to be held at 11:00 AM today (Satur-

Speaker Balochistan Assem-

The newly elected

Apart from this.

(March 5) On the same day, the visited the house of Jamiat list of candidates will be Jlema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUImade public. F) chief Maulana Fazalur Ĉandidates can opt

Rehman to seek his sup-port for the election of the out of the contest by March 6, and polling is scheduled prime minister and the to take place from 10:00 am President. to 4:00 pm on March 9 at He also requested Maulana Fazalur Rehman Parliament House in

ing.

day).

Islamabad and the provinto join the government. cial Assembly buildings in Returning Officer in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, cians of the PML-N and Islamabad by 10 am on and Quetta. JUI including Ahsan Iqbal. Ishaq Dar, Rana Sanaullah.

ECP fixes March 9 for

presidential election



ECP announces Senate seat voting in Balochistan for March 14

QUETTA (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday declared that the voting for the three vacant Senate seats from Balochistan will take place on March 14, 2024, within the premises of the Balochistan Assembly. The Senate seats from Balochistan have become vacant due to the resignation of Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Prince Ahmad Umar Ahmadzai and Maulana

Abdul Ghafoor Haidari. nees wil Muhammad Farid March 3.

bly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai would preside over the ses-Afridi, serving as the Provinsion. As per the agenda of cial Election Commissioner of proceedings issued by the Balochistan, has been desigprovincial assembly's secrenated as the returning officer tariat on Friday, the newly for the Senate elections slated elected members of assembly for March 14th. As per the (if any) would take oath of timetable, the Returning Officer the membership. Moreover, issued a public notice on March the provincial assembly 1, with candidates scheduled to would elect the Chief Minis submit their nomination papers ter from any of the members on March 2 and 3, from 08:30 under the constitution's article a.m. to 04:30 p.m.

130(3)94) may be read along As outlined in the with the rule No. 15 of the Rules and Regulations of schedule, the list of nominees will be released on Balochistan Provincial Assembly 1974

for reposing confidence in

Shahryar Khan Afridi.

within the said time.

charges

forward the proceedings of and it will be his effort to the house in accordance take them along.

sury and opposition mem-He assured he will take bers are part of this house

He said both the trea-



ISLAMABAD: PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and discuss political situation of country.

IHC awards jail sentence to DC, SSP ICT in contempt case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sattar pronounced the 73 The Islamabad High Court pages verdict which was (IHC) on Friday awarded earlier reserved. six month imprisonment

The court also im-posed Rs.100,000 fine sentence to Deputy Commissioner ICT Irfan Nawaz against the each accused and Memon while four month ordered to distribute the to SSP Operations Malik amount among the affectees of MPO orders. Jameel Zafar in a contempt The court said that

of court case for issuance of MPO orders against the amount was not a compensation to the petition-The court also aners rather it was just symbolic step. The order said nounced two month jail sentence to SHO Margalla that the executive powers were associated with the Police Station Nasir Mehmood in the same case elected representatives of public and state would use and, however, discharged SP Farooq Buttar from the these powers through them.

It said the three ac-The court suspended cused belong to bureauthe sentences of the accracy who could use the cused for one month and powers only in limits of law for the protection of funsaid that they would be sent to Adiala Jail if they damental rights. failed to file the appeals

These powers couldn't be used against citiagainst their convictions zens as weapons, the court IHC's Justice Babar said



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and Provincial Secretary for Information Imran Khan presenting appreciation certificate to Director General Public Relation Muhammad Noor Khetran.

SJC completes proceedings against

Mazhar Naqvi ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Judicial Council Amin Gandapur, an inde-(SJC) on Friday completed proceedings in Justice (rependent member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Astired) Mazahar Ali Naqvi's sembly, backed by Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) on

'misconduct' case. SJC headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Oazi Faez Isa recorded statements of all the witnesses in the case. The SJC will forward its recommendations to the President of Pakistan.

My lord statements of all the witnesses have been recorded, the additional attorney general of Pakistan said in the hearing. After the confirmation from the AAGP, the CJP said a letter was received from the former SC judge regarding skipping the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) proceedings.

Three killed in rain-related incidents in **Balochistan**

QUETTA (APP): At least three children were killed and one other sustained injuries as the roof of a house collapsed due to torrential rains in Kharan district of Balochistan.

According to PTV, the teams of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, in coordination with the National Highway Authority, are fully operationalized on highways and at different points and sites to keep roads open with heavy machinery.

The Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan, and other departments are engaged in rescue and relief operations in the rain-hit areas and the dewatering of urban flood water from houses in Gwadar, Jiwani, Surbandar, and Ormara

Pakistan Army and FC Balochistan, in collaboration with local administration, have been continuing relief operations in floodaffected areas of Gwadar, Jiwani, and Subandar.

Teams of doctors have been deployed in free medical camps to provide immespeaking to the media perdiate health facilities to the sons on Friday. affected

Ali Amin Gandapur elected 16th KP CM by two-third majority

PESHAWAR (APP): Ali the election of the Chief Minister yesterday, which were found to be valid, but the incumbents, Zarik Khan and Hisham Inamullah, later withdrew their nomination papers.

The speaker announced the results and deince by a two-thirds majorclared that a total 108 members participated in the election of the Chief Minister. Ibadullah had the support of five members of the PPP, two of the PTIP and nine process. The meeting of the members of the PMLN securing a total of sixteen started one-and-a-half votes. The number of members supported by PTI was 92. but Ali Amin Gandapur got 90 votes. In an unantici-Speaker Babar Saleem pated move, ANP member of assembly Arbab Usman participated in the voting process by refusing to accept the party president's decision and went to the lobby with the opposition



PESHAWAR: Ali Amin Gandapur speaks on the assembly floor after being elected as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at KPK Assembly in Peshawar.

Rescue & relief activities continues: Situation in Gwadar critical due to torrential rains: DG PDMA

Independent Report QUETTA: The Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Jahanzaib Khan has stated that situation is critical in Gwadar due to torrential rains.

He said that 187 mil-

trict administration and other institutions in Gwadar, maintained Direc-Gwadar tor General PDMA while He informed that the

people affected due to water have been shifted to the safer places in Gwadar.

limeter rain was recorded during last two days. The efforts are continued to drain out the rain water in the port city, he added. The DG said that PDMA is taking part in the rescue and relief operation along with Pak Army, Navy, dis-

However, the rescue and relief activities are continued in the rain hit areas of Page 02

Saturday March 02, 2024

by petty but

OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Starting over

The four provincial assemblies and the National Assembly have now been sworn in.

