



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Reserved seats

The ECP's decision to deny the Sunni Ittehad Council — the new home of PTI-affiliated lawmakers who won the Feb 8 polls as independent candidates — a share of the special seats reserved for women and minorities has come as a disappointment to those who believed in the fairness of the electoral process.

Common ground

Arooj Waheed Dar

In the run-up to the Feb 8 polls, extensive promises were made to the public by political parties in their election manifestos and speeches.

ment of prominent cabinet positions. It is important to note that these promises are not new: these political parties have been making the same promises in every election cycle, as evident from a review of their manifestos.

Dr Niaz Murtaza
Destiny in social science refers to likely cause and effect links versus a pre-ordained view of fatalism. One such political link is that the quality of outcomes of a regime depends on the quality of its strategies.

well as ensure durable growth in tax and export revenues and jobs. This rules out Dar and also people like Hafeez Shaikh, who loyally implement IMF policies that neglect growth.

some understanding here. Nawaz Sharif, even informally, can provide the impetus for peace with India given his past forays with the BJP. Peace with India is the single change that can have ripple effects in all realms — economic, social, foreign, political and security.

Ensuring equity and sustainability requires experts in ministries for social areas like climate change, poverty alleviation, health, education, population, labour and agriculture. Besides a strong industrial policy, we need strong agricultural, informal sector and labour policies as most of the poor work in these areas.

Commerce News

Renewable Energy Policy 2006 Why to curtail wind power projects despite tariff of PKR 14.7/kWh: Atif

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound concerns that the renewable energy policy 2006 is not being implemented in letter & spirit as costlier and obsolete power projects are still being given preference.

World Bank's Global Director wonders if master plan of water use exists in Sindh

HYDERABAD (APP): The World Bank's Global Director, Water Global Practice, Saroj Kumar Jha has said the bank through its investment always tries to bring manifestable change in the lives of the targeted communities besides improving agriculture and irrigation systems.



QUETTA: Residents of Sariab protesting against shortage of gas by blocking the Sariab Road.



LAHORE: Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Ejaz presenting shield to Consul General of Turkey during his visit to FPCCI office.

Pak-Saudi collaboration in IT, Telecom to further strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the realm of Information Technology and Telecom, the collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and strong presence of Pakistan at LEAP 2024, would further strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations.

HESCO to facilitate issuance of new connections to commercial, Industrial zones

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer HESCO Bashir Ahmed Gujjar said that President Farooq Shaikhani has presented an excellent constructive agenda in a meeting held on Tuesday.

US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' to improve climate, smart agriculture: CG Kristin

MULTAN (APP): US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins on Tuesday said US-Pakistan Green Alliance was an effort to improve climate, smart agriculture, food security and sustainable energy.



MULTAN: Members of Pakistan Wapda Employees Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Multan press club.

there exists a deficiency in the enthusiasm and commitment of the technical workforce. Furthermore, he acknowledged the commendable efforts of the HCSTSI in overcoming legal obstacles related to the express feeder. Grateful for their endeavors, he anticipated that the Sindh Small Industries Corporation will soon benefit from a dedicated express feeder, thanks to such collaborative initiatives.

# Matter of reconciliation with establishment will be decided by PTI founder: Amin Gandapur

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur and Aleema Khan sister of former chairman PTI met PTI founder in central Jail Adiala Tuesday. They exchanged views on political situation of KP in the meeting held in conference room of jail over one and half hour. Matter of formation of provincial cabinet also was discussed.

CM KP informed PTI founder about future strategy in the province. Security was put on high alert on the occasion of arrival of Ali Ameen Gandapur and Aleema Khan in jail. Talking to media men after meeting, CM KP said former chairman PTI is saying there should be rule of law. We will continue our work as per ideology. We will form such a system

that no one could steal mandate in future. He appealed Chief Justice of Pakistan to constitute commission on May 9 incident. Our women workers are in jail. He held those who benefitted from May 9 be held accountable. He went on to say we have left two governments for the sake of Pakistan. Imran Khan is fighting war for our children. akistan is

ours. Federal government has stolen our mandate. I will sit with opposition in province. We will not strike reconciliation with thieves of votes. We have to maintain law and order situation in the province. We have to give jobs. We will extend financial assistance to over one lac families. We will stage peaceful protest in Peshawar. We have not been given reserved seats.



PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel.

## Young generation is our future and we should inculcate habit of book reading in them: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that Art, humanities and Literature has profound impact on the society. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel in Lahore today.

Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that our young generation is our future and we should inculcate the habit of book reading in them. He said that generally

the book reading is on decline in the society but still there are people who love to read books. He further said that one should strive for continues improvement in life. He added that book reading broadens the vision of a person and develops positive character traits in him. He said that many people are doing good work in the society, they should be encouraged so that the process of improvement in life continues. He said that today's programme is also held to

appreciate the literary contribution of Jameel Jalbi. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi was a well-known intellectual, linguist, researcher, critic, columnist and educationist. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi rendered great services in the field of literature as a researcher, critic, writer and translator. He appreciated the efforts of senior journalist Wasif Nagi and other organizers in organizing the seminar for the promotion of knowledge and literature.

## Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoM, directs to reduce fees

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday chaired a senate meeting of University of Malakand (UoM) that discussed approval and legal status of varsity statutes. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor UoM, Dr Rasheed Ahmad and officials concerned of higher education, law, establishment and finance. The meeting discussed legal aspects of the statutes and concurred to send them to varsity's

senate subcommittee to remove legal lacunas in one month period. The participants also discussed extension of contract employees that are working in the university. The meeting was told contract employees have completed three-year period but the new appointments were stopped by election commission due to current general elections. Meeting approved six months extension of contract period and directed to ensure policy of merit while making new appointments.

## 13 dead and 1462 injured in 1387 road traffic crashes in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1387 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1462 were injured. Out of these, 637 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 779 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 186 pedestrians, and 510 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 334 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 101 in with 113 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 97 victims.

## DC for ensuring maximum relief to public in Ramadan

MARDAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mardan Muhammad Fayyaz Khan Sherpao has directed the administrative officers to ensure maximum relief to the public in the purchase of food items in the Ramadan markets during the holy month. He was presiding over an important meeting held here on Tuesday regarding Ramadan Package 2024. He said that according to the instructions of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ramadan bazaars will be set up for the citizens, in which the citizens will get food items like pulses, flour, ghee and other items at cheaper prices.

## Nigeban Ramadan Package launched in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Soft launching of the Nigeban Ramadan Package took place in Bahawalpur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa. Under this initiative, Assistant Commissioners distributed food hampers to deserving individuals in the district with their teams. The purpose of the soft launching for the

Nigeban Ramadan Package is to digitally organize data effectively. To ensure the success of the soft launching, a formal app is being used to securely store all data related to the Ramadan Package. In the Bahawalpur district, food hampers are being respectfully distributed to deserving individuals under the Nigeban Ramadan Package.

## Salim Saifullah congratulates PM Shehbaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician, former federal minister Salim Saifullah Khan has congratulated the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming his office and expressed the hope that under his leadership the country will overcome all challenges. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif political and economic stability.

## LHC declares non maintainable petition seeking removal Sanjarani

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has declared non maintainable the petition seeking removal of Sadiq Sanjarani from the position of chairman Senate while maintaining registrar office objection on the powers of jurisdiction of court regarding petition. The petition filed by citizen Mashkoor Hussain came up for hearing before Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan

of LHC Tuesday. Sadiq Sanjarani, Election Commission (EC) and others were made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Sadiq Sanjarani contested election on seat of provincial assembly Balochistan and he won the election. EC issued notification of his success. Sadiq Sanjarani cannot retain two seats at a time.

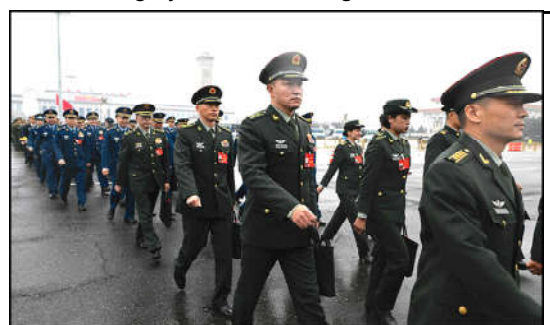
# International News

## World Health Organization: Child malnutrition 'particularly extreme' in north Gaza

GENEVA (Online): United Nations organisations said on Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available. Richard Peepker, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that one-in-six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern Gaza. "This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peepker added, referring to when the data was recorded. UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited

since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah in the south. Elder said this showed that "when that trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life saving difference." At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday. Calls for Israel to do more to address the humanitarian crisis have grown louder since the deaths of Palestinians lining up for aid in Gaza last month. Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre. Israel,

which says many people were trampled or run over, has pledged to investigate. Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious diseases, with nine-in-10 children under the age of five - around 220,000 - falling sick over the last weeks, according to Elder. "That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of: infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredibly still discussion of an offensive into Rafah, which is a city of children," Elder told reporters in Geneva, referring to Israel's stated aim of rooting out Hamas battalions it says are hiding there. "Rafah has about three quarters of a million children living there," Elder said.



