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Vol. XIV No. 51 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday March 02, 2024, Shaban 20, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

PML-N's Ayaz Sadiq elected NA speaker in protest-marred session

Ayaz pledges to conduct affairs of NA in accordance with constitution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- the speaker. kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was elected as the speaker of the National Assembly on Friday after the conclusion of the voting pro-

cian defeated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independent lawmaker Malik Aamir Dogar, who was supported by the Sunni Ittehad (SIC) Counsulte administered oath by outgoing Speaker Raja National Assembly. cil lawmakers in the Pervaiz Ashraf.

speaker's contest with jority from the members of the PML-N, PPP and other lawmakers backing his nomination in the

Sadiq had served as the speaker from 2013-2018 in the 14th National Assembly The polling for the election of the National Assembly speaker has been completed and the counting of votes is The PML-N politi- underway in the session that has been marred by

After the oath-taking, Sadiq won the the new speaker will then take charge of the house 199 votes, gaining a ma- forthwith. Ashraf will, subsequently, step down from

protests of the Sunni

Îttehad Council (SIC) law-

Ghulam Mustafa and SIC's Junaid Akbar will contest for the slot.

makers. Sadiq will now be ISLAMABAD: Raja Pervez Ashraf administered

National Assembly.

Today's session The NA session was convened today to elect As the first order of the speaker and business Sadiq will now deputy speaker during hold elections for his which opposition law-This is the second deputy. Pakistan Peoples makers chanted slo-

tice and accountability in

enacted from this assembly

for curbing corruption in

society. He said terrorism has badly affected the

province and efforts will be

the new provincial govern-

ment would expand the tax

base to increase revenue collection. He said tourism and

mining will be promoted for

the development of the prov-

ince. Ali Amin Gandapur said

job opportunities will be cre-

sion, opposition leader

Ibadullah Khan said all out

cooperation will be ex-

tended to the government

Speaking on this occa-

ated for the youth.

made for lasting peace.

He said laws will be

Ali Amin Gandapur said

the province.

rigging in the Feb 8

Before the session started SIC's parliamentary party meeting was held in the house's lobby, where they vowed to continue their protest in the assembly. This is the second consecutive day that SIC has been protesting to the Assembly

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 Returning Officer in

Islamabad by 10 am on

Monday (March 4).

nomination papers be-

fore the Returning Of-

ficer in Islamabad until

Nomination papers

According to the

March 9.

and Quetta.

ECP fixes March 9 for

presidential election

(March 5).

made public.

over "rigged" results. As the session began, Speaker Ashraf asked if there were any new members present who had missed the oath-taking a day earlier.

As no new members came forward, the speaker then gave the floor to PTIbacked Omar Ayub Khan to speak on a point of or-

The lawmaker alleged that foreigners were present in the house.

"People who got fake mandate have entered the house, hence, they should be expelled," said Omar, adding that "prisoner number 804", the number assigned to PTI founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, should be brought

On the same day, the

Candidates can opt

list of candidates will be

out of the contest by

March 6, and polling is

scheduled to take place

from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

on March 9 at Parliament

House in Islamabad and

the provincial Assembly

buildings in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and

political parties, including

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) and Pa-

kistan People's Party

dency. Asif Zardari had

previously served from

2008 to 2013.

An alliance of major

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.

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 Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has been named unopposed as the Chief Minister Balochistan on Friday.

The nomination of Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Minister was made by the Pa-kistan 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 Kakar on Friday evening.

The Secretary Assembly said that Mr. Bugti has and PML-N were included 2013.

Shehbaz

felicitates

Avaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister-Designate

lated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for

winning the election of

Speaker National Assem-

bly with a thumping major-

Shehbaz Sharif who is the

President Pakistan Muslim

League (PML-N), said that

Ayaz Sadiq has set a unique

example of victory as

Speaker NA for the third

time, adding that he is an

experienced and senior poli-

Solangi lauds

performance of

Parl. Affairs

Ministry during

caretaker set up

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting and

Parliamentary Affairs

Murtaza Solangi Friday appreciated the perfor-

mance and cooperation of

the Ministry of Parliamen-

tary Affairs during the care-

taker government's tenure.

speaking at a farewell cer-

emony organized in the

Ministry of Parliamentary

with the grace of Allah Al-

mighty, the democratic

process was going on in

he had been reiterating the

commitment of the govern-

ment since the first day that

the elections would be held

at time schedule given by

Affairs in his honour.

the country.

This he said while

The minister said

Murtaza Solangi said

Shehbaz

Muhammad

to secure at least 33 votes in the proposers and secin the today's session to be elected as Chief Minister.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti was elected as the MPA on February 8, 2024 from PB-10, Dera Bugti. He would be formally elected as Chief Minister in the session of provincial assembly summoned at 11:00 AM today (Saturday).

Earlier, he submitted his nomination papers for the Chief Minister-ship in the provincial assembly secretariat the same after-

submitted in the assembly Bugti. The members of assembly belonging to PPP

At the outset, four nomination papers were for CM-ship of Sarfraz

They were included:

Nawab Šanaullah Zehri, Nawab Changez Marri, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki, Mir Asim Kurd, Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, S.M Patrick.

