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Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti sworn in as 19th Chief Minister Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP)-designated Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti was sworn in as the 19th Chief Minister of Balochistan here at the Governor House on Satur-

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar administered oath to the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

day afternoon.

The simple but impressive ceremony was attended by the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Faisal Karim Kundi, mem

Continued on page 2

No compromise to be made on restoration of peace at all: Newly elected Chief Minister urges people on mountain to come back and join mainstream

Mir Sarfraz Bugti assures House not to sit with ease till resolving real issues of province; assures vacancies not to be sold out, vows to work for improvement of educational institutions and health system; terms good governance, law & order and climate challenge major challenges

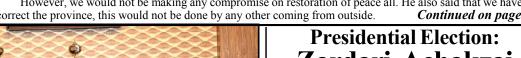
Independent Report

QUETTA: The newly elected Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has urged the "people on mountains" to come back and join the national mainstream.

He said that we are ready to talk to the angry people and want them to become part of mainstream.

He said that whatever has to be acquired by us, it is to be acquired from this House (Balochistan Assembly).

He said that dialogue is the policy of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and we believe in it to resolve the issues. However, we would not be making any compromise on restoration of peace all. He also said that we have to





QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons during his visit to Quetta. Newly elected Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti is also present on the occasion.

Bilawal Bhutto wants missing persons issue resolved through parliamentary committee

Criticises Achakzai for becoming PTI candidate for president

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan sue unilaterally. Peoples Party (PPP) Chair- The former foreign vincial government would Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has proposed forming a parliamentary committee on enforced disappearances in Balochistan to find a solution to the pressing issue of missing per-

Addressing a news conference at the Balochistan Chief Minister's Secretariat on Saturday, Bilawal exhorted all political groups to unite with the PPP on the matter of missing persons, acknowledging that no single party could address this is-

minister said that the PPPled Balochistan government would combat the menaces of terrorism and extremism in light of the National Action Plan (NAP), noting that terrorism had been one the biggest problems facing

PPP would run this province, where Sarfraz Bugti has been elected the chief minister unopposed, in accordance with the vision of Benazir Bhutto, the slain proach. former prime minister.

The PPP leader af-

firmed that Bugti-led prostrive to address the challenges facing Balochistan He said that he advised Bugti to pay his maiden visit as the CM to calamity-hit city of Gwadar and ensure uninterrupted relief

Bilawal averred that Bilawal said that the the PPP would relieve the people of Balochistan through its economic charter, adding that the provincial government would function with a conciliatory ap-

Continued on page 2

Sarfraz Bugti would take all

Expressing views at the session, MPA Saleem

Khosa said that the Chief

Balochistan is not the bed

of roses, rather its bed of

thrones. He said that the

education and health sec-

tors are required to be im-

proved on an emergent ba-

Sadiq Umrani said that all

members of assembly

should work together for

improvement of the prov-

the newly elected Chief

Minister, Zahoor Buledi

said that he (Bugti) has

the leadership capabili-

Mir Muhammad

While congratulating

along in the House.

Minister-ship

Numerous problems being faced need solution on urgent basis: Balochistan CM-ship not bed of roses, bed of thrones, members of Balochistan Assembly

Independent Report QUETTA: The members of Balochistan Assembly have the session of provincial underlined the need to re-

The members were ister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. He expressing their views at said that he is sure that assembly after the an-



Three terrorists

killed, four injured

in Karak IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): The and explosives were also re-

security forces on Saturday covered from the killed ter-

solve the numerous issues being faced by the province and its people.

They stressed that collective efforts are needed to resolve the issues of province and work for well being of the masses.

assembly congratulated newly elected Chief Min-

killed three terrorists amid

an intense exchange of fire

while four of them got in-

jured during an intelligence-

based operation (IBO) con-

operation, intense fire ex-

change took place between

the Army troops and the

terrorists, an Inter Services

Public Relations (ISPR)

news release said.

During the conduct of

Weapons, ammunition

ducted in Karak district.

nouncement made about election of Mir Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Minister,

Nawab Sanaullah Zehri and other members of

rorists, who remained ac-

tively involved in numerous

terrorist activities against

law enforcement agencies as

well as innocent civilians.

it said. "Sanitization opera-

tion is being conducted to

eliminate any other terror-

ist found in the area. Locals

of the area appreciated the

operation and expressed

their full support to eliminate the menace of terror-

ism," the ISPR said.

here on Saturday.

Baloch Culture Day celebrated

Independent Report QUETTA: The Baloch Culture Day was celebrated in Quetta on Saturday.

Marking the Baloch Culture Day, a colourful cultural ceremony was arranged by the Directorate of Culture at Noori Naseer Khan Cultural Complex, Spinny road.

A large number of people belonging to different walks of life including women and children par-

ticipated in the ceremony. The Baloch culture colours were witnessed on the occasion with the participants wearing the Balochi cultural dress

Zardari, Achakzai submit nomination papers

President of the country, the government coalition has submitted the nomination papers of Asif Ali Zardari and the opposition party fielded Mahmood Achakzai as their candidate.

On behalf of the People's Party, party leader Farooq H. Naik has submitted the papers of former President Asif Zardari. Papers were submit-

ted to the presiding officer in Islamabad High Court, Chief Justice Islamabad High Court Amir Farooq received the nomination papers of Asif Zardari. Asif Zardari will be the

presidential candidate on tial candidates will be disbehalf of the People's played on March 5.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Party, while Bilawal Bhutto For the election of the is the proposer of his father Asif Zardari and Farooq. H. Naik is the supporter. On the other hand, the Sunni Unity Council submitted the nomination papers of Mehmood Khan Achakzai for the presidential election, which was submitted by PTI leader Latif Khosa in the Islamabad High Court. Election Commission of Pakistan has released the schedule for the presidential election. According to the schedule, nomination papers can be submitted on March 2 before 12 noon. The nomination papers can be withdrawn till 12 noon on March 5, the list of presiden-

ISLAMABAD: Senator Ishaq Dar along with others Parliamentary leaders submitting the nomination papers of Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Šharif for

Prime Minister of Pakistan/Leader of the house to secretary National As-

which has the capacity of

gested that the rain water is

being drained out after mak-

ing cut in the low lying ar-

tankers and pumping ma-

chines are being used to

pump out the water where

there is no room of mak-

ing cut. As a result, the

level of water has de-

creased in the houses and

here is that 14 water tank-

ers, 25 pumping machines,

two excavators and even

number loaders are part of

the dewatering operation on

special directives of the

Director General GDA.

ted to continue the dewa-

tering operation along with

district administration and

be completed after cleaning

the houses and streets in the

The GDA is commit-

The operation would

Dawood Khan Khilji.

Needless to mention

streets.

Even the drainage of other institutions till the

Gwadar city

The reports also sug-

However, the water

400,000 gallons.

eas of Gwadar city.

sembly Tahir Hussain in the Parliament House in the Federal Capital.

Dewatering operation &

rehabilitation process

continues after torrential

rains in Gawadar city

Independent Report

QUETTA: The dewatering

operation and rehabilitation

process is in full swing in

Gwadar city after the dev-

ports reaching here,

Gwadar Development Au-

thority, district administra-

tion and other institutions

are actively engaged

jointly in the rescue, relief

and rehabilitation activities

in the port city for last four

tary institutions and admin-

istration are providing nec-

essary relief to the affected

people stranded in the rain

water is being drained out

has been made possible

through drain line of GDA

in most areas of the city.

from the houses.

present.

In first phase, the rain

The drainage of water

water is continued at end.

While on the other

hand, sewerage treatment

plant is fully operational

These civil and mili-

According to the re-

astating rains.

days.



Shahbaz Sharif, Omar Ayub's nomination papers for PM election

National Assembly to elect new prime minister today

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday approved the nomination pa-pers of Pakistan Muslim League-N's Shehbaz Sharif and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) leader Omar Ayub Khan for the prime minister election.

According to a press release issued by the National Assembly secretariat, the Speaker approved the nomination papers for the Prime Minister's slot after the scrutiny of the papers.

The election for the

Prime Minister will take place during the session of the National Assembly scheduled for Sunday at 11 am. Only two candidates

tions for the slot.

17 persons killed, 23

injured due to

prolong rain

spell in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): At

least 17 persons were killed

and 23 were reported in-

jured due the prolong spell

of rain starting continu-ously from Thursday

evening in different parts

Pakhtunkhwa, said DG

Provincial Disaster Man-

agement Authority (PDMA) Muhammad

Qaiser Khan on Saturday.

ported completely de-

stroyed while 17 partially,

working to open closed road

and provide facilities to

people stuck in rains and

landslidings. Six tourists

have been rescued in

have been issued to all DCs

reports about perishing of

livestock has also been re-

ceived from authorities of

children, women and men

who died because of cav-

ing in of roofs of their

He said that directives

Apart from humans

The deceased include

Malamjabba, said DG.

in this regard.

Rescue 1122 KP.

21 houses were re-

He said that PDMA is

pers for MNA Main Muhammad Shahbaz were proposed by MNAs Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Tariq Bashir Cheema, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary Sardar Fazal Chaudhary, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Muhammad Zaman, Attaullah Tarar, Abdul Aleem Khan, and seconded by MNAs Romina Khursheed Alam,

Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari, Ahsan Iqbal, Kessoo Mal Kheel Das, Anusha Rahman Khan, Hanif Abbasi, Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): submitted their nomina- pers of Omar Ayub Khan for Prime Minister of Paki-The nomination pa- stan/Leader of the House were proposed by MNAs Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Asad Qaiser, Riaz Khan Fatyana, Umair Khan Niazi, and seconded by MNAs Mohammad Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel, Ali Khan Jadoon, Mujahid Ali, and Malik Mohammad

Amir Dogar. The election for the Prime Minister would be conducted through the division of members in the House.

As per the Constitution, before the voting process begins for the slot of Prime Minister, "bells" will

The nomination pa- Continued on page 2

Pakistan condemns India's high handedness in seizure of commercial goods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- fice spokesperson in a statekistan on Saturday condemned India's high handmercial goods imported by a Karachi based commercial

ment said, "These reports are reflective of Indian edness in seizure of com- media's habitual misrepresentation of facts.'

She said, "This is a simple case of import of a In response to the commercial lathe machine media questions regarding by a Karachi based commer-Indian seizure of commercial entity which supplies parts to the automobile incial equipment destined for Pakistan, the Foreign Of- dustry in Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administering Oath from newly elected Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Ali Ameen Khan Gandapur at Governor House.

Ali Amin Gandapur takes oath as KP CM

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Ali Amin Gandapur ister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Governor KP Ghulam

Ali administered the oath to Ali Amin Gandapur in a held at ceremony Governor's House in Peshawar today.

Yesterday, Ali Amin Gandapur was elected as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the 106 bagged 90 votes while PML-N candidate Dr. Ibadullah Khan managed to secure 16 votes.

Earlier today, talking to a private television channel newly-elected Khyber on Saturday took oath as newly elected Chief Min-ter Ali Amin Gandapur said that nine Lac entitled persons in province will be paid Rs 10,000 cash each in Ramazan. He said that the data

will be collected from Ehsas programme to keep transparency in the matter. Gandapur also prom-

ised large-scale reforms in the province. He said experts' services will be house, the Pakistan availed to curb corruption Tehreek-e-Insaf candidate and misappropriation. "We will halt those involved in corruption and the sources of graft," chief minister said



QUETTA: MPAs congratulating newly elected Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

people have been retrained

and disconnected from

continuous rain, snowfall in

Lower and Upper Chitral

districts since Thursday

night, the intensity of the

closure has also increased.

There is no rush in the mar-

kets while the traffic on the

roads is not visible. The dis-

trict administration has

warned the public to avoid

unnecessary travel to be

saved from any inconve-

nience or misshapen due to

avalanches or land-sliding.

tinuing in the three areas of

Kalash Valley, Bomburit,

Barir, Rambur and

Snowfall is also con-

After two days of

other parts of Chitral.

Snowfall continue at

Lower, Upper Chitral,

no electricity, all

roads blocked

CHITRAL (APP): Snow- as a result more than 40,000

fall is continue in Chitral

and suburbs areas from the

last 24-hours with no elec-

tricity and road access has

been completely blocked as

two to three feet has fallen

in Chitral city, while two

2.5 feet of snow has been

recorded on Lowari Tunnel

Road. The road to Garam

Chashma and all roads lead-

ing to other districts have

completely been blocked

due to overnight heavy

snow. Till filling of this re-

port on Saturday afternoon,

the snowfall has continued

Chitral to other districts has

The communication of

without any break.

Alex Hartley opens up about her experience as female coach in PSL 9

(Online): Former English cricketer and Multan Sultans spin bowling coach, Alex Hartley, is shattering barriers in Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine.

Initially apprehensive about cultural acceptance, Hartley found herself warmly embraced by the Multan Sultans' fraternity.

Everyone is welcoming and understanding. Ali (Tareen, the franchise owner) has broken boundaries. When he rang me and told me I need you at Multan Sultans, I just couldn't turn it down. It's a lot more than cricket," Hartley said. Upon her arrival, a team meeting led by Ali introduced her as the bowling coach, instantly making her feel at home.

'As soon as I arrived, we had a team meeting. Ali sat down everyone and said this is your bowling coach, this is your fielding coach blah blah. I instantly felt at home," she further added.

Despite not yet mastering Hindi or Urdu, communication hasn't been an

issue thanks to an interpreter. However, Hartley acknowledges the importance of learning a few words of the local languages. "I need to learn at least a few words of Hindi and Urdu," she said.

Hartley also highlighted the dedication of Usama Mir, who diligently worked on his game to address weaknesses.

"I think he (Usama) has put on a lot of hard work before the competition. He reflected on the World Cup. He came and told us straight away to look where he was leaking runs, and this was where he wanted to improve," she said. Remaining a stalwart for women's cricket, Hartley envisions broader platforms like the Women's Premier League (WPL) gaining more prominence.

"It's probably one of the best tournaments in the world just behind The Hundred, It's been played only in Bengaluru and Delhi. That's a lot of games. Showing women's cricket is accessible to everyone.

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti meeting with

President Balochistan National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch during visit

PPP senator submits resolution seeking

restrictions on social media platforms

concerns that social media

platforms are being used to

spread misinformation

about religion, culture and

traditions, as well as fos-

tering hatred among people

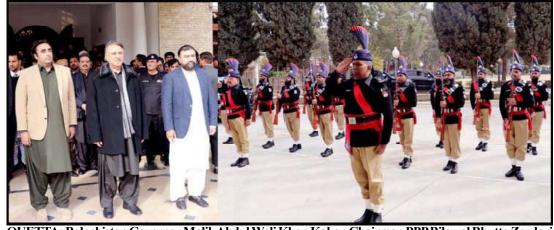
based on language and reli-

vations about the misuse of

impacts are being observed social media platforms ter], Facebook, TikTok,

kistan army with negative

Tangi notes in the reso-



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and newly elected Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti being presented salute during their visit to Gover-

CM Murad says no better choice than Zardari for President

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that there is no better choice for the President slot than PPP cochairman Asif Ali Zardari.

