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Becomes 24th PM in rucks-hit session

Mounds of socio-economic challenges exist; but surmountable: PM-elect Shehbaz in victory speech

Obtains 201 votes; rival PTI-SIC candidate Omar Ayub Khan bags 92 votes; Shehbaz thanks Nawaz for nominating him for PM slot; Says his party never indulged in political victimisation.

APP): Shehbaz Sharif was voted in on Sunday as Pakistan's prime minister for a second time, presiding over a shaky alliance that has shut out followers of jailed opposition leader Imran Khan.

Newly sworn-in lawmakers in Pakistan's National Assembly elected Sharif with 201 votes, more than three weeks after national elections marred by widespread allegations of

rigging.
"No one has won a majority. It is a split man-date. And it is the democratic way that if it's a split mandate, then the likeminded parties may form a coalition government," Sharif told parliament, referring to the February 8 election.

The Sharif family's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party allied with their historic ristood against Sharif as the

joint session of Parliament

summoned on March 9 for

the presidential elections

with National Assembly

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq in chair.

the joint session was sum-

moned by NA Speaker

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 am.

mission of Pakistan (ECP)

earlier announced the sched-

ule for the presidential elec-

presidential election will be

held on March 9 from 10

for indirect presidential

election comprises of the

National Assembly and four

provincial assemblies. In

the election, the Senate and

National Assembly's mem-

bers votes are counted as for the slot.

members of the Senate,

am to 4 pm.

According to details,

The Election Com-

According to the ECP

The electoral college

Party (PPP), as well as several smaller factions, to keep Khan's candidates out.

In return, the PPP—a dynastic party ruled by the family of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto—has been promised the office of president for Bhutto's wid-

ower, Asif Ali Zardari. barred from running, while his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was targeted by a crackdown of arrests and censorship.

PTI candidates were forced to run as independents but nonetheless secured more seats than any other party. However, they fell

short of the figures needed to form a government, paving the way for Sharif's re-

Omar Ayub Khan

The votes cast by the

provincial assembly legis-

lators are adjusted so as to

give each province an equal

share in the election. There-

fore, each provincial assem-

bly has 65 votes equivalent

to the strength of

Balochistan Assembly.

which has minimum num-

total members of other pro-

vincial legislatures will be

decided according to fixed

number of 65. It is penitent

coalition comprising PML-

N, PPP, PML-Q, MQM-

P, IPP, BAP, PML-Zia and

National Party nominated

Asif Ali Zardari for the

Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC)

nominated Pashtunkhwa

Milli Awami Party chief

Mahmood Khan Achakzai

Meanwhile, PTI and

president's office.

The weightage of the

ber of members.

Presidential elections: Parliament's joint session

summoned on March 9

schedule, polling for the to mention here that the

ISLAMABAD (INP): The single votes.

vals the Pakistan Peoples candidate of choice for MPs loyal to Imran Khan,

gaining 92 votes.
"They put our leaders in jail, took our election symbol, rigged the elections, but we kept standing, and we will stand our ground," Omar Ayub Khan told parliament.

Sharif, 72, first served Ex-prime minister as prime minister in 2022 Khan was jailed in the run- at the head of a strikingly up to the election and similar alliance which ousted Imran Khan, a former cricket star. $M\ e\ a\ n\ w\ h\ i\ l\ e$

Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif, the newly-elected prime minister, on Sunday spelled out a number of initiatives to net the runaway inflation, high cost of living, price hike, circular debt in the energy sector and foreign debts, and expressed the optimism that though the mounds of challenges existed, but were not insur-

In his maiden speech **Shehbaz Sharif**

to take oath as

PM today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) President

Shehbaz Sharif to take oath

as Pakistan's 24th Prime

Minister (PM) of Pakistan

Cakar, Chief Ministers and

governors of all provinces

will also participate in the

eague-Nawaz President

Shehbaz Sharif was elected

as Pakistan's 24th Prime

CM Sindh

congratulates

newly elected

PM Shahbaz

ARACHI (APP): Sindh

Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah on Sunday has

congratulated the newly

elected Prime Minister Mohammed Shahbaz

Sharif. He said that Shahbaz

Sharif was a senior parliamentarian and seasoned

politician. He hoped that the country would progress

Iran greets

PM Sharif

SLAMABAD (Online):

Ambassador of Islamic Re-

public of Iran in Islamabad,

Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam,

has felicitated Prime Min-

ister Shahbaz Sharif on as-

suming the charge of 24th

PM of Pakistan on Sunday.

press my warmest con-

gratulations on the election

of H.E. Mr Shahbaz Sharif,

as the 24th Prime Minister

of the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan following a suc-

cessful nationwide election.

Islamic Republic of Iran

expresses readiness to ex-

pand all-out mutual rela-

tions, ties & cooperation

"I would like to ex-

in his tenure.

Shahbaz

Pakistan Muslim

oath-taking ceremony.

Minister (PM).



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif address in the National Assembly after electing Prime Minister.

in the National Assembly, the prime minister-elect also offered an olive branch to the protesting opposition members with a 'charter of reconciliation', besides reiterating his insistence on pursuing a 'char-

ter of economy' Shehbaz Sharif was,

earlier, elected as the prime minister for the second time in a 201-vote count by the newly formed National Assembly about three weeks after the conclusion of general elections, leading to formation of a coalition government.

Elections 2024 shattered record of rigging set in 2018: Fazal

JUI-F chief alleges establishment 'succumbed' to international pressure

today March 4 (Monday). KARACHI President Arif Alvi Maulana Fazlur Rehman, will administer oath to the the head of Jamiat-e-Ulema newly elected Prime Min-Islam (JUI-F), lambasted ister in a ceremony held at the recently concluded President's House at 3 pm 2024 elections in Pakistan, Invitation letters were accusing them of surpasssent to guests, whereas ing the previous record of Army Chief General Asim rigging set during the 2018 Munir, caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq

Fazl made these assertions during a press conference in Karachi, where he claimed that mounting international pressure forced Pakistan's military establishment to yield, thus influencing the election out-

'The establishment's coercion will indeed be labelled as coercion. The establishment has divided its own ranks, accommodating some at one place and others elsewhere," he stated, addressing the alleged interference in the electoral

Expressing dismay over the dwindling significance of the Parliament, Fazl remarked, "The Parliament, where we see a mockery of democracy, is no longer representative of the people. The Parliament, which we witness, will have some individuals calling themselves rulers. They may govern bodies but cannot govern the hearts of the

Despite his inclination to support Mahmood Achakzai, the candidate backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)supported Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), Fazl indicated that his party's stance compels them to act otherwise. He dismissed the

prospect of forming alliances with allied parties, citing an inadequate environment for a grand alliance.



JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing a press conference in Karachi.

Omar Ayub demands release of PTI's political detainees

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Omar Ayub called for an impartial inquiry into the events of May 9, and also demanded to release of the PTI's political detainees.

Addressing the post-PM voting session of the National Assembly, Ayub stressed the need for justice, stating that founding chairman Imran Khan Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi, and other leaders have been unjustly detained

as political prisoners. He also urged for adequate facilities to be extended to Bushra Bibi. PTI not responsible for May 9 mayhem Ayub vehemently denied PTI's involvement in the May 9 incidents, instead placing blame on what he characterized as the unconstitutional actions of caretaker governments in

Puniab and

Pakhtunkhwa. He alleged widespread arrests of PTI supporters and called for accountabil-

Khyber

ity under Article 6 of the Constitution, demanding an impartial inquiry into the events. Expressing dissatisfaction with the coverage of his speech on state television, Ayub slams the delay in broadcasting, despite the Speaker National Assembly's directive for live transmission.

Ayub continued his address by recounting instances of alleged persecution faced by PTI members, including repeated police raids on his residence and harassment of his family. He condemned the re-

ported torture of PTI workers in custody, highlighting the suffering endured by youths and their families.