Though rigging allegations and various election-related irregularities and illegalities have cast a dark shadow, these assemblies will represent the people as they oversee the next chapter of this country's governance. There is no sugar-coating the fact that there are immense challenges before them, the realities of which will begin to dawn as the dust from the post-election chaos begins to settle.

The country is socially and politically fractured, its institutions in crisis, its coffers nearly empty, and its economy in a tailspin. The compact between its people and the state appears broken, its administrative apparatus seems to be malfunctioning, and its judiciary has never seemed as helpless as before.

Dependent on liquidity and capital injections from foreign lenders, Pakistan is in the unenviable position of being just a few missteps away from catastrophe. Yet if there is one thing the country has demonstrated time and again, it is that its people's will to endure is unconquerable. The citizenry will continue to hope that the men and women sworn in over the past week can steer the country back to stability and, hopefully, prosperity. Having taken their seats in their respective assemblies, they must now demonstrate that they are ready for the responsibility entrusted to them. The fate of millions depends on what path they take forward.

Given the difficult situation, both the government and opposition must resolve that their decisions will prioritise the public good over anything else. The government benches must realise that the public mood is extremely sensitive due to the unprecedented hardships the nation has suffered over the past two years. It must get to work at once on ameliorating economic conditions. The opposition benches must realise that they will need to constructively guide the government, especially towards achieving common goals. The question of legitimacy cannot be abandoned. Those who feel they were robbed of their mandate must continue their fight. They owe it not just to their voters but also to Pakistan's struggling democracy that they pursue the righting of the wrongs committed against it.

However, the focus of all stakeholders should remain on what future they want for the people of Pakistan. Lawmakers should use their presence in the assemblies to advance their legislative agenda and ensure that present and past mistakes are not repeated in the future. Much has been learned from political misjudgements of the past decade.

The time has come for the political leadership to demonstrate it is ready to move on. Parliament remains the most important forum through which a political negotiation on what tomorrow should look like for the millions who call Pakistan home can be held. Let the politicians figure out a way forward.

Resolving conflicts

Nikhat Sattar More battles are fought within and between kith and kin, than between be able to play the part states and sworn en- of mediator and settle tinued arguments. emies. It is a fact that the controversies as they harmony that should arise

ideally exist in families is The ideal situation often wrecked, mostly should be that the parties recognise that their cur-

also major issues such as inheritance, firent relationship is unnancial and marriage-resound and harmful to lated matters. Fre- themselves and their quently, it is a mere dif- families and resolve their ference of opinion that differences through dialeads to family disputes, logue and compassionwith parties refusing to ate discussion. But understand and tolerate where they feel that supthe diversity of views. port of a third party is Disputes within required, they may re-

families almost always quest a friend or an outlead to unhappiness, a sider to mediate. Mediadisturbed life and grief tion is highly recomover time. While matrimended in Islam, as a demonial disputes occur sirable means of creating frequently in our society, a peaceful environment fights between siblings. and harmony among children (mainly sons) people.

and parents and close The Quran and varirelatives too are comous ahadith underscore mon. Brothers have the necessity of making been known to break off peace between people, ties with each other, and particularly within famiothers either stop comlies. "If two parties munication or play out among the Believers fall a cold war that is both into a quarrel, make ye unhealthy and painful, peace between them: but especially if the children if one of them transof the warring parties are gresses beyond bounds involved. Battles of ego, against the other then perceived slights and fight ye (all) against the third-party gossip abound. Friends are one that transgresses until it complies with the prone to fighting over command of God; but if minor issues and too ofit complies then make ten a blossoming or peace between them fruitful relationship is with justice and be fair: laid to rest, because of for God loves those who minor misunderstandare fair (and just)" (49:9). ings. Conflicts among Note the stress on juspeople, including loved tice and fairness. If anyones, are natural. Huone of the parties mans need to recognise

is the aggressor, it their cause and manage them accordingly. If famia compromise in his lies are too often ripped favour: indeed, he must apart by internal fighting, be brought to underhe angst and resentstand the consequences ment of unresolved conof his transgression. flicts spills over to the And once he has larger society. Families realised his error, peace are the building blocks must be established in a of society and each is refair manner. The parties flective of the other. must be reconciled in a Families need to develop way that yields a winthe insight, wisdom and win situation for all, with willingness to address no one having to give internal issues as they up his legitimate right. If arise, before letting them the weaker party is - Courtesy Dawn

become major battles. In forced to give in. this both cases, it is impor- would merely incite the tant for an individual or aggressor to become a group of individuals to even more intolerant and could lead to con-

Breaking off relationships between families is considered by God to be a deplorable themselves act. Kinship is to be revered and upheld. Increasing intolerance in society, however, is causing families to split up, with close relatives unwilling even to face each other. Such a situation requires intervention by others who might be sensitive to the issues at hand and whom the parties trust.

Various strategies can be used effecti-vely to resolve familial conflicts. The me--d-iators should be pa---tient, neutral, tactful and diplomatic and willing to facilitate dialogue as long as necessary. Reconciliation (sulh) is of prime importance and the parties concerned need to be reminded of the de-

sirability in God's eyes of forgiveness and brother/sisterhood. Even if a major inury has been caused, it is best, in God's eyes, to forgive and give up one's right to fight back (42:40). Similarly, avoiding a quarrel is best. According to a hadith (Sunan Daud), the Prophet (PBUH) said that a house in paradise is assured for one who avoids quarrelling even if he is in the right. On the other hand,

renouncing one's rights would be unjust to make continuously in order to establish peace would go against the principles of justice, equity and fairness, qualities that the Quran has insisted upon. Such an attitude will merely increase the unjust acts of the aggressor who will become more emboldened. As Hazrat Ali has said: "The disservice to ihsan (goodness) is exercising it in the wrong place.

Commerce News

Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ruling class normal

Pakistan is on fire, and not in a good way. Interrelated demographic, ecological and economic crises are escalating. The incoming government owes its 'success' to the establishment and is considered illegitimate by large segments of the population, especially young people and the ethnic peripheries.

The PML-N and PPP will claim otherwise, but the widespread perception that the 'new' dispensation is effectively PDM 2.0 speaks for itself. The N continue to call them-'new' ruling coalition only symbolises the depth of our political crisis. Given our own

house is on fire, it is unsurprising that we have largely ignored the heroic political act by a US Air Force officer, Aaron Bushnell, who set himself ablaze in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. to protest the genocide in Palestine. Bushnell's last words

before his act of self-immolation were: "This is what our ruling class has decided is normal." Indeed, gruesome statesponsored violence against oppressed peoples is routine in our world, from Palestine to Balochistan, Kurdistan to Senegal, and Burma to Yemen. The corporate media obliterates the histoterror is called 'self-defence' while everything is legitimated if it happens in the name of 'national security

It is not just acute cases of systemic oppression that get muted. In Pakistan, even a hopelessly rigged election can metamorphose into a 'national security threat'.