He said that the party has requested MQM-P members to vote for PPP's candidates for the election of speaker and deputy Speaker election.

Sunday March 03, 2024

manded local government powers for Punjab.

presidential candidate of coalition partners including approach legal forums for the PML-N, People's Party its grievances regarding and other allies.

mission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday announced the schedule for the presidential elections.

According to the ECP schedule, polling for the presidential election will be ĥeld on March 9 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The nomination papers can be submitted till 12:00 noon on March 2 (today).

The Returning Officer (RO) will scrutinize the nomination papers on March 4 at 10:00 am whereas the final list of candidates for the presidential elections will be displayed on March 5:00 at 1:00 pm.

Furue keeps cool under **sweltering** heat to lead in Singapore

SINGAPORE (Online): Japan's Ayakà Furue moved atop leaderboard with her thirdround four-under-par 68 at the HSBC Women's World Championship on Saturday, keeping cool under sweltering conditions in Singapore.

Furue holds a twoshot lead over Australia's Hannah Green (67) with overnight leader Celine Boutier of France and American Andrea Lee a further shot back in equal third place after signing for rounds of 72 and 67, re-

The 23-year-old Furue, who is chasing her first LPGA victory since 2022, showed her resolve end her two-vear drought by storming out of the blocks with a pair of birdies on holes one and

also been cut-off with roads closed for all kinds of traffic due to heavy snowfall Shekhanandeh. Javed for continued

mended the organizers for

improvement in health sector LAHORE (APP): Former cial guest, Dr. Akram com-

Provincial Minister of Health, Professor Dr. Javaid Akram, emphasized the need for further enhancements in the healthcare sector. In an address at the eighth annual conference organized by the International Radiology Society of Pakistan at a local hotel here on Saturday, while acknowledging the positive strides taken by the previous government, Dr. Akram highlighted areas for improvement during his speech.

the successful arrangement of the conference, focusing on the significant subject matter at hand. He underscored the importance of relentless efforts in combating issues that threaten humanity. Praising the leadership of former chief minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Dr. Akram noted the decisive actions were taken against those who undermined humanitarian principles across the

Addressing as the spe-Glimpses of Chairman **PPP Bilawal Bhutto** visits to Quetta











cil (SIC) named Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami While talking to media Party (PKMAP) chief Replying to a question regarding MQM's demand after submitting nomination Mahmood Khan Achakzai papers, CM Sindh said Paas their presidential nomikistan People's Party for amendment in Local nee for the coveted consti-(PPP) will request all par-Government Act, Shah said tutional post against Pakithat in Sindh, Local Bodies ties including MQM- Pastan Peoples Party (PPP) were already powerful, kistan to vote for Asif Ali Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari in the Presidential MQM might have de-Zardari. Asif Ali Zardari will be

He said that PPP will

The Election Com-

It is pertinent to men-

tion here that Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

backed Sunni Ittehad Coun-

CPO to utilize all resources for ensuring peaceful conduct of PSL

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Police Officer (CPÓ) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani on Saturday said all available resources would be utilized to ensure peaceful conduct of Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2024, Season 09 matches in Rawalpindi. Talking to APP, he said Rawalpindi district police had completed all the security and traffic arrangements for the matches. He said a strategy had been adopted to ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of PSL matches in

Rawalpindi. provide full security to both local and foreign players, officials, and cricket fans in Rawalpindi, he said adding, coordination with all the relevant departments had been deployed to perform secu-

assistance of the cameras, close monitoring of stadium, hotels, and the teams' routes would be ensured, he maintained. Lady police officers would be deployed for the security and checking of women cricket fans. he said and directed the officers concerned to issue traffic advisories before the matches to maintain citizens' awareness and traffic flow. According to a Com-

Cricket Stadium, he added. The CPO said search, sweep, combing, and intelligence-based operations would continue. With the

Police teams would missioner Office spokesperson, Commissioner spectively. Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak had reviewed all the arrangements finalized for PSL matches. The Commissioner completed. Over 5500 of- directed the authorities conficers and officials would be cerned to make the best possible arrangements for rity duties during PSL matches which would matches in Rawalpindi start from March 2.

RAWALPINDI: A view of covers on the pitch at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium as the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine T20 cricket match between Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi called off due to rain and

Shahbaz Sharif..

In the resolution, the lution that there are reser-

Continued from page 1 ring for five minutes inside the Parliament House to inform every member — in case they are not present in the chamber at the moment — to gather inside. Once the process begins, the doors will be locked, and no one will be allowed to enter or leave the hall till the PM's election is concluded.

ISLAMABAD (INP): A

resolution has been submit-

ted to the Senate seeking the

imposition of restrictions

on all social media plat-

been moved by Senator

Bahramand Tangi of the

senator states that negative

on the youth of the coun-

try due to the use of social

Pakistan Peoples Party.

The resolution has

forms in the country.

Under the supervision of the Speaker, voting will be held through division. For example, if there are two candidates, the Speaker will say that 'whoever wants to vote for candidate A can go to lobby A' and 'whoever wants to vote for candidate B, can go to lobby B'. If there are three candidates then there can be a lobby C as well.

At the entrance of the said lobbies, there will be a member of the Assembly Secretariat staff who will record the name of every

Member of the National Assembly in the register. The whole process will be open and people sitting in the galleries will be able to see who votes for whom.

The political parties have to vote collectively and every member has to vote for the candidate that their party is voting for. Section 91(4) of the

Prime Minister shall be elected by the votes of the majority of the total membership of the National Assembly: Provided that, if no member secures such a majority in the first poll, a second poll shall be held between the members who secure the two highest numbers of votes in the first poll and the member who secures a majority of votes of the members present and voting shall be declared to have been elected as Prime Minister.

PTI begging US to grant NRO to party founder, claims Ahsan Iqbal

He also observes that

The resolution con-

through these platforms

fake news or false informa-

tion is spread on various

issues to deceive the youth

cludes by recommending

the government to impose

restrictions on social media

platforms, such as X [Twit-

tion from their negative and

destructive effects.

of the country.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa kistan Muslim League-N senior leader Ahsan Iqbal said that PTI members are begging America to grant NRO to the jailed leader. Constitution states, "The Speaking to the media,

The resolution details and malicious propaganda.

against national interests, Instagram and YouTube, to

including targeting the Pa- protect the younger genera-

Igbal said that the nomination papers of PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif have been approved. "We have not raised any objection to Omar Ayub," he said. The former federa minister said that they accept the election results of February 8 but the PTI members cry the same in every election that it was rigged. He said that the same allegation was levelled in 2008. The Speaker rejected the objection of PTI.

Newly elected Chief Minister..

Continued from page 1

He said that the elimination of terrorism is possible through dialogue and deter-

These and similar other views were expressed by the Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti while delivering his maiden speech after his election as Chief Minister at the provincial assembly session on Saturday afternoon.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that Balochistan is confronting three major challenges at the moment. The first challenge being confronted is the good governance, second is of law and order and third challenge the province is confronting is of climate change.

that said

Balochistan is custodian of traditions, and as such we would not forget our tradi-

He made pledge to work for betterment of educational institutions and health system in the province. He said that he would not be sitting with ease until and unless real issues are resolved

He said that he would take up the issues of Balochistan with center to get them resolved.

The newly elected Chief Minister asserted that the province has every resource, what is lacking is the road map to utilize these resources

He assured the House that vacancies would not be sold out in the province, nor anyone would be allowed

violate the merit.

He made commitment to become voice of rights of the province and change its fate urging the members of assembly to join hands with him to do so.

Earlier, he said that he was candidate of the party (PPP) in 2008, which he is representing in the House

today.

He said that if any party can save the country it is Pakistan Peoples Party He also said that all the

issues would be resolved under public-private partnership. In addition to this we would also be increasing the provincial tax net. Moreover, the youth

would be motivated to wards technical education in the province, adding he Mir Sarfraz Ahmed.. chaired the session for elec-

Continued from page 1 bers of provincial and national assembly as well as other prominent tribal and political personalities and At end of his oath,

wet outfield.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti raised slogan of Jeeye Bhutto (Love live Bhutto) Soon after taking oath,

the Governor congratulated the new Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Meanwhile, Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari, other members of assembly and participants of ceremony also extended congratulations to Mir Sarfraz Bugti on becoming new Chief Minis-

Earlier, Mir Sarfraz Bugti was elected as Chief Minister through voting conducted in the session of provincial assembly the same noon In all 41members of

assembly cast their votes in favour of Mir Sarfraz Bugti during the voting process. Speaker The Balochistan Assembly,

tion of the Chief Minister. He made announce ment regarding election of Mir Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Minister Balochistan. He said that 41 members cast votes in favour of Mir Sarfraz Bugti to be elected as Chief Minister.

The Speaker also announced that four nomination papers had been submitted in favour of Mir Sarfraz Bugti for his election as Chief Minister.

Different members of assembly had proposed and seconded Sarfraz Bugti as Chief Minister in the nomination papers

Meanwhile, all the four members belonging to National Party including its President Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch didn't take part in voting process. Similarly, JUI-F members of the assembly boycotted the session and didn't turn up in the House

Later, Mir Sarfraz Bugti sat on the seat of Leader of House in the assembly

Bilawal..

Continued from page 1

Bilawal Bhutto turned his guns towards Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai after PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) nominated the latter as their presidential nominee.

The SIC announced its decision today, nominating Achakzai to contest for the top constitutional post against PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, who is a joint candidate of the PML-N and other political parties part of the coalition set to form a government in the

Bilawal Bhutto said that Mahmood Khan Achakzai cannot call himself a "nationalist" as he becomes PTI candidate for president's slot. However, the PPP chairman said, he would continue to hold dialogue with nationalist par-

Out of 336, the alliance has 209 seats in the National Assembly so far while the opposition parties have 104 members with the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) being the largest party in the lower house.

In Punjab, PML-N is the largest political party with 194 seats while the PPP is in the majority in Sindh Assembly. Both the parties have also formed an alliance in the Balochistan Assembly. Moreover, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, the SIC has over



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Aurangzaib Badini sending water pumps for taking out rain water from Gwadar.

systems is not for the bet-

ter". Majid Ezzati of Im-

perial College London, the study's lead author, said

there were signs that obe-

sity was levelling out in

some southern European

countries such as France

and Spain, "especially for women". But he said that

in most countries there are

more people suffering from

obesity than being under-

weight, which the study

said had fallen since 1990.

enough is the main cause of

being under-weight, eating

badly is a prime factor for obesity. "This new study

highlights the importance of

preventing and managing

obesity from early life to

adulthood, through diet,

physical activity, and ad-

equate care, as needed," said

back on track" to meet glo-

bal targets for cutting obe-

sity rates "requires the co-

operation of the private

sector, which must be ac-

countable for the health

Charter of

economy is

inevitable: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) leader

Atta Ullah Tarar said on

Saturday that charter of the

economy was inevitable in

order to get the country and

political leaders should look

forward without getting

stalled in settling political

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf

(PTI), saying, "They [PTI] want to derail the democ-

ity had the letter been

penned to the International

from all parties to set aside

their differences and join

hands for the betterment of

Nasir Kazmi

remembered

on his 52nd

death

anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fa-

mous Urdu poet Nasir

Kazmi was remembered on

his 52nd death anniversary

when people from all walks

of life including literary

circles with media plat-

forms paid him rich tributes

Nasir Kazmi was con-

for his poetic contribution.

sidered one of the greatest

poets of his era. He was

born on December 8, 1925

at Ambala in British India.

He received education from

Ambala, Simla and Lahore.

After the creation of Paki-

stan, he came to Lahore. He

did some journalistic work

with 'Auraq-e-Nau' as an

editor and became editor-in-

chief of the magazine in

1952. Later, he was associ-

ated with Radio Pakistan

Monetary Fund (IMF)?'

racy in the country.

he questioned.

the nation.

Talking to a private

Tarar took a jibe at the

"Under which capac

Tarar urged politicians

the nation back on track.

impacts of their products'

He added that "getting

Ghebrevesus.

While not eating

PBM MD collaborates

with Iraqi Embassy

on social initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistanis are rendering

their services in Iraq.

During the meeting,

they resoled for support-

ing the PBM's initiatives,

encompassing aid for orphaned children, hosting an

event at the Iraqi Consulate

to honor the children of Pa-

kistan Sweet Homes, ex-

tending invitations to all

ambassadors for a forth-

coming event and featuring

products crafted at PBM's

Women Empowerment

Centers in a cultural show-

case in Iraq. Notably, all

expenses for these endeav-

ors will be graciously cov-

ered by the Iraqi Embassy.

pressed gratitude to the Iraqi

government and the Ambas-

The PBM MD ex-

Managing Director (MD),

Mahmood Al-Hassan here

on Saturday visited the Iraq

Embassy on a special invi-

tation from Iraqi Ambassa-

Ambassador warmly wel-

comed him and congratu-

lated on assuming the re-

sponsibilities of PBM MD.

knowledged the interest

shown by the Iraqi Em-

bassy in collaborating with

social sectors and expressed

determination to work to-

gether. He stated that both

brotherly nations have al-

ways supported each other

in difficult times and many

On his arrival, the

The PBM MD ac-

dor Hamid Abbas Lafta.

Bait-ul-Mal

Syed Tariq

More than 1 billion people worldwide are suffering from obesity, WHO study finds

ISLAMABAD (Online): said the obesity rate had The "epidemic" is particularly hitting poorer countries and the rate is growing among children and adolescents faster than adults, according to the study carried out with the World Health Organisation.

The study, released ahead of World Obesity Day on March 4, estimated that there were about 226 million obese adults, adolescents and children in the world in 1990. The figure had risen to 1,038 million in 2022. Francesco Branca, director of nutrition for health at the WHO, said the rise past one billion people has come "much earlier than we have anticipated".

While doctors knew obesity numbers were rising fast, the symbolic figure had previously been expected in 2030.

Researchers analysed the weight and height measurements of more than 220 million people in more than 190 countries to reach the estimates, Lancet said.

They estimated that 504 million adult women and 374 million men were obese in 2022. The study

nearly tripled for men (14 percent) since 1990 and more than doubled for women (18.5 percent).

Some 159 million children and adolescents were living with obesity in 2022, according to the study, up from about 31 million in 1990. The chronic and complex illness is accompanied by a greater risk of death from heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. Being overweight increased the risk of death during the coronavirus pandemic.

Countries Polynesia and Micronesia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa have suffered more from the rise.