Calling for the rule of law to prevail, Ayub squarely blamed Shehbaz Sharif for past tragedies, such as the Wazirabad attack in November 2022. where a PTI worker was martyred. He demanded justice for the victim and urged authorities to apprehend the attackers.

on presidential elections Both chief ministers resolve to launch crackdown against smuggling, drug mafia Sindh water drainage and Balochistan CM -

Chief Minister Murad Balochistan Minister Sarfraz Bugti exchanged views on the presidential elections on Sunday.

According to details, CM Bugti called on CM Murad in Karachi. On this occasion, both leaders discussed matters in line with the welfare projects in Gwadar and the law and order situation.

that the process of Bugti on becoming stated.

other rehabilitation measures were underway in Gwadar. Both leaders ex-

Sindh CM Murad, Balochistan

CM Bugti exchange views

pressed optimism that Asif Ali Zardari will be elected as the country's president again with the major-

Moreover, both the chief ministers had agreed to launch a crackdown against the smuggling and drug mafia.

Khursheed Shah CM Bugti said felicitates Sarfraz and prosperity," Shah

Syed Khursheed Shah on Saturday felicitated Sarfraz Bugti on becoming

Balochistan

minister. Expressing his thoughts, Shah rallied behind Bugti, saying, "Sarfraz Bugti will play an anchoring role in terms of uplifting the province.

"We pray that the province will witness peace, development,



Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah.

PPP calls for political unity, consensus

LAHORE (APP):In a bid for political stability, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) urges unity across party lines as Asif Ali Zardari prepares for presi-

Khalid on Sunday, the importance of cooperation among political parties was emphasised to uphold constitutional values and par-

liamentary supremacy.

The PPP leaders asserted the party's commitment to consensus-building, citing its adherence to con stitutional knowledge, law and democracy. As the gov ernment formation nears completion, the PPP anticipates Zardari's presidency with a significant majority on March 9.

Governor felicitates newly elected PM

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has congratulated Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on being elected as the Prime Minis ter here on Sunday. He said that his elec-

tion was a proof of the progress of the democratic process in the country.

He hoped that the country would develop and progress in the leadership PM-elect the Mohammed Shahbaz Sharif.

Quetta winds sweep through Karachi, Sindh shivers in cold wave

KARACHI (INP): The heart of Sindh, continues to shiver under the cold spell brought by the winds from Quetta for the second consecutive day. The Pakistan Meteorological Department's Early Warning Center recorded wind speeds of 27 kilometers per hour. While the wind intensity is expected to weaken by tonight, the cold wave is forecast to persist for the next 2-3 days. Temperatures are expected to drop by 8-10 degrees Celsius compared to normal levels. Sea breezes, which typically moderate Karachi's climate, will remain inactive for the coming days, allowing north-easterly and easterly winds from Balochistan to prevail.

The minimum temperature in Karachi is expected to be between 10-12 degrees Celsius on Monday, March 4th, and 12-14 degrees Celsius on Tuesday

President Xi, Premier Li congratulate newly-elected **PM Shehbaz Sharif**

BEIJING (APP): Chinese strengthen exchanges President Xi Jinping and and cooperation in vari-In a joint statement issued by PPP leaders

Usman Malik and Paris Issued by PPP leaders

Usman Malik and Paris Issued Pari

President Xi Jinping expressed the confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheĥbaz Sharif and the Pakistan's new government, and under the peoples. united efforts of all sectors of Pakistan, Pakistan would be able to make new and greater achievements in the cause of national development and progress, according to the staterun news agency

He stressed that China and Pakistan should continue their traditional friendship,

Premier Li Qiang on Sun- ous fields, jointly build congratulated an upgraded version of Prime Minister of Paki- to deepen their all weather strategic cooperative partnership, build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and create more wellbeing for the two

Chinese Premier Li Qiang of the State Council also sent a congratulatory message to the newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was elected as the prime minister for the second time after bagging 201 votes in the National Assembly.

Barrister Gohar elected PTI chairman unopposed for second time

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has released the results of its intra-party election. Raoof Hassan, PTI's information secretary, announced the intra-party elec-

tion results.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has been elected as the chairman of PTI without facing any opposition in the intra-party elections. Omar Ayub secured the central general secretary position, while Dr. Yasmin Rashid clinched the presidency of Punjab unopposed

Amin Gandapur has been elected as PTI president for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Noorul Haq Qadri was elected as vice president, and Arbab

Jahandad Khan as vice president of PTI

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa election commissioner Qazi Anwar Advocate announced the victory notification of Ali Amin Gandapur. The panel of Ali Amin Gandapur elected unopposed, as no other panel submitted nomination papers

Ali Asghar Khan and Irfan Saleem won the roles of general secretary and additional general secretary, respectively. On the other hand, Fakhar Zaman won the position of deputy general secre-

Daniyal Khan Jadoon, Khaista Mehmood, and Taimoor Khalid have been elected as joint secretaries.



HYDERABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Sheikh addresses to party workers during his visit, at Badin Stop in Hyderabad.

PN deploys helicopters in flood hit Gwadar to expedite rescue & relief operations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif

hand shakes with PPP Leader Asif Ali Zardari af-

stan Navy continues to extended relief and rescue operations to various small coastal villages of Balochistan affected by recent flash flooding. To expedite rescue and

ter electing prime minister.

relief operations in flood affected areas of district Gwadar, Pakistan Navy has stationed helicopters there. Pakistan Navy helicopters undertook multiple hops from Gwadar to the flood affected villages of Pishukan and Kappar. Relief teams delivered ration bags, clean drinking water and food items near people stranded in their villages. Moreover, ration and

relief goods distribution conducted by Pakistan

city. In addition, large numbers of medical supplies and ration bags have also been dispatched to different other flood-affected villages through road where land connectivity was restored.

flood water.

fected brethren during this



Pakistan Navy helicopter loading ration for distribution amongst flood affectees of Gwadar district.

KARACHI (INP): Paki- flood affectees of Gwadar

Further, in assistance to civil administration, Pakistan Navy troops were wholeheartedly undertaking rescue and relief operations utilizing all available equipment and resources. In this regard, de-flooding operations were being conducted on various localities of Gwadar city to clear

Pakistan Navy was resolutely committed to supporting our flood-af-

Navy personnel amongst difficult time. ship with him.

with the brotherly **Teacher throws** acid on girl student for rejecting friendship proposal

KARACHI (INP): A pitiless teacher threw acid on a girl student over rejecting his riendship proposal, police said on Sunday.

According to details, the incident took place in Nipa Chowrangi where a teacher identified as Iftikhar asked a girl student visiting coaching centre for IT certificate to enter in friend-

The girl used harsh language with teacher over friendship proposal and along with maternal uncle reached coaching centre to lodge a complaint with administration

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Little respite

Is inflation on its way out? The Consumer Price Index showed that inflation dropped to 23.1pc in February from 28.3pc the previous month, and 31.5pc a year ago, raising hopes. It is the lowest CPI reading recorded by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in the last 20 months. Inflation peaked at 38pc last May. The PBS did not observe a month-over-month change in prices last month, reporting a broad-based decrease in the pace of price rise on account of falling food inflation, coupled with the high base effect of the last fiscal. The rates decreased in both the urban and rural areas, with core inflation, or non-food and non-energy inflation, also down from their higher levels. And yet, there will be little respite for households anytime soon, as overall price levels and the cost of living remain elevated.