As per the agenda issued by the Provincial Assembly secretariat, the members of provincial assembly would elect any of the members as Chief Min-

here that Mir Sarfraz Bugti has served as the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs after his election from Dera Bugti in



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.

Nawaz seeks Maulana Fazl's support for election of PM, President

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim Leagué-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif on Friday visited the house of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Maulana Fazalur Rehman to seek his support for the election of the prime minister and the Presi-

He also requested Maulana Fazalur Rehman to join the government.

Some seasoned politicians of the PML-N and JUI including Ahsan Iqbal, Ishaq Dar, Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Maulana Ghafoor Hydari also participated in the meeting.

Apart from this, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali and

claimed Nawaz Sharif invited Maulana Fazlur Rehman to accompany him in the formation of Fazl (JUI-F) chief the government and discussed the country's political situation in the meeting.

The sources said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman also voiced certain complaints to Nawaz Sharif during the meeting. The PML-N leadership asked the JUI chief to help into establishing the central government.

Meanwhile, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif called on Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani. During the meeting, they discussed overall political Noor Alam Khan also at- situation in the country.

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.



Pakistan Navy Workers during Rescue efforts at flood affected areas of Gawadar.

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

KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur demands CEC's resignation in fiery victory speech; Demands judicial inquiry into May 9 incidents

PESHAWAR (Online): Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has been elected as the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He secured 90 votes, during the session of the provincial assembly

PML (N) candidate will be made for bringing for the Chief Minister slot reforms in system of jus-Ibadullah Khan secured 16

Speaking in the House after his election, newly elected Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said efforts



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

PML-N, MQM-P

reach agreement on

coalition govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sit on the government

benches and support the

PML-N in the elections for

the prime minister and

after signing the agreement

PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal

said that both parties had

signed the memorandum to

empower the people and

shift the power to the

agreement is to solve the

problems at the doorstep of

the people. We will jointly

struggle to achieve this ob-

jective. We will also try to

evolve consensus over this

draft the national level," he

tails of the agreement, local

bodies system, Karachi's

problems and constitu-

According to the de-

"The objective of our

Talking to the media

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) and the

Muttahida Qaumi Move-

ment (MQM) on Friday

signed an agreement to vote

for the coalition candidates

in the elections for the

prime minister and speaker.

and MQM-P's Mustafa

signed the agreements after

talks between the two par-

ties held at Ishaq Dar's

chamber in the National

signed the agreement carry-

ing the MQM's demands

for solution to the prob-

lems of Karachi and amend-

ment to the local bodies act.

According to the agree-

ment, the constitutional

amendment will be the pri-

ority of the government.

Both parties have

PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal

for welfare of the people. JUI boycotts election of NA 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 Friday.

Talking to a private television channel, Shahida Akhtar Ali said their party's strategy is crystal clear as they will not take part in any election process in the National Assembly.

Saudi Arabia gifts 100 tons dates to Pak

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

Following the recommendation of leadership of Custodian of 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 Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Åmbassador 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.

ISLAMABAD: A view of farewell ceremony organized at the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in honor of

tion to withdraw their Ali Zardari for the presi-

the Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday awarded six month imprisonment sentence to Deputy Commissioner ICT Irfan Nawaz Memon while four month to SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar in a contempt of court case for issuance of MPO orders against

Shahryar Khan Afridi. The court also announced two month jail sentence to SHO Margalla Police Station Nasir Mehmood in the same case and, however, discharged SP Farooq Buttar from the

The court suspended the sentences of the accused for one month and said that they would be

failed to file the appeals against their convictions within the said time. IHC's Justice Babar Sattar pronounced the 73 pages verdict which was

earlier reserved. The court also imposed Rs.100,000 fine against the each accused and ordered to distribute the amount among the affectees

of MPO orders. The court said that the amount was not a compensation to the petitioners rather it was just symbolic step. The order said that the executive powers were associated with the elected representatives of

Election Commission of public and state would use Pakistan. these powers through them.

PTI calls NA Speaker, Dy without reserved seats allocation unconstitutional

He said that the constitution was trampled under their feet one again by electing NA speaker from a fake incomplete National Assembly, as they reached the house fraudulently after stealing public mandate. PTI Spokesperson categorically stated that according to Article 51 of the Constitution, the House cannot be com-

Edhi Naval Services team starts rescue operation in Gwadar

QUETTA (APP): The Edhi Naval Services team led by in-charge Dr. Abdul Hakeem Lasi has reached Gwadar on the directive of the Head of Edhi Foundation Faisal Edhi to start a rescue operation in the

According to a statement issued here, the recent rains in several areas of Gwadar have caused havoc and several houses have been damaged and people are living there under the open sky

After reaching the agreement, the MQM will the party of the agreement. **JUI-F** sticks to its guns on not becoming part of govt: Haideri

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said on Friday that his party was sticking to its guns on not becoming part of the coalition government.

Speaking exclusively with a private television channel, Haideri said: "Even Nawaz Sharif has not asked the JUI-F to change its narrative. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has addressed his concerns during his meeting with Nawaz Sharif." "The final decision whether to agree with the talks with the PML-N or not will be decided following the a good way," he added.

consultations," Haider

Separately, PML-N senior leader Rana Sanaullah said that the country faces severe hardships. Expressing his thoughts, the former interior minister said: "Maulana Fazlur Rehman is not angry at me.