These countries now have higher obesity rates than many high-income industrialised countries, especially those in Europe," the study said.

'In the past we have tended to think of obesity as a problem of the rich, now a problem of the world," said Branca, who highlighted the fast lifestyle changes in low and middleincome countries.

"verv

ISLAMABAD: Famous TV artist Leyla Zuberi giving prizes to winners of

Regional Dress fashion show organized in connection with Students Week

He said that the

Kashmiris have been sub-

for demanding freedom

from Indian illegal occu

spokesman said, India has

snatched all natural re-

sources and other basic free-

doms of the Kashmiri

people, who have been de-

manding their political

rights including their birth-

right the right to self-de-

termination. Kashmiri

people are determined to

continue their fight against

Indian illegal occupation

forces' personnel enjoying

unbridled powers under

draconian laws are commit-

ting war crimes and crimes

against humanity in the oc-

cupied territory with impu-

Remarkably, despite

Reportedly, six ve-

the severity of the collision,

among the occupants of the

hicles experienced a minor

fender-bender due to a road

slip caused by the aftermath

of the primary collision.

Miraculously, no injuries

were sustained in these sub-

adding to the challenges

faced by commuters, heavy

fog descended upon the

motorway, prompting au-

thorities to make a tough

decision. The motorway

was closed from Balkasar

He further said that

sequent incidents.

He said that the Indian

against all odds

Besides

celebrations held at FG Home Economics College F-11/1.

Kashmiris continuously

living in state of siege due

to Indian military's huge

presence: APHC

Hurriyet Conference jected to worst kind of

(APHČ) has deplored that human rights violations

NH&MP's swift

action averted disaster

at Northern Motorway

northern motorway, a po- no injuries were reported

pation.

ISLAMABAD, Mar 2

(APP): The All Parties

the huge presence of brutal Indian troops has put the

Kashmiris' lives under con-

stant state of siege for the

Media Service, the APHC

spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a

statement issued in Srinagar, said that over one

million Indian troops re-

main deployed across

length and breadth of the

occupied territory who

have turned it into a living

hell for its residents through

are witnessing extrajudicial

killings, massacres, violent

cordon and search opera-

tions, nocturnal raids, ar-

rests and torture on daily

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a

recent incident on the

tentially catastrophic colli-

sion between a car and a bus

unfolded, sparking fears of

flames following the im-

pact, creating a tense situa-

tion on the busy highway,

NH&MP spokesman said

while talking to APP on

intervention of the National

Highways and Motorway

Police proved to be a life-

saving. The NH&MP offi-

cials rushed to the scene

promptly, the motorway

in Federal Capital.

However, the timely

The car erupt in

a major disaster.

Saturday.

He said the Kashmiris

their barbaric acts.

According to Kashmir

Advocate

last over seven decades.



Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ur-Mal Syed Tariq Mehmood-Ul-Hassan was called upon H.E Hamid Abbas Lafta Ambassador Republic of Iraq in Pakistan.

NCSW joins hand PPAF for

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) have joined hands to host the National Women's Conference.

This pivotal event is set to take place on March 4, 2024, at the National Library in Islamabad, which epitomizes the shared vision of both organizations to empower women for a prosperous Pakistan.

Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar, will be the chief guest of the conference, and CEO of PPAF, Nadir Gul Barech will shed light on the importance of collaboration among the public, private sector, and

nomic development within civil society in empowering women to contribute to the national economy. Pakistan.

dignitaries, the development sector, civil society organizations, youth, and academia to engage in meaningful discourse on advancing women's roles in soci-

will be celebrated for their efforts that have signifi-

their communities in all over

The conference will tional narratives 'Paigham e Pakistan' and 'Dukhtaran e Pakistan', initiatives that promote unity, peace, social cohesion, and the empowerment of women.

Women's Conference is poised to inspire a new generation of women to pursue their ambitions fearlessly and contribute to the economic and social fabric of Pakistan.

of hope, signaling a future where women are not only participants but leaders in the narrative of national

Fai urges international focus on occupied Kashmir's reality

Council of the Arts, in the Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD: Artists performing during a concert title "Face Music Mela at Pakistan National

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the New York based Kashmir International Awareness Campaign, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, emphasized a renewed effort to spotlight the facts, figures and ongoing situation in Jammu and Kash-

tional opinion. In a statement issued on Saturday, Fai highlighted that cross-opinion digital media seminars on Kashmir are a key component of the Kashmir Awareness Campaign. The "Kashmir and the Global Conscious"

mir worldwide, with the

goal of bolstering interna-

Institute of Policy Studies Islamabad's Nasr Chamber in E-11/3 Islamabad on March 7, 2024

This hybrid international seminar will specifically highlight the historical and current aspects of the holistic dispute in Jammu and Kashmir, with a particular emphasis on the significant contributions made by the late Dr. Ayub Thakur

Dr. Thakur played a prominent role in reiterating the Kashmir dispute's importance, both within the South Asian region and internationally, including in seminar will be held at the Europe and the USA.

Turkish scholar visits IJM, hails Kashmiris' steadfastness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent Islamic scholar from Germany Sheikh Ashraf Effendi addressed a massive gathering in Islamabad district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the scholar who originally hails from Turkey visited the Jamia Masjid in the district and hailed the steadfastness of the Kashmiris.

People, including children and women in massive numbers reached the historic mosque where Sheikh Effendi offered the congreAddressing the huge gathering, Sheikh Effendi emphasized that now was the time for Muslims worldwide to move past personal interests and come together as a community, as this need had become more

undergoing misery and un-

urgent than ever.

He said, "Muslims often raise their hands praying for cars, dollars and big houses, when misery and pain has gripped Muslims all over". He said Muslims must organize prayers for the entire community because whether in Gaza or anywhere else, Muslims are



ISLAMABAD: A view of low water level of Rawal Dam after the heavy rains in Federal Capital.

11 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police apprehended 11 outlaws including two professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a public relations officer

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the Tarnol police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Imran and recovered one 9mm pistol from his possession. The Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Rasheed and recovered 60 liters of liquor from his tigation is underway.

possession

Likewise, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Ahmed Sattar and recovered 530 gram hashish from his possession. The Khanna police team arrested two accused namely Muhammad Bilal and Saijad Khan and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their pos-

session Similarly, the Humak police team arrested an accused Fazal Ghafoor and recovered one dagger from his possession. The Shahzad Town police team arrested an accused namely Dawood and recovered 10 liters of liquor from his possession. The Bani Gala police team arrested an accused namely Sharafat and

> tol from his possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further inves-

recovered one 30 bore pis-

women's empowerment conference

WHO director general Tedros Adhanom

The gathering will serve as a vibrant forum, which will bring together distinguished figures from government, international

In a celebration of youthful ambition and creativity, students from women's colleges in the twin cities will partake in various competitions, while young female entrepreneurs

cantly impacted socio-eco-

also shed light on the na-

The National

It stands as a beacon

Special Traffic education, enforcement campaign in full swing in Capital citizens. While various

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police took prompt action against underage motorcyclists and drivers and imposed fines on them under the campaign of Special Traffic education and en-

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

forcement.

is underway against underage bikers, those involved in rash driving and violating traffic rules. Under the supervision of chief traffic officer Islamabad, zonal DSP's are ensuring strict action against those violating traffic rules.

Islamabad capital police already formed special squads to set up special

teams of the education wing are spreading awareness about road safety rules among the road users. Following the efforts

of these measures, several underage motorcyclists and traffic rules violators were fined, while unregistered bikes were also impounded at different police stations. Parents are also re-



Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police launched a special traffic education and enforcement campaign in order to solve the traffic related problems faced by the citizens on roads, a public relations officer said.

Islamabad in order to take strict legal action against underage drivers and other traffic rules violators.

Pamphlets and leaflets are being distributed to He said that, campaign create awareness among

ways and squares of sponsibility, while also abiding by the law and forbidding the minor children to drive a car or motorbike. He added that the purpose of such a campaign was aimed to protect the precious lives of citizens.

Unhygienic

conditions:

IFA seals 1

outlet, serves

notices

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Islamabad Food Au-

thority (IFA) has conducted

an operation in the G-13

area of Islamabad in a pro-

active move to ensure pub-

Deputy Director of the

Food Authority, Ms.

Tahira, highlighted the sig-

nificance of such inspec-

tions in maintaining food

safety standards and pro-

tecting consumer well-be-

ing. She said that during the

operation, one outlet was

sealed due to unhygienic

conditions, while fines of

Rs 60,000 were imposed

on three other outlets fail-

ing to meet safety stan-

dards. Additionally, no-

tices were issued to 14 out-

lets for selling gutka, a

harmful and banned sub-

Talking to APP,

lic health and safety.

Motorway M-2 from Bilaspur to Lilla closed for traffic

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Motorway M-2, from Bilaspur to Lilla has been closed for all traffic due to heavy fog.

However Motorway M2, from Islamabad to Kot Momin has been opened for all types of traffic due to reduction in the intensity

of fog.

The purpose of closing motorway was to prevent accidents and protect the lives and property of the travelers, the National

Highway and Motorway

Police (NHMP) spokesperson said on Saturday. He requested the citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during foggy hours. He also requested the travelers to complete their journey in daylight and reach destination before the onset of fog and use fog lights slippery road but no one in vehicles, avoid speeding was injured.

and keep proper distance from the next vehicle more than usual. Travelers can also get information from the NHMP Helpline 130 before starting the journey,

Apart from this, latest information can also be obtained from the official social media account of the

bus and car at Kallar Kahar. The car caught fire after the

However

However, five to six

Meanwhile an accident occurred between a

accident. Motorway police reached the spot in time and started

rescue operations. There was no loss of life in the accident, he said. vehicles coming from behind collided slightly due to

Illustrious Kashmiri politician Majeed Mallick remembered on his 2nd death anniversary

Veteran Kashmiri politician and jurist, Chief Justice (Retd) of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) High Court, late Justice Abdul Majeed Mallick, was paid rich tributes on on Saturday in connection to his 2nd death anniversary.

His death anniversary was observed with due solemnity and reverence in acknowledgment of his lifetime meritorious services in different capacities as a judge, politician, intellectual, and lawyer for over 75 years of his vibrant life.

mation, AJK government (retired), Arshad Majeed Mallick, Advocate, and Shahid Majeed Mallick, renowned politician, in his

Supreme Court's retired Chief Justice Muhammad Azam Khan, US-based renowned jurist Lateef Dutt Advocate, PPP (Shaheed The major ceremony Bhutto) AJK Chapter

Ch. Advocate, Abdul Raoof, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, former Jammu Kashmir Liberation League Secretary General Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, senior Kashmiri journalist analyst Altaf Hamid Rao, renowned Kashmiri academician Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed, a large number of lawyers from various parts of AJK, local senior journalists, and the rest of the city elite representing all segments of society attended the ceremony and

President Munir Hussain

Azad Jammu Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): to mark his 2nd death anniversary was hosted under the auspices of his bereaved family, including his sons, Shoukat Majeed Mallick, Secretary Infor-

native town of Mirpur,

offered fateha for the departed soul.

and other literary publicapolice launched rescue opto Lillah, disrupting travel tions and organizations. eration, he added plans for commuters. ISLAMABAD: A view of clouds hovering over the Margalla Hills during rain

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Sunday March 03, 2024

Urgent challenge

Pakistan has been in a state of deep economic turmoil featuring a balance-of-payments crisis, high fiscal deficit, elevated inflation, unsustainable debt, low investments and a shrinking economy in recent years.

The reasons for the current mula milk, health concerns upheaval range from defective both mothers and children, fiscal and economic policies, and the global energy and commodity price spiral post-Covid, to the destructive floods of 2022. The political instability, ongoing since the 2022 ouster of the surprise considering that PTI, has only aggravated the the speeches were from economic tumult, with the have had a deep understandcountry narrowly dodging a default last summer after being thrown an emergency lifeline by the IMF.

This picture underscores the huge challenge that awaits the incoming minority government of the PML-N and its finance minister whosoever it might be.

It was also acknowledged by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif when he warned his party's elected lawmakers earlier this week that the next two years would be challenging for the new administration due to economic and political uncertainty.

There is consensus that negotiating a new extended who later dumped him? programme with the IMF — and quickly — to replace the existing interim facility will be the should be troubled by much incoming finance minister's most urgent challenge. The successor IMF bailout is critical for external sector stability and to unlock loans from other a power grab and a horse race followed by horse creditors at one of the tough- trade, est points in Pakistan's history. | peared on TV their language

Without an extended package from the global lender, it was crude, aggressive, and ad hominem. None spoke of plans for improving their would be near impossible to fill community or country—and means of implementathe huge annual financing gap ition. Past experience shows the huge annual financing gap it in Past experience shows the huge annual financing gap it in Past experience shows the huge annual financing gap it is included the financi of at least \$25bn over the next several years.

The IMF will likely extend help but not unless the authorities commit to further belttightening steps needed for the place in the built environcountry to stay on the path to recovery. The programme goals might prove extremely unpopular because they would limit the crease in population, migragovernment's options to provide relief to the inflation-stricken nomic development, and people, or even please the in- the alterations in the famvestors looking for support to support to factors responsible for

One of the toughest goals for the finance minister pertains to difficult without a deep a large reduction in the fiscal of such changes.

Unlike the 1980s and 7.3pc over the last five years. earlier, multi-storeyed dwellings are now a com-The fiscal authorities must re- mon sight in almost all lowduce the deficit to 3-3.5pc in the medium term to cut borrowings and the mounting debt, and reduce inflation to 5-7pc to facilitate rate cuts to spur investment and growth for job | bedrooms. One room creation.

This is going to be the hardest of all reforms as it would rooms by elderly patents and children. They would require the finance minister to effectively tax his party's core constituencies: retail, real estate and large farmers, as well the construction of addias do away with the wasteful tional storeys. To earn a expenditure on public sector stable income, many retirees started renting out businesses like PIA and elimi- a floor, again leading to an nate energy and other subsidies to powerful business lob-

These are also areas wherein lie the interests of the powers that be. If the country is to be pulled back from the brink, the to prioritise economic decisions of houses in a neighbourhood was limited and residents. over political considerations each other well. Lifestyles and personal whims.

Mother's milk, mother's choice

Navaira Ali Bangash

Last month, the Senate approved the 'Islamabad Capital Territory Protection of Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Bill, 2023' that aims to discourage the use of breast milk substitutes.

Back in November, there had been heated speeches on the floor of the Upper House regarding the import and sale of breast milk substitutes in the country. A debate that should have stayed on course regarding the quality and standards of forquickly veered off in another direction, criticising women for their choices.