Nevertheless, the drop in inflation seems to have encouraged some — such as a former finance minister, who called the reduction in the inflation rate "wonderful news" — to renew calls for early rate cuts to "reduce government deficit and also provide a much-needed respite to industry and consumers". The calls for rate cuts are based on the assumption that the pace of increase in the prices of goods and services will slow down further over the next several months due to a high base effect, falling demand, easing of supply constraints and plunging global commodity rates. It means that if the trend witnessed last month holds, we should expect the State Bank to start monetary easing soon. However, the inflation outlook still faces risks that include a further increase in domestic energy prices, food supply shocks and an upswing in international commodity prices due to the geopolitics of the Middle East. Hence, inflation expectations remain elevated despite recent improvements. On top of that, consumers must brace themselves for Ramazan inflation. Therefore, it might be too early to expect the State Bank to start to decrease borrowing costs. A rate cut without a consistent drop in inflation might also not sit well with the IMF whose support is crucial for stabilising Pakistan's external sector. We are also not aware if the IMF agrees to a new extended programme — and how quickly. What is certain is that any new programme will be accompanied by more stringent conditions. A report in a local paper claims that the IMF has advised the FBR to significantly increase the income tax burden for both salaried and non-salaried segments and tax the contribution of private employers to their workers' pension fund, thus enabling the FBR to collect additional revenue. The proposal does not take into account the burden of inflation on the salaried classes. If implemented, this could prove to be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

India's fault lines

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Monday March 04, 2024

Pakistan is passing through a challenging time. A divisive and polarising politics, economic uncertainties, and the continuing threat of violent extremism are some of the fault lines that impede the country's path to stability.

hand, seems to be politiing in Indian society. As the country continues lines have emerged in Indeepened in the past one decade under BJP rule.

The first fault line is the growing discrimination against minorities, particularly Indian Muslims. Prof Christophe Jaffrelot at the Centre for International Studies and Research in Paris, recently carried out an plight of Indian Muslims gime. Based on ethnographic studies and interviews of victims, Jaffrelot found that the representation of Musvice, police or government jobs was far lower than the proportion of their numbers (14.5 per cent of India's total population). Muslim representation has drastically come down in the According to a CNN national and state assemblies under BJP rule. The number of Muslim graduates is declining, particularly in northern India. Sadly, Indian Muslims were only in a majority in jails.

worried about saffron wards Muslim icons. The attempt to convert facing discrimination in Courtesy Dawn

ity into a Muslim-minor- the Indian constitution' ity area is also part of the He strongly advocated wider discrimination for abolishing the caste against Clearly, India is speeding away from a secular, pluralistic democracy to-Hindu majoritarian raj.

The second fault line is the continuing dis-India, on the other crimination against the Dalits, the low-caste cally stable and eco- Hindus; the system apnomically well-off. How- pears to favour the Brahever, if one were to mins, the upper-caste scratch this veneer of Hindus. The caste sysstability, we could see tem has been an integral serious fissures appear- element of Indian society over millennia. It was officially abolished in 1951, its march towards be- but the social hierarchy coming a Hindu state continues to dominate driven by its Hindutva Indian society. The Brahideology, multiple fault mins sit atop this hierarchy, which includes dian society, which have Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (merchants), and Shudras who are supposed to labourers, and are sometimes called 'achhut',

'untouchables', 'Dalits'. The scheduled castes (Dalits) or scheduled tribes (Adivasis), which together constitute over 25pc of India's extensive study on the population, endure systemic social isolation and under the Hindutva re- marginalisation, live in slums, and are obliged to do menial jobs.

Under a study supported by The Gates Foundation in 2017, it was lims in India's civil ser- revealed that of all those employed in the sanitation and cleaning work in India, 90pc belong to Dalit sub-castes. In most cases, they are underpaid, and not provided essential protective gear. study carried out in 2020, Dalits were the most vulnerable victims of the Covid-19 pandemic because of their susceptibility to viruses, as they had little to no access to education and health ser-Indian Muslims are vices and were at the bottom of the economic hiervigilante groups and the archy. There are excep-Ambedkar, who despite societal distortions.

Indian-occupied Kash- early life as a Dalit, rose mir from a Muslim-major- to become the 'father of Muslims. system, and later converted to Buddhism, ostensibly to be part of a more egalitarian religion. Rajesh Saraiya, the richest Dalit, runs a successful steel business. But

these are exceptions.

The third noticeable

fault line is the growing divide between north and south India. The major grievance for the southern states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh) is that they contribute more to the Union budget than they receive, whereas the northern states, particularly UP and Bihar, receive far higher returns. In many respects, the southern states have excelled over northern India. These states have a greater degree of religious harmony, are economically doing better, excel in providing IT services, and enjoy lower population growth, which over time has reduced their representation in the Lok Sabha. There is emerging chatter about the possibility of these states forming a country of their own, which recently evoked a heated debate in the Rajya Sabha.

Since 2014, the Modi regime has been steering India towards the path of a Hindu majoritarian nation, where space mino-rities including Muslims and Christians is shrinking, while lowcaste Hindus continue to suffer. The answer to whether they can ever reverse these discriminations is not yet apparent. However, it is clear that these fault lines could potentially create considerable commotion within Indian society if positive action is not rising intolerance to- tions, such as the late Dr taken to address these

Maryam-bashing

Muna Khan

When I was teaching at a journalism programme in Karachi a few years ago, former editor of The News, and columnist Ghazi Salahuddin would give a lecture on Malala Yousafzai where he would tell students to speak openly. I once witnessed students' disdain for Malala but Ghazi sahib handled it with such poise, never making them feel they were being challenged for their views. Students repeated the usual claims 'what has Malala done for Pakistan'. (As an aside, I believe an update of that disdain should ask what has Malala done for Palestine because her silence has been especially disap-

pointing.)
I digress. The point Ghazi sahib was making, as he told me after that lecture, was that if you want to gauge people's politics quickly, you should ask them about Malala. It has served me well — seemwell-meaning people, who aren't anti-West, or women, or rightwing, would say the Although the paper strangest things about I believe Maryam

Nawaz is the new bashing-kid on the block. Of course, she's not a kid but I've rarely seen people express that kind of rage and hatred for another dynasty child — Pakistan has plenty across all parties. Maryam is treated like a pariah. She is also disparaged privately by party members who feel she doesn't deserve to be where she is. She hasn't ranked high in popularity polls before the elections, though to be fair, it's hard to compete with Imran Khan.

Maryam's unfavourablity factor, if there's such a thing, is rooted in misogyny which women leaders the world over ex-

The Reykjavik Index,

ship, found in 2021 low levels of confidence for women leaders; the higher percentages were in G7 countries. I was surprised to read that younger men "were especially unlikely to endorse women leaders", but then I reminded myself of some classroom discussions I've had about Aurat March...

This finding was particularly eye-opening: "Some people who don't consider the-m-selves sexist believe that because the world is sexist. women leaders are likely to be weaker. Just a year later, the

index found trust in women leadership is falling though their numbers in high-ranking positions are on the rise. Analysts urged countries to 'fix the trust gap' if they want to eradicate gender bias.

The more Maryam's profile rose since 2013, the more scorn she received. I remember how furious when The New York Times 11 powerful women "we met in the world" in 2017. rep-o--rted on corruption charges against her fa-m-ily, social media users were not convin-ced she earned her place as her father's right-hand person. Male scions are

not carefully examined. I am not here to convince you Maryam's abilities or lack of them — I have serious reservations — but I am curious what our attitude towards her says about We are a highly polarised society, with terrible social indicators and a very poor scorecard on how women are treated in this country. I don't believe women leaders automatically means an improvement in women's rights — looking at you, war-mongering Hillary we wait before giving Maryam an F?

I certainly do not bewhich studies how people lieve she is above scru- Courtesy Dawn

feel about women leader- tiny. By all means critique the video of her helping a female official adjust her dupatta, but to liken it to an assault — as some 'progressives' have done on X — is preposterous. Especially compared to the muted response to Imran Khan telling a jalsa in 2022 that Maryam talks about him so much it may make her husband jeal-

Men get away with so much, incl-u-ding say-ing PML-N's leader Sobia Sha-hid in the KP Assembly was asking for it when she was met with verbal abuse, a shoe thro-wn at her and a lota earlier this week. The what-aboutery always makes the woman the bad guy'

Women politici-ans all over the world are held to different standards. Their likeability is put under the microscope whereas it doesn't matter what their counterparts are like. Men's aggressocial media users were siveness is a given but women doing something featured her as one of the unexpected is well ... unacceptable.