We want to retain the leadership of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. He [Fazlur Rehman] is our leader, as we had difficult times durstan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)." ing the tenure of the Paki-

"The meeting was held with Fazlur Rehman in

ISLAMABAD (INP): Padeputy speaker elected

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Spokesperson termed the election of Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Prime Minister from the fake incomplete National Assembly without the allocation of the reserved seats for women and minorities as unconstitutional. Reacting over the election of the NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker sans allocation of the reserved seats, PTI Spokesperson stated that the speaker and

with the help of the mandate thieves would not have any constitutional status.

Daily Aoice of Masse 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 be-

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

controversies as they

should be that the par-

recognise that their cur-

rent relationship is un-

sound and harmful to

differences through dia-

logue and compassion-

ate discussion. But

where they feel that sup-

port of a third party is

required, they may re-

quest a friend or an out-

sider to mediate. Media-

tion is highly recom-

mended in Islam, as a de-

sirable means of creating

a peaceful environment

and harmony among

ous ahadith underscore

the necessity of making

peace between people,

particularly within fami-

lies. "If two parties

among the Believers fall

into a quarrel, make ye

peace between them: but

if one of them trans-

gresses beyond bounds

against the other then

fight ye (all) against the

one that transgresses

until it complies with the

command of God; but if

it complies then make

peace between them

with justice and be fair:

for God loves those who

are fair (and just)" (49:9).

The Quran and vari-

ties

The ideal situation

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 harmony that should ideally exist in families is often wrecked, mostly by petty but

also major issues such as inheritance, financial and marriage-related matters. Fre- themselves and their quently, it is a mere dif-families and resolve their ference of opinion that leads to family disputes, with parties refusing to understand and tolerate the diversity of views. Disputes within

families almost always lead to unhappiness, a disturbed life and grief over time. While matrimonial disputes occur frequently in our society, fights between siblings. children (mainly sons) and parents and close relatives too are common. Brothers have been known to break off ties with each other, and others either stop communication or play out a cold war that is both unhealthy and painful, especially if the children of the warring parties are involved. Battles of ego, perceived slights and third-party gossip abound. Friends are prone to fighting over minor issues and too often a blossoming or fruitful relationship is laid to rest, because of minor misunderstandings. Conflicts among people, including loved

Note the stress on justice 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 desirability 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), 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.

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

1st Pakistan

Financial

Literacy Week

from March 4

KARACHI (APP): State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

will organize 1st edition of

Pakistan Financial Literacy

Week 2024 under the theme

of 'Digital Bankari- fori aur

asaan' from March 04 to

of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad

will inaugurate Pakistan

Financial Literacy Week

(PFLW) 2024 on Monday,

March 04, 2024 at SBP

Karachi, said a statement

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

ship 'Eagle' scheduled to

Meanwhile another

Governor State Bank

08, 2024.

issued here.

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

The PPP and PMLselves 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 inbill 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

 look no further than the PPP putting up Sarfaraz Bugti and Jamal Raisani in Balochistan. Speaking of which, has anyone in government tablished institutional bothered to provide relief to Gwadar, which is currently drowning due to torrential rain?

unqualified improvement upon Imran Khan and the PTI, it is worth noting that Joe Biden — who so many celebrated when he defeated Donald 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, 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-

Anyone who actu-

ally 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 troduced a parliamentary status quo of establishment-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 nor-

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 esorder. Unless there is a wilful commitment to creating a substantive alternative on the left For those who still of the political specthink that PDM 2.0 is an trum, however far down 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. --Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

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

BEIJING 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

Karim Jan, a Pakistani Economic Net that Pakistan's northern and

topaz, deep red rubies, green emeralds, and landscape. sapphires.

Extracting these gems age-old techniques of local miners and artisans. improve by utilizing market," he stated. Chinese skills.

quality gemstones, Pakistani gems, known for northwestern areas were their unparalleled beauty rich in mineral resources, and craftsmanship, are

boasting gems like vibrant finding a prominent place in this competitive

> The reciprocal nature for both nations, with

from Pakistan's Ministry exported to China crossed \$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.

traded during the day as compared to 424,043,562 shares valuing Rs 17.053

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

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

Products witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 450.00 per share price, closing at Rs 8,850, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs113.50 rise in its per share price to Rs2,462.05.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the building Materials Exhibition and Conference organizers by the Institute of Architects of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan needs to tap into \$4.92 trillion D-8 market: Atif

Independent Report KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has represented Pakistan in the all-influential General Assembly meeting of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI). He apprised

that the meeting was also attended by Iran, Turkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh and Nigeria. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh expressed his vision that Pakistan must tap into the export market of D-8 countries with a combined

has the potential to correct Pakistan's regional trade deficit for a number of reasons: (i) Pakistan has friendly ties with the D-8 members (iii) we have geographical contiguity or land-based access with some member countries (iii) land-based routes can be used for transshipment (iv) shipment to these countries takes lesser time and costs (v) with intra D-8 trade at merely 5 percent, there are low-hanging fruits to be grabbed in a short-span of

Weekly inflation up by 1.27 pc

The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 1.27 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on February 29, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the 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

corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 32.73 per cent.