The debate and subsequent legislation does not reflect the complexity of these choices or the exercise itself, which is not a lawmakers who may not ing of the subject they were

There is absolutely no doubt about the health and nutritional benefits of breast milk. Formula milk

is always considered secondary to mother's milk, and it is stressed by all from the World Health Organisation to healthcare practitioners — that mother's milk is the best source of nutrition for in-

But with weak governance and external influences, lately a pattern of hyper-regulation and policymaking seems to be emerging in Pakistan that is mostly theoretical and does not factor in the ground realities of rural and urban women of child-bearing age. Legislation, such as the recent bill approved by the Senate, are often titled to reflect a specific cause, but the fine print lacks a holistic coherence. This law is similar to the one that was passed in Sindh last year.

effective policymaking requires a balanced approach that combines theoretical foundations with practical considerations, and as lawmakers in Pakistan initiate the discussion on regulating breast milk substitutes, they need to have a sound understanding of the health perspective as well as the country's sociocultural and socioeconomic fabric.

More often than not,

My mother, who is in her late 70s, and hails from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, once told me that back in her village, women worked in the fields and orchards from dawn till dusk. It was very difficult for new mothers to tend to their infants. Seven to eight decades ago, when medical science wasn't as advanced as it is today, rural women in those regions — out of sheer ignorance and lack of knowledge — would sometimes resort to giving a mild dose of an opium extract, which was commonly available, to their crying babies so that they themselves could work in the farms without interruption. In some cases, this would result in the infant's death. While there is no way of confirming how widespread this practice was, it clearly shows that it wasn't

Coming to urban settings, it is ironic that the modern healthcare sector itself does not provide a conducive environment for new mothers working in this area to be able to easily

easy for even rural women

to feed their children, as

they were active members

of the workforce. The cur-

rent times are not very dif-

breastfeed their infants. These mothers have long working hours that can extend to up to 18 hours. Moreover, in other professions, especially those in the private sector, only large-scale organisations are able to provide a relaxed environment for nursing mothers, while women working in factories, are rarely provided a setting where they can easily breastfeed their infants. There is a lot that needs to be done to promote the practice, and countries such as the US and Canada are still evaluating how to effectively encourage it. Research published in

the International Journal for Equity in Health in 2021 — 'Breastfeeding at the Workplace' by Mireya Vilar-Compte — cites the link between maternal employment and breastfeeding rates and how workplace interventions are needed to promote, protect and support breastfeeding prac-tices. In developed countries, which are much ahead of Pakistan in terms of implementing such prac-tices, researchers define 'breastfeeding intent', ini-t-iation, exclusivity and duration and percei-ved

support at workplaces as factors crucial to promo-ting the practice. However, legislation in our part of the world is completely bereft of ideas that present a wider context. Instead, it resorts to shortterm measures that bar the availability of alternatives and prevent women from making a choice. This eventually makes

it a pro-choice matter as well as an issue of health. In addition to facing postpartum depression and various other post-childbirth difficulties, new mothers confront misunderstanding and pressure from family members. Meanwhile, they are not always able to produce breastmilk, apart from the fact that a considerable number of them are undernourished and do not have an adequate diet.

Pakistan's National Nutrition Survey, 2018 says that macro and micronutrient deficiencies are alarming in women of reproductive age. The survey found that 14.4 per cent of this demographic were underweight, with a high prevalence of anaemia (41.7pc) and vitamin A de-

These numbers point Dawn

towards high micronutrient deficiency among women in the reproductive age bracket, and highlight the overall issue of malnutrition among mothers and children. These statistics have also culminated in Unicef's Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy, 2022-27, that devises a complete framework for tackling this issue. Progress, though, has yet to be seen

In view of these realities, it appears contradictory that lawmakers, while being aware breastfeeding constraints, are approving legislation that bars women from opting for universally accepted healthy substitutes that suit their personal, professional and physical needs when access to nursing their child is restrained. One could argue that the overall state of malnutrition in the country is a result of poor nutritional practices in the early stages of life and hence counselling is needed in this domain for young mothers to promote breastfeeding. But it is also important to factor in a woman's choice and ensure that laws do not hinder her from exercising her right. -- Courtesy

Khan's resuri

Pervez Hoodbhoy

Liberal commentators, once maligned by Imran Khan as "liberal scum" and "bloody liberals", have nevertheless been fair-minded and have rightly criticised the Feb 8 elections as heavily man-

They are part of a growing chorus alleging un-fair exclusion of Khan and his PTI. True enough, but so what? Wasn't that heavy management equally evident in the 2018 elections when Khan rode to power on the coattails of those

Of course, two wrongs cannot make a right. However, thoughtful people else, not just the travails of some politician or his party. Most particularly, they should be appalled that, instead of strengthening democracy, Feb 8 was simply

When candidates ap-

that many who become parliamentarians seek only to exponentially increase their wealth and power.

In the election run-up, the PML-N, PTI, PPP and other rivals behaved as wolf packs, not political parties. Lacking defined agendas, they reluctantly trotted out half-baked election manifestos hurriedly slapped together just days earlier. Without details or implementation schemes, these manifestos are worthless. Personality contests,

sectarian and tribal affiliations, and bribes were all that mattered. No party offered insight into preventing the impending apocalypse of an imploding economy, exploding population, and resentments in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. How is one to deal with desperate youth with university degrees but no skills? Seething religious fanaticism intertwined with misogyny? Disappearing trust in key institutions including the judiciary, bureaucracy, police and army?

Inadvertently Feb 8 transformed PTI's jailed leader into Pakistan's most popular politician. The iddat case: what a joke!

tactics earned Khan widespread sympathy. In 2018, the establishment worked hard to make him a hero; this time it did that by vilifying him.

The future: we have recently seen convicted felons and politicians whitewashed and cleared. Given this precedent one knows Khan's release will come within months or years. He will be declared innocent of crimes that he did not commit but also of those that he did. When he claws his way back to the top, a dark age will descend on Pakistan. Several signs point to

this dismal outcome. Let us recall the reign of Emperor Khan from August 2018 to April 2022. Surrounded by bootlickers - many of whom deserted him after May 9, 2023 — Khan filled key positions with sycophants This included appointing a nincompoop as Punjab's chief minister, making a rank opportunist his closest confidante, choosing a crony general to head the ISI, and dismissing the HEC chairman on flimsy grounds.

While Khan ruled, religiously inspired terrorists felt strongly emboldened. Accommodating TTP fight-

ghanistan, he invited them back to resettle in North Waziristan. A decade earlier, directly after the 2013 suicide attack on the All Saints Church in Peshawar, he had requested TTP to open offices inside Pakistan for holding peace talks. A year later TTP massacred 141 children and teachers inside the Army Public School in Peshawar. Khan was booed by grieving parents as he tried to visit. 'U-turn Khan' earned his unflattering nickname after breaking approximately 130 promises

in less than four years. As just one example, weeks after publicly declaring Pakistan would never seek an IMF loan, Khan sent his financial managers to Washington to ask for one. When reminded he blustered that reneging on earlier promises is a "hallmark of great leadership". For those who follow a Pied Piper through narrow twisted streets this may not matter but people who value consistency and truth were

unconvinced.Khan's tenure saw enactment of the draconian Peca law (now being used to suppress PTI itself), a decrease in Pakistan's ranking on the World Press Freedom Index, and a worsening of

Pakis-tan's ranking on Transparency International's corruption perception index. As the Toshakhana and Al Qadir cases show, Mr Clean was no cleaner than the chor politicians he viciously attacked for having pocketed public monies.

The negative impact of the SNC (Single National Curriculum) is possibly Khan's greatest disservice to Pakistan. For the first time public and private schools — all except those for the super-elite — were yoked to the madressah curriculum. The classless education he promised remains a mirage but education standards plummeted. The upcoming generation is being stuffed with religious materials but knows no

blinded followers, as well as those who see the United States as the incarnation of evil, Khan's ouster was an American conspiracy. At a public rally on March 2022, he waved a 'secret' docuiron-clad proof of America calling for his eviction. But broadening the net of con-

spirators to include 'Super-

King' Bajwa (whose tenure had been extended), Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, and Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Referring to the PTI's electoral victory Mani Shankar Aiyar, a wellknown political commentator from India known for Pakistan-friendly views, excitedly declared: "February 8, 2024, will be chalked up as the historic day on which the people of Pakistan defeated their army. Given that the establishment indeed sought to vanquish Khan, is this really true? He and the army are, to quote him, "on the same page". His differences remain personal — some generals are for him, others against. Only animals, he famously declared, can be neutral.

An election fulfils its In the minds of his purpose when it helps establish a representative government; enhances ability to deal with issues such as employment and allocation of resources; and brings forth individuals committed to the rule of law, decency ment that supposedly was and public service. Imran Khan's re-emergence stands in stark contrast to these weeks later, he absolved America of blame while ideals, suggesting political maturity remains a distant goal for Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Understanding change

Mansoor Raza

The changes that are taking ment of Karachi's low- and m i d d l e - i n c o m e neighbourhoods are hard to ignore by those vested in urban planning. The intion, and urbanisation, the rise of the middle class, ecoily structure are some of the these changes. For Sindh's new political set-up, gov-ernance in Karachi will be

earlier, multi-storeyed middle-income neighbourhoods of Karachi. Lyari, Liaquatabad, F.B. Area, North Nazimabad and Gulshan-i-Iqbal are examples. Earlier, in such neighbourhoods, a house comprised two or three would be occupied by parents or married couples, and the other rooms by elderly parents share a common toilet and bath. With children getting married, the requirement of the rooms increased and resulted in increase in the number of floors. Then there is the ship neighbourhood, with rundown houses being purchased cheaply, razed and then reconstructed with multiple floors — each floor sold separately and

sub-leased. Earlier, the number were simple and residents

neighbourhood. The are fast converting resineighbourhood was justifiably called a mohallah, and mohalladari integrated the social life of residents. The bringing up of children was the entire neighbourhood's de facto responsibility. They kept a check on all children, discouraging them from harmful habits like smoking or delivering a lost shoe to the owner's house. All this was routine. To share crockery, spices, chairs and charpoys, particularly on special occasions, was nothing unusual. In fact, it was quite the norm. But change was in-

of education resulted in better-paying jobs, and the desire for a better lifestyle led children to move out of their parents' neighbourhoods. The second ge-n-e-r-a-tion of residents in North Nazimabad and F.B. Area moved to Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Bahadurabad, PECHS and even to areas like DHA. Their upward social movement left a gap that was filled by the upward social movement of residents of Orangi Town, Martin and Jamshed Quarters and Old Golimar, for instance. The integration of certain venues. Gone the newcomers with the were the socialisation, old residents was not that quick and often the newcomers were looked down upon by the old residents as 'upstarts'. With this social movement, gone are examples of such are the notions of owner-'developer's capture' of a neighbourhood, socialisation and the co-

> Mismanaging rainwater and urban flooding neighbourhoods, such as marooned spaces, and private residential spaces gave way to strangers-ridden commercial spaces. Old residents have unwillingly sold their prop-

hesion of neighbours.

godowns, schools, offices, guest houses and private hospitals. This internal displacement is grossly undocumented and needs a robust analy-

Some 40 years ago,

the neighbourhood streets

were the grounds where

children played hockey and cricket, and the venue for post-dinner strolls by the elderly. Though technology has its share in the changed utility of neighbourhood streets, it all began with growing security challenges, including crime and vioevitable. Increased levels lence. As a result, the dwellers found themselves restricted to their homes, and the streets were increasingly used for parking vehicles by the residents of the densifying neighbourhood. In fact, the lack of parking space is sometimes a source of violent conflict amongst neighbours.

With such changes taking place in the built environment, traditional places of socialisation were also eliminated. The chabootra outside the house was deserted, the chowk metamorphosed and ruffians took over political debates and the games of cards and chess. Paposh Nagar, North Nazimabad and New Karachi neighbourhoods transformation of spaces.

The changing nature of neighbourhoods in Karachi is shaping urban development in the city. It impacts the social life of the city's residents. To transformed various make Karachi more livable, equitable, sustain-Block 6 of PECHS, into able, and conducive to the well-being of all its residents, understanding the dynamics of these and many other changes is crucial for urban planners and policymakers. their erty to developers, who Courtesy Dawn

Neglected region

Sajjad Ahmad

After weeks of peaceful

protests and sit-ins across Gilgit-Baltistan, two major de-m-ands of the demonstrators were finally accepted. The Pakistan government reluct-antly restored the wheat subsidy and suspe-nded the infamous Finance Act, 2023. The flour bag price, increased twice in the past two years, was brought down to pre-2022 lev--els. Various fees, levies, and taxes — though small in amount at least initially introduced in the Finance Act in some sec-tors, were also withheld. The GB chief mi-n-ister's office issued a notification to wit-h--d-raw the taxes to provide relief to the public.

Since the 1970s, GB has been enjoying a wheat subsidy and relief in direct, though not indirect, taxes due to its disputed constitutional status, poverty, and underdevelopment. For over a decade, attempts by successive governments to wheat subsidy, or acquire land have met with public resistance.

Periodically, GB has been embroiled in days of protests and strikes but recent demonstrations were unprecedented for two reasons. First, these protests were the longest in the region's history. People braved the harsh weather and continued their sit-ins for more than a month until their demands were accepted. Second, the Awami Action Committee — an alliance of political, religious and traders' unions — which led the protests, had a 15point demand list, including reduced wheat prices and the suspension of the Finance Act. The AAC asked for land ownership rights for the people, a share for GB in the NFC Award, royalties for GB for the Diamer-Basha

dam, an end to prolonged

power outages, etc. Although the protests have ended for now, after the acceptance of the first two demands, leaders, and civil rights activists, through their speeches, seem to have educated many people about the chronic issues of GB.

In GB's context, it is difficult to accept the remaining demands unless there is a maj-or policy shift on the region on the part of the federal government. However, there is significant pressure on the newly elected dispensation to take GB's political and economic matters seriously. Lack of necessities such as health, electricity, transport, and communication has added to the people's hardships. No serious attempt has ever been made by any government to imp-rove the health infrastructure in the reg-ion. The shortage doctors, critical mach-inery, medical labs, hospitals has re-s-ulted in several either impose taxes, cut the deaths. Stories periodically surface on social media, if not mainst-ream media, about the suffering of patients due to the absence of medical staff and facilities. On top of that, long power outages often

and disrupt hospital functions. The absence of electricity for more than 20 hours every day has made people's lives miserable. The ongoing severe energy crisis is the result of a lack of interest on the part of successive governments to tap the potential of power generation as well as the lack of accountability, and flawed planning and management. One key example is the Satpara dam in Skardu which has faced frequent technical problems and is now experiencing a critical water shortage. An arrangement to divert water into the dam did not materialise. Hence, with the gradual decline in snowfall, arguably due to

climate change, there is not enough water to generate sufficient electricity for the town. Work on two more small dam projects was halted due to a shortage of funds and poor planning.