After Feb 8, the caretaker government (read: establishment) has imposed a blanket ban on the social media site X. The post-poll rigging carried out to bring PDM 2.0 into existence was being exposed with so Trump in the 2020 US much irrefutable evi- presidential election -

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar dence that our holy is, by current estimates, guardians decided it was time to do away with the

niceties entirely. This has been followed by dire warnings to journalists who transgress the boundaries of what is considered ac- ruling class resolve the ceptable reporting, culminating in the arrest of Asad Toor by the FIA. In ism and there-by a nutshell, this is what, to red-u--ce the appeal of paraphrase Bushnell's immortal words,

Pakistan's militarised ruling class has decided is normal The PPP and PML-

selves principled defenders of democratic principles but have remained mum about all of this. We should not be surprised. Long before Imran Khan and the PTI came to power in 2018, it was a PML-N government with Nawaz Sharif in the prime minister's office that introduced a parliamentary status quo of establishbill which made the notorious Peca into law. That was in 2015.

The very term 'ruling class' demands a reckoning with the fact that our predicament is beyond singular regimes, that things will not just get better because one segment of the bourgeoisie has replaced another in government. This is particularly true in our own context where virtually all bourgeois parties ries of such peoples; state compete with one an- cide Joe, continue to act other for the – look no further than the PPP putting up Sarfaraz Bugti and Jamal Raisani in Balochistan. Speaking of which, has bothered to provide relief to Gwadar, which is

currently drowning due to torrential rain? For those who still of the political spec-think that PDM 2.0 is an trum, however far down unqualified improvement upon Imran Khan and the PTI, it is worth noting that Joe Biden — who so many celebrated when he defeated Donald Courtesy Dawn

expected to lose to Trump in the election this year. Simply put, the evidence does not prove that the supposedly more 'liberal' (read: centre-right) segments of the inherent contradictions of contemporary capitaltheir far-right competi-

tors Anyone who actually cares about the mass of peop-le in whose name all ruling clas-ses act would be focusing on creating a po--pular political narrative that does not leave us to 'choose' bet-w-een the centre right and far right. One can and should condemn the way the PTI has politicised young people in the digital age, but armchair criticism leads back only to the ment-dominated musical chairs. Refusal to acknowledge even the possibility that those who have experienced state repression since April 2022 may coalesce around a new politics means, in effect, reinforcing the ruling class normal

Bushnell chose his sensational act of sacrifice because the Israeli war machine and its backers, including Genounimpeded, even in the establishment's favour face of online dissent at a global scale. For now, Trump is likely to be the major beneficiary of the disjunct between popular sentiment and the esanyone in government tablished institutional order. Unless there is a wilful commitment to creating a substantive alternative on the left the line, those who seek to draw attention to the fires engulfing humanity and nature will have only one option: to literally set themselves on fire. --

Pakistan's pearls, precious stones see 47% increase in **China's Market in 2023**

Chinese skills.

"As

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's pearls and precious stones saw a 47% increase in exports from Pakistan to China in 2023, signaling not only the natural beauties in the Chinese market but also the potential of Pakistan's mining and gemstone industry.

Karim Jan, a Pakistani Economic Net that quality Pakistan's northern and northwestern areas were their unparalleled beauty rich in mineral resources, and craftsmanship, are

boasting gems like vibrant finding a prominent place topaz, deep red rubies, in this competitive green emeralds, and landscape. sapphires.

The reciprocal nature Extracting these gems of this growing trade is a delicate process, relying relationship promises a growing demand for these on the skilled hands and mutually beneficial future for both nations, with age-old techniques of local miners and artisans. Pakistani gems shining Pakistan can further brightly in the vast Chinese improve by utilizing market," he stated.

According to sources from Pakistan's Ministry Chinese gem and jewelry exporter consumers increasingly of Commerce, Pakistan's vinistry to China, told China seek out rare and highgemstones, exported to China crossed Pakistani gems, known for \$4.34 million in 2023. whereas last year it was \$2.95 million.

PSX stay bullish, gains 747.16 more points SLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 747.16 points, a positive change of 1.16 percent, closing at 65,325.69 points against 64,578.52 points the

previous trading day. A total of 344,227,410 shares valuing Rs13.385billion were traded during the day as compared to 424,043,562 shares valuing Rs 17.053 billion the last day.

Some 348 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 172 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses,

20 remained unchanged. and to managing environmental share.

impacts, fostering social Products witnessed a inclusivity, and upholding high standards of corporate maximum increase of Rs governance. OGDCL view 450.00 per share price, closing at Rs 8,850, the ESG Policy as a crucial first step in embracing more whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs113.50 sustainability practices and

rise in its per share price to Rs2,462.05. corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

D-8 market: Atif Independent Report tapping into these markets KARACHI: Atif Ikram has the potential to correct Sheikh, President FPCCI, Pakistan's regional trade has represented Pakistan in deficit for a number of reasons: (i) Pakistan has the all-influential General friendly ties with the D-8 Assembly meeting of the D-8 Chambers of members (iii) we have Commerce and Industry geographical contiguity or (D-8 CCI). He apprised

Pakistan needs to tap

into \$4.92 trillion

that the meeting was also attended by Iran, Turkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, some member countries (iii) land-based routes can be used for transshipment (iv) Bangladesh and Nigeria. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh shipment to these countries takes lesser time and costs (v) with intra D-8 trade at expressed his vision that

merely 5 percent, there are Pakistan must tap into the low-hanging fruits to be export market of D-8 grabbed in a short-span of countries with a combined time GDP of \$4.92 billion; and, Weekly inflation

08, 2024. land-based access with

Pakistan Financial Literacy Week 2024 under the theme of 'Digital Bankari- fori aur asaan' from March 04 to

1st Pakistan

Financial

Literacy Week

from March 4

KARACHI (APP): State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

will organize 1st edition of

Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad will inaugurate Pakistan Financial Literacy Week (PFLW) 2024 on Monday, March 04, 2024 at SBP Karachi, said a statement issued here.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Clemens Schulte, APL Qingdao, Maritime Gisela, Al-Fuwairit and African Baza, carrying Containers, Palm oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Friday.