51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, increased

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.

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 24 hours, out of them five ships, APL Qingdao, Clemens Schulte, Sunny Bay, Chemroad Aqua and Dravin left the Port on

Friday.

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 Àfghanistan will be

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

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 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 Afghanistan.



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 local and the month of last year was recorded at 31.5%.

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

According to the 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 compared to an increase of February 2023. On monthon-month basis, it decreased to 0.3% in February 2024 as compared to an increase of data, CPI inflation Urban, 1.9% in the previous month increased to 24.9% on and an increase of 4.0% in

SARGODHA: Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas visiting different stalls during Research Arena Exhibition held at University of Sargodha.

OGDCL rolls out its **ESG** policy to promote sustainable practices

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

Governance (ESG) policy. In response to the growing demand from investors and stakeholders for transparency and accountability in ESG factors, OGDČL's Board of Directors released its comprehensive ESG policy statement on February 27,

2024, said a news release. policy underscores the adaptable, and resilient company's commitment to organization

By embracing these principles, OGDCL aims to create shared value for sustainable development. The policy outlines OGDCL's strategic approach to managing environmental impacts, fostering social inclusivity, and upholding high standards of corporate governance. OGDCL view the ESG Policy as a crucial first step in embracing more sustainability practices and The OGDCL ESG becoming a responsible,

ISLAMABAD (APP): environmenta The Oil and Gas stewardship, socia

of this growing trade is a delicate process, relying relationship promises a growing demand for these on the skilled hands and mutually beneficial future Pakistani gems shining

Pakistan can further brightly in the vast Chinese According to sources gem and jewelry exporter consumers increasingly of Commerce, Pakistan's to China, told China seek out rare and high-

A total of 344,227,410 shares valuing Rs13.385billion were billion the last day.

20 remained unchanged. The three top trading

Rafhan

GDP of \$4.92 billion; and,

ISLAMABAD (APP): combined consumption

past week. As compared to the

The weekly SPI with the base year $20\dot{1}5-16=100$ covers 17 urban centres and

by 1.36 percent and went

29,518-44,175 and above Rs. 44,175, increased by 1.75 percent, 1.86 percent.

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 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 of Audits; Ikram Haq, indispensable

Baba Ali Rehman, a retired Naib Qasid of Lahore

High Court, award a certificate to a trainee the

Four more matches

decided in senior Inter-

district cricket tourney

KARACHI (APP): Four the day at TMC Ground

Federal Judicial Academy.

more matches were decided

in the Khansortium

Karachi Region Senior In-

ter District Cricket Tour-

nament at various cricket

being organized by Re-

gional Cricket Association

Karachi. Brilliant centuries

by Jehangir Javed 124,

Ubais Ullah 124 and Waqar

Ahmed 103 were made, a

communique said on Fri-

In the first match of 2/28.

day. Scores in Brief:

The Tournament is

Officer (Admin) Syed the institution. Nafees Ahmed.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman, said that the the steps taken to improve Auditor General's Department has an transparency and governance in government departments that are not

Faryal Magsi and Audit increasing the efficiency of

Deputy Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Governor in detail about the institution.

Saturday March 02, 2024

He said that Auditor important role in improving General's organization will review the organization requirements departments. He said those and make a strategy to 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 antiterrorism court (ATC) on Friday granted bail to 16 accused involved in a case of attacking Jinnah House.

The court ordered the accused to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each for availing the relief of bail.ATC Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal heard the post-arrest bail petitions of accused and 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. The Sarwar Road police had registered a case against Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf leaders and workers on charges of attacking Jinnah House.



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 PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission (KPIC) and Transparency International-Pakistan (TIP) on Friday joined hands to promote good governance.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission (KPIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Transparency International- Pakistan to extend collaborative efforts in ensuring merit and openness in public affairs perform by public entities.

Chief Information Commissioner KPIC and Kashif Ali Sheikh, Executive Director, TI-Pakistan in presence of other senior officers of the Sargodha. organizations. Under the MoU, both

the organizations will collaboratively work in mass awareness regarding Right to Information Act (RTI) and training of Public Information Officers (PIOs) for the smooth flow of public information

Both the institutions look forward to a fruitful partnership that will The MoU was signed promote citizen int by Farah Hamid Khan, into public affairs. promote citizen integration

Diplomats from various countries appreciates business opportunities with Pakistan

Diplomats of Germany, China and Oman while crediting the performance of the caretaker government and security agencies for holding peaceful election, expressed hope that democracy will strengthen in Pakistan, the future of

Pakistan is, however, in the hands of the youth. They were talking to Journalists at a dinner Secretary.

hosted by prominent 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 Republic of Germany at Dadabhoy residence and was attended by former caretaker provincial information minister Ahmed Shah, Mohammad

CM seeks report on murder of

domestic worker LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of the murder following alleged torture of a domestic worker in

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 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 Muhammad Abad, 5-yearold Ibrahim of Tariq Town

IGP discusses admin, professional steps about police working

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar chaired a meeting of the police executive board at Central Police Office here reviewed progress of on Friday and discussed administrative and professional matters related to working of the police field formations.