The commute of the population from GB to down country' — as the locals say — is ge-t-ting riskier. Frequent landslides disr-upt traffic on the Karakoram Highway. The situation of the Skardu-Juglot road, upgraded amid much fanfare, is even more precarious. Cont-inu-ous landslides have damaged the road at several points and have restricted the mobility of the people.

On the political front, the AAC had announced the resu-mption of protests this month for the rem-aining demands. The opinion over GB's disputed status seems to be divided, as political and religious lea-ders call for a constitutional amendment for GB's provincial sta-tus, while activists with more nationalist inclinations demand self-rule in their local affairs as per UN res-olutions or at least an Azad Kashmir-type set-up. The latter, however, is hardly autonomous due to the centre's interference. The new government will have to take up challenging tasks for the betterment of GB. Pakistan, which is already passing thr-ough grave economic and political crises, cannot afford another problem. The ha-bit of lingering on issues that require urgent attention needs to end. Time is of the essence in the resolution of pending iss-ues and urgent practical steps are needed. The only way for the government to upgrade the region, satisfy the population and build trust among the public is to display its commitment and seriousness this time.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Maryam Nawaz prioritizes healthcare overhaul in Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief the importance of public Minister Maryam Nawaz has emphasised her health government's commitment to providing top-notch healthcare facilities to people.

Chairing session here on Saturday, focused restructuring the health system and outlined plans for a robust five-year strategy aimed at upgrading the health department and enhancing services at rural health centres (RHCs) and dispensaries.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the announcement of a specialised hospital dedicated to offering advanced cancer treatment

patients. Maryam stressed awareness campaigns and screenings, particularly targeting maternal and child health at the basic health unit (BHU) level.

Approving phased comprehensive three-hour reforms and stringent oversight measures, she mandated the availability of doctors, paramedical staff, medicines, and essential medical equipment in all provincial hospitals. To ensure transparency, she ordered for formation of a health council comprising government officials, healthcare professionals, and public

representatives. The CM emphasised standardising

functionality of BHUs and RHCs and ordered for immediate provision of free medicines to patients. Plans were set in motion in the meeting to deploy mobile health units to rural areas and suburban communities, with a pilot project slated to kick off in Lahore.

Maryam underscored her commitment to meritbased appointments to the management of public sector hospitals, vowing tolerance for corruption and nepotism. The meeting, attended by key officials including Secretary Health Ali Jan and former senator Pervez Rasheed, reflected a concerted effort to revamp Punjab's healthcare landscape for betterment of

CM takes notice

of kite-flying,

string injuries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz Saturday took

notice of incidents of kite-

flying and string injuries in

different cities of Punjab

including Sheikhupura,

Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Faisalabad.

She sought reports from IGP Punjab, and

district administrations of

the cities concerned why

kite-flying was going on

despite a ban.

The CM also appealed to citizens to

respect human lives, as

right to life and property

of people could not be sacrificed to their right to

the injured and prayed for

One killed

by outlaws

in Shikarpur

By Adeel Ahmed SHIKARPUR: The Law

and order situation of

District Shikarpur could

not be improved which

caused one more innocent

was gunned down by the

outlaws in the jurisdiction

of Amrot Police Station on

Friday night. According to

reports reached here that

Zafarullah Khan Lakho was

on his way from Madeji to

his home district on his

vehicle when some group

of armed men blocked the

main road while keeping

bushes/gross on road for

looting the vehicles and

when he tried to gear up his

vehicle, than the outlaws

7 dead, 1230

injured in 1179

road accidents

in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least

seven persons were killed

and 1,230 injured in 1,179

road accidents in all 37

opened fires upon him.

entertainment.

their quick recovery.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with high-level delegation comprising esteemed American academics and faculty members of Kinnaird College, led by Principal Kinnaird College, Professor Dr. Rukhsana David at Governor House.

Punjab CM believes in practical measures, not hollow slogans: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan recent incidents taking Muslim League leader Azma Bukhari said on Saturday that Puniab Chief was focusing on each and every problem whether it ensuring haut ensuring had given approval setting up an authority, which would keep a check Minister Maryam Nawaz cleanliness, eradicating violence against women or any other issue.

Addressing a press conference at PML-N Secretariat here, she said the passion to deliver could be seen clearly in department and entire to kite string accidents, acid

place in Ichhra, Kasur and Sargodha had been arrested. The PML-N leader

said that Maryam Nawaz so that hoarding of essential items could be stopped. She said that under 'Ramazan Nigehban Package', packets of essential items would be delivered at doorsteps of almost 30 million deserving working of every people. She said in addition to this, Ramazan machinery of Punjab. She hampers, 'Sasta Ramazan said the Punjab CM was bazaars' would also be set said the Punjab CM was showing zero tolerance up. Azma Bukhari said towards incidents related that Sasta bazaars would be set up in all districts of throwing, violence against Punjab and essential items domestic workers, adding would be available on that accused involved in subsidised rates there.



BAHWALPUR: Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr ehtasham Anwar is digging during inauguration ceremony of discover 7 thousand years old city Ganweriwala, Cholistan area. As Ganweriwala, is an archaeological site in the Cholistan Desert of southern Punjab.

Caretaker HR minister visits CPO Lahore

(APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George visited Central Police Office (CPO) here on Saturday and met IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar.

Security issues including protection of rights of minorities in Punjab were discussed. Pastor Imran Afzal, Shaukat Ashiq, Kaleem Younis, Ghulam Rasool and others were included in the delegation.

caretaker minister said Punjab is the safest province for minorities. He appreciated

welfare initiatives of the Punjab Police, including establishment of Meesag Centres for protection of rights of minorities. The IGP said that the Punjab Police were providing full security to all sacred programmes of minorities and religious places. More

districts of Punjab during than 40,000 minority the last 24 hours.Out of citizens had been provided these, 548 people with services since the establishment of Police serious injuries were shifted to different Meesaq Centres, he added hospitals, while 682 He said that after the victims with minor injuries Jaranwala invident, the were treated at the incident Punjab Police played a site by Rescue Medical leadership role in promoting Teams thus reducing the inter-faith harmony. burden of hospitals.



RAWALPINDI: A view of massive traffic jams at Murree road due to PT workers protest in favor of their demands at Liaqat Bagh chowk during heavy rain in the city.

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz presides over the meeting regarding reforms in Health System.

Food prices to be controlled in Ramadan: Gandapur

PESHAWAR (APP): After becoming Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur issued his first order to ensure that food items would be available and affordable during the holy month of Ramadan.

All commissioners and deputy commissioners check food and adulteration have been ordered to and the focus should be on strictly follow the inspection of shops selling instructions. Department of Interior and Tribal Affairs, Khyber He also issued Pakhtunkhwa has sent a detailed letter to the Deputy Commissioners to

ensure the availability of quality essential food items.

CM directed the officials to conduct regular system by March 8 or inspections in the market action would be taken officials to conduct regular and arrest violators. The

directive to convene the meeting of District Price Review Committees on

The fixed prices should be released on official social media platforms, FM radios, Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Ghandpur had directed.

He has instructed that all out-of-order machinery should be activated to

He also issued instructions to set up special checkposts to prevent hoarding, black marketing and smuggling.

He issued orders to fully activate the price control and complaint against all those officials who commit negligence in their duties.

In his orders, the CM



PESHAWAR: Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, Engineer Amir Maqam along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

1st phase of Safe City Project to be completed before May 31: RPO

FAISALABAD (APP): The first phase of Faisalabad Safe City Project (FSCP) would be completed before May 31, starting online monitoring of eight bazaars, Iqbal Park and other important commercial centers of the city, said Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan, Regional Police Officer (RPO).

Addressing business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that in the next phase the industrial belt of Khurarianwala, one car rider identified as FIEDMC, Jaranwala and Sammundri roads would be included in the project in addition to the adjoining areas of motorways.

He said that earlier monitoring cameras were installed under CPLC and police vision but these proved unsustainable. When he took over charge

cameras were lying unfunctional. He made them functional, RPO said, adding that when caretaker Chief Minister and IG Police Punjab visited Faisalabad after the incident of May 09, he briefed them on this minimal structure of safe city. He said that the CM instantly announced a safe city project for three cities including Faisalabad with an estimated cost of Rs.100bln.

He said that the cost FSCP was around Rs.4bln but he used indigenous technology and started work on it with only Rs.140-150 million.

He said that there was a grey structure for the proposed site of FSCF which was completed within a record period of 45 days. "Under this project latest and hi-tech cameras are being installed



HYDERABAD: Workers of Progressive Students Federation hold a protest rally in the favor of their demands.

Commissioner monitors city's cleanup operations

Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa initiated a citywide tour to evaluate the efficiency of cleanliness and garbage removal operations in various areas. The commissioner,

Commissioner Rafia Haider, Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Chief Executive Officer Babar Sahibdin, Water and Sanitation (WASA) Agency Managing Director Ghufran Ahmad, visited Shadman, Chowburji, temporary dumpin Gulberg, and Bhatti Gate through plantation.

accompanied by Deputy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore localities, overseeing the drainage desilting operations conducted by

> The commissioner directed that the city's cleanliness operations should be completed early in the morning before school hours. commissioner emphasised that besides cleanliness operations, various other operations such as washing, etc., should be completed during nighttime. Commissioner Randhawa instructions to beautify temporary dumping sites

provided all food items on control rates and the rates issued by the respective district administration. He said stern action would be taken against all those who violate the rates of food items during the month of

The newly elected Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Saturday expressed grief over the loss of precious human lives due to rains and snowfall in various districts of the province.
The Chief Minister

Ramadan.

expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the affected families and prayed for patience for the families of died and iniured.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also expressed well wishes for the speedy recovery for the injured.

Four died in Swat due to roof collapsed

SWAT (APP): Four members of a family were killed and three were injured when the roof of a house collapsed in Tehsil Matta here Saturday.

According to details, due to the heavy rainfall in the district, the roof of a house collapsed in the Union Council Baha Chatikal area of Tehsil Matta, in which all 13 members of a family were trapped inside. The bodies of four people were removed from the spot, while two people were pulled out of the debris in

Punjab Governor says: US coop. in development of the education sector like

other sectors commendable **Independent Report** LAHORE: A high-level delegation comprising esteemed American academics and faculty members of Kinnaird College, led by Principal Kinnaird College, Professor Dr. Rukhsana David, met Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on fostering cooperation, research and innovation in

exchange program. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the promotion of higher education and research is

the field of education

under the Pakistan-US

attention should be given to research. Governor Punjab said that US cooperation in the development of the education sector like other sectors is commendable. Governor Punjab further said that the Pakistani government appreciates the US cooperation in providing higher education opportunities to Pakistani students through various scholarships and exchange programmes including

Fulbright. He said that exchanges in the education sector under the US exchange programme will strengthen people to people contacts between the two countries. Governor Punjab further said that Kinnaird College key to development, he is a prestigious, historic said and added that special educational institution.

Gilani optimistic about political, economic stability

Peoples Parliamentary leader in the Punjab Assembly, Ali Haider Gilani expressed confidence in the nation's trajectory towards political

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Gilani emphasized the positive impact of the newly formed government both at the federal and provincial levels, asserting that these developments would pave the way for enhanced political cohesion.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan economic indicators, Gilani attributed the positive trends to the proactive policies implemented by the coalition government. He specifically pointed to the recent uptick in the stock exchange index as a promising sign towards economic achieving stability.

In addition, Gilani applauded establishment of a committee by Asif Zardari aimed at fostering closer collaboration between the central government and



HYDERABAD: Children and women getting off the bus on reaching Hyderabad during the drive to bring missing children and women to their homes received by Edhi Centers. During the campaign, 53 people will be transported to their homes.

KPAssembly session summoned on March 4

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly session has been summoned on March 4, at

The Governor in exercise of his power conferred by clause (a) of the Article 109 of the Constitution of Pakistan has summoned the session of the provincial assembly, said a notification issued

Boy killed, 10 passengers injured in road accidents

here on Saturday.

FAISALABAD (APP): One minor boy was killed while 10 passengers including two women sustained multiple injuries in two road accidents in Faisalabad on Saturday. Rescue

spokesman said that a speeding car, running on the wrong side on a oneway road, hit a motorcycle near Chak No.119-GB on Jaranwala Road. As a result, 5-year-old Muhammad Ibrahim of Chak No.128-GB, Bashir Colony, received serious injuries and died on-thespot, while Rescue-1122 shifted his father Basharat Rafiq (36) and mother Yasmeen (32) to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Jaranwala.

May 9 tragedy Rai Hasan Nawaz and Murtaza Iqbal granted pre-arrest bail

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge of Anti-Terrorism Special Court No. 1 Rawalpindi, Malik Ijaz the Asif has granted pre-arrest officers. And the records bail to Former Member of of the cases also sought National Assembly Rai Hassan Nawaz and former Member of Provincial Assembly Rai Murtaza Iqbal, wanted in 14 separate cases of violent protests on May 9,

private properties arson and attacks on police targeted on the basis of attack on GHQ.

on March 15 the next Rai Hasan Nawaz and Murtaza Iqbal, in their pre-arrest bail application filed yesterday, stated that

the petitioners have government and nothing to do with these cases and they are being officers, including the their association with Pakistan Tehreek Insaf.

While approving the

investigating

pre-arrest bail, notices

have also been issued to

Artists play leading role in promoting culture; Saqib

RAWALPINDI (APP): Competition under the President Management Board of Punjab Arts Council (PAC) Saqib Rafique on Saturday said that actors are the assets of the country and play leading roles in promoting the country's culture.

He said this while distributing the prizes among the first, second and third winning teams on the occasion of the theater competition of the Rawalpindi Division at the first Punjab Theater the Punjab government.

auspices of the Department of Information and Culture, Punjab. Saqib said that artists also provided entertainment to the people and were the soft image of the country. Deputy Director

PAC Muhammad Shakoor on the occasion said that divisional and provincial competitions of the first Punjab Theater Talent Hunt was an important achievement of

Malaysian Consul General says: Around 10,000 Pakistani products included in free trade agreement

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistani and Malaysia Consul General of however but in absence of Malavsia in Pakistan, governmental Herman Hardynata Bain Ahmad has said that students had limited around 10,000 Pakistani academic opportunities in products were included in

Industry (HCCI) on have immense tourism

were signed between

agreements Pakistani academic opportunities in Malaysia.

free trade agreement whereas Malaysia has 6000 products.

He expressed these views while addressing the members of Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Lindustry (HCCI) on have immense tourism. potential and have ideal He said that a opportunities there. He delegation of Malaysian was surprised to note that traders and businessmen despite having rich would visit Hyderabad coastline in Karachi soon. He informed that required attention was although 45 memorandum given to it for tourism of understanding (MoU) purposes. He said that he were signed between would talk to Malaysian

government for increasing import of Pakistani rice. He further said that Pakistani exporters could use Malaysian ports for trade purposes for other countries as transit facility.