Meanwhile another ship 'Eagle' scheduled to load/offload Rice is also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. A total of twelve ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last for 24 hours, out of them five

ships, APL Qingdao, Clemens Schulte, Sunny 29,518-44,175 and above Bay, Chemroad Aqua and Rs. 44,175, increased by Dravin left the Port on 1.75 percent, 1.86 percent. today morning

Pak welcomes resumption of CASA-1000 activities in Afghanistan by WB

recent announcement by to energy collaboration, among other initiatives in support of the people of Afghanistan related to its "Approach 3.0", the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project ("CASA-1000") in ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the building Materials Àfghanistan will be Exhibition and Conference organizers by the Institute of Architects of resumed.

The request was made in December by all three neighboring countries participating in the construction "This Afghanistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): announcement marks a The Government of significant step forward in Pakistan has welcomed the the region's commitment the World Bank that, said a news release issued here on Friday.

As a result, the Government of Pakistan is pleased to announce it has joined the other neighboring countries - the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan - in signing a Joint Declaration to thank the World Bank for its timely response in approving the "ringfenced" resumption of



ISLAMABAD: A vendor hold umbrella as displaying fruits on his pushcart attraction for customers at a road during rain.

CPI inflation decelerates to 23.1 % in February

ISLAMABAD (APP): February 2024 The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 23.1 percent during the month of February 2023 as compared to 28.3 percent recorded during January 2023, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Friday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at31.5%.

On month-on-month basis, no change observed in February 2024 as compared to an increase of February 2023. On month-1.8% in the previous month and an increase of 4.3% in February 2023.

According to the data, CPI inflation Urban, 1.9% in the previous month increased to 24.9% on and an increase of 4.0% in year-on-year (YoY) basis in February 2023.

compared to an increase of 30.2% in the previous month and 28.8% in February 2023. On monthon-month basis (MoM), it increased to 0.2% in February 2024 as compared to an increase of 1.8% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in February 2023.CPI inflation Rural, increased to 20.5% on year-on-year 2023.CPI basis in February 2024 as compared to an increase of 25.7% in the previous month and 35.6% in on-month basis, it decreased to 0.3% in February 2024 as compared to an increase of

ESG policy to promote sustainable practices ISLAMABAD (APP): environmenta The Oil and Gas stewardship, socia social

Development Company responsibility, Limited (OGDCL) has effective taken a significant stride governance practices. towards sustainability by announcing its Environmental, Social, and its Governance (ESG) policy.

University of Sargodha.

In response to the growing demand from investors and stakeholders for transparency and accountability in ESG factors, OGDCL's Board of Directors released its comprehensive ESG policy statement on February 27, 2024, said a news release.

The OGDCL ESG becoming a responsible, policy underscores the adaptable, and resilient company's commitment to organization



SARGODHA: Vice Chancellor University of

Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas visiting different

stalls during Research Arena Exhibition held at

OGDCL rolls out its

whereas the share prices of

Egypt,

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 71,357,500 shares at Rs.5.36 per share, K-Electric 19423756 shares with 4.87per share and Treet Crop 17,473,574 shares at Rs 18.02 per

on Friday. According to the Rafhan Maize PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.30 points as compared to 315.31 points during the past week.

As compared to the

up by 1.27 pc ISLAMABAD (APP): combined consumption The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive

group in the week under review witnessed an Price Indicator (SPI), increase of 32.73 per cent. The weekly SPI with witnessed an increase of the base year 2015-16=100 1.27 per cent for the

combined consumption covers 17 urban centres and groups during the week 51 essential items for all ended on February 29, the expenditure groups. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, increased by 1.36 percent and went up to 311.92 points from

last week's 307.73 points. SPI The

consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs.

ndependent

Punjab Governor says: Auditor General's Dept vital role in improving transparency, governance

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation led by Deputy Auditor General (Central) Tariq Bashir Chatha met Governor Punjab Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore.

During the meeting, the Deputy Auditor General (Central) presented the Accounts and Audit Report of the Punjab Government for the year 2023-24 to the Muhammad Punjab, of Audits; Ikram Haq, indispensable

Faryal Magsi and Audit increasing the efficiency of Officer (Admin) Syed the institution. Nafees Ahmed.

Auditor

transparency

Deputy Auditor Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Governor in detail about Muhammad Balighur Rehman, said that the the steps taken to improve General's the institution. Department has an

He said that Auditor important role in improving General's organization will and review the lega governance in government organization requirements departments. He said those and make a strategy to departments that are not include those departments being audited for any reason should be made part of the are not being audited for Governor of Punjab. The audit system. Governor any reason. He told the delegation comprised Punjab said that the use of Punjab Governor that Director General Audit modern technology staff trainings are including management being conducted in Naseem Rashed, Director information system is the institution on a for regular basis.

ATC grants

bail to 16

accused in

Jinnah House

attack case

AHORE (APP): An anti-



Baba Ali Rehman, a retired Naib Qasid of Lahore High Court, award a certificate to a trainee the Federal Judicial Academy.

Four more matches decided in senior Interdistrict cricket tourney

KARACHI (APP): Four the day at TMC Ground Zone-IV Greens defeated more matches were decided in the Khansortium ets. Zone-VII Blues 216/6 Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament at various cricket Hammad Bhatti 41, Rizwan Abbasi 22, Abdur grounds.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi. Brilliant centuries by Jehangir Javed 124, Ubais Ullah 124 and Waqar Ahmed 103 were made, a communique said on Friday. Scores in Brief :

In the first match of 2/28.

terrorism court (ATC) on Friday granted bail to 16 signed a Memorandum of accused involved in a case Understanding (MoU) of attacking Jinnah House. with Transparency International- Pakistan to The court ordered the accused to furnish surety extend collaborative efforts bonds of Rs 100,000 each in ensuring merit and for availing the relief of openness in public affairs perform by public entities. bail.ATC Judge The MoU was signed promote citizen int by Farah Hamid Khan, into public affairs. Muhammad Naveed Iqbal heard the post-arrest bail petitions of accused and **Diplomats from various** allowed them on completion of arguments

by the parties. Muhammad Danish, Farhan Ahmad, Mukhtar Khan, Saqib Munir, Mian Abdul Rehman, Hassan Ijaz, Yasir Abbas, Muhammad Kashif, Mian Bilal, Suleman Ilyas, Adnan Ashraf, Muhammad Shan, Raheemullah, Hafiz Muhammad Nauman and Muhammad Rayan were included among the accused who were granted bail.

Zone-IV Greens 220/ in 29.2. Overs. The Sarwar Road Muhammad Maaz 68 9x4, police had registered a case against Pakistan Tehreek-Afnan Khan 54 5x4 3x6, Rameez Shahid 43, Mudasir 27. Afroz Hasan e-Insaf leaders and workers on charges of attacking Jinnah House.