It is this double standard rooted in deep gender bias, often unconscious, that needs to

I believe the press should pound Mar-y-am, for policies, inaction, siding with cor-p-o-rat-ions over the public, and any favouritism sh--o--wn in about awarding contracts, for ex-a-m-ple. I have heard men (always men) on TV advise her to dress down to be taken seriously. While I understand what they mean — get your hands dirty — it would not cross their mind to say this about her male counterparts.

Every election in this country has been tainted and that could include Maryam's. However, she has won votes and needs to win people's confi-Clinton — but shouldn't dence. For that, she needs to be given a chance, not to be confused with a free pass. --

Commerce News

GECF Summit concludes with pledge to natural gas for secure, sustainable energy future

of State and Government determination of its several key points, of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) concluded in Algiers with the issuance of the "Algiers Declaration," reaffirming the member the Russian Minister for resources to promote countries' commitment to promoting natural gas as a key component of a secure and sustainable energy

future. Under the leadership of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the summit saw the from GECF member member countries to surrounding natural gas production, utilization, and cooperation. In his opening emphasized the importance Tebboune emphasized the ensuring stability amidst importance of GECF as a global challenges.

ALGIERS, Algeria (APP): cooperation platform and The 7th Summit of Heads highlighted the global energy security. over their Iranian President Dr. resources,

Energy addressed the sustainable development, summit, championing and cooperation to ensure in the energy sector. natural gas markets. President Raisi showcased Iran's vast potential in the expressed gas industry, extending invitations to international sentiments, the Russian Minister for Energy

the Declaration" highlighted members to strengthen its including the sovereign role and contribution to rights of member countries over their natural gas efficient Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and management of natural gas cooperation and innovation balanced and reliable

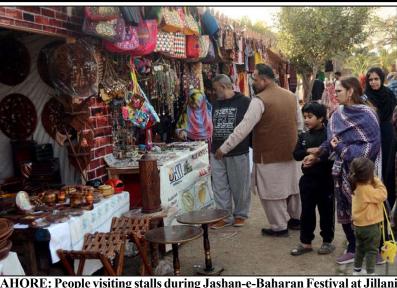
Member countries their commitment to innovationpractices investors and urging collaboration in enhancing participation of leaders collaboration among the role of natural gas in improving energy access countries, who convened to maximize utilization of and reducing energy discuss crucial issues resources. Echoing these poverty. They also surrounding natural gas sentiments, the Russian welcomed the accession of new members, reaffirming the forum's commitment to President of collective action in fostering energy chasized the ensuring stability amidst cooperation and dialogue on a global scale.

KTH chairman greets PM

LAHORE Kyrgyzstan Trade House Pakistan (KTH) Chairman Meher Kashif Younis here Sunday greeted Shehbaz Sharif on becoming Prime Minister for the second timed.

He hoped that under his dynamic leadership, Pakistan would emerge as one of the leading economies in the world.

Meher said the character of economy is the need of the hour that requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach from the top leadership of the incumbent government. By evolving a consensus among all stakeholders and prioritizing national interests, the government can set the stage for meaningful reforms that will strengthen the national economy and improve the living standards of people, he added. Pakistan faced a number of economic challenges, ranging from high inflation and unemployment to a growing debt burden and dwindling foreign reserves, and to address these challenges.



LAHORE: People visiting stalls during Jashan-e-Baharan Festival at Jillani Park organized by PHA.

China's top political advisory body **BRI** cooperation provides huge opportunities for partner countries

BEIJING (APP): The high- Jieyi said here on Sunday. quality Belt and Road cooperation provides huge opportunities for partner countries to achieve common development and improve people's wellthe second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's

The last decade of practice has fully demonstrated that building a community with a shared future for mankind conforms to the trend of human being, Spokesperson for development and progress and serves the common interests of peoples of all countries, Liu made the remarks during a Political Consultative press conference held by the Conference (CPPCC), Liu CPPCC National Committee, alleviation.

China's top political advisory body. Mentioning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China-Laos Railway and the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, he said various livelihood projects have helped Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean to improve medical infrastructure and promote rural poverty

Mobile companies cheating masses, evading taxes: PEW ISLAMABAD (INP): taxes from consumers than Chairman Pakistan they transfer to the

Economy Watch (PEW), Brigadier (retd) Aslam Khan has said that some telecom companies were cheating consumers by employing different tactics. At the same time, the government was being defrauded by evading taxes to the tune of billions of rupees.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said, "The masses are tired of inflation, and the country is on the verge of bankruptcy. Still, some greedy corporations are not ready to fulfill their commitments and discharge national obligations by paying due taxes." Brigadier (retd) Aslam Khan said that some mobile phone the country where some operators deduct more taxes are not applicable.

government, and there seems to be no end to this practice as authorities prefer to go soft on the telecom sector for obvious

Mobile operators also overcharge subscribers, who end up paying more money for less talk time, and other tactics were also employed to fleece consumers, he said, adding that one reason for this continued trend of economic crime was the lack of capacity of the tax collectors to monitor the cellular companies.

The Chairman PEW said that there were some underdeveloped areas in



ISLAMABAD: Avendor displaying and selling caps to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

Olive cultivation to bring about economic revolution, sustainable growth: experts

LAHORE (APP): Experts Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday said that the government, by bringing an available potential area of about 10 million acres under olive cultivation in Punjab, is bringing about a silent revolution for the sustainable development growth of the country.

With a considerable increase in the area under potential cultivation, Pakistan is passing through a silent revolution of olive oil production, they opined. Talking to APP, they said that in all parts of the country, particularly the Pothohar region, Balochistan, Khybererstwhile Fata, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan areas, olive cultivation fertility is most suitable and have natural growthable environment while providing fruitful conditions. Given its potential for growing olive plantations, Pothohar has been termed an 'olive valley' where over 1.2 million olive plants are being grown on an area of 11,125 acres, engaging about 1,300 farmers, said

Dr. Muhammad Tariq,

national project director

the plants have started bearing fruit since 2019-20's cropping period, producing 5,118 tonnes of olive oil. By the fall of 2024, the value of oil olive production will increase to Rs1.727 billion, he said.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, over a million olive plants are being grown on an area of 9,391 acres engaging 768 farmers. The production of olive oil is estimated to reach the value of Rs1.458bn in 2024, Dr

Tariq informed. Likewise, for the promotion of olive Balochistan, over half a

grown over an area of over 9,391 acres and it is expected that by closing December, 2024, the value of oil will be Rs1.160bn.

In Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and ÂJK, over 50,000 plants are being grown on an area of 455 acres of land engaging 228 farmers. The value of oil by 2024 is expected to be Rs71 million, he told.

To a query, he said that in 2024, the country will have about 3m fruitbearing olive plants tonnes of olive oil with an estimated value

and cultivation. More than half million plants are being Rs4.416bn. The climate change ministry also plans to plant 1m olive plants. Edible oil is an every-

day use food item. Pakistan has been chronically deficient in its production. More than 80 per cent of the domestic requirements are met through imports, he added. Dr Waqas Cheema, a scientific officer at Promotion of Olive cultivation project, told APP that over 1.5 million olive plants have already been planted under producing roughly 1,415 Promotion of Olive cultivation project Phaseof II, across the country.

Reclamation Workshop inaugurated LAHORE (APP): Lahore lot of time and money. Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider Sunday inaugurated a transformer reclamation workshop in Sheikhupura after Kasur to ensure

GILGIT: A vendor busy in compiling the parts of

Sheikhupura Transformer

traditional fire stove at his workplace.

uninterrupted supply of electricity to consumers and speed up the repair process of transformers.

that

utilized On this occasion,

He asserted that uninterrupted supply of electricity to consumers and prompt resolution of complaints is the motto of LESCO, for which all available energies would be

The CEO said, "We have also been equipping the company wit modern facilities in the past, and Engineer Shahid Haider this tradition will be these continued in the future workshops would save a as well.