Earlier, HCČI President Adeel Siddiqui welcomed the guest and said that the two countries have friendly ties. He said that Hyderabad has great potential for joint ventures between Malaysia and Pakistani governments in hotel, health and education sectors. He stated Pakistani government was offering all sorts of guarantees. He added that there was big gap between Malaysian and Pakistani trade balance.

Gold price

increases

once again

LAHORE (APP): Or

Saturday, the gold market

in Pakistan witnessed an

increase of Rs3500 per

tola, resulting in higher gold

prices across the board.

The cost of 24-karat gold

reached Rs.2 20, 300 per

with an increase of Rs3001

which is now trading at

Pakistan Sarafa Gems and

Jewellers Association

gold rates are closely tied

to changes in the value of

demonstrating the intricate

relationship between

currency values and gold

prices. This connection

highlights the impact of

global economic factors on

local gold markets, it said.

Rain to have salutary impact

on wheat

FAISALABAD (APP)

The recent spells of rains

will have salutary impacts

on wheat, but it may be

harmful for gram crop due

to increase of moisture in

Agriculture Department

said here on Saturday that

rain would be beneficial for

standing crops of wheat

Barseem and fodder, etc

especially in arid areas. He

A spokesman for the

These fluctuations in

(APSGJA) said.

Gold dealers also



KARACHI: President of the Karachi Press Club, Saeed Sarbazi, Shoaib Ahmed, Secretary DG Horticulture Department Nadeem Hanif, DG KDA Naveed Siddiqui and others are cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony beautiful and colorful flowers exhibition, held at Karachi press club.

UK-Pakistan Inward Trade Mission visits SCCI

UK-Pakistan Inward Trade Mission visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) to engage highlighting its role in with the local business community here on

delegates received a warm signified a crucial step in welcome from Vice strengthening bilateral President (VP) SCCI Amer relations and exploring Majeed Sheikh, President new avenues of Majeed Sheikh, President new Women Chamber of collaboration and trade. He Commerce and Industry said that the relationship Sialkot (WCCIS) Dr. Mariam Noman, Sialkot Business Community and Executive Committee Members.

During the meeting, Vice President SCCI M Amer Majeed Sheikh emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral relations between the UK and Pakistan. He said the visit presented a unique

conveyed his appreciation to the delegation for attending the exhibition promoting and supporting women empowerment. The VP SCCI said the Upon arrival, the presence of the delegation

> between the UK and Pakistan was deep-rooted, built on shared values and a vision for a prosperous future.

President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Ahmed Jamal Nasir Awan remarked that there was substantial potential for trade between Pakistan and the UK. He expressed his opportunity to boost trade appreciation for the and investment between advanced technology the two nations. He utilised by Forward Sports.

Pak export of sports products to China registers increase last year

Pakistan's exports of sports products such as having a storied history as football, basketball and a hub for sports volleyball to China manufacturing, is registered 31 percent recognized for supplying increase last year due to growing demand, Ghulam Commercial Counsellor at Pakistani

Embassy in Beijing.
This growth trend underscores the quality and competitiveness of Pakistan's sports products in the global market, particularly in the realm of athletic equipment, he said

He said, the increase in sports products also potential opportunities for further collaboration between Pakistan and China in this official match balls for prestigious global soccer tournaments.

basketball, football, and volleyball export to China in 2023 crossed \$ 11.93 million whereas last year in the same period (January-December) it was only \$





LAHORE: Women are looking handmade traditional cloths on a stall during a ceremony in connection with International Women Day, organized by All Pakistan Women Association, in the Provincial Capital.



Affordable power rates vital to attain sustainable industrial growth: Gohar

on Saturday stressed the need for ensuring affordable power rates for the local industrial sector to attain sustainable industrial growth as well as enhance the competitiveness of manufacturing sector of the

In a press statement, the minister underscored the significance of maintaining energy prices at 9 cents per unit for local and USA. industry, adding that it was essential for the survival of the industrial sector, which

The provision of electricity at 9 cents per unit to industries aims to

substitution. minister emphasized for prioritizing

industrial growth to stimulate economic prosperity by enhancing exports and making the local manufacturing sector viable to achieve ambitious targets in global markets, including China, GCC countries, Africa, ASEAN, EU, UK

ISLAMABAD (APP): was a source of job provide a level playing Caretaker Minister for creation, export field for local industries Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz production, and import and enhance their competitiveness globally, he said adding that the proposal was also approved by the Special proposal Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), reflecting government's commitment to supporting industrial growth.

Gohar Ejaz expressed optimism that the new government would decide on the issue, enabling industries to operate more efficiently and contribute significantly to national economic prosperity.

WTO talks end with no Steps to control inflation, food major win, throwing items to be trade body into 'crisis' ensured on govt rates

APP): A high-level WTO conference ended Saturday with a temporary extension of an e-commerce moratorium but no deals on agriculture and fisheries, throwing into doubt the effectiveness of the multilateral trade body. The outcomes of the

Trade Organization's ministerial conference in Abu Dhabi highlighted the sharp divisions between observed a corresponding the body's 164 members are of great importance to increase in the rate of 10 amid geopolitical tensions many of our members, grams of 24-karat gold, and economic headwinds said Al Zeyoudi, who also that are threatening commerce

good crisis and perhaps this will lead to a realisation that we cannot continue like this," said a senior European Union official participating in the talks. Speaking at the closing press conference, the Emirati chair of the so-

called MC13 gathering, Thani Al Zeyoudi, acknowledged the shortcomings."Despite our best efforts, we failed to agree on some texts which serves as the UAE

PESHAWAR (APP):



against the high handedness of Market Police Station, held in Larkana.

conference

ICCI President Ahsan

sustainable

opportunity to attract

foreign investment in

solution to the economic

problems facing Pakistan is

in investment. He said that

the Islamabad Chamber of

investors

Pakistan.

ICCI all sets to host **Global Business Conference**

ISLAMABAD (APP): whole world Islamabad Chamber of participate in the Commerce and Industry (ICCI) is all set to host the Representatives of the Global Business SIFC will brief the global Conference on March 4 in

said that the crops especially in arid areas had The preparations for Bakhtawari said that the dire need of rain and the the Business Conference Conference was a great farmers' community was have been completed. A lucky that they had 160-member delegation of received rain spells in-time. industrialists and traders It would not only increase led by ICCI President Ahsan Bakhtawari has reached Dubai to participate in the

also increased moisture in Global investors from the air which might cause suspension of chlorophyll system of the gram plants

Commerce was working Pakistan, Dubai and Gulf to attract investors in countries including the various sectors. Nasdaq, S&P 500 surge

to fresh records on AI momentum NEW YORK (AFP/APP): The Nasdaq and S&P 500 0.2 percent at 39,087.38.

finished at fresh records Friday following another banner day for Nvidia and other chip companies on bullish sentiment about artificial intelligence. The tech-rich Nasdaq

Composite Index, which on Thursday had finished at its first record since 2021, moved higher still, ending at 16,274.94, up 1.1 percent.

The broad-based S&P 500 jumped 0.8 percent to 5,137.08, also a record, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average added

Dell Technologies became the latest big beneficiary of the AI fever, surging more than 31 percent following an earnings report that highlighted its growing AI business.

Nvidia, whose chips are seen as perhaps the purest bet on AI, jumped four percent. Other chip companies, including Advanced Micro Devices and Micron Technology, also advanced.

CFRA Research's Sam Stovall also pointed to weaker economic data.

Deputy Commissioner (DĈ) Ábbottabad Khalid

Ìqbal Saturday said that steps are being taken by district administration to control inflation and provide food items to the citizens as per the rate list. He expressed these

views in his office while chairing the District Price Review Committee to determine the rate lists under the supervision of the district administration to ensure the supply of

PHA DG reviews arrangements for floral festival

SARGODHA (APP): Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Director General (DG) Touquer Hyder Kazmi reviewed arrangements for the floral festival on Saturday and ordered the officials concerned to make the event exemplary.

Chairing a meeting, called to finalise measures regarding celebration of the spring festival and launching the plantation campaign, he said the festival and the campaign should achieve its goals. He warned against any negligence in this regard. The DG said for

securing the future of next generations, Sargodha should be turned green by planting maximum trees. He said providing the upcoming generations with a pleasant and healthy environment was first priority of the current management and no compromise would be made on it. Director Admin and

Finance Farooq Haider Aziz, Deputy Director Shafiqur Rahman Niazi, ADG Ali Hassan, Asad Ghuman, Dilawar Mumtaz, Haris Ali Khokhar, Hafiz Abdul Rehman, Malik Ahmad Nawaz, Adnan Pervez and

others were present. Tauqeer Hyder also

Pakistan's hosiery export to China up by 45pc: Irfan

Pakistan's hosiery export to China witnessed a substantial surge, marking a remarkable 45 percent increase in the last year.

This significant uptick underscores the strengthening trade ties between the two nations and highlights Pakistan's growing prominence in the global textile market, said Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou on

notable expansion in nosiery exports. Pakistan's competitive advantage lies in its robust textile ndustry, which is known for its quality products and cost-effectiveness.

"Overall pantyhose, tights, stockings, socks and other hosiery export from Pakistan to China in the year 2023 crossed \$14.32 million whereas in 2022 it economy. was \$9.81 million, an increase of 45 percent. Hosiery and footwear

(APP): made of cotton, commodity code (61159500), crossed \$11.55 million in 2023 while in 2022 it was \$ 7.61 million, up to 51 percent,'

he mentioned. "The largest Chinese delegation participated in TEXPO, one of the largest textile exhibitions in Pakistan held last year, helped increase Pakistan's export to China. This year the exhibition will also be held and I'm hoping a big increase in bilateral trade in 2024", he stated.

Muhammad Irfan He said that several further said that with the factors contributed to this momentum gained from momentum gained from this surge, Pakistan is well positioned to capitalize on the evolving dynamics of international trade and further enhance its economic standing on the global stage, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The surge in hosiery exports to China is poised to have a positive impact on Pakistan's export earnings will contribute to increasing foreign exchange reserves.



pushcart at Namakah Manadi area during heavy

Tackling inflation to be most serious challenge for new govt: DFPA

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Disposable Food Packaging Association (DFPA), Ahsan Shahid has said that tackling inflation to be most serious challenge for upcoming government as the country the country was in grip of economic crisis due to currency.

here on Saturday, he warned the high cost of doing business has been hurting the economic growth, as the inflation rate bounced back to 32.2% in concluding month, hurting strengthen the IMF's view most, who faced the brunt unchanged until core of a staggering 520% increase in gas prices.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) surged to 29.2% last month compared to a year ago. The increase was more than market expectations and has lessened the prospects for a cut in the interest rates, which stand continuous hike in oil price at the country's highest and depreciation of local ever level of 24%. This reading, the first announced by the PBS after the recently International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks, in which the global lender also cut the inflation forecast for Pakistan to 22.8%, may the trade and industry the of keeping the policy rate inflation starts easing out when the Monetary Policy Quoting the Pakistan Committee (MPC) meets.

Shahid said that the

Hope new govt to ensure prudent utilization of public money: FRIA

Vice Chairman (SVC) Ferozepur Road Industrial Association Lahore (FRIA) Shahbaz Aslam has prudent utilization of upcoming government should introduce an austerity plan that included ban on purchase of all vehicles and ban on purchase of machinery and equipment.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that there shall be a complete ban on purchase of all vehicles except ambulances, buses for educational institutions, solid waste vehicles, tractors, fire fighting

AHORE (INP): Senior during Financial Year 2023-

that the government's austerity measure needed at said that in a bid to ensure the time when the country's budget deficit public money, the was increasing. The upcoming government consolidated fiscal deficit has been recorded at 2.3 percent of GDP (Rs2407.8 billion) in first six months (July-December) of the current fiscal year FY2024 against 2.0 percent of GDP (Rs.1683.5 billion) last

He said that a primary surplus witnessed a continuous improvement due to contained growth in non-mark-up spending relative to markup payments. vehicles, motor bikes; and surplus improved to there shall be ban on Rs.1812.2 billion (1.7 creation of new posts under PSDP/current budget Jul-Dec FY2024.

Meeting reviews vast opportunities for domestic, foreign investment in BoIT

and Trade of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (BoIT-KP) wherein President Pakistani Overseas Community in Belgium, Moazzam Ur Rehman and the newly elected member of the Provincial Assembly and former Provincial Minister of Industry Abdul Karim were briefed regarding promotion of attracting

investment in the province. Director BoIT KP, Iqbal Sarwar briefed the participants about government priorities in

PESHAWAR (APP): A special meeting was held in the Board of Investment opinion that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enjoys a distinction because of its unique scenic resorts in different areas which can attract tourists from across the globe. There are so many sites in the province which if opened for international fourists will be visited by a large number of people

domestic and foreign investment, the meeting noted. Igbal Sarwar observed that there are countless places in the province which are still not visited by tourists and if directed the staff to attracting investment in local and international improve their performance.

cron said in a post on X.

tive for an immediate

ceasefire in the war to be

put in place. Speaking on

France Inter radio on Friday,

Foreign Minister Stephane

Sejourne said Paris would

back the United Nations

(UN) call for an independent

investigation. "The humani-

tarian situation has been

catastrophic for several

weeks now and what hap-

pened is indefensible and

unjustifiable. Israel needs to

be able to hear it and it needs

to stop," Sejourne told France Inter. "We have gone a step

further, people are fighting for food and there are riots.

I heard the request from the

He said it was impera-

France demands 'truth

and justice' after shooting

of Palestinians in Gaza

Monitoring Desk

ARIS: French President

Emmanuel Macron said on

Friday (Mar 1) he was an-

gered by the shooting of

more than 100 Palestinians

seeking humanitarian aid in

Gaza and demanded "truth

and justice" regarding the

role of Israeli soldiers in the

incident. Gaza health au-

thorities said Israeli forces

on Thursday shot dead

more than 100 Palestinians

as they waited for an aid

delivery. Israel blamed the

deaths on crowds that sur-

rounded aid trucks, saying

victims had been trampled

or run over. "Deep indigna-

Biden says 'hoping' for Gaza ceasefire deal by Ramadan

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US
President Joe Biden said he
was "hoping" for a
ceasefire deal in the Israel-Hamas conflict by the Muslim holy month of Ramadan but agreement was still not sealed.

"I'm hoping so, we're still working real hard on it. We're not there yet," he told reporters at the White House when asked if he expected a deal by Ramadan, which will start on March 10 or 11, depending on the lunar calendar.

"We'll get there but we're not there yet—we may not get there," Biden added, without elaborating, as he headed to his helicopter to spend the weekend at the presidential Camp David retreat.