Senior officers presented suggestions and recommendations regarding administrative and policy issues. In the executive board meeting, various issues including Punjab Mounted Police Force,

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

The meeting also various development projects, welfare measures of the force. The IGP ordered that proposals should be finalised and presented in the next meeting for taking a decision. He said the supervisory officers should complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated time line under 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

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. Muhammad

LAHORE (APP): The Javaid, Secretary School Education Muhammad Ahsan 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 activities, workshops, and educational materials to engage children and make learning about healthy eating fun. Children will learn about The programme was the importance of fruits, attended by PFA vegetables, whole grains, Director General and lean proteins in their

International News

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

Zone-IV Greens defeated

Zone-VII Blues by 5 Wick-

ets. Zone-VII Blues 216/6

in allotted 45 overs. Waqar

Ahmed 103 3x6 1x6

Hammad Bhatti 41, Rizwan Abbasi 22, Abdur

Rehman 20. Muhammad

Muhammad Maaz 68 9x4,

Afnan Khan 54 5x4 3x6,

Rameez Shahid 43, Mudasir 27. Afroz Hasan

Zone-IV Greens 220/

in 29.2. Overs.

Owais 3/27

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:

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 au-

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 incidents, hundreds of

of which dozens were killed or injured as they tried to take aid from the trucks and 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 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

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.

Trump had been scheduled to go on trial in Washington on March 4, but the nation's highest court scheduled arguments in the high-stakes case for the week of April 22 and said Trump's federal election 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

Today, both Trump and incumbent President Joe Biden are due to pay dueling visits to the US-Mexico border Thursday as they try to win over voters on immigration.



Palestinians transport casualties following Israeli fire on people waiting for

Five countries pledge personnel for Haiti security mission, UN says

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin and Chad have formally notified the United Nations of their intent to contribute personnel to an international force to help Haitian national police fight armed gangs, a UN spokesman said on Thursday.

Contributions \$10.8 million have also been deposited into a trust fund to support the multinational security support mission, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told realso been made.

authorised in October a foreign security mission to Haiti, a year after the Caribbean country asked for help to fight violent gangs that have largely overrun its capital Port-

au-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-

The response to Haiti's request for help was delayed due to a struggle to find a country willing to lead a security assistance mis-

Three shot dead at US dental clinic

Russia ready to

hand over crash

victims' bodies

to Ukraine,

RIA says

Monitoring Desk

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

Moskalkova as saying on

Kyiv of downing the

Ilyushin Il-76 plane in

Russia's Belgorod region

and killing 74 people on board, including 65 cap-

tured Ukrainian soldiers en

route to be swapped for

It has not presented

Russian prisoners of war.

Moscow accuses

official

evidence

CALIFORNIA (INP): A manhunt was launched by police in the California city of El Cajon on Thursday after a shooting at a dentist's office left one dead and two injured, local media reported. Police in the town, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) outside of San Diego, said on social media they were searching for an "armed and dangerous" 29-year-old suspect who fled the scene after the attack

Bangladesh building fire kills 46, injures dozens

Monitoring Desk Bangladesh that raged through a six-storey build-

ing home to restaurants where many families with children were dining has killed at least 46 people and injured dozens, the health minister said on Friday. Fire authorities said a

gas leak or a stove could have caused Thursday's blaze in the capital, which spread quickly after breaking out in a biryani restaurant, and was only brought under control following two hours of effort by 13 units of firefighters.

Hospitals were treating 22 people with burns, Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen told reporters. "All 22 people [...] are in critical condition," Sen, himself a well-known physician, said after a visit to the first moments had died later.

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: South Korean

Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"We are trying our "bair lives," he

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina expressed shock and sorrow at the incident, ordering swift treatment for the injured. She 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

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

President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Friday improved ties with Japan were helping to combat threats from Pyongyang's weapons developments and called for help from the international community to bring about unification with North Korea. Under Yoon's conservative administration, Seoul has sought better ties with Tokyo which have been fraught with historical baggage for years at a time of China's growing influence and North Korea's growing missile and nuclear programs. During a ceremony to mark an independence holiday, Yoon said next year would be the 60th anniversary of normalised diplomatic relations with Japan and he hoped it could be a chance

"Now, South Korea and Japan are working to-

for the bilateral relation-

ship to reach a "higher

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 Korea. "The security cooperation between the two countries against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats has been strengthened further," he

During his speech, Yoon said that Seoul would need international help for any prospect of unification with North "Unification is a chal-

lenging 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

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte attend a cer-

emony of signing an agreement on security coop-

eration and long-term support between Ukraine and

Netherlands, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in

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 growing frustration over economic woes and restrictions on political and social freedoms. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has called voting a religious duty,

Kharkiv, Ukraine.

in Iran. "Vote as soon as possible ... today the eyes of Iran's friends and ill-wishers are on the results. Make friends happy and disappoint enemies," Khamenei

said on state television. The election is the first formal measure of public opinion since anti-government protests in 2022-23.