National News T

PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Shahzad Naeem presenting annual Audit Report of 34 Department for the year 2023-24 to Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

KPIC, TIP joins hands to promote good governance

Independent Report Chief Information Commissioner KPIC and Kashif Ali Sheikh, PESHÂWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Executive Director, TI-Commission (KPIC) and Pakistan in presence of Transparency International-Pakistan (TIP) on Friday joined hands to promote good

organizations Under the MoU, both the organizations will Khyber collaboratively work in Pakhtunkhwa Information mass awareness regarding Right to Information Act (RTI) and training of Commission (KPIC) has Public

information

Officers (PIOs) for the smooth flow of public Both the institutions look forward to a fruitful partnership that will promote citizen integration

countries appreciates business opportunities with Pakistan

hosted by prominent (APP): businessman and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire Fazal Karim Dadabhoy in honor of Dr. Rudiger Lotz, Consul General of the Federal election, Republic of Germany at Dadabhoy residence and was attended by former caretaker provincial information minister Ahmed Shah, Mohammad

International News

report on murder of domestic worker LAHORE (APP): Punjab

CM seeks

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of the murder following alleged torture of a domestic worker in other senior officers of the Sargodha.

She immediately sought a report from the Inspector General of Police regarding the incident.

According to the initial report, the accused has been identified, and raids are underway to apprehend him. Maryam Information Nawaz Sharif emphasized the need for a thorough investigation into the incident and urged that the perpetrator be brought to justice swiftly. She stated that violence of any kind has no place in Punjab.

3 injured in jubilant firing, 2 held after **CPO** notice

FAISALABAD (APP) Three people including two minor children sustained multiple injuries due to jubilant firing while the police arrested two accused after the City Police Officer (CPO) took notice.

A police spokesman said here on Friday that Muhammad Iqbal of Jameel Town, Ghulam Muhammad Abad, 5-yearold Ibrahim of Tariq Town Kokianwala.

IGP discusses admin, professional steps about police working

LAHORE Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar chaired a meeting of the police executive board on Friday and discussed administrative and professional matters related to working of the

police field formations.

Senior

(APP): inclusion of Band Staff in Telecommunication Wing and Welfare initiatives were discussed

Page

03

The meeting also at Central Police Office here reviewed progress of various development projects, welfare measures of the force. The IGP ordered that proposals should be finalised and officers presented in the next presented suggestions and meeting for taking a recommendations regarding decision. He said the administrative and policy supervisory officers should issues. In the executive complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated time line under board meeting, various

issues including Punjab Mounted Police Force, personal supervision.



LAHORE: Deputy Auditor General (Central) Tariq Bashir Chatha presenting the Accounts and Audit Report of the Punjab Government for the year 2023-24 to the Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

'Eat Safe Kids Campaign' launched across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Javaid, Secretary School Punjab Food Authority, in collaboration with the School Education Department and Special Education Department, Friday launched a province-wide 'Eat Safe Kids Campaign' in private and public schools to promote nutritious eating habits from childhood.

the inaugural ceremony was organised at the Government Boys High School in Kareem Block and the Government Central High School for The Deaf in Gulberg. The programme was the importance of fruits, attended by PFA vegetables, whole grains, Director General and lean proteins in their Muhammad Asim diet.

Monitoring Desk

Bangladesh that raged

through a six-storey build-

where many families with

children were dining has

killed at least 46 people and

injured dozens, the health

gas leak or a stove could

have caused Thursday's

blaze in the capital, which

spread quickly after break-

ing out in a biryani restau-

rant, and was only brought

SEOUL: South Korean

President Yoon Suk Yeol

said on Friday improved

ties with Japan were help-

ing to combat threats

from Pyongyang's weap-

ons developments and

to bring about unification

with North Korea. Under

Yoon's conservative ad-

Tokyo which have been

fraught with historical

baggage for years at a time of China's growing influ-ence and North Korea's

growing missile and

nuclear programs. During

a ceremony to mark an in-

dependence holiday, Yoon

Hospitals were treat-

Fire authorities said a

minister said on Friday.

Education Muhammad Ahsan Waheed. Additional Secretary School Saba Adil, Additional Secretary Special Education Khadija-tul-Kubra, Special Education DG Amna Munir and Additional Director Generals of PFA. The 'Eat Safe Kids

In this connection, Campaign' consisted of various interactive activities, workshops, and educational materials to engage children and make learning about healthy eating fun. Children will learn about

KARACHI Diplomats of Germany, China and Oman while crediting the performance of the caretaker government and security agencies for holding peaceful

governance.

The

expressed hope that democracy will strengthen in Pakistan, the future of Pakistan is, however, in the hands of the youth.

They were talking to Iqbal Memon, Home journalists at a dinner Secretary.

More than 100 killed while seeking aid in Gaza, overall death toll passes 30,000

Zone-VII Blues by 5 Wick-

in allotted 45 overs. Waqar

Ahmed 103 3x6 1x6

Rehman 20. Muhammad

Owais 3/27

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Gaza health authorities said Israeli forces on Thursday (Feb 29) shot dead more than 100 Palestinians as they waited for an aid delivery, but Israel blamed the deaths on crowds that surrounded aid trucks, saying victims had been trampled or run over.

At least 112 people were killed and more than 280 wounded in the incident near Gaza City, Palestinian health officials said.

The loss of civilian lives was the biggest in weeks. Hamas said the incident could jeopardise talks in Qatar aimed at securing a ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages it is holding. When asked if he thought it would complicate the talks, US President Joe Biden said:

Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iranians voted for

a new parliament on Friday

in an election seen as a test

of the clerical establishment's

legitimacy at a time of grow-

ing frustration over economic

woes and restrictions on po-

Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei, who has

called voting a religious duty,

litical and social freedoms.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and

"I know it will." Medics metres apart, in the first said they could not cope with the flood of serious injuries, which came on the day the death toll in nearly five months of war passed 30,000, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Israel disputed the account provided by officials in Hamas-run Gaza, which has been bombarded by Israeli forces for months in a Palestinian militant group's deadly rampage in southern Israel on Oct 7. Its military said the trucks were operated by private contractors as part of an aid operation that it had been overseeing for the

past four nights. One Israeli official said there had been two

of which dozens were killed or injured as they tried to take aid from the trucks and were trampled or run over. He said there was a

second, subsequent incident as the trucks moved off. Some people in the crowd approached troops who felt under threat and opened fire, killing an unknown numwar that began after the ber in a "limited response", he said. He dismissed the casualty toll given by Gaza authorities but gave no figure himself. In a later briefing, Israel Defense Forces spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also said

incidents, hundreds of

dozens had been trampled to death or injured in a fight to take supplies off the trucks. **US Supreme**

Court to hear Trump's immunity claim Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court agreed on Wednesday to hear Donald Trump's claim that as a former president he is immune from prosecution, further delaying his trial on charges of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte attend a ceremony of signing an agreement on security coop-Trump had been scheduled to go on trial in eration and long-term support between Ukraine and Washington on March 4, Netherlands, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in but the nation's highest court scheduled arguments in the high-stakes case for the week of April 22 and said Trump's federal elec-

tion interference trial would remain on hold for now. On the same day, a

judge in the state of Illinois ordered the former president stricken off the state's primary ballot for his role in the January 6 Capitol riot. Today, both Trump

and incumbent President Joe Biden are due to pay dueling visits to the USleast 46 and rescuers con-Mexico border Thursday as tinued to search for more they try to win over voters victims on immigration.