Biden had said at the beginning of this week that he expected a deal by Monday for a six-week halt in the fighting between Israel and Hamas, but has steadily

walked back the timeline. 81-year-old Democrat announced earlier Friday that the United States would soon start airdropping aid to Gaza, a day after dozens of desperate Palestinians were killed rushing an aid convoy.

Biden has said the incident could complicate talks, but would not comment Friday on what was holding up a deal, adding: 'I'm not going to tell you that because that'll get involved in the negotiations."

Earlier on Thursday US President Joe Biden had said that a deadly incident at a food aid point in Gaza would complicate ceasefire negotiations, but also underscored the urgency for a deal between Israel and

Biden added that a ceasefire was unlikely to happen by Monday as he previously believed, but stressed he was still hopeful for a deal that would

Rescuers work at the site of an apartment building heavily damaged by a

Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Odesa, Ukraine.

tools that are seen as the

products has helped attract

huge investment into AI,

which boosters say could

transform every aspect of

human life. Microsoft, a

since 2019, poured billions

more into the firm last year.

And the software giant

vear, hiring him and offer-

members who were un-

happy with his ousting.

The OpenAI board later

climbed down, Altman was

reinstated and several board

a non-profit dedicated to

developing "artificial general intelligence" (AGI), a

vague term loosely defined

as a kind of AI that would

far outstrip human capa-bilities on all measures of

more materials and respon-

mate impact than those in

low-income countries, ac-

cessing of the huge amount

of resources accounts for

over 60 per cent of planet-

warming emissions, the re-

port said, as well as devas-

Extraction and pro-

cording to the analysis.

OpenAI started life as

members were replaced.

The success of its

leaders in their field.

Musk sues OpenAI over

'betrayal of mission'

OpenAI in 2018, argued in major investor in OpenAI

ways intended as a non-stepped in when OpenAI's

profit entity. But he said board fired CEO Sam

recent boardroom changes Altman in November last

effectively a subsidiary of ing to house any staff

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Elon Musk has

launched a legal case against

OpenAI, the AI firm he helped

to set up in 2015, accusing its

leaders of a "betrayal" of its

documents filed in a San

Francisco court late on

Thursday that firm was al-

meant OpenAI was now

software giant Microsoft,

arguing that this was breach

of contract. Musk has ac-

cused Microsoft of control-

ling OpenAI several times,

with both firms denying the

claims. OpenAI captured

the public imagination in

late 2022 with the release

of its chatbot ChatGPT.

which can generate pass-

able poems and essays and

even succeed in exams. The

firm has also developed

Monitoring Desk

Earth's natural resources

could surge 60 per cent by

2060, imperilling climate

goals and economic pros-

perity, the UN said on Fri-

day, calling for dramatic

changes in energy, food,

of infrastructure, energy de-

mand and consumer con-

sumption over the last half

century, particularly in

wealthier countries, has

driven a tripling of the

world's use of materials,

according to the Global Re-

source Outlook by the UN

Environment Programme's

Internatio-nal Resource

Panel. And the hunger for

natural resources — every-

thing from food to fossil

fuels — keeps growing by

an average of more than 2.3

per cent per year, it said.

countries drive most of that

People in wealthy

Enormous expansion

transport and housing.

image and video generating intelligence.

Resource extraction

could surge 60pc by

2060, UN warns

PARIS: Extraction of sible for ten times more cli-

The tycoon, who left

founding mission.

provide a six-week pause in fighting in exchange for the release of hostages held by the Palestinian militant

"Hope springs eter-nal," Biden told reporters at the White House when asked about the ceasefire timing. "I was on the telephone with people in the region... Probably not by Monday, but I'm hopeful."

Biden was also asked about the incident in Gaza, when Israeli forces opened fire on Palestinians scrambling for food aid in a chaotic melee that the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory said killed more than 100 people.

'We're checking that right now. There are two competing versions of what happened, I don't have an answer yet," Biden said as he headed to his helicopter.

Asked if he was worried whether it would complicate the delicate negotiations for a ceasefire.

Australian leader

sparks uproar

with 'foreign

criminal' tweet

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Australia's

deputy opposition leader is

under fire for a post claim-

ing "foreign criminals" are

attacking women, after an

immigrant was detained for

sexual assault — only for

police to admit they got the

by the government as

"grubby", Sussan Ley of the conservative Liberal

Party sought to tap into

voter concerns about crime

and migration ahead of a

weekend by-election in

Dunkley, Victoria.
"If you do not want

to see Australian women

being assaulted by foreign

criminals, vote against Labour," the opposition

Liberal Party's deputy leader posted on Thursday

on X. The tweet remained

on the social media plat-

form despite calls for her

Ley posted the message after Victoria police arrested a 44-year-old

to take it down.

In a tweet condemned

wrong man.



Pope Francis speaks during the international conference "Man-Woman: Image of God. Towards an Anthropology of Vocations" at the Vatican.

US blocks UN Security **Council move to** condemn Israel, again

Monitoring DeskUNITED NATIONS: The US blocked a statement in the UN Security Council that would have blamed Israeli forces for the killings of civilians scrambling for food aid during a chaotic incident in Gaza City.

In a late-night session at the UN Security Council, Arab nations faced significant resistance from the US when they pushed for the statement, accusing Israel of "intentionally targeting and killing" over 100

The statement urged the council members to 'express deep concern on reports stating that over their lives, with approxi- was unlikely

mately 750 others sustaining injuries due to opening fire by Israeli forces" 'We don't have all the

facts on the ground. That's the problem," said US Deputy Envoy to the UN Robert Wood following consultations with the 15member council late Thursday afternoon.

The Israeli military claimed victims, rushing for aid, trampled each other, and some were run over by convoy vehicles.

The statement faced a daunting task as it required unanimous agre-e-ment from all council members to pass, and with US history of vetoing moves that tar-100 individuals have lost get Israel, the consensus

Deadlocked WTO talks drag on with no breakthrough

Monitoring Desk ABU DHABI: World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiators extended talks again in Abu Dhabi on Friday as they struggled to break a political deadlock after five days of high-level

negotiations. It was far from clear whether a consensus could be reached among the WTO's 164 members be-fore the new deadline of late side a meeting room barely 30 minutes from an infornight. Several delegates mal ministerial meeting, as warned that countries re- delegates gathered in small mained far apart as groups next to a coffee organisers announced a fifth

extension. "I think we're leaving here empty-handed," one delegate said. On the fifth day of the

ministerial meeting, most ministers had already gone home, with only India's Piyush Goyal and European Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis staying back. Goyal was smiling and shaking hands outstand

Two killed, eight wounded by Russian drone attack on Ukraine's Odesa

showed an apartment build-ing with a chunk several storeys tall ripped out of it.

Gaza famine 'almost inevitable': UN **Monitoring Desk**

GENEVA: Famine in the Gaza Strip is almost inevitable unless the Israel-Hamas war changes, the United Nations said Fri-

The UN and other humanitarian actors have not yet declared a state of famine in Gaza, despite worsening conditions in the Palestinian territory since the war started with the Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7.

However, "once a

tion at the images coming from Gaza where civilians have been targeted by Is-**Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Two people were killed, eight wounded and six still missing after a Russian drone crashed into an apartment block in Ukraine's southern port city of Odesa on Saturday, authorities said. "Russia continues to fight civilians... One of the enemy depose hit a residential drones hit a residential building in Odessa. 18 apartments were de-stroyed," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in a Telegram post. A video posted by Zelenskiy

famine is declared, it is too late for too many people", said Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Tehran.

Senegalese president condemns violent attack against journalist

Monitoring Desk DAKAR: Senegal's Presi-

dent Macky Sall condemned a violent knife attack on a prominent female journalist and director of a private television

Maimouna Ndour tating ecosystems and Faye, who presents a poharming human health. litical programme for 7TV Lead author Hans Bruvninckx said the current television channel, was attacked and stabbed sevtrajectory would cause the eral times near her home world to far exceed the temin the early hours of Friperature limits set out in the day by an unknown as-2015 Paris Agreement, in sailant, the channel said which countries agreed to in a statement. cap global warming "well Faye below" two degrees Celsius

hospitalised and her conand preferably at 1.5C. dition is stable, it said. You've got resource use that is increasing, too The attack comes amid heightened political much impact on Earth systension in the West Afritems that is not tenable, can nation over the posthe said, adding that unequal ponement of a presidenaccess to resources across tial election that was the world was also "unten-

Amid voter apathy in Iran, incumbents set to tighten grip after polls

UK by-election

George

The vote saw the

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iranians voted for a new parliament on Friday, in an election seen as a test

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, was among the first to cast his vote 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.

formal measure of public opinion after anti-govern-ment protests in 2022-23 spiralled into some of the worst political turmoil since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran's rulers need a high turnout to repair their legitimacy, badly damaged by the unrest. But official surveys suggest only about 41pc of eligible Iranians will vote. Turnout hit a record low of 42.5pc in the 2020 parliamentary election, while about 62pc of voters participated in 2016.

State TV, portraying a general enthusiastic mood with live coverage from across Iran interspersed The election is the first with patriotic songs.

party withdraw its candi-

date, Azhar Ali, after he

touted a conspiracy theory that Israel had al-

lowed Hamas to carry out

Galloway put the Gaza conflict front and

centre of his campaign in

Rochdale, which has a 30

per cent Muslim popula-

for Gaza," Galloway,

leader of the Workers

Party of Great Britain.

said in his victory speech, referring to the Labour

"Keir Starmer, this is

its attack on October 7.

Japanese ex-soldier wins US award for her fight against sexual harassment

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: The United States said it would honour former Japan Self-Defense Forces soldier Rina Gonoi with the International Women of Courage Award for bringing about change in the Japanese military with her victory in a sexual harassment

Gonoi, 24, will be among 12 recipients globally of the US award on March 4, according to a US State Department statement, with recognition also going to women from Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Cuba and others.

US says it takes seriously reports of misbehavior by its envoy to

Singapore **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: T

White House said the US government was taking seriously an internal watchdog report that the US ambassador to Singapore threatened his staff and failed to submit about \$48,000 in travel expenses on time or with proper documentation. Ambassador Jonathan Kaplan, a political appointee, had poor relations with some Singaporean ministries and was often unprepared on issues, the State Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) said in a report.

raeli soldiers. Ĭ express my Secretary General of the UN to open an independent strongest condemnation of these shootings and call for investigation and I think truth, justice, and respect for international law," Mathat France will support Nicaragua files case at World Court against

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: Nicaragua has filed a case at the International Court of Justice against Germany for giv-ing financial and military

aid to Israel and for defunding the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), the U.N.'s top court said on Friday. Nicaragua asked the ICJ, also known as the World Court, to issue emer-

gency measures requiring Berlin to stop its military aid to Israel and reverse its decision to stop funding UNRWA. The German Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The court usually sets a date for a hearing on any requested emergency measures within weeks of a case being filed.

According Nicaragua's claim, Germany is violating the 1948 Genocide Convention and

Germany for aiding Israel tions on the laws of war in the occupied Palestinian

territories. "By sending military equipment and now defunding UNRWA which provides essential support to the civilian population, Germany is facilitating the commission of genocide,' Nicaragua said in its legal

filings.

Major donors to UNRWA, including the United States and Germany, suspended funding after allegations that around 12 of its tens of thousands of Palestinian employees were suspected of involvement in the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel by Hamas.

Nicaragua's filing adds that emergency measures were needed because of Berlin's "participation in the ongoing plausible genocide and serious breaches of international humanitarian law" in the

Haitian gang leader vows to 'fight' prime minister, violence surges

Monitoring Desk PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haitian gang leader Jimmy Cherizier, also known as Barbecue, warned he would keep trying to oust Prime Minister Ariel Henry, and asked families to keep children from going to school to "avoid collateral damages" as violence surges in

parts of the capital. Heavy gunfire and traffic disruptions were seen in some areas of Haiti's capital, where more people fled homes close to the fighting as burnt buses lay on the streets and burning barricades filled the air with

thick, gray smoke.
"The battle will last as long as it needs to. We will keep fighting Ariel Henry. To avoid collateral damage, keep the kids at home," the gang leader said at a press conference.

Cherizier is a former police officer who heads an alliance of gangs and disrupted the country when he blocked its biggest oil terminal in 2022. He has faced sanctions from both the to victims' families.

United Nations and the United States Department

of Treasury.

By late Friday, there were reports armed men had attempted to take control of the capital's main container port, as gangs threatened to attack more of the city's police stations. Reuters was unable to immediately verify these re-

A video, meanwhile, went viral on social media appearing to show two murdered policemen, which SYNAPOHA police union leader Lionel Lazare told Reuters depicted the killing of some of the four officers who were slain on Thursday. Members of another police union, the SPNH, gathered outside the force headquarters earlier in the day calling for the recovery of the bodies. In a state-

ment, Prime Minister Henry's office said it was "outraged by the acts of violence and terror orchestrated by armed bandits,' and expressed condolences

More than one billion now afflicted by obesity, experts say

Monitoring Desk PARIS: More than one bil-

lion people around the world are now suffering from obesity, with the number having more than quadrupled since 1990, according to a study released by the Lancet medical journal. The "epidemic" is

particularly hitting poorer countries and the rate is growing among children and adolescents faster than adults, according to the study carried out with the World Health Organisation.

The study, released ahead of World Obesity Day on March 4, estimated that there were about 226 million obese adults, adolescents and children in the world in 1990. The figure had risen to 1,038 million in 2022.

Francesco Branca, director of nutrition for health at the WHO, said the rise past one billion people has come "much earlier

than we have anticipated". While doctors knew obesity numbers were rising fast, the symbolic fig-

ure had previously been expected in 2030. Researchers analysed

the weight and height measurements of more than 220 million people in more than 190 countries to reach the estimates, Lancet said. They estimated that

504 million adult women and 374 million men were obese in 2022. The study said the obesity rate had nearly tripled for men (14 per cent) since 1990 and more than doubled for women (18.5 per cent). Some 159 million chil-

dren and adolescents were living with obesity in 2022, according to the study, up from about 31 million in 1990. The chronic and complex illness is accompanied by a greater risk of death from heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. Being overweight increased the risk of death during the coronavirus pandemic.

Countries Polynesia and Micronesia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa have suffered more from the rise.



PTI decries use of force against peaceful protestors

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- clearly showed the level of kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson vehemently denounced the fascist, coercive tactics and the unlawful use of state machineries to disrupt the peaceful but massive protest across the country against the theft of the public mandate on Saturday.

PTI Spokesperson lashed out at the police for detaining peaceful protestors and erecting obstacles to deny the people their constitutional right to peacefully demonstrate to reclaim their stolen mandate.

He said that people came in droves on the call of their beloved leader PTI Chairman-for-life Imran Khan to protest against polls fraud, which proved that the mandate thieves rod to the power on the coattails of the stolen votes.