Monitoring Desk

porters, adding that further pledges of \$78 million had The United Nations Council sion. Bangladeshi leader says a shopping mall that caught

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: A six-story shopping mall that caught fire in the Bangladeshi capital had no fire exits,

the country's prime min-ister said Friday, as the death toll climbed to at Firefighters rescued survivors and pulled out least 46 and rescuers continued to search for more

victims The fire started late

fire had no emergency exits Thursday in a restaurant on the first floor of the Green Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall in downtown Dhaka. More than a dozen firefighting units were de-

> bodies, and by early Friday, at least 43 people were con-

President for enhanced cooperation between audit institutions of Pakistan, Azerbaijan

that Pakistan accorded spe-

which were based on com-

mon faith, shared history,

and people-to-people con-

tacts. He stated that pro-

and strengthening coop-

economic fields was vital

for fostering understand-

ing and mutually benefi-

cial development between

the two brotherly na-

eration between Pakistan

and Azerbaijan "pivotal for

promoting peace, stability,

licitated President Ilham

Aliyev of Azerbaijan on his

re-election in the presiden-

tial election held on Febru-

ary 7, 2024 and hoped that

the bilateral relations be-

tween the two countries

would further strengthen

during his tenure.

development in the region'

He termed the coop-

The president also fe-

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 re-

Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of

Azerbaijan (CAA), Vugar tion, President Alvi said Gulmammadov, briefed the president about the Memorandum of Understanding tions with Azerbaijan, (MOU) signed between the Supreme Audit Institution of Azerbaijan, CAA, and the Supreme Audit Institution of Pakistan, AGP, for peer reviews of public accounts. He said that the MoU would help deepen friendly relations between the two countries.

The president lauded the signing of the MoU between AGP and CAA, adding that it would increase cooperation between two countries in the field of Public Sector Auditing.

He added that cooperation between CAA and AGP would be mutually beneficial for both the coun-

He also appreciated AGP's role in carrying out peer reviews of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Azerbaijan.

Talking to the delega-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan, Vugar Gulmammadov, along with his delegation called on President Dr. Arif Alvi a

SAPM inaugurates the first-ever protectorate to promote legal migration

a momentous occasion that signifies Pakistan's commitment to promoting safe and legal migration, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik inaugurated the first-ever Protectorate of Emigrants Office here Friday. This initiative not only underscores the government's dedication to ensuring the welfare of its citizens seeking employ-

rector General of Civil De-

fense Niaz Muhammad

Khan Friday stressed me-

dia for creating more aware-

ness among the people about Civil Defense and to

prepare volunteers and stu-

dents who can help in case

view with PTV news chan-

nel, on eve of world Defense

day highlight the achieve-

ments of national disaster-

prevention services and to

raises awareness about im-

In an exclusive inter-

of any natural calamities.

ment abroad but also positions Islamabad as a focal point for international collaboration on labor and migration issues. The inauguration of the Islamabad Protectorate Office, closely following the recent opening of two protectorate offices in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), in Bagh and Rawalakot, further amplifies the government's efforts in streamlining migration services across the country. These steps are reflective of the Ministry of Overseas

lives and the lives of oth-

ers. Civil Defense is the best

organization for the service

of the people, he said, add-

ing, our volunteer training

programs are free of cost

where interested citizens

specially youth can ac-

provincial and center gov-

ernment for equipping the

volunteers with the needed

facilities so they could per-

form their tasks more effi-

ciently. Civil Defense staff

He demanded of the

tively participate.

DG stresses Civil-defense

awareness, culture training

source Development's ongoing mission to facilitate the journey of Pakistani workers abroad, ensuring their rights and well-being are prioritized at every stage.

During the ceremony, the SAPM highlighted the strategic importance of establishing the Protectorate in Islamabad, a city that hosts numerous international organizations including labor and migration entities as well as foreign em-

PTI wants to derail democracy: to manage natural calamities ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- order to save their own Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP) Attaullah Tarar of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz al leged on Friday that Paki stan Tehreek-e-Insaf's leadership wanted to derail de-

mocracy in the country. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly he claimed that the PTI leadership had targeted defense institutions on May 9.

He further asserted that in 2018, the PTI government came into power through rigging.

Tarar also congratulated the newly elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary (MoFEPT) Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry addressing during the launching ceremony of National Achievement Test 2023 Assess

portance of self-defense. and volunteers can took part in firefighting and first Civil defense training is a must for every man and aid programs, he menwoman, he said, adding, in

ing the Learning Environment organized by Pakistan Institute of Education.

Wet weather to continue;

authorities on alert to

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Heavy rain, with heavy

snowfall over the hilly ar-

eas, lashed most parts of

the country including the

federal capital, as per

forecast of weather ex-

perts, and continued since

Thursday night with oc-

casional gaps, turning the

has not only suspended

the daily life in various

parts of the country es-

pecially in Sindh and

Balochistan provinces

but also causing inconve-

the rain of moderate to

heavy intensity started

during the midnight and

continued till present

(4:00 pm) with gaps.

Considering the intensity

of rainfall during this

spell, the authorities have

declared rain emergency

in rain-hit areas of Sindh

and Balochistan to avert

In the federal capital,

nience to the travelers.