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The foreign security mission Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barto Haiti, a year after the bados, Benin and Chad Caribbean country asked have formally notified the for help to fight violent United Nations of their intent to contribute personnel to an international force to help Haitian national police fight armed gangs, a

of

gangs that have largely overrun its capital Portau-Prince. 15-member The council's resolution requires countries to inform

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of their participation in the security mission. While approved by the Security Council, the mission is not a UN opera-

delayed due to a struggle to find a country willing to lead

Council sion.

Bangladeshi leader says a shopping mall that caught fire had no emergency exits

Monitoring Desk Thursday in a restaurant on the first floor of the Green DHAKA: A six-story shopping mall that caught fire in the Bangladeshi Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall in downtown Dhaka. capital had no fire exits, More than a dozen the country's prime min-ister said Friday, as the death toll climbed to at firefighting units were deployed.

Firefighters rescued survivors and pulled out bodies, and by early Friday, at least 43 people were confirmed dead The fire started late

under control following two hours of effort by 13 units of firefighters. hand over crash ing 22 people with burns, victims' bodies Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen told reporters. "All to Ukraine, 22 people [...] are in criti-cal condition," Sen, himself **RIA says** a well-known physician,

MOSCOW: Russia is ready to hand over to Ukraine the bodies of the victims of a January military plane crash, the RIA news agency cited Russian human rights Tatyana official Moskalkova as saying on

Moscow accuses Kyiv of downing the Ilyushin Il-76 plane in Russia's Belgorod region and killing 74 people on board, including 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers en route to be swapped for

Russian prisoners of war. It has not presented evidence

Three shot

the attack

dead at US dental clinic CALIFORNIA (INP): A manhunt was launched by police in the Califor-nia city of El Cajon on Thursday after a shooting at a dentist's office left one dead and two in-

said next year would be jured, local media rethe 60th anniversary of ported. Police in the town, about 20 miles (30 normalised diplomatic relations with Japan and he kilometers) outside of San hoped it could be a chance Diego, said on social mefor the bilateral relationdia they were searching for an "armed and dangerous" 29-year-old suspect

ship to reach a "higher level. "Now, South Korea who fled the scene after and Japan are working to-

Bangladesh building fire kills 46, injures dozens

Dhaka Medical College DHAKA: A massive fire in

Hospital. "We are trying our "boir lives," he ing home to restaurants said

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed shock and sorrow at the incident, ordering swift treatment for the injured.

Šhe urged adherence to construction rules and regulations, including requirements for essential safety features such as fire exits and ventilation systems to prevent such tragedies in the future. One survivor, Mohammad Altaf, recounted his narrow escape from the blaze that killed two colleagues. "I went to the kitchen, broke a window and jumped to save myself," he told reporters, adding that a cashier and server who urged people to leave during the said after a visit to the first moments had died later.

South Korea's Yoon says better Japan ties helping deter North Korea threat **Monitoring Desk**

gether to overcome the painful past and moving toward a 'new world'," he said in a speech to commemorate the formation of an independence movement against Japan's 1910-1945 occupation of called for help from the international community Korea. "The security cooperation between the two countries against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats has been strengthened further," he ministration, Seoul has sought better ties with added

During his speech, Yoon said that Seoul would need international help for any prospect of unification with North Korea

"Unification is a challenging task that we cannot accomplish alone. The international community must pool its strength in a responsible manner," he said. Yoon's comments come after the North's leader Kim Jong Un in January called South Korea a "primary foe" and said unification was no longer possible.

Iran election: Ruler Khamenei seeks big turnout amid discontent was the first to cast his vote in Iran. "Vote as soon as possible ... today the eyes of Iran's friends and ill-wish-

ers are on the results. Make friends happy and disap-point enemies," Khamenei said on state television. The election is the first

formal measure of public opinion since anti-govern-ment protests in 2022-23.

Thursday.

UN spokesman said on Contributions \$10.8 million have also

been deposited into a trust fund to support the multinational security support mission, UN spokesman

aid in Gaza City.

Stephane Dujarric told re-

porters, adding that further pledges of \$78 million had also been made.

The United Nations Security



Palestinians transport casualties following Israeli fire on people waiting for **Five countries pledge Russia ready to** personnel for Haiti security mission, UN says authorised in October a

Monitoring Desk

Friday.

Daily **Independent**, Hub

Alvi for enhanced cooperation between audit institutions of Pakistan, Azerbaijan

the two countries.

Public Sector Auditing.

He added that coop-

beneficial for both the coun-

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with

Provincial Ameer JUI Molana Abdul Wasid during visit to his residence.

MPAs Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Mir Asim Kurd Gailu, Ali Madad

Deputy chairman Senate directs

NDMA, PDMA Balochistan to

expedite relief efforts in Gwadar

(SAI) of Azerbaijan.

tries.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for increasing cooperation between the supreme audit institutions of Pakistan and Azerbaijan for sharing best auditing practices to enhance transparency and financial accountability.

The president, talking to the visiting Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vugar Gulmammadov who called on him, said that public sector accounting was a critical component of financial management within government organizations that helped ensure transparency and accountability in government spending.

Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), Muhammad Ajmal Gondal and officials of AGP also attended the meeting, a President House press release said

Chairman of the tion, President Alvi said Chamber of Accounts of that Pakistan accorded spe-Azerbaijan (CAA), Vugar cial importance to its rela-

Jattak are also present on the occasion.

Gulmammadov, briefed the tions with Azerbaijan president about the Memowhich were based on comrandum of Understanding mon faith, shared history, (MOU) signed between the and people-to-people con-Supreme Audit Institution tacts of Azerbaijan, CAA, and He stated that prothe Supreme Audit Institumoting cultural exchanges

tion of Pakistan, AGP, for and strengthening cooperapeer reviews of public action in the cultural and economic fields was vital for counts. He said that the MoU would help deepen fostering understanding friendly relations between and mutually beneficial development between the two The president lauded brotherly nations.

the signing of the MoU be-He termed the cooptween AGP and CAA, adderation between Pakistan ing that it would increase and Azerbaijan "pivotal for cooperation between two promoting peace, stability, countries in the field of development in the region'

The president also felicitated President Ilham eration between CAA and Aliyev of Azerbaijan on his AGP would be mutually re-election in the presidential election held on February 7, 2024 and hoped that He also appreciated the bilateral relations be-AGP's role in carrying out tween the two countries peer reviews of the Suwould further strengthen preme Audit Institution during his tenure.