CM KP announces relief package for rains affected families in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief checks of Rs1 million for such as temporary shelter, Pakhtunkhwa Ali Ámin Khan Gandapur on Sunday announced compensation package for the affected families due to rains in the

directed the Relief rains. Secretary to compile reports on the affected and the damages incurred due

Detailed information about the life and property losses across the province should be collected, the Minister's

He announced relief

Lahore Press Club on

Sunday organised a free

medical camp for members

and their families with the

support of Private Nursing

gynecological problems,

dental diseases, eye

examination, nutrition

issues, free sugar check,

and free blood pressure

was checked. Specialist

General Physician Dr.

Jameel Baloch, Dr.

Shumaila, Dr. Saba, Dr.

Osama Asif, Dr. Abdul

Rahman, Dr. Ayman and

participated in the medical

paramedical

In the medical camp,

check-up,

Colleges Federation.

FAISALABAD: A speaker addressing an Annual

General meeting of Faisalabad Union of Journalist

Free medical, dental

camp held at LPC

LAHORE (APP): The prescribed treatment and

provided medicines.

Arshad Ansari, Vice President Amjad Usmani,

Secretary Zahid Abid,

Member Governing Body

Imran Sheikh, Rana Shehzad, Fatima Mukhtar

welcomed doctors, members of Lahore Press

Club and their families

who participated in the

camp.

The LPC members families

and their families

satisfaction over the

conduct of the camp and

expressed hope that the

would continue to take

expressed

camp and examined the such measures so that the

patients, participating in members of the LPC can

the medical camp for benefit more.

staff elected governing body

President

Khyber the killed, Rs 300,000 for food, and other necessities severely injured and Rs 50,000 for those who received moderate injuries.

Financial compensation will also be provided for property The Chief Minister damages caused by the

The Chief Minister has instructed the concerned Divisional Commissioners the affected.

Immediate relief measures are to be taken on to tackle the challenges an emergency basis, effectively, Ali Amin focusing on essential needs

for owners of damaged

Ali Amin Gandapur directed urgent provision of medical assistance to the

He also directed to restore the closed roads due to heavy snowfall and rain. The Chief Minister has stressed the utilization of all available resources coordinate efforts and for this purpose. In light promptly provide relief to of any emergency

situations, preparedness measures should be in place Gandapur asserts.

Azma Bokhari greets Shehbaz

LAHORE (APP): PML-N Punjab spokesperson ongratulating Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on being elected as Prime Minister, stated that the era of progress and prosperity will continue again under his leadership.

of the economic vortex

and vicious circle as his

first and foremost

priority is to ensure the

revival of the national

economy and elimination

of the price hike. Those

who are destined to wail

will continue to do so for

the next five years. The

PML-N government under the dynamic

leadership of Nawaz Sharif will work with the

same spirit of rendering

public service in the

federation and in Punjab

as well. The able

leadership of Nawaz

Sharif is a matter of great

pride for Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif and Chief

Nawaz," she added.

Maryam

Minister

has directed to provide relief and compensation Azma Bokhari in her cheques to the affected felicitation message outlined that PM Shehbaz Sharif had saved families. He also directed for opening of closed road and provide facilities to of Rescue 1122 KP. Pakistan from default and it was his biggest credit. "PM Shehbaz Sharif would steer Pakistan out

(PDMA)

partially.

destroyed while 129

PESHAWAR (APP): At people stuck in rains and least 27 persons were landslidings. killed and 38 were reported The Chief Minister injured due rains for the last also directed PDMA,

48 hours, said said DG Rescue 1122, district Provincial Disaster administrations to be alert Management Authority and facilitate people. Six tourists have been

33 houses were rescued in Malamjabba, eported completely said DG PDMA Muhammad Qaiser Khan. He said that directives The Chief Minister have been issued to all DCs

in this regard.

Apart from humans, reports about perishing of livestock has also been received from authorities

Never Again' walk held to create awareness about violence against women

27 persons killed,

38 injured due to

rains in KP: PDMA

under the theme of 'Violence against women no more, never again' was organised by the Punjab Police here on Sunday to create awareness among citizens.

participants were told the Punjab Police were determined to prevent violence against women and protect their rights. The walk started from Liberty Roundabout, and IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and ASP Gulberg participated in Syeda Shehrbano led the awareness walk.

LAHORE (APP): A walk walk. Senior officers including Operations Lahore Ali Nasir Rizvi, COO Safe Authority Cities Mustansar Feroze, CTO Lahore Amara Athar, SSP Operations,

Supervisory officers of different divisions of Lahore, hundreds of male and female officials of all police units, a large number of students, famous personalities from various walks of life, civil society and citizens

LAHORE: The brave Superintendent of Police (SP) Syeda Sheherbano Naqvi heading a walk in liberty Chowk organized by Punjab Police. 2 people killed in different incidents in Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Two people, among them a teenage teacher of a private school were killed in two different incidents in various parts of Attock on Sunday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, a teenage teacher of a private school was going to her house when she reached Mohallah Subalan, she slipped and drowned in a drainage line in the limits of Fatehjang Police Station. Later, Rescue 1122 retrieved her body and shifted to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Fatehjang, where she was declared dead. Separately, an employee of the Municipal Committee Hassanabdal, lost his life while repairing a street light in Mohallah Shaheedabad.

Boy electrocuted while catching stray kite

FAISALABAD (APP): A teenager boy electrocuted while catching a stray kite in the area of Sadar police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Sunday that 19-year-old Shehzad Iqbal of Syedwala was working in a factory situated at Kararwala Road where he went on rooftop of the factory to catch a stray kite, but he accidentally touched a live electricity wire passing near the roof.

Govt to take measures to protect wildlife: Maryam Nawaz

Maryam congratulates Shehbaz Sharif on being elected as PM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Pakistan, nature has Chief Minister Maryam blessed Punjab with would take comprehensive of which is our and effective measures to responsibility." protect wildlife in Punjab.

on Sunday, the CM said the importance of wildlife in maintaining ecological balance cannot be underestimated. Realizing the importance of biodiversity, the Punjab government would take effective measures to bring environmental balance. Conservation of all kinds of wildlife from wild sheep found in Salt Range to the dolphins, is our top

Nawaz has said that beautiful wildlife, the provincial government protection and promotion

"On World Wildlife In her message on World Wildlife Day, I pay tribute to the workers and organizations serving in this field" she concluded.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on being elected Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second

In her message issued on Sunday, the CM said."I 'talurs' of Cholistan and to also congratulate the people of Pakistan as they priority. Like entire have got a Khadim.'



painting during Punjab painting competitions organized by Sargodha Arts Council.

KPCTA arranges Safari Train trip to Takhtbhai

PESHAWAR (APP): The Station. The visitors were Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) arranged first ever safari train trip to Takht Bahi relics on Sunday.

It was aimed of informing people about the rich history of Buddha-era heritage sites declared by UNEŠCO as worlď heritage site.

A large number of people enjoyed the train safari, which commenced

warmly welcomed at the station with traditional Pipe band. A total of 140 passengers visited the site through the train safari, during which they were briefed about the historic places of KP, its culture, traditions and the history of Takht Bahi relics.

The train safari departed from Saddar Cantt Railway Station at 9:00 AM and reached Takht Bahi Railway Station after from Saddar Railway sightseeing stops at City.

International News

Many aid distribution victims were shot in Gaza: UN

Monitoring Desk GAZA CITY: A UN team has reported seeing "a large number" of gunshot wounds among Gazans af-

ter Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian civilians scrambling for food supplies near an aid convoy, killing 115 people and wounded more than 750.