PTI Spokesperson stated that the erection of unconstitutional obstacles and massive police deployment in the way of protests

fear of the fake government of mandate thieves.

He went on to say that the people gave clear and huge mandate to Imran Khan; however the clear majority was converted into minority fraudulently through results manipulation. PTI Spokesperson

made it clear that they would strongly resist any attempt to impose the fraudsters on the country, adding that they would not accept the fake government formed on basis of Form 47.

He emphasized that the future of Pakistan was linked with the democracy and democratic values and norms, which was possible only by giving people the constitutional authority of decision-making. PTI Spokesperson underscored that PTI would continue its strong and peaceful struggle within the framework of the constitution and law to take back the stolen man-

date of the people.



ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan along with others Parliamentary leaders submitting the nomination papers for Prime Minister of Pakistan/Leader of the house to secretary National Assembly Tahir Hussain in the Parliament House in the Federal Capital.

58pc of Pakistanis declare **February 8th elections** transparent: Survey

45% of Balochistan citizens support mobile service interruption on election day

ISLAMABAD (INP): The individuals across all four Independent Polling System Of Society (IPSOS), a market research and consulting firm, has released a report on the transparency and rigging of the 2024 elec-

For this purpose, IPSOS conducted a survey of more than three thousand people from all four provinces between 11 and 19 of last month, who gave their views on the transparency

and rigging of elections. According to the survey, a significant majority, comprising 58% of Pakistani citizens, deemed the elections as fair and transparent, dismissing allegations of rigging put forth by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

The survey, con-

provinces, revealed varying sentiments among different

While 73% of respondents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported witnessing large-scale rigging, the sentiment was lowest in Sindh. Interestingly, 45% of Balochistan's population supported the shutdown of Internet services on election day.

In terms of provincial breakdown, 63% of respondents in Punjab, 62% in Sindh, and 55% in Balochistan perceived the elections as transparent. However, the sentiment was less favorable in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, where 33% and 39% of respondents, respectively, believed the elec-



QUETTA: President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addressing the ceremony of Baloch Culture Day organized by BSO-Pajjar and National party.

Pakistanis to receive PayPal remittances from this month: Umar Saif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology Umar Saif claimed, "Pakistan online online freelancers will be able to receive PayPal remittances starting this month through a tri-party arrangement without needing to create a PayPal wallet.

The IT minister shared this in his new message on twitter on Saturday and said, "The goal is to enable them [Pakistani online freelancers to accept use their earnings.

PayPal payments from their clients abroad through a third-party digital wallet, which willuse an international remittance mechanism to remit the dollars to Pakistan, and instantly credit the freelancer's bank account in Pakistan.

He further said, 'Statebank's new regime will allow freelancers to open bank account against this digital wallet, get debit cards and create dollar accounts so that they freely

MQM-P still mulling who to vote for in presidential elections

KARACHI (INP): The Mahmood Khan Achakzai Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), which recently one of the allied parties, has not vet decided who to vote for in the upcoming presidential elections, scheduled to take place on March 9. The coalition comprising PML-N, PPP, PML-Q IPP, BAP, PML-Zia and National Party has nominated Asif Ali Zardari for the president's office.

Meanwhile, PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) nominated Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief solve public issues

signed an agreement with PML-N to empower local governments, will take a final decision on casting votes after consultation.

Furthermore, sources claimed that discussions on the issue of ministries and governorship were underway. Considering the offer of ministries, MQM-P majority leaders opined against taking such which cannot re-



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 1st Karachi Festival of Books and Libraries.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attends CM's oath taking ceremony **Independent Report**

OUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Quetta on

Saturday. The Chairman PPP participated in the oath taking ceremony of newly elected Chief Minister Balochistan at the Governor House.

Needless to mentioned here Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reached Ouetta especially to participate in the oath taking ceremony of Chief Minister.

Earlier he was welcomed by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, pro-vincial president of PPP, Mir Changez Jamali Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Faisal Karim Kundi, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki Agha Shakeel Durrani and others.

From airport, he drove to the Governor House along with the Chief Minister and others.

Senate Chairman rallies behind **Balochistan CM Bugti**

QUETTA (INP): Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday rallied behind newly-elected Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz

Expressing his thoughts, Sanjrani expressed optimism about the role of Bugti as the chief minister. "Sarfraz Bugti will play his role in terms of providing employment opportunities to the people of the province." Sanjrani felictated Bugti and extended his best wishes for the latter as the Balochistan CM. Separately, PPP senior leader Syed Khursheed Shah on Saturday felicitated Sarfraz Bugti on becoming the Balochistan chief minister. Expressing his thoughts, Shah rallied be-

hind Bugti, saying, "Sarfraz

Bugti will play an anchor-

ing role in terms of uplifting the province."
"We pray that the province will witness peace, development, and prosperity," Shah stated.

Siraj denounces fraudulent elections, calls for labourer welfare

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq has asserted that the laborers, who constitute the backbone of the country's economy, have rejected the fraudulent elections of

Addressing a group of reporters here, Siraj lamented the difficulties faced by the labour class in providing food for their families and educating their children, attributing these challenges to the current exploitative system. The JI chief high-

lighted the absence of accountability in the country, remarking that living conditions for labourers had become increasingly chal-The JI chief declared

that the electoral process was not fair and characterised it as a selection rather than an election.

Flight operations suspended at Gwadar Airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has announced on Saturday the suspension of flight operations at Gwadar Airport until Tuesday. According to a private news channel, the decision comes in response to the flood situation in Gwadar, as stated by the CAA spokesperson. A new notice has been issued, confirming the suspension of flight operations at Gwadar airport until Tuesday. Earlier, the Balochistan government had declared a state

of emergency and declared

Gwadar a calamity-hit area

following heavy rains that

caused significant damage in

the city

President for storing collection of books in digital form

KARACHI (APP): The President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday while laying a great emphasis on archiving the collection of books digitally said that the future of the country depended on education and knowledge.

He expressed these views in the launching ceremony of the 1st Karachi Festival of Books and Libraries at Governor House here on Saturday.

The President said that the digitalization of historical books and material was necessary. He said that the books played a vital role in developing associations with others.

He said, 'Access to Information has become easy these days,' which was years later than the rest of

difficult in the past.
Dr. Alvi while referring to the present era said that it was a strange period in which children prefer using mobile over reading books. He said that his

The President said that he was fond of reading books and he gave its credit to his parents. Dr. Alvi said that he read approximately 30 to 40

books in a year. He said that the Muslims had worked hard on libraries whereas they entered the field of Press in 1730 or 1735 almost 300

the world due to some reservations.

He said that 20.62 million children were out of school and it was a big chal-

Earlier, Co-founders grandson and granddaughof the festival Aziz Memon ter did not read books ex-Syed Khalid cept those on the school Mahmood, President of Karachi Library Association (KLA) Farheen Mahmood, and others spoke on the occasion. Later, the President

Dr. Arif Álvi distributed

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)'s former Bureau Chief Abdul Qadir Qureshi and former Sports Report Ehsan Qureshi were also among the recipients of

Sarfraz Bugti meets Dr. Malik Zardari Baloch; discusses overall, political situation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan-designate, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited the residence of President, National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch here on Saturday morning.

Also accompanied with Mr. Bugti were the members of provincial Assembly, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Asfandyar Khan Kakar.

From National Party, those who were present in the meeting were included MPAs Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Khair Jan Baloch and Ms. Kulsoom Niaz besides other party leaders.

meeting, the overall situation of the province including political was discussed be-tween the Chief Minister and NP parliamentarians and leaders. Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed his resolve to take all political parties along for development of the province and welfare of public.

of provincial assembly Nawab Jangez Marri, Nawazbada Tariq Magsi, Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Ziaullah Asfandyar Kakar, Toor Utmankhail, Barkat Rind,

Meanwhile, members

Langove, Shoaib Nausherwani, Wali Muhammad Noorzai and others met Sarfraz Bugti

felicitates Bloch people on Culture Day ISLAMABAD (APP) President Pakistan Peoples

Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Asif Ali Zardari has congratulated the Baloch brothers and sisters on their Culture Day. In his message on Saturday, Asif Zardari said that the Baloch nation was proud of its civilization, culture and heritage. The nations which keep their culture alive live forever. Every individual has the right to be proud of their culture, Zardari said.

Mobile Operators

Provide Relief in

the Aftermath

of Heavy Rains

in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD (INP): In

response to the recent

heavy rains in Gwadar, the

mobile operators have

swiftly mobilized to pro-

vide relief to the subscrib-

ers along with maintaining

support by providing free 50 minutes (Jazz & PTCL)

to subscribers in the af-

fected areas for a period of

3 days. Furthermore, Zong

is providing free-of-cost

services to subscribers in

the impacted areas. Sub-

scribers can avail 20 On-net

minutes for 01 day by dialing *9090# free of charge.

Three children

Jazz is extending its

their network.

The nations never forget their language and culture, they remain attached to them. Our country is a bouquet of flowers of all the nations living in



JUI-F members boycotts BA session: NP abstains from process of voting for election of CM in Balochistan Assembly

Independent Report QUETTA: The National Party abstained from the process of election of Chief Minister Balochistan in the provincial assembly here on

Saturday Although all four members of assembly belonging to NP including its President, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch participated in the

session, however, they didn't cast votes in favour or against the Chief Minis-

Similarly, the members of provincial assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) boycotted the process of election and didn't turn up to cast votes for the election of Chief

Rains wreak havoc in several parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Heavy rainfall and snowfall sweep is disrupting daily life and causing tragic incidents in various parts of

According to a private news channel report, Lahore Balochistan, Karachi, and the northern mountainous areas, the country faces a myriad of challenges due to the adverse weather conditions.

A day earlier, authorities declared a 'rain emergency' in Karachi as several parts of the province were

in the grip of unpredictable weather. In Lahore, light rain was reported in Gulberg,

Lahore Cantonment, Lakshmi Chowk, and on Mall Road on Friday. Johar Town, Defense,

Baig, Wahdat Road, and surrounding areas also witnessed rainfall. The cascade of rain extended beyond Lahore, with cities in Punjab such as Kasur, Muridke,

Phoolnagar, Sharaqpur.

and Jhang experiencing downpours

killed as roof cave-in, power supply affected Canal Road, Thokar Niaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Due to heavy rain in Gakhi Kundu Mahmond, three children died when the roof of the room of the house collapsed, Rescue 1122 said here Saturday. As soon as the control

room received the information, the rescue 1122 disaster and medical teams reached the spot and started rescue operations. In another incident,

Rescue 1122 disaster team along with local people rescued the children from the debris. The roof of a crude house collapsed near Noothia Tilab Road.

In the incident, 15 animals (cows, sheep, goats) were buried under the debris whereas rescue teams have recovered all the animals safely.

Information Ministry hosts farewell for Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): him, while his top priority The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has hosted a farewell ceremony in honour of the outgoing Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi.

The farewell ceremony witnessed the presence of all the senior officers and officials of the ministry who paid tribute to Murtaza Solangi for his services as the caretaker information minister. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Murtaza Solangi thanked the officials and staff of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for their immense support during his tenure. He also expressed his gratitude to the Almighty Who blessed him with an opportunity to serve the country as the caretaker information minister.

According to the minister, the portfolio of the information ministry was a "great honor and responsibility" for during his tenure was to provide accurate and correct in-

formation to the people. Solangi said he had made all-out efforts to promote democracy and freedom of expression during the tenure of the caretaker government. The minister hoped that the next information minister would continue the mission for democracy and

freedom of expression. He lauded the hard work of the capable officers of the ministry and its institutions who extended him full support during his tenure. Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid, Additional Secretary, Principal Information Officer, Director General External Publicity Wing, Director General Internal Publicity Wing, Executive Director General Information Service Academy also expressed their views regarding the performance of the Ministry during the care-



QUETTA: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardar and newly elected Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets Governor Balochistan; discusses situation

Independent Report Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar here at the Governor's House on Sat-

Also present in the meeting, the overall situation of Balochistan was dis-

Ahmed Bugti, Provincial President of PPP, Mir Changez Jamali, Faisal Karim Kundi, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Ali Madad Jatak, Ali Hasan Zehri and others.

During the course of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz cussed.

JUI-F to take key decisions on election 'rigging' in Karachi huddle

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) is expected to take key decisions on the alleged 'rigging" in the recently held elections in its Karachi huddle, scheduled to be held on Sunday (March 3).

JUI-F leader Sami Swati said: "JUI-F chief Maulana Fzlur Rehman will attend the meeting of the party's Sindh chapter in Korangi. All the bigwigs of the party are being headed to Karachi to attend tomorrow's meeting."

"During the meeting, Fazlur Rehman will give leadership. Fazlur Rehman will also address a press conference in Korangi to-

morrow evening," he added. Moreover, Swati said that the JUI-F supremo reached Karachi on a three-day visit today (Saturday).

Swati made it clear that the party had finished with the preparations for tomorrow's meeting.

Separately on Friday, leader Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said on Friday that his party was sticking to its guns on not becoming part of the coali-



QUETTA: Activists of PTI protesting in front of

Ouetta Press Club against the rigging in elections. Safety precautions in place as NHA works to restore rain affected roads

QUETTA (APP): The N-25 was closed due to spokesperson for the National Highway Authority (NHA) on Saturday said that the organization is actively collaborating with local administrations and rescue teams to clear roads obstructed by rain and flooding.

While talking to a private news channel, the spokesperson said that work was in full swing to reactivate and restore routes affected by adverse weather across the country. The spokesperson af-

firmed that several routes were fully operational, including Quetta-Chaman (N-25), Saifullah Fort-Loralai (N-70), and - Lakhpas-Nushki-Nokundi (N-40).

Simallarly, - Quetta-Sabi-Jacobabad (N-65), Karachi-Khuzdar-Quetta (N-25), Gwadar-Khuzdar-Wanghol (M-8) and Coastal Highway (N-10) were also fully operational.

Additionally, the highways from Karachi to Gwadar are open for all types of traffic, he said. However, Khojak Top

snowfall and extremely low temperatures, making the road surface slippery and dangerous for all vehicles. especially on high gradients. As a result, Khojak Top NA25 is closed for all types of vehicles. In light of safety con-

cerns, traffic from both directions on Khojak Top N-25 was requested to halt and similar precautions were taken on other affected routes to prevent accidents. While traffic was flowing on most national high-

ways in Sindh and North and South Punjab, certain areas like Farosh Mor (326-RD) and Lootar Thana (352-RD) were closed due to landslides. Shaitan Pari (326-RD) closed and Kayaga (311-RD) were closed due to landslides, while at Bursin (300-RD) was also closed due to snowfall. NHA along with local administration was actively engaged in road clearance efforts, with the expectation of reopening affected routes soon, the spokes-

person assured