He termed the coop-Talking to the delegaeration between Pakistan and Azerbaijan "pivotal for promoting peace, stability development in the region'



Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minsolve the issue immediately ister-designate Mir Sarfraz by mobilizing all available Ahmed Bugti has directed the Deputy Commissioner resources. Gwadar to ensure speedy designate also announced draining of rain water from the residential areas of that he would visit Gwadar city soon.

Gwadar city. The Chief Ministerdesignate was speaking to here that Gwadar city was badly affected due to the Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Aurangzeb Badini continuous rains for last over telephone on Friday. few days

Most of the city areas The Deputy Commissioner Gwadar apprised are inundated in the rain Mir Sarfraz Bugti about the water creating a miserable situation in Gwadar due to situation.

He also directed to re-

The Chief Minister-

It may be mentioned



formation Jan Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Solangi lauds performance of Parl. Affairs Ministry during caretaker set up the elections would be held

Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Friday appreciated the performance and cooperation of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs during the caretaker government's tenure.

This he said while tained. speaking at a farewell ceremony organized in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in his honour.

The minister said with the grace of Allah Almighty, the democratic process was going on in the country.

Murtaza Solangi said he had been reiterating the commitment of the govern-ment since the first day that for him to participate in the meetings of the Parliament.

Utilizing all resources

Election Commission of "The caretaker government organized timely elections and today new assemblies have come into being in the country" Murtaza Solangi main-

at time schedule given by

Democracy could not succeed without people's participation, Murtaza Solangi said and expressed the hope that the new government would meet the expectations of the people.

He said as the Federal Minister for Parliamentary ıty. Affairs, it was an honour for him to participate in the **Governor directs**



Saturday March 02, 2024

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan, Vugar Gulmammadov, along with his delegation called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PML-N, MQM-P reach agreement on coalition govt

Talking to the media

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister-designate Mir Sarfraz

Bugti visited the residence

of provincial Ameer of

Jamiat Ulema-E-Islam

(JUI) Maulana Abdul

Ali Madad Jatak, Mir

Also accompanied

SLAMABAD (INP): The According to the agree-Pakistan Muslim Leaguement, the constitutional Nawaz (PML-N) and the amendment will be the priority of the government. Muttahida Qaumi Move-After reaching the agreement, the MQM will ment (MQM) on Friday signed an agreement to vote sit on the government benches and support the for the coalition candidates in the elections for the prime minister and speaker. PML-N in the elections for

PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal the prime minister and and MQM-P's Mustafa speaker signed the agreements after talks between the two parties held at Ishaq Dar's chamber in the National Assembly

igned the agreement carrying the MQM's demands for solution to the problems of Karachi and amendment to the local bodies act.

Shehbaz felicitates

Ayaz Sadiq ISLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister-Designate

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for winning the election of Speaker National Assem bly with a thumping major-

In a statement. Shehbaz Sharif who is the Wasey here on Friday. President Pakistan Muslim with him were the members League (PML-N), said that of provincial assembly, Ayaz Sadiq has set a unique Sardar Abdul Rehman example of victory as Khetran, Mir Asim Kurd, Speaker NA for the third time, adding that he is an experienced and senior poli-Agha Shakeel Durrani.

the people. We will jointly struggle to achieve this objective. We will also try to evolve consensus over this draft the national level," he added.

According to the details of the agreement, local bodies system, Karachi's problems and constitutional amendments will be the party of the agreement.

'MQM will sit on government benches instead of opposition," as per the agreement copy signed by the leaders from both sides. In return, the

Muttahida will support PML-N in the elections of agreement is to solve the the prime minister and problems at the doorstep of speaker.

Bugti meets Maulana Wasey; discusses political situation

members of assembly Muhammad Younus Zehri, Zabid Reki and Asghar Tareen were also present.

During the course of meeting, the overall situation of the province includg political was discussed

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we would work together for development of province and welfare of asses

He said that he is de-Shoaib Nausherwani and sirous of taking all along for resolving the issues. During the meeting,

Senator Tahir Bizinjo Mirza Muhammad Afridi on Friday directed the Nasaid that the coastal areas tional Disaster Manageof the country particularly ment Authority (NDMA) Balochistan have been and Provincial Disaster Management Authority cent heavy rains and left (PDMA) Balochistan to Gwadar submerged under impacted population. expedite relief and rehabili- rainwater including hit Gwadar with core focus property and infrastruc-

ISLAMABAD (APP): flooding in the entire port

of PTI founder in 4 cases

May-9 cases

city

on extending assistance to ture. that the re

of relief money, resources and relief items to be sent for the flood victims of Gwadar and alleged that the badly impacted by the re- relief assistance would not reach the genuine victims or

He also raised his con-

cerns pertaining to looting

The Senator mentation efforts in the flood- houses, businesses, public tioned that as per his sources, there was already shortage of food items lead-

epidemic

to ensure gas supply to Kuchlak OUETTA (APP): Gover- Quetta. Political and social

nor Balochistan Malik representatives of Kuchlak Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on and its adjoining areas were Friday directed the con- also present on this occa-

sion. During the meeting

after signing the agreement, PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal said that both parties had signed the memorandum to Both parties have empower the people and shift the power to the masses "The objective of our

Deputy Chairman Senate,

National Party (NP)'s lief and rehabilitation ef-Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo on a public atten-tion notice raised the issue Balochistan and district adof calamity-hit Gwadar that has been recently ravaged

LAHORE (APP): An anti-

terrorism court (ATC) on

Friday confirmed interim

bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) founder in four

cases related to May-9 vio-

the interim bail in cases of

attack on police outside

Zaman Park, murder of PTI

activist Zille Shah, torching

of Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz office in

Model Town and a con-

tainer at Kalma Chowk,

subject to furnishing of

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

termed the election of

Speaker, Deputy Speaker

and Prime Minister from

the fake incomplete Na-

tional Assembly without

the allocation of the re-

served seats for women and

minorities as unconstitu-

tional. Reacting over the election of the NA Speaker

and Deputy Speaker sans

allocation of the reserved

seats, PTI Spokesperson

stated that the speaker and

deputy speaker elected

with the help of the man-

date thieves would not have

stitution was trampled un-

der their feet one again by

electing NA speaker from a

fake incomplete National

He said that the con-

any constitutional status.