The heavy rainfall

weather cold.

of Sogetsu Ikebana". **COMSTECH**, Huawei join hands to elevate cybersecurity proficiency of OIC nations

ISLAMABAD: To Takeshi, Charge d Affaires Embassy of Japan in Pakistan,

together with Neveen Syed, Director Sogetsu Ikebana Study Group, viewing

Japanese Ikebana exhibition titled "Mughal Architecture Through the eyes

ISLAMABAD (APP): of the Organization of Is- same. COMSTECH and Huawei have joined hands to elevate Huawei Technologies Pakinologies like AI, quantum the cybersecurity proficiency of OIC nations, focusing on areas like secu-standing to bolster national rity management, security cybersecurity awareness unprecedented opportuniincident response, vulnerability management, and of OIC member states in cybersecurity challenges at staying abreast of emerging cybersecurity. security technologies and requirements.

This partnership is reiterated during the high level meetings held at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, said a

message received here. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and Advisor COMSTECH, Dr. Syed Khurshid Hasnain met with the Cyber security and Privacy Protection team at the Mobile World Congress to chart out the future of the strategic collaboration.

Ministerial Standing Com-Technological Cooperation capacity to manage the

lamic Cooperation and stan recently signed a computing and cloud infra-Memorandum of Under-structures are rapidly

COMSTECH's core in science and technology. It aims to bolster capabiliemerging areas, implementing OIC resolutions, and developing programs to enopment and rapid industri- ments.

alization interconnected world, se-COMSTECH, the never been more crucial, as role of the digital economy has the development of mittee on Scientific and regulations, policies and

ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Prof Farhat Mujtaba

awarding winning trophy of English Drama compe-

Notorious dacoit

gang busted; booty of

Rs 4.8 mn recovered

order to eliminate crime the safety of lives and

Unit

volved in numerous

dacoit activities in various

areas of Islamabad. The

accused were identified as

Javed, Anar Gul and

recovered cash, batteries

and a truck worth Rs 4 8

million from their posses-

sion. The cases were reg-

istered against the nabbed

accused and further inves-

ers directed the police of-

ficials for an effective

crackdown against the ac-

cused involved in crimi-

nal activities and ensured

property of citizens on

urged to cooperate with

the police and report any

suspicious individuals or

The citizens are

priority basis.

Senior police offic-

tigation is underway.

The police team also

Umair Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police

Anti Robbery and Dacoity Unit (ARDU)

police team arrested three

wanted members of a no-

torious dacoit gang in-

volved in numerous ac-

tivities and recovered

cash, batteries and truck

worth Rs 4.8 million from

tions of Islamabad Capi-

tal City Police Officer

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

Khan, the Islamabad capi-

tal police have intensified

their crackdown against

the criminal elements in

from the city, according to

a press release issued

here. The Anti-Robbery

Dacoity

(ARDU) police team

used technical and human

Following the direc-

their possession.

tition to students held at Margalla College F-7/4.

Cutting-edge techevolving, presenting both

ogy and policy. mandate revolves around fostering cooperation among OIC Member States

The collaboration between COMSTECH and Huawei aims to elevate the cybersecurity proficiency of OIC nations, focusing on ties through training in areas like security management, security incident response, vulnerability management, and staying hance scientific capabilities abreast of emerging security for socio-economic devel- technologies and require-

the intersection of technol-

Huawei, renowned for Set against the back- its digital transformation, ground of an increasingly networking, and communication technologies glocuring systems and data has bally, recognizes the pivotal in fostering economic growth and sustainable development.

CDA, PITB sign agreement for digitisation of official record

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) Friday signed an agreement to digitise all office working of the authority.

Under the agreement,

a modern property management system will be introduced to computerise the property record of the citizens. According to the details, the e-office will be established as per the agreement between the Capital Development Authority and PITB. In order to ensure transparency in all information related to the property, it is possible to get rid of record tampering, including record missing or record leaking and the land or property record can also be saved in a modern way, an official of the CDA said.

"Besides, the aim of this initiative is to empower the Capital Development Authority (CDA) by equipping it with modern tools and technology in the realm of 'smart governance', the official said.

He said that by using the latest tools, the Capital Development Authority aims to enhance its decision-making process and ultimately achieve e-empowerment for the authority so that all citizens and for speedy processing of their allotment

avert damages The heavy rain has compelled citizens to remain indoors and wear warm clothes due to the lowering temperature while many are enjoying the popular winter delights including Doodh Jalebi, Gajar ka Halwa, chicken corn soup, Kashmiri tea, dry fruits, fried fish, samosas, pakoras and other traditional winter foods.

Huge rush of buyers especially women was also witnessed at the stalls of second-hand clothes stalls and flee markets on Friday who were purchasing warm clothes for them and chil-

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), torrential rainfall and heavy snowfall with windstorm, thunderstorms and isolated hailstorm was expected in most parts of the country till March 02.



ISLAMABAD: Lady Health Workers on the way under cover of umbrella to protect from rain while visiting home to home to administer polio drops to children at Tarlahi during anti polio campaign.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com

Court orders for medical examination of journalist

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Friday ordered for medical examination of Journalist Asad Ali Toor, who was currently in custody of Federal Investi gation Agency (FIA).

Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Shabbir heard the application seeking medical examination of th said journalist. The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that

his client was observing hunger strike in custody of the FIA and prayed the court to shift him to the hospital. However, the FIA officials informed the court

that the petitioner was healthy and not having any sort of strike. PDMA predicts

snowfall, rain in Murree, **Galiyat**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has predicted heavy snowfall and rain in Muree and Galiyat over the next few days, said its Director General Imran Oureshi

Talking to a private news channel, Qureshi urged the local administration to ensure safety measures to mitigate any po

tential risks.
DG PDMA further appealed to tourists to cooperate with the administration during this time.

Saudi embassy, PBM join hands for Ramadan ration distribution, orphan care

The Saudi Embassy on Friday agreed to collaborate with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) to distribute ration bags during Ramadan ul Mubarak and take responsibility for the care of 100 orphans supported by Pakistan Sweet Home, with formal documentation to follow soon. Managing Director of

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Syed Tariq Mahmood Al-Hassan, visited the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad upon a special invitation from the Saudi Ambassador, Nawaf Al-Maliki. The Saudi Ambassa-

dor warmly welcomed him during the visit. He congratulated Syed Tariq Mahmood Al-Hassan on assuming the position of Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. In the meeting, the Managing Director of Bait-

ul-Mal and the Saudi Ambassador reached an agreement to collaborate on initiatives within Pakistan's social sectors. The Saudi Ambassador assured the Managing Director of Baitul-Mal of seeking further cooperation for additional social projects in the coun-

Previously, Saudi relief agencies and other social organizations from Saudi Arabia have collaborated with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal on numerous projects aimed at the welfare of the needy and vulnerable individuals. The Saudi Embassy in Islamabad has consistently maintained positive and fruitful cooperation with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

The Managing Director of Bait-ul-Mal recognized the Saudi Arabian government's particular fo-cus on global social sectors. He highlighted the enduring support between the two brotherly nations during challenging periods, emphasizing Saudi Arabia's continual prioritization of Pakistan's economy and social well-being. This commitment underscores the mutual trust shared between the two countries.

The Managing Director of Bait-ul-Mal ac-knowledged Saudi Arabia's keen interest in global social sectors. He emphasized the enduring support and prioritization of Pakistan's economy and social welfare by the two nations, reflecting mutual trust.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Baitul-Mal Syed Tariq Mahmood-Ul-Hassan exchanging views with H.E Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliky Royal Saudi Arabia Ambassador in Pakistan.

Pakistan growing startup ecosystem driving innovation, entrepreneurship: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): outsourcing services. Ambassador of Pakistan in Czech Republic Ayesha Ali has said that Pakistan's growing startup ecosystem was driving innovation and entrepreneurship, particu- and development capabililarly in areas of e-commerce, fintech, and health such as cybersecurity, arti-

stan" said that Pakistan was known for its vibrant IT outsourcing industry, offering cost-effective solutions in software development, digital marketing, and customer support, said a press release received on Friday. The webinar was

organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Prague in collaboration with Čzech Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Code District, a Lahore-based private software house, and attended by more than 50 companies, both from Pakistan and Czech Republic. The ambassador said

that Pakistan had become a preferred destination for IT of Commerce.

said that on the other hand, the Czech Republic was renowned for its advanced IT infrastructure, research ties, and expertise in areas ficial intelligence, and data The ambassador, in analytics. By leveraging her address at a webinar on their respective strengths, "IT Landscape of Paki- Pakistan and the Czech Republic can explore opportunities for collaboration in several key areas, the envoy emphasised. On behalf of software houses from Pakistan, a presentation highlighting product and service range being offered to outsiders was given by CEO Code District, Ashar Samdani. From the Czech side, presentations were delivered by Miroslav Hazer, Director External Relations, Czech Confederation of Industries, Eva Rybkova, Chairperson of Czech Pakistan Business Council at the

Czech Chambers of Com-

merce and Ahsan Aslam,

Czech – Pakistan Chambers

Ambassador Ayesha



stan Charles Delogne and wife of French Ambassador Camelia Galey looks a photograph during photographic exhibition of Ferrante Ferranti at the Embassy of France, in the Federal Capital.

Ex-Ambassador highlights growing ties between Brazil, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): stock industries, noting a Pedro Luis Rodriguez relationship between Brazil and Pakistan, emcooperation despite geographical distance.

In a special interview with PTV on Friday, he acknowledged the proactive measures taken by the Pakistani Embassy in Brazil, with both countries eager to explore various avenues of collabora-

He praised the efforts of the Pakistan Embassy in Brazil for their role in bridging the gap between the business communities of Brazil and Pakistan.

Rodriguez under-

Former Ambassador recent mission from Pakistan to procure cattle highlighted the growing breeds tracing their lineage back to the region. Brazil's historical experiphasizing significant ence with food scarcity strides made in fostering and subsequent technological advancements in agriculture reflects Brazil's willingness to share its expertise with Pakistan to bolster food security Rodriguez emphasized the importance of leveraging technology and expertise to meet the food needs of growing populations, both domestically and through exports. Being the representative Compo Brasil Fertilzantes Ltd. (Brazil), he said that he was in discussions with Fongrow Corporate Farming aimed scored Brazil's expertise at exploring opportuniin agriculture and live- ties for collaboration.

activities through the resources and succeeded in apprehending three emergency helpline wanted members of a no- "Pucar-15" or at "ICTapplicants can be facilitated torious dacoit gang in- 15" mobile application.