Military delegation arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

## China boosts defence spending as regional disputes heat up

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China announced on Tuesday that it would boost its defence spending in 2024, as hostility over Taiwan and in the South China Sea grows. The 7.2 per cent increase, identical to last year's figure, was announced at the start of the annual meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).

China will spend 1.665 trillion yuan (\$231.4 billion) on defence in 2024, according to the budget report that lays out the government's financial plans for the year ahead. China has the world's second-largest defence budget behind the United States, even though the People's Liberation Army (PLA) surpasses the US military by number of personnel.

## US wants 'as many channels as possible' for Gaza aid, State Dept says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States is working to get aid into Gaza through as many channels as possible to remedy the humanitarian disaster amid Israel's war with Hamas militants, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday (March 4), describing the situation as "simply intolerable." Washington was optimistic that a new maritime route to deliver aid to Gaza could supplement current efforts to get aid into the enclave, Miller said, adding that that route was "still in the development phase." In addition to trucks carrying aid through two border crossings in the south of Gaza, the US military, along with allied nations, has in recent days dropped aid packages into Gaza from aircraft, amid warnings much of the population is on the verge of famine.



Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel and French President Emmanuel Macron walk past an honour guard at Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic.

## Ships entering Yemeni waters must obtain permit: Houthi minister

CAIRO (INP) Ships will have to obtain a permit from Yemen's Houthi-controlled Maritime Affairs Authority before entering Yemeni waters, Houthi Telecommunications Minister Misfer Al-Numair said. Houthi have repeatedly launched drones and missiles against international commercial shipping in the Gulf of Aden since mid-November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's offensive in Gaza. The near-daily attacks have forced firms into long and costly diversions around southern Africa, and

## US envoy says war at Lebanese-Israeli border would not be containable

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein said on Monday (Mar 4) that a truce in Gaza would not necessarily bring an automatic end to hostilities across Lebanon's southern border and he warned about the risks of an escalation of the conflict. Hochstein is visiting Beirut as part of diplomatic efforts to end four months of exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israel taking place in parallel to the Gaza war. It has marked the worst conflict across Lebanon's southern border since the 2006 war.

## Ladakhi people express outrage as talks with India end without progress

NEW DELHI (INP): The much-anticipated meeting between Ladakh's Apex Body (LAB), the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and the Indian Home Ministry ended without any tangible progress, sparking widespread anger among the people of Ladakh. New Delhi's refusal to address the fundamental demands of Ladakhis.

## 43 countries call for international probe into Navalny's death

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: More than 40 countries on Monday demanded an independent international investigation into the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny - and said President Vladimir Putin bore ultimate responsibility. European Union members, the United States, Britain, Ukraine, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and

## Ladakhi people express outrage as talks with India end without progress

Norway were among countries to voice outrage over Navalny's death at the UN Human Rights Council. Navalny, 47, who died in an Arctic prison colony, was laid to rest in Moscow on Friday, surrounded by crowds of defiant mourners who chanted his name. "We are outraged by the death of the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, for which the ultimate responsibility lies.

## No Indian troops, not even in civilian clothes to remain on his island: Maldives President reaffirms

MALE (INP): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10. Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after ostensibly an Indian civilian team, but in reality military officials, reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the Mat 10 deadline agreed by the two country's for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel. Addressing a community in Baa atoll Eydhafushi during his tour across the atoll, President Muizzu stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops from the country, people who spread false rumours,

are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.mv reported. "That these people [Indian military] are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies," the portal quoted Muizzu as saying. "There will be no Indian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said. Within hours of taking oath, last year, Muizzu in his inaugural address to the parliament demanded India to remove its personnel from the strategically located archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

## Spanish blogger's gang rape in India sparks global outrage

NEW DELHI (Online): India is deemed highly unsafe for foreign female tourists. A Spanish blogger woman fell victim to a gang rape, exposing India's secular state to scrutiny. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, a Spanish girl was traveling on a motorcycle with her partner in the city of Jharkhand, India when she was targeted for gang rape. The Spanish couple had set up a tent in Dhanbad, a state in India, for an overnight stay when a group of seven individuals assaulted them, reports Al Jazeera. The 28-year-old Spanish travel blogger mentioned in her Instagram post that the group targeted them for violence, looted their belongings, and raped her, as reported by Hindustan Times. In another post, a companion of the affected blogger stated that she was repeatedly assaulted

with blows to the head and face with a helmet. After the gang rape, the girl was left in critical condition, Al Jazeera reports. Following the attack, a petrol pump attendant rescued both and took them to a local hospital. There has been a strong international backlash over the rape of the Spanish blogger woman. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in India, approximately 90 cases of sexual assault are reported daily on average, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. In 2022, one case of rape against a woman was reported every 18 minutes. Last year, 31,516 incidents of sexual assault were reported. The states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