The aid convoy deaths pushed the number of Palestinian dead in Gaza since Oct 7 to 30,320, mostly women and children. Hossam Abu Safiya, director of Gaza City's Kamal Adwan Hospital, said all the casualties it admitted were hit by "bullets and shrapnel from (Israeli) occupation forces"

There are contradictions within the Israeli claims; BBC News re-

Gazans were injured as a result of pushing and trampling" during looting, then saving that tanks in the area "tried to disperse the mob with a few warning shots".

In a video statement posted on X, the Israeli armed forces spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari claimed: "Hundreds became thousands and things got out of hand.'

some of the wounded from Friday and saw a "large Guterres said.

The hospital received 70 of the dead, and around 200 wounded were still ported that officials first there during the team's

claimed that "dozens of visit. 11 Palestinians killed Separately, at least 11 Palestinians were killed on Saturday when an Israeli air strike hit a tent in Rafah, in Gaza's south where people have been seeking refuge from Israel's devastating bombardment.

Another 50 people were wounded in the strike next to a hospital in the Tel Al Sultan area of Rafah. One of the dead was a medic at A UN team visited the hospital. "The strike hit one tent, where people the aid incident, in Gaza took shelter, directly, shrap-City's Al Shifa Hospital, on nel came inside the hospital where I and friends were number of gunshot wounds", a spoke-sperson for UN chief Antonio where a land friends were sitting, we survived by a miracle," a witness said by phone from the area. phone from the area.

And in the territory's north, three people searching for food in farmland in Beit Hanoun were killed by Israeli strikes.



Children stand amid the rubble of a mosque and makeshift shelters that were destroyed in Israeli strikes in Deir El-Balah in central Gaza.

Malaysia says MH370 search must go on, 10 years after plane vanished

Monitoring Desk sia is pushing for a re-newed search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, the transport minister said on Sunday, as the 10th anniversary of its disappearance in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries approaches.

Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014.

Malaysian investigators initially did not rule out the possibility that the aircraft had been deliberately taken off course, and debris, some confirmed and some believed to be from the plane.

the aircraft, has washed up along the coast of Africa and on islands in the Indian Ocean.

Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke said US seabed exploration firm Ocean Infinity had been invited to discuss its latest search proposal after two previous failed at-

'The Malaysian government is committed to the search (for MH370) and the search must go on," Loke said at a remembrance event on Sunday.

Malaysia engaged Ocean Infinity in 2018 to search the southern Indian Ocean, offering to pay up to \$70 million if it found

Australia PM defends **Maldives**

action on cost of living Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's navy amid by-election inflation, which although

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Voters went to the polls on Saturday in a by-election in Australia's Victoria state seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's handling of cost of living pressures across the country.

Australian households have been under broad financial pressure from high

recently easing has prompted the nation's central bank to hike interest rates by 425 basis points since May 2022 to a 12-

year top of 4.35%.
"We know people have done it tough through cost of living pressures, but we've been prepared to take action, decisive action.

Around 9000 women killed by Israeli forces

in Gaza since

October last year GAZA (Online): Around 9000 women were killed by Israeli forces in Gaza since October last year. This was reported by UN Women, a United Nations agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women

It called the war in besieged Gaza as a war on women. The agency said that roughly thirty seven mothers are killed every day, leaving their families devastated and their children with diminished protection. According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, at least 50 people were injured in drone attack.

India navy to open strategic base near

has said it is bolstering forces on "strategically important" islands close to the Maldives, with a new base set to open just days before Male starts sending home Indian forces. Relations between India and the Maldives have soured since pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu won elections last year after promising to expel Indian forces.

Zelensky seeks Western air defence systems as Russian attacks kill 10

Monitoring Desk Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday urged the West to deliver more air defence systems as a wave of Russian missile, drone and artillery strikes killed at least

Seven were confirmed dead, including a threemonth-old baby and twoyear-old child, after an overnight drone strike on the southern port city of Odesa. Separate shelling attacks on the frontline Kharkiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions killed another three, Ukrainian officials said. "Russia continues to

hit civilians," Zelensky said in a post on social media. We need more air defences from our partners. We need to strengthen the Ukrainian air shield to add said on state TV.

more protection for our people from Russian terror. More air defence systems and more missiles for air defence systems save lives," he said. Ukraine is currently

on the back foot in the twoyear war as a crucial \$60billion aid package is held up in the United States

In Odesa, "a nine-storey building was destroyed as a result of an attack by Russian terrorists," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said on Saturday in a post on Tele-

The attack killed at least seven people, including a three-month-old baby, Klymenko said. Another child, aged two, was also among the dead, Odesa region Governor Oleg Kiper

UK PM Sunak rails against 'extremism' after Galloway's win

ONDON: For the first time since he became prime minister 16 months earlier, Rishi Sunak made an impromptu speech from outside his office,

Monitoring Desk

not to call a general election but to rail against extremist groups, which, according to him, are trying to tear the nation Standing in the rain, his back to 10 Downing Street, PM Sunak in speech to the nation on

Friday night said: "There is no 'context' in which it can be acceptable to beam antisemitic tropes onto Big Ben in the middle of a vote on Israel/Gaza. And there can be no cause you can use to justify the support of a proscribed terrorist group, like Hamas. Yes, you can freely criticise the actions of this government, or indeed any government: that is a fundamental democratic right. But no, you cannot

use that as an excuse to call for the eradication of a state — or any kind of hatred or antisemitism.

After months of pro-Gaza public demonstrations and growing pressure on both the government and Labour party to take a tougher stance on Israel, it appears that the victory of George Galloway in a byelection in the erstwhile Labour stronghold of Rochdale is the straw that broke the camel's

He won with overwhelming numbers that night, beating both the Labour and Tory candidate by wide margins.

A much-loathed figure in British politics for his populist rhetoric, pro-Gaza Galloway lured Rochdale's Muslim voters through a targeted campaign centering on Gaza and the British government's silence on Israel's continued bom-

Rescuers work at the site of a heavily damaged

Europe battles powder shortage to supply shells for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Hard-to-find gunpowder is hindering Europe's scramble to provide hundreds of thousands of shells for Ukraine's defensive effort against Russian invaders, with solutions only starting to

"We have all become artillery shell has three up to the scarcity of some components, especially gunpowders," French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday after a gathering of Kyiv's allies in

Gunpowder goes into propellant charges that hurl artillery shells—such as the NATO-standard 155millimetre projectiles used in many guns sent to Ukraine—over distances of tens of kilometres.

"A simple explosive aware of the need to face parts. It has a steel casing, a high-explosive main charge and a detonator' usually set to trigger the blast on impact, said Johann Hoecherl, a munitions expert at the German Paris. "Powder is really what's lacking today," he armed forces university in Munich.

Spanish tourist gang-raped in India

Monitoring Desk MUMBAI: Three men

were arrested on Saturday after the gang rape of a Spanish tourist on a motorbike trip through India's remote east with her husband, local media reports said. The attack took place on Friday night apartment building in Odesa, following a Russian in the Dumka district of the eastern state of Jharkhand, where the couple had stopped to camp the night in a tent. The woman was able to reach a police patrol van at around 11pm and was taken to hospital for treatment, police officer Pitamber Singh Kherwar told The Times of India newspaper. Kherwar said police had detained three people in connection with the attack and were on the hunt for more sus-

> The Spanish woman is being treated at a local hospital in Dumka and an investigation is underway, reports said. An average of nearly 90 rapes were reported in India every day in 2022, according to data by the National Crime Records Bureau

Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC)

is seemingly divided over

nature of newly-elected

National Assembly, as Bar-

rister Gohar said they were

not labelling the House as

"bogus" while Asad Qaiser

insisted that the rival par-

outside the Parliament

House on Sunday, Gohar

said he was not using the

word bogus for the assem-

bly and would not escape

the democratic process to

leave the field open for the

the PTI members – who

have joined the assemblies

under the banner of SIC

(Sunni Ittehad Council) af-

ter winning the recently-

held polls as independents

- are mulling over boycott-

ing the session convened to

elect the new prime minis-

ter, Gohar said they would

have their opposition and

Âmid the reports that

er parties.