Spokesperson

(PTI)

allocation unconstitutional

the house fraudulently af-

ter stealing public mandate.

categorically stated that ac-

in the National Assembly.

PTI Spokesperson

The court confirmed

lence and others.

forts were slow and accused poor performance and conby torrential rains causing duct in the disaster-hit area.

in the impacted areas. He vehemently demanded the quarters concerned to ensure provision of relief items ministration of Gwadar of to the impacted population and make proper measures in this regard. ATC confirms interim bail

Bizenjo greets Sarfraz Bugti on his election as CM

surety bonds of Rs 500,000. ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the bail **Balochistan** petitions of the PTI Independent Report QUETTA: The former founder and announced the

verdict on completion of arguments by the parties. Chief Minister and leader The counsel for the of Pakistan Peoples Party PTI founder had requested (PPP) Mir Abdul Quddus the court to confirm the bail Bizenjo has congratulated of his client in the cases, Mir Sarfraz Bugti on his during the proceedings. unopposed election as

However, Special Prosecutor Rana Shakil ar-Chief Minister Balochistan. In a felicitation mesgued that the PTI founder sage issued here on Friday, was the main accused in Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo thanked the leadership of PPP on selection

of Mir Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Minister Mr. Bizenjo expressed the hope that Sarfraz Bugti would play his part in resolving the

speaker and deputy speaker ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam of Maulana Fazlur Rehman opted to boycott the election of speaker and deputy speaker in the National Assembly on Fri-

cording to Article 51 of the Talking to a private Constitution, the House television channel. Shahida Akhtar Ali said cannot be completed without the allocation of the reserved seats for women and their party's strategy is minorities as per the procrystal clear as they will portion to the representanot take part in any election of each political party tion process in the National Assembly.

Shahid Akhtar said He recalled that a to The JUI will sit on the tal of 23 PTI backed members were being deprived of opposition benches until their constitutional right of it gets its mandate.' the reserved seats under a It may be mentioned nefarious scheme: however.

here that the PTI leaders PTI Spokesperson that the met JUI leadership on nation would not succeed Thursday night seeking any such malicious plot support for their candicome what may. He went dates contesting elections on to say that the group of of prime minister, speaker and deputy mandate thieves unlawfully occupying the august house speaker in the National Assembly, as they reached was cognizant of the fact. Assembly

break cerned department to utilize all available resources to ensure uninterrupted supply of needle gas to the people of Kuchlak and surrounding areas and to solve public problems on priority basis.

Governor about the difficulties faced by the people regarding the gas load shedding in Kuchlak. The Governor directed the officials of Sui

He expressed these views while talking to Deputy General Manager, Sui Southern Gas Com-Southern Gas Company (SSGC) to immediately end the series of unannounced load shedding and in case pany Farooq, who called on of necessity, inform the him at Governor House public in advance.

Senator annoyed over shortage of medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Danesh Kumar of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Friday expressed his deep concern over the shortage of medicine at National Institute of Rehabilitation and Medicine (NIRM).

At his calling attention notice at the sixth meeting of the 355th Senate Session here, the Senator said it was the matter of poor masses but the bureaucracy in the the Ministry of National Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination turned its deaf ear to the issue that was pending for the past ten days.

Senator Kumar said the poor people were unable to buy medicines in the prevailing skyrocketing inflation that had crushed the low-income groups of society.

day. Provincial ment nets in his constituency PB-44 and improve

the living standards of the people views while talking to media after the Assembly ses-

Mir Gurgej said that nationalists were elected from my constituency in the last two terms and they were still claiming that PB-44 was their stronghold but they did not pay any attention

of people in PB-44 QUETTA (APP): A young to this constituency and newly elected Member of people during their periods Assembly that is why the zealous (MPA) Ubaidullah Gorgage people here rejected them said that he would use all in the general elections of his abilities to lay develop-February 8

He further said that Sariab was an ancient area of Quetta, which was deprived of basic facilities of He expressed these life, besides health, education, drinking water, the people here were also protesting for gas and electricity

Ubaidullah selves, he said.

Pakistan Navy Workers during Rescue efforts at MPA Ubaidullah vows to improve living standard

Arabia and Pakistan.

Those who took the funds in the name of the development of Saryab increased their personal properties as witnessed by the people of Saryab them-

the delegation apprised the QUETTA: A view of accumulated rain water on imdad chowk after rain in

Provincial Capital.

Saudi Arabia gifts 100 tons dates to Pak ISLAMABAD (APP) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is delighted to offer 100 tons of dates to its Pakistani brethren in a gesture of goodwill.

Following the recom mendation of leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Saudi government has extended a heartfelt gift to the people of Pakistan continuing its annual tradition during a ceremony held here at the Royal Émbassy of Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, along with Abdullah Al-Baqami Director of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (Ksrelief) handed over the consignment to the government of Pakistan.

This generous donation is intended for distribution among the Pakistani community during the holy month of Ramazan.

This noble gesture ex emplifies the enduring bond of friendship and brotherhood between the two nations, reflecting the spirit of generosity and solidarity cherished by both Saudi

ISLAMABAD (Online): A

delegation of important Muslim countries under the flag of OIC should talk to the Israeli Prime Minister for an immediate ceasefire. Important countries

like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Qatar, Egypt, Pakistan will have to play a key role. This was said by the

Minister of Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, during a meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Rabaei. Matters of mutual interest and the situation in Palestine were discussed between the two leaders. The religious affairs minister said that Pakistan and Palestine have brotherly relations.

Pakistan will continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to its Palestinian brothers. Pakistan is the first country to support the Palestinian movement and will always continue to do so. The Muslim Ummah

can reach a solution to the Palestine problem by being



united. A delegation of important Muslim countries under the flag of OIC should talk to the Israeli Prime Minister for an immediate ceasefire. Important countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Qatar, Egypt, Pakistan will have to play a key role. We have to work together to restore the concept of Ummah. The rulers of all major Islamic countries will have to pledge allegiance to the House of Allah. Ahmed Rabaei, the Palestinian ambassador posted in Pakistan, said that the love of the people of Pakistan for Palestine dates back to the creation of Pakistan. We thank Pakistan for its support and solidarity with Palestine in the context of Israeli aggression. 70% of those killed in Israeli aggression are children and women, whose number is more than 21 thousand. More than 20,000 buildings in Gaza have been demolished by the Israeli occupying forces.

QUETTA: Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwor Brohi, Director Dur Muhammad Rind and Deputy Registrar Ameer Muhammad Rind during their visit to NADRA office Pishin.

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