Talking to reporters

ties had a fake mandate.

the stated position on the

Gohar says assembly isn't

bogus, Qaiser and others

still claim it is

ISLAMABAD (INP): The parliamentary leader. "We

won't boycott, we will

trast, Asad Qaiser, sepa-

rately, said they were of the

view that the rival parties

had fake mandate and the

person elected as prime

minister would not have

any legal standing.
"He would be fake

prime minister elected on

the basis of fake votes," he

claimed and added that they

would ponder upon all the

joyed the right to protest

and would exercise the

same, as he, like other party

leaders, questioned the

peated by Ali Muhammad

side the Parliament House

that the competition was

between the "original"

[Omar Ayub] and "bogus'

[Shehbaz Sharif] mandate for

the prime minister's office.

han who told reporters in-

Qaiser said they en-

Similar views were re-

available options.

mandate of other.

But in complete con-

compete against them.'

CM to approach PM for release of K-IV funds

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the federal government has released only Rs4 billion for the K-IV project and he plans to approach Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to address this fund-

He said that the fund is less than one-fourth of the allocated Rs16 billion. He said this significant shortfall will lead to further delays in the project.

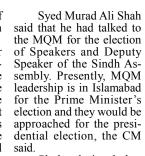
He said this while talking to media persons just after submitting the nomination papers of PPP Sen-Candidates Jam Saifullah Dharejo, Aslam Abro and their covering candidates Wagar Mehdi and Aajiz Dhamraha at the Election Commission of Pakistan, Sindh.

It may be noted that these two senate seats had fallen vacant after the resignation of two PPP Senators Nisar Khuhro and Jam Mehtab Dahar, who returned as members of the provincial assembly of Sindh in the general election held on Feb 8.

The chief minister said that both the PPP candidates would easily be elected as Senators from the provincial assembly. "We need only 108 votes against which we have 114 votes in the assembly, therefore we will get them elected easily for which I am congratulating Asif Ali Zardari," he said.

In response to a question, the Chief Minister stated that Mayor Murtaza Wahab is working tirelessly to develop Karachi into one of the most advanced cities in the world. As an elected mayor, he has all the necessary powers. The CM expressed that any further reforms to the local bodies law, if required, will be made by the Sindh Assembly.

The CM also expressed regret that amendments to the local bodies law could not be made by a political party as demanded by the MQM.



Shah admitted that MQM and Sunni Ittehad Council have stakes in Sindh, therefore they would be consulted for legislation, and other concerned matters. "I want to take all the stakeholders together so that the issues of the province can be resolved with collective wis-

He said that maintenance of law & order was the responsibility of the provincial government for which he has given necessary instructions to the police and the Rangers. "We would soon get rid of street criminals and dacoits in the Riverine area", he said.

PML-N stole public mandate to come into power: Zartaj

SLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader, Zartaj Gul has said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has stolen public mandate to come into power.

Talking to a private Tv channel in Parliament House on Sunday, face expressions of the mandate tealers reveal their theft.

Zartaj Gul said that PTI founder and Form 45 has won the election but those having Form 47 and 49, were celebrating the vic-

She emphasized that votes of PML-N's leader Ahsan Iqbal should also be checked

The PTI leader said that masses have given their decision in favour of her party but PML-N was being imposed through stealng mandate.

Upcoming govt not a 'bed of roses' for anyone: Hanif ISLAMABAD (INP):

PML-N leader Hanif upcoming government will not be a "bed of roses" for any party, prime minister or chief minister.
"We will all have to work together to pull the country out of crisis but

there is one party which says that it will not work with anyone," he said in a media talk outside the Parliament. "And the behaviour [of this party is pushing Pakistan towards instability, it is working on an agenda which will ben-efit anti-state elements,"

Abbasi said in an apparent reference to the PTI.

Suspect arrested in injured condition after encounter

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Police arrested a suspect in injured condition after an encounter near the WAPDA Employees Labour Hall in Khokhar Mohalla. The police spokesman informed here on Sunday that suspects riding on a motorbike tried to escape when a mobile van of the City po-lice station signalled them to

stop for checking. He alleged that the suspects opened fire on the police to evade their arrest but one of them got injured when the police fired back.

He added that the injured suspect Adnan Shaikh alias Adu was rounded up in injured condition but his accomplice escaped. Adu was shifted to Liaquat University Hospital for the surgery of his wounds. The spokesman said the police were check-ing previous criminal record of the suspect. The police also recovered a pistol from possession of Adu.

Sindhi Adabi Board to hold

HYDERABAD (APP): A three-day book fair will be organized by Sindhi Adabi Board from 5th March to 7th



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah talking to media persons, outside Election Commission Office in Karachi.

PTI mandate stolen on February 8, says Aamir Dogar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) member Malik Aamir Dogar said on Sunday that the country had a quiet revolution on February 8.

Speaking to media at the Parliament House before the assembly session to elect prime minister, he said the PTI mandate was stolen on February 8. The party had won 180 seats as the nation voted for the ide-ology of the PTI founder, he added.

The PTI nominee for the office of speaker said the ECP has not yet decided on the reserved seats of the PTI. If those seats are counted, the total seats of the PTI becomes 235, Dogar continued.

JAMSHED DASTI Meanwhile, Jamshed

Dasti said they have been defeated squarely on February 8. The [new] govern- of law, and public justice.

ISLAMABAD

India's propaganda con-

cerning the seizure of a

Karachi-bound ship at

Mumbai's Nhava Sheva

Port has been discredited

Media Service, allegations

suggesting links to

Pakistan's nuclear program

have been found to be en-

tirely unfounded and con-

cocted, representing nothing

more than an attempt to

undermine specific busi-

nesses through misrepresen-

tation. The CMA CGM

Attila-a Malta-flagged com-

mercial vessel was seized on

the baseless charge of trans-

According to Kashmir

upon closer examination.

(INP):

ment would prove to be a disaster for the country, he Ali Muhammad Khan Ali Muhammad Kh added.

An anti-people government would not last long, he said and added that the government formed by those who have been rejected by the people would spell doom for the country. 'We are fighting them

inside parliament and outside. We have faced their highhandedness. We will not let Shehbaz Sharif government run for six months," Dasti stated. Latif Khosa Latif Khosa, a PTI

leader, has clarified that their party's protest against rigging and irregularities in the Feb 8 polls result was their constitutional right but it mustn't be labeled as rowdvism. He asserted that the party was struggling for the prevalence of democracy, rule

Closer scrutiny of seized Karachi-bound

ship deflates Indian propaganda

ment with probable links to

programme. Among the

products withheld, is a

Computer Numerical Con-

trol (CNC) machine, a stan-

dard piece of equipment

used for precise manufactur-

ing in a variety of industries,

including the automobile

sector. While there have been

claims about the potential

use of CNC machines in

military applications, it is

important to remember that

such machines are routinely

used for legitimate fabrica-

tion purposes and are not

restricted objects. A thor-

ough review of the

equipment's specifications

porting a dual-use consign- reveals that it is widely used undermine specific groups.

nuclear

Pakistan's

ring to the election of the minister of Pakistan

day of tough competition

Ali Muhammad Khan

affirmed that today was the between Form-45 and Form-47, the day of real and forged mandate, refercoveted seat of the prime

He added that the real victory would be the victory of the people's mandate and truth whether the rivals won by rigging and malpractices. He stressed that the PTI founder would be victorious and would take the throne of the prime minister of Pakistan one

Zartaj Gull hit out at its political rivals PML-N, stating they were mandatelooters. She claimed that the real victor was the PTI founder and Form-45 in th

for commercial purposes.

documentation, all ship-

ment-related transactions

were undertaken through

transparent banking chan-

nels and fully documented

The shipment was intended

for import by a Karachi-

based commercial company

that specializes in selling

parts to Pakistan's automo-

bile industry. There is no

convincing evidence to sub-

stantiate any suspicion of

illegal intent behind the

transaction. The claims

made by Indian security

forces and repeated by cho-

sen media sources appear to

be part of a larger effort to

Siraj-ul-Haq

demands election

audit, labels

Addressing the media

for constitutional adher-

ence by institutions for na-

tional stability. He high-

lighted the disarray with

electoral forms, indicating

discrepancies in the elec-

tion process. He pointed out the lack of genuine vic-tory among the declared

winners, pressing for an in-

dependent judicial commis-

sion to audit the elections.

He accused the election

machinery of not only

stealing votes but also ma-

nipulating results, and called for the resignation of

the Chief Election Com-

slami's mandate as a viola-

tion of electoral sanctity

His call for recognizing the

people's decision under-

scores a deep rift in the political landscape, seeking a reevaluation of the elec-

Musical function

mesmerized

audience in

concluding

ceremony of

Qalandar Urs

HYDERABAD (APP):A

musical ceremony was held

on the last day of 772th

annual Urs of Lal Shabaz

Famous Singers Shaman Ali

Miraali and Taj Mastani

enthralled the audience

while Zamin Ali, Manzoor

Sakhirani, Sumera Ali, Saba

Sahar and Rajib Faqir were also applauded for their

Deputy Commis

fabulous performances.

Qalandri Dhamal of

Qalandar.

theft of Jamaat-e-

missioner, citing the

toral process.

As regards needful

and gives briefing about recovery of child who kidnapped from Civil Hospital, at his office in Hyderabad. PML-N issues show cause notice to MNA for skipping

HYDERABAD: Assistant Superintendent of Police

(ASP), Rana Dilawar holding a press conference

Speaker, Dy Speaker elections ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has taken disciplinary action against newly elected National Assembly member Nelson Azim, issuing a show cause notice for failing to participate in the Speaker and Deputy Speaker elections.

Azim, elected on a large minority seat, has been given seven days to justify his absence from the crucial voting process. The notice highlights concerns over his non-participation in the democratic proceedings.

In the recent Speaker election, PML-N's Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reclaimed the position with a resounding 199 votes, defeating his rival Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, Meanwhile, Ghulam Mustafa Shah of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) secured victory as Deputy Speaker, garnering 197 votes from Nationa Assembly members. The absence of Azim from these pivotal elections has

raised evebrows within

the party ranks, prompting swift action from

PML-N leadership.

SJC likely to send opinion on Justice Naqvi case to authorities this week

ISLAMABAD (Online): different witnesses were After the completion of the proceedings against Justice (retd) Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), the opinion of the Council is likely to be sent to the relevant authorities this week.

The proceedings were completed under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Esa.

The statements

completed, while the retired judge refused to cross-examine the witnesses, the letter sent to the council on behalf of retired judges was made part of the record.

Council Chairman Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Esa said that the Council will give its opinion after reviewing the documents and testimonies



HYDERABAD: IBA test passed candidates are holding protest demonstration for appointment letters, at Hyderabad press club.

'Vocational training Centre offers employment through skill, different courses

HYDERABAD (APP): Therapy, Computer Op-The management of Voca-tional Training Center Graphic (Print and Mo-The management of Vocational Training Center (Girls) Qasimabad has announced that admissions in different technical courses have been started courses have been started.

Talking to APP at Vo-cational Training Center Qasimabad here the other day, Principal of Government Vocational Training Centre (Girls) Naila Bhutto said that the Centre was disseminating vocational training in Giii/ Gii Courses in 6 disciplines including Dress Making, Computer Operator, Tailoring and Dress Making, Hand Em-broidery Machine Em-broidery and Mehndi.

sioner Jamshoro, Ali She said that besides Zulfigar Memon distribthese courses, the Centre uted Shahbaz awards and was also offering National Shahbaz Shield awards to Vocational Certificate singers and different per-(Level23 and 4 level) Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBT&A) in Beauty

Graphic (Print and Motion) Dress Making Fashion Designing, Chef De Partie, Cooking and Textile Designing.

She said that admissions are first

sions were open on a first come first serve basis and admission fees were very nominal. However, she added that the trend of joining vocational training was low as compared to general education courses and could be afforded by the young aspirant students but, they prefer private institutions for vocational training whose monthly fees were so

On this occasion, Administrative Officer Sikandar Joyo urged the young girls to join Vocational Training Centre for Girls at the ideal and easily accessible location of Oasimabad for all



NTS ensures transparency ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday said the selection of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj is being conducted for the first time in history through the National Testing Service (NTS) in a landmark move

prioritizing transparency. He announced this the NTS center in the fedtion of written exams for the vious year, he added.

selection of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj and Hajj Medical Mission personnel for Hajj

Emphasizing the sig-nificance of this development, he highlighted that every year, Pakistani assistants and doctors are deployed for Hajj duties. Last year, he said there were 794 assistants, while this year, milestone during his visit to the number stands at 625. Similarly, the number of eral capital During the visit—doctors remains consistent he oversaw the administra- at 540, as it was in the pre-

SIC parliamentary party meets to discuss PM election strategy

Ittehad Council's (SIC) parliamentary held before the election of the prime minister at the Parliament on

Sources said that the session mulled over the strategy for the house proceedings as some SIC members were suggesting vehement protest during the NA

"Some members of the parliament also suggesting boycott of the prime minister's election," according to sources. "They have stolen the people's mandate Shehbaz Sharif.

with form 47," SIC mem-

It is to be mentioned here that Sunni Ittehad Council's Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza said that the SIC will not boycott the prime minister's election. "The PML-N should forget that we will stage boycott. We have learnt from the boycott of Punjab Assembly session, he added.

The SIC has fielded Omar Ayub Khan as its candidate to contest PM election against PML-N, PPP and allies candidate



LARKANA: Members of Chandio community are holding protest demonstration against the high handedness of Police, at SSP Chowk in Larkana.

503,261 illegal Afghans returned to their homeland

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreign immigrants including Affrom Islamabad, 1152 from immigrants including Afghans to their homeland Afghanistan is continuing in a dignified and safe manner, reported on Sunday. As per details, 5033 illegal Afghan nationals re-

turned to their country from February 25 till March 2, taking the total number of returned immigrants to 503,261.

Over 217 families in-

cluding 1573 men, 1048 women and 2412 children returned to Afghanistan in 204 vehicles. Earlier, 233 Afghan

nationals were sent to Afghanistan via the Torkham According to details, a total of 6623 migrants were

sent to Afghanistan, and

Punjab, and 34 from Azad Kashmir were sent to Afghanistan.

Efforts were made to send migrants to Afghanistan from Peshawar, other borders, and Angoor Adda in Kharlachi. A total of 3956 people were sent to Afghanistan via the Angoor Adda border, while 698 people were sent to Afghanistan from the harlachi border.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to peace and prosperity in Afghanistan at a conference titled 'Afghanistan's Regional Cooperation Initiative' held at capital of the war-torn country.

book fair from 5 March

March 2024. The Secretary Sindhi Board Gulbadan Jawed Mirza Informed here on Sunday that Chairman Sindhi Adabi Board Makhdoom Saeed-u-Zaman 'Atif' will inaugurate the book fair on Tuesday at 11 am.



are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Fateh Chowk in Hyderabad.

Implementation of food standards is an assurance of healthy life: DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain

Independent Report

KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that implementation of food standards in the food industry is an assurance to healthy life and it is high time that all stakeholders should work on the same page to achieve the goal of a healthy society free from adultered food items. This he said while speak-



ing as a chief guest at 15th Conference Food Safety and Quality Award on the theme "Food Standards Save Lives here at Dream World Resort, organized by Consumers Association of Pakistani. On this occasion Chairman CAP Kaukab Iqbal, Chairman CAP Punjab Mian Irfan Ikram , Chairperson Women Wing Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi and others also highlighted the importance of safety standards in the relevant industry. Participants of the event committed to work collectively to upholding food safety standards.



KARACHI: Sewage water has accumulated on Gar-